



See page 59

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Concerns over a 'wave of graffiti' which creates bad impression page 10

Over 8,600 hospital appointments are cancelled page 21



Page 28



# Organ donation 'really does make a difference'

THREE times a week, Tallaght man Riyadh Abdelkader goes to hospital at 5am and endures four-hour stints of dialysis while awaiting a kidney transplant, reports Aideen O'Flaherty. See page 16

**I WAS FIT AND HEALTHY BEFORE THIS HAPPENED**

Local authority removes on average 5,500 tonnes each year

# €1.4m spent removing illegally dumped waste

SOUTH Dublin County Council spends an average of €1.4m every year to remove illegally dumped waste around the county, reports Aideen O'Flaherty. See page 2

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# THE Echo

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## Next Edition

The next edition of *The Echo* in the shops from Thursday, May 2, 2024. **Don't miss it!**



**BLACKSPOTS:** Kiltalown Lane earlier this month

# Removing illegal waste costs council €1.4 million

## 'People who dump don't give a damn about others'

**By Aideen O'Flaherty**  
[aideen@echo.ie](mailto:aideen@echo.ie)

SOUTH Dublin County Council spends an average of €1.4m every year to remove illegally dumped waste around the county.

The figure was released in a response to a question by Tallaght councillor Dermot Richardson (Ind) at a recent area committee meeting.

While the council said it was unable to provide a figure for Tallaght specifically as per Cllr Richardson's request, they did state that countywide the cost is €1.4m.

The council stated that it removes, on average, a total of 5,500 tonnes of illegally dumped waste and the cost of its removal includes collection, transportation and waste disposal at a licensed facility.

Cllr Richardson told *The Echo* about his frustration at the money the council has to spend removing the waste, and he highlighted blackspots for it in his constituency, in places

like Hazel Hill.

"It's a lot of money," he said. "When people started having to pay for their bins, dumping got worse."

"In Hazel Hill it's constant – the council removed dumped waste that was there recently and there's more up there again."

"I know some people can't afford bin charges, but it's still not right to dump it."

"I think the council have to look at the cost [of removing the waste], because it's a big amount that could be put to something else in the community."

Over in Clondalkin, there are also issues with illegally dumped waste, particularly impacting St Cuthbert's Park and Bawnogue Road.

Reacting to the figure released by the council, Clondalkin councillor Francis Timmons (Ind), told *The Echo*: "It's horrendous."

"We do have an issue in some parts of Clondalkin, but there has been some improvement, and the council is quick to

respond.

"We're waiting on the use of CCTV to catch offenders, and I think that'll be a huge deterrent."

He added: "€1.4m could be spent on things that are much better than having to pick up other people's rubbish."

"People need to cop on. People who dump don't give a damn about the people who have to look at the unsightly waste."

"It's a big figure, and I think people really need to think – people know who these people are who are dumping."

"They need to talk to them and tell them that money could be spent on community facilities, because it's our money that's being spent on this, it's taxpayers' money."

A spokesperson for South Dublin County Council previously told *The Echo* they would be "very appreciative" of information from members of the public about illegal dumping.

The council can be contacted about this issue by phone on 01-4149000 or via email at [info@sdblincoco.ie](mailto:info@sdblincoco.ie).

# Almost €200,000 is awarded to partnership for integration project

OVER €198,000 has been awarded to the Tallaght-based South Dublin County Partnership to be used over the next three years to fund a migrant integration project, reports *Aideen O'Flaherty*.

The funding, which was announced last week, is being provided by the Department of Integration under the National Integration Fund.

The South Dublin County Partnership will receive €198,974 for its migrant integration project, which helps migrants to secure work, pursue education and overcome barriers to integration.

Larry O'Neill, CEO of the South Dublin County Partnership, told *The Echo*: "The project is following on from a previous iteration we've been doing for the last six years."

"It's going to identify employment opportunities and courses, and it will identify what prevents them from taking these up – it could be language, cultural differences, or accommodation issues. "We're looking to see what's holding

them back, and then creating a pathway for them to overcome those challenges."

The funding will enable the service to work more closely with a number of the project's clients, to assist them more intensely or to signpost them to other services that could help.

"This project will deal with people who already have permission to stay," added Mr O'Neill. "It's for people who already have that, and it helps them to settle in and overcome the cultural differences."

"I hope the project will help to create those pathways that can change somebody's life, let them realise their potential and contribute to this country."



**AWARD:** Partnership office

The South Dublin Volunteer Centre also received funding of €50,000 from the National Integration Fund for its Citywest Transit Hub Volunteer Engagement Programme.

**EchoJoe: see pages 54 and 55**

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## 'Landmark' shopping approved with potential for 450 new jobs

Better Value Ltd which owns Dunnes lodged revised plans with city council

**REVISED: An aerial integration of the plans for Dunnes Shopping Centre.**

**REVISIONS:** The revised plans include the demolition of existing buildings on site and the construction of a new shopping centre with an additional 250,000 sq ft of retail space. The new centre will include a new 100-car car park and a new 100-car car park. The new centre will include a new 100-car car park and a new 100-car car park. The new centre will include a new 100-car car park and a new 100-car car park.

## Packaging business Zeus acquires UK's largest paper product manufacturers

RATHFRICK packaging business Zeus has acquired the Weston Group, the UK's largest independent paper producer. The acquisition will create a new £1.2bn business with 250 employees across the UK. Zeus will remain employed under Zeus following the purchase and annual revenue is forecast to reach €100m.



**DEAL:** John Weston, Managing Director at Weston, Brian O'Sullivan, Director of Zeus and Peter Woodson, Operations Director

# ‘You see that doorbell they can hear your voice and record you’

## Resident ‘petrified’ after two men came into porch at 4am in age-friendly development

By Aideen O’Flaherty  
aideen@echo.ie

A RESIDENT of the age-friendly housing development on Fernwood Green, Springfield, was left “petrified” after two men recently came into their porch at 4am.

Their presence was captured on a Ring doorbell, with one of the people in the porch telling the other: ‘You see that doorbell, that can hear your voice and record you’, before leaving.

This is just one in a string of incidents of anti-social behaviour affecting the development, and the topic was raised by Cllr Mick Duff (Ind) at a Tallaght Area Committee meeting on Monday afternoon.

“I would like to think that when we are doing future age-friendly developments that part of what we will think of is the vulnerability of people living at the end of a row that’s connected to a public footpath,” Cllr Duff told the committee.

“It exaggerates the anti-social behaviour. It may be silly little things, like knocking on a bedroom window, but that’s terrifying to the occupant – but this went beyond that.

“It was an incident that happened in the actual porch of a house that – thank God for Ring [doorbells], they record everything – where the two culprits said to each other, ‘You see that doorbell,



they can hear your voice and record you’.

“And that’s exactly what it was doing. That has gone to the guards, because it happened at 4 o’clock in the morning, and the tenant inside was petrified because these people were outside.”

Cllr Charlie O’Connor (FF) backed Cllr Duff’s motion, but criticised Clúid,

the housing body which manages the development, for being slow to respond to issues raised by residents and councillors.

In response to Cllr Duff’s motion about the issue, a spokesperson for South Dublin County Council said: “The age-friendly development at Fernwood Green is managed by Clúid Housing.

“All incidences of anti-social behaviour should, in the first incidence be notified to an Garda Síochána.

“The council is engaging with Clúid Housing to arrange a meeting with the residents of Fernwood Green in an effort to agree measures to mitigate the impact of anti-social behaviour.

Cllr Duff, Cllr O’Connor, and Cllr Louise Dunne (SF) also commented on

how high tensions were when the development was first proposed in 2018, when they were subjected to threats and abuse for supporting it.

They all commended the role the development has played in the community since being built, allowing older residents to downsize, and the fact that they are now largely accepted in the area.



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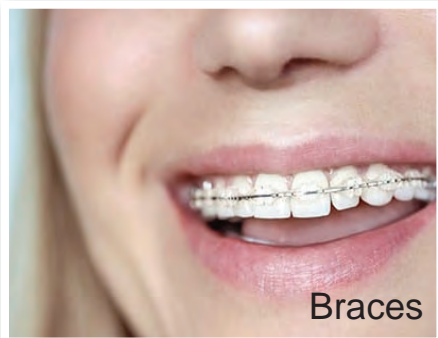
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# ‘Multiple Sclerosis never stopped John living the life that he had’

Meadhbh’s challenge in the sea and swimming pool will raise funds for MS Ireland

By Aideen O’Flaherty

aideen@echo.ie

A YOUNG woman will take a dip in the sea and in her local swimming pool everyday in May to raise money for MS (Multiple Sclerosis) Ireland in memory of Firhouse man John Chris Crowley.

Meadhbh Slattery is taking on MS Ireland’s ‘Dip a Day in May’ ahead of World MS Day on May 30 in tribute to John, who was the uncle of her friend Karen Healy.

Talking about John Chris, who used to work for Eircom, Meadhbh said: “He bravely battled Multiple Sclerosis until he passed away earlier this year.

“Karen and her family were his unwavering pillars of support, demonstrating love and dedication every step of the way.

“Throughout his life, John Chris devoted himself to countless charitable causes, enriching the lives of those in need.

“John embarked on his journey with Multiple Sclerosis 20 years ago, initially experiencing leg issues and numbness while living in Dublin.

“Guided by Ronan Walsh at the Hermitage, he confronted the challenges with remarkable resilience.

“Despite his health struggles, John immersed himself in Dublin’s chess community, particularly advocating for the visually impaired.

“His advocacy took him to various destinations around Europe, from Barcelona to Liverpool, leaving behind a trail of inspiration and camaraderie.”

Two years ago, John Chris sadly received a

diagnosis of prostate cancer and decided to leave Firhouse and return home to his native Kerry, and he faced the illness with bravery and resolve.

He passed away in January in Killarney Community Hospital, but his legacy still lives on among those who knew him.

“Even amidst adversity, John’s unwavering faith and irrepressible sense of humour illuminated the darkest of days, serving as a beacon of hope for those around him,” added Meadhbh.

“For the Crowley/Healy family, caring for John was not a burden but a privilege. His zest for life, rooted in faith, love, and laughter, infused every moment with warmth and joy.

“Multiple Sclerosis never stopped John living the life that he had. It might have changed how he did it, but John lived a good life, rich in faith, love and fun.

“John’s legacy is one of courage, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to living life to the fullest.”

Meadhbh will be doing the ‘Dip a Day’ challenge in John Chris’s honour, and as a tribute to the incredible care provided by Karen and her family.

By taking part in the Dip a Day Challenge, participants not only stay active and refreshed but also make a real difference in the lives of those affected by MS, according to MS Ireland.

Funds raised through the challenge will support MS Ireland’s vital work in providing essential support services, advocacy, and research funding.

For more details go to [www.tinyurl.com/DipaDayinMay](http://www.tinyurl.com/DipaDayinMay).



CHALLENGE: Meadhbh Slattery remembers John Chris Crowley (inset)



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
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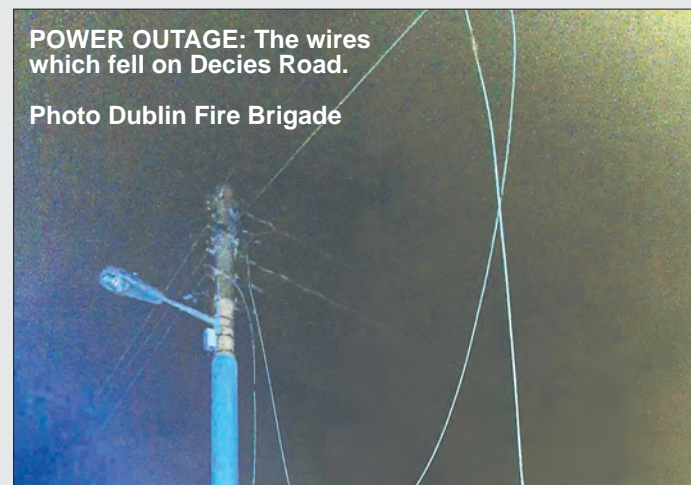
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# 70 households experience power outage after overhead ESB wires fall on road

A TOTAL of 70 households in Ballyfermot experienced a power outage in the early hours of Wednesday morning due to fallen overhead wires. A total of 50 customers on Decies Road were affected by an outage

that was reported just after 1am, while 20 households on Ballyneety Road were affected by an outage reported just before 3am. As of Wednesday morning, the ESB estimated that power would be restored to the properties later that

day, by 4pm. "We apologise for the loss of supply," stated the ESB in a post on its website. "We are currently working to repair a fault affecting your premises and will restore power as quickly as possible."



POWER OUTAGE: The wires which fell on Decies Road. Photo Dublin Fire Brigade

# It's a 'Game changer' for trade and tourism say businesses



POTENTIAL: Lucan House was bought for €15 million last year and will come into council hands this June

## Lands bought for around €15m will come into council ownership in June



WONDERFUL FACILITY: Michael Boyle, Danny Kenny and Dr David Lombard

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

LUCAN House and its grounds has potential to be a massive "game changer" for tourism and trade in the area, according to local business and active travel groups.

South Dublin County Council bought Lucan House, the former Italian Ambassador's residence since the 1940s, for around €15m last year from the Italian State.

The lands will come into the council's ownership by June 2024 but the sale into public hands is welcomed by local businesses and residents, who are excited by the potential for a site to link up with existing active cycleways and tourism plans.

South Dublin County Council told *The Echo* they have no comment to make on plans for the lands "at this moment in time."

However, members of the Lucan Business & Services Group (LBSG) and Active Travel (AT) commend the council for a "prudent" purchase of a 25-acre site that sits in a superb location – nestled between Lucan Village and the River Liffey.

"This changes everything," says Michael Boyle, Lucan Village Pharmacy and LBSG member, referencing existing travel and cycleways that they council have in place for Lucan.

"The house and the grounds are a different level of a destination. They link into a huge park network, all the way through to the Demesne and the almost 700 acres at St

Catherine's Park."

Danny Kenny, Kennys Pub, Lucan Village, agrees: "A direct link from here through to the canal, the Royal Canal, then to Leixlip Village and then having a centrepiece like Sarsfield House and the history that goes with it. It's a great story for Lucan. With the cycleway coming through from the Grand Canal, we finally have a real destination for the weekend cyclist and the tourist and all around Dublin like Castletown (Celbridge) which was a huge success with almost a million visitors a year."

Dr David Lombard, Main St Clinic and member of both groups, said: "One of the things that we are looking for in Active Travel is the five park cycle connected to two canals – the Grand Canal on the south and the Royal Canal on the north."

"Whatever about tourists coming, it will be a wonderful facility for local people, cycling, walking, playing, picnicing."

Dr Lombard believes the grounds need to incorporate Lucan Demesne and St Catherine's Park, citing the "fantastic development" at Avondale House in Wicklow.

Lucan House is in need of upgrades, the grounds are ready to go, but something they all agree on is the need for a "community car park."

"In the last Part 8 they said that people aren't going to come to Lucan in buses, they are going to come in cars, so you need to create a community car park within the grounds, a bit like Castletown," said Dr Lombard.

"That also has the facility to take some traffic off the street. This gets back to what they wanted to do two years ago."

Danny Kenny said the group have identified "scrubland" in the grounds that will "never be used as anything else" which "would be perfect."

Michael Boyle estimates from their research of the lands that the car park could easily manage 400 to 500 car parking spaces.

"There is a big catchment of people in Leinster that are looking for a place to go on the weekend with the family, and what a great destination too. The village here, we can't handle the parking for ourselves, so you can imagine if even 100 more people were coming to see the house, where would they even go," said Mr Boyle.

While Lucan House may not be of the scale of other historic sites, Danny Kenny says what it does have are the grounds that are there for local people.

"Forget about the tourists for a second and think about all the new houses that have been built, starter homes, first time families, they have nowhere to bring their kids at the moment, whereas here is a prime example. It's onto the River Liffey, beautifully picturesque and as an asset to be used by local alone, there is a massive opportunity there."

The business and active travel groups encourage residents to contact their local councillors and politicians with their thoughts and views in relation to developing the grounds to maximise potential benefit for the community.

# Former Esso site is added to Register of Derelict sites

## The next step is to obtain a valuation of the property for the purpose of charging a levy

By Aideen O'Flaherty  
aideen@echo.ie

THE former Esso site in Tallaght village – which has been derelict for several years – was added to South Dublin County Council's Register of Derelict Sites last month.

The next step is to obtain a valuation of the property for the purpose of charging a Derelict Sites Levy, according to an update provided by the council this week.

The update was in response to a question by Cllr Teresa Costello (FF) at a Tallaght Area Committee meeting on Monday afternoon, seeking information on the status of the site.

Reacting to the council's response, Cllr Costello told *The Echo*: "I'm happy to see it moving in the right direction.

"It's a really important part of Tallaght village and to see it left idle for so long is such a shame.

"I personally think it should become a community garden because of all of the apartments there, it should be something for the community instead of more concrete."

The last time there was a plan for the site to be in use was in 2020, when plans were submitted for a 43-unit apartment development, consisting of two apartment blocks and to be called Friar's Place.

However, the planning application proved to be contentious, attracting 26 objections and being refused planning permission by the council as they stated that the scheme would cause "significant visual harm".



“ I personally think it should become a community garden because of all the apartments there, it should be something for the community instead of more concrete

DERELICT: The former Esso site in Tallaght village

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## Culture Day



FLYING THE FLAG: Enjoying St Mark's Community School Culture Day were Gabrielle, Holly, and Kinga. See more photos on page 50

# Pilot programme for dementia inclusive area

AGE Friendly South Dublin will commence a Dementia Inclusive Community Pilot in Ballyroan next month, reports Aileen O'Flaherty.

The pilot will include a 'Dementia Inclusive Community: Understand Together' symbol being visible in the area through stickers, badges and posters.

It will also entail local businesses and community facilities being asked to display the symbol, and to attend staff

training, online webinars and organise inclusive activities.

The initiative has been developed together with people with dementia, carers, partners and champions.

It aims to connect all of the inclusive activities and services across the country and visually represents solidarity with people with dementia and their families.

People and businesses who display the symbol can do so to

show they're committed to working towards building a dementia-inclusive community.

South Dublin County Council announced the pilot at an area committee meeting earlier this month, after Cllr Lyn Hagin Meade (GP) asked about installing dementia-friendly signage in the area.

"Age Friendly South Dublin will commence the Dementia Inclusive Community Pilot in Ballyroan in

May," stated the council in response to Cllr Hagin Meade.

"An initial call will be made to business and prominent community stakeholders to attend an information seminar on dementia and what a dementia inclusive community could look like.

"As part of the pilot, business and community facilities will be provided with the dementia inclusive community sticker and

asked to display it as a sign of solidarity.

"The pilot will also include staff training, online webinars, community events and some social activities."

A six-page tool kit for people interested in participating in the development of a Dementia Inclusive Community is available on the HSE health promotion website at [www.healthpromotion.ie](http://www.healthpromotion.ie).

# Laurels Cycle Crew get back on their bikes for annual fundraiser

## Two-day event to support Tallaght University Hospital Foundation and Ageing Well Centre

THE Laurels Cycle Crew are in action again this weekend for their annual Galway to Dublin fundraiser, which will see members arrive back at the Laurels in Clondalkin on Sunday, reports Maurice Garvey.

The two-day event (April 26-28) is raising funds this year for Tallaght University Hospital Foundation, to support the Ageing Well Centre in Clondalkin village at the Presentation Convent on New Road.

This year marks the 15th year of the annual Laurels Galway to Dublin cycle.

Established in 2009 by Laurels manager Damien Long and head barman Denis McCarthy, the Laurels Crew has raised over €1.3m for various

charities in that time, including Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Ciaran Carr Foundation, Headway and Ronald McDonald House.

This year's cycle features approximately 100 cyclists and a support team which includes road marshals to provide assistance to the riders during the challenge.

Day one covers 127km to Tullamore from the Connaught Hotel in Galway, followed by a barbecue later on that evening.

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.



THE WHEEL DEAL: Laurels Cycle Crew on their 15th year of Galway to Dublin cycle

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# Bleeper bikes launched at GAA Club



**BLEEPER:** Round Tower GAA Club Green Club announced the launch of the Bleeper bikes at their grounds on Monastery Road. Club members who signed up for the scheme received their E-bike on Monday which aligned with Earth Day. The scheme promotes and creates awareness of active travel in the local community. The Round Tower Green Club committee have worked in collaboration with UCD and Bleeper Active to get this e-bike library project launched. At the launch were Mayor Alan Edge, councillors and club members.

# New text alert scheme is up and running in South Dublin

## Welcomed scheme allows people to report the misuse of disabled bays

By Aideen O'Flaherty  
aideen@echo.ie

A NEW text alert scheme by the Disabled Drivers' Association is now up and running in South Dublin County.

The scheme allows people to report the misuse of disabled parking bays, and the announcement of the scheme also included findings from a recent survey by the association.

Over 2,600 people from across the country responded to the survey, which was carried out to highlight the associations' campaign to call on councils to introduce a text alert scheme.

A total of 94 per cent of respondents said they would welcome a mobile phone text alert scheme to notify the local warden when someone was parked illegally.

A text alert scheme is already in use in South Dublin County, following a successful pilot in Lucan Village spearheaded by disability activist and Fine Gael councillor for Lucan, Vicki Casserly.

Cllr Casserly said: "I first brought it to South Dublin County Council because I was very keen to tackle the misuse of accessible parking bays in our area as well as supporting An Garda Síochána's Operation Enable.

"It's been very successful and that's

why I believe that the text alert scheme should be rolled out nationwide because it does enable proper use of the parking bays and acts as a strong deterrent against misuse.

"The scheme supports persons with disabilities to be able to navigate their communities for their day-to-day life.

"It's so important and I'd love to see this happening across Ireland to support and acknowledge the rights of a person with a disability."

It is an offence to park a vehicle in an accessible parking bay in a public place without a valid parking permit.

Offenders receive a parking fine of €150 which increases to €225 if not paid within 28 days.

Despite this, parking bay abuse is still going on, according to Richard Ryder of the Disabled Drivers' Association.

Mr Ryder said: "Our survey wasn't confined to our members, we received a huge response from across the community, with many people without disabilities commenting they are annoyed and frustrated with the misuse of accessible parking bays.

"It's very clear that people want an opportunity to be able to do something about parking bay abuse but in a safe way.

"It's why we are calling on city and county councils to begin using a Text Alert Scheme in their areas. It's safe, it's easy and it's a significant deterrent."

“The scheme supports persons with disabilities to be able to navigate their communities in their day-to-day life. It's so important and I'd love to see this happening across Ireland to support ...



ALERT: A sign for the new text alert scheme



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# Area 'afflicted with graffiti' especially the word Evoke

'People who are graffiti-ing don't tend to go near those walls'

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

THE COUNTY and city of Dublin has been afflicted by a noticeable increase in graffiti in recent weeks and in particular by the word 'Evoke'.

This is what councillors were told at this week's Tallaght council meeting.

At the meeting Councillor Mick Duff (Ind) called on the Council to carry out a graffiti survey in the Tallaght area with the intention of having it removed.

"A journalist contacted me recently and said 'have you driven up the Katharine Tynan Road recently? Did you notice the back of Belgard . . . and up at Fettercairn?'" said Cllr Duff. Once this was drawn to his attention Cllr Duff thought to himself, "that shouldn't be there."

Grffiti with the word 'Evoke' appears to be increasing in many areas.

"Evoke, whatever Evoke is, but Evoke is growing, it's back again . . . and it's on every lamppost . . . The utility boxes are again being targeted, they look awful," said Cllr Duff.

He also said that the utility companies have people employed to have the boxes repainted in the event of graffiti being sprayed on them. "If we could invoke that and get that done?" he asked the Council.

Cllr Duff also mentioned "the movement" that is the Tidy Towns and said they will lose points if there is graffiti in their area.

"Tallaght always lost points . . . it's something we need to eliminate . . . in Tallaght South and Tallaght central it's endemic. I would like to see a combined effort whether it is with the tidy district groups or with the community itself or with probation services. We can't just give into them because they'll destroy the place if we

don't [do]," he said.

Councillor Charlie O'Connor (FF) said that "graffiti shows a neglect of an area – it creates a bad impression about a particular area."

With the upcoming elections he said that "politically motivated graffiti . . . a bit of that might turn up in the next 46 days and it's important that it's dealt with." He felt that "political stuff or really bad stuff" should be dealt with straight away.

However, Cllr O'Connor did sound one positive note.

"Not to be, I hope, not to be offensive, but whoever up my way was painting graffiti depicting exaggerated body parts, I'm glad that's stopped," he said.

After Cllr Teresa Costello (FF) had gotten over Cllr O'Connor's "exaggerated body parts" intervention she added that she thought that graffiti "lowers the morale in an area. It's good to get rid of it as soon as it becomes visible."

The Chair, Cllr Louise Dunne (SF) said that the probation service had come out previously and put up murals on walls that had previously been the target of graffiti.

"People who are graffiti-ing don't tend to go near those walls, they're left. There's one for example in Brookview estate, a mural. I think is there twenty years and I don't think it's ever been sprayed with graffiti," said Cllr Dunne. She also that in cities abroad "along the tram lines they allow murals to be painted and they're never touched."

Cllr Dunne was also mindful of the need to deter people who engage in graffiti. "If we can put in different schemes to try to deter people, and especially yer man Evoke, I always wonder every time I see his name or her name appear," she said.

Senior Executive officer in the

**NOTICEABLE:** The word Evoke on an ESB box and a sign on Katharine Tynan Road



Environment, Public Realm and Water section of South Dublin County Council (SDCC), Sharon Conroy replied that SDCC are disheartened any time they see graffiti. "We are aware that it is everywhere," she said.

Ms Conroy alluded to the challenges the council faces in dealing with graffiti.

"Sometimes where we do get walls painted and it's all gone, within hours or days it's done again and people don't believe that we did go out and sort that, which is very disheartening for our staff as well," she said.

Ms Conroy agreed that the murals are effective but said that they could

not be put everywhere, including the poles.

She said that the Environmental Awareness section in the council work with Dublin Canvass, the social credits schemes and with Tidy Towns groups.

The council does not have permission to paint the utility boxes, she added.

Ms Conroy has said that she has arranged to meet with the ESB around their memorandum of understanding with SDCC and she will then meet with the other utility providers.

"That'll sort of be our basis as to where we can go and what we might

be able to agree in the next one [memorandum of understanding]," she said.

"It's never-ending," she added.

Ms Conroy said she will update the ACMs regarding the survey over the next few months and what plans the council have put in place.

Cllr Duff asked could a contact detail for each utility company be provided to the councillors "so that when something arises of a large scale on a utility box that we could make a direct representation and ask them to paint it out."

Cllr Duff's motion was agreed to by the other Councillors.

**Cllr. Teresa Costello**

tcostello@cllrs.sdublincoco.ie  
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## 'Wave' of graffiti has swept the south central part of Dublin

THERE is currently a "wave" of graffiti in the South Central area, forcing Dublin City Council to spend considerable resources and time in an effort to deal with it, according to a senior official.

Speaking at the South Central area meeting, assistant area manager Bruce Philips said: "The South Central area is experiencing quite a huge increase in the amount of graffiti around the area at the moment.

"We are experiencing a wave, and we are having to put a lot of effort and a lot of resources into removing it and removing it quickly, and it is taking up a good bit of time. But it is something we follow up, we've had to

take swift action on a number of different issues, one in Cork Street where it was very racist in its content."

One such incident the city council responded to quickly to remove was in January, when a wall on the side of the former Blackhorse Inn pub in Inchicore was daubed with the words 'Kill Leo Veradkar – he sold out the Irish.'

Cllr Daithi Doolan (SF) who reported the graffiti to the city council, said at the time that the "offensive and threatening graffiti offers nothing to our community.

"If people want real change then they should become active in their community and work together."



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# Council must listen to local community

## Proposal to ban private vehicles from village is removed

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

A PROPOSAL to ban private vehicles in Clondalkin Village was removed from the Clondalkin Local Area Plan (LAP) this week, much to the relief of many businesses and residents.

It formed part of the Clondalkin LAP which contains a range of 'themes', and South Dublin County Council sought feedback during the public consultation phase.

The traffic aspect, which included bus gates and one-way systems redirecting traffic, did not go down well.

Estates located in proximity to Clondalkin Village gathered petitions to oppose traffic proposals which they say would have a "catastrophic effect" on the area.

Bernie Cronin, chairman St Brigid's resident's association was a key man involved in raising awareness in the community.

He was the only resident to attend the Clondalkin area meeting this week, where an amendment by Cllr Francis Timmons (Ind) to remove the traffic aspect was voted in favour by a majority of Clondalkin councillors (4 in favour, 1 against, 2 absentees).

Petitions Cronin gathered over the last number of weeks, led to a collection of objections from 1,122 residents and a further 820 objections signed by customers in local businesses.

Mr Cronin says the result vindicates public sentiment and that the council and councillors "need to listen to residents and businesses" before publishing proposals.

At the area meeting, Cllr Timmon's Motion asked the committee to acknowledge public "anger" against the proposal.

"It was a difficult one because I was one of the councillors who voted for a LAP for Clondalkin. It



**PROPOSAL:** The ban to remove private vehicles from Clondalkin Village was removed from the Local Area Plan and (inset) an artist impression of the plans

was overdue, Rathcoole would love one," Timmons told *The Echo*.

"There is no plan at the moment, it is just proposals, and there are lots of different parts to the LAP that are very positive, like heritage. But I don't think it (traffic proposal) was suitable."

Cllr Trevor Gilligan (FF) had a Motion to "abandon the Clondalkin LAP" but was disappointed that this failed to receive support.

"The plan was initially proposed by multiple councillors at a 2021 development plan meeting. If this plan is not about pedestrianising Clondalkin village, then what is it about? Whilst proponents continue to point to the positive parts of the plan, I have yet to see a single benefit of the plan that can't be put forward by motions or headed items," said Cllr Gilligan.

In response to Cllr Timmon's

Motion, South Dublin County Council said public consultation from March 1 – April 2 sought feedback using open ended questions on three scenarios for growth informed by an earlier public consultation - local vitality, healthy environment, and built heritage.

"Furthermore, views were sought on an option for movement measure within and around the village. This movement option was presented in response to the first round of consultation, where traffic congestion was seen as an issue for Clondalkin," said SDCC.

"It was presented as an option to reduce traffic congestion and encourage more cycling and walking. It also showed analysis of how the option could reduce delays in the evening peak if the option measures were implemented."

SDCC said a total of 190 people

submitted feedback through the portal and also at workshops and "by other means."

"It is acknowledged that a significant number of respondents were not in favour of the movement option as presented."

SDCC said all feedback will be written up into a report which will be made publicly available.

It is intended to hold a third round of non-statutory consultation prior to publication of a draft LAP where options for movement will be reviewed.

Cllr Timmons said the LAP will come before councillors who are re-elected after the Local Elections in August/September.

"They will be able to make amendments. The traffic proposal is gone but it could come back in another form. The LAP isn't just for or against, there are different elements and we do have a say as councillors."

# Businesses in village relieved traffic proposals are shelved

BUSINESSES in Clondalkin Village are relieved traffic proposals have been shelved, for now, but have called for measures that will help and not impede their efforts to stay afloat, reports Maurice Garvey.

Alison McEvoy of Harmony Dry Cleaners said: "We're in the village 26 years and don't usually go around objecting to this and the other, but when I heard about this and the council saying they put leaflets in people's doors, we never heard about it.

"I went to the public meeting at the Aras and took home five large documents to read. It would have annihilated the village," said Alison.

The proposed one-way system was a shock to many objectors, as it would have forced motorists to make longer journeys and restricted access to businesses.

Padraic Mannix, Hot House Hair & Beauty, fears this would have pushed customers to places like Citywest, whilst turning the village into a "ghost town."

"The last 18 months, things have got so bad with rising costs and everything else, the parts of the village they were looking at would have been a disaster."

Mannix, who also went to the public meeting at the Aras, said previous proposals to restrict big truck deliveries until a later time in the day could be looked at as one solution to traffic.

"In an ideal world there will be loads of push bikes in the village but that is not going to work. We have a lot of elderly clients who need a car to get here. For other clients, the one way system would have pushed them to the outskirts," said Padraic.

Amanda Aprile, runs two businesses in the

village, a bakery and a chipper.

"We depend on traffic but they were diverting it away from us," said Amanda.

"I live by the tower, and it would take an extra 20 minutes for an alternate route to get home under the proposal."

Alison McEvoy believes Bernie Cronin deserves a medal for his work on this, but feels local business concerns don't register with the local authority.

"It would be better if they talked to us, maybe hold a focus group, before spending big money. Had this gone ahead it would have taken business out of the village.

"We are ratepayers. Clondalkin Village wasn't built on heritage plans. I know a couple of councillors well, but they didn't listen to us. We need them to come up with ideas that will help local businesses," said Alison.

## Echoopinion...

### Importance of minding our environment

THE importance of minding the environment came into sharp focus in recent days, with the illegal felling of trees in Dodder Valley Park and ongoing issues with fly-tipping in the county.

It's more apparent than ever that it is up to us to maintain our environment and support our ecosystem, for the benefit of all living beings on our planet.

Recklessly tearing down trees in the dead of night, or dumping large amounts of waste in the mountains or around housing estates, is a poor reflection on our society.

We cannot claim ignorance of environmental issues anymore, the impact is plain to see from rising temperatures to an increase in severe weather events.

Strides are being made in Irish society, with the introduction of the return deposit scheme being a bright spot that will hopefully curtail bottles and cans being dumped and will increase the amount of waste that can be recycled without being contaminated.

It's important that we all play our part in respecting the environment, respecting nature and ensuring that our planet is still healthy and thriving for generations to come.

Combating the scourge of illegal dumping, and illegal tree felling, would go some way to ensuring that this ambition becomes a reality.

### County Partnership to showcase work

THE community is invited to attend a South Dublin County Partnership Open Day in the Fettercairn Community and Youth Centre this Friday, April 28, from 10am to 1pm.

The event will allow the partnership to showcase its work and there will also be stands from various services that complement their work covering topics such as employment, education and wellbeing.

### Council have no plans to install 3D optical illusion speed bumps

THE Council has said it will not install 3-D optical illusion speed bumps before receiving formal advice from national road safety policy makers.

3-D optical illusion speed bumps are painted on effects flat with the road surface but appear to have vertical depth to the oncoming driver.

### Gardai arrest man following disturbance

GARDAÍ responded to reports of a disturbance at a business premises in Tallaght on Tuesday.

The incident occurred at approximately 12.30pm which is understood to have occurred close to St Dominic's Shopping Centre.

According to gardai, "A man (40s) who was arrested in relation to the incident has since been released without charge".

Investigations are ongoing say gardai.

THE **Echo**

Real Local News

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# 75 trees felled in park is an ‘attack on the community’

## Damaged cherry blossoms and saplings are believed to have cost around €30,000

By Aideen O’Flaherty  
aideen@echo.ie

THE illegal felling of 75 trees – which appeared to have been sawn in half – and the uprooting of saplings in Dodder Valley Park is an “attack on the community”, according to the Mayor of South Dublin County.

The incident occurred overnight last Friday to the shock and disappointment of local residents, and the damaged trees and saplings are believed to have cost in the region of €30,000.

The trees damaged were primarily mature cherry blossoms, and it is believed that a battery-powered electric saw was used to fell the trees.

Mayor Alan Edge told *The Echo* on Tuesday morning: “It’s just very sad, very shocking and very bizarre.”

“I think the whole community is feeling it, there’s a real sense of sadness about it, more than anything.”

“I went down to the park on Sunday and if there is a positive slant, which is hard to find, it’s that everybody in the park

stopped and were talking and sympathising with each other about it.

“It’s a positive that the trees do mean so much to people and I think that’s down to the work the council has been doing, and also Stepping Stone Forests and Active Travel.”

Calls have been made for CCTV to be installed to protect the trees and the park from any future incidents.

Mayor Edge said the installation of CCTV cameras to protect trees would be impractical, and noted the lengths that the culprit or culprits went to when they cut down the trees.

“I think if you’re in a situation where you have to install CCTV to protect trees, it would be a very sad day,” he said.

“There are over 8,000 public trees in South Dublin County – how do you protect them all with CCTV?”

“There are also a host of issues about how and where a local authority can use CCTV.”

“To use CCTV in a wood or a park to protect trees – which trees do you choose to protect? You can’t do that.



**SPARE THOSE TREES:** The damaged trees in Dodder Park and (inset) one of the trees cut down by a battery-powered electric saw

“Even if it were legal, it’s not practical. It’s not an area that would even be covered by CCTV, it’s in the middle of a park.”

“Nobody would factor in that someone would come into the park late at night and chop down the trees with a chainsaw.”

“This is someone who presumably charged up an electric saw, went into the park in darkness and cut down the

trees, and they couldn’t have done that in minutes – it was probably hours.”

“It’s an attack on the community, to take away something that everyone enjoys.”

South Dublin County Council intends to replace the damaged trees and saplings, while the act of vandalism is now the subject of a garda investigation.

“The gardaí are investigating

this, and they’re investigating it thoroughly,” added Mayor Edge.

“If anyone saw something in the park late at night on Friday and saw if the trees were damaged or not, that could help the guards to narrow down when it happened.”

A garda spokesperson said: “The council is evaluating the scale of the damage, and the incident is under investigation

by An Garda Síochána. “We urge members of the public to come forward with any information they may have regarding this incident and to report such information to the gardaí.”

“Once a comprehensive assessment of the damage has been completed, we will issue a further statement detailing our response and plans for restoration.”

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# ‘These are normally stories of what happens somewhere else’

## It would have been Shane Knott’s 37th birthday on the day of his funeral

By Aideen O’Flaherty  
aideen@echo.ie

THE funeral of Shane Knott, who was found dead in suspicious circumstances earlier this month, was held in St Dominic’s Church in Tallaght on Tuesday morning, on what would’ve been his 37th birthday.

The father-of-three was found dead at a house on The Lane, Eustace Demesne in Naas on April 14.

Padraig Delaney, 43, who lived at the address, has since been charged with Shane’s murder.

Mourners gathered in St

“We know it shouldn’t be like this, we shouldn’t be here sharing the grief of his mother, brother, sister, children,

Dominic’s Church on Tuesday for Shane’s funeral, and Shane’s mother, Catherine, recalled her son’s birth and her family’s strong links to St Mary’s Priory in Tallaght.

“Today, as you know, was Shane’s 37th birthday,” she said. “So last night, I had Shane back home, going through that 19-and-a-half hours of labour that I went through when he came into the world.

“Going back before that, in 1986, on March 15, I married Shane’s father in the Priory, Shane’s dad was an altar boy there years before that.

“Shane, in May 1987, was actually christened there on my 21st birthday. It’s just poignant.”

The offertory gifts to represent Shane’s life included a bag of jellies, because of his love of sweets, birthday candles to mark the occasion, and a face mask to represent his love of self-care.

“Shane’s first word was ‘sweets’, so when we passed a shop, you had to hide the shop because Shane would just shout out, ‘Sweets!’,” his mother said. “He loved sweets.

“He loved his sunbeds and

TRAGIC END: Shane Knott



his face masks. He was very into self-care.”

She added that Shane also enjoyed competing in poker tournaments, and that he would sometimes stay up all night playing the game because he didn’t want to fold.

Fr Donal Sweeney, who celebrated Shane’s funeral Mass, told the mourners that “we live in a world where violence and bullying lurk just below the surface.”

He added: “We’re familiar with incidents of street violence in far-off cities, and then when we hear it on the news, the news moves on to another item.

“These are normally stories of what happens somewhere else. When a loved one suffers a violent death, it becomes very real.

“We know it shouldn’t be like this, we shouldn’t be here sharing the grief of his mother, brother, sister, children, girlfriend and close friends.”

Shane was brought to Newlands Cross Crematorium following his funeral Mass, and his family released doves and balloons in his memory later that day.

# Baby and toddler special classes

LULLABABY are providing baby and toddler development classes in the Green Isle Hotel, Clondalkin.

The classes will be provided by Claire Luke who is also certified in baby signing, Paediatric first aid, as a Baby Massage Instructor and in childcare and early learning.

There are three age-specific classes available – Step 1 (0-5 months), Step 2 (2-13 months) and Step 3 (13-23 months).

Included in the Step 1 class is a Paediatric first aid course with a local paramedic, baby massage, baby yoga, tummy-time techniques and a graduation party with a goodie bag for €120 for the five-week class.

Steps 2 and 3 are weekly themed classes covering sensory play to stimulate the babies and toddlers, Makaton signing (to help communication), yoga (to improve strength), exploratory play (to promote independence) and lots of music and movements for fun.

Ms Luke is also offering an ‘early bird special’ of two extra free classes to anyone who books before April 30.

However, for those wishing to book a place it would be important to act promptly as the maximum number of places in any class is 15.

Further details are available on [lullababyclasses.com](http://lullababyclasses.com).

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# Organ donation 'really does make a difference'

Organ Donor Awareness Week highlights difference it can make to transplant recipients

By Aideen O'Flaherty  
aideen@echo.ie

THREE times a week, Tallaght man Riyadh Abdelkader goes to hospital at 5am and endures four-hour stints of dialysis while awaiting a kidney transplant.

Riyadh, 40, who is from Old Bawn, was fit and healthy up until 2007, when he was unexpectedly diagnosed with end-stage renal kidney failure at the age of 23.

The diagnosis came about after Riyadh, who runs his own graphic and website design company, began to feel unwell and went to the hospital after being urged to go by his mother and his now wife.

"It was very sudden," Riyadh, who is a past pupil of Old Bawn Community School, told *The Echo*.

"I didn't drink or smoke, I did kickboxing in the Golden Cobra in Jobstown, I played football – I was really fit.

"They think what caused it is that I had a chest infection when I was in my early teens and there was scar tissue on my kidneys from that and they didn't grow properly.

"I was flying, I was fit and healthy, but within four to six weeks, it was totally different.

"I thought that I was just worn out, but when I went into hospital, they said I only had one per cent kidney function, and if I'd gone to sleep that night I probably wouldn't have woken up."

**"I thought that I was just worn out, but when I went into hospital, they said I only had one per cent kidney function, and if I'd gone to sleep that night I probably wouldn't have woken up"**



WAITING: Riyadh Abdelkader with his family

Riyadh's first dialysis treatment lasted 17 hours, due to the high level of toxins that had built up in his system in the time leading up to his diagnosis.

Three years after his diagnosis, Riyadh received a kidney transplant that lasted for five years, before it failed and his body rejected it in

December 2015.

Since then, he has been receiving dialysis three – and sometimes four – times a week and takes 18 different medications a day while waiting for a new transplant.

The treatment impacts Riyadh in numerous ways, including causing aches and pains in his joints and muscles, severe headaches, brain fog, and itching, but it is essential to keep him alive.

It also disrupts his family life with his wife and their two children, as holidays have to be meticulously planned to account for Riyadh's treatment and his wife often has



THUMBS UP: Riyadh Abdelkader receiving treatment

to collect their children when he's in hospital.

Riyadh is sharing his story for Organ Donor Awareness Week, which runs from April 20 to 27, to show the difference that organ donation can make to the lives of those waiting for transplants.

He is currently waiting for a match for a kidney donation that will be compatible with the raised antibodies in his system that led to his first transplant being rejected.

His younger sister has opted into a 'swap' system with the NHS in Belfast, where she will donate her kidney to an anonymous

recipient when a matching kidney is found for her brother.

When asked what message he wants to get out about organ donation, Riyadh said: "It really does make a difference.

"I was fit and healthy before this happened and I never knew about organ donation.

"Until it hits home, and it happens to you or to someone close to you, you don't realise the impact of organ donation."

For more information on organ donation or to sign up for an organ donor card, visit the Irish Kidney Association's website at [www.ika.ie/donorcard](http://www.ika.ie/donorcard).

## Cllr Mick Duff

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

Mick can be contacted on:  
**087 2865570**

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

Twitter: @CllrMickDuff



**Mick DUFF**

From the Community and For the Community

## Progress on move for construction of new school builds

LETTERS of intent have been issued to contractors for the construction of three permanent buildings for local schools, reports Aideen O'Flaherty.

The letters, which were issued by the Department of Education last week, concern buildings for Gaelscoil Lir and Coláiste Pobail Fóla in Citywest, and Griffeen Community College in Lucan.

The Citywest development will be for a new 16-classroom primary school and a 1,000-student post-primary school, including special classes.

The plan for Griffeen Community College is for a new 1,000-student post-primary school, including special classes.

The new buildings are part of one of the largest bundles of new school projects undertaken to date by the Department of Education, comprising some 83,000m<sup>2</sup> of new state-of-the-art facilities.

Minister for Education, Norma Foley TD,

said: "It gives me great pleasure to announce the Letters of Intent for these 10 schools, including eight schools across five sites in Dublin.

"This is a key priority for my department. The delivery of these projects will transform the teaching and learning environment for these school communities.

"Since 2020, the Department of Education has invested around €4.5 billion in schools throughout the country.

"Around 800 school building projects have been completed and 300 other projects are under construction.

"This level of construction rollout recognises the priority that [the] Government puts on investment in education."

The schools are part of the follow-through of the announcement earlier this month of €800m investment for progression of close to 90 projects to construction over the course of 2024 and early 2025.

# Politicians circumspect about ban on posters and cable ties

POLITICIANS at last week's Clondalkin Council meeting were circumspect about a ban on election posters as they feel this would favour incumbents, reports Stephen Farrell.

In outlining his motion to the meeting the Chair, Councillor Francis Timmons (Ind), said that Clondalkin Tidy Towns and Newcastle Tidy Towns would prefer if posters were not put up for the Local and European elections and referendum for June 7 "around the village area."

He added that he was sure the tidy towns groups would send out the exact locations. "Main St in Newcastle is one of them and just up to, I think it's the traffic lights as you enter Newcastle, there's still quite a wide area where people can put up posters," he said.

Cllr Timmons added that such a ban would be voluntary. "Nothing can be done if a poster went up, the Council can't take it down," he said.

Cllr Eoin Ó Broin (Soc Dems) said that there needs to be a move towards a situation where there are "designated poster sites, a couple of them around the town where everyone puts one poster each."

Cllr William Carey (SF) agreed with the idea of two or three locations where there would be "a

large public noticeboard capable of taking posters and visual of all of the candidates, either in the village or on the surrounds of the village such as the Mill Shopping centre."

He agreed a poster ban would suit the incumbents, such as the sitting councillors, whereas "new candidates need to . . . be seen out there."

He expanded further on his concerns. "I have reservations about this. Generally, we take them [the posters] down and respect the limits that we are asked to do in the Clondalkin area – we take them down within the seven days. I'm happy to support . . . but I think we . . . need to be aware of what we are doing here," he said.

However, Cllr Carey also remarked that the tradition of posters is a marker for the public for when the elections are taking place and that they also bring awareness.

"We are seriously in danger of being ignored by the public because there is a lot of apathy towards politicians and towards politics in general . . . and I think it's important that we are seen to get that message out," he said.

Cllr Trevor Gilligan (FF) called on Clondalkin Tidy Towns to re-issue their map so that

councillors do not put up posters by mistake in the poster-free area.

Cllr Timmons said he would put in that request with Clondalkin Tidy Towns.

In reply for the Council, Sharon Conroy, Senior Executive Officer, Environment and Public Realm, said that "the Litter Pollution Act sets out the timeframes that you can erect those posters and the timeframe in which they need to come down after the election, which is seven days after the polling date". Candidates can put up posters from May 8 which is 30 days prior to the June elections and referendum.

"We in Environment and Enforcement will look at fixed penalty notices if we see they are [the posters] there seven days after. We'll give you a reminder yourselves and others just before that. We will make sure that all councillors are reminded of those timeframes," she said.

Cllr Carey had a further query regarding candidates or individuals who are putting up public notices for public meetings that they are holding. "Are they subject to the same [rules] or are there specific rules around that?" he asked.

Ms Conroy replied that there are slightly

different rules around posters and certain meetings. "But our litter wardens are actively looking and watching because we have had a number of complaints over the last few months on that particular issue and so we are keeping a good eye on it," she said.

Cllr Timmons also said that the Tidy Towns asked that everyone using posters to remove cable ties "because there is a significant amount of cable ties that are left on the poles after the election and the tidy towns and the council ends up having to remove them."

Cllr Gilligan added that when he has taken down his own cable ties that there have also been cable ties from previous elections.

"I'm happy to give a commitment to take down other cable ties, even if they are not mine or if they are there beforehand . . . Possibly in five, ten years' time there will be no cable ties left on the poles," he said.

Cllr Timmons quipped that "there's always the option of going poster free" which drew laughter from the chamber.

"Cable ties are one-use plastic," he added.

Cllr Timmons' motion was agreed to by the other Councillors at the meeting.



## Perpetrators of the fires have not yet been identified, says local authority

By Aideen O'Flaherty

aideen@echo.ie

THE repeated burning of illegally dumped rubbish near the Daletree Place Traveller Group Housing Scheme in Ballycullen has created "a safety concern", according to a councillor.

Cllr Emma Murphy (FF) raised the issue at an area committee meeting earlier this month, when she asked South Dublin County Council if they

had received reports of anti-social behaviour at the site.

The council confirmed that four reports had been received so far this year, all of which involved the illegal burning of waste near the housing scheme.

The local authority said the complaints are under investigation with a view to identifying those who lit the fires, but they have not yet been identified.

Cllr Murphy told *The Echo*: "There were a number of fires a few evenings in a row, and there is a particular spot

where rubbish is being burnt very openly.

"The issue is with the general inconvenience of it, but also the safety issues.

"It's coming into summer, kids are out playing and they're coming across open fires adjacent to the Traveller accommodation site.

"It's become a safety concern, but the council has done a huge amount of work in terms of clean-ups and a good bin structure, and they're being very pro-active."

The question concerning the fires was submitted by Cllr Murphy last March, and it was on the agenda for the meeting on April 9, but she said the fires have lessened since her submission.

"It definitely has quietened down," she said. "I put the question down in

mid- to late March and it has definitely quietened down since then."

The remnants of previous fires at the site are still apparent, however, in the form of scorch marks on the road adjacent to the halting site.

"There's a massive scorch mark where you can see where the fires have happened, and I've asked the council to deal with it, so the fires aren't seen as being recurring," added Cllr Murphy.

In respect of the individuals who were lighting the fires, the council stated: "If local residents can assist with identifying the individuals responsible, the Estate Management team can be contacted on 01- 414 9265, by sending a message to 086 0602586 or by emailing estmgt@sdblincoco.ie.

"Any such reports are treated in the strictest of confidence.

"If the offenders are found to be individuals who are tenants or occupiers of council properties, enforcement action will be taken.

"This action will take the form of the issuing of verbal warnings, written warnings and ultimately, if the problem persists, may culminate in legal proceedings against the tenant.

"The Estate Management team works closely with the council's Waste Enforcement team and reports the presence of bonfire material and debris to ensure materials are removed and action is taken under Waste Enforcement legislation where applicable.

"The council is committed to working towards the eradication of such behaviour."

**“It's become a safety concern, but the council has done a huge amount of work in terms of clean-ups and a good bin structure . . .**

# Toastmasters enjoy an evening with playwright and poet Áine

Writer has won a variety of awards for adult and children's poetry, drama and fiction

CLONDALKIN Toastmasters welcomed the writer Áine Ní Ghlinn last Tuesday, April 16.

"So exciting to meet the lovely writer and journalist Áine Ní Ghlinn who joined us last Tuesday for an amazing evening!" the group said.

Áine Ní Ghlinn, is a bilingual journalist, poet, playwright and children's writer, according to Clondalkin Toastmasters.

As Laureate na nÓg (Children's Laureate), between 2020 and 2023, she was the first holder of that role to write exclusively in Irish.

Ms Ní Ghlinn has won a wide variety of awards for adult and children's poetry, drama, and fiction, including several Oireachtas drama prizes.

She is also a recipient of the hugely prestigious Honour award of the International Board on Books for Young People and several of her works have won Irish Language Book of the Year awards.

In 2019, shortly before becoming Laureate na nÓg, she was awarded the Patrick Kavanagh Fellowship for poetry, according to Clondalkin Toastmasters.

Clondalkin Toastmasters meet on any first and third Tuesday of the month at 7.45pm in the Maldron Hotel, Newlands Cross.

According to their Facebook page the next meeting of Clondalkin Toastmasters will be on May 7.



**WELCOME:** Members of the Toastmasters with poet and writer Áine Ni Ghlinn

# Gearing up to host first-ever Darkness Into Light event

Committee is urging as many people in community to register for walk

LUCAN is gearing up to host its first-ever Darkness Into Light event, with the local committee collaborating closely with Gardaí and Fingal County Council to finalise plans.

Scheduled for Saturday, May 11 at 4.15am in St Catherine's Park, this fundraising walk is set to support Pieta, a leading organisation aiding those affected by suicide and self-harm.

Committee Chair, Cllr Liona O'Toole, stresses the importance of registering early "This is the first time we've organised an official Darkness Into Light walk in Lucan so it's really important that people register in advance so we can plan appropriately for the numbers attending.

"You can register online in just a few simple clicks and can make your contribution to Pieta while doing so. There will be limited parking available in St Catherine's Park, so we advise people to walk where possible. Fingal County Council have been brilliant partners and will be managing the carpark

**EVENT:** Gardaí and Fingal County Council met with Local Fine Gael TD and Minister Emer Higgins, along with Cllr Liona O'Toole, Emma Griffen, and Darkness Into Light Committee Members



for us on the morning."

Local TD Minister Emer Higgins also sits on the committee and voiced strong support for the event saying "This is going to be a really special event. We're working hard with Fingal County Council to make sure the route is just right, and we will have the Gardaí there to assist us on the day.

Having been a founder member of the Corkagh Walk I've seen first hand how much these walks mean to people and it's brilliant to be able to offer a Lucan option for locals to participate in".

Residents of Lucan and neighbouring areas, including Leixlip, Palmerstown, and Dublin 15, are encouraged to take part.

Registration is currently open online at [darknessintolight.ie](https://darknessintolight.ie). Volunteers over the age of 18 are invited to express their interest by emailing [lucan@darknessintolight.ie](mailto:lucan@darknessintolight.ie), with the subject line 'I'd like to help'.

There will also be Darkness Into Light events in Tymon Park and Corkagh Park.

**“** Having been a founder member of the Corkagh Walk I've seen first hand how much these walks mean to people and it's brilliant to be able to offer a Lucan option for local to participate in

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# Special class for children with autism inaugurated

A SPECIAL class for children with autism was officially opened at St Louise De Marillac Primary School, Ballyfermot by the Lord Mayor on Tuesday, reports Stephen Farrell.

"The class opened in September 2022, so it's in its second year now. We had the official opening to coincide with Autism Acceptance Month that we are having in the school all through April," said Principal Alma Quinn.

Tuesday was certainly a busy day in St Louise's with the Lord Mayor, Councillor Daithí de Róiste, arriving at 11.30 am.

Cllr Vincent Jackson, who is also Chairperson of the Board of Management (BOM) of the school and a former pupil, was MC for the opening.

"We [then] had a ceremony in the hall and the school choir also performed. They did their final song with sign language using Lámh because some of the children in the class use Lámh," said Principal Quinn.

Also a number of speeches were made. "The Mayor, Cllr Jackson, myself and Aylissa Doab, who is a Fifth Class pupil, a member of the Student Council and a member of

the ASD class, made speeches," said Ms Quinn.

In his speech, the Lord Mayor spoke about kindness, inclusivity and how efforts are being made to make Dublin more friendly for autism.

Sarah Murphy is the Special Class teacher and she is supported by two Special Needs Assistant's, Amy Ward and Leanne Brody.

"We are so fortunate that we have an amazing team working in the ASD class," Ms Quinn said.

She added that there have been a number of challenges in establishing the Special Class but that the benefits outweigh those challenges. She also said that the staff and school community are on a voyage of discovery regarding autism and that each day they are learning new things.

The speeches were followed by the ribbon-cutting at the classroom and a visit by the Lord Mayor to the classroom after which attendees enjoyed light refreshments.

There was a large attendance at the opening.

"The children's parents and grandparents attended, and members of the BOM, some



members of the Parents' Association, the Student Council from the school, the Senior Infants Class and the Fifth Class, the children of the Special Class and some of the staff in the school were also there," said Ms Quinn.

There are six girls in the Special Class with some pupils remaining in the class for the school day while others also go to mainstream

classes, depending on the individual needs of the child.

There are several facilities available to the pupils of this class. "We have a sensory room . . . and an outdoor play area with a big swing. Each pupil has their own workstation and there is also an interactive whiteboard in the classroom," said Ms Quinn.

A school bus also brings four of

the pupils of the class to and from school each day.

St Louise's, which opened in 1958 and was set up by the Daughters of Charity, has a long tradition of helping children in the locality.

The Special Class is currently engaged in an exciting project to establish a sensory garden for children in the class. "Work is underway," said Ms Quinn.

# The Tallaght Tidy Towns group calls for volunteers

## Raising the standards of tidiness and cleanliness benefits everybody in the community

TALLAGHT Community Council (TCC) has been the driving force behind the Tallaght Village Tidy Towns group since May 2023.

In one year, the positive impact in the village is clear for all to see – less litter, less graffiti, more pride of place, more sense of place, more heritage, more greenery, more pollinators, more trees, more quality street art and a renewed focus to raise the public realm standards in the village.

The Tallaght village Tidy Towns group is getting ready to enter the national competition in May for the second time. In the last 12 months, they have held over 150 litter picks, collecting over 1,000 bags of litter. They have hosted Tidy Towns events with eight local businesses - AWS, Colm O'Coilainn, Fanagans, Kingsbury Furniture, Partas, MRA Accountants, Civic Facilities and Zoetis. A hearty acknowledgment must go to Nollaig Ryan and Olivia Luc from Fanagans, who both show a clear and ongoing commitment by joining the Wednesday Lunchtime Litter picks almost weekly.

Liz Kennedy, Vice Chair of TCC, says: "Tallaght village has well over 100 businesses located in it, including retail, professional services, pubs and food outlets. We would like to see more businesses get actively involved this summer.

"We can support them to host a staff community giving event, or they can simply join the Wednesday Lunchtime Litter picks that take a maximum of one hour.

"Businesses can also sign our Tidy Towns pledge and show clear leadership by taking good care of the exterior of their business premises.



"I would urge every business located in Tallaght village to become an active supporter and get hands on this summer.

"Our call to arms is to every business owner located in the village to show up, show you care and take part."

She added: "Stand with the committed volunteers and help them continue to raise the standards in our village. It benefits everyone, including the businesses in the village."

So far in 2024, Tallaght Tidy Towns have focused on improving the Main Road area in Tallaght village, a key approach road to the village. They have cleaned up the Balrothery roundabout, tackled two serious litter black spots on Main Road (one on a business premises and another behind a house), manually cleared the "forest nature trail" adjacent to Glenview, created a new flower bed at the lower Glenview entrance and installed a new authentic water pump feature here too.

The plans for the summer ahead include painting all 26 street planters, from the Old Bawn Road to Main Road in partnership with AWS. These provide vital greenery to the village and essential food to bees and bird wildlife.

The dedicated volunteer group plans to finish the Main Road forest nature trail, to green Watergate bridge and to add more heritage features back into the village. There will also be a social event held in May to mark Street Feast also for the volunteers

and supporters.

TCC invite all interested residents and businesses to join the voluntary effort to enhance our village.

Go along to the weekly meet ups – there are jobs suitable for all abilities and ages (under 18s must be accompanied by a responsible adult).

The meeting point is at The Victors statue outside Café Aon Scéal, twice a week, gloves and pickers are provided, Wednesday – 12.30 to 1.30pm, and Sunday – 11am to 12 noon.

# Cancellations of appointments in hospital soar to over 8,600

## Government accused of failing to tackle ‘extremely concerning’ overcrowding

By Aideen O’Flaherty  
aideen@echo.ie

OVER 8,600 appointments in Tallaght University Hospital (TUH) were cancelled last year, marking an increase of 20 per cent compared to 2022.

Local Sinn Féin TD Seán Crowe described the figure as “extremely concerning” and criticised the Government.

“The Government is failing to tackle hospital overcrowding which is leading to record levels of cancellations,” said Deputy Crowe.

“There were 8,673 hospital appointments cancelled at Tallaght University Hospital in 2023.

“This represents an increase of 20 per cent on 2022 and is an extremely concerning figure that represents real people missing out on vital appointments and hospital care.



“Approximately 70 per cent of cancellations are by patients, i.e. the proposed date/time does not suit them/they are ill/they no longer need that appointment

“The 13 years under Health Ministers Varadkar, Harris and Donnelly have made the health service worse. They have decimated local health services and created a crisis in our hospitals.

“The Government does not have a plan for hospital overcrowding, and this is forcing hospitals to rely on cancellations.

“This is shifting the problem from overcrowded emergency departments on to lengthy waiting lists. It is not a sustainable solution.”

The Echo contacted Tallaght University Hospital for comment, and asked what action they are taking to deal with appointment

cancellations.

A spokesperson for the hospital explained that the majority of appointment cancellations are actually by patients.

“When it comes to cancellations of appointments there are a number of reasons this happens,” they said.

“Approximately 70 per cent of cancellations are by patients, i.e. the proposed date/time does not suit them/they are ill/they no longer need that appointment.

“The remaining 30 per cent cancelled by the hospital can be due to a number of reasons such as clinician on unexpected leave, further investigation required before the appointment, or

unforeseen circumstances.

“The hospital re-schedules cancelled appointments as quickly as possible.”

Deputy Crowe added in a press release issued last week that Sinn Féin’s proposal for the health service includes fast-tracking elective procedures and to deliver 3,000 hospital and community beds.

He also said his party would “invest in home support, community step-down beds, and diagnostic capacity so that patients can be discharged home or to a supported care setting when they are ready, and to ensure that patients’ experiences are not delayed by lengthy waiting lists for scans.”

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# Breaking new ground to mark the growing needs of community



**FUTURE PROOFING:** Mayor Alan Edge, Teresa Walsh (SDCC Director of Service), Brendan Redmond, SDCC Staff with Eamonn Stapelton, Thomas Foy and Peadar Burke from Clonmel Enterprises at the sod-turning in Jobstown Park. Photo by Ben Ryan

A SOD-TURNING event took place at the 28-acre neighbourhood park in Jobstown due to be upgraded to meet the growing needs of the community.

Works are set to commence by Clonmel Enterprises Ltd which will include the upgrading of the main park entrances, a teen space area, an outdoor workout area, a pump track, an informal kick-around area, a natural playground, a dog park, a footpath exercise loop, a cycle south Dublin link that will connect to the wider cycle infrastructure as well as landscape and biodiversity improvements.

Speaking at the event, Mayor Alan Edge said: "The park will offer amenities, interconnected green infrastructure, and biodiversity enhancement, including habitats for pollinators.

"We acknowledge and thank the community for their assistance and input during the preliminary design stage and their support for this project in general. We ask them to kindly bear with us during this construction process. We will endeavour to cause as little inconvenience to them as possible. I wish all involved a safe and successful delivery of the project."

# Caritas College students scoop national awards



**STANDING PROUD:** Jerome Chambers (Chairman, Leaving Certificate Applied National Association) with the award winners from Caritas College.

FORMER Caritas College students scooped national awards for their work in the Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) programme, reports Maurice Garvey.

Kelsey Masterson, Chelsey Haugh, Emily Graham, Hailey Lowery, Chelsea Keogh Meates and Zoe Jackson, LCA students from Caritas College, Ballyfermot, received a Fergal Quinn National LCA award at a national awards ceremony in the Shamrock Lodge hotel in Westmeath.

The girls completed their Leaving Certificate Applied exams in June 2023.

Each of the girls achieved an extraordinary 100 credits (full credits) for their key assignments, task work and final written and practical exams.

Their excellent results reflect their hard work and commitment during their two years of their LCA programme and the work and commitment of their teachers, including LCA coordinator Maureen Casey.

Ms Casey is "extremely proud" of the students and wished the girls "every success in their future careers and further paths in education."

Caritas College has since merged with St Dominic's and St John's College into the newly formed St Setons where the LCA programme continues to be offered.

The late Fergal Quinn was a very active supporter of the programme and his family continue to support yearly awards to students who achieve the highest credits each year.



# Heroes of kindness to be honoured

## Initiative aims to promote and nurture a culture of goodwill

THE LORD MAYOR of Dublin, Daithí de Róiste, invited schools across Dublin city to take part in the Kindness Heroes initiative. The initiative is one that aims to promote and nurture a culture of compassion and goodwill in Dublin.

Dublin is a city that is known for its vibrant community spirit; through this initiative it begins a mission to spread kindness throughout neighbourhoods. The Kindness Heroes initiative invited children to showcase acts of kindness during the week of April 15 to April 19, this year.

Lord Mayor Daithí de Róiste said, "An act of kindness not only brightens someone's day, it also uplifts the spirits of the person doing the act of kindness. In a world that can sometimes feel unkind, small gestures often serve as beacons of hope, helping promote emotional well-being and build stronger bonds within our community. Kindness is action-orientated; you can't be kind sitting on your couch watching

television. It's about doing something for somebody else without any expectation of anything in return."

Participating schools throughout Dublin city were encouraged to nominate students who exemplify the spirit of kindness through their actions. These Kindness Heroes will be recognised and honoured during a special ceremony at the Mansion House next month.

"We want our young citizens to understand how a small effort of kindness can make an impact on others," added The Lord Mayor.

"They not only make a positive difference in someone else's life but also contribute to building a caring community."

Schools are encouraged to nominate one of their Kindness Superheroes to be invited into the Mansion House in May for presentation of a Lord Mayor Scroll. Email details of the act of kindness including the pupils name to kindness@dublincity.ie.

**“ We want our young citizens to understand how a small effort of kindness can make an impact on others . . . They not only make a positive difference in someone else's life but also contribute to building a caring community . . .**



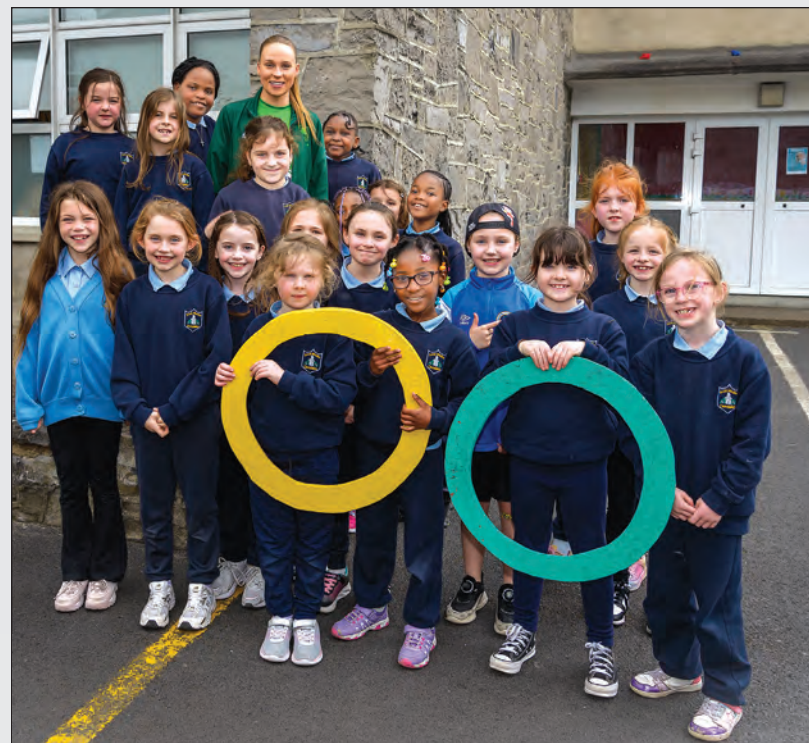
GOODWILL: Saint Raphael's Kindness Heroes with Lord Mayor and (inset) St Setons, Ballyfermot Kindness

# f Kindness noured



COMPASSION: Saint Ultan's, Cherry Orchard pupils listening to Lord Mayor Daithí de Róiste

# Students from Scoil Mhuire inspired by Olympian swimmer



DELIGHT: Ellen Walshe with students from Scoil Mhuire

PUPILS from second class in Scoil Mhuire, Clondalkin were delighted to have a visit from Olympic swimmer Ellen Walshe, an Olympic ambassador, on Friday in the 'Dare to Believe' programme which is run and funded by the international Olympic Solidarity Fund, Permanent TSB, and the Olympic Federation of Ireland.

The schools programme is running since 2019 and it aims to inspire the youth of Ireland to believe in themselves.

The girls in second class in Scoil Mhuire, Clondalkin are very talented in many sports including swimming, gymnastics, running, football, martial arts and basketball, so they put together a proposal and were delighted to have been chosen for an Olympian visit.

By completing the Dare to Believe Programme they gained knowledge about the Olympics and the

Paralympics.

They were thrilled to have Olympic swimmer Ellen Walshe as their Olympic ambassador, to inspire the boys and girls in Scoil Mhuire, but in particular to encourage the girls in second class to continue in sport as they become older.

"Ellen came to visit the school and received a very warm welcome from all the students. She told them about her life and life as an Olympian and answered childrens' questions about being a top sports person," said second class teacher Sinead Kelly.

"She then met with second class, played some games and showed them an insightful presentation all about herself.

"Ellen was truly inspiring and it was fantastic to have an insight into what it is like to be an elite athlete. Best of luck to Ellen in Paris this year."



CHEERS: Ellen Walshe is greeted by students from Scoil Mhuire

# Plans for film production campus at Grange Castle

Lens Media has acquired lands from local authority for €26.4 million

By Aideen O'Flaherty  
aideen@echo.ie

PLANNING permission is being sought for what is expected to be the largest film production studio campus in the county, located in Grange Castle Business Park.

Called Dublin Fields Media Park, the project is being led by Dublin-based company Lens Media who recently lodged a planning application for the development.

The proposal includes the development of "a full-service media park" with six sound-stage buildings with 11 internal sound stages, along with ancillary offices.

The scheme will also include four workshop buildings along with a television studio and reception building that will include three television studios.

Other aspects of the development include a 100-seat theatre and a two-storey dining hall, and VIP and guest services.

A decision on the planning application has not yet been made by South Dublin County Council, which previously sold the subject site to Lens Media.

Lens Media is a private consortium led by award-winning producer Alan Moloney, and Oscar-nominated producer Gary Levinsohn.

Lens Media acquired the lands from South Dublin County Council in 2020, for a sum totalling €26.4m.



FULL SERVICE MEDIA PACK: An artist's impression of the film production studio

## One-act plays in Lucan

LUCAN Drama are delighted to announce another great evening of one-act plays which will be showing upstairs at Courtney's in Lucan village.

The shows run from May 12 to 15 (Sunday – Wednesday) with tickets for the show €12/€10 concession.

There is a special Dinner/Show offer for €35 which includes a ticket for the show plus a two-course dinner and tea or coffee. Doors open at 7.30 pm. Tickets can be booked online at [www.gr8events.ie/LUCANDRAMA](http://www.gr8events.ie/LUCANDRAMA)

## Meeting on crime activity

KILNAMANAGH Neighbourhood Watch is holding a meeting to discuss crime activity in the area on Monday evening.

The meeting will be held in St Kevin's Family Resource Centre at 7.30pm – all are invited to attend. Gardai will be in attendance to discuss latest developments and offer advice on security.

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## Michael (75) aims to reopen library building for public use

THE CLOSURE of Inchicore Library four years ago and deterioration of the historic building, will see one resident run as a single issue candidate in the Local Elections in an effort to reopen the building for public use, reports Maurice Garvey.

Michael O'Flanagan (76) has lived on Emmet Road in Inchicore for 50 years "educated" himself at the library, had his own paintings hung inside the building, and witnessed many exhibitions, talks and community groups engaged in activities there until it began to wind down at the end of 2019 and then closed to the public in March 2020.

O'Flanagan, secretary of the local heritage group and a member of the Inchicore Library Advisory Committee, criticised Dublin City Council after the roof of the building fell in due to a burst pipe in 2020, leading to further deterioration of the building.

"I'm closer to 80 than 70 but 10 local councillors have got nothing done in four years. I'm doing it to put pressure on the other councillors and I will take votes away from them," said Michael.

O'Flanagan and the heritage group campaigned to secure €4m in funding for the redevelopment of Richmond Barracks during the recession, and after that he moved onto Kilmainham Mill to help broker an agreement between the owner of the mill and the city council to commence conservation works.

"I suggested the owner of the mill and a senior council official go for a few pints to resolve the lack of communication between the pair," chuckled Michael.

"At the same time Inchicore Library closed, the local community centre closed, which catered for about 40 community groups. These groups have nowhere to go.

"There will be a new library in the St

Michael's regeneration, which most people in Inchicore are happy with, but there is a sentimental attachment to Inchicore Library. It won't open back up as a library but my concern is that when it does reopen, will it prevent access for community groups?"

A temporary pop-up library operates out of the barracks, but this is in a "tiny little room," according to Michael.

Speaking at the South Central area meeting this week, Bruce Philips, assistant area manager Dublin City Council said they are "making very good progress over the last few weeks" in relation to Inchicore Library, bringing in a project manager who is "driving the process forward."

"We've had meetings with our planning department because it is necessary to get new planning consent. We haven't got final determination on that, we've met with the planning department, they asked us to provide more drawings and details. That is in the process of happening and we will take some more time to do that," said Mr Philips.

O'Flanagan set up Inchicore Library Advisory Committee in 2022 after Dublin City Council took possession of the library, in an effort to retain the cultural and historical importance of the building.

Despite assurances from the city council Michael says they are no clearer on the nature of the refurbishment works and if local groups will have access.

"The whole thing was caused by lack of access for disability as there are high steps leading to the entrance. The building was also then designated a Protected Structure. I proposed a lift at the side of the building with a company from Limerick which was agreed with the council for €2m, but then they said all access needs to be equal, so that was scrapped after two years of designs."

# Tallaght Stadium to ask for bids on vacant unit at North Stand

THE owners of Tallaght Stadium, South Dublin County Council, intend to place an advertisement during this month seeking Expressions of Interest from entities to operate the vacant unit within the undercroft of the North Stand, at Tallaght Stadium, reports William O'Connor.

According to the local authority, the unit is circa 278 sqm and is finished to shell and core only, so any potential tenant will be required to fit out the unit to their requirements,

subject to the agreement of the Council. It is anticipated that the Expression of Interest will require details of the following from any prospective tenant; Previous/Current Experience, including Manpower and Skills; Financial Proposal/Cost Plan; Community Gain and Vibrancy & Vitality.

Councillor Charlie O'Connor raised the issue and asked "the CEO to note that the completed works at Tallaght Stadium have been warmly

welcomed and will he now confirm what plans are in place for the use of the units adjacent to the new Shamrock Rovers Club shop? Will he give details and make a statement?"

The council also said the successful entity will have to agree full terms and conditions with the Council and any agreed Lease proposal will be subject to S.183 of the Local Government Act. Any entity taking on the space will be obligated to comply with any planning

requirements.

This follows on from the South Dublin County Council agreeing terms with Shamrock Rovers for a new 15-year licence for the use of Tallaght Stadium.

Terms include a licence fee of €190,000 per annum plus VAT.

Rovers, who have been using the council-owned facility since 2009, previously had a licence fee of €98,000 plus VAT per annum.

According to a report which is due

for agreement by elected members at the upcoming council meeting on April 8, terms have also been agreed with Rovers for a lease of club office and retail space at the stadium, for a fee of €50,000 per annum.

The new office and retail space is located under the new North Stand.

Terms of the 15-year licence, which commences on January 1, 2024, propose a fee of €10,000 in year 1, a licence fee of €50,000 for year 2, and €90,000 payable from year 3.

# Many great tributes paid to 'giant of Irish basketball'

Mary Flanagan was involved deeply in local and international basketball officiating tournament

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

A GIANT of Irish basketball with deep connections with the Clondalkin and Inchicore communities died last Thursday, April 18.

Mary (Carmel) Flanagan died peacefully surrounded by her family and friends at St Vincent's Hospital after a long illness.

The depth and breadth of tributes expressed online the following day is an indication of the respect, love and esteem in which Mary is held.

These sentiments were reinforced by one of her many friends, Mick White.

"I have known Mary for 40 years plus. She came to Rathcoole Rockets in the '90s and she has been with us ever since. We became Dublin Lions after the amalgamation of a number of clubs," said Mick.

After the formation of Rathcoole Rockets Mick was invited to coach at the club. Dublin Lions was formed in the late '90s in which Mary became very involved.

As Mary lived in Inchicore she originally became involved in basketball through the Naomh Mhuire club who were based in the Oblates.

"Mary and a couple of more parents and Fr Joe Moran decided that there was a need for an

underage club and Mary became involved with the u-14s in Naomh Mhuire," said Mick.

During her involvement with various basketball clubs Mary was a manager to many teams. "She was always there to help others, once she put her mind to something, she was the guiding light, she has left a great legacy," said Mick.

Mary also did table-officiating at countless games. "She did it for every team in Dublin, Killester, Eanna's - she was also very involved with Marian Basketball. She was a very giving person," said Mick.

Mary was also involved in basketball beyond the club scene. "Any international or official Ireland tournaments, Mary was there," said Mick.

Alluding to Mary's generosity of spirit, Mick referenced one of the countless tributes on Facebook. "Not only did she take charge of a game, she also took charge of the table officiators, she would have tea and goodies for them as she knew it would be a long day for them - she looked after others," said Mick.

Mary's commitment to basketball was total. "She was straight down the line with you, if she thought something was wrong she would tell you. But when the game was over she would be the first to invite you for a drink or for lunch or 'did you want a lift home?'. She was straight as a die," said Mick.

Management was one of Mary's

skills.

"People adored her, she was the best at it [managing]. If she was manager to an underage team, she was like a second mother to them, she defended them to the hilt," said Mick.

Mary worked as a civil servant, according to Mick. "She was pretty high up in the Department of Finance, she was involved in the litigation end of things behind the scenes," said Mick. When Mary retired her commitment to basketball increased even further. "For the last ten years plus, she gave 12 hours a day to basketball," said Mick.

Such is the esteem that Mary is held in the Basketball community there was a moment's applause before each of the three All-Ireland's held in Gormanstown, Co. Meath on Saturday last.

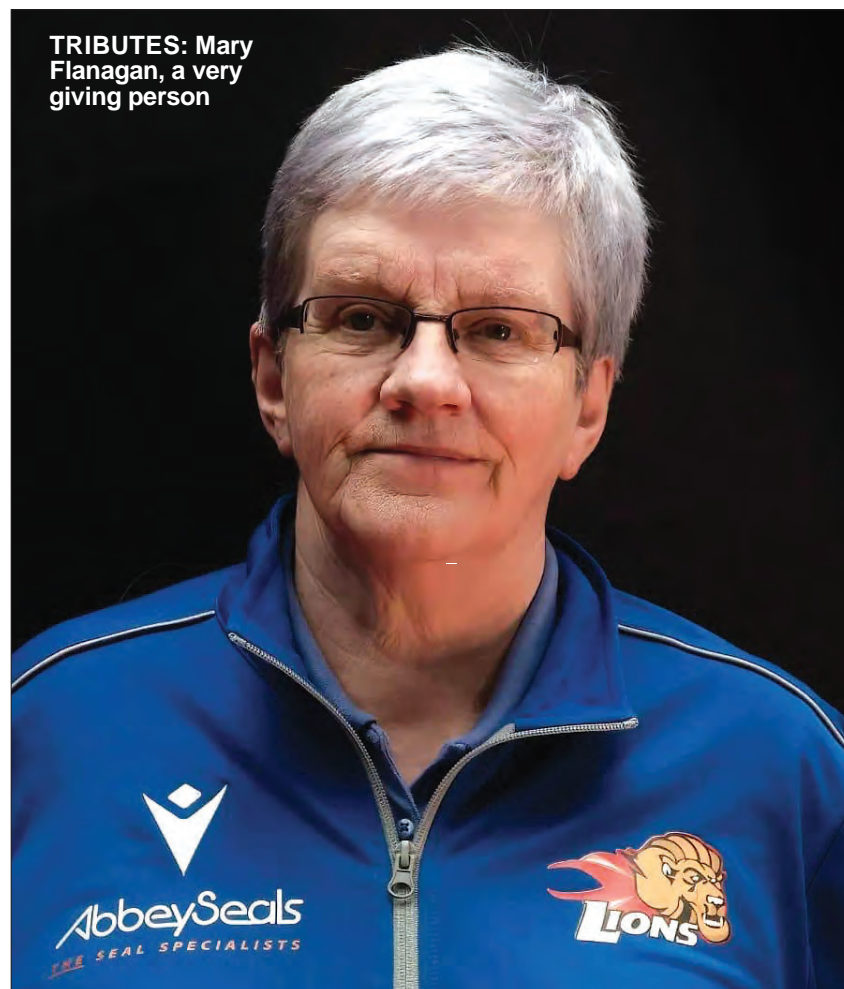
Mary was also involved in the Community Games and in Primary Schools Basketball.

Her other big passion was sewing. "She was in sewing clubs, she would sew christening quilts. She had a huge group of friends from that circle," said Mick.

Mary is survived by her daughter Megan and her grand-daughter Lucy. "Mary was devoted to them," said Mick.

The passing of Mary is a great loss for a great many people. "Over forty years she had become an extremely good friend, I will greatly miss her," said Mick.

TRIBUTES: Mary Flanagan, a very giving person



# Some 'level of cleansing' or litter-picking could be possible in Glenasmole area

ADDING rural roads to South Dublin County Council's Street Cleaning Programme "would not be feasible" but there may be an opportunity to "provide for some level of cleansing service", reports Aideen O'Flaherty.

The council stated this at an area committee meeting earlier this month, after Cllr Alan Edge (Ind) asked if roads in Glenasmole could be added to the programme "for road safety

reasons".

In response, the council said rural roads are not included in the scheme, as the service is only provided in urban areas and on urban roads with a defined kerb edge.

"Road grit builds up against the kerb and this requires regular removal otherwise it will interfere with the road drainage system," explained the council.

"This service also includes the cleaning of gullies to remove grit which has been carried and washed into them.

"The absence of a kerb edge on rural roads means that grit does not build up there, instead it is driven off the road and onto the roadside verge."

The council said the addition of rural roads "would not be feasible" at present due to the magnitude and

length of the roads and the additional costs that would be incurred.

"The Public Realm Section will examine the area specifically referred to here at Glenasmole to determine what level of cleansing or litter-picking service would be required in the area in terms of frequency and the nature of the service required," said the council.

"The road-sweeping contract which

is currently held by Oxygen Environmental Ltd will expire at the end of this year and a tender process will be conducted this year for a new contractual arrangement.

"The preparation of the necessary tender documents will provide an opportunity to examine this matter further and possibly provide for some level of cleansing service in this rural area."

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



## A rare wild beauty



**BEAUTIFUL:** The brown dots on Yellow Archangel's flowers direct bees to its store of nectar

THE Yellow Archangel is a beautiful wild plant. It has spikes of buttery-yellow flowers that sit in whorls around the stem, accompanied by oppositely placed, green, oval-shaped leaves.

The flower's yellow petals are shaped to have a rounded hood on top with two 'lips' on the bottom.

The pattern of soft brown spots on these lower petals guide bumblebees into the flower's nectar store.

Yellow Archangel is not a common plant in Ireland. This is because the damp woodland habitat that it prefers is no longer widespread across the country. It occurs, however, in a number of locations here in South Dublin County, including along the River Liffey and in the Dublin Mountains.

This makes this county an important refuge for this rare plant species.

Yellow Archangel is a member of the Dead Nettle family, all of which have square stems with heart or oval-shaped leaves.

While many of the flowers in this broad family are

red, pink, blue or white, Yellow Archangel is the only yellow-coloured member of the group.

Its leaves look like Nettles, but they do not sting.

The origin of the 'Archangel' name is not clear. It may be a reflection of the rounded shape of the flower's upper petals which are said to look like a helmet.

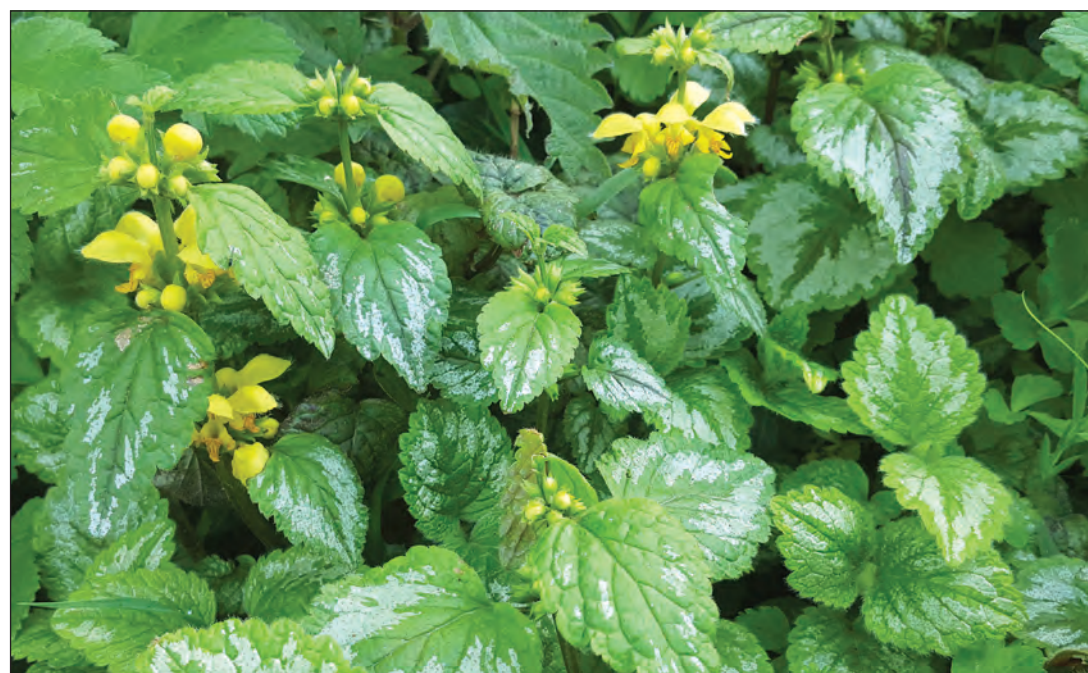
The plant's Latin name, *Lamiastrum galeobdolon*, reflects this, where 'galeo' means to cover something with a helmet.

Also, as Saint Michael the Archangel is often pictured as wearing a rounded helmet, and the pairs of green leaves could look like outstretched wings, these features together may have led to this lovely plant's name.

A garden variety of Yellow Archangel exists which has unusual splashes of silver on its leaves.

While this is a useful plant in shady corners of the garden, it can be very vigorous.

For this reason, it should not be allowed escape into natural habitats nearby.



**VIGOROUS:** The leaves of the garden variety are splashed with silver markings



**FIGHTING FIT:** Rachel, Aishling, Emma, Liza, Karen, Carmel, Margaret, Noreen, Michelle, and Glenda

# Getting ready Women's Mini

## St Anne's and Thomas Davis women

By Aideen O'Flaherty

aideen@echo.ie

WOMEN from St Anne's and Thomas Davis' GAA clubs have joined forces for the first time to run the VHI Women's Mini Marathon together next June.

Training is now in full swing for the endeavour, which is being led by Glenda Murphy-Smullen and Noreen Hoare from St Anne's, and Carmel Lynch-McGinty from Thomas Davis.

Over 60 women from the two clubs have signed up, with Noreen leading twice-weekly training sessions and Glenda posting training guidance in the WhatsApp group for the women taking part.

Carmel is organising the bus that will bring the women to and from the mini marathon, and the entertainment in the Thomas Davis clubhouse afterwards.

Carmel told *The Echo*: "About 60

women between the two clubs will be going, and we'll have entertainment and a get-together in Thomas Davis afterwards.

"It's just bringing the community together, and that's what the GAA is about – we're all friends off the pitch."

Carmel is currently training to take on the 10k mini marathon, and recently completed a 7k and is planning to continue building up her running distance for the event.

"There has been a great uptake," said Carmel, when asked about the response the initiative between the two clubs has received.

"Everyone's rocked in behind us, and this is the first time we're doing this. We're hoping to make it an annual event.

"It's great for the community to see the two clubs coming together, and maybe the men from the two clubs will take on the big marathon together!"

“ It's just bringing the community together, and that's what the GAA is about – we're all friends off the pitch



# y for the VHI ni Marathon

men join forces for fitness training



GREAT UPTAKE: Noreen, Carmel and Glenda

## Quality and consistency is needed along all parts of the Dodder Greenway



CONTRAST: Entrance to Dodder Greenway at Avonmore Road in Tallaght



CONTRAST: Entrance to Dodder Greenway in Rathfarnham

THE Dodder Greenway has been a hugely transformative amenity developed in recent years. It has given thousands access to quality park walks along the Dodder from rural Tallaght to Ringsend.

Tallaght Community Council (TCC) made a significant contribution to the Part 8 consultation for its design before 2019 seeking a quality and consistency along all parts of the greenway.

Unfortunately, despite the many specific points we made, particularly the Avonmore Road area, there are some very visible disparities to be seen as you move west along the greenway in some key features.

### 1. Park / Greenway Entrances

A new park entrance consisting of quality hand-built stone walls and red upright steel markers are the motifs along the new greenway.

Sadly, these stop at Ballyboden GAA club. There are none in Tallaght, despite several key entrances along Tallaght into the greenway.

2. Park & Stride Facilities – There are two new car parks along the Tallaght section of the greenway, one on the Old Bawn Road and one on the Firhouse Road. They enable those unable to walk to the park to still access the enhanced park facilities on the greenway. These are very welcomed, valued and well-used.

However, at one new key greenway entrance at Avonmore Road the entrance lacks the quality finish all other new entrances got. There is a wooden fence along the path to the pedestrian bridge and a low stub concrete wall (existing for many years).

The lack of parking facilities is now becoming a huge daily issue – for park users and nearby residents alike.

“We welcome the Dodder Greenway as a hugely valued amenity in Tallaght. It provides an asset to all ages and abilities in our community. However, the drop in quality of the new entrances is obvious when you move west from Balrothery weir. It begs the simple question, why?” says Liz Kennedy, Vice Chair, TCC.

TCC would like to call for immediate action to address both of these issues of unequal standards along the SDCC stretch of the Dodder Greenway,

1. Upgrade ALL park entrances in Tallaght to the quality and aesthetic as those in Knocklyon and Rathfarnham to include hand-built stone walls and the red steel greenway markers.

2. Provide sensitive off-street parking on the council-owned land adjacent to The Edge and the Dodder greenway entrance as was done on the Dodder View Road at Woodside Cottages in Rathfarnham. Free up the paths for pedestrians.

“ We welcome the Dodder Greenway as a hugely valued amenity in Tallaght. It provides an asset to all ages and abilities in our community. However, the drop in quality of the new entrances is obvious when you move west from Balrothery weir. It begs the simple question, why?

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 Rosemary Hartmann, leader and main teacher of Rowlagh Majorettes Sky Twirlers.



LEGEND: Rosemary Hartmann is something of a legend in Clondalkin through her Majorettes group in Rowlagh

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

RESOURCE: Rosemary Hartmann with some of the 115 members of Sky Twirlers in Rowlagh



ROSEMARY HARTMANN is something of a legend in Clondalkin through her Majorettes group in Rowlagh, Clondalkin – she is our face of the community this week.

We've all seen troupes of Majorettes strutting their stuff in various parades and adding colour and glamour to serious-looking marching bands, but I wonder how many people know their history.

Majorettes, as we know them can be traced all the way back to 18th century Prussia and Holland. The Majorettes, known as Tanzmariechen in German, or Dansmarietjes in Dutch, which translates as 'Dance Marys', were employed to entertain the troops of the German and Dutch armies, as they fought the occupying Prussian forces in the Rhineland.

The idea of Majorettes as a tool to keep up morale of army corps eventually travelled to other nations.

By the 1960s Majorettes had been adopted as an expressive form of dance in the USA, taking root particularly in American Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

The style we see from Majorette companies today can trace their roots back to this period, where different dance styles and abilities were incorporated into the girls' routines.

Majorettes are very popular here in Ireland too, and this week's subject is steeped in the business of bringing the art form to the good citizens of North Clondalkin.

Rosemary Hartmann, leader and main teacher of Sky Twirlers, took an hour out of her incredibly busy schedule recently to tell us about her life and her passion for Majorettes and her community.

"I was brought up in Oatfield in Clondalkin and the area has always been my home. I went to school in Scoil Áine and then Coláiste Bríd before finishing my education in Palmerstown Community School. From there it was a short hop into working life and I worked at the No.7 counter in Boots Liffey Valley for the

next few years."

"I was happy with my job and my life but the next thing you know I found out I was expecting my oldest boy Kian and, circumstances meant that I had to leave Boots to look after him."

All throughout this period though, Rosemary was never too far away from her real passion, Majorettes.

"Believe it or not I started when I was eight years old. I practiced with a stick my Grandad made for me and I was hooked immediately. My first teacher, Siobhán O'Flaherty, who is now with Liberties Majorettes, told me that I just 'got it.' I started teaching myself at fifteen."

Some years ago Rosemary's worst fear came to pass when Rowlagh Majorettes closed down. Obviously, she had no intention of quitting so she joined Liberties Majorettes and schlepped into town to keep doing what she loved.

Before too long Rosemary decided to re-establish a Majorettes group in Rowlagh and decided, bravely in this correspondent's mind, to set up the Sky Twirlers.

"I couldn't have done it without the help of two great, enthusiastic friends, Jacinta Coffey and Jackie Carpenter," Rosemary tells me.

From there, the Sky Twirlers started off small. They had about fifteen students in two groups.

Soon word got round and now, Sky Twirlers boasts a membership of 115 in 14 groups.

The Sky Twirlers, like any organisation, requires funding and it's a seemingly never-ending struggle for the team.

"Well, first of all there's the rent for the hall which, although our rent has been frozen for the year by the centre manager Tom Coleman, for which we sincerely thank him, is still quite expensive. We do four competitions a year and the all-Irelands, along with many other appearances at various events throughout

the year. We have to pay for travel, sometimes accommodation, costumes and various incidentals. We do occasional fundraising at Tesco's in Adamstown and run a lotto every week, but things are constantly tight."

Although the cupboard has a tendency to be bare, Rosemary has a fantastic philosophy that must be mentioned.

"I'd never turn a child away if they want to join, regardless of whether they had their subs or whatever.

"Every child deserves a chance to get off that road. We want to be a resource for the kids of the area, regardless of their circumstances.

"A big highlight for the Sky Twirlers this year was their appearance at the Clondalkin St Patrick's Day Parade. The girls had a great time and they can't wait for next year's."

Rosemary is a modest type of lady and she now proceeds to give me a list of people she'd like to thank.

"First, Jennifer Belmont, my partner in crime who's been with me since the start. Then there's Gemma Nolan and Rachel Duffy, along with my dear mam Rose Hartmann who still helps me in many ways."

"Then there's our junior teachers Emily Cummins, Abi Nolan, Sarah-Jane Belmonte and Nathalie O'Connell. And of course, Megan, Fiona and Katie."

When she's not looking after the Sky Twirlers, and that's rare, she's wrangling a houseful of men and young men at home. The aforementioned Kian is now 23, Jamie is 18, Lex is 13 and Jackson, universally known as 'Taz' is 8.

Husband Declan completes the set.

We wish Rosemary and the Sky Twirlers all of the success they can get in the near future. If you have any queries or can offer any sponsorship opportunities, check out the Sky Twirlers Facebook page. Rosemary and the girls really deserve it.

**“ A big highlight for the Sky Twirlers this year was their appearance at the Clondalkin St Patrick's Day Parade. The girls had a great time and they can't wait for next year's . . .**



RESOURCE: Rosemary says that every child deserves a chance to get off that road. "We want to be a resource for the kids of the area..."

# Homeless Street Leagues finals . . .

FORMER Republic of Ireland striker Niall Quinn was among those in attendance for the Irish Homeless Street Leagues finals this week, reports Maurice Garvey.

Over 200 players (male and female) represented street league teams from Dublin, and including Tallaght, Belfast, Cork, Limerick, Longford, and Mullingar to compete in the All-Ireland Street Soccer finals.

Organised by Irish Homeless Street Leagues, the day offers a unique opportunity for young men and women who have experienced difficult times to be in with a chance to represent

Ireland at the Homeless World Cup.

The annual occasion at the Postal Club in Kiltipper also sees the presentation of international caps to players male and female who will represent Ireland at the Homeless World Cup and a European tournament taking place in Tallaght in June.

To mark the 20-year anniversary of the Irish Homeless Street Leagues, an international soccer tournament will be held in Tallaght in June.

Clondalkin resident Sean Kavanagh, editor of Ireland's Big Issue magazine, is the founder of Irish Homeless Street

Leagues.

Under his tutelage, hundreds, if not thousands, of men and women have flourished in street leagues established across the country, using it as a stepping stone to a better life, and many have represented their country at the Homeless World Cups.

Former Man City and Sunderland striker Niall Quinn, and South County Dublin Mayor Alan Judge, along with Father Peter McVerry were among those in attendance to support the teams and present trophies.

The event took place on Wednesday, further coverage in *The Echo* next week.



**SUPPORT:** Chris Andrews, TD, with Andrew and Joanne from Amazon Web Services, sponsors of the Irish Homeless Street Leagues finals

# Pressure on to recognise the Liffey Valley region as park

## Liffey Valley Park Alliance aims to conserve the natural heritage

By Stephen Farrell

stephenf@echo.ie

A GROUP of local community groups and non-governmental organisations launched a campaign to recognise the Liffey Valley region as a park on Monday.

The Liffey Valley Park Alliance (LVPA) is a federation of groups whose aims include the conservation of the built and natural heritage of the Liffey Valley.

The groups involved in the trust include the Irish Wildlife Trust, An Taisce, Birdwatch Ireland, the Irish Georgian Society and community groups across Kildare County Council, South Dublin County Council and Dublin City Council.

The landscapes within the valley were acknowledged as being of "outstanding natural beauty and importance both nationally and internationally" by the then An Foras Forbartha and the first special amenity area order in the state was designated for a portion of the valley, according to the LVPA.

The purpose of this campaign is to develop a management framework for the whole Liffey Valley which can be achieved by designating the valley as a park, according to LVPA. This is all the more relevant bearing in mind the Climate and Biodiversity Crisis, according to the Alliance.

### The Proposed Liffey Valley Park

The Liffey Valley is, above all else, a dramatic and beautiful landscape and the recreational amenity which it provides is primarily visual. There is a wealth of plant, animal and bird life within the valley.

The landscape changes with the seasons and offers delightful opportunities for nature study particularly in the public parks. Some of our greatest landscape painters have been inspired by the beauty of the valley.

The location and the quality of the landscapes make the valley a natural site for a park. A portion of the valley has already been designated as a Special Amenity Area. Liffey Valley Park Alliance propose a unique concept of a park which encompasses public, institutional and private lands in an area protected from unsympathetic development and stretching from the Phoenix Park to Straffan and beyond.

**OUTSTANDING:** An artist's impression of the park



*Anna Livia*

"Of meadow grass and river flags, the bulrush and water weed, and of fallen griefs of weeping willows. Then she made her bracelets and her anklets, and her petty anklets for necklaces of licking cobbles, pattering pebbles and rumbledown rubble, richmond and rhye, of Irish thuanerlimestone and shell marble bangles"

James Joyce

The surrounding areas have seen extensive population growth and there is an urgent need to ensure that the valley can contribute to recreational and green space facilities for the wider area, according to the

LVPA. In this regard the Alliance are seeking the building up of the public parks and spaces in the Liffey Valley.

The Councils should engage with all stakeholders to preserve and protect the valley, according to the Alliance, which they say is "a jewel in Dublin's crown".

The taking of water from the Liffey should be reduced and other sources found, according to the LVPA.

Water levels in the Liffey can be so low that it is possible to walk across the river from Fingal to South Dublin, they maintain. This has a disastrous

effect on the river's ecosystems and the release of excess water from storage can seriously erode banks and the nearby areas, according to the Alliance.

The development of paths in the county's parks should be done sensitively so as not to damage the park and take away from the natural beauty of the area, according to the group.

Paths should not be made of tarmac or concrete and should only be lit on main sections in a wildlife friendly way.

Parks should be maintained to preserve the ecosystems and biodiversity that they contain

firstly, and public access should not take precedence, according to the LVPA. Some parks should have public access, they maintain.

Chairperson of LVPA, Dr Paul Corcoran has said the Liffey Valley has a vast potential as a tourist and heritage resource.

The Alliance also maintain that the Guinness Bridge in the Strawberry Beds could be opened but, if not restored completely, a new cycling and walking bridge should be considered to increase connectivity for walkers along the Liffey Valley region.

## Orchard Project adds 6,000 trees to local area

THE Orchard Project event in the grounds of Clogher Road Community College proved a big success where the group provided over 2,500 plants and shrubs to residents of Crumlin and Kimmage free of charge.

This was the fourth year of the Orchard Project and they have now added over 6,000 trees and plants to the local area.

The event is sponsored by Canada Life Reinsurance, the National Lottery and Community Foundation Ireland.

The Orchard Project wants to thank the community for making it such a success, particularly Laura and the Orchard Team, the staff of Clogher Road Community College, the Delicious Food Company, and everyone who volunteered their time on the day and in the run-up to the event.

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“The development of paths in the county's parks should be done sensitively so as not to damage the park and take away from the natural beauty of the area, according to the group

# 'Landmark' shopping approved with potential for 450 new jobs

Better Value Ltd which owns Dunnes lodged revised plans with city council

By Maurice Garvey

maurice@echo.ie

LONG-awaited plans to develop Crumlin Shopping Centre were approved by Dublin City Council.

Revised plans lodged earlier this year by Better Value Ltd, which is owned by Dunnes, contains proposals for a 'landmark' shopping centre with the potential to provide up to 450 jobs when operational.

Development plans include the demolition of existing buildings on site and the construction of a new shopping centre with an off-licence, two retail concession stalls and ancillary café area.

Opened in 1974, the building was a thriving shopping centre up to the late 1990s, and had approximately 40 shops at one stage, including a bank, café, butchers, photography services, shoe shop, and a pub.

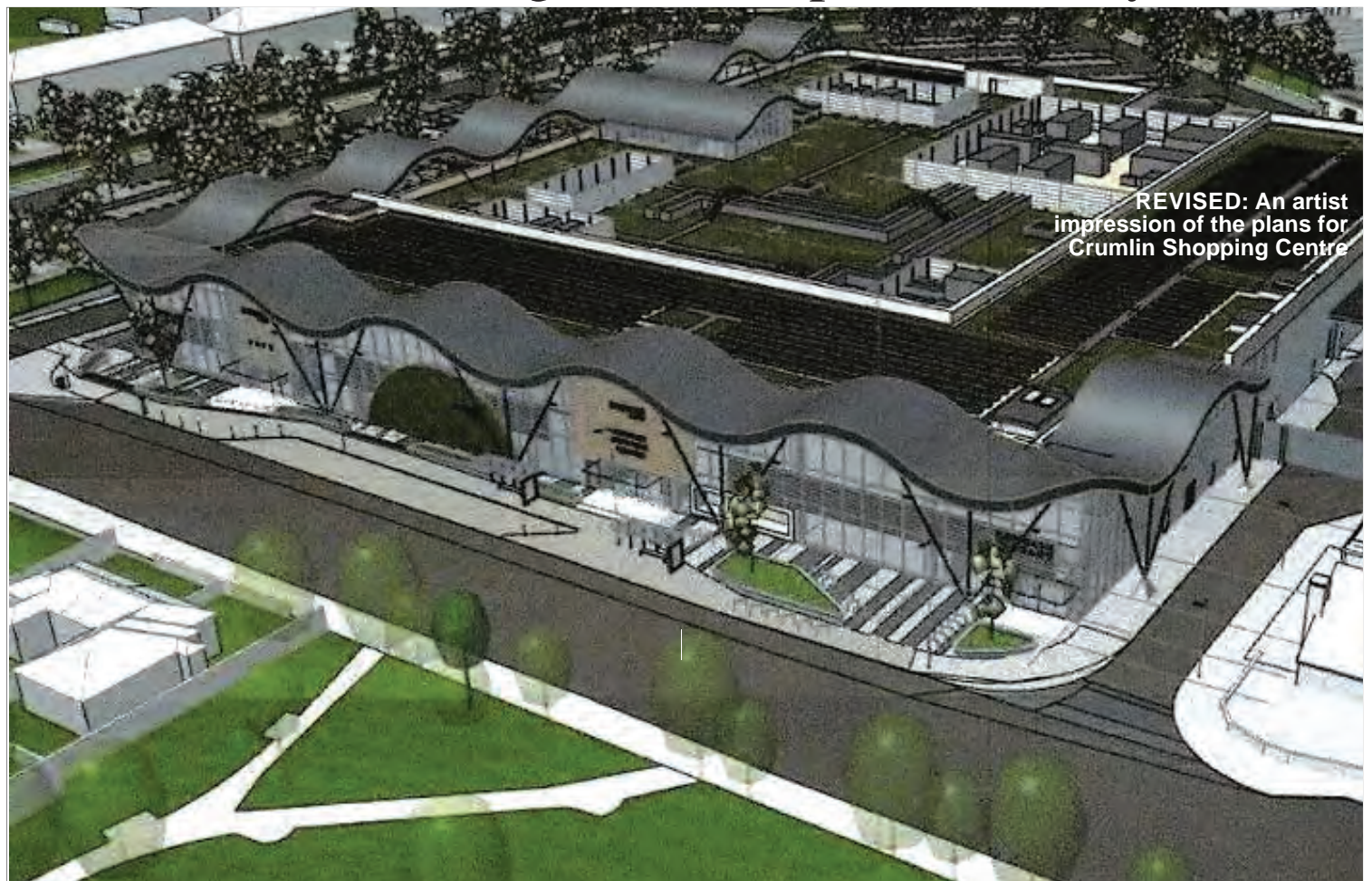
However, over the last 25 years all its former tenants left, including Texas Fried Chicken who closed in 2020.

Dunnes still occupies units in the centre, which is located beside Sundrive garda station on Crumlin Road.

A planning report by KPMG Future Analytics contend that the revised scheme "will regenerate the area" and become "the focal point of the community and act as a catalyst for further redevelopment of the area."

As part of its proposals, Dunnes was proposing the retention of 400 car spaces, which was a reduction on 103 existing car spaces and also include the upgrading to 80 EV charge spaces.

In response, the National Transport Authority (NTA) told the council that the proposal for an extensive surface car park providing 286 more spaces than permissible "may not be the most efficient use of land in this highly accessible, inner suburban location and may encourage use of the private car for



REVISED: An artist impression of the plans for Crumlin Shopping Centre

trips."

In their report accompanying the revised plans, KPMG Future Analytics stated that the retention and reconfiguration of 400 spaces

"was required to support the commercial viability of the scheme".

A retail impact statement lodged with the scheme states that the annual turnover from

the net increase in retail floorspace will be €62.9m for 2027.

The plans also contain proposals for a food market and medical centre at the development.

## Packaging business Zeus acquires UK's largest paper product manufacturers

RATHCOOLE packaging business Zeus has acquired the Weedon Group, the UK's largest independent integrated paper product manufacturers, for an undisclosed amount, reports Maurice Garvey.

Global packaging group Zeus, founded by Brian O'Sullivan in 1998, completed the deal as part of the company's goal to use more sustainable packaging by investing in paper-based products over plastic. The company said it aims to achieve net zero by 2050.

Zeus chief executive Keith Ockenden said the transaction means the company now has "robust in-house capabilities along the entire paper supply chain, from raw material processing to manufacturing, right through to distribution and retail.

"Our investment strategy is also focussing

on paper based solutions rather than traditional plastic-based production."

The Weedon Group has reported annual revenues of around £30m and employs 250 staff across two locations in the UK.

Zeus indicated all staff working at Weedon will remain employed under Zeus following the purchase and annual revenue is forecast to reach €60m.

"As a combined business, we will offer a strong independent alternative for those looking for packaging innovation, supply consolidation and supply chain efficiency," said John Weedon, managing director of Weedon Group.

Zeus now has 58 locations worldwide, including Ireland, UK, Germany, Spain, Poland, Eastern Europe, New Zealand,

Canada, US, China and Australia. The company has been in operation for 25 years and now employs 13,000 people across 38 countries worldwide.

Zeus has grown at an average rate of 22% each year since 2018 and its customers include Lidl, Aldi, Harrods and Musgrave.

Zeus has 51 locations worldwide, including Ireland, UK, Germany, Spain, Poland, Eastern Europe, New Zealand, Canada, China and Australia. Group employment is c.900 people total across 26 countries worldwide.

During 2022, Zeus Group completed six acquisitions across UK, Ireland and Canada.

In March 2023, Zeus acquired Polpack in Poland, a specialist manufacturer of pallet wrapping machinery and suppliers of industrial packaging products.



DEAL: John Weedon, Managing Director at Weedon, Brian O'Sullivan, founder of Zeus and Peter Weedon, Operations Director

# Only 25 per cent of businesses register for support packages

Grants are available for all businesses from the €257 million package until May 1

By **Maurice Garvey**

maurice@echo.ie

JUST over 25 per cent of businesses in South Dublin County have registered for a support package offered by government in the Budget with the deadline imminent.

Grants are available from the €257m package until May 1, but most businesses in Ireland have not registered and the uptake among businesses in Dublin is approximately 25 per cent.

The once-off Increased Cost of Business Scheme will return to businesses half of what they paid in commercial rates during 2023, if they paid up to €0,000. For businesses that paid between €0,000 and €30,000 in rates, a grant of €5,000 is available.

Businesses with rates above €30,000 are not eligible.

Newly appointed junior enterprise, trade and employment minister Emer Higgins said this week that just 21 per cent of the 17,661

eligible businesses in the Dublin City Council area have registered for the supports.

In the South Dublin County –Council area, only 1,438 businesses have registered under the scheme, which is 26 per cent of the 5,530 that are eligible.

In comparison, Fingal County Council has received 26 per cent uptake and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown it was 23 per cent.

Deputy Higgins provided figures in response to parliamentary questions from Fianna Fáil TDs John Lahart and Niamh Smyth.

“I urge all eligible businesses to register for this grant as soon as they receive a letter from their local authority,” said Fine Gael TD Higgins.

“The sooner a business registers, the sooner their details will be verified and the grant will be paid out.”

The grants are available to about 143,000 businesses across the State, or roughly 95 per cent of rateable enterprises, and they have until May 1 to register.



“I urge all eligible businesses to register for this grant as as they receive a letter from their local authority. The sooner a business registers, the sooner their details will be verified . . .

## New role for Zoë Kavanagh at recycling company Repak

By **Maurice Garvey**

maurice@echo.ie

CLONDALKIN recycling and sustainability company Repak has announced the appointment of Zoë Kavanagh as its new CEO.

Ms Kavanagh announced in December that she will be leaving her former role as CEO of the National Dairy Council where she spent 13 years at the helm.

Prior to this, she spent 16 years at PepsiCo, concluding her tenure as general manager for Ireland Beverages in 2010.

Kavanagh succeeds Séamus Clancy who is retiring following a decade in the role at Repak.

The new Repak chief executive holds a primary degree in Agriculture and Food Engineering from UCD and a Diploma in Board Governance & Strategy from the Institute of Directors.

Based at the Red Cow Interchanges Estate, Repak advocates for a circular economy, and educates businesses and consumers on reducing and recycling packaging.

In 2023, Repak facilitated packaging recycling rates of glass (83%), paper/cardboard (67%), plastic (26%), wood (69%), and metal (55%)

Repak has approximately 3,500 members whose fees fund household recycling bins, bottle banks, civic amenities and commercial back-door packaging waste nationwide.

Packaging recycling and recovery in Ireland has expanded from 15% in 1997

**SUSTAINABLE FUTURE:** Zoë Kavanagh, new Repak CEO



when Repak was established to an estimated 91% in 2023.

To comply with EU packaging waste legislation, any business in Ireland with an annual turnover of over €1m that places over 10 tonnes of packaging on the market each year is obligated to be responsible for their packaging and can join Repak.

Speaking on her appointment, Zoë

Kavanagh said: “The achievements of Repak, under the leadership of Séamus Clancy and the dedication of its members, have set a high standard.

“I look forward to building on this foundation, working alongside our members, stakeholders, and the community to further our impact and contribute to a more sustainable future.”

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# ‘AI is changing the way work gets done’ says tech unicorn

AI Assistant analyses valuable but often hidden data to provide real-time insights

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

TECH unicorn company Workhuman has launched a generative AI (artificial intelligence) Assistant within its Workhuman iQ platform.

The AI Assistant analyses valuable, but often hidden, organisational data to provide real-time and actionable workplace insights. This industry-first tool can inform strategic decision-making

around skills, performance, cultural health, diversity and inclusion, and more, transforming the way companies monitor and enhance their workplace cultures.

Co-founded in 1999 by CEO Eric Mosley, who is from Glenview in Tallaght, Workhuman is co-headquartered in Massachusetts and in Dublin 12, where it employs 600 people in Park West.

Workhuman saw revenues rise to €1.01bn in

2022, up 29 per cent on 2021 revenues of €802m.

The company has previously said that its focus for 2023 and 2024 is on strategic growth, by integrating AI into its products and enabling innovation in its social recognition platform.

“AI is changing the way work gets done, and with the introduction of generative AI tools within programmes that generate significant data, it opens the door for people without

analytics backgrounds to easily access information it would have otherwise taken them days or weeks to uncover,” said Kevin Heinzelman, Workhuman Head of Product Management.

“Workhuman iQ analyses an organisation’s unique recognition data and surfaces personalised, recommended actions based on identified patterns to help managers make informed decisions and foster an encouraging environment – further driving optimal team engagement, retention, and performance. Our solution equips managers with the information they need to better support their team and induces them to take a more proactive role in shaping culture, and our AI Assistant takes those analytics capabilities to the next level.”

The new AI Assistant comes on the heels of additional innovations in the Workhuman platform, Admin Hub, and Automated Welcome Awards.

“Our solutions equips managers with the information they need to better support their team and induces them to take a more proactive role in shaping culture, and our AI Assistant takes those analytics . . .



**PROGRAMMES:** Kevin Heinzelman, Workhuman Head of Product Management

## AbbVie donate TV monitors to Mount Seskin

A NUMBER of TV monitors were donated to a school in Tallaght by pharma group AbbVie.

Biopharmaceutical company AbbVie, which has a commercial headquarters in Citywest, recently donated a number of TV monitors to Mount Seskin Community College.

The multi-denominational

school straddles the established area of Jobstown and the fast-developing area of Citywest, where AbbVie is based in the local business campus.

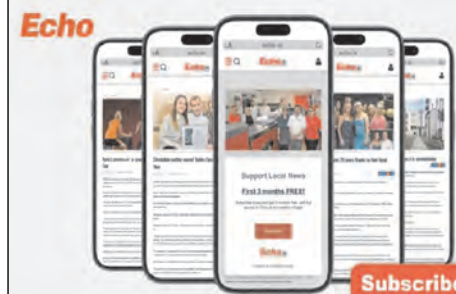
AbbVie General Manager Andres Rodrigo said: “It’s great to know that they will find a good home at Mount Seskin and prove useful for years to come in assisting the pupils with their learning.”



**DONATED:** At the hand-over of the equipment in Mount Seskin College’s science lab were (left to right): Andres Rodrigo, General Manager, AbbVie Ireland; students Jake Laffan; Elena Olivier (top) Siara Masoed; Brooklyn Hooper Mansfield; and Science Teacher Petrina Byrne

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# Firm went into liquidation halfway through project

Sancta Maria College granted an extension to the duration of planning permission



**EXTENSION:** Sancta Maria College has been granted an extension to the duration of planning permission

**By Aideen O'Flaherty**  
aideen@echo.ie

SANCTA Maria College in Ballyroan has been granted an extension to the duration of planning permission for the construction of a new PE hall, changing rooms and toilets.

The school's Board of Management stated that it was seeking the extension because the appointed main contractor,

L&M Keating Limited, went into liquidation mid-way through the project.

The work that has been carried out on the development to date includes all below-ground civil infrastructure works, and foundations, barriers and insulation all installed.

All external wall and structural elements for the project up to and including the roof have all been

completed.

Other aspects of the project for which extended permission is being sought include a stage and fly tower to the existing assembly hall, two hard courts and improvements to existing paths.

The proposal also includes internal roadways, parking and drop-off facilities, new entrance signage, 23 car parking spaces, bicycle parking, a

covered walkway, fencing and landscaping.

The upgrade of the access road as part of the improved access to the school is included, as is retention of the previously granted demolition of a 1947 classroom wing.

The planning permission for the development is due to lapse on May 24 this year, and the school is seeking a further five years of planning

permission for the work to be completed.

Sancta Maria College Board of Management stated in its application that the development is expected to be completed in May 2029.

On April 10, South Dublin County Council granted permission to the school for the extension to the duration of planning permission which will now expire in October 2029.

## Plans for change of use of four office units into four one-bed apartments

PLANNING permission is being sought for the change of use of four office units in Library Square on Main Street in Rathcoole into four one-bed apartments, reports Aideen O'Flaherty.

The planning application by Philip and Mary Connell was submitted on April 3, and details their proposal for the change of use.

Along with changing the offices into apartments, they are also seeking permission for minor elevational changes to install additional windows to side elevations to facilitate this new use.

"This change will convert the building fully

to residential," it is stated in the planning application.

Works will include construction of a secure bicycle enclosure on the site, as well as all associated and ancillary site and landscaping works.

The site is located at the rear of a second building and site, also in their ownership (Block A) which fronts onto the main street.

It is noted that Block A is a protected structure and there are no works proposed to Block A as part of the application.

A decision on the application is due from South Dublin County Council by May 28.



**CHANGE OF USE:** The office units on Main Street in Rathcoole

# Council's decision upheld after resident lodges appeal

Developer Cairn Homes had received permission for a two-storey crèche/childcare facility



**UPHELD:** The site in Graydon in Newcastle

**By Aideen O'Flaherty**  
aideen@echo.ie

A NEWCASTLE resident's appeal against a decision to grant permission to a developer for the construction of a two-storey crèche has been unsuccessful.

The subject site is at the junction of

Newcastle Boulevard, Burgage Street and Lyons Avenue in Graydon, Newcastle.

Developer Cairn Homes received planning permission in February last year for the construction of a two-storey crèche/childcare facility of approximately 778sq.m.

They also received permission from

South Dublin County Council for a single-storey bin store and connections to existing services.

It was noted in the application that the proposed crèche would replace and supersede a permitted crèche of approximately 518 sq m for which planning permission had previously been granted. The council granted

permission for the crèche on February 16, 2023, and Graydon resident Scott Gerety lodged an appeal against this decision the following month.

Mr Gerety stated that his primary concerns were a loss of privacy to Graydon Green residents, "inadequate" parking facilities for the crèche, and noise.

His grounds of appeal also included his view that the volume of cars, parents and children accessing the crèche would be "a disturbance to residents on Graydon Green".

However, on April 9 last, An Bord Pleanála decided to uphold South Dublin County Council's decision to grant permission.

## 44 apartments and six commercial units planned for Newcastle



**PROPOSAL:** The site on the Main Street and New School Road in Newcastle

PLANS for the construction of 44 apartments and six commercial units in three blocks on Main Street and New School Road in Newcastle have been submitted to South Dublin County Council, reports Aideen O'Flaherty.

Geotechnical Site Investigations' proposal is for a mixed-use development housed across three

blocks.

The first block will accommodate 16 units consisting of eight two-bed ground floor apartments and eight three-bed duplex units on the first and second floors.

The second block will contain a coffee shop and a "local scale shop" on the ground floor, and six one-bed and six two-bed apartments on the

first, second and third floors.

The last block is to house four "local scale shops" on the ground floor, and six one-bed apartments, six two-bed apartments and four three-bed duplex apartments in the remaining three floors.

A decision on the application is due from South Dublin County Council by May 28.

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# Fittest Emergency Departments face up to the fun challenges

FOR the month of February 12 different Emergency Departments competed in the increasingly competitive Ireland's Fittest Emergency Department challenge.

Staff from across the country clock the kilometres they have walked, ran, cycled and swam. All activity is recorded on Strava, then calculated into points, with a weekly national scoreboard published.

This is a fun challenge, but also a great way to encourage staff to spend more time outdoors. There were 72 on the Tallaght University Hospital ED team with representatives from the nursing,

medical, healthcare assistants, administration, phlebotomy, physiotherapy, social work and occupational therapy disciplines taking part.

The competitive streak was real with increasing urgency to get more kilometres on the clock and stay ahead of the competition!

The competition is just three years old and this year was the hospital teams second time to enter. Having missed out narrowly last year coming in second place.

There was a collective determination to win this year. Working in such a busy department,

the challenge was wonderful for staff morale.

The competition created a great atmosphere and was a wonderful way to get to know colleagues.

Every grade and discipline took part; it really was a team effort. February was not the best month weather-wise but the perseverance and the commitment shown was phenomenal.

The team battled wind, rain and snow each week to get the kilometres in to earn those precious points! Encouraging one another along the way was also a great way to form some healthy habits.



**BATTLERS:** Some members of the Fittest Emergency Department team in the country from Tallaght University Hospital, led by their captain Sara O'Dwyer, Advanced Nurse Practitioner in Emergency Medicine

## E letters

Letters and emails should be kept as short as possible. We reserve the right to edit any submissions. Letters must be received by Tuesday, 3pm prior to publication

# Residents 'genuinely support vision for future active travel plans'

Dear Editor,

I HOPE this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for the active travel infrastructure initiatives that South Dublin County Council have implemented in our community.

As a resident who actively utilises these facilities, I wanted to take a moment to convey my appreciation for the efforts made by South Dublin County Council in promoting sustainable and healthy modes of transportation.

I am aware that there were some concerns regarding the changes, notably to Firhouse Road West. However, I believe it is crucial for the council to know that there is a significant number of residents who are

genuinely pleased with the improvements and support the vision for future active travel plans.

The new infrastructure, including Firhouse Road West, Avonbeg Road, Castletymon Road, the Dodder Greenway and all the upcoming projects will and have greatly enhanced the safety and accessibility of our streets, encouraging more residents to choose walking, cycling and other form of active travel.

These initiatives not only promote physical well-being but also contribute to reducing traffic congestion and environmental pollution, aligning perfectly with the goals for creating a sustainable and liveable community.

I commend the dedication and hard work

of the council staff involved in planning, implementing, and maintaining these projects.

Their commitment to improving our local infrastructure is truly brilliant, and their efforts have not gone unnoticed by those of us who benefit from these initiatives on a daily basis.

I hope any negative unconstructive feedback does not deter the council from current and future projects going forward.

Once again, thank you and your dedicated staff for prioritising active travel infrastructure and your ongoing commitment to making our community a better place to live, work and play.

Yours sincerely,  
Happy Tallaght resident

# Health minister says challenges must be overcome

Dear Editor,  
A REPORT by the Government's Economic Evaluation Service in concert with the Department of Health noted the health budget jumped from €13.7 billion in 2014 to €22.8 billion in 2024 up 66 per cent.

Since the last general election, 28,000 more people were recruited into the health service and 2,200 staff maybe recruited this year.

There are huge disparities between expanding capital expenditure and growth in hospital's productivity.

Despite headcount increases, hospital activity is lagging behind and below pre-pandemic levels on metrics; incommensurable with state investment.

The report details what is required to bring productivity back in line with trend levels.

Health minister, Stephen Donnelly said 'Productivity challenges' must be overcome.

The Productivity and Savings Taskforce, Action Plan sets out an ambitious programme of savings targets, aimed at minimising financial risk, the HSE faces in 2024.

Substantial savings of €424m in 2024 (€554m full year saving) are targeted, including medicines expenditure, non-pay costs, procurement costs, the cost of care in long-term residential care.

Sinn Féin leader Mary Lou McDonald said cancellation of 250,000 hospital appointments, including 800 children's chemotherapy appointments, must be "unimaginable" for worried parents. Children's Health Ireland disputed the findings saying patients have to be rescheduled for clinical reasons, such as patient bloods; indicating treatment be deferred; a patient being unwell.

Deferrals due to inpatient beds or staffing are rescheduled to the next available bed or space.

Yours sincerely,  
Gerry Coughlan, Kilnamanagh.

# Tree destruction

Dear Editor,  
THE shocking destruction of 75 trees in Dodder Park was not a random act of vandalism.

It was planned, carried out under darkness and took hours to achieve.

Such destruction is an act of extreme anger against a whole community. I hope the perpetrators are apprehended quickly as due to the extent of damage it is unlikely to stop.

The person or persons involved in this criminal carnage need "medical help".

I would like to suggest "The Edge" provides a facility for the community to donate a small sum to South Dublin County Council to help replant the trees and restore the Park to its former beauty.

Yours Sincerely,  
Concerned resident.  
(Name and Number with editor)

# Eir is branded 'a disgrace'

Dear Editor,

NEWS that Eir, provider of fixed-line and mobile telecommunications has been fined €7,500 for 10 breaches of its internal code of practice for dealing with consumer complaints in pursuance of the regulator's code of practice that disproves the small fine imposed by Dublin District Court, given the high number of Eir's wrongdoings.

The company's steadfast refusal to respond to genuine complaints within 10 working

days as stipulated by its Eir code and failing to furnish a case reference number, was branded by Judge Anthony Halpin as: "a disgrace" saying Eir should apologise to its staff; threatened with disciplinary proceedings if they failed to abide by its policy.

Telecom regulator ComReg uncovered a training manual where staff were told not to process complaints unless customers used certain: "trigger words" showing they were aware of their rights or aware of regulations.

Lawyers for Eir apologised to the aggrieved customers and offered to make a pecuniary bequest of €20,000 to a charitable cause.

But Judge Anthony Halpin said it was not deemed a case for a charitable donation and imposed fines totalling €7,500.

Shelley Horan BCL, LL.M (Lond.), on behalf of ComReg, outlined a sample of customers whose complaints were not dealt with by Eir.

ComReg compliance analyst, Michelle O'Donnell said the

watchdog had received multiple complaints from Eir customers; failing to furnish a case reference number.

One customer who complained about her mobile signal was fobbed off with multiple excuses for six months and was unable to summon an ambulance for her child or receive a medical device.

Responding, ComReg sought the training manual furnished to customer service staff.

Yours sincerely,  
Gerry Coughlan,  
Kilnamanagh.

# ECHO LIFE MAGAZINE

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16-page LIFE Supplement



## The Manny

Sam McArdle talks about his comedy of an Irish male nanny who works for single rich mothers in West London

Page 41

### **THE MANNY**

*A dark comedy about an Irish male nanny*

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“ I don't go long without eating. I never starve myself: I grab a healthy snack.

Vanessa Hudgens

# Health & Fitness

## HEALTHY SNACKS ON THE GO

by Ursula Frawley / info@moveitfitness.ie

**I**t can be so hard to stay healthy when you're so busy and don't have time to prep.

When walking into any shop, the first thing you see is snacks that don't provide much nutritional value and make you feel hungrier a short time later. So how can we have quick snacks on the go that are healthy and filling. Here's a few ideas to get you through your busy week and leave

you feeling full and satisfied as well as getting some really good quality nutrition dense ingredients.

- 1. Apple and nut butter.** This is a fantastic combination which contains a good dose of fibre. It is also a good quality filling snack. Just grab an apple and measure out about 30g of your favourite nut butter. This is a balanced, delicious and very transportable snack that keeps really well in your bag or car for on the go.
- 2. Carrot sticks & hummus.** This delicious combination is so tasty and filling and easy to grab and go on a busy day.
- 3. Chopped fruit salad with Greek yogurt.** The protein in the yogurt will keep you fuller for longer and the delicious combination of fruit gives you that sweet kick you need during your afternoon slump! You can bring a long the yogurt in a thermos type lunch box to keep it fresh and cold.
- 4. Hard boiled eggs.** These can be boiled in advance and brought along with a few wholemeal crackers for a filling snack. Eggs are a good source of protein, so it will be easier to stay fuller when you focus on the protein intake.
- 5. Rice cakes, banana & peanut butter.** This is a great snack on the go and all the ingredients are very transportable and do not need refrigeration. Just put a thin layer of peanut butter on the rice cake, slice the banana on top and enjoy! You can also add a drizzle of honey to sweeten the snack.

**URSULA FRAWLEY** IS A PERSONAL TRAINER AND OWNER OF MOVE IT FITNESS. HER ONLINE STRENGTH & FITNESS CLASSES, WHICH RUN LIVE SEVEN TIMES A WEEK, HAVE BEEN HELPING WOMEN TO FEEL STRONGER AND FITTER SINCE 2020. HER ONLINE AND IN-PERSON PROGRAMMES ARE FOCUSED ON MOTIVATING AND CHANGING A MINDSET TO ENJOYING THE FITNESS JOURNEY, WHILE FEELING EMPOWERED WITH A POSITIVE MINDSET. URSULA LIVES IN DUBLIN 24 WITH HER HUSBAND AND FOUR CHILDREN. GET MORE INFORMATION BY EMAILING HER AT [info@moveitfitness.ie](mailto:info@moveitfitness.ie) OR [WWW.MOVEITFITNESS.IE](http://www.moveitfitness.ie)

The secret to creating good habits is a little dose of daily planning. Before you know it, you never leave home without a good snack and on the first step to feeling amazing!

This article is not substitute for medical advice, diagnosis for treatment. Remember, always consult with your GP before embarking on any change in diet or new health & fitness regime.



# The Manny

## COMEDY IS ABOUT AN IRISH MALE NANNY

By Ryan Butler / news@echo.ie

**S**am McArdle's one-man black comedy 'The Manny', which was recently nominated for an off-west end award and sold out its entire Irish premiere run at Dublin's Smock Alley Theatre in November 2023 and at The Viking Theatre, returns for a limited run in Ireland this summer.

The comedy, about an Irish male nanny who works for rich single mothers in West London, will run at the various theatres throughout April and May.

The Manny, which draws inspiration from McArdle's own experience working as a male nanny, adheres to certain themes, including loneliness, a lack of connection, and the struggle to find a sense of belonging and purpose in a big city.

Manny is enjoying a Peter Pan-esque lifestyle of well-paid cash-in-hand work and settling for meaningless dates with women who harmonise 'Happy Birthday' with their eyes closed, just to disguise himself from the fact that he's letting life go by without following any real purpose or allowing himself to really feel anything substantial or lasting.

Throughout the story, he meets Molly, an actress disillusioned with life, as she sells beetroot brownies in Borough Market, as opposed to playing Cleopatra on Broadway, and becomes an unlikely role model for Michael, a 7-year-old spoilt, seemingly irredeemable product of a loveless marriage.

All three characters face a potential future of unrequited dreams, and all three will have their lives changed by the events that occur.

This week, we sat down with Sam to discuss the show, which began its Irish tour at the start of this month and is coming to the Civic from April 30–May 4; tickets are on sale now, so don't miss out!

**I understand that the inspiration for "The Manny" came from your experiences working as a male nanny; tell us more about that!**

So when I got out of drama school in London, I was looking for a job. I heard about this flexible, well-paid cash-on-hand work, so I did that for a couple of years. It came at a really interesting time in my life. Dating apps started to replace more "traditional" ways of meeting people. At the risk of sounding like a Hinge profile, looking after the kids kind of made me really think about what I'm saying in their presence and how I'm coming across in general. A lot of the comedic elements of the play are drawn from that time in my life. Then, a few years later, I ended up coming back to Dublin with my tail slightly between my legs. I had been dropped by my agent and had done over 100 auditions while only doing three jobs. I moved back into my parents spare bedroom, lost a lot of confidence, and quit acting completely. I wasn't in a great place for about 16 months. I ended up getting a 9-5 job, which gave me a lot of confidence. Then COVID hit. I started thinking about "what could have been?" in acting, and instead of normally being hard on myself, I decided to start writing about the mad job I used to have, being a male 'Mary Poppins'. But added to that, I was probably looking to heal myself by writing about the uncertainty I was going through and that feeling of being lost in my early 30's. I ended up finishing the play, quitting my job, and moving back to London to kickstart my career.



COMEDY:  
Sam McArdle  
stars in his  
one man  
show 'The  
Manny'

Since then, we've been on this amazing journey with the show. We've played in some great theaters, written a TV pilot, and I've managed to get an agent again. **Were there any particular highlights or challenges that stood out to you?**

There've been so many challenges. Money is the biggest challenge. I'm working three jobs to put it on. Countless theaters have said no to us, but it's nothing personal; you just have to keep going. No one says this business is easy. In terms of highlights, there've been so many. We sold out Smock Alley just before Christmas last year, and it was a little emotional seeing family and friends there. In November 2021, we did the first ever reading of it. I hadn't acted in over four years when we did it, so there was a sense of relief and the feeling that my old self had come back and that I had to go through a little journey to get back to where I was meant to be. I think the overall highlight is becoming someone who creates his own work instead of waiting by the phone. There's a sense of validation in that, and no matter what happens after we finish this tour, it's been a great journey to go on and to get back my confidence.

**Do you still get nervous when preparing to perform, and if so, how do you deal with that?**

Yeah, and there are nerves in different ways. So when I first did the show, I hadn't acted professionally in over four years. So you just want to see if you can still do it or not. When we did the show in Dublin last November, there weren't any nerves. It was more excitement, and I just couldn't wait to share the story this time around. We played our biggest London show at The Pleasance in March. That's probably the only show I was nervous for.

I may have put too much pressure on myself and ended up getting sick the week of the show and being bed-bound for a day before the final show, but it was just my body telling me to relax and calm down. I needed to remember that with theatre, people only buy tickets at the last minute, and the sales come in at the last minute. Much like that scene in Two Towers when Gandalf rushes in at the end to Helm's Deep with all the reinforcements! We ended up selling well there, and it was a success. So yeah, there are always nerves, but how I keep myself sane is through yoga and meditation.

**What drew you to Tallaght as a performance space for the show?**

There's been so much good theater and good work out of the Civic over the years. It's one of Ireland's best theaters. I always wanted to work there. Donal Shields, {Civic Theatre Director}, very kindly came to the show. He was someone I invited. He's got a great eye for putting on really great, exciting work. I always just wanted to play there. Also, I used to play at Quasar back in the day at Leisureplex, pretending I was Hicks from Aliens! So it'll also be nostalgic to go back there!

**Where do you go from here?**

We're going to be bringing the show to the Whale Theater on May 17, which I'm really looking forward to; some tickets are still available. I'd also love to bring the show abroad; there's no set, just me on a chair, so it's easily transportable. I've also written a TV pilot about it and have the series planned out, so adapting it to screen is what I'll concentrate on once we finish the Irish tour. I'd love to do a large run in London too.

“Tiramisu is my favourite.”

Hugh Jackman

# Food with passion

## CLASSIC TIRAMISU

by john paul kennedy / jpcooking@gmail.com



Until recently I was a little on the fence as to whether or not I liked Tiramisu but two of my brothers are major coffee lovers so when I receive my copy of my favourite Irish chef's new cookbook 'Clodagh's Weeknight Kitchen' and there was a recipe for classic Tiramisu I said I would give it a bash! Oh wow I'm so glad I did! Not only is it incredibly delicious but so simple and easy to make, perfect dessert to serve now that sunshine has finally arrived! I served it for last Sunday's dessert and while quite rich – a little goes a long way – the pudding is perfectly balanced with creamy layers of delicious mascarpone cream, layers of chocolate with lovely hits of coffee. You can make this as a large Tiramisu or individual ones and best if made the day before and left in the fridge until you need to serve it.

### Ingredients: (Makes 4 individual or one larger Tiramisu which will easily feed 6)

200ml strong espresso / good quality coffee  
80g castor sugar  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
500g mascarpone cheese  
100g cocoa powder  
3 egg yolks  
2 packets of ladyfinger biscuits or almond fingers if you can't source ladyfingers!



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 two 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 For the cake:

1. beat the egg yolks and sugar using an electric mixer in a large bowl until pale yellow and nice and thick in consistency.
2. Add the mascarpone and whisk slowly until the mixture is pale and smooth, then stir in 50ml of the coffee along with the vanilla extract and combine well.
3. if making individual Tiramisu's dip half the ladyfinger biscuits in the coffee and place equal amounts into four glass serving bowls. pour over half the mascarpone cream mixture, sprinkle with cocoa powder and repeat to create layers with the remaining ladyfingers, cream and cocoa.
4. if making a large tiramisu, line the biscuits evenly into a baking dish and pour over 150ml coffee and allow to soak it up for a few minutes, then add the mascarpone cream spread, another layer of ladyfingers and dust with the cocoa and repeat again.
5. cover in cling-film and place in the fridge to chill for at least two hours or overnight if getting ahead.

I often find with cooking and baking the most delicious recipes are the classic ones with just a few simple yet delicious ingredients and that's really my style of cooking – less is more. This recipe can be whipped up really quickly and it's a great get-ahead dessert for serving for family gatherings – enjoy! everybody went back for seconds when I made this last weekend for Sunday dessert!

Contact  
jp on: **Twitter:** @Jpkcooking  
**Email:** jpkcooking@gmail.com  
**Instagram:** jpkennedy.kennedy

# The Carpenters Experience

AN EVENING OF NON-STOP HITS IN THE CIVIC

by Ryan Butler / news@echo.ie

**T**he Carpenters Experience' is coming to The Civic for an evening of non-stop hits—it's yesterday once more!

The UK's leading Carpenters show, featuring the amazing voice of Maggie Nestor and eight top-class musicians, captures the sights and sounds of the amazing talents of Richard and Karen Carpenter.

The Carpenters, formally referred to as 'Carpenters', were an American vocal and instrumental duo made up of siblings Karen and Richard Carpenter. Richard's arrangement, composing, and harmonising abilities combined with Karen's contralto vocals to create a unique, gentle musical style. The Carpenters recorded ten albums, numerous singles, and multiple television specials during the course of their 14-year career.

Their hit songs 'We've Only Just Begun' and '(They Long to Be) Close to You' helped them reach significant success in 1970. With their catchy pop sound, the duo broke numerous records on the American Top 40 and Adult Contemporary charts. They also became top sellers in the adult contemporary, soft rock, and easy listening genres. In addition to 12 top-10 songs, they scored 15 number-one hits on the Adult Contemporary chart, three number-one hits, and five number-two hits on the Billboard Hot 100. Both economic success



HITS: The Carpenters experience comes to The Civic theatre on May 3

and critical praise are still drawn to their music. They are among the best-selling musicians of all time, having sold over 100 million records globally.

Karen's silky contralto is combined with Richard's delightful piano and seamless

harmonies in this big production that brings 'Close to You', 'We've Only Just Begun', 'Top of the World', 'Rainy Days and Mondays', 'Solitaire', 'Goodbye to Love', 'Please Mr. Postman', 'For All We Know', 'Only Yesterday', and dozens more classic songs to the stage.

# Flashback to the 80s

KINGSWOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE STAGE SUCCESSFUL MUSICAL



MUSICAL: Students Katelyn, Bobby and Aoibhe took part in the show

**J**UST like the fluxcompasator, audiences were transported back to the 1980s in Kingswood Community College's production of 'Flashback to the 80s'.

The show, marking only the second musical endeavour by the school, captivated more than 500 spectators over three nights which is now becoming a tradition within the Transition Year program.

The production featured a dynamic cast of Transition Year students who delivered spirited performances of some of the decade's most beloved hits.

From Lionel Richie's 'Dancing on the Ceiling' to Cyndi Lauper's 'Time After Time', and Katrina and The Waves' 'Walking on Sunshine', the selection of songs not only showcased the

students' musical talents but also perfectly captured the vibrant spirit of the 80s.

Audience members, comprising friends, family, and fellow students, danced and sang along with the performances, demonstrating their appreciation with enthusiastic applause and support.

The success of the event was evident not only in the nightly ticket sales but also in the positive feedback from the community, which praised both the quality of the production and the students' dedication.

As Kingswood Community College continues to build on the success of its musical productions, 'Flashback to the 80s' has set a high benchmark, becoming a highlight of the year for the Transition Year program!

**FLASH GORDON**

SEASANN AN RÉABHLÓID IN AGHAIDH IMPIRE MING AR BHÉAL SCINE.

TÁ GANNTANAS SOLÁTHAIRTÍ ACU. TÁ A BHFORSAÍ CAITE ACU.

TÁ AN CLUCHE IDIR DHÁ CHEANN NA MEÁ...

CEANNLONG COMHRAIC NA NÁISIÚN COMHGHUAILLÍOCHTA MHONGO.

-- MUNITIR SEABHAIC Á GCALLEADH AS ÉADAN--

--CHAILLEAMAR ÁR SPÁSÁRTHACH GUNNAI VALCIRE DEIREANNACH--

--NÍ FEIDIR LINN AN SCIATH THINTRÍ SIN A BHRISEADH--!

A DHOCHTÚIR...

BEAGNACH ANN, A BANPHRIONSA!

CAITHFIMID LAINSEÁIL DÍREACH NUAIR A ATHNUAITEAR AN FLOSCPHATRÚN--!

HÉ! HÉ!!

TÁ SÉ AG TARLÚ!

DALE ARDEN.

IMNÍOCH. GRINN. GANNMHEASTA.

FLASH!

TÁ AN SEO TOSAITHE!

DR. HANS ZARKOV (PH.D., M.SC., D.SC.).

MEARBHACH. ATHARHA. MEABHRACH.

CLUIMHNIGH, A MHAC!

NUAIR A BHRISFIDH TÚ TRID AN SCIATH THINTRÍ NÍ BHEIDH ACH 2.6 SHOICIND DE CHUMHACHT AGAT!

AURA: INÍON REIBILÍÚNACH LE MING.

GLIC, MARFACH. RÍOGA.

SEO AN T-AON SEANS ATÁ AGAINN. AN SEANS DEIREADH A BHEIDH AGAINN.

AN BHFUIL TÚ REIDH?

FLASH GORDON.

MISE?

CRÍOS DUBH DEN TRÍÚ GRÁD. PIONSÓIR DEN SCOOTH. CÍIS DEICH GCÚIL SA PHÓLO.

GO DEO.

BAN EAGLA AR BITH.

AN CHEAD CHLÁR EILE: TARRTHÁIL.

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**THE PHANTOM**

CREATED BY LEE FALK

ARE WE READY TO BROADCAST MY DISCOVERY?

OUR DISCOVERY...

YES, I THINK WE ARE, PROFESSOR!

I AM DR. MANFRED MARKUS MEIER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MUNICH...

I LIVE FROM THE UNCHARTED WILDS OF BANGALLA, EAST AFRICA!

YOU SEE BEHIND ME TWO STONE LIONS DERIVED FROM THE ANCIENT EGYPTIAN SYMBOL KNOWN AS AGET.

WE SEE, TOO, THESE FEARSOME FIGURES GUARD THE ENTRANCE TO A CAVERN!

A MARVELOUS, FORGOTTEN WORLD MY PROTEGE AND I PROPOSE TO EXPLORE ON YOUR BEHALF.

OUR FOOTAGE OF THESE HIDDEN SPACES WILL BE REVEALED TO YOU VIA SATELLITE WHEN WE RETURN TO THE SURFACE!

MANFRED!! BEHIND YOU!!

GROWWWWLLL--

Tony DePaul & Jeff Weigel 5-15-22

BEGINNING: "RETURN TO THE TEMPLE OF THE GODS"

www.thephantomcomics.com

THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS **POPEYE**

BY RANDY MILHOLLAND

WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?! YOU'RE NOT GONNA STAY MAYOR LONG BY SELLING A POSITION OF POWER TO SWEETHAVEN'S MOST HATED MAN!

FIRST OFF, IT WAS A CAMPAIGN DONATION.

SECOND, MY ADVISER SAYS I MADE A GOOD CHOICE.

IT'S NICE TO KNOW I CAN ALWAYS DEPEND ON YOU.

GOOD JOB JOHN!

THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS "ENUFFS FISTICUFFS!" PART 3

HAVING BEEN GIVEN A GOVERNMENT POSITION AFTER "DONATING" TO MAYOR SAPP, PROF. KILPH HAS BANNED ANYTHING RELATED TO FIGHTING IN HOPES OF MAKING POPEYE'S LIFE MUCH HARDER.

HOW'S THE FIGHTING BAN GOING?

IT'S SWEETHAVEN, SIR. PEOPLE LOVE TO FIGHT.

THEY HATE IT.

"THE POLICE ARE OVERWORKED HANDING OUT FINES, AND MOST CITIZENS ARE STRETCHED THIN."

TOAR'S DOJO OUT OF BUSINESS

BUT ANGER MANAGEMENT COUNSELORS ARE DOING GREAT.

AND POPEYE? IS HE IN THE POORHOUSE YET? OR ARRESTED?

ACTUALLY SIR, HE HASN'T BROKEN THE BAN ONCE.

WHAT?! THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! ALL HE EVER DOES IS FIGHT!

IS HE AT LEAST MISERABLE?

"NO, SIR, APPARENTLY, SETTING A GOOD EXAMPLE FOR HIS SON AND OTHER KIDS IS VERY IMPORTANT TO HIM."

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I SEE, WOULD IT BE EASIER TO BAN CHILDREN OR CARING ABOUT THEM?

ONE AWFUL CHOICE AT A TIME, SIR.

Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas South Dublin County Council

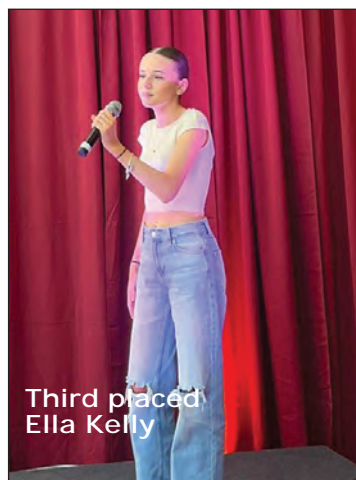
# Tallaght's Got Talent

## RAINNE ISIBEAL MARZO TAKES TOP SPOT AT THE SQUARE SHOW

**T**HE sun and the stars came out on Saturday for the live finale of The Square's Tallaght's Got Talent competition, with X-Factor sensation Mary Byrne, singer/songwriter Bradley Marshall and karaoke king James Brown providing hosting duties along with their own performances, all hosted by Ray Shah.

Ten finalists, whittled down from over 60 entries, competed on the day and delighted the crowd with a mix of excellent music and dance performances before the winners were announced.

Rainne Isibéal Marzo deservedly took the top spot with her Celine Dion cover netting the €1,000 SQ gift card prize, followed in a close second place by Anthony McKeown and his performance of Adele's "Turning Tables", with third place going to Ella Kelly with a beautiful rendition of "What was I made for" by Billie Eilish.



Third placed  
Ella Kelly



Second placed  
Anthony  
McKeown



Winner Rainne Isibéal Marzo receiving her winning prize from the judges Bradley Marshall, James Brown, Mary Byrne and Ray Shah

# Spectrum

## COLOURFUL VISUAL RETURNS TO RUA RED

by Ryan Butler / news@echo.ie

**R**eturning to Rua Red on May 11, Spectrum is the third late-night event in a series of events at Rua Red Gallery in Tallaght, organised in association with NOISE Music & SoFFt Productions. This event marks the end of the late-night series.

The colourful variety of electronic music and visual

arts in Ireland will be on display during this first-ever late-night series at Rua Red Gallery.

A lineup curated by some of Ireland's top nightlife programmers and electronic music collectives will accompany newly commissioned works by fascinating visual artists at each late-night event.

Over three nights in November 2023 and May 2024, 'Spectrum' will push the boundaries of the gallery space and provide a one-of-a-kind experience. The programme aims to reinvent the possibilities of late-night events and highlight the exceptional

musical and visual arts talent that Ireland has to offer.

An exciting programme featuring some of South Dublin's best local producers, DJs, and performers will take place at the gallery from 10 to 3 p.m., providing a venue for people to interact with art, people in the community, and people on the dance floor!

'Spectrum III' will be programmed by Bitten Twice and Burner Records and feature newly commissioned work by visual artist Diarmuid Farrell.

Music artists on the night include Mathair, Lainxoxo, Rory Sweeney, Julia Louise KnifeFist, XXXX In Stereo, Local Boy, Muttonhead, and Fynch.

Come along on May 11 for the culmination of this late-night series from 10 p.m. to 3am; tickets are on sale now, so don't miss out!

Presented by Rua Red, SoFFt Productions & NOISE Music

# SPECTRUM

Rua Red Gallery, Tallaght

DIARMUID FARRELL LIVE VISUAL INSTALLATION

PROGRAMMED BY

LOCAL BOY  
FYNCH  
MUTTONHEAD  
XXXX IN STEREO

NOISE  
SOFFT  
MATHAIR

MAY 11 10pm - 3am

**CELEBRATE YOUR COMMUNION OR CONFIRMATION WITH US**

CARVERY MAIN COURSE  
DESSERT, TEA & COFFEE

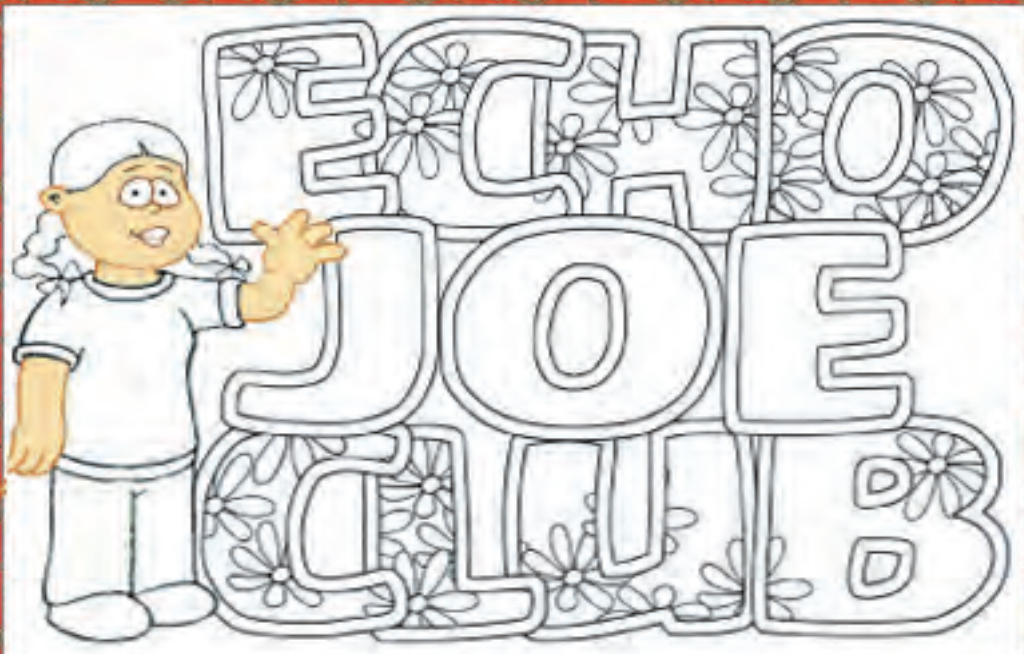
ADULTS €22.95pp

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RED COW INN, NAAS ROAD, DUBLIN 22



**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...

# recuperative

CLUBBERS, HOW MANY WORDS (TWO LETTERS OR MORE) CAN YOU MAKE FROM THE ABOVE WORD?

5-20 pretty good! 21-35 excellent! 36 and over - you do realise these have to be real words, don't you!

|    |    |    |
|----|----|----|
| 1  | 14 | 27 |
| 2  | 15 | 28 |
| 3  | 16 | 29 |
| 4  | 17 | 30 |
| 5  | 18 | 31 |
| 6  | 19 | 32 |
| 7  | 20 | 33 |
| 8  | 21 | 34 |
| 9  | 22 | 35 |
| 10 | 23 | 36 |
| 11 | 24 | 37 |
| 12 | 25 | 38 |
| 13 | 26 | 39 |

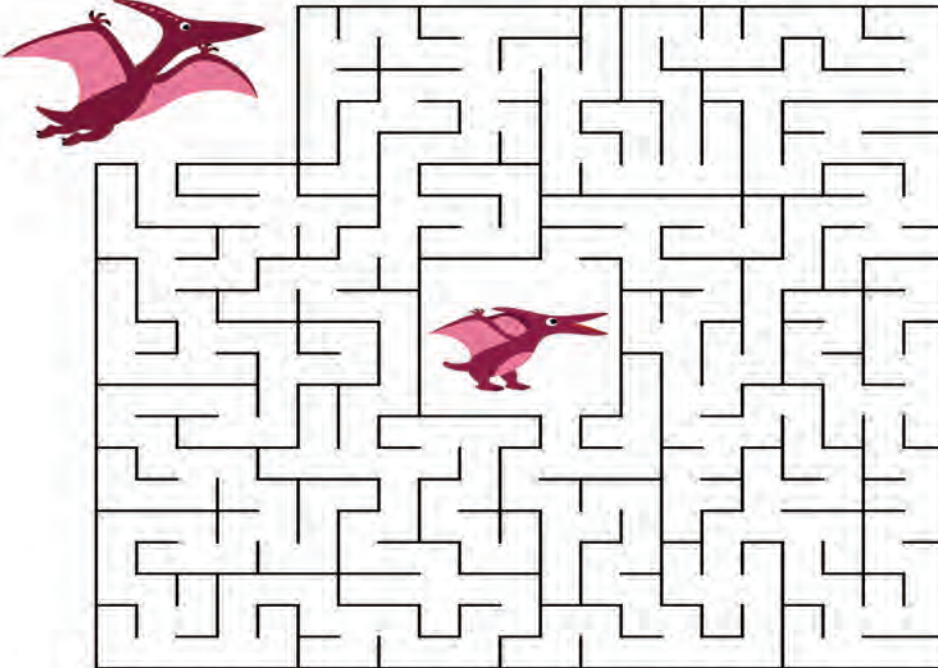
YOU WERE LATE FOR SCHOOL AGAIN THIS MORNING, JOE...

I WAS!

WHAT WAS YOUR EXCUSE THIS TIME?

OH, I TOLD TEACHER I HAD PUT MY SHOES ON THE WRONG FEET...

...AND THEN COULDN'T REMEMBER WHOSE FEET I'D PUT THEM ON!



Help the baby pterodactyl to pass the maze

word search puzzle

# spring

Hello Spring

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | U | B | L | O | S | S | O | M | I | R | L | W | E |
| L | E | B | U | T | T | E | R | F | L | Y | X | N | Q |
| O | R | U | G | U | K | L | Y | C | X | R | I | R | T |
| O | H | Q | A | L | P | F | W | C | X | H | D | A | V |
| M | G | G | Z | I | J | R | T | P | S | D | A | I | A |
| M | T | R | R | P | E | F | B | N | G | H | E | N | P |
| T | B | V | A | E | G | D | U | X | R | J | Q | O | R |
| J | K | G | S | S | E | S | A | H | O | T | D | K | I |
| X | L | E | S | T | S | N | Y | F | W | R | H | X | L |
| R | A | I | N | B | O | W | V | F | F | M | F | A | A |
| T | T | I | R | O | B | I | N | S | I | O | Y | X | W |
| K | Y | B | M | L | E | V | X | A | T | T | D | Q | S |
| P | T | U | I | G | B | D | J | I | O | W | A | I | C |
| Z | R | D | U | M | B | R | E | L | L | A | F | B | L |

- APRIL
- RAINBOW
- BLOOM
- GROW
- BUTTERFLY
- BLOSSOM
- DAFFODIL
- BUD
- GRASS
- ROBIN
- GREEN
- THAW
- TULIP
- UMBRELLA
- SUNSHINE
- RAIN

# Fill in the blanks

[ ] X O X [ ] X Y  
 H X [ ] X [ ] X D  
 [ ] X ICY X [ ]  
 C X [ ]  
 [ ] X [ ]  
 S X [ ] X F X [ ]  
 [ ] X F X [ ]  
 [ ] X MON X [ ]  
 PRES X [ ]  
 [ ] X E X [ ] X URE  
 [ ] X TH X [ ]  
 HURRI X [ ]  
 [ ] X O X [ ] X ER



Fill in the blanks with the words ALL, ANT, BAR, BOW, CANE, CLONE, EAT, LAKE, LOG, LOUD, MET, METEOR, NOW, RAIN, RAT, SNOW, SOON, SURE, TEMP, UNDER, WIN to reveal 14 weather related words.



ANSWER:

- BAR X MET X ER
- HURRI X CANE
- TH X UNDER
- TEMP X E X RAT X URE
- PRES X SURE
- MON X SOON
- SNOW X F X LAKE
- S X NOW X F X ALL
- RAIN X BOW
- C X LOUD
- ANT X ICY X CLONE
- H X EAT X D
- METEOR X O X LOG X Y

# COLOURING BOOK



**LETTER LINK LOG-JAM**

A MISSING LETTER ON EACH ROW FINISHES ONE WORD AND STARTS THE NEXT...

BUT WHAT ARE THE LETTERS?

|     |  |     |
|-----|--|-----|
| LEA |  | ATE |
| EDI |  | AKE |
| YAW |  | OTE |
| NOS |  | ASY |
| KER |  | ARN |
| TUR |  | ORK |
| EAR |  | EAT |
| SAI |  | OSE |

the missing letters: F, T, N, E, B, F, N, L.

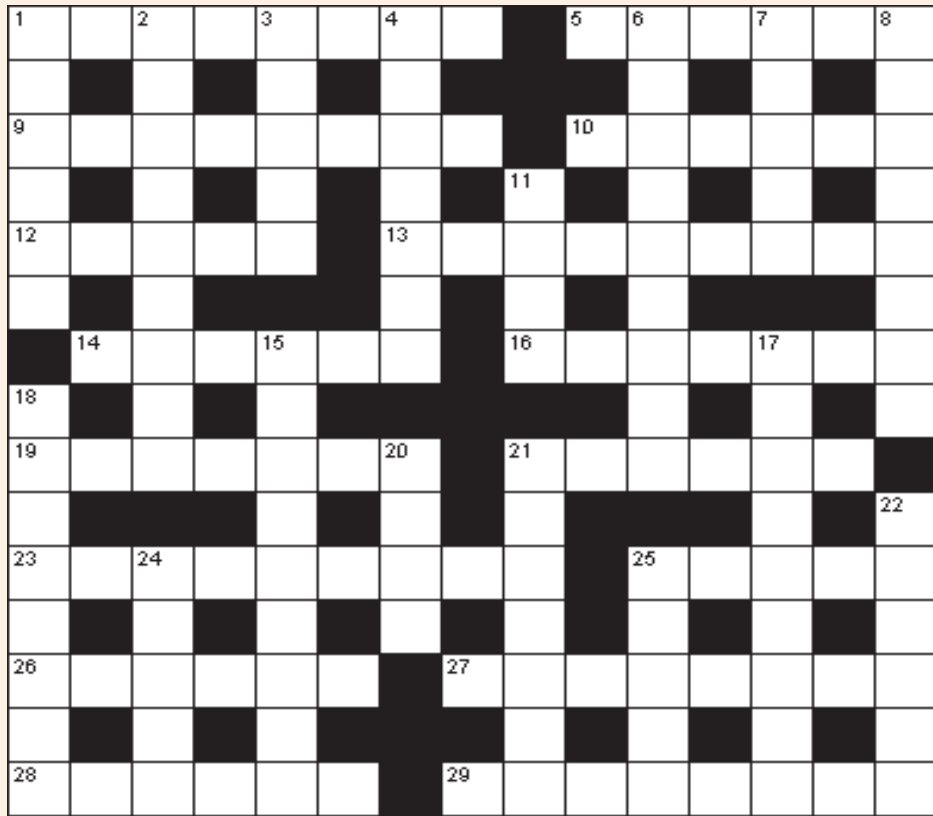
**winner**

Shaun Moore, age 8, is this week's winner of The Echo Joe Club logo colouring competition. Shaun, your prize will be on the way to you soon. All entries stay in so you have another chance to win!

are kindly sponsored by



# echocrossquiz Q2504



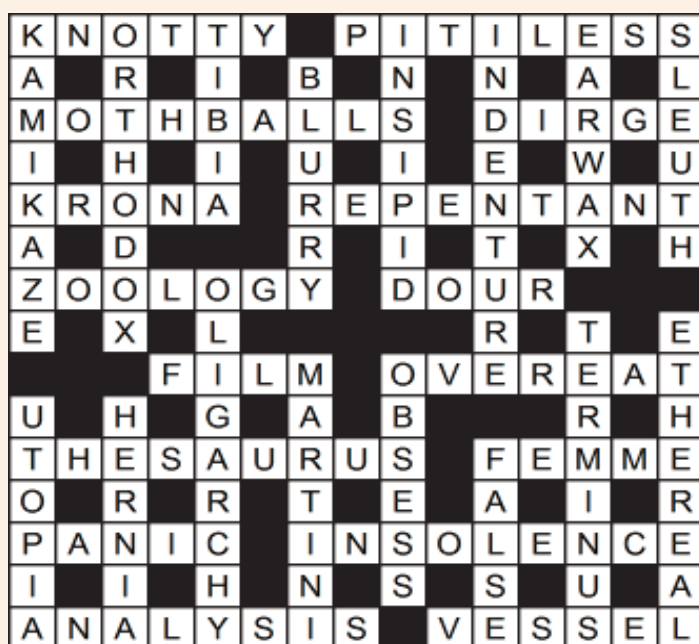
**ACROSS**

- 1. Physical exertion (8)
- 5. Emergency (6)
- 9. Hideout (8)
- 10. A musical interval of eight tones (6)
- 12. Glee (5)
- 13. Lethargy (9)
- 14. Regret (6)
- 16. Mundane (7)
- 19. A cord worn around the neck (7)
- 21. Part of a garment (6)
- 23. Not obtained through reason (9)
- 25. Ancient Assyrian city (5)
- 26. Layers (6)
- 27. Piteous (8)
- 28. Drawing (6)
- 29. Suitable for eating (8)

**DOWN**

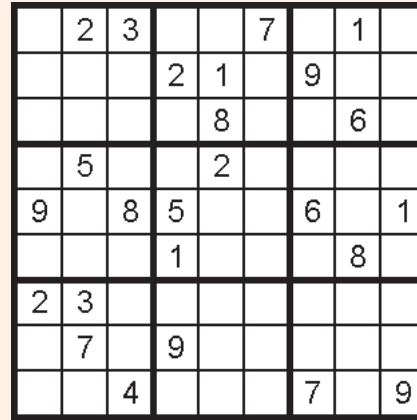
- 1. Dig up (6)
- 2. A soft quilt (9)
- 3. A serious accident (5)
- 4. Lacking physical depth (7)
- 6. Uprightness (9)
- 7. Blunder (5)
- 8. Pierced with a spit (8)
- 11. Russian emperor (4)
- 15. Not abstract (9)
- 17. Can't be seen (9)
- 18. Mark of omission (8)
- 20. Speaker's platform (4)
- 21. Taxonomic group (7)
- 22. Silver, in heraldry (6)
- 24. III (5)
- 25. Farewell (5)

**LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS 1804**

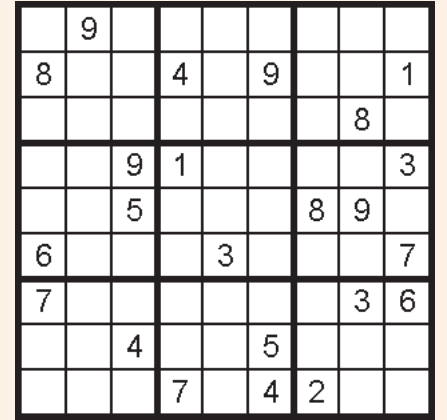


CAN YOU BEAT THIS WEEK'S CROSSQUIZ?

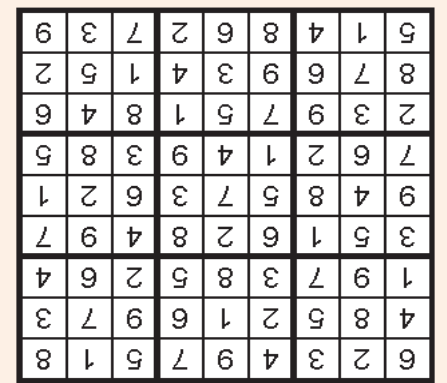
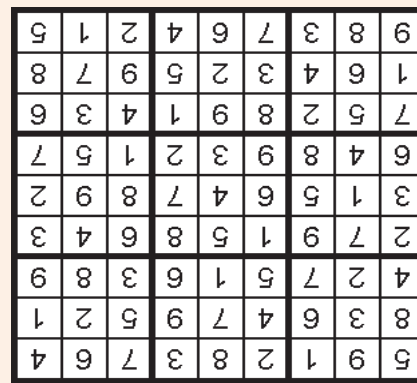
## SUDOKU 1



## SUDOKU 2



## ANSWERS



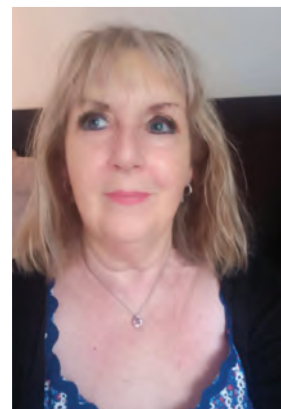
SUDOKU 2

SUDOKU 1

# Poet's Corner

'A THOUGHT ROLLED DOWN MY CHEEK.'

by Rita Crowe



I have written, a long time ago, a lot of poetry and I've had a lot of it published over the years in Anthologies. One was in a book called 'DUBLIN SPEAK' available in Dublin Public Libraries. I won a Trophy for a poem in Ballymun women's guild called 'The Elephant in the sitting room' other than those it is only now that I am getting back to writing.

Today a thought  
Rolled down my  
cheek  
It came uninvited  
Almost vulgar  
In its insistence  
A heartwrenching  
Fact had just  
sunk  
Into my brain  
Wiping the tears  
away  
I tried to  
Compose myself  
But  
It was insistent  
It was painful  
It hurt  
As I stood  
There

Why?  
Where?  
Did you go  
I Tenderly  
Lay scented  
Symbols  
Of life  
The flowers  
Looked beautiful  
On  
Your resting  
Place  
But  
A thought  
Rolled down my  
cheek  
Sometimes  
It's hard  
To hide  
The tears !!!

# Primary Schools Football Blitz

HOSTED BY THOMAS DAVIS GAA CLUB

Photos by Paddy Barrett

Photos taken for *The Echo* are available to purchase. Email [reception@echo.ie](mailto:reception@echo.ie) or call 01-4685350.  
You can view *The Echo* Photography Policy on [echo.ie](http://echo.ie)



Scoil Aonghusa girls team



St Martin de Porres team



Scoil Maelruain boys team



Scoil Maelruain girls team



Scoil Aonghusa boys team



St Martin de Porres boys team



St Mary's Tallaght Village



St Dominic's National School

# Culture Day

## HELD IN ST MARK'S COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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You can view *The Echo* Photography Policy on [echo.ie](http://echo.ie)



Gabrielle, Holly and Kinga



Emma and Tori



Sarosh and Ayshah



Konrad, Olivier, Damian and Nicholas



Mark, Danica, Stacey, Liana, Anne and Jullan



At the Fashion Show



Alfie and Callum



Students at the Fashion Show



Enjoying the Culture Day

# Flashback To The 80s

## MUSICAL BY KINGSWOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS

Photos by Paddy Barrett

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Nathalie, Emily, Megan and Isobel



Sophie and Hayley



Martine, Isla and Kathy (Art teacher KCC)



Alan, Anita and Agnes Walsh, Bary and Ann Keegan



James, Kirsten and Nevael



Erin and Ella



Sandra and Hallie Mahon



Yuxin, Kayleigh, Ava and Darragh



Sr Liz with Phyllis and Betty

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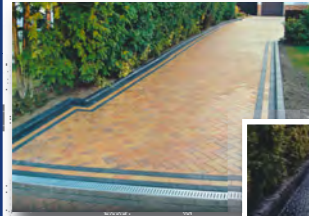
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# family notices

**Important Notice**  
Items for publication for memorial pages must be in by 1pm Friday for next Thursday's paper

## ANNIVERSARY



**Gannon, John (Sean)**  
In loving memory of a dear Husband whose 3rd Anniversary away from home occurs 29th April 2024.

We sat beside your bedside,  
Our hearts were crushed and sore,  
We did our duty to the end,  
Until we could do no more.  
In tears we watched you sinking,  
We watched you fade away,  
And though our hearts were breaking,  
We knew you could not stay.  
You left behind aching hearts,  
That loved you most sincere,  
We never shall and never will forget you.

**So sadly missed and never forgetting you, your loving wife Catherine.**

### Dad

I still cannot believe it's true,  
3 years you're gone today,  
I think about you every day,  
A special smile, a special face,  
Memories of you I keep one by one,  
Things you've said, and songs you sung,  
Always a wish that you were here.

**So sadly missed and never forgotten, your daughter Catherine.**

### Grandad

Loving and kind,  
Gentle and true,  
These are the memories,  
We have of you.

**Love always Christopher and Emma.**

### Dad

You held my hand when I was small,  
You caught me when I fell,  
The hero of my childhood,  
And of latter years as well.  
Every time I think of you,  
My heart just fills with pride,  
And though I'll always miss you Dad,  
I know you're by my side.  
In laughter and in sorrow,  
In sunshine and in rain,  
I know you're watching over me,  
Until we meet again.

**Love from your son Jonathan and daughter-in-law Brenda.**

### Granda

Loved and missed always,  
You'll never walk alone.

**Love Luke and Robyn.**

### Dad

To us you were someone special,  
Someone set apart,  
Your memory will live forever,  
Engraved within our hearts.

**Deeply loved, sadly missed and always remembered by his son Eddie, daughter-in-law Kate & grandchildren Jade, Seán & Isabel.**

## ANNIVERSARY



**McCabe, Alison**  
17th Anniversary occurs 30th April.

### Alison

Words cannot describe the loss I feel,  
Saying farewell to you,  
But heaven chose to give you wings,  
And now it's time you flew.  
I wish that we could have more time,  
That god had let you stay,  
Forever would not be long enough,  
But I would take one day.  
I wish I had one more chance,  
To see that tender smile,  
To laugh with you again Alison,  
Just for a little while.

Gone too soon but not forgotten,  
Forever you will remain,  
My guiding light, my shining star,  
Until I see your face again.  
**Always loved and missed by your heartbroken Mam, Brothers, Sisters, Nieces and Nephews. Hugs and kisses. xxx**  
**Also remembering her brother Damien on his Birthday, 26/04/24.**

### Sister

My dearest darling sister,  
How can I find the words to say,  
To tell you how I miss you,  
Throughout every single day.  
I miss our little chats,  
The way you'd listen to me moan,  
And how you'd always cheer me up,

Whenever you would phone.  
Living life without you,  
Is so very hard to bear,  
And I'd give all I have,  
To wake and see you standing there.

**Love from your brother Thomas and Family. Also remembering our brother Dayo on his Birthday, 26/04/24.**

### Alison

**17th Anniversary of my wonderful sister.**

Thinking of you on your 17th anniversary,  
Wishing you were here,  
A light from my life is gone,  
A voice I loved is still,  
A place is vacant in my heart,  
Which never can be filled.  
Alison, I hold you close within my heart,  
And there you will remain,  
To walk with me throughout my life,  
Until we meet again.

**Love Jonathan, Sinead and Family.**

**Also remembering our brother Dayo on his Birthday, 26/04/24.**

### Alison

**17 years away from home. Also thinking of my brother Dayo whose heavenly Birthday occurs 26/04/2024. Happy Birthday Dayo. Loved and missed Bro.**

Ever since you went away,  
The days go slowly by,  
And the hardest thing to cope with,  
Is never knowing why,  
Those special memories of you,  
Will always bring a smile,  
If only we could have you back,  
For a little while,  
I will cherish all our memories,  
And one thing is for sure,  
I loved you then,  
I love you now,  
And will forever more.

**Missed beyond words. Samantha, Thomas, Kean, Taylor, Kelsey, Mya, Kendall and Caiden. xxx**

### Alison

Of all the special gifts in life,  
However great or small,  
To have you as our auntie,  
Was the greatest one of all.  
Although we cannot see you,  
You're with us every day,  
We miss you so much Alison.  
**Amiee and Marko. xx**

### Dayo

Today is full of memories,  
Happiness and tears,  
Of birthday celebrations,  
We've shared throughout the years,  
Wherever you are resting,  
I hope that you can see,  
How precious and uplifting,  
Your memory is to me.

**Love you Spud xxx Deborah, Mark, Amiee and Marko. xx**

### Sister

I know you're up in heaven,  
And looking down on me,  
And when I look up at the stars,  
I know that's where you'll be.  
Even though I miss you,  
You're not too far away,  
Because my heart is full of memories,

And I treasure them every day.  
Our time on Earth was special,  
But it's only the very start,  
So please keep watching over me,  
While we're not so far apart.  
Some day the time will come,  
And I no longer feel this pain,  
That is the day when heaven calls,  
And we meet again.

**Missed always sister Tina, P.J, Nikita and Colby. Also remembering our brother Dayo on his Birthday, 26/04/24.**

### Sister

Although I'm sad without you,  
And wish that you were here,  
Within my heart, your lovely smile,  
Still shines bright and clear.  
I treasure all those memories,  
Of growing up with you,  
The secrets we would always share,  
The childish things we'd do,  
And as the years passed quickly by,  
We grew closer still,  
I miss you my dear sister,  
And you know I always will.

**Love from your heartbroken sister Debbie and husband Mark. xxxxx**

## ANNIVERSARY



**Flanagan, Joe**  
8th Anniversary away from home. 15th February 1977 – 30th April 2016. In loving memory of my dear son Joe.

I sent a dove to Heaven,  
With a parcel on its wings,  
Be careful when you open it Joe,  
It's full of beautiful things.  
Inside are a million kisses,  
To have you as our auntie,  
Was the greatest one of all.  
Although we cannot see you,  
You're with us every day,  
We miss you so much Alison.

**Your heartbroken Ma. xxx Also remembering my mam Cathleen Cummins who died 2nd of May 2017. xxx**

How do we write on paper,  
The feelings we have inside,  
From heartbroken sisters,  
Who have missed you since you died,  
Our hearts still ache with sadness,  
Our secret tears still flow,  
For what it meant to lose you,  
No one will ever know,  
Call his name out softly, Lord,  
And when he looks your way,  
Tell him that we love and miss him every day.

**From your loving sisters Noeleen & Lisa, Nephews, Nieces and great-nephew Mason. Love and miss you forever Brother and Uncle.**

## NOVENA

### Angel Of Portugal

Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore you profoundly. I offer you the most precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges and indifference by which he is offended. And, through the infinite merits of his Most Sacred Heart, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg of You the conversion of poor sinners. T.G.

## ANNIVERSARY



**Gaule, Michael**  
8th Anniversary occurs 26th April of a dear Husband. Late of Brookview Park. Also remembering my beautiful daughter Mary Moore and grandson Jonathan Healy.

Missed in the morning of every day,  
Missed in the evening as light fades away,  
Missed in a thousand and one little ways,  
Around every corner a memory stays.  
No one knows the pain we bear,  
When we all meet and you're not there,  
We talk, we laugh, we play our part,  
But behind it all lie broken hearts.  
You gave us years of happiness,  
Then sorrow came with tears,  
You left us lovely memories,  
We will treasure through the years.  
**So sadly missed and loved by**

**your wife Phyllis, daughters Phill, Julie & Deirdre, Sons-in-law, Grandchildren, Great-Grandchildren and Friends.**

### Dad

**8 Years**  
We cannot bring the old days back,  
When we were all together,  
The family chain is broken now,  
But memories live forever.  
**Thinking of you and my sister Mary. Love & Miss you both, Bee, Jody & Family. xx**

### 8th Anniversary of our lovely dad Mick

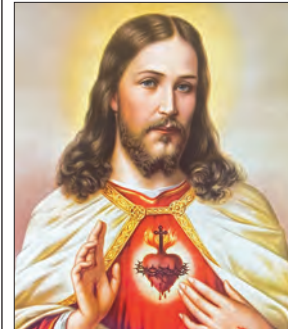
The day's, months & years pass,  
But you're still in our thoughts daily,  
Your gift to us was your sense of humour,  
Your stories are still being told.  
**You're sadly missed and loved Dad. Put your arms around Mary, tell her we miss & love her, Julie, John and Family. xx**

### Dad

Thinking of the happy days,  
We shared when I was small,  
Always brightens up my day,  
In the nicest way of all,  
Memories are something no one can steal,  
Death is a heartache no one can heal.

**Also remembering my sister Mary and son Jon. Love always Dee, Alan & Family. xx**

## NOVENA



### The Miracle Prayer

Dear heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked many favours. This time I ask you this special one (mention favour). Take it dear heart of Jesus and place it within your heart where your father sees it. Then in his merciful eyes it will become your own favour, not mine. Amen. Say this prayer three times for three days and your favour will be granted. Never known to fail. Must promise publication of prayer. F.K.

## NOVENA

### Powerful Novena To St. Jude

O Holy St. Jude, apostle and Martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles, near kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke you, special patron in time of need. To you I have recourse from the depths of my heart and humbly beg you, to whom God has given such great mercy, to come to my aid and assistance. Help me now in my present and urgent need and grant my earnest petition. (State favour required). In return I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. 3 Our Fathers, 3 Hail Marys, 3 Glory Be's. St. Jude pray for us and all who honour and invoke your name. Amen. This novena should be said for nine days and publication must be promised. It has never been know to fail. D.M.

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# planning notices

All planning applications must be in before 5pm Monday

tel: 468 5350  
email:reception@echo.ie

## South Dublin County Council

We, Brya and Emma Hickson, intend to apply for planning permission for development at this site. 11 Bolton View, Ballyboden, Dublin, D16 CF43. The development will consist of Single-storey extension to the side for extended living. Covered over side passage for bike storage. With two roof windows. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of the Planning Authority during its public opening hours, and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the Planning Authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

## South Dublin County Council

We Paddy & Sandra Taylor intend to apply for planning permission for a two storey extension to the rear of 125 Woodview Heights, Lucan, Co. Dublin. The Planning application may be inspected or purchased at the offices of South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Town Centre, Tallaght, Dublin 24. During its public opening hours of Monday to Friday from 9.00am - 4.00pm, and may also be viewed on the council's website - www.sdcc.ie. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to South Dublin County Council on payment of a fee of (20.00 euro) within the 5 weeks of receipt of the application by South Dublin County Council and such submissions or observations will be considered by the Planning Authority in making a decision on the application. The Planning Authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions or may refuse to grant permission.

## South Dublin County Council

We Thomas & Sharon Saunders are applying for planning permission for Demolition of existing steel shed in rear garden. Construction of 2 bedroom detached dormer bungalow in rear garden with partial 2 storey area, alterations to existing driveway, construction of new vehicular entrance with partial dishing of kerb & all ancillary site works at 21 Dunmore Park, Kingswood, Dublin 24 D24T28C. The planning 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 (9am-4pm, Mon-Fri) and a submission or observation in relation to the application can be made in writing to South Dublin County Council on payment of the prescribed fee (20 Euro) 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 APRIL 12, 2024

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <p><b>SD23A/0337</b>      <b>09 Apr 2024</b>      <b>Permission Additional Information</b><br/> Applicant: Partas<br/> Location: Tallaght Enterprise Centre, Main Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24<br/> Description: Renovate and extend part of the existing single and two storey enterprise centre (existing gross floor area: 2,379 sq.m.) to create a food and beverage enterprise centre to be called Priory Market including (i) a single storey extension (114 sq.m) on the west (side) elevation; a two storey extension (290 sq.m) on the east (side) elevation, 2 new mezzanine areas (51 sq.m and 19 sq.m); a new disability accessible toilet at first floor level; plant area at roof level (overall proposed gross floor area: 2,853 sq.m); (ii) the open plan market area will comprise 12 vendor stalls with unreserved seating and tables, extended and reconfigured toilets, a shared kitchen area (123 sq.m), a dishwasher room, etc., and a bar area ancillary to the existing Priory Brewery (that will be extended internally by 50 sq.m); (iii) a new entrance door at the northern elevation with existing entrance replaced by a window; (iv) optional solar panels on the roof; (v) revisions to the existing surface level car park to provide for 37 car parking spaces, 3 mobility impaired spaces, and 10 electric vehicle charging point spaces, and 66 bicycle spaces; (vi) revisions to the existing vehicular entrance at Main Road to provide for a new pathway; (vii) 8 Priory Market signs as follows; 1 double sided sign (1400 x 2000 mm) within the existing freestanding Bryan S Ryan sign; 2 signs (1000 x 5600 mm each) at the site entrance wing walls, 3 freestanding flag type signs (1700 x 700 mm each) with an overall height of 3.9 metres; 1 no. freestanding sign (1400 x 7000 mm) on a support frame with an overall height of 4.4 metres; and hand painted sign (1600 x c. 38000 mm) below eaves level across the rear elevation; and (viii) landscaping and ancillary site development works.</p> | <p>application area at the existing quarry.</p> <p><b>SD23B/0359</b>      <b>09 Apr 2024</b>      <b>Permission and Retention Additional Information</b><br/> Applicant: Amanda Palmer<br/> Location: 134, The Coppice, Woodfarm Acres, Palmerstown, Dublin 20<br/> Description: Permission for new single storey extension to front &amp; side of house, &amp; retention permission of extensions being, single storey porch &amp; canopy to front, &amp; rear single storey extension &amp; alterations to roof at 134, The Coppice, Woodfarm Acres, Palmerstown, Dublin 20.</p> <p><b>SD23B/0421</b>      <b>11 Apr 2024</b>      <b>Permission and Retention Additional Information</b><br/> Applicant: Christine Kennedy &amp; Mark Woods<br/> Location: 9 Grange Park, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14.<br/> Description: The development will consist of A) demolition of the existing front facade and the conversion of the garage into a utility and study, B) minor alterations to the front facade and the construction of a new single storey extension (x sqm) with a flat roof to the front facade of the existing home, C) conversion of the attic to usable storage space / hobby room with three new roof lights to the front, D) construction of a single storey flat roof extension, incorporating the existing kitchen extension to the rear, E) retention of the existing vehicular entrance from 2570 mm to 3070 mm.</p> <p><b>SD23B/0500</b>      <b>08 Apr 2024</b>      <b>Permission Additional Information</b><br/> Applicant: John McDonnell &amp; Fiona Markey<br/> Location: 27, Shelton Park, Dublin 12<br/> Description: Planning permission for the refurbishment and ground and first floor extension to the side and rear of a two storey semi-detached house at number 27 Shelton Park, Kimmage, Dublin 12. The proposed development will consist of the part demolition of existing garage to the side and rear and erection of a two storey flat roof and pitched roof extension to the side of the existing house behind existing side garage and proposed flat roof rear extension at first floor to the rear existing pitched roof, the demolition of existing front porch and construction and new flat roofed front porch extension of 4 m2 to give a total extended area of 45 m2 (total existing and proposed house area is 142 m2). The proposed development will also consist of general remedial work to the ground floor layout to include removal of walls to provide for a living / dining area to the rear, relocated kitchen in new extension at ground floor, dropped floor level throughout ground floor, new downstairs wc and utility room and general remedial work to the first floor layout to include removal of section of side wall to cater for new bedroom with ensuite and new family bathroom. The proposed development will also provide for new front wall to garage elevation, new pitched roof to garage with new rooflight to front pitch of garage, new rooflight to front pitch of main existing house over stairs landing, new garden room to rear garden, new gated pedestrian access to rear laneway and new gated vehicular access for a widened driveway to front including dished kerb and gated pedestrian access to front and all associated site, drainage and landscaping works.</p> | <p><b>of Additional Information</b><br/> Applicant: Daniel Malone<br/> Location: Plot Adj, 2 St Patricks Road, Walkinstown, Dublin 12, D12A6P0<br/> Description: Three-bedroom, two-storey semi-detached house with new vehicular access dished kerb and off-street parking. With all ancillary services. Demolition of existing side extension.</p> <p><b>SD23B/0462</b>      <b>08 Apr 2024</b>      <b>Permission Clarification of Additional Information</b><br/> Applicant: Aaron and Aimee Wallace<br/> Location: 7, Tootenhill Cottages, Rathcoole, Dublin 24, D24 CH64<br/> Description: Demolition of the existing roof and replaced with a dormer roof structure to facilitate two new bedrooms and bathroom at first floor level, in addition it is proposed to build a single storey rear and side extension with all the associated internal and external site works.</p> <p><b>SD24A/0075W</b>      <b>10 Apr 2024</b>      <b>Retention New Application</b><br/> Applicant: HSIL Properties<br/> Location: U Store It, M50 Business Park, Ballymount Avenue, Dublin 12, D12 HW6X<br/> Description: Retention Planning Application to carry out the following developments to a permitted storage warehouse (Planning Reg. No.'s SD22A/0104, SD21A/0214, SD15A/0254), located at M50 Business Park beside the M50 Ballymount Interchange. The development will consist of (1) Retention Permission for as constructed extended floor area to first floor level storage area (approx. 200 sqm). (2) Retention Permission for as constructed additional stair core (Stair 05) and revised location and layout to permitted stair core (Stair 04). (3) Retention Permission for omission of solid masonry / RC wall to undercroft at north-east elevation. (4) Retention Permission for inclusion of a new pedestrian door to existing building, adjacent to main entrance door to reception area.</p> |
| <p><b>SD23A/0342</b>      <b>08 Apr 2024</b>      <b>Permission Additional Information</b><br/> Applicant: The Marren Co-Ownership<br/> Location: Site 604, Jordanstown Road, Greenogue Business Park, Rathcoole, Co. Dublin<br/> Description: Warehouse with Ancillary Office and Staff Facilities and associated site development; The building will have a maximum external height of 15m with a gross floor area of 1,793sq.m including warehouse area (1,590sq.m, ancillary staff facilities (88sq.m) and ancillary office area (115sq.m); The development will also include vehicular access/egress gate via Jordanstown Road; a pedestrian access via Jordanstown Road; 10 sheltered cycle parking spaces; 10 ancillary car parking including EV and accessible parking spaces; level access goods door; dock leveller door; external canopies; hard and soft landscaping; external lighting; boundary treatments and all associated site development works above and below ground.</p>   | <p><b>SD23A/0219</b>      <b>10 Apr 2024</b>      <b>Permission Clarification</b></p>  | <p><b>SD24A/0076</b>      <b>11 Apr 2024</b>      <b>Permission New Application</b><br/> Applicant: The National Transport Authority<br/> Location: At Bus Stop No. 133951, Slip Road off N7, outside car park of An Poitin Stil, Rathcoole, Dublin<br/> Description: Erection of a proposed new stainless steel and glass bus shelter, 5.2m x 1.85m x 2.8m high on the existing concrete apron outside An Poitin Stil car park with 2 No. LED illuminated advertising panels each of 2.0 square metre area.</p>  |
| <p><b>SD23A/0343</b>      <b>10 Apr 2024</b>      <b>Permission Additional Information</b><br/> Applicant: Roadstone Limited<br/> Location: Cheeverstown &amp; Whitehall Townlands, Fortunestown, Tallaght, Dublin 24<br/> Description: New storage and maintenance shed (780sq.m); An extension to the existing laboratory (218sq.m); A new enclosed HVO generator with transformer and fuel storage tank (internally banded) on a concrete plinth (156sq.m), all within a 0.3 hectare</p>  |  | <p><b>SD24A/0077</b>      <b>11 Apr 2024</b>      <b>Permission New Application</b><br/> Applicant: The National Transport Authority<br/> Location: At Bus Stop No. 104301, Eastbound Off Ramp for Jct 4, Rathcoole/Newcastle off N7, Rathcoole, Dublin<br/> Description: Remove sections of existing grass margin and grass verge and extend concrete apron to front and rear of existing public footpath, install accessible kerb and erect of a proposed new stainless steel and glass bus shelter, 5.2m x 1.85m x 2.8m high on the public footpath with 2 No. LED illuminated Advertising Panels each of 2.0 square metre area.</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, April 25, 2024

## Glenanne crash out of champions trophy

ALL the goals in this game came in the opening 10 minutes as Glenanne crashed out of the EY Hockey League Division One Men's Champions Trophy at the quarter-final stages.

The Tallaght side were edged out by Monkstown 2-1.

Monkstown took the lead in the 4th minute who scored from open play.

Kevin Venter equalised in the 7th minute for Glenanne to make it 1-1 before Monkstown captain Geoff Cole restored the visitor's lead in the 12th minute to 2-1. After much of the possession and multiple runs at goal Monkstown stood firm until Glenanne were awarded a penalty stroke in the final minutes of this game.

Now the odds are stacked heavily against the goalkeeper in penalty stroke situations and so Shane O'Donoghue was red-hot favourite to grab an equaliser for Glenanne. But nobody told David Fitzgerald that. He dived to his left and saved the effort. Monkstown held out to win 2-1 and they qualified for the last four of the Champions Trophy in Banbridge next weekend.

## Éanna secure All-Ireland U15 title

Coláiste Éanna continued a superb season of schools' basketball by adding the All-Ireland U15 title to their trophy cabinet, following a 53-29 win over Presentation Bray at the National Basketball Arena last week.

The Ballyroan school have now won All-Ireland titles at U15, U16 and U19 level in 2024.

A stout second quarter of defence was key to the success of Hilary Netsiyana's latest success as head coach of Coláiste Éanna, as they held Presentation Bray to just three points in that time and 11 for the half.

Fitzgerald, McCarthy and Thummet led the way for the team in white. Thummet in particular managed to rattle off three successive shots from beyond the arc in a blistering display of shooting in the second half.

Presentation Bray tried their best to stay with their Dublin opponents through their captain Harry Tighe, but they had to make do with the silver medal at the final buzzer.



## All-Ireland crown for Templeogue girls



TEMPLEOGUE Basketball Club girls U16s won the All-Ireland Club Championship last weekend in Gormanstown beating Tolka Rovers in the final 35-23.

The side won five out of the six games on their way to winning and this comes on the back of winning the league unbeaten and also winning the cup.

The team overcame Cobh and Kilkenny Stars and lost to Tolka Rovers in the group games before beating Maree in the quarter-final and Limerick Celtics in semi-final on the way.

In the final top scorer was Katie Behan 13 points, Grace Miley 9 points, Sophie Gallagher 7 points and Éabha Booth 6 points.

The same team won the All-Ireland Club Championship at U14 level as well. The side are coached by Paul Behan and managed by Rachel Stanton.

THE **Echo**

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## March Sports Star of the Month is Jack Woolley

SOUTH Dublin Taekwondo star Jack Woolley will be on the plane for the Olympics in Paris this July.

The Tallaght lad secured qualification for his second Olympic Games after enjoying success at the European Qualification Tournament in Sofia.

After finishing as the sixth nation in the 2023 end-of-year Olympic rankings, Jack was one place outside the top five auto-qualify quotas for Paris and was required to attend the European Qualification event.

Seeded number one, Jack had a bye in the round of 16 requiring him to achieve two consecutive victories to achieve one of the two tickets to Paris available. In the quarter-final Jack overcame Finland 2-0 which led to a nail-biting decider with Albania.

The young Albanian took the lead one round to nil, requiring Woolley to win the two remaining rounds in the best of three format. Woolley picked up his momentum and secured the win and a quota to Paris for Team Ireland.

"It's only four months, it's going to fly in. I'm going to prepare that this is the best time of my life," Jack told *The Echo*

"It starts right now – we go to training camp straight away and Europeans in a few week's time to it's going to be a busy few weeks,".



Taekwondo star Jack Woolley receives the Active South Dublin Sport Star of the Month for March from Helen Dwyer, Active South Dublin, David Kennedy, editor, *The Echo* and Laura Becker, Sales & Marketing Manager, The Plaza Hotel.



Loreto hockey women's team captain Mia Jennings receives the Active South Dublin Team of the Month Award for March from Thos McDermott, Head of the Active South Dublin unit, William O'Connor, news editor, *The Echo* and Laura Becker, Sales & Marketing Manager, The Plaza Hotel.

## March Team of the Month

### Loreto Women's Hockey Team

LORETO Women's Hockey Team won the EYHL champions for the first time in over 15 years.

The Rathfarnham side had a brilliant season winning 15 matches from 18 games while drawing the other three games.

Loreto recorded wins over teams like Ulster Elks, UCD, Catholic Institution, Pegasus and Old Alex on their way to claiming the top prize.

Loreto won the title in March having beaten Ulster Elks by 4-1 and reaching 43 points.

Even if the Rathfarnham side lost all their remaining fixtures and second placed Railway Union won all their remaining fixtures including their game in hand the maximum they could get was 41 – so good was there season.

"It was a great month for us winning the EYHL League so we are absolutely delighted," team captain Mia Jennings told *The Echo*.

"We last won it over 15 years ago, Hannah Matthews in our team won it back then, but none of us yet.

"We are looking forward now to the Champions Trophy at the end of April. So it's a weekend event and a semi-final to look forward to".

**Athletics**

## Road race wins for Donore members



### Donore's Darragh Keegan wins the St Andrew's 5k in Ashbourne

DONORE Harriers had three road race wins over the weekend, Darragh Keegan won the St Andrew's 5k in Ashbourne in 16.51, Adam Foy won the Maynooth 5k in 16.03 and Wayne Waldron won the Royal Canal half marathon in a PB of 73.18. At the Maynooth 5k 12th & 2nd U16 went to Harry Cahill (17.42), 42nd & 2nd W40 went to Ariana Ball W40 (20.53) with 417 finishers.

Donore was represented on two continents this week. The club had two participants in the London Marathon 1,002nd Danny O'Sullivan M40 (2.43.00) 5,701st Kishor Shelake M35 (3.12.15).

**Hockey**

## Three Rock are edged out

TWO evenly matched sides from the Southside of Dublin were almost inseparable in this tie at Wesley College with YMCA seeing off Three Rock Rovers 1-0 in the EY Hockey Division One Men's Champions Trophy quarter-finals.

A scoreless first half was followed by a scoreless third quarter. As the game wound down and seemed to be heading for a penalty shoot-out with only two minutes left on the clock Grant Glutz popped up from open play to finish to the net in the 68th minute, to grab the only goal of the game.

Three Rock Rovers bow out and YMCA continue an impressive run which has now taken them into the final four of the Champions Trophy next weekend in Banbridge.

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**Rugby**

# Brave shows from Clondalkin U17s and U18s in league finals

THE sun came out for finals day for Clondalkin Rugby Club and the huge potential in the youth teams at the ever-expanding Baldonnel-based club was on show in the fine weather.

Both the U18 and U17 squads achieved second place in their respective Leinster League divisions and the medals they received were just rewards for their work rate, commitment, and rugby skills throughout the season.

The 18s lost out to Edenderry 43-24 in a cracking game of rugby played in Athy.

Pádraig Ó Ciardha, Dylan Freeman and Oran Murphy had excellent games and all three scored tries for the boys in blue and yellow.

A further penalty try and four points from the tee from the ever-reliable Danny Steed completed the scoring for a never-say-die Clondalkin squad.

Half of the squad will continue their rugby development at senior level while half will remain eligible for U18s next season to join up with the talented U17 squad who had their own League final, narrowly losing out 24-14 to Tullamore in Skerries where a last-minute breakaway try for the Offaly boys sealed the win.

The skilful Franklin Onwuzulumba and powerhouse Drú Sweeney were the try scorers for Clondalkin along with extras slotted by the super-talented Dean Carey at out half.

But there were great performances all over the pitch from the Clondalkin lads who featured.



Clondalkin Rugby U17s finished second in their Leinster League division



Clondalkin Rugby U18s lost out to Edenderry in a great game played by both sides

**Motorsport**

# Three wins from four races for Daire

AFTER Daire's double win at Donington Park leaving him Championship leader he headed to Norfolk to the fast-flowing Snetterton to continue development of RS Renault Clio Gen 5 for the coming Clio Cup GB Series.

Friday testing was again used to set the car up for Sunday race day, changing various settings to optimise the handling and to get a better understanding of the car before entering Qualifying.

Sunday was an early start for Daire being first out on the track, after 20 minutes he ended the session in second on the grid for both races with a rolling start. Due to his two previous wins he was given a one minute pit penalty that had to be taken at the mandatory pit stop.

Race 1 started with a rolling start as they headed off into the Norfolk countryside. Daire set a fast pace knowing over the 50 min race he had to make up the additional minute to be a contender for top 3. As the pit window opened he had half the time required to manage a podium. As the second half of the race started after the pit stops, both Daire's main rivals had slow stops bringing the gap closer. This meant it would be a frantic race to the flag having to do qualifying laps to continue Daire's 100 per cent race win. With 3 laps left Daire made the move to overtake second to lead his class, crossing the line by 0.5 seconds to take his third win of the year.

Race 2 was more of the same with the one minute pit penalty putting Daire on the back foot. With the race coming to the closing stages and trailing in third Daire made a move to take second, his

competitor's car lost control and hit Daire's car, this resulted in the car sustaining damage that did not allow Daire to continue.

Daire said after the race "unfortunately that's racing, with 3 wins from 4 races

with a brand new car that is still under development I am extremely happy with my performance, as I will now leave Britcar to concentrate on the Clio Cup GB in June. The team has done a superb job and I would like to thank my sponsors

Glenhaze Distribution, Aygor Autos, Gorilla design and Reactive Welding for giving me their continued support.

Daire will now be setting his sights on his first round of the Clio Cup GB on June 1 at Brands Hatch GP circuit.



Daire Flock was in action in Norfolk

## GAA

## Davis continue winning streak



Thomas Davis' Kevin Ward in action  
Photo by Jimmy Clarke

THOMAS Davis senior hurlers made in four wins from four outings on Saturday evening in AHL Division Two with a good 2-23 to 2-17 victory over Castleknock on a fine evening at Kiltipper Road.

Both sides were evenly matched throughout the early stages of the game as both traded points with Davy Keogh (0-2) and Liam Sinnott (0-3) hitting 0-5 from play between them in the first 20 minutes.

Full forward Sean Reilly latched onto the sliotar after a highball in coming up to half time to put four points between the teams at the break leaving it 2-10 to 0-12.

Castleknock started the second half well as they clawed back the lead as they hit two goals in quick concession.

The hosts responded well as midfield pairing Eanna O'Toole and

Anthony Barret began to dominate the middle with Eanna setting up Davy Byrne (1-1) for a well dispatched goal midway through along with a couple of well taken points from Bryan Keogh (0-4) and Kev Ward (0-7 5f).

The impressive trio of Adam Waddick (0-3), Luke Dempsey (0-3) and Davy Keogh (0-2) finished very strongly as all finished off well worked team scores as Sean Reilly and Eoin Lambert provided possession with some excellent high fielding in the second half.

Next up for Thomas Davis is Setanta on Wednesday, May 1 in Ballymun.

Meanwhile Thomas Davis junior one hurlers maintained their unbeaten run in AHL6 after beating Kilmacud Crokes 2-15 to 1-9 on Sunday morning.

## Féile joy for



Presentation to St Mark's Captain for the Division 10 DLGFA Feile Final



St Finian's were edged out by Trinity Gaels in the Division 6 final.  
Photo by John Kirwan

## Battling display from St Finian's

TRINITY Gaels finished on the front foot when defeating a battling St Finian's Newcastle by five points in their hugely entertaining Dublin LGFA Féile Division 6 final 3-3 to 1-4 at O'Toole Park on Sunday morning, reports Rónán MacLochláinn.

We could not have wished for a more enjoyable start to proceedings in Kimmage as both teams gave their all in the searing heat with the winning margin at the end failing to reflect the tightness of the exchanges.

It was Trinity Gaels that raced out of the blocks and deservedly took the lead in the 3rd minute through Sophie Winkless before Lexie Myler added to their lead two minutes later when finding the net from a free.

Ruby Blake's point showed that St Finian's offered a threat of their own but Trinity Gaels continued to impress as they moved five-points clear thanks to scores by Myler and Ella Byrne.

Crucially, St Finian's finished the half in an impressive manner as two

points in quick succession by Aibhe Clare and Keelin Blake reduced their deficit to 1-3 to 0-3 by the turnaround.

It wasn't long before the sides were level as a brilliant run and pass by Eabha Dowling was collected by Leyla Abkary and the talented centre-forward made no mistake as she crashed her shot beyond Molly Carroll in the Trinity Gaels goal.

In the 23rd minute, St Finian's could well have taken the lead but Blake was terribly unfortunate to see her powerful shot cannon to safety off the crossbar.

Suitably warned, Trinity Gaels made the most of that let-off as they scored their second goal within two minutes with Sarah O'Farrell finding the bottom corner of the net from twelve yards.

Abkary replied with another fine score at the opposite end but there was no doubting the cup would travel out to Donaghmede as Carroll made the lengthy but fruitful journey from her goal when converting a penalty two minutes from time.

## All smiles for Liffey Gaels Good Counsel



Liffey Gaels Good Counsel celebrate their win over St Vincent's

LIFFEY Gaels Good Counsel U15s proved too strong for St Vincent's 4-1 to 1-1 in the Dublin Ladies Gaelic Football Féile Final Division 12, reports Ruth King.

St Vincent's had started strong, winning the throw-in and shooting into the intense sun in this Dublin Ladies Gaelic Football Féile Final Division 12.

Number 15, Jodie Russell, had the Marino side in front with a lovely point to get her team going.

However, Liffey Gaels Good Counsel didn't let Vincents settle with a swift counterattack, leaving Vincents with a lucky escape.

Number 14, Saibh Charles, for the Liffey Gaels side, was a severe threat to Vincents, along with their number 10, Mia Coleman.

The Drimnagh team had St Vincent's on the back foot coming into halftime, with Mia Coleman scoring a ferocious point off her left boot and Saibh Charles waving the green flag before the whistle blew, with a strong performance from Ella Murphy of St Vincent's, both sides where showing it was anyone's game.

St Vincent's came out in flying form at the start of the second half with a solid display of football from their number 9, Heidi McDonnell. Jodie Russell scored an outrageous goal to put her team level with Liffey Gaels with ten minutes to go.

The Vincents' backs were determined. However, they were no match to the unstoppable Saibh Charles, who gave a quick pass-off to

her fellow forward, number 16 Millie McGlynn, who had the back of the net rattling again with another goal. Vincents tried to fight back but weren't getting the desired result at the opposition's goals.

Saibh Charles for Liffey Gaels Good Counsel once again had her name on the score sheet with her second goal and finished the game with a sweet hat-trick to see her team finish with a win.

Both sides showed an excellent display of football with key players from the Vincents side, Ella Murphy and Heidi McDonnell and from the Liffey Gaels Good Counsel couldn't win without players such as Millie McGlynn and Mia Coleman and of course their superstar full forward, Saibh Charles.

# For St Mark's U15s

THERE was Féile joy for St Mark's U15s who lifted the Dublin Ladies Gaelic Football Féile Division 10 crown after seeing off Innisfaills 1-7 to 0-0, reports Ruth King.

The sun was at the highest point by the third game, with it beating down and not a breeze to be felt. The St Mark's side had a long way to travel from the far end of the southside, but that did not deter them from the exhibition they were going to show at Innisfaills own home turf.

Both sides started off strong with Lauren Egan from Innisfaills being a great menace to St Mark's.

However, Abigail Byrne got her team going by scoring two points one after another, she was denied a goal by the Innisfaills goalkeeper, Lauren Birmingham who made a great save to keep her team in the match at the early stages.

She was kept busy with another attempt on goal by Carli Deane of St Mark's which was saved again.

However, Abigail Byrne scored another point, followed by her team-mate Layla Murphy booting it over the bar to put the Tallaght side ahead with a comfortable lead heading into halftime.

St Mark's opened up the second half with a point from Layla Murphy, who wasn't letting Innisfaills have a chance.

St Mark's Debbie Adesoye showed one of the greatest displays of a centre back that hasn't been seen in a long time, she was piling on the pressure to the Innisfaill forwards and not letting a single one past her.

Abigail Byrne had the referee busy putting scores into her notebook by adding another point for her side, along with Kiana O'Connor to extend their sides lead.

Innisfaills didn't give up even with the hot sun radiating down on all of those on the pitch, however, it wasn't to be their day as Byrne for St Mark's sealed the deal for her teams win with her shaking the back of the net with an excellent goal. Both teams had stand out performances, but the St Mark's team overall where the better side.



St Mark's girls celebrate their victory in the final.

Photos by Karl Gormley

# Lucan U15s edged out in final

An impressive St Sylvester's side battled back from a four-point deficit after just five minutes, to hold Lucan Sarsfields scoreless over the remainder of the tie; and claim the Dublin Ladies Football Division 2 Féile title 0-7 to 1-1 Lucan Sarsfields at Fingallians on Sunday, reports Cóilín Duffy.

This was an excellent display by the Malahide outfit who dug deep to overcome an early setback and deliver county silverware following a hectic weekend of Feile action across the capital.

Lucan's path to the decider saw wins over Castleknock and Round Towers Clondalkin in the group stages, with a loss to Foxrock Cabinteely, before accounting for Ballyboden St Enda's in the last four.

Syl's were eager for scores right from the off in the decider, but some early attacking opportunities failed to reap dividends.

At the opposite end Lucan Sarsfields were quick to make it count, with an early dipping effort from Grace Birch

finding its way to the back of the Syl's net.

Indeed, St Sylvester's had the ball in the net inside a minute, but Lily Stenson's effort was ruled out, after the referee gave a free in the opposite direction.

Birch added a point from the subsequent attack to open up a four-point lead for Lucan, but amazingly this would be the end of their scoring exploits.

It wasn't for a lack of chances over the remainder of the tie, but they were met with some impressive defending, with plenty of moments of brilliance from Syl's including the likes of a Kate Beausang block in the sixth minute.

Amy Cosgrove opened Sylvester's account with a pointed free in the seventh minutes, and from their until half-time the story was mainly of missed chances in front of the posts, and good defending by both sides.

However, the first of four points in this game from Lily Stenson ensured a 1-1 to 0-2 interval score-line as Syl's cut



the gap.

The Saints continued to prove hungry on the restart, as they really dug in from the throw-in.

Just over 60 seconds were gone on the clock when Ella-Jean Fitzpatrick split the posts with a fine effort, and 90 seconds later the sides were level for the first time when Lily Stenson delivered an excellent score.

Syl's went in search of a goal to no avail, when an excellent team move finished with a miss from Nessa Sheehy.

Lucan also had their share of missed chances, before Syl's came good thanks to two placed ball efforts from Stenson.

An Orla Harbourne point on the stroke of injury-time opened up a three-point lead, and while Lucan pressed

hard, including a goal-effort from Erin Hynes, they couldn't find the extra-time forcing scores they craved, as Syl's claimed silverware.

After the game St Sylvester's captain Aoibheann Waugh received the cup amid jubilant celebrations among her playing colleagues and the loyal band of supporters that made the short trip from the North coast.

## GAA

## Jude's edged out in thriller

THERE were plenty of celebrations in Ballyboughal and Naul on Sunday, as Division 3 Dublin Ladies Football Féile success came the way of St Peter's following an epic final at Fingallians GAA Club against St Jude's 4-3 to 3-4, reports *Cóilín Duffy*.

In sunny conditions the Under 15 players from both Peter's and Jude's certainly shone in this decider, but it was the Fingal side who held the edge at the end of an entertaining contest.

Both sides were goal-hungry in this game, where it was a strong finish to the opening half which ultimately stood to Peter's in winning this tie.

They claimed 2-1 unanswered in the closing stages of the half, to ensure a 4-3 to 1-3 interval lead.

While Peter's didn't score in the second half, they battled hard to hold out for honours.

This game began at a frantic pace with both sides keen to make their mark.

Early opportunities were denied after some excellent defending, but it was Peter's who got off the mark in the fourth minute after Heidi Macken finished to the net, after she showed great control and skill.

Jude's responded with a Michelle O'Reilly point from the resulting kick out, and the gap was soon reduced to the minimum after Leah Tisdall added a further score.

Peter's regained control with Sarah McGill pointing a free, before the games second goal arrived in the 7th minute.

Molly Dunne sent a powerful shot to the net, despite Jude's keeper Millie Boughton getting her finger tips to it.

McGill added another free, before Laila Hurley found the net, after a good through ball from Isabelle Gillran for a much required Jude's goal.

However, Peter's came good again with back-to-back goals. Firstly McGill found the net, and then Isabel Guy raised a green flag.

Jude's battled bravely in the closing stages of the half, with Amelia Smith grabbing a point with the last act of the half, ensuring a six-point gap at the break.

St Peter's were joined by Aoibhín Malone at half-time, the talented player arriving fresh from winning an Under 16 Leinster A title in Blanchardstown just minutes previously, having featured as a substitute in that final victory over Kildare.

Her club side found it tough in the second half as Jude's really through everything at Peter's.

St Peter's keeper Ava Dockrell was forced to make an early save, but a minute later Jude's found the net after Faye Greaney's speculative shot ended with a goal.

Judes continued with sustained pressure, with Dockrell again called into action in the 19th minute, this time pulling off a fine save from a Laila Hurley effort.

Most of the second half play was in the heart of the Peter's defence, and after a long spell of keeping Judes at bay, the Templeogue side found the net again as injury-time approached.

A free from Isabelle Gillran found Hurley who finished to the net to cut the gap to three points.

Peter's were under pressure and were forced to foul deep in injury time near the posts. Isabelle Gillran converted the resulting free, but it was to be the game's last act, as Peter's held out for victory.

After the game St. Peter's captain Kayleigh Jordan was presented with the cup amid jubilant scenes.

# James Gaels t



St James Gaels An Caislean players celebrate winning DLGFA Feile Final Div 9

# Templeogue Star in Féile decider



Templeogue Synge Street celebrate their Division 7 win with the trophy. Photo by Niall O'Connell

Templeogue Synge Street held off a stirring second half comeback from Stars of Erin to claim the Dublin LGFA Féile Division 7 crown 2-5 to 2-3 in St Peregrines GAA club, reports *Nigel McCarthy*.

Both sides started this highly entertaining encounter on the front foot and Templeogue opened the scoring in the opening seconds with a fine point from Elly O'Kennedy Carr.

Stars of Erin swept up the other end of the pitch and the ever dangerous Holly O'Neill was brought down in the square after a penetrating run. O'Neill dusted herself down to take the spot kick but unfortunately her kick was just inches too high and cleared the crossbar for a point.

Templeogue Synge Street retook the lead in the sixth minute with a converted free from the impressive Neisha Fairbrother. Five minutes later Templeogue took control of the half when Emily McNiff finished a good team move to the net.

Holly O'Neill grabbed her second point of the game after another excellent run through the heart of the defence but midfielder Faye Frain hit a fine point down the other end to give Templeogue a 1-03 to 0-02 lead at the break.

Just like the preceding final, a goal seconds after the restart changed the momentum of the game.

Stars of Erin worked the ball down the right hand side of the pitch, the ball was crossed from the wing across the box for the unmarked Emma

Shiels to palm the ball to the net to leave just a point between the teams.

The Templeogue lead was stretched back out to two in the 19th minute, it could have been more though as a shot by Isabelle O'Flaherty hit the post and Holly O'Dell recovered the ball and struck it over the bar.

The game looked all but over a minute later when Ayla Mooney smashed the ball to the net.

But Stars of Erin refused to accept defeat and continued to push forward and a pointed free from Alannah Sanchez reduced the deficit.

The same player won the restart and carried the ball forward, off loaded to Emma Shiels, there was a scramble for the ball in the square as the

Templeogue defenders tried to clear the ball but it was Holly O'Neill who collected the ball and finished it to the net to set up a grandstand finish.

Templeogue's Isabelle O'Flaherty drove forward with the ball and found Holly O'Dell who provided a little breathing space for her side with a fine point.

But there was still just enough time for one more Stars of Erin attack, another penetrating run from Alannah Sanchez opened up space in the Templeogue defence and she superbly found go-

to forward Holly O'Neill, she let fly but her goal-bound effort was saved and the follow-up shot was deflected wide and that was that and Templeogue held on for the win.

# Too strong for Kickhams

St James Gaels an Caislean claimed the Dublin LGFA Féile Division 9 title in a highly competitive final 1-4 to 0-0 against Ballymun Kickhams in St Peregrine's GAA club, *reports Nigel McCarthy.*

With both defences on top in the opening half scores were at a premium but St James Gaels an Caislean got their noses in front with two points late in the half.

The Crumlin outfit put themselves firmly in the driving seat eight minutes into the second half with a well-worked goal.

Ballymun Kickhams battled throughout the game but came up against a tight tackling St James Gaels defence who refused to cough up any easy scoring chances to the Ballymun attack who were left to rue a couple of decent chances that went a begging.

St James Gaels an Caislean almost got off to the perfect start inside the opening seconds of the game when Sadhbh Doogan got a clear look at goal but her well-struck shot was saved by Ballymun Kickhams keeper Arianna Maher.

On a perfect day for football the action on the pitch went from one end of the pitch to the other but both defences were on top with some excellent interceptions, blocks and dispossessions the order of the day.

Ballymun almost grabbed the first goal of the game in the fifth minute. Ella White picked out Sofia Gregg with a good pass, Gregg offloaded the ball to Emma McCarthy whose shot was tipped around the post for a 45'.

James Gaels midfielder Macey Keeley had a good effort at goal blocked minutes later and her midfield partner Ella White hit a fine effort which narrowly whistled past the post.

With two minutes to go to the break it looked like the teams would play out a



St James Gaels an Caislean saw off Ballymun Kickhams in the Division 9 final.

Photos by Niall O'Connell

scoreless first half but the impressive Sadhbh Doogan slotted over a fine effort for the games opening point.

The Crumlin outfit pressurised the resultant kickout to win the ball back and Jennifer Moffitt swung over her sides second point to leave the score at half-time 0-02 to no score.

The second half proved to be equally as tight as the first, Ballymun Kickhams though, worked the first two scoring opportunities after the restart. Ballymun secured the restart and worked the ball

to Sofia Gregg whose shot narrowly missed the target.

Maisy Woods made a great run down the right wing, passed to Mia Quigley who centered the ball to Sofia Gregg who was unlucky to see her goal effort deflected out for a 45'.

But seven minutes from the final whistle St James Gaels put themselves in the box seat, Ballymun gave away a free, Meabh Ramos Finnegan picked out Jennifer Moffitt with the free, Moffitt released Sadhbh Doogan into

space to strike the ball to the net for the opening goal of this intriguing contest.

Centre half back Molly Hyland, who was one of the standout players throughout, won the ball in her own half, drove forward and picked out Lucia Moffitt who rounded off the move with a fine point to stretch the St James Gaels lead.

There was some late drama near the end of the game, Meabh Ramos Finnegan whose strong carrying of the ball caused the Ballymun Kickhams

defence problems throughout the contest thought she had scored her side's second goal after dispatching the rebound after her initial shot had been saved, but the referee had blown for an infringement just before the ball ended up in the back of the net and the goal was chalked off.

Finnegan though wasn't to be denied of getting her name on the scoresheet and deep in injury time swung over her side's fourth point to round of a deserving victory.

# Anne's pipped at the post

Beann Eadair are Dublin LGFA Féile Division 8 champions thanks to a hat-trick of second-half goals that turned the tide in a thrilling final against St Anne's 3-3 to 1-3 in St Peregrine's GAA club, *reports Nigel McCarthy.*

This was a classic tale of a game of two halves, St Anne's had the better of the first half and a goal just before the break gave the Bohernabreena side a three-point advantage at the break.

Beann Eadair struggled to trouble the scoreboard in the first half with a converted free all they had to show for their efforts.

But that all changed seconds into the second half with the Howth side's first goal of the final. That lit the spark and Beann Eadair dominated the rest of the half adding two more goals thanks to two exquisite passes inside by one of the standout players of the game Hayley Walsh and despite a late scare Beann Eadair held on to claim the title.

St Anne's started the game brightly and created two good goals chances in the opening six minutes.

A shot from midfielder Ellie Mahon narrowly missed the target, from a free kick Isabelle Lawlor picked out Lucie Doran whose shot was saved superbly by Beann Eadair goalkeeper Ailbhe Hanway Wills.

The first score of the game arrived in the 9th minute, Emma Kavanagh made an incisive run down the left wing and

picked out midfielder Laragh Fogarty centrally between the twenty one and forty five metre lines and Fogarty swung the ball over the bar.

St Anne's dominated the possession but failed to add to their tally till a minute before the break. Beann Eadair gave away a free about twenty five yards out, up stepped Eimear Holmes and the forward hit a clean strike to the top left hand corner of the net.

Despite all their efforts Beann Eadair just had a single point scored from a free by Hayley Walsh to take with them to the break with the half-time score 1-01 to 0-01 in St Annes favour.

The game though turned on its head seconds into the second half, Beann Eadair won the throw-in, Kate Hogan made a brilliant run through the centre and played the ball to Lara Giblin who buried the ball to the net and it was game on.

That goal sparked the Howth outfit into life and they dominated the rest of the half driving forward in waves towards the St Annes goal.

A pointed free from Hayley Walsh put Beann Eadair in front for the first time in the final. Walsh was involved a minute later and hit a superb pass from the right to pick out an unmarked Lara Giblin in front of goal and she grabbed her second goal with a clinical finish.

A third goal arrived with nine minutes left on the clock, again it was a sublime



St Anne's lost out to Beann Eadair in a tale of two halves in the Division 8 final.

Photo by Niall O'Connell

pass from Hayley Walsh that did the damage this time finding Lily Kate Gould who made no mistake with a fine finish to the net.

Another pointed free from Walsh stretched the lead but St Annes pulled a point back from the boot of

Alyson Kelly.

With three minutes left in the contest St Anne's thought they had got themselves back in the game, an incisive run and shot from Amy Byrne hit the bottom of the upright and was scrambled clear, the St Annes players were

convinced it had crossed the line but neither umpire agreed and play went on.

In the final minute Byrne had another shot deflected for a 45' which was worked into Alyson Kelly who clipped the ball over the bar for the final score of the game.

## GAA

# Boden too good for Vin's

BALLYBODEN St Enda's senior hurlers got the better of St Vincent's 2-20 to 1-14 in Division One at Pairc Ui Mhurchu at the weekend.

Two goals from Tipperary man David Gleeson proved crucial for Boden as they overcame a Vin's side managed by former Dublin senior manager Pat Gilroy.

Simon Lambert opened the scoring with a point from a sideline for the hosts with Darragh Kenny and John Hetherton exchanging scores in a frantic start to the contest.

Niall McMorow pushed Boden in front with Darragh McBride responding while the teams continued to exchange points with Lambert, Stephen O'Connor and Dooley getting on the scoresheet.

Dooley found Niall McMorow with a great pass and his shot over the black spot to send Boden one up.

At the other end James Mulcahy and Pearse Christie split the posts to leave it 0-8 to 0-4

The visitors created a McBride goal chance, but O'Connor and keeper Conor O'Donoghue combined to thwart the sharpshooter.

Hetherton and Kenny again exchanged placed ball scores to keep the gap at four, before Gleeson struck for his first goal, a dropping ball close in off a Dunleavy/Eoin Behan combination outfield. Vincent's response came with some points from Stephen Williams to leave it 1-10 to 0-9 at half time.

As in the first half, Lambert opened the scoring after McMorow and Behan combined accurately. Vincent's hit back immediately with a Williams goal, well taken after good build up through Mulcahy.

Within a minute McMorow had created space on the right of the attack and squared the ball which came to the corner forward Gleeson who fired to the back of the net.

Hetherton and Kenny again exchanged points, before John McGuire pointed after the busy



Action from Ballyboden's match with St Vincent's.

Photo by John Kirwan

Behan found him.

Hetherton bagged a brace of frees, either side of a Niall Ryan

trademark point.

The Boden score-sheet continued with McMorow again

on the mark after Dunleavy started the move in defence to see the home side past the post.

# Dubs U16s girls retain Leinster crown

DUBLIN retained their U16 provincial crown following a pulsating hard-fought encounter with Kildare 2-13 to 3-7. The contest was played in glorious sunny conditions before a sizeable crowd who had made their way to the Blanchardstown campus of TUD.

It was the home side who raced into an early 1-02 lead with Kate Keaney from Ballyboden St Enda's on song with the opening goal of the game. Kildare rallied the storm and responded with a well-taken goal of their own taken by Aoibheann Birchall. Moments later, Kildare were awarded a penalty by referee Ian Culbert. Jessica McNulty's initial shot was stopped on the line by Dublin keeper Martha Whelan only for McNulty to pounce to knock the rebound into the back of the Dublin net. Game on!

Kildare added to more two points to their score tally and

now had a three-points advantage. The girls in blue gathered themselves regained their shape and started to move the ball well through their lines. A brilliant passage of link play was finished to the back of the Kildare net expertly by full forward Zara Flood from Thomas Davis. The two sides where now level, with 2-02 each as the game edged closer to the half time break.

A well-taken point from Ellie Reen and a converted free from Flood gave Dublin a slender two-point lead at the interval.

Kildare started the second period in superb fashion with a well taken goal by full forward Lexie Reddington to push the visitors ahead by one. Kildare then hit a purple patch tagging on three unanswered points to edge ahead 3-05 (14) to Dublin's 2-07 (13).

Once more the Dublin girls

had to dig deep. And deep they dug hitting a purple patch of their own. Substitute Molly Bourke would make a big impact on the game, finishing the game with a personal tally of six points, coming from both play and frees.

In the final quarter Dublin took control of the contest, their superior fitness levels and ability to close out the game where key factors in the U16 cup remaining in the capital for another season.

Wing back, Cara Coffey was awarded the player of the match award for her fine performance throughout the game.

Lucan Sarsfields Réka Kiss Kalló started at corner back and captained the side while Keeva O'Donovan (Thomas Davis) and Cara Coffey (Lucan Sarsfields) started in the half-back line.

Dublin now turn their focus on the All-Ireland series which gets underway in late June.



Dublin captain Reka Kiss Kalló lifts the cup in TUD Blanchardstown.

Photo by Damien Eagers

# Champions are up and running

REIGNING All Ireland and Leinster SFC champions Dublin got the defence of their Leinster crown underway today as they overcame last year's All Ireland and Leinster Intermediate Champions Kildare 4-15 to 2-4 in a sun-soaked Parnell Park, reports Aisling Clery.

Dublin skipper Carla Rowe hit 1-4 of Dublin's tally while Orlagh Nolan hit 1-3 for the Sky Blues.

Dublin burst into an early lead, 1-4 up after six minutes of play as they dominated early possession. Clondalkin girl Hannah Tyrrell opened the scoring from a free while Kate Sullivan, Orlagh Nolan and Carla Rowe all got on the scoreboard. Caoimhe O'Connor hit the net inside three minutes, slicing through the Kildare defence to finish.

Kildare were struggling to win their kickouts and maintain possession, but they did get an opportunity on eight minutes when Neasa Dooley turned her marker and blasted the ball across the Dublin goals only to trail wide. Kildare did get on the scoreboard on nine minutes when Ellen Dowling converted a free.

Dublin were, at times, hungrier for possession and Tyrrell and Rowe kept the scoreboard ticking over for Dublin. Quick thinking from Tyrrell set up Dublin's second goal as she found Kate Sullivan who blasted to the net on twenty-one minutes. Jennifer Dunne added a long range point on twenty-four minutes and while Dowling and Niamh Farrelly added a brace of frees, Dublin were comfortably in front at the break leading 2-10 to 0-3.

Sinéad Goldrick made a welcome return to the Sky Blues jersey at half time only to find herself red-carded midway through the second half. Dublin got off to the perfect start adding 1-01 early on, Dublin's third goal coming from the boot of Carla Rowe on thirty-two minutes.

Kildare never gave up though with Neasa Dooley doing all she could to set up Kildare attacks while the industrious Mia Doherty worked hard in the Kildare defence. They were rewarded for their efforts as Niamh Farrelly found the net twice in the second half. However, Dublin never lost control and with Jennifer Dunne commanding the centre of the field and Leah Caffrey solid in defence, the result was not in doubt.

Tyrrell, Rowe, Dunne, Nolan



Dublin's Olwen Carey in action  
Photo credit Maurice Grehan/SportClubServices.ie

and substitute Chloe Darby all added further scores to ensure a winning start to their TG4 campaign.

Next up next Sunday for

Dublin is a trip away to Laois, while Kildare journey to Meath.

Lucan's Abby Shiels started in goal for Dublin while Olwen Carey started at centre back.

## Sutcliffe helps Dublin to a draw in c'ship

DUBLIN pulled off a dramatic comeback in Sunday's Leinster Senior Hurling Championship opener against Wexford last Sunday, turning the tide with two late goals to snatch a draw at Wexford Park reports Rory Merriman.

Wexford looked to be in control after Lee Chin's impressive tally of 1-12 opened up a 1-20 to 0-18 lead just two minutes into injury time. However, Dublin wasn't ready to give up. Sub Paul Crummey set up Danny Sutcliffe for a goal, narrowing the gap to 1-20 to 1-18 three minutes into injury time. Cathal Dunbar responded with a point, giving Wexford a three-point cushion, but Dublin struck again with Cian O'Sullivan scoring the equalising goal from a broken puck-out.

The thrilling finish left the result in doubt until the final whistle, and both teams will now look to their upcoming games to secure qualification for the next stage. Wexford will face Antrim while Dublin will travel to Carlow next weekend. Afterward, Wexford will host Galway, and Dublin will face them away, with Kilkenny also on the horizon for both teams.

Wexford's game plan got off to a flying start when Conor Hearne won the throw-in and found Lee Chin, who earned a penalty and scored within the first 70 seconds. Dublin didn't falter, with Paddy Doyle and Donal Burke (returning after a head injury) leading them to a 0-7 to 1-2 advantage after 18 minutes.

Chin's performance continued to stand out, helping Wexford to a 1-05 to 0-08 lead after 24 minutes. Rory O'Connor and Chin's long-range free helped build a three-point gap, but Dublin's Donal Burke and Danny Sutcliffe managed to level at 0-11 to 1-8 by halftime.

Wexford regained momentum after the break, with O'Connor and Chin driving the lead to 1-11 to 0-12, but Dublin kept pace through Seán Currie and Mark Grogan. Despite Wexford's efforts, including a stunning goal attempt by Cathal Dunbar, Dublin stayed within striking distance.

As the game neared its conclusion, Wexford's lead grew to 1-20 to 0-18, thanks to a series of points from Chin and sub Cian Byrne. Yet Dublin's late surge, capped by two critical goals, ensured that both teams shared the spoils in a thrilling Leinster SHC opener.

## Soccer

# Kelly on target in Rovers first win

By Christine Allen  
sport@echo.ie

Shamrock Rovers have secured their first win across all competitions in this campaign, beating DLR Waves 4-0 at Tallaght Stadium.

And among the goal scorers was Rovers Academy star Ella Kelly who became the youngest goalscorer in League of Ireland history at 15-years of age.

Collie O'Neill's side made one change to the starting eleven that lined out at Tolka Park, Jaime Thompson replacing Shauna Fox, while DLR waves head coach Laura Heffernan brought in Rugile Auskalnyte, Eve O'Brien and Bronagh Kane in place of Eve Badana, the injured Neema Nyangasi and Aisling Meehan.

Senior women's international manager Eileen Gleeson was in attendance and observed beneath the shade of the West Stand.

The Hoops pressed hard in the opening minutes and Thompsons impact was felt for the home side, the Clonee native carving open spaces in midfield.

In the 5th minute, March Player of the Month Joy Ralph stunned the visitors with a towering header that sailed over the head of the DLR waves net minder – Lia O'Leary securing the assist.

Minutes later, Michelle Doonan threatened to level the score with a long-range lob over Budden, the Douglas native relieved to see the ball fly a yard wide of her post.

As the first half ticked on, the women in teal were hungry for more, dominating possession in spells with quick one touch passages of play, Waves keeper Auskalnyte doing well to keep her side within touching distance of the Dublin 24 outfit.

Up top for DLR, Doonan was marked closely by Maria Reynolds and Jessica Hennessy, the tall and imposing defenders well aware of the firepower in the former Pea's arsenal.

A switch of play ignited by a deft stepover from Hennessy that linked well with another driving run from Thompson ended with a threaded ball through to O'Gorman, the Wicklow native doing just enough to get her boot to the

ball and play in Lia O'Leary who had timed her run nicely at the back post.

As the net ballooned behind Auskalnyte in the 41st minute, the Portmarnock native shook her fist in celebration.

Multiple shot stoppers in quick succession denied both O'Gorman and Zambra from adding a 3rd just shy on 45 minutes, the Sky Blues thankful to anchor at port as the whistle signalled the end of the first half.

Before play resumed, the visitors made a triple substitution in an attempt to alter the trajectory of the game, DLR's Tobin Jones marshalling her backline in an attempt to galvanise her defence.

Seven minutes into the second half, Joy Ralph looked set to score a brace, a dink from O'Leary and a deft pass from Herron placing the Greenhills native in an enviable position to bag her second.

Ralph let fly with the outside of her right boot, Auskalnyte doing well to parry the shot yet was unable to deny O'Gorman who was on her bike the second the keeper made contact, cutting the ball into the back of the net in the 52nd minute.

A double substitution for Rovers and DLR followed as the game entered into the final twenty, Lauren Kelly stepping into the fray in the centre with Joy Ralph switching to the right lane.

Alannah Prizeman too made an appearance, Budden applauding her attempt on goal in the 79th minute, while Lauren Kelly almost netted a fourth for Rovers.

Yet 15-year-old Tallaght native Ella Kelly would be the one to secure Rovers fourth and final goal of the contest – scoring her first senior goal for The Hoops in the process.

Muscling past Amber Cosgrove to take advantage of a driving run by her Under 17s teammate and captain, Katie O'Reilly, Kelly calmly secured The Hoops fourth in the 90th minute.

The game ended 4-0 to the women in teal, who next welcome defending Premier Division Champions The Peas to Tallaght Stadium on May 4.

# United are tops in Tallaght derby



Tallaght Town's Ciaran Murray and Tallaght United's Darren Collins



Tallaght United's Ciaran Murray and Tallaght Town's Ryan Gannon battle for possession  
Photos by John Mooney

A MINUTES silence was held before this UCFL Division 3B game in Ballymount Park, in honour of former league Chairman Barney Blood who died the previous Thursday, reports John Mooney.

When proceedings got underway there was always going to be one winner as United won the battle of the two Tallaght outfits, with a comfortable 6-0 win over their Town neighbours.

There was nothing really to shout about from Town as they are going through a transition period at the moment and, for all their hard work, they only really had two

shots in anger over the 90 minutes.

Adam Wallace missed a golden opportunity when trailing 1-0 when he fired wide after a poor clearance from keeper Rian Wade, however, Wade redeemed himself with a flying save to deny Ryan Gannon just after United went 2-0 up.

No doubt about the star of the show as John Kelly netted a superb hat-trick on a day, when everything he touched turned to gold.

Leading 1-0 at the break through a Ismail Kabia strike, that slipped through the hands of Towns keeper Owen O'Duffy after 35 minutes, It could easily have been more.

But as soon as the second half started United went 2-0 in front, with a bullet header from Brian Robinson and this game was only going one way.

Kelly, who had been the dominant force all through the game, then took over with the first of his hat-trick five minutes later when he gathered the ball in the middle of the park, worked his way into the area and slotted home.

His second was a header, when he connected with a Darren Collins centre after he stooped to guide the ball beyond O'Duffy, while he saved the best till last with a brilliant lob from outside the area.

It was tough on the Town and, as the time ticked down, it got worse as United bagged their half dozen with their final goal of the morning through Jamie McEwan.

**TALLAGHT UNITED:** R. Wade, D. Collins, P. O'Dwyer, S. Richmond, C. Murray, Z. Oudineche, J. Kelly, B. Robinson, I. Kabia, P. Barry, P. Kavanagh, J. McEwan, T. Hill, T. Adeniyi. A. Nataro, A. Robinson.

**TALLAGHT TOWN:** C. O'Duffy, D. Carey, G. Byrne, C. Byrne, S. Tormley, C. Dunne, A. Kadi, R. Gannon, D. Cotton, A. Wallace, C. Dunne-Kelly, A. Gardener.

# Locals in U15s Ireland squad

Ireland men's Under-15s will head to Italy this week to take part in the Torneo Delle Nazioni competition in Udine.

The boys in green take on the UAE on Thursday, followed by North Macedonia on Saturday with results determining if they'll play in a semi-final or a play-off.

Included in the team are local

lads Darragh Brunton (St Patrick's Athletic) who plays in goal, defenders Danny Burke, Tadhg Prizeman, Alan Sattell all Shamrock Rovers, midfielders Joe Byrne (St Patrick's Athletic), Brody Collins (Shamrock Rovers), Richard Ferizaj (Shamrock Rovers), Joel McPhail (Shamrock Rovers), Jason Spelman (St Patrick's

Athletic), Niall Sullivan (St Patrick's Athletic) and Kian Quigley (St Patrick Athletic)

Forwards include Desmond Armstrong (Shamrock Rovers), Victor Ozihianvuna (Shamrock Rovers), and Samuel Ogungbe (St Patrick's Athletic)

Last year Ireland won the tournament defeating the hosts Italy

2-1 thanks to goals from Billy Hayes and Michael Noonan. A squad of 20, which features 19 players from the EA SPORTS LOI Academy will make the trip to Northern Italy in their final games of the international season.

Ireland will also play North Macedonia, Torviscosa, Udine, Italy on Saturday.

# Tense stalemates and exciting wins

This past weekend and Monday night saw a mix of high-octane football, tense stalemates, and exciting second-half performances in the Irish Premier Division. Let's dive into the action from the four recent matches.

**St Patrick's Athletic** welcomed Waterford to Richmond Park last Friday, where an early away goal set the tone for an intense encounter. Waterford's Maleace Asamoah opened the scoring in the 13th minute, heading home from a corner after a breakaway attack.

St Patrick's responded with relentless pressure, and their persistence paid off in the second half.

A triple substitution by Jon Daly sparked new energy, leading to an equalizer in the 65th minute. Brandon Kavanagh capitalised on a

rebounded save to level the game. Despite additional time and multiple chances, the game ended in a 1-1 draw, with both teams taking a point each.

**Shamrock Rovers** dominated Derry City with a stunning second-half display last Friday.

Although the first half ended scoreless, Rovers' Dylan Watts was instrumental in the breakthrough, providing the assist for Aaron Greene's opening goal.

Greene from Kilnaminagh doubled his tally with another assist from Watts, who played a key role throughout the match. Richie Towell sealed the victory with a third goal, ensuring Rovers' win. Despite a late consolation goal by Derry City's Pat Hoban, Rovers secured a decisive 3-1 victory, showcasing their dominance and offensive prowess.

Following their defeat to Shamrock Rovers, Derry City bounced back with a commanding win against St Patrick's Athletic on Monday.

Daniel Mullen's brace and Pat Hoban's goal ensured Derry City's victory despite a consolation goal from St Patrick's Conor Keeley.

The Saints had their chances, with Mason Melia and Chris Forrester testing Derry's goalkeeper Brian Maher. However, Derry's consistent pressure and accurate finishing sealed the win, propelling them to a crucial third points.

In a hard-fought Dublin derby, Shelbourne and Shamrock Rovers played out a goalless draw at Tolka Park.

The match was intense, with nine yellow cards and one red card, indicating the physicality and

tension on the pitch. Shelbourne had the upper hand in the first half, forcing errors from the Rovers' defense and creating scoring opportunities.

Despite numerous chances, both teams failed to capitalise, resulting in a stalemate. Shamrock Rovers' goalkeeper Leon Pohls played a crucial role, making several crucial saves to keep his team in the game. The draw marked Shelbourne's fifth consecutive winless game, while Rovers managed to secure a point on the road.

Overall, the weekend and Monday fixtures provided a mix of thrilling encounters and hard-fought battles, highlighting the competitive nature of the Irish Premier Division. With teams gaining crucial points and momentum, the season promises to be an exciting one.



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