



Moyle Park soccer team cup success See page 75

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Contractors in Cherry Orchard paid protection money page 10

Hoarding at Dolcain House set on fire page 12



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Faces of the community



Davy was 'one of a kind'

TRIBUTES were paid this week to former Ballyfermot Youth Service (BYS) board member and minibus driver David (Davy) Lynch, who died on May 19, reports Maurice Garvey. See page 28

YOUTH SERVICE REMEMBERS BOARD MEMBER DAVY

Residents in nursing home devastated to learn it will close in three months

Families are fearful for their loved ones

FAMILIES of residents in a nursing home were devastated this week to learn that it is due to close within the next three months, leaving many fearful for the lives of their loved ones, most of whom are extremely vulnerable and have dementia, reports Maurice Garvey. See page 23

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THE **Echo**

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Next Edition

The next edition of *The Echo* in the shops from Thursday, May 30, 2024. **Don't miss it!**

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Atha Cliath Theas
South Dublin County Council

ROADS ACT 1993

TEMPORARY CLOSING OF ROADS NOTICE OF INTENTION

South Dublin County Council hereby gives notice, in accordance with Section 75 of the Roads Act 1993, that it proposes to close the road described as follows:

Road to be Closed: The N7 Westbound Carriageway at Junction 4 to its junction with the L2004 at Rathcoole (at 'An Poitín Stil'), Co. Dublin.

Date of Closure: For a period of five nights from Monday 1st of July 2024 to Friday 5th of July 2024.

Hours of Closure: 22:00hrs to 06:00hrs.

This closure is required to facilitate the removal of Tay Lane pedestrian footbridge on the N7 at Rathcoole, Co. Dublin.

Diversion Route: At N7 Junction 4, Rathcoole, westbound traffic diverts from N7 left onto the off-slip. At the roundabout continue south west onto the R120 for approx. 470m to the roundabout and its intersection with the L2004, Main Street, Rathcoole. Continue westbound on Main Street, Rathcoole for approx. 1km until arrival at 'Diversion End' and merge with the N7 westbound.

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Web: www.sdcc.ie



Tallaght Hospital in 'urgent need' of extra beds

CAPACITY: Tallaght University Hospital

At all times hospital is working between 105% and 115% occupancy

By Aiden O'Flaherty
aiden@echo.ie

TALLAGHT University Hospital (TUH) is in "urgent need" of additional bed capacity, according to the CEO of the Dublin Midlands Regional Hospital Group, Trevor O'Callaghan. Mr O'Callaghan made this statement in a response to a question by Cllr Charlie

“The hospital understands that it is being considered for the fast-track process”

O'Connor (FF) at recent meeting of the Mid-Leinster Regional Health Forum.

Cllr O'Connor said there was a need to "fast track plans" for the provision of additional beds in the hospital and asked about an update on additional bed capacity in the hospital.

As reported in *The Echo* last year, TUH had received approval for the funding of a new 72-bed facility from the HSE.

Mr O'Callaghan responded: "The hospital is in urgent need of additional bed capacity, at all times the hospital is working between 105 per cent and 115 per cent occupancy."

Referring to the 72-bed facility, he said: "The hospital is currently finalising the preliminary business case with the HSE to get the approval to progress to the next stage of the

public spending code.

"The hospital understands that it is being considered for the fast-track process and welcomes the opportunity to access it as soon as that can be facilitated."

Other topics raised at the Regional Health Forum meeting including the number of Covid cases that were reported in Tallaght so far this year.

The statistics showed that there were 46 in January, 16 in February, 12 in March, and six in April.

It was noted by the HSE, which provided the figures, that "this is only a record of the number of Covid events that were detected in a laboratory, so mainly those who are quite ill."

It does not include all those who self-test."

One arrest as gardai seize €170,000 of cannabis herb

GARDAI seized €170,000 worth of suspected cannabis herb in Clondalkin on Saturday evening and arrested one man.

According to a Garda statement issued, gardai conducted a search of a vehicle in Clondalkin at around 5.30pm on Saturday, May 18.

Gardai said: "During the course of the search, approximately €170,000 of suspected cannabis herb (pending analysis) was seized.

"The drugs are now subject to analysis by Forensic Science Ireland (FSI).

"One man (aged in his 30s) was arrested at the scene under Section 2 of the Criminal Justice (Drug Trafficking) Act, 1996, at a Garda station in Dublin."

Gardai confirmed: "The man in his 30s appeared before Blanchardstown District Court on Monday morning".

Investigations are ongoing, gardai said.



SEIZED: Gardai said that during the course of the search, approximately €170,000 of suspected cannabis herb (pending analysis) was seized

Photo by An Garda Síochána

Housing and homeless crisis linked to insufficient support

Research study reveals the need for the expansion of legal and judicial services

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

THE housing and homelessness crisis is “inextricably linked” to insufficient support services and refuge spaces, according to new research by Saoirse Domestic Violence Services.

The support group for women and children experiencing domestic violence and abuse, will launch its new research on June 5 at the Orchard Community Centre in Cherry Orchard.

The research study ‘Unveiling the Shadows: Dynamics of Domestic Violence and Abuse in Dublin 10’ reveals stark findings the group say are “unsurprising” but emphasises “the need for improved housing policies.”

Its authors also note the legislative barriers and legal and judicial inefficiencies and complexities which present barriers to justice for victims.

The research gives voice to victims and

“The research study ‘Unveiling the Shadows: Dynamics of Domestic Violence and Abuse in Dublin 10’ reveals stark findings

survivors of domestic violence and abuse, examining their experiences of living with and escaping abuse.

Alison Graham, CEO of Saoirse Domestic Violence Services, said: “As the CEO of Saoirse Domestic Violence Services, I am proud to support this vital research in Dublin 10. Understanding the prevalence of domestic violence in our community is essential for developing effective interventions and providing the necessary support to those affected. This study represents a significant step towards creating a safer and more compassionate environment for everyone.”

Recommendations in the report include comprehensive training across all sectors interacting with victims of abuse.

It also calls for an expansion of legal and judicial support, improved data collection and classification, advocating for policy changes and strengthening support services.

Saoirse believes that investing in research such as this, can deepen their understanding of the “myriad reforms that are needed to truly combat domestic violence and abuse” and ensure more “effective prevention strategies and responses are implemented at both the government and community level.”

Publication of the research will coincide with the launch of Saoirse’s new community space in The Orchard Community Centre, where a dedicated Outreach Support Worker can offer support for women and children in the Dublin 10 area.



SUPPORT: At the launch of five-year strategic plan 2023 to 2027 in the Plaza Hotel were Catherine Smith McKiernan, Frances Fitzgerald MEP, and Allison Graham of Saoirse

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Prisoner who died from overdose had no history of drug problems

Inquest heard that no evidence of any drugs had been found in cell of deceased

A SENIOR prison official has admitted that the death of a prisoner on enhanced status from a heroin overdose on a wing in Wheatfield Prison with no history of drug problems was "unusual", reports *Seán McCárthaigh*.

Thomas Stokes (23) with an address at a halting site at Oldcastle Park Lawns, Clondalkin, Co Dublin, was found unresponsive in his cell in Wheatfield Prison on the morning of September 16, 2017.

Mr Stokes, who was the youngest of a family of 11 children, was subsequently pronounced dead the following day at Tallaght University Hospital.

The deceased inmate had been serving a four-and-a-half-year prison sentence for a series of robberies of shops and businesses over a 10-day period in the Clondalkin area in July 2016.

A court heard that Mr Stokes's crimes has been motivated out of his need to discharge a drug debt after his family had been threatened.

The inquest heard that a postmortem confirmed that the prisoner died as a result of a lack of oxygen to the brain due to a heroin overdose.

The assistant governor of Wheatfield, Joseph Hernon, told a sitting of Dublin District

Coroner's Court on Monday that drugs were a problem across all prisons in Ireland.

However, Mr Hernon said there was no problem with drugs at the time on the landing where Mr Stokes had been kept within Wheatfield.

He explained that the wing was used to house prisoners on enhanced status so that the death of an inmate from that area of the prison from a heroin overdose "would have been unusual."

The inquest heard no evidence of any drugs had been found in the deceased's cell.

However, Mr Hernon confirmed that daily searches would be carried out in all parts of the prison to check for drugs.

In reply to questions from the coroner, Clare Keane, the assistant governor said he believed heroin was in less use in prisons now compared to seven years ago.

Although he had no figures to substantiate his claim, Mr Hernon said he felt there was now "more pill use" by prisoners as they regarded heroin as "a dirtier drug."

He acknowledged that drugs remained a widespread problem across the prison population but added that the Irish Prison Service used "a mix of tools" to address the issue.

Mr Hernon also revealed that



fewer nighttime checks were now carried out on prisoners over which there were no concerns compared to at the time of Mr Stokes' death.

He explained there was a balance between the need to check on prisoners and their human right to privacy.

Following a report by the Inspector of Prisons into Mr Stokes' death, Mr Hernon confirmed that low lighting was now used on landings at nighttime to ensure staff conducting checks on cells could be seen clearly on CCTV.

In reply to questions from jury members, Mr Hernon said he had "no idea" how the deceased had got access to heroin.

Two of Mr Stokes' brothers who attended the hearing left the

inquest before a verdict was delivered.

One of them, Martin Stokes, had earlier given evidence that his parents had visited his brother in prison the day before he was found unresponsive when he was in "very good form and humour."

Mr Stokes said his brother did "a bit of drugs" but he had "not come across to us as taking drugs in prison."

He claimed his family were "shocked" to be told by doctors in TUH that too much damage had been caused to his brother's organs before he had been brought to hospital by prison staff.

The witness voiced claims, which the coroner classified as "hearsay," that his family were told that his brother had been "screaming in his cell for help and

TRAGIC: Prisoner found unresponsive in Wheatfield Prison

he was ignored."

He questioned why no prisoner officer had attempted to directly check on his brother when he had remained in the same position on his bed during the night.

A prison officer, Philip Neenan, said he had visibly checked on Mr Stokes once every hour during the night as required under IPS policy. Mr Neenan said he had no need to open the prisoner's door as he appeared to be sleeping and he had not noticed any issue of concern.

The prison officer said Mr Stokes' personal call button in his cell had not been activated at any stage.

Mr Neenan confirmed he would have heard screaming if Mr Stokes had been looking for help. The inquest heard evidence that

the alarm was raised after the prisoner was unresponsive in his cell at 8.15am and he was brought to TUH by ambulance arriving at 9.33am.

The coroner was also informed Mr Stokes began breathing again following intervention by nursing staff at Wheatfield.

Counsel for the Irish Prison Service, Asim Sheikh BL, said he did not believe it could be said there had been any delay in attending to the prisoner.

Prison officer Andrew Fitzpatrick said prison staff faced a constant battle to stop drugs getting into Wheatfield.

Mr Fitzpatrick said drugs were either dropped by drones, thrown over the prison wall or smuggled into the prison.

In reply to questions from Dr Keane, Mr Fitzpatrick said the first thing that prison staff usually think about if they find a prisoner unresponsive is drugs.

However, he said there had never been an issue in relation to drugs with Mr Stokes.

Mr Fitzpatrick pointed out that prisoners on enhanced status, like the deceased, tended to avoid issues that would result in a loss of privileges.

A jury of five females and one male returned a verdict of death by misadventure without making any recommendations.



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Life sessions in Liffey Valley

LIZ Tiernan, Biodiversity in Schools expert and paediatric sleep specialist Kelly Geoghan, Sleepy Stars were joined by Jaden Doran and Ellie Greenan to officially unveil the line-up for this year's Life Sessions at Liffey Valley Shopping Centre.

Liffey Valley has announced the return of its popular summer series of events, including baby sleep seminars, biodiversity workshops, and skincare masterclasses. Now in its fourth year, the event schedule

is bigger and better than ever, with free and ticketed activities running from June 6 to June 23. Continuing its successful partnership with Enable Ireland, Liffey Valley will donate €5* from all ticket sales to support local families and youth services.

For more information visit <https://www.liffeyvalley.ie/lifessions>*Total ticket price is €6.12 inclusive of €1.12 booking fee applied by the service provider. €5 admission fee will be donated directly to Enable Ireland.



LIFE SESSIONS: Paediatric sleep specialist Kelly Geoghan, Sleepy Stars was joined by Ellie Greenan to officially unveil the line-up for this year's Life Sessions at Liffey Valley Shopping Centre

Group looking for a review to scale back Hellfire Club project

€22 million tourism visitor centre development hoped to attract 300,000 visitors a year

By Aideen O'Flaherty
aideen@echo.ie

THE Save the Hellfire group contacted all South Dublin County councillors in recent days to ask them to support a review into the planned Dublin Mountains Visitor Centre at the Hellfire Club.

The group asked councillors to respond to their email to "let them know where they stand", and a spokesperson for the group told *The Echo* they're looking for a review to "scale back" the project.

As previously reported in *The Echo*, the €22m tourism project was proposed by South Dublin County Council in 2017, with hopes that the development could attract up to 300,000 visitors a year.

It is proposed that the development will be housed across two buildings, consisting of a visitor centre with an exhibition space, a panoramic café, toilets, changing facilities and a walkers' lounge.

The proposal for the visitor centre caused frustration in the community, with the Hellfire Massey Residents' Association launching legal action against the council about the plans.

The residents claimed that the visitor numbers for the project that were provided in the planning application by the council were "without foundation" and as such An Bord Pleanála "acted unlawfully" by taking them into account.

In 2021 and 2022, the residents' association appealed the decision to grant permission for the centre to the High Court, and after that was unsuccessful, they then brought it to the Supreme Court.

This was also unsuccessful, and the council now has the green light to move ahead with the development of the centre.

Commenting on the campaign targeting councillors, Save the Hellfire spokesperson Elizabeth Davidson spoke about a petition signed by locals and voiced her frustration at councillors.

"As the project has been approved by An Bord Pleanála and the council have indicated that they will commence the development in a couple of months, and the current 30,655 signatures to our petition increases every day," she said.

"We wanted to inform current councillors and candidates of the strength of feeling in the community.

"The outgoing councillors can try to claim that they were not involved in the decision, but in reality, they have been happy to sit on their hands."

Ms Davidson said the response the group has received from councillors since they sent the email has been "interesting".

"[They're] mostly quite annoyed by the torrent of emails they've been receiving but most rely on, 'I had nothing to do with it,'" she said.

The email calls on councillors to back a review into the development of the visitor centre, and Ms Davidson told *The Echo* what the aim of the review and the campaign would be.

"We would like for the new intake of councillors to be given an honest and up-to-date estimate of the cost of the project given that the original figure of €16m was inaccurate at the time," she said.

"During the oral hearing five years ago, the

cost was €22m. A more realistic figure today would be in the region of €35m or €40m.

"We have never said that no project would be acceptable and have only ever called for the scaling back of this oversized development, which will contribute to biodiversity loss, archaeological damage and traffic chaos."

She added that "nobody wants the visitor centre in this location."

At an oral hearing held by An Bord Pleanála in

November 2018 about the proposal, Paul Keogh, an architect for South Dublin County Council, said that a "do nothing scenario" would be unsustainable as for the site as visitor numbers were expected to increase in the coming years.

Mr Keogh said that the aim of the development was to "accommodate a large number and wider range of users" and that there would be economic benefits as the visitor centre would increase the "dwell time" of Hellfire Club visitors.



PROJECT: An artist impression Dublin Mountains Visitor Centre at the Hellfire Club

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Bazaar raises over €1,000 to help ActionAid in their work for Gaza

Annual Meena Bazaar is organised by AMA to raise funds for local charities

THE ANNUAL Meena Bazaar held in St Finian's Community Hall in Newcastle earlier this month raised €1,050 for ActionAid to assist their work helping Palestinians in Gaza, reports Aileen O'Flaherty.

Now in its 13th year, the bazaar is organised by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Association (AMA) with the aim of raising funds for local charities.

At the Meena Bazaar on Sunday, May 5, a total of 135 women and children attended and got to browse and purchase items from several stalls around the centre.

The stalls had Asian food, cakes and desserts, traditional clothes, handmade jewellery, and henna, and there were children's games – all to generate funds for ActionAid.

The event was also led by the group's motto, 'Love for all, hatred for none', and a stall was set up providing information to dispel misconceptions about Islam.

Local politicians attended the Meena Bazaar, including councillors Louise Dunne and Shirley O'Hara, and the community garda for Lucan, Donagh Hanrahan, also took part in the Bazaar.

Cllr Louise Dunne said to the AMA: "I want to thank you so much for the invite to the Ahmadiyya Community event today – Charity for ActionAid and Gaza.

“Through this event, we strive to promote love, compassion, and understanding . . . contributing to a more harmonious and inclusive society

"It's fantastic, there is a real buzz about the place, foods, the jewellery, the cakes, everything is really good.

"I love your quote, 'Love for all, hatred for none', and your 'Voices for Peace' and I want to wish you all the best today and I hope you have a fantastic day.

"I look forward to spending some time with more of your women and children of the community."

The event also received praise from Garda Hanrahan, who said: "Today's event is brilliant.

"The ladies have been so welcoming, and the children are all great. I am a community guard in the local area and it's amazing to get involved in the Ahmadiyya community."

Commenting on the overall aims and work of the AMA community, Nudrat Jahan Malik highlighted the group's charitable initiatives and their presence in the community.

"The women's auxiliary of AMA actively engages in charitable initiatives year-round, reflecting on the community's motto of 'Love for all, hatred for none'," said Ms Malik.

"From volunteering to community integration efforts, such as distributing hampers to women's shelter homes on Women's Day and supporting the homeless, they are dedicated to nurturing compassion throughout the community.

"Aligned with the saying of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) that 'Love of one's nation is part of faith', AMA women proudly participate in events like the St Patrick's Parade in Dublin and Galway.

"Looking ahead, the women of AMA are steadfast in their dedication to continuing the annual Ladies' Bazaar.

"Through this event, we strive to promote love, compassion, and understanding among all individuals, contributing to a more harmonious and inclusive society."



WELCOMING: Donagh Hanrahan (Garda Lucan), Najia Malik (President AMA Women), Cllr Louise Dunne, and Nudrat Jahan Malik (Vice President AMA Women) in St Finian's Community Hall in Newcastle

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Over €1 million is earmarked for citizen climate action engagement

SOUTH Dublin County Council will distribute over €1 million from the Communities Climate Action fund in Q3 to encourage citizen engagement regarding climate action, reports Stephen Farrell.

Councillors were also informed at last week's full council meeting of South Dublin County Council's plans regarding climate action for the next five years which are contained in the Council's Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP).

The plan is centred around actions that address four key targets namely a 50 per cent improvement in the Council's energy efficiency by 2030, a 51 per cent reduction in the Council's greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, to make Dublin a climate resilient region and to actively engage and inform communities on climate action.

The CCAP sets out measures to reduce the impact of citizens on the climate and to prepare South Dublin residents and businesses for adapting

to the effects of climate change.

A full overview on how the CCAP actions will be progressed is documented in the Implementation Plan, while a progress report on the actions from CCAP 2019-2024 was also furnished in the Climate Change Plan Annual Report 2023.

There is also a dedicated climate action website, www.southdublinclimate.ie which showcases climate action delivery in the county, highlights the council's key

responses to the climate crisis, and has a latest news section on local, regional and national climate change responses. Furthermore the website is a place for citizens to find out what they can do to make a difference.

Citizen engagement via the website is complemented by a quarterly citizens' climate newsletter, which details current council climate action on a specific, rotating thematic area.

In addition Dublin Climate Action Week is delivered regionally in

partnership with the other Dublin local authorities, the Climate Action Regional Office and Codema, Dublin's Energy Agency.

The week offers a range of events which aim to inform citizens, increase awareness and highlight the need for urgent climate action by all sectors of society. Specific workshops and engagement days are also delivered to communities, third level and schools to build climate engagement throughout the year.

Grandmother gets jail for false insurance claims over decade ago

Compensation money paid out by insurance company in three claims totalled almost €30,000

A GRANDMOTHER who received tens of thousands in compensation after making false personal injury claims over a decade ago has been jailed, reports Eimear Dodd.

Winnifred Lawrence (74) made personal injury claims using a false name, Margaret Mongan, on six different occasions between September 2012 and May 2014.

The court heard that these six personal injury claims were all processed by the same solicitor. Compensation money was paid out by insurance companies in relation to the first three claims totalling €28,310, with Lawrence receiving a net sum of €23,185.50 after legal expenses.

She pleaded guilty to three counts of making a gain for herself or causing a loss to another by deception on dates between September 2012 and May 2014. Lawrence has three previous convictions, including one for a similar offence for which she received a three-year suspended sentence in 2019.

After hearing facts on Thursday, Judge Pauline Codd said a "significant" amount of money was involved, of which Lawrence had been the main beneficiary.

Judge Codd said there had to be general deterrence to this type of offence as it was "a fraud on ordinary people who have to take out insurance and protect themselves against risk". She also noted that insurance was a "big factor" for public bodies and other bodies who can face "enormous payouts".

She said the court took into account Lawrence's guilty plea and that she "seems to have learnt her lesson" as she has not re-offended since her previous conviction.

Judge Codd also noted Lawrence's personal circumstances, poor health and age.

She imposed a sentence of three-and-a-half years with the final 18 months suspended to



mark Lawrence's ill health.

After sentencing, Lawrence addressed Judge Codd saying she was "very sorry" and it would "never happen again".

"I know Ms Lawrence, but you have to be punished for what you did," Judge Codd replied.

The court heard Lawrence made a personal injury claim against Tesco Ireland, claiming to have slipped on a substance on the ground in a shop. Liberty Insurance paid out €12,460, of which Lawrence received €10,000.

AIG Europe also paid €9,600 for a trip-and-fall personal injury claim after Lawrence said she slipped on a substance in a Book Value bookshop. The net total she received was €8,185.50.

In 2014, CIE paid €6,250 in compensation for a personal injury claim after Lawrence said she received burns to her

left from heater while travelling on a number 40 Dublin Bus. Lawrence received a net figure of €5,000.

Detective Garda Ivor Scully of the Garda National Economic Crime Bureau outlined to the court that Lawrence made three further false personal injury claims during this period, which were not successful.

These included a claim to CIE after Lawrence said she tripped getting off a bus and two separate claims to IPB insurance company relating to trips and falls in Lucan and Leixlip.

Det Garda Scully told Sinead McMullan BL, prosecuting, that the garda investigation began after they were contacted by an anti-fraud specialist working for IPB who had carried out an internal investigation. Lawrence's home at

Moorefield Grove, Clondalkin, Dublin 22 was searched under warrant in 2019, along with the solicitors' premises, where six claim files in the name of Margaret Mongan were seized, along with a separate personal injury claim file in Lawrence's name, dating from 2006.

The solicitors' files contained authorisations for the claims made by Margaret Mongan to be paid to Lawrence. Gardaí also established that addresses used in the Margaret Mongan claims were associated with Lawrence.

During the investigation, gardaí also found photographic evidence of Lawrence meeting an engineer for an insurance company while holding herself out to be Mongan. Medical reports and other documents for claims in the name of Mongan were also linked to Lawrence.

Lawrence was arrested in 2019 and interviewed four times by gardaí during which she denied the allegations.

Det Scully agreed with Garnet Orange SC, defending, that his client's previous conviction was of a similar nature, but that it didn't succeed.

Det Scully accepted the defence's suggestion that Lawrence has practically no education and is illiterate. It was further agreed that the solicitor played a role, but Det Scully noted that Lawrence was the "significant beneficiary".

Mr Orange submitted to the court that his client's personal injury claims "couldn't have gone anywhere without inside knowledge of how system operates," and asked Judge Codd to consider the context of his client's role.

He said his client has 14

children, two of whom have passed away, and one of her sons was in court to support her. She is from a Traveller background.

Mr Orange said his client is in poor health and a medical report was handed to the court. He asked Judge Codd to take into account the guilty plea and that there has been no further offending since Lawrence received a suspended sentence in 2019.

Imposing sentence, Judge Codd noted that the defence suggested Lawrence was a "tool" of the other party, but "clearly one could not have operated without the other".

The judge said Lawrence represented herself as Mongan on various occasions and was also "the beneficiary of a significant amount of money relative to the amount of each claim, in that sense, she had a lot to gain".

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Dodder Anglers host Leinster River Championship qualifier

Fourteen anglers from clubs around Leinster hoping to reach National competition

THE Irish Fly Fishing Association (ITFFA) will hold their Leinster River Championship qualifier on the river Dodder this Sunday between the hours of 10am until 5pm.

Fourteen anglers from different angling clubs in the Leinster region will fish the competition in the hope of finishing in the top five positions to then go on to represent Leinster in next year's National final 2025. From the National competition they would have a chance to qualify for the Irish International team.

"The Dodder Anglers are hosting this competition for the third time and it's a great honour for the club," said Dodder Anglers committee member Gerry Heaslip.

"The Dodder Anglers and the ITFFA would like to thank Rory and Mary Harkin of Rory's Fishing Tackle Temple Bar for their ongoing sponsorship of this competition it is very much appreciated.

"The Dodder Anglers would like to ask for the public's help to make this day a great success, please come along to see some of our top fly fishing anglers in action," added Gerry.

Anglers will be fishing the competition from the Riverside cottages at Templeogue down stream to the Dropping Well Pub.

Organiser are asking all dog owners if they could keep their dogs out of the river in those areas for the duration of the competition and would encourage their support.



HOSTS: Members of the Dodder Anglers Committee

Contractors paid thousands in protection money

A REPORT on an investigation into a protection racket probe in Cherry Orchard found no evidence Dublin City Council reimbursed building companies on sites in Dublin 10, reports Maurice Garvey.

Contractors building houses for the city council and an approved housing body paid thousands of euro in protection money to a drug dealer and his enforcer in 2016 and 2017 to stop their sites being

damaged and staff being attacked.

The Government's report on the investigation, commissioned by the former Housing Minister Eoghan Murphy and prepared by retired senior counsel Mr Patrick Butler, has not been published.

Its conclusions were furnished by letter to Lord Mayor Daithí de Róiste on Friday.

The extortion racket emerged five years ago in the High Court,

which found that more than €250,000 seized by the Criminal Assets Bureau (CAB) from Derek 'Dee Dee' O'Driscoll (50), of Croftwood Grove in Ballyfermot, was the proceeds of crime.

CAB told the High Court that both O'Driscoll and David Reilly (41) of Croftwood Park are part of a criminal organisation involved in serious crime in the area.

Three building contractors hired O'Driscoll and Reilly after

sustaining ongoing anti-social behaviour at their sites in the Ballyfermot and Cherry Orchard.

On one occasion in January 2017 the cab area of a digger was set alight after petrol was thrown on it while it was being operated by a driver.

Stolen cars were also driven into the perimeter fence of building sites, and a portacabin was burnt out.

Companies paid the criminals

between €1,200 and €1,500 a week and the attacks stopped once they were put on the payroll.

Patrick Butler SC found that while there was clear evidence the contractors had paid protection money to O'Driscoll and Reilly, there was no evidence that DCC had reimbursed the contractors.

The report recommends that all local authorities develop a protocol with a risk assessment to manage these issues.

Cllr. Teresa Costello

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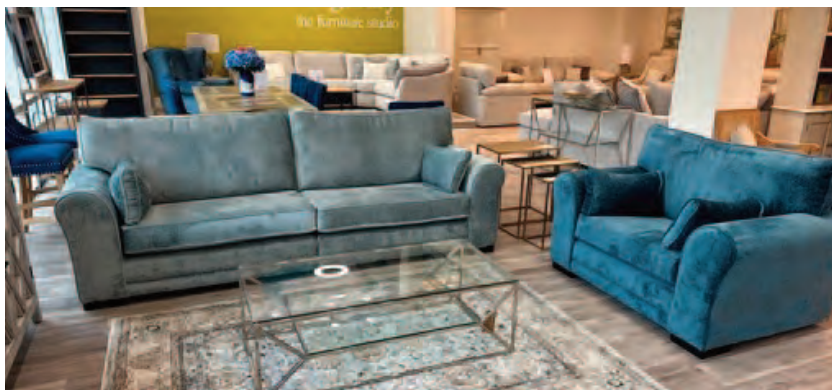


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Investigation after blaze at St John's

High Street building planned to house international applicants



INCIDENT: A tape blocking entry to St John's House on Wednesday morning and (right) the broken glass in the windows and the doors at the entrance of St John's following the fire on Tuesday night

GARDAI are investigating an incident of criminal damage by fire at St John's House in Tallaght, reports *Maurice Garvey*.

Dublin Fire Brigade responded to an incident of a fire at St John's House in Tallaght on Tuesday night. *The Echo* understands a petrol device in the lobby of the building caught fire.

Although security was understood to be in the building at the time, no injuries were reported.

St John's House is set to house "international applicants" with up to 350 people by early August.

The first phase of applicants has yet to move into the building.

A garda spokesperson told *The Echo*: "Gardaí and emergency services were alerted to a fire at a vacant property on High Street at approximately 11:10pm and attended the scene. Local fire services attended the scene and the fire was brought under control a short time later.

There were no injuries reported to any persons at the scene. A technical examination of the scene has since been conducted."

A spokesperson for Dublin Fire Brigade said they were "called at 22.57 hrs on Tuesday, May 21, to reports of a fire in a building on High Street in Tallaght Village."

"Three fire engines from Tallaght and Dolphins Barn fire stations were sent to the scene and on arrival firefighters extinguished a fire on the ground floor level.

"Breathing apparatus teams searched the building and ensured there was no further spread of fire. The building was ventilated of any

remaining smoke and there were no injuries reported. Firefighters finished at the incident at 00.10 hrs and the scene was handed over to gardai."

Gardaí are appealing to anyone who may have information in relation to this incident to contact Tallaght Garda Station 666 6000, the Garda Confidential Line on 1800 666 111, or any garda station.

Any person who was in the vicinity of High Street, Tallaght between 10:30pm and 11:30pm and who observed any unusual activity, or anyone with dash cam footage, is asked to contact investigating gardai.

A briefing note by the Department of Children, which was sent to local politicians on May 20 says the property is owned by Kintrona Ltd.

Kintrona are based in Cork and some of their principals have already benefitted from asylum accommodation.

The three directors of the company are David Kelly, Tony O'Neill and John Crean.

Kelly and Simon Kelly are also directors of Kintrona Holdings, which has an address at Lucan.

According to the Dept, the provider also has two further properties submitted for appraisal and currently run an accommodation centre in the former Zurich building in Blackrock, Dublin.

The briefing says statutory requirements, including health, safety, fire and building regulations, are being met by the service provider.

The Dept of Children will manage the arrival of people into the

centre.

The contract with this centre will be signed for a period of one year.

In the briefing, the Dept say the Irish state is currently providing accommodation and support services to 30,027 people seeking international protection.

In addition to that, since February 2022, the Dept said they are also providing accommodation to 66,245 people from Ukraine.

In the last six months there has been an average of 560 people seeking accommodation "every week."

The Dept said the number of people arriving "continues to increase" with new applicants arriving in the country "every day."

A Dept spokesperson told *The Echo* that St John's premises has "capacity for 177 people as part of phase 1."

"Once phase 2 is completed by early August, the total capacity will be circa 350. The property is intended for use by families of international protection applicants."

According to the briefing, conditions at St John's House include 201 rooms "varying in size and configuration."

It will be a self-catering facility with "sufficient cooking and dining spaces provided for residents."

Residents will be provided with refreshment stations available 24 hours per day.

This will be replenished as needed.

Each resident will have toiletries replenished weekly and other essentials such as toilet paper replenished as needed.

The facility will have high speed fibre Wi-Fi.

Each resident will have their own lockable bedroom with 24-hour access and each shower and toilet is "appropriately partitioned for privacy."

Fire alarms, fire-fighting equipment and security cameras are fitted throughout the common walking areas.

Staff details are to be confirmed by centre manager. There will be security staff present 24/7.

In addition, the Centre Management team in IPAS have developed and rolled out (as a pilot initially) a training programme for all centre managers to take part in and this will be offered to the provider.

The briefing says any IP applicant residing in IPAS accommodation is entitled to apply for a medical card.

IPAS carry out resident clinics at all new and existing accommodation locations. IPAS also work with NGOs who provide support to residents and in addition there is a DCEDIY funded confidential NGO run helpline to assist with any queries a resident may have.

IP applicants have access to English language classes through the ETB.

An adult resident receives an allowance of €38.80 per week.

Other assistance from the Department of Social Protection, such as bus fares to attend appointments, is available at the discretion of the local Community Welfare Officer.

Adults are entitled to work in Ireland after six months.

Echoopinion...

Communications on housing asylum seekers is a problem for communities

THE GOVERNMENT should have better communication with communities about international protection applicants being housed in the locality.

There have been protests held both at SIAC in Clondalkin and St John's House in recent weeks by people who are opposed to asylum seekers being accommodated in the area.

Tempers appear to be flaring about the issue, both from the protestors who opposed the new arrivals, and local residents who feel uncomfortable when protestors gather.

The lack of communication from the government about the housing of asylum seekers seems to have led to greater cynicism and distrust among citizens.

It's no surprise that this could be playing a role in the protests gathering pace, but people are entitled to know if international protection applicants will be housed in their area.

By the same token, international protection applicants are entitled to housing and are often of benefit to local communities.

The scare-mongering that is being employed among some quarters only serves to worsen the issue, and ignores the fact that international protections applicants have long been a presence in the area.

The Towers Hotel in Clondalkin has been a direct provision centre for many years, with many of the residents becoming ingrained in and a central part of the community.

It's understandable that people want to know what's happening in their area, and a breakdown in communication and a lack of transparency only serves to stoke fears and inflame the situation.

Need for services to respond to the changing trend in drug use

A NEW EU web survey about drugs was launched by the HSE this week with the aim of capturing drug use trends and informing harm reduction needs in Ireland.

It is an anonymous survey for people aged over 18 and asks about the type of drugs they use, why they use them and how they use them.

The hope is that the results of the survey will provide insights into drug trends and the diverse groups of people who use drugs in Ireland.

The reality is that drug use is an ever-present facet of our communities, irrespective of people's perceptions and judgements around it.

It is important to ensure that our health service gets a full picture of drug use in the country from the people who use drugs, and an anonymous survey is an ideal way to source this information.

Drug use is still oftentimes shrouded in stigma and shame, but there is a need for services to respond to the changing trends in drug use and catalogue them accurately.

Hoarding set on fire at former SIAC site which houses male migrants

FIREFIGHTERS responded to a fire incident at the hoarding of the former SIAC building in Clondalkin, reports *Maurice Garvey*.

The building houses male migrants and has seen frequent protests outside over the last couple of years.

Dolcain House as the building is

known, accommodates approximately 400 males.

Hoardings were erected at the entrance to the building not long after the building was refurbished to accommodate international applicants.

The gates are manned by security. A spokesperson for Dublin Fire Brigade said: "At 06.19 hrs this

morning, one fire engine from Tallaght fire station was mobilised to reports of hoarding alight on Monastery Road in Clondalkin. Firefighters were quickly able to extinguish the fire using high pressure hose reels and the incident was concluded shortly afterwards."

The Echo contacted gardai for comment.



PROTEST: Protestors outside the former SIAC site at Dolcain House on Monastery Road which houses migrants on Tuesday evening

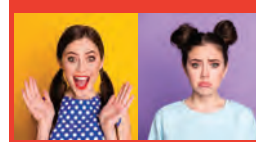
Greenhills Summer project donations welcome

HOLY Spirit Parish in Greenhills will accept collections for their summer project this weekend (May 25-26).

Collections will take place at the church gates on Saturday, May 25 and Sunday, May 26.

All donations are most welcome and for the children in the area.

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Mother and daughter were 20 years together in TUH

HCA Catherine completed her last shift in Tallaght University Hospital last Tuesday

A MOTHER who worked with her daughter in Tallaght University Hospital (TUH) for over 20 years has retired this week – the duo took one last photo together in their uniforms on her last day, reports *Aideen O’Flaherty*.

Fettercairn woman Catherine Noonan, who turns 70 next week, completed her final shift as a healthcare assistant (HCA) in the hospital on Tuesday.

She had worked in the hospital since 2003, having previously worked as a HCA in the community for several years.

“I worked for 11 years in the community as a HCA and in 2003 I came to Tallaght University Hospital,” Catherine told *The Echo*.

“It was so different to working in the community because I was used to going into people’s houses, but the hospital is more structured, and you work as a team.”

Catherine’s daughter, Claire, 41, who lives in Sundale, decided to pursue her own career in healthcare after being inspired by her mother when she was growing up.

Claire joined TUH as a HCA a year before her mother, and since then has qualified as a nurse and now works as an advanced nurse practitioner.

“I couldn’t be prouder to be her daughter,” Claire said. “I’ve three sisters, and she taught us all to be independent and to work for what we want.”

“I was working as a HCA, then I went back to college as a mature student to study nursing and now I have two post-graduate diplomas

and a Master’s.

“That’s all because of what [my mam] has done, she’s such a hard worker and she never stops.”

The women said they enjoyed working together in the hospital as they could spend time with each other on their lunch breaks outside of their busy households.

Catherine worked in the Reeves Day Surgery Centre, while Claire works in the older person care section of the hospital.

They spoke to *The Echo* on the morning of Catherine’s last day before she commenced her retirement, and Catherine shared what she enjoyed most about her work and what she’ll miss.

“I liked meeting different people with different complaints and helping them to get better,” she explained.

“I helped with feeding them and washing them, and I talked to them. I’m going to miss everyone I worked with.”

“I’m going to miss getting up early in the morning and going into work and being a part of the team and meeting different people, and we had good banter.”

“I’d just like to thank them all, I really enjoyed working with them – they’re a great group of people and I’ll miss them all.”

Catherine will be trading Tallaght for Wexford when she moves to Kilmore Quay in the coming weeks to enjoy a quieter pace of life for her retirement – she is looking forward to spending more time with her 19 grandchildren.



TIME TOGETHER: Catherine and Claire Noonan

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Acquisition of Lucan House to be completed by end of June

‘Significant strategic opportunity’ to acquire an asset of national historical importance

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

A DETAILED assessment of Lucan House and its grounds will be carried out following handover of the property to South Dublin County Council.

The council, who bought the former Italian Ambassador’s residence last year, said that following the assessment, they will put in place a plan to facilitate managed public access to the grounds.

Speaking at the recent monthly council meeting, chief executive Colm Ward said they expect the acquisition of Lucan House to be completed “by the end of June at the latest.”

“Also in relation to the wall surrounding it and the longstanding need for repairs, we have an agreement with the Italian embassy in terms of a way forward. We have tenders done and returned to us and we expect works to start imminently,” said Mr Ward.

In a report at the council meeting, SDCC say the acquisition of Lucan House and Demesne presents a “significant strategic opportunity” to acquire an asset of “national historical importance for the citizens of South Dublin and the country at large.”

The Georgian -Palladian house was built c1772 by the Vesey family.

The remaining Demesne of 30 acres associated with the property contains areas of manicured lawn mixed with heavily wooded areas, located in a section of the River Liffey and the Griffeen.

Following the assessment and managed public access to the grounds, consultants will be appointed in Q3 2024 to develop a masterplan for Lucan House and its associated 30 acres.

“The objectives of the masterplan will be to develop a plan for Lucan House and Demesne as a tourism, community and county amenity, a focus on the conservation of natural and built heritage, as well as examining the optimal



CAPTION: Lucan House will be handed over to the local authority next month

economic, recreational and environmental uses to benefit Lucan and the wider county,” said the report.

“Lucan House will provide a significant opportunity to bring forward a new tourism and community amenity that will further contribute to Lucan’s

rich heritage and history. With its designation as a destination town and the current investment by the council in Lucan’s public realm, creating a connected network of primary and secondary attractions within a coherent network of public spaces and

supporting activities, as well as linkages to the Grand Canal Greenway, the reopening of Lucan House to the public will not only complement these works but will elevate the village’s attractiveness as a visitor destination, thereby supporting the local economy.”

Adam Smyth

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Liffey Valley

Students showcase environmental projects concerning their local area

TU Dublin students carried out scientific studies about pollution in streams and clean-up of River Poddle

By Aideen O'Flaherty
aideen@echo.ie

STUDENTS from TU Dublin's Tallaght campus recently showcased three environmental projects concerning the local area at an event in Croke Park.

The first project looked at improving the water quality and enhancing the environmental and amenity value of local urban streams.

The students carried out scientific studies about pollution in the streams and also carried out a clean-up of the River Poddle in the college campus.

They also carried out a clean-up of the Tallaght Stream with Tallaght Tidy Towns and going forward, they hope to continue the project and replicate it in other streams.

The second project explored promoting biodiversity on the TU Dublin Tallaght Campus, including through the creation of a wildflower meadow.

The students undertook a

“The projects generated practical and useful results, these will be used as part of the Tallaght Village ...



PROJECTS: TU Dublin Tallaght Campus students who showcased environmental projects

biodiversity audit of the campus, and they went on to develop a walking map of the campus and arranged

biodiversity tours.

The third project's aim was to reduce cigarette and vaping waste in Tallaght village and in the TU Dublin

Tallaght campus.

The students identified and quantified waste of this nature, then carried out clean-ups and proposed ways of reducing the dumping of cigarette butts and vapes.

Posters encouraging people to dispose of cigarettes and vapes responsibly or to quit smoking entirely were displayed on the electronic notice

boards on all TU Dublin campuses.

Marketing and communications students also developed online social media campaigns and linked with Healthy Campus efforts to quit smoking and vaping.

All three of the projects linked in with community partners Tallaght Tidy Towns and Tallaght Community Council under the N-TUTORR

national project.

Tara De Buitlear from Tallaght Community Council (TCC) said: "Tallaght Community Council were delighted to partner with TUD Tallaght campus on two environmental projects in Tallaght village over the last six months, approved and funded under the N-TUTORR programme."

"The TCC collaboration with TUD Tallaght campus lecturers and students in both the marketing and engineering departments, was a rewarding experience."

"The projects generated practical and useful results, these will be used as part of the Tallaght Village Tidy Towns 2024 competition entry."

"We hope the teams of students gained helpful experience working on real projects, for real clients."

"They were committed and engaged in the process, giving Tallaght village Tidy Towns access to skilled expertise and engaged resources. A real win-win experience!"

The N-TUTORR national project is a collaboration across the Technological Higher Education sector to transform the student experience and achieve sustainable and long-lasting change.

The students showcased their projects at an N-TUTORR event in Croke Park last month.

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Firhouse singers concert

THE Firhouse Singers will perform a free concert for charity in Crumlin at the end of the month.

The group will present a summer concert in St Agnes Church on next Wednesday, May 29, at 7.30pm.

Admission will be free but a collection will be made on the night for Alone and the Alice Leahy Trust for homeless people. All are welcome.

Firefight needs

THE equipment needs of Dublin Fire Brigade are kept under review, updated, replaced or enhanced as required, councillors were informed at last week's council meeting.

Firefighters must undergo training on all equipment and maintain skills to perform activities efficiently and safely.

Fire appliances are equipped with a range of standardised equipment designed to allow the firefighter complete a broad range of activities.

Pedal power proves tops in recovery from addictions

Over 140 spectators greeted the 33 cyclists after their challenging cycle

By Aideen O'Flaherty
aideen@echo.ie

A GROUP of 33 cyclists who are in recovery from addiction received a triumphant welcome in the grounds of the Tallaght Rehabilitation Project (TRP) at Kiltalown House in Jobstown last Saturday.

They were greeted by a crowd of over 140 at the finish line, including family, friends, drug-project workers and community gardaí, and got to enjoy a family fun day after their challenging cycle.

On Saturday, May 18, the cyclists from Tus Nua in Clondalkin and the Ballymun Youth Action Project embarked on the cycle under the heading of Connecting Communities Through Recovery.

They set off from Tus Nua, then cycled to Ballymun and crossed the finish line in TRP, after receiving a garda escort from Brookfield Community Centre up to Kiltalown House in recognition of their feat.

Pat Daly, the manager of TRP, told *The Echo*: "I think the day consolidated recovery in local communities on both the north and southside of the city.

"It was something completely different, because it wasn't one project in one area doing an event.

"What really added to the atmosphere on the day were the guards from Tallaght,



they came on board and provided an escort from Brookfield Community Centre up to Kiltalown House.

"They had their lights on, and it really added to the excitement of the cyclists coming to Kiltalown House.

"The cyclists went from Clondalkin to Ballymun to Tallaght, so it was a huge triumph for them – they were delighted."

The physical activity that cycling provides is also an important part of recovery, as many people who are in recovery from substance abuse use exercise as an outlet.

"Cycling is becoming a big thing within the recovery process for people in mid and advanced recovery, when they're at the stage where they want to do something physical," added Pat.

"I think when you look at the overall picture in recovery, it's not just about abstaining from substances, it's about looking after your whole person and your body.

"Exercise gets your endorphins flowing . . . it's a positive thing that fills that gap for people, and it's really good for their mental health."

This is the second year that TRP has played host to Connecting Communities Through Recovery, and Pat is grateful to those who made it a success and is already looking forward to next year's event.

"I want to thank all of the staff in TRP for their hard work and for coming in on a Saturday, they're a great bunch," said Pat. "Also, all of the clients who helped to

put this all together, the Tallaght Drug and Alcohol Task Force, and the guards in Tallaght, because it meant people got to see another side of the guards – that they're human beings and they're willing to help out.

"I'd also like to thank our colleagues in Tus Nua and Ballymun YAP and their clients, and South Dublin County Council and the South Dublin County Partnership for their support.

"We're looking forward to doing it all again next year and maybe getting other communities involved – that would be great."

For further information on drug projects and services in the area, visit the Tallaght Drug and Alcohol Task Force's website at www.tallaghtdaf.ie.



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Cocaine worth over half-a-million euro found by gardai during search of van outside house

A DUBLIN man described as "not a criminal mastermind" has been jailed for four-and-a-half years, after gardai found cocaine worth over half-a-million euro in a van outside his girlfriend's house, reports *Jessica Magee*.

Lewis O'Keeffe (22), of Kylemore Drive, Ballyfermot, pleaded guilty to multiple counts of possessing controlled drugs and almost €30,000 in cash on July 5 last year.

He was sentenced to four-and-a-half years in prison at a sitting of Dublin Circuit Criminal Court on Wednesday.

A prosecuting garda told Breffni Gordon BL, for the State, that confidential information was received about to-ings and fro-ings from a house on O'Moore Road in Ballyfermot.

Gardaí executed a warrant on the day in question and met O'Keeffe and his partner, who lived at the address on O'Moore Road.

Gardaí found cocaine worth €2,500 inside the house, along with the sum in cash of €29,265.

A further quantity of over 7.5 kg of cocaine was discovered in a cardboard box in the rear of a

Peugeot van outside the house.

In total, the cocaine seized was given a street value of over €527,000.

O'Keeffe told gardai he didn't own the drugs but was aware of them.

His own car was also outside the house and he had taken his tax and insurance discs off his car and put them into the van, the court heard.

On arrest, O'Keeffe initially denied wrongdoing, but went on to claim some sort of ownership and knowledge of the drugs and cash.

He told gardai he had accumulated a drug debt of €31,000.

Gardaí agreed with Dominic

McGinn SC, defending, that O'Keeffe was "not a criminal mastermind" and was "very low down" in the operation.

Mr McGinn said his client's family background was a little sad in that he had never known his father and was estranged from his mother.

O'Keeffe lived with his grandparents and cared for his ill grandmother, the court heard.

Counsel described O'Keeffe as the "fall guy or patsy" in the drugs operation, who has to suffer the consequences of the serious wrongdoing of others.

"That's the nature of the drugs

world," said Mr McGinn.

The court heard that O'Keeffe was a hardworking man who had worked as an industrial cleaner since leaving school and was of previous good character, apart from one further drugs case pending.

Judge Martin Nolan accepted that O'Keeffe had been under severe pressure and had succumbed to temptation to hold money and drugs.

Judge Nolan said it was a bad misjudgement but that O'Keeffe had a low level of culpability and had been very young. "Young people make bad decisions under pressure," he added.

Jailed for three offences of possessing child pornography

Over 1,000 images of child sexual abuse material were found on laptop

AN IT worker who has been jailed for three separate offences of possessing child sexual abuse material told gardai that he didn't know how the material ended up on his digital devices, reports *Jessica Magee*.

Gardaí first searched the family home of Oisín Cannon (33) at Orlagh Meadows, Knocklyon in 2017, where they found a mobile phone, tablet and laptop containing over 1,000 images of child sexual abuse material (CSAM).

Cannon refused to accept responsibility for any CSAM and took a trial date, but gardai again searched his home in May 2019 and September 2020, when further offending files were found on some of his devices.

At a sitting of Dublin Circuit Criminal Court on Wednesday the court heard that Cannon told gardai he had "no interest" in child pornography.

Cannon said he had been browsing online one day when 20 or so pop-up windows containing CSAM were displayed to him, but that he had closed them and hadn't saved any.

He also suggested variously that other members of his household may have had access to the material, or that it could have been caused by viruses, or that some apps used to download illicit material may have been installed remotely by third parties.

"I'm sick to my stomach but what else do you want me to do. I'll look into it and see if I can figure it out," Cannon told gardai.

He denied having at any stage accessed or stored explicit material or having used search terms such as "underage erotic" to trawl the dark web and said if he had been aware of any such material, he would have reported it to gardai.

Cannon was due to face trial in 2025 but he pleaded guilty earlier this year to possession of



child pornography on all three bills.

Judge Martin Nolan handed him a global sentence of three years and nine months, expressing the hope that Cannon might learn from his experience.

Judge Nolan said it was an "open question" as to whether Cannon might re-offend, adding that it was concerning that he had re-offended a number of times.

"I consider his behaviour to be very serious. He repeated it and that demonstrates something. It's hard to know why he did it," said the judge, adding that obviously accessing CSAM was not a "victimless crime".

Judge Nolan said Cannon had a strong work record and came from a very good and decent family.

Detective Sergeant Kevin Drennan told John Berry BL, prosecuting, that the first search of Cannon's home took place on August 5, 2017, on foot of confidential information given to gardai.

Cannon's HP laptop was seized and upon analysis, found to contain 1,011 unique images

of CSAM, of which 860 were listed as being Category 1, the more serious sexually explicit material.

The laptop also contained 102 videos with a total running time of over 31 hours.

Sixty-five of the videos were listed as Category 1. The majority of the videos featured children clearly younger than 12 years old, while some of them featured children as young as two or three.

Cannon's mobile phone was found to contain 22 images, with a mix of Category 1 and 2, while his tablet contained eight images, again of mixed category.

Gardaí also discovered that Cannon had used software known as a TOR browser, which allows for internet searching without a record being kept of IP addresses.

A number of bookmarks were found on Cannon's laptop with certain extensions indicating dark web and child abuse material, and one of the bookmarks had the name "underage erotic", the court heard.

Garda technical experts also

reviewed Cannon's search history and found he had conducted 66 highly technical searches, directed at finding specific files.

Cannon accepted ownership of the devices and gave gardai his passcodes, but denied having deliberately viewed or stored CSAM.

He told gardai he worked in IT support and described himself as "computer literate".

On foot of further information, gardai again searched Cannon's home on May 17, 2019, seizing several of his devices, including an iPad.

On inspection, this iPad was found to contain 349 images, 34 videos and 118 screenshots of child sexual abuse, a mix of categories 1 and 2.

Cannon was arrested by appointment and told gardai he had won the iPad in a raffle and only used it intermittently to look at YouTube videos.

He said he couldn't remember having installed a number of apps which showed he had used the iPad far more frequently than he claimed, and said again that other

people could have accessed the device.

The court heard Cannon was on bail for some of these offences when his phone was seized again on September 16, 2020.

The phone was forensically analysed which uncovered 61 more serious Category 1 images of child pornography and 49 Category 2 images.

Detective Garda Anthony O'Kane told the court that 23 videos of mixed category were also found.

The court heard that the offending material was found in Cannon's phone's gallery, a user-accessible location.

A dedicated cyber crime branch of the gardai then performed a more detailed search and found an encrypted and obscured location, which contained 619 unique images listed as Category 1 and 4,933 of Category 2.

Twenty-three Category 1 videos were also revealed and some Category 2, with a total running time of 1hr 23 minutes. Again Cannon refused to accept responsibility for the material

and suggested it may have been a virus or that it could have been sent to him accidentally.

Cannon has no previous convictions.

Gardaí agreed with James Dwyer SC, defending, that Cannon had cooperated with gardai at all times, answering all questions put to him and attending interview and arrest by arrangement.

Mr Dwyer said his client had a difficult childhood, particularly during his primary school years when he had been lonely, had experienced bullying and had undiagnosed dyslexia.

He was close to his grandparents in Kilkenny and had a keen interest in hurling, the court heard.

Cannon came from a close, loving family and his father and wife were present in court.

His best friend died from leukaemia in his teens which affected him greatly, the court heard.

A psychological report handed into court said Cannon had had a normal sexual development although with a significant interest in conventional pornography.

The report said Cannon suffered from a depressive disorder and was plagued by a lack of self-esteem.

He expressed remorse and said that at the time of the offences he had been under financial pressure and embarked on a "deep dive into the dark web" which gave him a sense of thrill and excitement which became normalised.

Cannon was described as a vulnerable man who was nonetheless at low risk of reoffending due to his stable, supportive family and the therapeutic steps he has taken to address his offending.

Letters were submitted from his parents and brothers, describing Cannon as "the glue that holds the family together".

Former Debenhams workers feel they are not getting justice

Liquidators KPMG confirmed that they intend appealing a recent Labour Court award

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

FORMER Debenhams workers feel they are not receiving justice” for the way they were treated during the loss of their jobs when the UK retailer closed 11 stores in Ireland.

It resulted in the loss of over 1,000 jobs and led to one of the longest strike actions in the history of the State, 406 days in total.

For over a year picket lines campaigned seeking a fair redundancy package.

This included former Debenhams staff at its store in The Square in Tallaght, which employed approximately 100 people, of which staff reported was operating profitably at the time of the job losses.

Former Debenhams workers were awarded two compensation offers in the last year.

However, liquidators KPMG confirmed this week that they intend to appeal a recent Labour Court award to the former Debenhams workers on a point of law.

The court upheld a previous Workplace



“The closure meant that all staff lost their agreed redundancy entitlements, while substantial millions were dispersed to various preferential creditors and other faceless profiteers

Relations Commission ruling that the workers were entitled to two weeks pay on foot of a redundancy consultation that began late and wasn't allowed proper time to consider alternative options.

The award was reduced from four weeks to two after the industrial relations arbitrator failed to uphold a WRC ruling that the liquidators had failed to provide

relevant information to the union during the consultation.

Bryan Roche, a former Debenhams employee in The Square for nine years said: “It feels like they repeatedly want to prevent the former Debenhams workers from receiving any justice and recompense for the despicable way they were treated by their former employer.

“A former employer who took advantage of the Covid pandemic when they closed all stores early in the lockdown and sacked all their staff with a generic email. The closure meant that all staff lost their agreed redundancy entitlements, while substantial millions were dispersed to various preferential creditors and other faceless profiteers.”



Thyes Kavanagh

I'm Thyes Kavanagh, a new candidate in the Local Elections on June 7th.

Cllr. Charlie O'Connor is stepping down and he has asked me to run in his place.

I live in Kilnamanagh with my wife and two adult children. We have a business on Belgard Road, Tallaght.

I am a founder member of Kilnamanagh Neighbourhood Watch and a former member of the Board of Management of St Kevin's R.C.

I was on Tallaght Community Council for several years. During Covid, I joined South Dublin Volunteers, and helped in Citywest.

One of my proudest moments was when we received the Freedom of South Dublin County in recognition of our efforts.



Director of Elections: Cllr. Charlie O'Connor

As a new candidate I need your number 1 Vote or your next highest preference. I promise to work hard on your behalf.

Some of my aims:

- Better grants to insulate our homes.
- Be more ambitious with projects for Tallaght.
- Support community and local volunteers.
- Promote local Fun days, Festivals, St Patrick's Day Parades, Award and recognise local Heroes.
- Heritage - protect, enhance and highlight our built heritage.
- Promote & Support local Sports Clubs and Community amenities.
- Upgrade our green spaces and parks.
- Promote local retail and business - shop local and shopfronts schemes.

VOTE NO.1

If elected; I hope to work with the council to make Tallaght a better place to Live, Work and Enjoy!

For more details, 083 844 4002 www.kavanaghtc.ie

f Kavanagh Tallaght Central
 @ @kavanaghtc



Also Running in Tallaght Central is Teresa Costello.



Local history with Albert Perris



Albert Perris is a native of Tallaght and has been prominent in the promotion and preservation of Tallaght's History and Heritage for 25 years. He has worked in a variety of professional roles in the voluntary, community and social care sector, including Independent Social Researcher- publishing a number of Social Research reports in the late 1990s; CEO with Respond Support, Head of Services with Alone and National Manager of Specialist Services with SVP. 1999 saw the publication of "Since Adam was a boy: An Oral Folk History of Tallaght" (TWS), preserving for future generations, the oral histories and memories of some of Tallaght's oldest residents, collected over a two year period. The founder and Author of the popular blog, 'A Ramble About Tallaght', his articles on Tallaght have been read over 250,000 times. Albert also holds the role of Heritage Officer with Tallaght Community Council.

"A Ramble About Tallaght- History, People, Places", published by O'Brien Press (2023) is available on Amazon.com and in all good bookshops.

Since Adam was a boy

An Oral Folk History of Tallaght", to mark the 25th Anniversary of their first publication back in 1999

The Memoirs of Bill Finnegan

Born in Firhouse in 1921, Bill Finnegan lived in Killakee and Colbert's Fort before settling in St Maelruan's Park, Tallaght. The son of a farm labourer from Ballycullen cottages, his mother was a McNally from Old Court. After spending ten years driving lorries for the local quarries, Bill began working for CIE in 1947. Although the final tram left Tallaght in 1932, Bill at almost eighty years of age, could still remember the names of the drivers and conductors. He played for Thomas Davis G.F.C for many years and was celebrated locally as one of the finest players to ever represent Tallaght.

I was born in a little house down in The Alley, in Firhouse behind Morton's Pub. When I was a child there was a number of little houses down The Alley, but they're all long gone now. They were built on a slope down beside the river, and if you walked straight in off the street, you would end up in the bedroom. You had to go down steps into the kitchen. A number of families lived in The Alley- the Whites, the Keoghs and Kellys all lived there at one time. I was only a young lad when we left The Alley, after my father bought some of Lord Massy's land, when it was being divided up and sold off by the bank. My father agreed to buy forty acres of Massy's property up in Killakee for £500. We had twenty-five cows up there and would milk them every day- sell the milk door-to-door for a penny a pint. The trouble was, in the bad weather with the frost and snow on the road, (and we had winters at that time!), you couldn't get down to sell the milk. You could go a month without selling a drop. There wouldn't be a shilling in the place! So we held on to the land for four or five years until my father was beat by the repayments. £112 pound is all he owed, when we left Killakee.

When I was up there as a young lad, the way it was with school: you only went to school of a wet day, because there was so much work on the land. Every young lad was the same. People got very little schooling then. There was a little village on the top of Mount Pelia (Pelier) at that time. 'The Rabbit Doyle' and his wife and daughter lived there and 'The Dote Kerwin' and his mother; 'The Swank McDermott' and his mother and father. 'The Swank' was the gamekeeper for (Lord) Massy's

Estate- a Scotsman he was. They all lived in the thatched cottages on the top of Mount Pelia and as a lad, I would deliver the milk up there every morning. Those little houses were very old even then. They must have been built around the early eighteen hundreds.

(Lord) Massy had all the land around there in the early days. Lord Massy was a director of the Bank of England, and one of the first trustees of 'The Irish Sweep' along with Capt. Spencer Freeman and Joe McGrath. Lady Massy and the two daughters worked in 'The Irish Sweep' and lived in the gate-lodge up there until the 1940s. Massy had beautiful gardens and orchards and the tourists would come out during the summer to see them. The staff from all the big factories like Maguire and Paterson, Guinness, and Powers would come out during the summer on excursions. One of Massy's tenants, Maurice Fox had tearooms and a ballroom up in Killakee House and crowds would come out of town for that on a Sunday.

When we came down from Killakee in the year of the congress- 1932, my father gave his milk round to Jingler McDermott and when Jingler died years later, it's said he left over fifteen million pounds! He died a very, very wealthy man. A man who worked on the trams, Christy Broe from Templeogue, had brought up Jingler. Now when Jingler was young, he became a dairyman and bought himself a motor bike with a sidecar and two ten-gallon churns. That's how he started off, but he ended up a multimillionaire. He bought the Jobstown Inn at one time and put a brother of Christy's into it to run it for him- 'The Phantom Broe', an officer who had been in the British Army and had come home after the war. The Jingler only had The Jobstown a wet day and he sold it. Later in life he married a girl who worked for Kavanagh's of Templeogue, but because he was so old he hadn't any children or family, so I don't know who he left all his money to!

The Jobstown Inn was closed-up for much of the 1930s as was most of the

pubs around Tallaght at that time. Only two of pubs stayed open throughout the 1930- The Convent (Dragon Inn) and Mick Delanys over in Firhouse.

Porters (Aherne's) in Old Bawn, Kennedy's (Old Mill) on the corner; The Cuckoo's (Nest) and Molloy's were all closed up for a time in the 'thirties. There was no population in Tallaght at that time and money was

a wild man- fond of the dogs and the drink. He had gone off to Canada, but every now and then he would return and start squandering the profits, so eventually the bank repossessed the pub.

Tom Burke started working there in 1945, the day the Americans dropped the bomb on Hiroshima. He was only about 15 years old at the time. Mrs

Kennedy took Tom on to give a hand, and he was there about two years when the bank repossessed the pub from the Kennedy's and put him in charge. It took him a few years to clear the debt but when he did the bank gave him the option of buying it out. Tom worked very hard in that pub, seven days a week.

Paddy Porter and his mother had the pub in Oldbawn in the 30s, but it only had a six day licence, as had Mick Delaney's and Mitchell's Pub in Rockbrook. One of Mick's uncles, Bobby Delaney had The Cuckoo's Nest at one time.

I was only 15 years of old when I started driving lorries for a living. My uncle had three lorries of his own so that's how I became interested in them. I worked in Mick O' Brien's garage, beside Flood's Public House in Terenure, until the war broke out in 1939. I went into driving Lorries full time then until I went into

CIE in 1947. There was a lot of men on the lorries in Tallaght at that time. There was 'Hairy' Lawless, Jack Smullen from down Pig Lane in Templeogue and Tom Watkins. Tom had two or three lorries. One was a big six-wheeled Morris Lorry. My Uncle had an Albion, a Thornycroft and a Fiat. Most of the quarrying at that time would be done during the summer months, for the spraying of the roads.

There wasn't the money spent on roads then so there wasn't the capacity for work in the quarries during the winter. I used to drive to the stone crusher on Kennedy's Corner. McCreath, Taylor & Company had that there for years. The men would draw

local stone from the quarries in Woodtown or De Selby. Dudley Dolan was the manager up in Woodtown Quarry.

I went into CIE in '47, the year of the second Big Snow. Nothing moved for three months with the height of the snow. It was frightening to the world! When the snow cleared the army had to come out to Tallaght to bury the cattle, there were that many dead.

I started driving buses with Tim Sullivan (His father had been one of the Tram Drivers in Tallaght in the early days), along with Christy Preston, Christy Sweeney, Anthony Heron and Jack Breslin. Christy Preston and Anthony Heron lived in Colberts Fort, by the aerodrome.

There were two types of tram that came to Tallaght before they ended in '32. One was called 'The Large Player'. It had an engine on each end of it, so it wouldn't have to turn and could hold about twenty people. It was like a single-decker bus. 'The Large Player' would run from Terenure to Jobstown. The other tram was a Ford Model T- 'The Match Box', we called it. That would only run from Terenure to Tallaght and could only hold eight or ten people.

I remember one Sunday night the conductor, Jimmy Jones, got killed on the tram. I know it was a Sunday night, because we were going to school the next morning, and it was the talk of the town. There was a 'siding' at one time, where the supermarket (Old H Williams) is now in the village, for the trains to pull in. It was coming out of the 'siding' when Jimmy Jones fell down the stairs and ended up between two of the carriages.

When a person died at that time, there wasn't so much of going to the chapel. The person would be waked in the house and the priest would come over with the candles and say the De Profundis and the prayers for the dead over the body in the house. It was your moral duty to go to a wake, so the house would be packed, it would be like a wedding!

I was lucky in a way of life, considering I got no education. I can't remember when I didn't drive.

Albert Perris (Memoirs (Edited) as set down in recorded audio interviews over several days, with Albert Perris in Glenview Lodge Day Care Centre, Glenview, Tallaght, Co. Dublin in 1999. First published by Tallaght Welfare Society in "Since Adam was a Boy- An Oral Folk History of Tallaght (Perris, A., TWS, 1999).



The Memoirs of Bill Finnegan

scarce. The price of a pint was only six-pence, but men wouldn't have it to drink. Ordinary men wouldn't know the inside of a pub until a Saturday night and then he would only have two, maybe three pints. You wouldn't get two pounds, a man's wages out of a pub at that time.

John Kennedy and his wife had the pub on the corner (The Old Mill). John's brother Andy had The Embankment and I used to give his sister a lift into work, a clothes shop on Capel Street. I remember John very well, one leg is all he had, so he had to go around in a horse and trap. John and the wife ended up losing the pub, because their son Seamus, was a bit of

Jackie's story had noticeable impact on students during talk

Jackie Fox spoke to students about the implementation of Coco's Law

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

"THIS law involves a possible jail term of seven years, so people need to be aware of it."

So says Denise Ryan, Peer Education Worker and Youth Worker with Ballyfermot Youth Service (BYS).

Ms Ryan was speaking to *The Echo* in relation to a talk given by Ms Jackie Fox to young people at the BYS on Wednesday evening, May 15.

"Jackie spoke about her daughter, Nicole and the horrific, intense bullying she suffered, mentally, physically and emotionally, she was also the victim of cyber bullying. Jackie also spoke about the implementation of Coco's law, how she got there and what it took to implement that Law," said Ms Ryan.

The Harassment, Harmful Communications and Related Offences Act, 2020 criminalises instances where people distribute intimate photos of others online or in person to embarrass or harass their victims.

Ms Ryan explained what Coco's Law is. "It creates two new offences. It relates to the non-consensual sharing of intimate images and harassment and was implemented in 2021," she said.

The first offence under this new law makes it a crime to take, distribute, publish, or threaten to distribute intimate images without the subject's consent and with the intent to, or having been reckless as to whether these acts would



TALK: Jackie Fox (front row, third from right) with students from Ballyfermot Youth Service

seriously interfere with the peace and privacy of the other person, or cause them harm, alarm or distress. Harm includes psychological harm. Those found guilty of this offence can be jailed for up to seven years or be served with an unlimited fine.

The second offence does not require that intent to seriously interfere with the peace and privacy of the person who is the subject of the image or to cause them alarm, distress or harm to be proven and carries a maximum penalty of 12 months' imprisonment and/or a €5000 fine.

Ms Ryan added that Ms Fox

will shortly be going to Brussels to get the law implemented at a European level.

As most young people have a mobile phone, they should be educated regarding harassment laws and mobile phones, according to Ms Ryan.

Ms Fox's story had a pronounced impact on the young people of BYS. "The young people were really upset. The impact of the suicide of Jackie's daughter has fuelled Jackie in educating young people," added Ms Ryan.

Ms Fox, from Tallaght, also spoke about what young people should do if they find themselves

being bullied. "Jackie spoke about the importance of talking about it, about speaking out, about having one good adult in your life, not to feel that you are alone," said Ms Ryan.

Ms Fox also emphasised that no bullying at any level is acceptable.

Ms Ryan was very impressed with Ms Fox. "Jackie is a lovely woman, she was so open to questions from the young people and from practitioners," said Ms Ryan.

Over 100 people attended Ms Fox's talk. "Young people, practitioners and other youth workers from the area attended," said Ms Ryan.

ROADS ACT 1993

TEMPORARY CLOSING OF ROADS NOTICE OF INTENTION

South Dublin County Council hereby gives notice, in accordance with Section 75 of the Roads Act 1993, that it intends to close the footbridge described as follows:

Footbridge to be Closed: Tay Lane Footbridge which traverses the N7 and is located in Rathcoole, Co. Dublin.

Date of Closure: For a period of twelve weeks from Wednesday 26th of June to Wednesday 18th of September 2024.

Hours of Closure: 24hrs a day.

This closure is required to facilitate the rehabilitation of Tay Lane Footbridge.

Diversion Route:

Southbound Traffic:

Pedestrians/cyclists shall exit Tay Lane onto the N7 Junction 4 off-slip and travel eastwards along the footpath for 700m to the northern roundabout at the top of the N7 Junction 4 off-slip. Pedestrians/cyclists shall then cross the off-slip and travel south along the footpath over Rathcoole Bridge for 120m until they reach Rathcoole Main Street. From here, pedestrians/cyclists continue south west along the main street for 770m until they arrive at Tay Lane where the diversion ends.

Northbound Traffic:

Pedestrians/cyclists shall travel eastwards along Rathcoole Main Street for 770m until they reach the roundabout at the junction of Main Street & Fitzmaurice Road. Pedestrians/cyclists shall then head north, continuing along the footpath over Rathcoole Bridge for 130m until they arrive at the northern roundabout at the top of the N7 Junction 4 off-slip. Pedestrians/cyclists shall then cross the off-slip and turn left, travelling westwards for 700m, along the footpath until they reach Tay Lane where the diversion ends.

There will be no through traffic across Tay Lane Footbridge during this period. Diversion routes will be clearly signposted.

Pedestrians/cyclists are strongly advised to use the diversion routes as identified and only use permanent/temporary pedestrian crossings as provided along the diversion route. Cyclists are advised to dismount over the extents of the diversion route.

Vehicular traffic on the N7 and other adjacent roads will not be impacted by this closure.

Any objections/submissions should be lodged in writing to:

Senior Engineer, Transport, South Dublin County Council, County Hall Tallaght, Dublin 24, D24 A3XC.

Or by e-mail to seoroads@sdcublincoco.ie

by or before **1.00pm on Wednesday 5th June 2024.**

Web: www.sdcc.ie



Camera club launch exhibition with up to 60 photos on show

CLONDALKIN Camera Club are launching an exhibition in the library today, May 23 at 6.30pm, reports Stephen Farrell.

The exhibition will be launched by Councillor Francis Timmons (Ind) on behalf of the Mayor.

It is hoped that the exhibition will run for two weeks.

All photos in the exhibition are photos taken by members of the club.

Speaking to *The Echo*, Joe Joyce, Chairperson of the club said that there will be different media in the exhibition. "There will be colour print and black and white print on display. There will be roughly 60 photos in the exhibition," he added.

On Wednesday, May 22, the club held its Maureen Dunne natural world competition. "Maureen was a member of the club and she had a very keen interest in nature photography and her family donated the trophy for the competition," explained Joe.

The club meets every Tuesday evening in Áras Chrónain from 7.30 pm to 9.30/10 pm.

At the exhibition the Club will be advertising the introduction to photography course that they run in September and February.



Two photos of the club's photography panels used last weekend in Mullingar as part of the Irish Photographic Federation (IPF) National Club Championships

"We take new members in over a weekend and go through the basics with them," said Joe. The club are always open to people who

would like to become a member. "The exhibition will be an opportunity for good footfall," added Joe.

Teacher Jessica to go abroad for volunteer stint in Philippines

Community college teacher will facilitate lessons in English, crafts, drama and health

By Aideen O'Flaherty
aideen@echo.ie

A KINGSWOOD Community College teacher is preparing to volunteer in a school in the Philippines for four weeks this summer and is appealing to the community to donate to her fundraiser.

Jessica Lynch, 28, is a Firhouse native and teaches Irish and geography in Kingswood Community College. She will be volunteering in a school in the Filipino city of Cebu for the entirety of July.

The school is a combined secondary and primary school which serves the local Badjao tribe and in recent weeks, Jessica's students in Kingswood made projects about the tribe.

Jessica told *The Echo*: "In geography, we study economic inequality, and we've taught them about global citizenship.

"I've always wanted to go abroad and use my skills and experience – volunteering means I won't only be talking to the students about something we read in a book, I'll have first-hand

experience.

"The students recently did case studies and projects on the Badjao tribe, and they did a comparison of students here in Tallaght to ones in the Philippines to see the differences."

Preparations are now underway for Jessica's stint in the Philippines, as she has been taking part in pre-departure training led by the charity she is going with, SERVE in Solidarity.

She will be part of a team of 11 other Irish volunteers who will be in the school for July, and she will facilitate English lessons, and crafts, drama and health workshops for the children in Cebu.

"We're so lucky here in Ireland," added Jessica. "We have access to education, and a right to education."

Jessica has set up a GoFundMe to raise funds for SERVE to go towards the project, covering things like flights, accommodation, pre-departure training, and resources and initiatives in Cebu.

Donations are now being accepted on Jessica's donation page called 'Support Jessica SERVEing the Philippines', at

www.gofundme.com/f/support-jessica-serveing-in-the-philippines.



LUCKY: Jessica Lynch, all set to help out in the Philippines

“I’ve always wanted to go abroad and use my skills and experience – volunteering means I won’t only be talking to the students about something we read in a book, I’ll have first-hand experience

‘Disconnected’ project gives win for Kingswood



TOPS: Sol Stuart, Colm Prole and Filip Bochenek from Kingswood Community College. Photo by Mark Stedman

TRÓCAIRE announced the winning entrants for their documentary film-making programme "The Right Focus".

The initiative saw innovative entries from young people in Post Primary schools and Youth Groups around Ireland exploring global justice issues through the lens of short documentary films.

Students Sol Stuart, Colm Prole and Filip Bochenek, from Kingswood Community College, came third with their documentary 'Disconnected'.

The competition received a phenomenal number of entries of short films – designed to bring injustices to the front and centre of people's minds, to hopefully inspire them to take action and make a difference – with 12 short films making it through to the finals in Dublin's Light House Cinema. Showcasing a passion for telling stories and highlighting important issues such as War and Conflict, Climate Change, Business and Human Rights, Gender Equality and Refugees.

Social Democrats

Cllr. Eoin Ó BROIN **Lynn TIERNEY**

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ACHT NA MBÓITHRE, 1993, ALT 75 DÚNADH SEALADACH BEARTAITHE AR BHÓTHAR BHUAILE NA SCORNAÍ ÍOCHTARACH, CONTAE BHAILE ÁTHA CLIATH

Ar chúiseanna nach raibh súil leo, ní dheachthas ar aghaidh leis an Dúnadh Bóthair Sealadach ar Bhóthar Bhuaille na Scornaí Íochtarach, a bhí beartaithe ón 2 go dtí an 6 Aibreán. Chun éascaíocht a dhéanamh do GMC Ireland Utilities thar ceann Uisce Éireann agus iad ag suiteáil príomhphíobán uisce nua ar thaobh Dhroichead Bhóthar na Bruíne, tá sé beartaithe ag Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas an Bóthar seo a leanas a dhúnadh go sealadach:

Ainm an Bhóthair: Bóthar Bhuaille na Scornaí Íochtarach (ó 100 méadar ó thuaidh ó Dhroichead Bhóthar na Bruíne go 100 méadar ó dheas ó Dhroichead Bhóthar na Bruíne).

Ón: Luan 1 Iúil 2024.

Go dtí an: Domhnach 7 Iúil 2024.

Am an Dúnta: 24 Uair in aghaidh an Lae.

Malairt Slí: L7377, N81, R136 Bóthar Theach na Giúise Thiar.

Fad na Malairte Slí: 9.2 KM.

Coinneofar rochtain áitiúil ar bun ach beidh cosc ar rochtain trasna Dhroichead Bhóthar na Bruíne.

Féadfaidh duine ar bith a bhfuil spéis aige ann barúil/aighneacht i scríbhinn a chur faoi bhráid an Oifigigh Feidhmiúcháin Shinsearaigh, Úsáid Talún, Pleanáil agus Iompar, Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas, Halla an Chontae, Tamhlacht, Baile Átha Cliath 24 nó le ríomhphost chuig seoroads@sdublincoco.ie tráth nach déanaí ná 5.00 p.m. Dé Luain, an 27 Bealtaine 2024.

ROADS ACT 1993, SECTION 75 PROPOSED TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF BALLINASCORNEY ROAD LOWER, COUNTY DUBLIN

Due to unforeseen circumstances the Temporary Road Closure of Ballinascorney Road, Lower, scheduled for the 2nd to the 6th of April did not proceed. To facilitate GMC Ireland Utilities on behalf of Uisce Éireann, install a new water main on the side of Fort Bridge, South Dublin County Council now propose to temporarily close the following Road:

Road Name: Ballinascorney Road Lower (from 100 metres north of Fort Bridge to 100 metres south of Fort Bridge).

From: Monday 1st July 2024.

To: Sunday 7th July 2024.

Time of Closure: 24 Hours Daily.

Detour Route: L7377, N81, R136 Firhouse Road West.

Detour Length: 9.2 KM.

Local access will be maintained, however access across Fort Bridge will be prohibited.

Any person interested may lodge an observation/submission in writing to the Senior Executive Officer, Land Use, Planning and Transportation, South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Tallaght, Dublin 24 or by email to seoroads@sdublincoco.ie not later than 5.00 p.m. on Monday, 27th May 2024.

Web: www.sdcc.ie



Families fearful after threat of home closure

Many Lucan Lodge residents are extremely vulnerable

By Maurice Garvey

maurice@echo.ie

FAMILIES of residents in a nursing home were devastated this week to learn that it is due to close within the next three months, leaving many fearful for the lives of their loved ones, most of whom are extremely vulnerable and have dementia.

Lucan Lodge Nursing Home informed families on Friday that an examinership process had not been successful.

The HSE took interim charge of the nursing home on Friday morning May 17.

In February, Lucan Lodge was among several providers listed by the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) as non-compliant over fire safety procedures.

It followed news of the imminent closure of Sally Park Nursing Home in Firhouse, operated by the same provider Passage Healthcare.

In a statement to *The Echo* on Monday, the operators of Lucan Lodge said: Due to circumstances beyond the control of the Directors of Passage Healthcare International Ireland Ltd, the examinership process that was entered into on February 22 has irretrievably broken down. A liquidation process has commenced. Passage Healthcare International Ire Ltd has voluntarily agreed to the cancellation of the registration of the company with HIQA and the HSE has taken interim charge of the nursing home.

"The Directors of Passage Healthcare will work in a supportive role to the HSE to ensure the safety and well-being of the residents of Lucan Lodge, and support residents and their families to find alternative long-term placements in suitable settings for all residents of the nursing home. This is a very difficult time for all concerned and the welfare of our residents and staff are our utmost priority."

Lucan resident Carol Palmer said her mother-in-law Theresa Maguire (78), who has dementia, was "very happy" at Lucan



IN CHARGE: Lucan Lodge Nursing home is now in the charge of the HSE

Lodge, where they found a place for her after her husband Des died last October and where they thought she would be "happy for the rest of her days."

"The residents we know there were very happy. The staff are so helpful and caring. They treat her like family, there is good interaction, but she is basically being evicted from her home," said Carol.

Carol said residents and families are devastated by the news.

"Theresa's circumstances are such that she is unable to live alone and Lucan Lodge is now the place that she calls home and a place where she and the other residents feel safe and secure.

"The residents are extremely vulnerable and are living out the last chapters of their life in a safe environment. Many of the residents suffer with dementia and their daily routines and environment helps them to cope with their illness. The upheaval of moving to another nursing home for the residents will have a devastating effect on them," said Carol.

When Theresa required nursing

home care last year, Carol said they were advised by all nursing homes in South Dublin that they were full, and that this bombshell presents an incredibly difficult situation for all families involved.

"There was no bed to be found. We cannot see how 71 new beds are going to be located, said Carol, who along with other families, has expressed a desire for the HSE to take over the running of Lucan Lodge and for help from local politicians.

Speaking to the Joe Duffy on RTE's Liveline on Tuesday, Bernadette Menton, said her mother Olive's mental wellbeing improved dramatically after she became a resident in Lucan Lodge, following the death of her husband.

"On Saturday she said she didn't want to go anywhere else, she wants to stay here, you'll have to just end my life. My mum is 84 and to hear your mum saying something like that is heartbreaking," said Bernadette.

"I understand there are issues in the nursing home, but we are pleading that it can be rectified and residents can stay, because the staff are fantastic and she has

made such good friends with residents and staff."

Families fear that their parents might not survive a move at this vulnerable stage in their life, if they are able to even secure another place in a nursing home.

A spokesperson for the HSE told *The Echo*: "HSE Dublin South, Kildare & West Wicklow Community Healthcare was notified on Thursday, May 16, 2024 by HIQA that it had cancelled the registration of Lucan Lodge Nursing Home as an approved residential care provider. In accordance with its statutory role, the HSE took interim charge of the nursing home from 10am on Friday, May 17, 2024.

"The HSE will support residents and their families to put in place appropriate arrangements to ensure alternative placements in suitable settings for all residents of the nursing home.

We wish to assure everyone that the focus at this time is ensuring the welfare of the 70 residents at this private nursing home during this difficult time for the residents, their families and staff."

Call for 'serious consideration' to be given for all-weather pitch

AN ALL-WEATHER pitch in Ballyfermot would mitigate against cancellations caused by bad weather and provide opportunities for kids to play throughout the year, according to Cllr Vincent Jackson (Ind), reports Maurice Garvey.

Jackson believes there is space in Ballyfermot that is not zoned for housing that would be suitable for an all-weather pitch, noting the difficulties his own kids have had with pitch cancellations.

"I have two sons who play and twice since Christmas the pitches were unplayable. This is a feature of climate change, this weather is

with us to stay," said Jackson.

Although there are all-weather pitches at the Ballyfermot Leisure Centre Jackson says none of them are the appropriate size for "championship"-type matches.

"If we are to be providing opportunities to kids to play, I know we still have a lot of open space like in California Hills."

At the recent South Central area committee meeting, Jackson called for "serious consideration" to be given to providing funding to develop a full-size all-weather football pitch in the Ballyfermot area.

Speaking at the meeting he said that due to change in weather patterns it's no longer possible to depend on using public football pitches in the winter/spring months.

"The current facilities at the Ballyfermot Leisure Centre provide space for training only and are not sufficiently large to allow regulation games take place. Opportunities for funding are available from Lottery funding etc."

Cllr Jackson also called for future big buildings to be in "municipal ownership" to allow all groups a chance to use the facilities equally.

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The Echo – Telling the whole story

Mother to run her 20th VHI Mini Marathon



PRAISE: Liz and Claudia – trying to keep going

A DUBLIN mum is set to run her 20th VHI Women's Mini Marathon for the national charity which helps her daughter battle an horrific skin disease.

Liz Collins, 56, has completed the 10km run every June bank holiday since the birth of her daughter Claudia Scanlon, who lives with a severe form of epidermolysis bullosa (EB).

Also known as Butterfly Skin, the genetic skin disease leaves 80 per cent of her body covered in open wounds.

"When I had Claudia, I didn't know if I'd have 20 months with her, never mind 20 years, but she's still here," said Liz, who lives in Terenure.

"There's a finely tuned team working for Debra (the charity helping 300 people living in Ireland with EB) now, but when Claudia was born, it was a really small charity."

In 2004, Liz decided to run the mini-marathon to raise awareness for Debra and hasn't missed a year since, even completing solo runs during Covid restrictions.

Donations to her 20th mini-marathon for the charity can be made at: <https://www.idonate.ie/fundraiser/ElizabethCollins93112>.

"I grew up in the inner city, so running through Dublin feels very special, and I find the buzz of women running for important causes, from cancer to rare diseases, very empowering," she said.

"I've arthritic knees but I don't want to give up – I feel Claudia pushing me to keep going because that's what she has to do."

A member of the G-Force Community Gym running club, Street Force, in Drimnagh, Liz will collect her 20th medal on June 2.

She said that running has helped her mental health over the last two decades, a side of EB that can affect the whole family but is often overlooked.

"Being a part of a running community has been the greatest therapy that anyone could give to me.

"As a carer, you get a lot of praise but I'm not a machine, I'm just trying to keep my head above water every single day.

"I'm a mother, a wife, I'm holding a job down and then I'm involved in dressing changes, ordering bandages and medications, hospital visits – it's overwhelming.

"But if Claudia didn't have EB, I wouldn't have been exposed to the goodness of people through Debra and I definitely wouldn't be doing my 20th mini-marathon.

"In a roundabout way, these are the gifts that she's brought."

Last year, Claudia completed a make-up artistry course in Blackrock and is hoping to find work in the area.

"Unfortunately, it's been difficult for Claudia to find work but we're hoping in the future there will be some work coming to her," said Liz.

"We take for granted there's a natural progression in life but she's had so many roadblocks that those rites of passage haven't come so easily to her.

"She's a very talented artist, so we're full of hope for her next chapter and see every chapter as a blessing."

Support Liz's run for Debra at: <https://www.idonate.ie/fundraiser/ElizabethCollins93112>.

To learn more about Debra, visit debra.ie.

“ I'm a mother, a wife, I'm holding a job down and then I'm involved in dressing changes, ordering bandages and medications, hospital visits – it's overwhelming. But if Claudia didn't have EB, I wouldn't have been exposed to the goodness of people through Debra and I definitely wouldn't be doing my 20th mini-marathon

Battling cancer with help of drug trials

Cancer patient shares her experience

By Aideen O'Flaherty
aideen@echo.ie

A TALLAGHT cancer patient who is currently taking part in a drug trial has shared her experience to mark International Clinical Trials Day (May 20).

Kiltipper woman Sandra Whelan was diagnosed with cancer in late December 2019, after she was admitted to Tallaght University Hospital (TUH) when she passed blood in her urine.

After undergoing various tests and scans, doctors discovered that Sandra had two tumours on her kidneys and was suffering from an aggressive form of renal cancer.

The urology team in TUH under surgeon Mr Robert Flynn decided that it was best to remove Sandra's entire left kidney and she had that surgery in January 2020.

Doctors continued to monitor Sandra's right kidney without incident until 2022, when they spotted that the tumour on that kidney was starting to grow.

They then decided to remove a third of her right kidney, where the tumour was located, and afterwards urologist Mr Arun Thomas told Sandra she might be a good candidate for a drug trial.

The trial would offer her the

opportunity to have further treatment with drugs which inhibit the growth of any new cancer.

These are described as being SACT (Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy), a term which covers all anti-cancer drugs.

Oncologists describe a drug trial like the one offered to Sandra as an insurance policy and the aim is to prevent the cancer from returning, according to a TUH spokesperson.

Sandra decided to take part in a double-blind, randomised trial to compare the efficacy and safety of a daily tablet called Belzutifan, and Pembrolizumab intravenously every six weeks.

This was to be administered versus a placebo plus Pembrolizumab in the treatment of clear cell renal cancer.

So all the patients in this trial will get Pembrolizumab, but they are not sure who gets Belzutifan or the placebo.

Una Murtagh, a clinical nurse manager in the Cancer Trials Unit who has been caring for Sandra, shared the aim of the trial.

"This study aims to compare disease-free survival for patients treated with Belzutifan plus Pembrolizumab versus the placebo plus Pembrolizumab," she said.

"We want to see if this drug is superior. As well as comparing the safety and tolerability of these drugs, the trial is also looking at overall survival rate, so we follow up with patients for years."

“ It was great to be selected for the drug trial and I feel very lucky to be part of it and to be getting further treatment. Everyone in the Cancer Clinical Trial Unit is just so good, right down to making sure you have a cup of tea, while you are waiting for treatment



Sandra Whelan

es in taking part in randomised double-blind trial

The Belzutifan was given in tablet form to Sandra, but recently the dosage was reduced after her haemoglobin count dropped and she experienced fatigue and “jelly legs.”

Trials for new drugs have very strict guidelines, and if side effects are present that could be potentially related to the new drug, the dose is reduced.

Una added: “Sandra continues to be disease-free with no recurrence of cancer. This is definitely a positive outcome.

“While there have been challenges along the way, the absence of cancer recurrence is indeed a significant milestone.”

Recounting her own experience, Sandra said: “It was great to be selected for the drug trial and I feel very lucky to be part of it and to be getting further treatment.

“Everyone in the Cancer Clinical Trial Unit is just so good, right down to making sure you have a cup of tea, while you are waiting for treatment.

“I can get in touch with them anytime, they have just been 100 per cent behind me.”

Sandra would not have had access to this drug in Ireland without being part of the Clinical Trial at TUH.

Over 100 patients are currently taking part in Clinical Cancer Trials at the hospital exploring new treatments for bladder, prostate, pancreatic and renal cancer.



SUPPORT: Members of the team in Tallaght University Hospital

Date delayed for Lucan pool opening



PROBLEMS: An artist's impression of the Lucan Swimming pool

THE completion date for Lucan Swimming Pool has been delayed further, reports Stephen Farrell.

That is what Mr Colm Ward, the Chief Executive told councillors at last week's full council meeting.

“It may be very late in June or early July that is our best estimate of when the works might be complete,” he said.

According to Mr Ward the contractor maintains that the project will be finished by the second week in June, which according to the Chief Executive is not practicable.

“It's apparent from our site visits that that's not the case, the level of staff and contractors on site is not sufficient to deliver within that time frame,” he said.

Mr Ward said that the council would continue to support the contractor.

“Our architect's department are continuing to push for an increased presence, but there is obviously difficulties in terms of cash flow and contractors and everything else that the contractor is trying to manage,” said Mr Ward.

Councillor Gogarty (Ind) believed Lucan swimming pool may be opened in September. Cllr Gogarty also queried in relation to pricing whether Aura can assist, why there was no subvention from the Council and why a not-for-profit company did not apply for tender in the first place.

Councillor Derren Ó Brádaigh

(SF) also queried whether there had been any development regarding talking to Aura in relation to reassessing the price lists.

Mr Ward said that there has been engagement with Aura on the pricing and that there will continue to be engagement.

He further said that the tender process did result in some subvention in cost by the Council.

Mr Ward also addressed the issue of why a not-for-profit company did not apply for the tender. “I think . . . South County Dublin Leisure Services (SCDLS), the company, was in a period of retrenchment and I don't think they were in a position to compete for the tender at the time,” he said.

He added that SCDLS instead focused on a different path. “They've flourished in the path they've taken in focusing on less facilities to allow them to grow and I'm sure when the tender comes up again, they'll be in a position to compete for that,” he said.

The long-awaited swimming pool for Lucan has been adversely affected by delays over a considerable length of time. In 2019 South Dublin County Council (SDCC) said that the development would be funded by a grant of €3.8 million from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport and that SDCC would also contribute €9.8 million to the capital cost.

“It's apparent from our site visits that that's not the case, the level of staff and contractors on site is not sufficient to deliver within that time frame. Our architect's department are continuing to push for an increased presence, but there is obviously difficulties in terms of cash flow and contractors and everything else . . .”

No decision yet on future of post office

Petition of 2,000 signatures was delivered opposing the changes

By Aideen O'Flaherty
aideen@echo.ie

AN POST will make a decision regarding the contract for operating the post office in The Square, Tallaght, within the next three weeks, according to a local TD.

People Before Profit TD Paul Murphy said he, along with other campaigners opposed to the privatisation of the post office in Tallaght, spoke to An Post officials at the GPO last Friday.

They went to the GPO to deliver a petition with almost 2,000 signatures in opposition to the post office being contracted out to a postmaster instead of being directly run by An Post.

The campaigners were informed that the awarding of the contract for running the post office branch in The Square would be decided within three weeks, according to a press release issued by Deputy Murphy.

He said: "I have spoken to thousands of people in Tallaght about An Post's plans to privatise Tallaght Post Office and move it from its current location in The Square.



"There is universal local opposition. Local people and post office workers know they will both lose out if it goes ahead.

"There is still time for An Post to listen to the community and listen to workers and reverse this decision.

"The people of Tallaght need

more and better public services, not privatisation and cutbacks."

The Echo contacted a spokesperson for An Post for confirmation, but a response wasn't received from them at the time of print.

As previously reported in this newspaper, staff of the post office were informed of plans to

redeploy the staff in the An Post network or they could seek employment with the new postmaster.

However, if they sought employment with the new postmaster, they would no longer be An Post employees which could affect their pension entitlements when they retire.

Attempts to ascertain whether the post office will stay in its current location or move elsewhere in the area have been unsuccessful.

The most recent update on that occurred last March, when an An Post spokesperson said it was "too early to say" if the location would change.

Grants of €66k given to 38 groups

THIRTY-eight Community and Sports Development grants totalling almost €66,000 have been approved for 38 local groups.

This is what the council informed councillors at last week's full council meeting.

Of the 38 grants, sixteen were Community Development Grants and cost almost €26,000. There were three Community Events Funding grants which came to almost €3,000 and there were 19 Sports Development Grants which came to over €37,000.

Elaine Leech, director of Housing, Social and Community, presented the details of the grants to the councillors.

Amongst the top recipients of grants were Adamstown Cricket Club and Marks Celtic Football Club who both received Sports Development grants of €6,000 for equipment.

An Garda Síochána also received €500 under the Sports Development Grants.

"That grant is in respect of a basketball event that they are arranging for the local community," said Ms Leech, responding to a query from Councillor Eoin O Broin (Soc Dems).

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Bluebell allotment removal temporary

ALLOTMENTS in Bluebell were removed as they were temporary but public demand will see the facility return within the next couple of years, according to Dublin City Council.

Speaking at the South Central area meeting, Bruce Philips, Assistant Area Manager DCC, said the Bluebell allotments “were never intended to be a permanent facility like a lot of our allotments.”

“The reality is due to local use of the allotments, they depend on them, they are an important part of their lives. I accept we would like to replace these. As far as I am aware we don’t have any land identified.”

Mr Philips encouraged elected members to notify the council if they were aware of any suitable locations for an allotment.

Following on from this at the meeting, Alan Sherry, Senior Executive Officer DCC said he was more than hopeful that allotments will return to the area.

“We are in good shape in terms of replacing the allotments. However, there will be a period where we temporarily won’t have allotments, but it won’t be four years.”

“I think the more likely timeframe will be two years.”

DCC provide a number of managed allotments and licensed community gardens – applications must be made if anyone wishes to be on the list for a space.

South Central area spaces include Grattan Crescent, Inchicore, Chapelizod Allotments, and Cherry Orchard Green.

The city council also have a space for eight allotments at Blarney Park in Kimmage, but their listing states there is “no chance of availability for a number of years” at Blarney Park.

Charlie steps down after decades of public service

Councillor O’Connor recalls how he came back into local politics at a difficult time

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

OUTGOING councillor Charlie O’Connor, who steps down as an elected representative in June following decades of service, feels politics has become “more difficult” in the current environment.

During the monthly South Dublin County Council meeting last week, Cllr O’Connor (FF) also quipped about the “creative tensions” he shared with party colleague Conor Lenihan, and that he only fell out with one county manager (who remained nameless) during his time in the chamber.

O’Connor (78) was first elected in 1991 and along with Cllr Guss O’Connell, who also retires later in June, the pair are the only remaining sitting elected members from the first ever SDCC meeting in 1994.

The Tallaght politician was also elected as a TD from 2002 to 2011.

Speaking at the meeting, O’Connor also recalled how he came back into local politics at the council in 2014 during a “difficult time for me.”

“I’ve never been afraid to talk about my story . . . it’s very much a part of me

Tragically, his son Robert (35) died that year.

“I’ve never been afraid to talk about my story because it is very much a part of me and I valued the fact that I came back to the council and people welcomed me so well. It was still good for me on a personal level to come back to the council where I had been happier previously.”

O’Connor also held praise for former county manager Frank Kavanagh, who provided him with the motivation to get back on his feet when he suffered a heart attack and was recuperating in bed at his sister’s house in Lucan.

“I think it was the November 5, 1999, when the council gathered to bring Shamrock Rovers to Tallaght and I always remember Frank Kavanagh said to me at the time ‘if you don’t get out of bed . . . and come back to chair that meeting, whatever is left of your political career will be gone.’”

Ahead of the Local Elections, O’Connor wished members in the chamber good luck while noting “not all will come back.”

“Politics has become even more difficult. There was a time when you could easily knock on doors and easily walk around and that is changing. That’s unfortunate.

“When national politicians come out to our area and are picketed and abused, that’s all wrong because its flying in the face of democracy.”



CREATIVE TENSIONS: Cllr Charlie O’Connor with Colm Ward (CEO of South Dublin County Council) and Mayor Alan Edge at last week’s final monthly meeting of this term

Open invitation to march in Corpus Christi event

Boys and girls are invited to walk in procession in Holy Communion outfits

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

MEMBERS of the communities of Springfield, Brookfield, Fettercairn and Jobstown are invited to take part in a Corpus Christi procession encompassing the four local churches next Sunday, June 2.

The event will begin at St Thomas’s Church in Jobstown at 10.30am and will then carry on to St Aidan’s Church in Brookfield and the Church of the Incarnation, Fettercairn.

There will be prayers and a Benediction offered at each church, and the procession will conclude with a Mass in St Mark’s Church in Springfield at 13.20pm to mark the occasion.

Parish priest Fr Bill O’Shaughnessy said: “I’m inviting all of you to walk with me, with Jesus, on June 2.

“And those who may not be part of the parish boundaries, please feel free to come and join us, because the more the merrier.

“I want to invite, in particular, boys and girls who made their Holy Communion [in the parish] and those who are going to make their Confirmation in the next week-and-a-half to join us.

“Wear your Communion dresses and suits that you wore for your First Holy Communion and Confirmation, be vibrant, show the world that yes, you’re followers of Jesus, even in the modern world.”

For more information, visit the Parishes of Springfield, Brookfield and Jobstown Facebook page.



WALK WITH ME: Fr Bill O’Shaughnessy invites all

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Tallaght South tops the list of vacant council houses with 16 of 32 available to be re-let

TALLAGHT South has the largest number of vacant council houses and the largest amount of such houses ready to be re-let in South Dublin, reports Stephen Farrell.

This is what the council informed councillors at last week's full council meeting.

Tallaght South has 32 vacant houses, with 16 of those ready to be re-let.

Palmerstown-Fonthill with 19 houses has the next largest number of vacant council houses – nine are ready to be re-let.

Clondalkin has 11 vacant houses, five of which are ready to be re-let while Tallaght Central has eight vacant houses, with six ready to be re-let. Lucan has six vacant houses, five of which are ready to be re-let.

Firhouse-Bohernabreena has three

vacant houses, with two ready to be re-let and Rathfarnham-Templeogue has just one vacant, which is not ready to be re-let.

The council engages five re-let repair contractors who, together with the council's direct labour crews, work to bring vacant properties up to standard for allocation in the shortest possible timeframe, the council informed councillors.

To date 56 properties have been allocated in 2024 with an average turnaround time of 20.48 weeks.

The council's housing maintenance team continues to work closely with the housing allocations and estate management teams to increase efficiencies with the objective of reducing turnaround times to a maximum of 16-20 weeks, the council continued.

Youth service remembers Davy

Davy Lynch was a former board member and minibus driver for Ballyfermot Youth Service

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

TRIBUTES were paid this week to former Ballyfermot Youth Service (BYS) board member and minibus driver David (Davy) Lynch, who died on May 19.

Mr Lynch, an Elmdale Crescent resident and former Galco Steel worker, was fondly remembered for his work with youths in the community.

A social media post by BYS paid condolences to the family of Mr Lynch who died after long illness.

"Davy was a former member of our board of

“Davy drove our minibus and took young people all over Ireland and Europe. He always had a kind word for everyone

management but also, more important, he was a friend to all the young people in BYS. Davy drove our minibus and took young people all over Ireland and Europe. He was extremely generous with his time and always had a kind word for everyone. He will be missed, Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam," said BYS.

Residents paid tribute to Mr Lynch online, recalling a "great gentleman" and a "one of a kind" who was a "great friend to all."

A message on RIP.ie said: Mr Lynch passed away peacefully on May 19 in the care of the staff in Cherry Orchard Hospital, Beech unit.

"Beloved husband of Deidre and loving Dad of Gillian and Aaron, sadly missed by his wife, son, daughter, granddaughter Pearl, brothers Maurice and Terry, sister Trudy, daughter-in-law Shauna, extended family and many friends.

A funeral service took place on Wednesday, May 22, at St Matthew's Church, Ballyfermot.



GENEROUS: Davy Lynch (front), with Ballyfermot Youth Service

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Environmentalism awards



IMPACT: Receiving their award at the Young Environmentalist Awards Ceremony were young people from St MacDara's Community College, Templeogue

FIVE groups of young people from Dublin claimed prizes at this year's ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards (YEA) 2024. Over 1,000 people attended the awards showcase and finals, which took place at the Royal Convention Centre.

The groups were from four schools in Dublin and were among 26 eco-projects to receive awards at this year's competition. They included: 'SDG Courtyard Project', St MacDara's Community College, was the winner in the Local to Global category. These young people, sought to improve the level of awareness and action, by students and staff, on preserving biodiversity in their school and greater community.

The awards recognise the work of young people who are tackling key issues in relation to climate and biodiversity loss, taking environmental action in their school or

community and coming up with creative solutions to solve environmental issues.

Now in its 25th year, the YEA programme has reached people in every county of Ireland, with a total of over 65,000 young people participating and 6,000 projects entered down through the years.

Commenting on the awards, Elaine Nevin, National Director, ECO-UNESCO said: "Since the Young Environmentalist Awards began 25 years ago, we've seen the programme go from strength to strength each year.

"I'm so impressed by the number of projects and the high standard this year from students in Dublin and across Ireland. Our young people are the heart of the YEA programme, using their passion, creativity and dedication to make a lasting impact on their communities".

Students ecstatic after picking up rowing medals

School rowing club reflect on its success

THE rowing club from St Aidan's Community School in Brookfield, Tallaght, were presented with medals on Wednesday after winning rowing competitions in 2023 and this year, reports *Aideen O'Flaherty*.

The club also received new uniforms on the day, and it gave the school community the opportunity to reflect on the club's success since it began in 2022.

It was formed as part of an initiative by Rowing Ireland and Active South Dublin called 'Get Going, Get Rowing', and throughout 2022 and 2023 every student in the school got a chance to row.

Martina O'Neill, a rowing coordinator and PE teacher in St Aidan's, told *The Echo*: "There were rowing sessions for every PE class, every lunch time.

"Every student in every programme in the school, from every background, with every level of ability got involved.

"Posters were put up for students to log their own rowing times. Some students rowed for the full hour and would only stop when the school bell went off!

"Competition was rife, the interest was huge, it all really exploded.

"This inclusive sport had given everyone equal opportunity; the repetition of rowing had also really helped to balance and regulate emotions and settle students.

"Most of all, students were smiling and keeping fit – it was all win-win."

The pupils shared their enjoyment of rowing, with first year student Caitlin Kearney saying: "Rowing takes my mind off things and makes me happy.

"It is fun and I've found something I know I am really good at."

Darragh Ruth Harrison, a second year student, remarked: "I love the thrill of being in the boat with my mates rowing on the water."

While students' enjoyment of rowing was evident, it then developed into a strong skill for many who fared well at a competitive level against other rowing clubs when representing St Aidan's.

"The big end-of-year Grand Canal Dock Regatta arrived last May 2023, and St Aidan's CS Rowing Team won a total of 24 medals.

"We came top three in all our races: all the training paid off, the students were ecstatic and we as a school were very proud.

"This May 2024 was again the end-of-year Grand Canal Dock competition and after training since October, we chose 28 students to represent us.

"We entered 11 races in total, again coming top three in all our races, winning a total of 44 medals: 20 gold, 20 silver and four bronze.

"The interest in rowing in our school is huge. We have approximately 60 students on the Rowing Teams from 1st to 6th year.

"Our TY year students will be learning to coach rowing in October and will then go out and help to coach students in other schools, not just in St Aidan's Community School."

Ms O'Neill said she wanted to thank the students for their dedication to the sport, and also Rowing Ireland, Active South Dublin, the principal and deputy principal of St Aidan's, Kevin Shortall and Una Moloney, and assistant coach Paula Davis.



ROW ROW ROW TOUR BOAT: St Aidan's CS students with principal Kevin Shortall and Paul Crone director of the NAPD and John Cahill CEO of EMS their sponsor on Wednesday

Is ionann salachar madraí agus bruscar, áit ar bith, am ar bith – ná déan dearmad...

Pioc Suas i gCóna

Cuir i mála!
Cuir sa bha bruscair!
e

Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas South Dublin County Council

For more info visit www.sdcc.ie

Susan, did you view Echo.ie in 2023?

We think you're

One in a Million!

Actually you're one in 2,383,955

Page Views

2,383,955

Users

993,135

Top Story

15,000 Views

Top Video

112,900 Views



Sessions

1,581,054

Best Reach

153,000

Link Clicks

3,200

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Dementia Friendly Inclusive Community Pilot scheme

A NEW Dementia Friendly Inclusive Community Pilot scheme was launched in Ballyroan Library last week.

The Dementia Friendly Community pilot seeks to promote awareness of the illness and its impacts on family members.

The Pilot will include staff training for local businesses, online webinars, community events and social activities.

Criofan Shannon from Life Pharmacy, Ballyroan and Julie Green from the Alzheimer Society of Ireland spoke passionately in relation to the scheme and its likely impact on the

community.

Speaking at the launch, Elaine Leech, Acting Director of Housing Social and Community Development in South Dublin County Council said: "The number of people being diagnosed with dementia is increasing year on year and I, like so many of us here today will have people we love who will be affected by this condition during our lifetime. That's why the Dementia: Understand Together campaign is working towards building dementia inclusive communities."



WORKING TOGETHER: Criofan Shannon (Life Pharmacy Ballyroan), Deputy Mayor Cllr Yvonne Collins, Julie Greene (Alzheimer's Association of Ireland) and Cllr Ronan McMahon are joined by the Community Development staff from SDCC at the launch of the Dementia Friendly Community Pilot scheme

New 'Heart of Gold' campaign for family carers

A DEVOTED mother-of-four from Walkinstown is lending her support to the 'Heart of Gold' Family Carers national fundraising campaign which takes place on June 13, reports William O'Connor.

Rosemary Kratschmar alongside her husband Siegi and daughter Stephanie, care for their son Sammy, who lives with Down Syndrome, hearing loss, epilepsy, sleep apnoea, and ADD.

Over the years, Rosemary has tirelessly fought to secure proper medical care, supports, and services for Sammy.

Reflecting on the support needs for families like hers, Rosemary shared a heartfelt message: "It truly does take a village to raise a child, and that couldn't be more true for a child with special needs. The journey is long and sometimes lonely, and no one should have to navigate it alone."

"Having the support of the community and services like those provided by Family Carers Ireland not only helps us care for Sammy with love and dignity, but also reminds us that we are part of a larger family that understands and shares in our challenges and triumphs. This is why every bit of support from the 'Heart of Gold' campaign is so vital—it helps sustain not just the practical assistance we rely on, but also the community that lifts us up every day."

Eileen Aherne, National Fundraising Manager for Family Carers Ireland said "Our 'Heart of Gold' campaign is vital, shedding light on the unwavering commitment of the hundreds of thousands of family carers across Ireland who provide indispensable care to their loved ones every day. Funds raised throughout the month of June will directly support vital services, such as

our National Freephone Careline, counselling, respite care, and local drop-in centres. Additionally, the campaign will help provide peer support groups, training sessions, and carers' forums, which help to ease the isolation often felt by family carers. These services go beyond mere support; they are lifelines for those selflessly committed to caring for others."

Family Carers Ireland, the national charity dedicated to supporting family carers, 'Heart of Gold' national fundraising campaign takes place on Thursday, June 13 and coincides with National Carers Week from June 8 to 14.

This fundraising campaign aims to urgently raise vital funds for the organisation's critical supports and services while also raising awareness about the challenges faced by family carers throughout the country.



CAMPAIGN: At the launch are family carer Rosemary Kratschmar and her son Sammy
Photo by Mark Stedman



Comhairle Contae
Átha Cliath Theas
South Dublin County Council

South Dublin Age Friendly

EXPO

2024

Age Friendly Expo for the 55+.
A showcase of services and products available to older people in South Dublin.



Age Friendly
SOUTH DUBLIN

Guest Speakers on the day will include:

Professor Rónán Collins,
Tallaght University Hospital
- *Recovering from a Stroke* @11.30am

Sergeant Ciaran McLoughlin
- *Crime Prevention* @12.15pm

Mary Gillan & Paula Swayne
- *Age Friendly Healthy Homes* @1pm

Dr Aileen Kennedy,
Tallaght University Hospital
- *Nutrition for Healthy Ageing* @2pm

 **County Hall,**
South Dublin
County Council,
Tallaght, D24YNN5

 **Saturday**
25th May 2024

 **11am - 3pm**

Free event.

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



Holly and Ivy are not just for Christmas-time



FLITTERING: Female Holly Blue butterflies have darker wing tips than the male

THE evergreen plants Holly and Ivy have a strong association with Christmas.

In that season of the year, we see them mostly as decoration in our houses or on Christmas cards.

Throughout the rest of the year, however, both plants are important in the life cycle of many different insects, birds, and spiders. One such special relationship occurs with the lovely Holly Blue butterfly.

In April and May, the Holly Blue is noticeable as it flutters along hedgerows and in gardens and parks. While the upper wings of the male and female are a very light shade of blue, the females have darker tips to their front wings.

Underneath, both are a silvery white colour with scattered black dots.

Adult Holly Blues sip nectar from hedgerow flowers, including Blackberry. They will also feed on the sticky honeydew left behind by greenfly and aphids on plants and leaves.

Females lay their eggs in late spring, seeking out

the flowers and the developing berries of Holly.”

The eggs hatch into larvae that look more like slugs than caterpillars, and these begin feeding on the green berries. They can also feed on the soft new leaves of Holly if there are not many berries available. When mature, these larvae pupate, and by late summer they emerge as new adult Holly Blue butterflies.

When these new adults mate, the females lay their eggs for the second generation in that year.

This time, however, eggs are laid not on Holly but on Ivy. Ivy produces its flowers at the end of summer and its berries develop over autumn. This is perfect timing for Holly Blue's larvae which prefer to eat green developing berries.

The larvae continue to feed on Ivy's green berries throughout autumn, until colder weather triggers them to hibernate as pupae over the winter.”

In the following spring, the new adult Holly Blue butterflies emerge, and the pattern of switching between Holly and Ivy begins all over again.



BEAUTY: Underneath their wings, Holly Blues are silvery-white with scattered black dots

STALWARTS: Motorcycle run had fantastic support



Cruising from Light raises €10,000

Over 300 bikers took part in event

By Aideen O'Flaherty
aideen@echo.ie

A CHARITY motorcycle event led by a Tallaght man raised over €10,000 for mental health charity Pieta House.

Called Cruising from Darkness into Light for Pieta House, the event saw more than 300 bikers leave Top Oil at the Spawell at 5am on Saturday, May 11, and finish at Kilmore Quay Harbour in Wexford.

The event was organised by GT24, which includes Fettercairn man Damian Sheridan, South Dublin Bikers and North Dublin Bikers to raise funds for Pieta House.

Organiser Damian Sheridan told *The Echo*: “South Dublin Bikers, North Dublin Bikers and Southeast Bikers Eire Marshallled the event. They managed to keep the group together with not one single incident reported.

“The Saltees Coast Hotel catered for 300 people for breakfast before we returned to Dublin.

“The locals in Kilmore Quay made us so welcome and lots of Ukrainian families staying in the Saltees Coast hotel enjoyed the spectacle as we arrived.

“They all got photos on the

motorcycles – lots of happy faces all round.”

The happiness also extended to the participants when they realised they had managed to exceed their fundraising target of €10,000.

“It certainly was a morning to remember,” said Damian. “Social media was covered in pictures and videos for a week after.

“We managed to smash our fundraising target of €10,000 which will help so many people who avail of the free service Pieta House provides.

“Having used Pieta myself in 2023, I've experienced first-hand how beneficial the face-to-face service is.

“It changed my life for the better and knowing that the money raised will help others get the support they need makes all the efforts of pulling this event together all worthwhile.

“People were unbelievably generous, to them I say thank you.

“I received so much positive feedback after the event and had fantastic support from our main sponsor Joe Duffy BMW.”

Plans are already in place for the organisers to carry out another charity motorcycle event next year, but details are yet to be finalised.

“We managed to smash our target of €10,000 ... knowing the money will help others get the support they need makes all the efforts of pulling this event together all worthwhile



GETTING IT RIGHT: Mayor Alan Edge with members of the Templeogue Disability Rights Group

Fighting for their rights

Darkness into light

10,000 for Pieta

Coming from Spawell to Kilmore Quay

A TEMPLEOGUE Disability Rights group met with the Mayor of South Dublin County Council, Councillor Alan Edge, at his chambers on Wednesday, May 15, reports Stephen Farrell.

St Michael's House Templeogue Disability Rights Group consist of ten service users who attend the day centre in Templeogue and who are seeking to strengthen the rights of those with disabilities.

"The meeting with the Mayor went really well. We put together questions for the councillors and got good answers. The Mayor was open to our questions and ideas," said Leona McMahon, who facilitates the group along with James McCormack.

The questions asked by the group included a request to trim the bushes back on Rossmore Lawns where people with disabilities and older people walk a lot, to get their bus home from the day centre.

"Those using wheelchairs were struggling on that road," said Leona.

Already, the group have gotten a result on this issue. "The hedges will be cut back on the path," said Leona.

The group also asked for a campaign to slow down the traffic at the Spawell and Templeogue Road. "A lot of people with disabilities use the pedestrian crossing and drivers break these, the pedestrian lights are broken. We had some ideas such as putting up cameras to deter speedsters," said Leona.

According to Leona the Mayor said that this was a Garda issue and encouraged the group to do something local as an activist group. "We are going to work on our own local campaign and we're also going to contact the Gardaí for further advice," said Leona.

Members of the group found the recent referendums quite difficult. "That mirrored the general public, really. Service users didn't vote, as they didn't understand what they were voting on,"

said Leona."

Consequently the group asked the council to provide more Easy Read documents for people with learning and neuro-divergent disabilities.

"It [the meeting] was an important event," said Mayor Alan Edge. "It's important that groups such as this are empowered to engage with local representatives. It was an honour to have them in my chambers, they were a fantastic group," he said.

The group had important questions and concerns some of which have been acted upon, according to the Mayor.

"Work is underway regarding concerns raised relating to accessibility in the local area," he said.

"I've contacted Cllr Pamela Kearns (Lab) regarding other concerns raised, I know she's in touch with the Roads Department to see what solutions can be found," he said.

The main mission of the group, according to Leona, is to show that people with disabilities can represent themselves to their public representatives, given the right supports and opportunities.

"Conversations about what systems are best for people with disabilities shouldn't happen without their inclusion," she added.

One of the members of the group, Derrick O'Connell, presented the Mayor with one of his paintings. "The Mayor wrote a 'thank you' to Derrick and let him know [the painting] now proudly hangs in his office," said Leona.

A key aim of the group is to make people with all kinds of disabilities more visible, respected and to enable them to contribute to their community and their own community groups, according to Leona.

Since the meeting with the Mayor, the Disability Rights group has added two new members, which is "very encouraging", according to Leona.

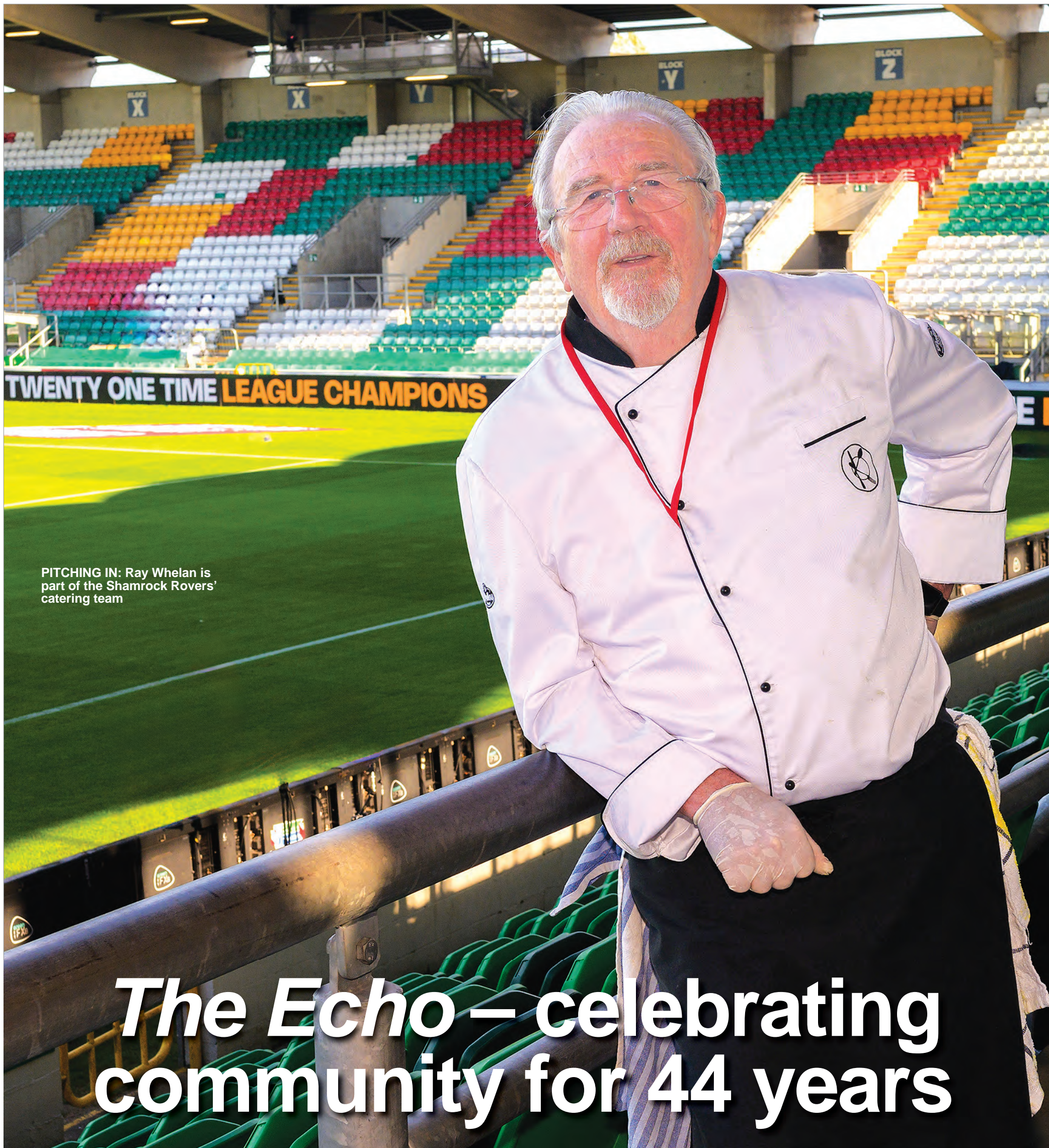


CHANGING LIVES: Bikers get ready at the beginning of the event



PROUD: Mayor Alan Edge stands with the disability group

AS PART of *The Echo* celebrating over 40 years, we're celebrating you, and local faces and places. Over the last four 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 lifelong Shamrock Rovers fan Ray Whelan, who is a member of the club's catering team.



PITCHING IN: Ray Whelan is part of the Shamrock Rovers' catering team

***The Echo* – celebrating community for 44 years**



HANDS ON: Ray Whelan preparing the food ahead of a Shamrock Rovers match in Tallaght Stadium

THIS week in our “Faces of the Community” feature, we’re delighted to bring you a profile of Ray Whelan, a lifelong Shamrock Rovers fan who’s been a part of the Hoops in one form or another for over sixty years.

Professional football clubs are multi-faceted entities that require a great many people to ensure they run successfully, and at League of Ireland level, where money doesn’t flow as freely as across the water, enthusiastic volunteers often keep things ticking over behind the scenes.

While players and coaching staff take the plaudits, the people behind the scenes are often the very lifeblood of the club. There are kit-men, groundskeepers, stewards, caterers and all manner of individuals working behind the scenes playing a part in the success of the club as a whole.

Ray is just such a character. While he’s mainly involved in providing the food for the players and staff, he’s become a crucial member of the Rovers family through his love of the club and willingness to help out in any way he can.

We briefly tore Ray away from Tallaght Stadium recently and had a most convivial chat about his life and his beloved Hoops.

“Although I’ve lived in Tallaght for many years now, I was brought up in Churchtown and went to the De La Salle National School there.”

Whilst Ray doesn’t speak with any particular affection for his school days, “I wasn’t really academically minded but I did enjoy playing sport at school,” his voice perks right up when the subject of Rovers was breached.

“It must have been 1962, but I remember it like it was yesterday, my dad took me to Milltown for my first game. I’ll never forget the feeling of coming through the tunnel and looking at the pitch. This green carpet with the goals and the

nets. I just looked amazing to me and I was instantly hooked.”

“The atmosphere was amazing too, these were kind of the glory years of the League of Ireland and Rovers were getting gates of twenty to twenty-five thousand per home game. It was a great time.”

“The football scene in Dublin was fantastic at that time. We used to be able to get a direct bus to Tolka and Dalymount and sometimes when Rovers were playing somewhere down the country that we couldn’t get to, we’d go and see Shels or Bohs. Although at that time, Dundalk were top dogs.”

With the seeds of his football obsession duly sown, the young Ray Whelan had to acquire a career to pay for all those away trips.

“I’m the eldest of a big family and I always found myself cooking for everyone and I enjoyed that, so I decided a career in food might be a good idea.”

With that in mind, Ray walked into the Shelbourne Hotel and told them he wanted to be a chef.

“They told me to go round the back door and sure enough they took me on. First as a ‘gopher’ and then as an apprentice. Once I’d qualified, I spent twelve happy years there.”

“I only left because I was offered the job of Catering Manager at the Department of Agriculture, in a building right next door to the Shelbourne.”

Whilst Ray was passionate and talented in his chosen career, his first love, football, was never far from his mind.

“Apart from going to Rovers, I was always involved in the game at grass roots level. I played for Nutgrove Celtic and had the honour of winning an under 18s DDSL medal with them.”

“I also refereed for years, starting from when I was about fourteen believe it or not! I took all my exams at the Leinster Football Association in Parnell Square. I eventually refereed to a good standard and could possibly

have progressed, but by now I was married with two children and it was impossible to find the time.”

Over the years, watching Rovers home and away, Ray started to get to know some of the players and staff. When he was asked to do a bit of voluntary work for them he jumped at the chance.

“I would do anything I could to help the club and I like to think I helped out in many ways over the years. Eventually, I found a way to transfer my career skills to the club and became part of the catering team for Rovers.”

“It’s been a real honour to be invited into the ‘inner sanctum’ of the club. They’re such an amazing group of people. I’m very grateful to be allowed to be a part of the squad.”

Indeed Ray sealed his spot when the players and staff made him sing an initiation song on an away trip. By all accounts, he belted out a version of ‘Blueberry Hill’ that’d knock your socks off.

Occasionally Ray’s enthusiasm gets the better of him and he recounts to me a tale of being at an away game in Europe when the Hoops were just about to claim victory. He had to sit down for a minute to calm down, but the only seat available was Stephen Bradley’s. There followed an altercation with the fourth official where he was mistaken for the boss.

Having moved to Ashgrove some forty years ago, Ray couldn’t believe his luck when Rovers moved to Tallaght. “It felt like they were following me,” he laughs.

As you would expect, following Rovers is a family affair for the Whelans. Ray’s granddaughter has the honour of being the first-ever Rovers mascot in Tallaght Stadium. She held the captain’s hand as the teams walked out for that first

home game.

“Also, my son and I did a podcast together called ‘Tales from the East Stand.’ It actually got a great response from the club and we might well do more.”

Ray’s wife Kay sadly passed away some years ago, but he’s blessed to have his son Ray, daughter Susan and grandchildren Áine and Stephen around.

And of course, his beloved Rovers.

“I’d do anything for my club and I’m honoured and grateful to all of them for making me part of the crew.”

No doubt Shamrock Rovers are equally grateful to Ray for everything he’s done for them over the years.

“It’s been a real honour to be invited into the ‘inner sanctum’ of the club. They’re such an amazing group of people

HONORED: Ray Whelan



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

Rare opportunity to hear about sight-loss cures and treatments

Dear Editor,

THROUGH your auspices, I'd be grateful to let readers of *The Echo* know of a rare opportunity for people to quiz eye experts and to hear about the latest advances in treatments and cures for sight loss.

Hosted by Fighting Blindness, and sponsored by Johnson & Johnson Innovative Medicine, the Retina International World Congress will be one of the biggest global gatherings of its kind this year.

Taking place in the Dublin Royal Convention Centre from June 5 to 8, a public engagement day will take place on Saturday June 8, featuring speakers at the vanguard of eye research, treatment and care.

There will be talks on the research underway to identify genes associated with sight loss, the importance of knowing one's sight loss gene, and the development of gene therapies to arrest, delay and reverse vision impairment.

In addition, there will be updates on cutting-

edge treatments in the pipeline, the latest on assistive technologies to enhance daily living, the role of artificial intelligence in diagnosing different types of retinal disease, and how best to maintain optimum eye health.

One of the highlights of the day will be a performance by the Visionaries Choir, Ireland's only choir for people with a vision impairment.

It is rare to have such a gathering of eye research leaders committed to treatments and cures on our own doorstep.

Spaces are limited and so I would encourage anyone interested to book their place today at www.fightingblindness.ie

Yours sincerely,

Mr Finbarr Roche,
CEO, Fighting Blindness,
3rd Floor,
7 Ely Place,
Dublin 2.

Political posters and the 'torture of cable ties for Tidy Towns'



Dear Editor,

AS JUNE 7 is pencilled in for the next round of European and local contests, virtually every lamp-post along the Belgard and Greenhills Roads and elsewhere are festooned with political posters and cable ties.

Candidates can grab attention with a vibrantly printed election campaign poster, which displays political information to passers-by. Do people really vote by seeing a "mugshot on a pole"? Candidates behind election posters should aim to inspire those who feel disenfranchised by increasing accessibility through communication around voting in the weeks leading up to the

election. Campaigns could be created on social media that would express with a few clear but urgent and striking words and images the impact that each elector can have by voting, as well as the responsibility we have to communities, families and country to vote.

Minister for Rural and Community Development Heather Humphreys asked those erecting posters to remove cable ties and posters after the vote because "the ties are a torture for the Tidy Towns, I can tell you".

If posters are up "within the allowed time frame", set out in the 1997 Litter Act, "my department has advised the panel of adjudicators that it should not impact on any Tidy Towns

scoring". Prior to the competition opening each year department officials meet competition sponsor SuperValu and the "highly skilled and competent panel of adjudicators".

The department's role is to facilitate the administration of this adjudication process only, but it is "not active in the formal adjudication of competition entries". Green Party councillor, Janet Horner, alleged she was assaulted while out erecting posters on lamp-posts for the forthcoming local elections.

Yours sincerely,
Gerry Coughlan,
Kilnamanagh.

'Frustration' by Irish investors in CRH's New York listing transition

Dear Editor,
CRH plc, the leading provider of building materials solutions, announced the successful transition of its primary listing to the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) – an important milestone in CRH development which will enable the plc to fully participate in the significant growth opportunities that lie.

On its first day of trading on the New York Stock Exchange US investors traded over eight million shares, driving the group market value to \$41 billion (€38 billion) and described by CEO Albert Manifold as an 'important milestone' for CRH. Nonetheless, delisting from Dublin's Euronext frustrated Irish investors who found their shares trading on a new regulatory regime unmanageable on New York Stock exchange.

At its AGM, CRH chair apologised profusely for issues pertaining to its share register, deemed unmanageable after its transition to New York Stock Exchange.

This meant a "small number" of Irish investors became impacted by US tax deductions on dividends and receipt of payments in US dollars.

Chairman Richie Boucher said CRH plc noted "issues and frustration" experienced by shareholders and had "an extremely active engagement" with its US share registrar Computershare in a bid to resolve shareholder taxes and dividend payments. The former Bank of Ireland chief executive said: "We are very disappointed to hear your frustration. We are very sorry this has happened."

Yours sincerely,
Gerry Coughlan, Kilnamanagh.

Volunteers needed for HSE National Screening Service

Dear Editor,

OVER two million people in Ireland are eligible for the HSE National Screening Service. We have four programmes: BreastCheck, CervicalCheck, BowelScreen and Diabetic RetinaScreen (a serious eye disease linked to diabetes).

Our screening programmes look for early signs of disease in healthy people, to help prevent or reduce people's risk of developing a disease, or detect health issues early. This ensures that anyone who develops the disease gets the best

chance of early and more effective treatment.

We aim to support people to make informed decisions about choosing screening by promoting the benefits and limitations of screening symptom awareness, and actions to take.

But we can't do this alone.

A cornerstone of providing high-quality health services is working in partnership with patient and public partnership volunteers. Our small network of committed volunteers are at the centre of all our decision-making, working with our teams to develop and evaluate all our programmes.

We are now seeking more members of the public to join our network. We are looking for people from all backgrounds in Dublin to share their ideas, energy and life experiences to help us to continually develop our screening programmes and ultimately help save lives.

Volunteers choose the level of commitment – even a small amount of your time will make a big difference. Volunteering also provides personal development opportunities for training and being part of our passionate and dedicated network.

Everyone in Ireland, at some point in their lives, will become eligible for screening. Joining

our network gives an opportunity to ensure your voice is heard, while making a positive and lasting impact on our nation's health.

If this sounds of interest, please contact us by emailing ppplead@screeningservice.ie or for more information search for National Screening Service Public and Patient Partnership information on our website HSE.ie.

Yours sincerely,
Fiona Murphy,
Chief Executive,
HSE National Screening Service.

Saint-Gobain open its new Citywest production facility

Company expects headcount to increase to 120 over the next three years

SAINT-Gobain Life Sciences, a global leader in the supply of essential manufacturing components to the life sciences sector, has opened a state-of-the-art production facility at Magna Business Park in Citywest.

The new facility will enable Saint-Gobain Life Sciences to increase production and further expand its presence in the manufacture and supply from Ireland to the life sciences and biopharmaceutical sectors both nationally and internationally.

The company expects their current headcount of 80 employees to grow to between 110 and 120 people over the next three years if they continue on their current growth trajectory.

Saint-Gobain Life Sciences established its presence in Ireland through acquisition in 2018 and has experienced rapid growth in both turnover and its number of employees, growing from just 19 employees in 2018. This growth trajectory is attributed to the demand for the essential components it supplies, which are manufactured in a specialised cleanroom environment and meet the highest quality and traceability standards.

Saint-Gobain Life Sciences manufactures single-use fluid handling components and systems in high performance plastics for high purity applications in the biopharmaceutical industry.

Dedicated to improving quality of life, these components and integrated solutions touch a broad range of patient care. Their products enable the manufacture of life saving drugs such as Covid-19 and HIV Therapies, Cancer, and Diabetes Drugs, Orphan Drugs for Rare Diseases, Vaccines as well as ground breaking Cell and Gene therapies.

The new facility will enable Saint-Gobain Life Sciences to manufacture high specification overmolded components and assemblies and marks a significant advance in its ability to meet the ever-accelerating demands of the Biotech industry. By localising its production, Saint-Gobain Life Sciences' customers' supply chains will be shorter, safer and more sustainable therefore contributing to reducing the risk of life saving drug shortages.

CEO of Saint-Gobain Life Sciences, Sung Yu said at the opening "This new production facility will enable us to expand our production capabilities for the supply of essential materials to



FACILITY: Sung Yu, CEO of Saint-Gobain Life Sciences, Marianne Barkan-Cowdy, Deputy Head of Mission for the Embassy of France in Ireland and Elodie Morin-Ragin, Director of Business France Ireland with Daragh Monaghan Director of Saint-Gobain Life Sciences Ireland at the opening of the company's state-of-the-art production facility situated in Magna Business Park in Citywest. Photo by Jason Clarke

the life sciences sector. In doing so, we will be able to continue the rapid expansion of our footprint in Ireland and create new employment opportunities at our state-of-the-art facility in

City: west.

Ireland is a global centre for the life sciences sector, and our company is a vital part of the supply chain for this key industry. I would like to

thank all of our employees in Ireland for their excellent work in helping to establish our new facility, and I look forward to seeing firsthand our continued growth in this market."

Britvic Irish revenues grow 8% in first half of financial year

THE Irish revenues of Britvic grew by 8 per cent in the first half of its financial year, reports Maurice Garvey.

The drinks group, owners of Ballygowan and MiWadi, said that performance remained "robust" in the six months to the end of March, but there was a modest decline in volumes in the period.

The UK headquartered group has a manufacturing site in Ballyfermot for the last 50

years, and also operates a Ballygowan bottling site in Limerick.

According to an annual report, the launch of the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) in February resulted in a small impact on volumes, and that it was too soon to evaluate the full effect of the scheme on the business. The soft-drinks business also completed a supply-chain programme to boost production capacity in its Irish factories at the end of last year, ahead of

the introduction of the Deposit Return Scheme

The new production strategy involved adding new work rosters and introducing cost-savings programmes in its manufacturing and warehouse operations. The company said this allowed it to "successfully reduce the cost and complexity created by introducing DRS".

Pepsi reported a rise in volume and revenue in the Irish market, while Ballygowan and MiWadi also recorded a strong performance. Overall

group revenues were up 10.9 per cent while volume sales rose 4.4 per cent.

Profits after tax were up 10.1pc to €69.8m. Britvic said inflation had started to ease after two years.

The group employs 360 people across the island of Ireland.

The company also produces Robinsons and Tango, as well as PepsiCo brands which are made and marketed here under licence.

Owner of 'Treats by Sylvia' now supplies 16 locations around city

Remote working during Covid inspired entrepreneur Sylvia to develop her own business

By Maurice Garvey

maurice@echo.ie

AN ENTREPRENEUR who started her own business at home during Covid has just completed the SuperValu Food Academy Programme which will stock her products at select stores this month.

It has been a roller-coaster few years for Ballyfermot woman Sylvia Kennedy, the owner of Treats by Sylvia and the "queen of cheesecakes."

Prior to Covid she worked in an office for a security company, but remote working inspired her to develop her own business in 2021.

With the help of Ballyfermot, Chapelizod Partnership and in particular, Enterprise & Guidance officer Brendan Finn, the process of starting a business was supported.

Initially cooking from home, the venture took off, and she was supplying local businesses and events. Today her product is in 16 locations around Dublin with "more to follow."

Recently Sylvia opened a new kitchen in Smithfield and hired a staff member to assist with the growing business demands.

She also gave birth to a baby boy last year with her husband.

"I was luckily one of the 11 chosen in Dublin to become a food producer for SuperValu and start stocking my product from this month," said Sylvia.

"I became a new mammy in August also, a little boy, Brody, so it really has been all go. While on

maternity leave, I used this time to work on the growth and upscale of my business. I worked with a brand designer to work on new branding, labelling, packaging and I completed many finance and business courses to come back stronger than ever," said Sylvia.

"I completed the SuperValu Food Academy Programme and will be supplying to SuperValu stores around Dublin and then hopefully nationwide. I also supply to many corporate events like BDO Ireland, Grant Thornton Ireland & Inner City Enterprise. I have been invited to Grant Thornton, Citi bank and many other events as a guest speaker."

After completing the Young Entrepreneurs programme with Inner City Enterprise in 2022, Sylvia moved into an upscale kitchen unit based in the new Enterprise Hub in Smithfield.

"Brendan Finn, who had worked with the Ballyfermot Chapelizod Partnership and helped me with the setup of my business, now works with Inner City Enterprise. We set up a meeting with Evanne the CEO who had a unit available to rent and we went for it.

"I also hired a kitchen assistant Daniel Bradley. He is a great addition to the business. Last week I purchased a fridge van so I now also have my first van on the road for getting the stock delivered, which is great!"

Sylvia also credits a business expansion grant last year from the LEO office which was a "massive help and support towards my business."



UPSCALING: Sylvia Kennedy, 'queen of cheesecakes'

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WorkHuman to add a dozen new specialist AI roles in Park West

By Maurice Garvey

maurice@echo.ie

IRISH software company WorkHuman is planning to add almost a dozen new specialist artificial intelligence (AI) roles in Park West after announcing three senior appointments across its global business.

The company, which makes human resources software, said it is now hiring across multiple functions at its Park West office after shedding around 10 per cent of its global workforce last year amid a downturn in the international tech sector.

Co-founded in 1999 by CEO Eric Mosley, who is from Glenview in Tallaght, WorkHuman is co-headquartered in Massachusetts and in Dublin 12.

WorkHuman is looking to hire 11 AI specialists to work under newly appointed vice-president of product engineering Shmulik Barel, the former chief executive of digital sports coaching company, Playform and chief operating officer of loyalty platform, Como.

He is one of four recent senior appointments – three of them based at the group's US offices in Framingham, Massachusetts – made earlier this year by WorkHuman.

Tom Libretto, group president said the appointments bring a "wealth of experience" and that it will be "pivotal in our mission to make work more human for every person on the planet."

WorkHuman reported a 29 per cent increase in turnover in 2022,



GO-AHEAD: Eric Mosley, CEO WorkHuman

with operating profit for the year of €62.23 million.

In 2023, the company announced plans to cut around 150 jobs including a number of roles in Park West, where it employed 600 people at the time.

The tech unicorn company operates

employee reward and incentive schemes on behalf of some of the world's biggest companies, including Cisco, Moderna, Merck, LinkedIn and Intuit. More than six million employees are on the WorkHuman platform across 180 countries.

TU Dublin campus opens site for outdoor cutting-edge skills

Innovative site provides hands-on training in telecom network installation

STAFF and students of the Telecommunications and Data Network Engineering Apprenticeship programme and representatives from over 20 industry partners gathered on the Tallaght Campus of Technological University Dublin on Wednesday to celebrate the official opening of a cutting-edge outdoor training site.

The innovative Network Installation Outdoor Training Site provides hands-on training in telecom network installation, including underground, optical fibre, and copper networks.

Launched in 2019, the Apprenticeship Programme was developed by the University and industry experts with a shared vision for a connected Ireland, which requires a steady stream of skilled technicians with telecommunication and Data Network Engineering skills.

Speaking at the event, Siobhan O'Callaghan, Project Manager of the Telecommunications and Data Network Engineering Apprenticeship programme, said, "Embracing innovation and dedication, the

Telecommunications and Data Network Engineering Apprenticeship programme is delighted to unveil this trailblazing outdoor training site.

"This dynamic facility is a beacon of experiential learning, empowering apprentices with hands-on expertise in modern telecom technologies. From underground installations to optical fibre networks, the facility provides a realm where theory meets practice, sculpting tomorrow's telecom leaders."

Since the programme commenced in 2020, 96 people have graduated, taking on impactful roles such as Senior Operations Manager, Front-Line Manager, and Project Planner across the 20 companies that support it.

Continuing, O'Callaghan said, "With Leaving Certificate students preparing for their examinations, we would encourage them to consider exploring telecommunication or data network engineering apprenticeships, with more information available from <https://www.tdne.ie/>."



BEACON: Telecommunications and Data Network Engineering Apprenticeship students and lecturers demonstrate network installation outdoor training site on TU Dublin's Tallaght campus

“ This dynamic facility is a beacon of experiential learning, empowering apprentices with hands-on expertise in modern telecom technologies

Welcome for support measures to help reduce costs for firms

NEW support measures announced by government to reduce costs for businesses and help SMEs have been welcomed by Chambers Ireland, reports *Maurice Garvey*.

Chambers Ireland's Chief Executive, Ian Talbot, said the group have been calling for the government to address rising costs and the increased regulatory burden of new employment legislation that has been phased in over recent months and years.

"Protecting and promoting small and medium indigenous businesses is crucial, as they form the backbone of the Irish economy, offering employment, delivering

essential products and services, and representing the heart of communities right across the country," said Mr Talbot.

"They have faced many challenges over the past number of years, including the impacts of Brexit, Covid and inflation. For businesses that have overcome these hurdles, we need to ensure their growth and prosperity into the future. Our network has consistently called for meaningful implementation of the 'SME test' and the renewed emphasis on this must be delivered in practice.

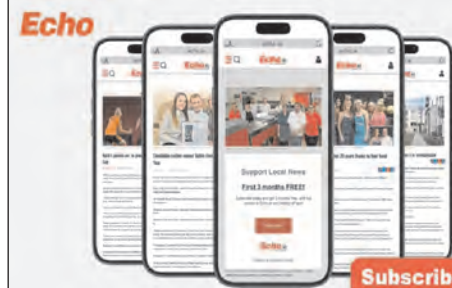
"The double payment of the Increased

Cost of Business grant for businesses in the retail and hospitality sectors is particularly welcome as these sectors have been hardest hit by rising costs and squeezed by tightening margins. The proposal to review the employer PRSI threshold is also a positive initiative. A variety of increased or adapted grant schemes is also welcome and will assist companies in their digital and green transitions."

Chambers Ireland urge businesses to familiarise themselves with the new package of benefits and apply for any for which they are eligible.

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LDA plan a delivery of 392 apartments in Adamstown

The scheme is in partnership with developer Quintain at The Crossings



SCHEME: An artist impression of the planned 392 apartments in Adamstown

By **Maurice Garvey**

maurice@echo.ie

THE Land Development Agency (LDA) announced a planned delivery of 392 apartments in partnership with Quintain Ireland at The Crossings in Adamstown.

The scheme consists of 9 studios, 189 one-bedroom apartments, 185 two-bedroom apartments and 9 three-bedroom apartments across 3 blocks ranging

in height from 5 to 9 storeys.

The LDA apartments are under construction and are due to be fully completed by 2026. They will then be rented to eligible households on a cost rental basis by the agency.

The LDA apartments form part of the third phase of The Crossings at Adamstown. Quintain launched The Crossings, an urban village and retail centre, in September 2023 and the new development serves as the central core of the

Adamstown Strategic Development Zone.

The Crossings will ultimately include 1,000 apartments and a wide range of shops and services.

The new apartments have been secured under the LDA's Project Tosaigh initiative, whereby the agency steps in to provide the financial commitment needed to kick-start stalled or unviable housing projects.

The LDA then makes the new

homes available to renters on a cost rental basis or to purchasers.

In this case, all the homes involved are going to be cost rental.

To be eligible for cost rental housing an individual or household must meet a number of criteria. Their net household income must be below €66,000 per annum for applicants for homes in Dublin or €59,000 per annum for those outside Dublin.

John Coleman, Chief Executive

of the LDA said once completed, the apartments will be made available "at rents that will be significantly below market rates."

"The LDA is continuing to deliver high quality homes in the right places, and Adamstown is a great location. It has great transport links, a thriving community and excellent amenities. These apartments will provide long-term, secure homes in a well-connected Dublin suburb."

Dublin Simon Community appeal over refusal for social development is rejected

AN APPEAL lodged by Dublin Simon Community with An Bord Pleanála after they were refused permission to develop 10 one-bed units at a site on Old Nangor Road in Clondalkin has been rejected, reports *William O'Connor*.

South Dublin County Council refused permission for a social housing development consisting of 10 one bed units in a two to three storey apartment building, associated car parking and bicycle parking, bin store, water pump house, new vehicular access onto Old Nangor Road, new pedestrian access onto Old Nangor Road, landscaping, boundary treatments, public lighting and all associated site and engineering works necessary.

In making its decision to refuse permission, An Bord Pleanála said: The proposal to build over an existing culvert and the absence of a set-back would contravene Policy 1E3 Objective 2 of the South Dublin County Development Plan 2022-2028, would be prejudicial to public

health, and would give rise to a risk of localised flooding as a result of blockage and inadequate maintenance access.

Furthermore, the replacement of the existing culvert with three concrete pipes would exacerbate the risk of blockage and localised flooding which would be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area and would contravene the South Dublin County Development Plan 2022-2028. The proposed development would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

The board went on to say: In deciding not to accept the Inspector's recommendation to grant permission, the Board noted that the planning authority's reason for refusal was primarily the risk of localised flooding because of blockage and inadequate maintenance access to the proposed culvert; this the planning authority concluded would be prejudicial to public health.



DECISION: The site on Old Nangor Road

Food and beverage enterprise centre is approved in village

Partas plan to renovate and extend part of Tallaght Enterprise Centre building



APPROVED: Tallaght Enterprise Centre on Main Street plan to create a food and beverage enterprise centre

By **William O'Connor**
william@echo.ie

PLANS to create a food and beverage enterprise centre to be called Priory Market and to renovate and extend part of the existing single and two-

storey building at Tallaght Enterprise Centre has been approved by South Dublin County Council.

Located on Main Street in Tallaght Village, plans include a single storey extension; a two-storey extension (290 sq.m) on the east (side) elevation, two new mezzanine areas; a new disability

accessible toilet at first floor level; plant area at roof level.

Applicant Partas proposals include an open plan market area which will comprise 12 vendor stalls with unreserved seating and tables, extended and reconfigured toilets, a shared kitchen area a dishwasher

room, etc., and a bar area ancillary to the existing Priory Brewery.

There will be a new entrance door at the northern elevation with existing entrance replaced by a window, new optional solar panels on the roof, revisions to the existing surface level car park to provide for 37 car parking

spaces, three mobility impaired spaces, and 10 electric vehicle charging point spaces, and 66 bicycle spaces.

Plans include revisions to the existing vehicular entrance at Main Road to provide for a new pathway and eight Priory Market signs.

City Council open 71 social homes in Springvale Grove

DUBLIN City Council announced the official opening of 71 new homes in Springvale Grove, Chapelizod, Dublin 20. The Lord Mayor of Dublin Daithí de Róiste cut the ribbon on the project on Tuesday.

The recently completed social housing development consists of 21 one-bedroom homes, 30 two-bedroom homes and 20 three-bedroom homes alongside a scout/community hall. Designed by Levitt Bernstein Architects, the homes are arranged in six blocks and include landscaped communal amenity spaces. The buildings range from three to five storeys in height and all homes are dual aspect and are designed and constructed to Near Zero Energy standards.

The development has the benefit of a wonderful location overlooking Phoenix Park to the north, and Chapelizod village and the river Liffey to the south. Springvale Grove is well-connected to the city centre with bus routes and bicycle paths. Springvale Grove is part of a bundle of four large residential schemes delivered recently by Dublin City Council using Modern Methods of



PROJECT: Lord Mayor of Dublin Daithí de Róiste are Springvale Grove residents Karen Power and Jennifer Fay.

Construction which utilised a system of factory manufactured light gauge steel panels. This new development illustrates how the Council is using MMC and latest technologies to deliver homes at greater scale and density.

The delivery of the 71 homes and scout/community hall has been funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Lord Mayor of Dublin, Daithí de Róiste said: "I am proud as the Lord Mayor to be welcoming the residents of

Springvale Grove into their new homes in my local area. I am delighted to see the new community that is being created here and I wish them enjoyment and happy times in their new homes.

"Springvale Grove is a testament to the partnership between the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and Dublin City Council, where with vision and dedication, a community can thrive and neighbourhoods can flourish."

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Investing in the future of Tallaght

Data Centre Technician Programme Applications Open Now!

Amazon Web Services (AWS) is continuing to support Technological University Dublin-Tallaght to offer scholarships to selected students taking on the university's Data Centre Technician Programme.

This programme has been designed to prepare students for a career as an entry-level data centre technician. Students will also have an opportunity to gain real hands-on experience with paid work placements on offer with AWS.

Successful completion of the programme will place students in a strong position to start their careers in the cloud! A proficiency in IT would be advantageous. Applications for next year's intake are now open and we strongly encourage anyone with an interest in the future - and their future - to apply.

Learn more about the experiences of Ava, Csaba, Ryan and BingBing below.



Ava

"Before joining the programme I had only finished my secondary level education. I'd completed Computer Science as a subject in my leaving cert and this gave me a huge insight into the world of computers. I knew I wanted to go into a career in IT but I was unsure of where and how to start. Then I found this opportunity. My favourite part of the programme was being able to come into the internship with a little bit of knowledge in the physical department of IT and then being able to complete daily work tasks which developed my skills."



Csaba

"I would recommend this programme for anyone, both those who have some kind of IT background but also those without any IT experience. The team at TU Dublin and AWS have strong experience and are incredibly patient with students. If anyone is considering applying for the programme and is hesitant, I would encourage them to overcome their inhibitions and give themselves a chance at a new career. Everything is possible if you put your mind to it."



Ryan

"I had little to no IT experience or knowledge so everything about the programme and internship was completely new to me. I had multiple jobs over the years which included working in An Post, as an apprentice electrician and working in retail in a grocery shop. I knew I needed to try something new but just didn't know what exactly and then I heard about this programme. My favourite part of the internship was the opportunity to expand and develop my skills in an area which I previously had little to no experience. The internship gave me skills which I had never possessed before and allowed me to enter the IT sector."



BingBing

"I graduated with a BA in business accounting so I don't have an IT background. Over the last few years I've been at home looking after my family so applying to the programme was a big step for me. Now I'm working as a Data Centre Technician but this is my first ever job within the IT industry. I think anyone who enjoys working with a great team of people and enjoys a role where they have the opportunity to keep learning and improving their skills should apply for this programme."



If you are interested in applying to the programme, please go to the Technological University Dublin - Tallaght campus by scanning this QR code >>





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Forty four years of local history in the making



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

THIS month 44 years ago, the first edition of the *Tallaght Echo* went to print – setting in motion the enduring history of one of Dublin's leading local newspapers.

In the four decades since the paper started being published it has grown to cover the surrounding suburbs of Clondalkin, Ballyfermot and Lucan, and it continues to report on local issues for a loyal readership.

Even in the midst of a global pandemic, which had temporarily scuppered plans to celebrate the milestone 40th anniversary, the paper is still on shelves and online every week thanks to a dedicated workforce and the support of the community – which has always been at the forefront of the paper's output.

Tallaght locals David Kennedy, Mervyn Ennis and Dominic Finnegan produced the first edition of the *Tallaght Echo* on May 1, 1980, after noticing a gap in the market for a paper in the area after Eddie Brennan ceased publishing the *Tallaght Magazine* a year prior.

"I felt that the *Tallaght Magazine* was an important element of the development of a place like Tallaght," explained David

Kennedy, the editor of *The Echo*.

"The way *The Echo* started initially was that I asked Mervyn and Dominic to get involved, after a period of time they dropped out and I continued on my own.

"The paper consumed me from that point onwards."

At the point when he started the paper, David and his wife Liz, who is *The Echo* production manager, had three young children who were all under three years old when the paper was first published, including his daughter Emma, who was 19-months-old when the paper started, and is now the MD of the title.

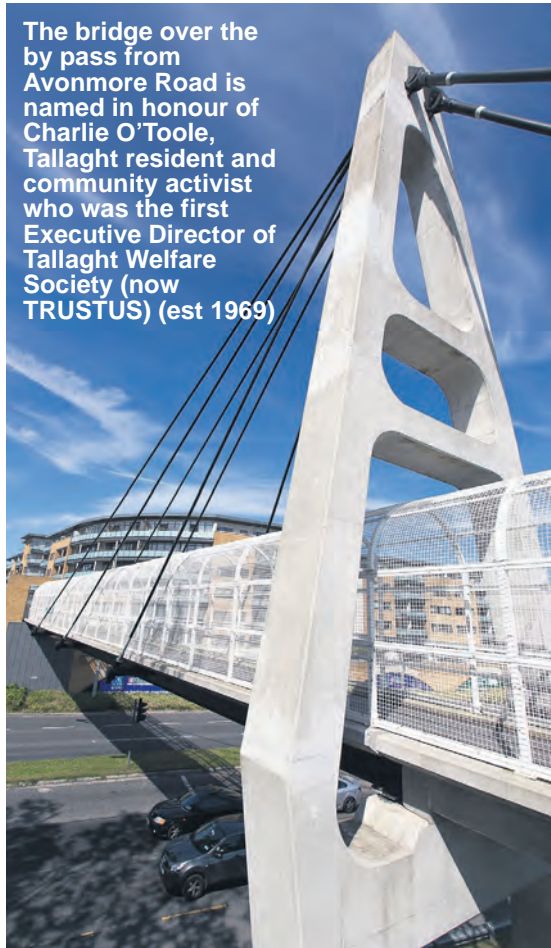
Since those early days *The Echo* has grown from being a family operation where the paper was compiled by journalists in the Kennedys' household, to being a fully-fledged title with a varied team of employees, many of whom are from the local area, who are based in the paper's Tallaght office.

Reflecting on the past 44 years of the paper, David said: "It's incredible to get to this point from when we started."

Emma added: "As a family we're delighted we've got this far, that it's been such a success."

"Through a lot of different circumstances, the paper has sustained itself, and we're optimistic and excited about what the future holds."

The bridge over the by pass from Avonmore Road is named in honour of Charlie O'Toole, Tallaght resident and community activist who was the first Executive Director of Tallaght Welfare Society (now TRUSTUS) (est 1969)



Tallaght Community Council thank *The Echo* for their robust support of the locality

Tallaght Community Council (TCC) is a fully voluntary community group was established in the late 1970s. Its purpose is to give a focused voice to the community as Tallaght grew rapidly, to lobby for additional community amenities, services, and events. TCC are one of the oldest community groups in Tallaght, still operating and making a positive impact in our community.

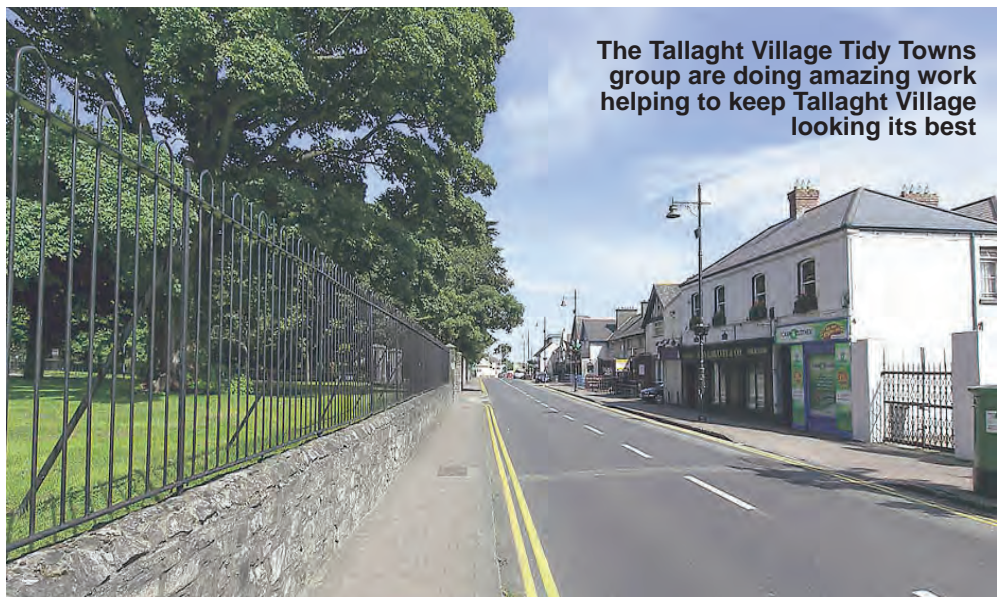
The Echo has been a vital service in Tallaght since its creation, providing a reliable source of news and information about Tallaght every week. It often covers local news that does not break through into the national news – this is a hugely important to strategically ensure a balanced view of Tallaght.

In recent years, TCC have run some significant community projects and campaigns. Thinking of some of the recent TCC projects – Tallafest, Tallaght's Covid Time Capsule, Love Tallaght Outdoors, Tallaght Village Tidy Towns and the Tallaght Person of the Year awards, *The Echo* was a vital media and communications partner on these projects.

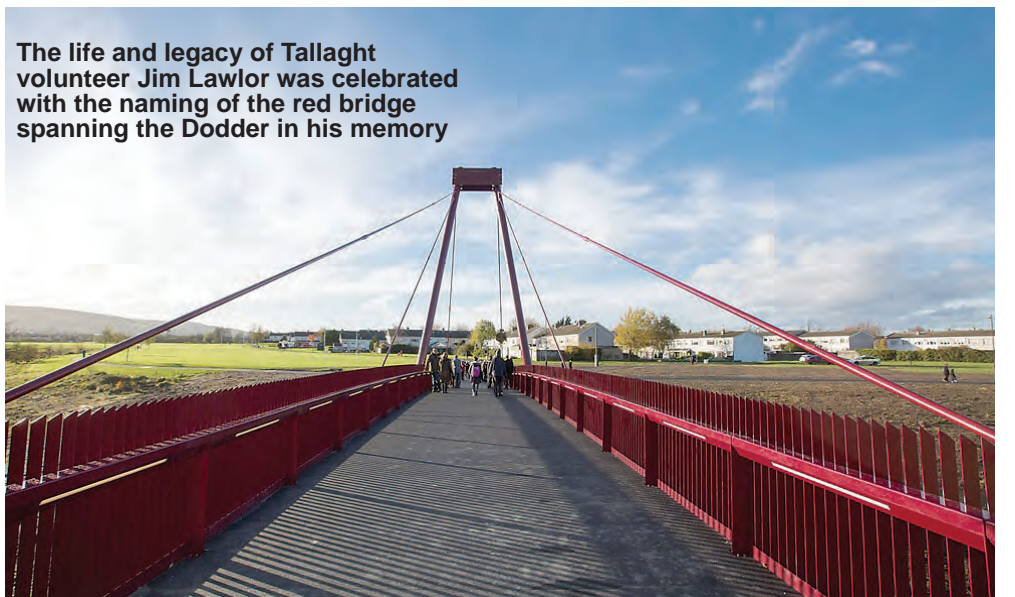
The Echo are instrumental in creating awareness across the community and to support engagement and participation. For our ongoing community programs such as Tallaght Person of the Year and Tallaght Village Tidy Towns, having an established local news outlet in Tallaght with integrated print and digital channels is a lifeblood to the ongoing success of these very worthy community projects.

They give Tallaght a tangible reason to celebrate and be proud of each other. The coverage and reach of *The Echo* is now global – following their coverage of the Tallaght Community Covid Time Capsule, we were contacted by a group from the USA who collate a global list of time capsules. We were delighted this good news travelled so far!

We thank *The Echo* for their robust support to us and all the other community groups, businesses, and clubs – giving us a professional, credible news platform over the last 44 years. We wish them a long and successful future.



The Tallaght Village Tidy Towns group are doing amazing work helping to keep Tallaght Village looking its best



The life and legacy of Tallaght volunteer Jim Lawlor was celebrated with the naming of the red bridge spanning the Dodder in his memory

In the 40th year of the Chamber the future is bright in Tallaght

There is a vibrancy to Tallaght, the county town that speaks to a time of growth and development

By Peter Byrne,
CEO South Dublin Chamber

TODAY as we move through Tallaght we are in a city in many ways other than name. There is a vibrancy to Tallaght, the county town that speaks to a time of growth and development. South Dublin Chamber is 40 years old this year so like *The Echo* we too are celebrating. Our roots are in Tallaght as is our headquarters today, we were founded by businesses in Tallaght and became the County Chamber with the establishment of South Dublin County 30 years ago.

In the early days of the Chamber the key demands were for Tallaght to have a shopping centre not just a place to shop but one of those covered in shopping centres like you saw on TV and we succeeded in tandem with many others in helping the Square come to life. The Chamber said a hospital, an Institute of Technology and our own local Government were essential building blocks in growing our community and providing the infrastructure for business.

Today all of these exist and Tallaght has a

vibrant population some of whom work in the business parks that surround the county town such as Whitestown, Cookstown, South City or in the retail sector such as The Square. There is also a great climate of entrepreneurial spirit in Tallaght supported by TU Dublins Synergy Centre, Tallaght University Hospital Innovation Centre and South Dublins Innovation Quarter.

South Dublin LEO provides support and engagement with anyone who has a business idea or wants to further develop their businesses. There has never been a better time to set up or grow your business in Tallaght.

For the business community in Tallaght we have the biggest companies here and the smallest and all in-between. Our connection to the wider community is essential and occurs in many ways such as through the district heating system, heat coming from AWS data centre heating our university, hospital and social housing through to the many volunteers who pick litter, plant trees and support many community initiatives.

The future is bright for Tallaght we have a great infrastructure, a dynamic population and a strong business community.



CELEBRATING: Peter Byrne, CEO South Dublin Chamber

“South Dublin LEO provides support and engagement with anyone who has a business idea or wants to further develop their businesses. There has never been a better time to set up or grow your business in Tallaght

Well done to The Echo on 44 years' celebrating the local community!

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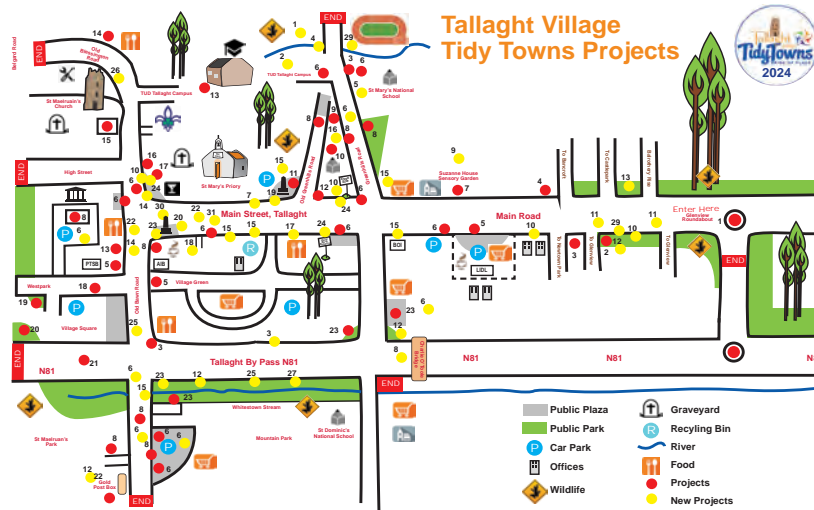
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Thank you to AWS, Colm O’Cochlain, Fanagans and The Dragon Inn!



ABOVE: 30 volunteers from AWS in Communities led by Marcin Otto spent a day in the village in May painting the 26 wooden planters



LEFT: Thanks to Shay Murphy for a full exterior repaint of The Dragon Inn, using heritage colours



ABOVE: Olivia De Luc, Fanagans, Chris Keeley TCC and Nollaig Ryan, branch manager Fanagan’s Tallaght with the water butt outside Fanagan’s premises, sponsored by AWS

LEFT: Hannah Mc Eneaney and Colm O’Cochlain helping out at the Wednesday Tidy Towns

Contact us:



tallaghtperson@gmail.com

www.tallaghtcommunitycouncil.ie

Kingsbury Furniture welcome customers back to new store

Management and staff are ‘looking on the brighter side of things’ following last September Flood

By Aideen O’Flaherty
news@echo.ie

THE owners of a Tallaght furniture shop that has been trading for 33 years, and which reopened last week following a flood last September, are “looking on the brighter side of things”.

Kingsbury Furniture, which is located in Tallaght Retail Centre, had to temporarily close its doors last September for several months after a flood severely damaged the shop and its stock.

Paul Nugent, the co-owner of Kingsbury alongside his brother David, told *The Echo* the flood was “caused by a leak in an apartment above our shop resulting in extensive damage in store on September 17, 2023.

“Water was being pumped by a four-bar pump system connected to the mains for six or seven hours through the night and we were greeted one Monday morning with the shop destroyed.

“We had to clean up and dump damaged furniture and sell off the rest at half price or less to empty the shop to enable builders to start works.

“Builders had to strip the shop of the old flooring, old plaster boards and carpets and essentially do a complete refit of the store.”

The refit included new lighting, flooring, carpets and ceilings, while a new CCTV camera and fire alarms were also installed, and a lot of plastering and painting was required before the shop reopened.

“We were closed for a much longer



KINGSBURY STAFF:
Jimmy Owens (store manager), Laura Rasidovic, Paul Nugent, Dominique Nugent, David Nugent and Ingrid Deegan

“ We look forward to welcoming our loyal customers back in store to view our new collections and showroom

period than we anticipated initially,” added Paul.

“Three insurance companies were involved: apartment insurance, block insurance and our own insurance and the delays resulted in our builders not being able to start prior to Christmas.

“It was mid-January before any

works began and we really only finished up by the end of April.

“We missed one of our busiest times of the trading year but, looking on the brighter side of things, we have a brand-new store.”

The store reopened last Friday, May 17, and the owners and their dedicated

team of staff are looking forward to welcoming customers back into Kingsbury Furniture.

“We look forward to welcoming our loyal customers back in store to view our new collections and showroom,” said Paul. “Hopefully the next 33 years will surpass the last.”



Recording the history of Tallaght University Hospital for 25 years

CEO, TUH heaps praise on *The Echo* for their continued support of hospital and staff

By Lucy Nugent,
CEO Tallaght University Hospital

HAVING celebrated our 25th anniversary of opening in Tallaght last year, we know the importance of marking important milestones! *The Tallaght Echo* were up and running long before the Hospital opened.

As an organisation we recognise and appreciate the very important role the paper played in supporting the community in its campaign for a hospital for the Tallaght area.

Since the Hospital opened, *The Echo* and its journalists have continued to support the Hospital, its staff and patients.

The paper has provided an important narrative on the development of the Hospital and its services over the years, the opening of the new ICU, the



SUPPORT: Lucy Nugent, CEO Tallaght University Hospital



Reeves Day Surgery Centre and extending our outpatient activity into the community in the Simms Building and Russell Centre.

The Echo have celebrated and shared our successes and held us to account on occasion when our service has fallen short.

They have excelled in their role as a

newspaper encouraging and facilitating debate on important community issues – its health and provision of healthcare being some of the most important over the years.

As Tallaght continues to grow so too does the demand on the provision of services, including health in our community and we welcome continued

support in this regard.

The Hospital and the paper have a shared sense of purpose, we both care for and about the community. On behalf of my colleagues I congratulate the Kennedy family and everyone involved in the production of *The Echo* and wish you all well in the next phase of your development.

Since 1992 the Tallaght campus has provided university level programmes

On 1 January 2019 IT Tallaght, with Dublin Institute of Technology and Institute of Technology Blanchardstown, merged as the founding institutions to become the first Technological University in Ireland, named TU Dublin

By Thomas Stone,
Vice President, Partnerships, TU Dublin
President South Dublin Chamber

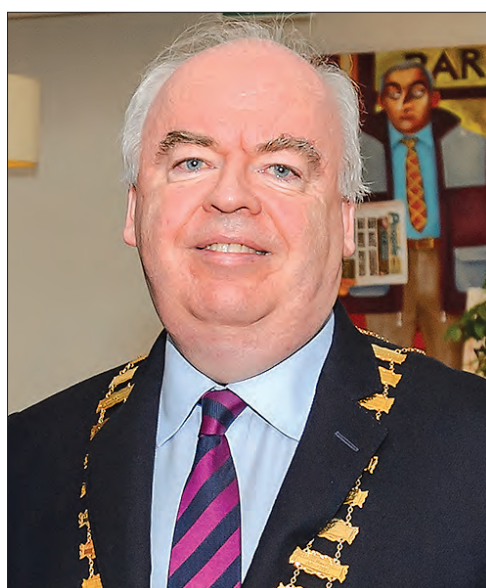
CONGRATULATIONS to *The Echo*, the staff and the Kennedy family on the occasion of their 44th anniversary of its first publication on 1 May 1980 from all your friends and supporters in Technological University Dublin, Tallaght Campus.

The Echo is not only a newspaper covering Tallaght and the South County Dublin region. It has become an institution over the years and a vital part of community life. It shares our celebrations and challenges through the highest standards of journalism and pictures, recording and sharing events, news, activities and creating an invaluable record of the history of our region. The focus of the weekly *Echo* is local and full of positive stories while never ignoring news that brings a sharp focus on the many challenges facing our region.

The Echo has been a strong and vital supporter of Technological University Dublin and the Tallaght campus since the first students were registered in September 1992. The University campus in Tallaght village is opposite St Maelruains Church of Ireland, beside the Dominican Priory and approximately 42 acres in area bounded by the Greenhills Road, Airton Road and Belgard Road. The University began its life as the Regional Technical College, Tallaght under the leadership of the first Director, Dr Colum Collins. Its primary objective was to significantly increase participation in higher education in the region.

Due to its success in providing University level academic programmes of the highest standards with a rapid growth in student numbers, it was re-designated in 1998 by the then Minister for Education & Science and now Tanaiste, Michael Martin, as an Institute of Technology (IT Tallaght).

On 1 January 2019 IT Tallaght, with Dublin



LEADERSHIP: Thomas Stone, Vice President, Partnerships, TU Dublin and President South Dublin Chamber

Institute of Technology and Institute of Technology Blanchardstown, merged as the founding institutions to become the first Technological University in Ireland and named, TU Dublin. Tallaght and South County Dublin now had a University campus in its region and on establishment, the Tallaght campus had 6,014 registered students of whom over 85% came from the Greater Dublin Region. Today, the University is the second largest University in Ireland with over 27,000 students.

Since 1992 the Tallaght campus, in all its previous institutional names and forms, has provided university level academic programmes and research opportunities in full time, part time and hybrid delivery modes, from apprenticeships to doctoral level studies in a broad range of



LEADERSHIP: The €14.7 million teaching, research and recreation facility on the University's Tallaght Campus, opened in September 2023

disciplines including Business, the Sciences, Engineering and the Humanities. It is renowned for its student-centred approach through its positive culture, reinforced by dedicated academic, professional and support staff. It is highly regarded and recognised by employers as a partner in the region, and now internationally, who repeatedly return again and again to fill job vacancies in their organisations with our graduates.

Over the years the Tallaght campus has also grown in terms of buildings and infrastructure. It now includes the research Centre for Applied, Science and Health (CASH); the Synergy

Incubation Centre for high tech business start-ups; the Sports Science, Health & Recreation Building; Electrical Apprenticeship Centre (Whitestown); Administration Building (Airton Road); Premier House (Lecture Theatres and Computer Labs); Student Union Building; a Creche; Synergy Global (Citywest) and a new teaching building on campus in construction, with plans for continued growth on campus in the near future.

The Echo has been a constant, crucial and continuing partner in promoting the success of our University throughout the years. We send our thanks and congratulations!

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Local sport has become an integral part of life over the past 44 years

Athletes, Gaelic Games and Soccer have been to the forefront of sport in Tallaght for decades

By Stephen Farrell
news@echo.ie

ATHLETICS has seen a marked development over the last twenty years in Tallaght.

Cecil Johnston is a coach and PRO with Tallaght AC and has been involved with the club for the last twenty years or more.

Cecil explains the origins of the club. "Originally there was Cú Chulainn and Oisín, which was a Senior Club, and they amalgamated to form Tallaght AC," said Cecil.

The club has progressed very well since, with a current membership of 300, and has also produced some outstanding athletes, explained Cecil. "There is Rashidat Adeleke and Israel Olatunde who are both Olympic qualifiers," said Cecil.

There has also been a development of facilities at the club. "We have our own track and clubhouse, which was completed in 2006/2008," said Cecil.

The track has seen a lot of use over the years and has facilitated numerous Dublin athletic events such as the Juvenile leagues and Senior graded meets.

"It's used quite a lot and so it needs to be revamped and upgraded. We have applied for funding through the Sports Capital Grants, so hopefully

that will be successful," said Cecil.

The track is a much-needed piece of sports infrastructure in the Tallaght area and beyond.

"Other sports clubs would use it such as Brothers Pearse, Templeogue, Sportsworld, Rathfarnham and local schools," said Cecil.

Cecil has seen people from other countries who have moved to Ireland get their children involved in the club.

"Athletics has progressed very well, young people whose parents have moved to this country have become members of the club, Rashidat would be an example but there are others," said Cecil.

Gaelic games is another sport in Tallaght that has seen dramatic changes over the last forty years.

Dominic Finnegan is on the Commercial Committee of Thomas Davis GAA club.

One area where Dominic has seen a marked growth is Ladies Gaelic Football. "That has seen probably the biggest growth, something that wouldn't have been imaginable forty years ago," he said.

Another is the juvenile involvement. "The coaching has developed into a different role, forty years ago it was minimal, but now it's at a different level and through the schools alone there has been a huge improvement," Dominic said.



ATHLETICS: Rashidat Adeleke after finishing fourth in the women's 400m during day five of the World Athletics Championships in Budapest in 2023

Tallaght stadium, which is owned by South Dublin County Council. Rovers play their home games in Tallaght stadium. The development of the stadium was completed in February of this year with the opening of the North Stand which brought the stadium's capacity to 10,000. Football enthusiasts have taken advantage of this increased capacity with over 10,000 attending the league match against Bohemians FC in April of this year.

There are many people from Tallaght who have gone on to become world figures in football. Robbie Keane is one such figure who has played for numerous clubs including Liverpool FC, Tottenham Hotspur FC and Leeds United and who also went on to become the leading all-time goal scorer for Ireland. Keane is manager of Maccabi Tel-Aviv, Israel who were recently crowned champions of Israel.

Richard Dunne is another Tallaght native who played for Ireland, Manchester City and is now a TV soccer pundit.

Stephen Kenny also hails from Tallaght and was manager of Ireland after stints with League of Ireland teams such as Longford Town and Dundalk and has recently returned to management with St Patrick's Athletic.

The Olympics in Paris this summer will also be an opportunity to showcase the talents of some sports people from the area and its surrounds.

Glenanne's Shane O'Donoghue will be taking part in the Olympics with the Irish hockey team while the Templeogue Swimming Club member, Ellen Walshe was the first Irish swimmer to secure an Olympic qualification time for Paris.

Tallaght's Jack Woolley will be attending his second Olympics Games this summer hoping to win Ireland's first gold medal in taekwondo.



BRIGHT FUTURE: South Dublin Taekwondo star Jack Woolley from Tallaght will be competing in the Olympic Games in Paris this summer

“The coaching has developed into a different role, forty years ago it was minimal, but now it's at a different level and through the schools alone there has been a huge improvement

The Dublin Development Officers and Croke Park have helped to bring about this improvement, according to Dominic. "There's a starting point and a finishing point now," he added.

There has also been a marked development of facilities at the club over the years. "We always try and push for the best facilities for our members. You can see it in the way the teams are prepared, there is strength and conditioning, there has been a massive improvement," said Dominic.

The club have also recently opened a full-sized pitch. "That cost a lot of money," said Dominic.

The club's infrastructure has also seen a marked development. "The amount of academy players, you could have up to 300 children on Saturday mornings, the amount of manpower, we would have 100 volunteers," said Dominic.

Hurling has also become more prevalent in the club. "There are more hurling teams out in the hurling aspect," said Dominic.

He has also noticed in recent years more players coming out of Juvenile and Minor level staying with the club. "The facilities is part of it, the mentors involved have a huge influence, the kids look up to them," said Dominic.

Needless to say Tallaght is synonymous with soccer, where the sport has developed dramatically particularly over the last twenty years.

Shamrock Rovers are the home team for the Tallaght area and have a rich history in the League of Ireland. 'The Hoops' are the most successful club in the Republic of Ireland with a record 21 League of Ireland titles. The club are currently chasing the illusive five-in-a-row League titles this season but have it all to do as they trail leaders Shelbourne by six points. The

club have also won a record 25 FAI Cups.

Rovers are a member owned club whose directors are elected from its membership.

An important aspect of the success Shamrock Rovers have recently enjoyed has been the development of



SOCCER: International soccer star Robbie Keane

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Photos by Paddy Barrett

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Mr Kerins with Eoghan Kenny Sports Award winner



TY Music Award winner Kevin Vuong and Ms Ryan



Art Award winner Jim Harte and Ms Ellis



Student Choice Award winner Oisín McCrudden and Mr Dee



Enterprise Award winners Eoghan and Oskar with Ms O'Carroll



Champagnat Award winner Sam Roche and Ms Ellis



TY Leadership Award winners Tychique Makemgeleand and Sean Leonard with Ms Murray



TY Student of the Year Catalin Baيسان



Master Chef Award winners James and Ion and Ms Murphy



TY Student of Year (4.1) Timi Keyede and Ms Ellis



Champagnat Award winner Sean Leonard and Mr Dee

Life & Social

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The Gaza Monologues is revisited

MONOLOGUES WRITTEN BY PALESTINIANS AND TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH

By **Ryan Butler**

news@echo.ie

TALLAGHT Community Arts (TCA) is proud to announce the launch of 'Gaza Monologues Revisited', a revival of their original iteration of 'The Gaza Monologues' as published by Ashar Theatre Group and performed in the Civic in 2018.

Having gotten the idea to revisit the project due to the escalating conflict in Gaza, TCA will be performing these monologues, originally written by Palestinian people and translated into English, that detail their experiences and what they have witnessed during the crisis.

For this revisit, TCA will be working with people who were involved in the original production, as well as some new faces. Sarah Devlin Scott was one of the original performers and kept in contact with a Palestinian woman that she bore witness to.

Sarah is the producer of this project and has worked closely with artists, art professionals, and arts organisations to make the revisit possible.

TCA has kept in contact with Ashtar Theatre throughout the project, who has provided them with information on the original writers as well as the monologues themselves.

This week, we sat down with TCA Director Sharon Devlin to discuss 'Gaza Monologues Revisited', which will launch in the performance space of Rua Red on June 5.

How did the 'Gaza Monologues' first come to the attention of Tallaght Community Arts?

Tallaght Community Arts produced the original iteration in 2018. Ashtar Theatre Group published its body of work, 'The Gaza Monologues,' and invited theatres and groups worldwide to get involved.

What inspired the idea to revisit them?

Tallaght Community Arts decided to revisit the project due to the escalating conflict in Gaza. We felt the need, as an organization, to help raise awareness of the suffering of the people of Gaza. Some young performers initially involved in the first production were interested in revisiting this work. One young woman, Sarah Devlin Sinnott, kept in contact with the young Palestinian woman she bore witness to, Heba Daoud. Heba, who is now 28 and married with two very young children, reported the horrors that she and her family were experiencing. Sarah became the project producer, and she, along with all artists, arts professionals, and arts organisations, have freely dedicated their time to creating this vital piece of work.

I imagine that Tallaght Community Arts has been working closely with Ashtar

Theatre for this. Can you tell us more about that?

TCA has been in contact with Ashtar Theatre throughout the project. They are a wonderful organisation working from Palestine and around the world. Ashtar provides all the monologues and information on the original writers, along with support. They are doing very important work, and they continue to support the original monologue writers. They assisted Heba in setting up a GoFundMe to leave Gaza to get medical treatment for her husband. They are a very inspiring organisation.

What preparations have been made to facilitate this project?

TCA linked with the original Young Person Ensemble to invite interested parties to volunteer their time on this project. The whole project was created by professional arts practitioners who volunteered their time and talents. TCA's budget is set 12 months in advance and put to very good use on a wide range of participatory arts programmes for the community of Tallaght and the wider South Dublin area.

Thirteen of the original monologue readers took part. The filming was done by volunteer final-year media students from TUD Tallaght and Olive Films and edited by VanGuard Design. The crew had only two days to film all the monologues, so there was a lot of pressure to organise filming times, write the script, and have all the equipment prepared. Rua Red was very generous with its donation of space to film and show the piece. SubSounds were also a fantastic help. We worked with 4 of their young musicians to compose and produce a piece of music, and they facilitated recording and mixing. We also worked with artist Ala Buisir, who helped translate an updated monologue from Heba Daoud, one of the original writers.

Much preparation went into using the limited time as effectively as possible.

How has production been?

The production has been great. There is so much young talent in Tallaght and South Dublin, as reflected by the work and dedication poured into this project. It has also been very inspiring to witness all these people work together and give up their time, skills, and space to work towards a very worthy and vital cause. The future is in very good hands!

Who is to thank for this project?

TCA would like to sincerely thank the arts practitioners involved in this project, especially the cast and crew, for giving up their valuable time from work and college, especially in their final degree year, to make this happen. TCA honours the work of the original monologue writers, their bravery, resilience, pain, and tenacity in sharing the stories of their lives and



Production of the Gaza Monologues

trauma with the world.

TCA is very grateful to Rua Red for their generosity and support in providing the performance space to screen the project on June 5th. SubSounds for helping to compose a beautiful piece of music, Ala Buisir for her help

with translation, and Ashtar Theatre for making this project accessible worldwide.

We also wish to thank the people who will watch the short film, witness monologues on our social media, and hear the voices of the people of Gaza.

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THE CIVIC



Rainne Hits The Right Notes

KISHOGE CC STUDENT TOPS IN TALLAGHT'S GOT TALENT

By **Ryan Butler**
news@echo.ie

RAINNE Isibéal Marzo was "four and a half" when she realized she could sing, putting "random lyrics together." Now she is the winner of 'Tallaght's Got Talent'.

The sun and the stars came out on Saturday, April 20, for the live finale of The Square's Tallaght's Got Talent competition, with X-Factor sensation Mary Byrne from Ballyfermot, singer-songwriter Bradley Marshall from Kingswood and karaoke king James Brown serving as judges and Ray Shah being host.

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.

A student in Kishoge Community College in Lucan, Rainne deservedly took the top spot with her Celine Dion cover, netting a €1,000 euro giftcard for the Square as the grand prize, followed in a close 2nd place by Anthony McKeown and his performance of Adele's 'Turning Tables', with 3rd place going to Ella Kelly with a beautiful rendition of 'What was I made for' by Billie Eilish.

Before TGT, she attended singing and drama class at Lucan Westside Performing Arts from when she was four and a-half until she was ten; she stopped going during lockdown.

Up until recently, Rainne also received

private online voice lessons from opera singer Rebecca Rodgers, during which she passed several LCM music exams with distinction.

She also won two Aldi singing competitions, the first being a Lucan competition that Aldi sponsored, and the second being the Aldi Community Games in 2019, where she represented Dublin in the U12s category.

Rainne was also a contestant in Ireland's Junior Eurovision in 2020 when she was 11, and auditioned for The Voice Kids UK when she was 12, having been invited to do it twice; she auditioned for Britain's Got Talent online and was invited to audition in January 2023 in front of the judges, but cancelled the audition due to personal reasons and was invited twice.

She also performed some singing concerts every year organised by Rebecca, as well as singing at birthday parties and Filipino festivals and sang as Guest artist at the Big Sing Ireland this year.

Rainne is currently a contestant on this year's series of the online Ivory Sessions Talent Show.

Having heard about the competition from somebody else, she was nervous going out onto the stage and was "suprised" to hear she had won.

She states that she plans to keep performing post-TGT success and would like to thank her parents for their support.

Congratulations to the winners and all who competed. Tallaght certainly does have talent!



Rainne Isibéal Marzo with her Tallaght's Got Talent trophy

Musical Mondays

CIVIC HOLDING SERIES IN THEIR STUDIO THEATRE

 A promotional graphic for 'Musical Mondays' at The Civic Theatre. The background is yellow with black musical notes and a large black treble clef. The text 'Musical MONDAYS' is written in a large, black, handwritten-style font. Below this, it says 'Throughout the summer, join us for a series of Musical Monday evenings in our studio theatre. With songs from musicals to modern classics, each week we'll present an exciting, different line-up of artists and genres.' There are four circular portraits of artists: a man with a beard, a man with a beard, a woman with blonde hair, and a woman with dark hair. The Civic Theatre logo is in the top right corner.

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See www.civictheatre.ie
for more info & booking
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By **Ryan Butler**
news@echo.ie

"WE WANT to give opportunities to qualified artists in musical theater," according to Donal Shiels, artistic director of the Civic, which will be proudly hosting a series of 'Musical Monday' evenings in their studio theatre.

With songs from musicals to modern classics, each week they will present an exciting, different line-up of artists and genres.

Many of the artists featured in this initiative have worked internationally and have trained for three to four years to perform musical theater; however, the costs are unfortunately "huge," and they may not be able to afford to perform at big venues or have a big run of 4-5 weeks performing. 'Musical Mondays' gives these artists an opportunity to showcase their talent.

The idea for this initiative came about to Donal a few months ago

and challenges involved in the production process have included "trying to get people together." A highlight is that everybody who has been asked to participate wants to do it, which Donal and the Civic staff are ecstatic about.

Artists performing include talented locals Sarah Harvey and Elaine Gallagher, as well as vocal coach Chris Currid, Brian Gilligan, who recently wrapped performing as Scar in the UK/Ireland tour of 'The Lion King', and former Britain's Got Talent contestant Leah Barniville.

After 'Musical Mondays', the Civic still has a busy year ahead of them with 'Singalong Songbook: Walking on Sunshine' on July 14, their 25th anniversary summer camp 'Camp Rydell' from July 22-August 6, their Halloween show, and the panto 'Tickles and the Beanstalk' from December 4-31.

Donal would like to thank the Civic staff and the singers for their support and help with the 'Music Mondays' programme.

Mad4Trad

MUNDY PERFORMED WITH STUDENTS DURING THE LAUNCH

Mad4Trad is an initiative that aims to encourage all young performers to develop confidence and musical skill through performance on exciting platforms, reports *William O'Connor*.

Mad4Trad was launched in Rua Red last week and involved a great evening with 'We were Mad4Trad' and Ceol Crazy, Music Generation South Dublin, Claire Sherry Music and the South Dublin County Arts Office.

For the first event children and young people, teachers, principals and parents from Gael Scoil na Camoige, Clondalkin and Scoil Mhuire, Lucan; both schools, mentored by Claire Sherry, a highly accomplished musician and All-Ireland winner in multiple instruments who inspired on the evening with her playing, accompanied by musician educator, Stephen Fagan.

The surprise of the evening was a magical appearance from Mundy.

'It was a rare occasion for so many young performers from the County to share the stage with one of Ireland's leading songwriters and performers. Truly inspirational!' according to Orla Scannell, Arts Officer.

Mundy has written some wonderful songs

such as 'To you I Bestow' which featured on Baz Luhrmann's Romeo and Juliet movie soundtrack.

Since 1996 Mundy has released eight albums showcasing his eclectic styles from Rock, Americana, Folk and Indie. Six of these albums have been Top Ten.

Mundy has enjoyed gold and multi-platinum record sales and a Meteor award for Steve Earle's 'Galway Girl' and as they say – the rest is history!

At the end of all the children and young people played us out with a rousing version of Mundy's hit 'Galway Girl'. The place was packed and everyone went home happy.

Music Generation is Ireland's National Music Education Program with a mission to empower children and young people to realize their full potential through access, to and participation in, high quality performance music education. Initiated by Music Network, Music Generation is co-funded by U2, The Ireland Funds, the Department of Education and Local Music Education Partnerships (LMEPs) in which Education and Training Board and Local Authorities play a lead role. Music Generation now reaches over 85,000 children and young people across 29 cities and counties in Ireland.



Mundy (Edmund Enwright) performs with students from Scoil Mhuire (Lucan) and Gaelscoil Na Camoige (Clondalkin) at the Mad4Trad event in Rua Red
Photos by Ben Ryan



A student from Scoil Mhuire in Lucan performs at the Mad4Trad event in Rua Red



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Clash of Cluain Dolcáin

HELD IN ROUND TOWER GAA CLUB ON MONASTERY ROAD

Photos by Mark Pollock

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Keith, Julia, Louis and David O'Callaghan (GPO)



Catriona, Josh and Arhama



Febe, Parker, Mathew, Christy, James, Justin and Tymeck



Aya, Lavinia and Sophie



Emer, Emilia and Sienna



Louis, Daisy and David



Emeala, Oliwia, Zara, Elle and Sarah



Round Tower members who took part in the Dermot Early Leadership programme and helped out during the matches

FLASH GORDON

IS MISE AN DOCHTÚIR HAN ALEXIS ZARKOV. IS FEAR EOLAÍOCHTA MÉ AR MO DHICHEALL.

TUGADH GEALT ORM NUAIR A THÁING MÉ AR BHAGAIRT EACHTRÁIN NACH RAIBH INA GCÉANN ACH AN DOMHAN A DHIOTHÚ.

CHUAIGH MÉ AS MO MHEABHAIR AG IARRAIDH AN DOMHAN A SHÁBHÁIL...

...CHRUTHAIGH MÉ GO RAIBH SIAD CONTRÁILTHE MAIDIR LEIS AN EOLAÍOCHT ACH FÓS BHÍ AN CEART ACU FÚM GO PEARSANTA.

FAOIN AN AR THÁING MÉ AR MO CHIAL THARRAING MÉ BEIRT STRAINSEIRÍ GO DTÍ PLÁINEAD I MBUN COGAIDH.

IS MÓR AN CHREIDIÚNT DON CHINE DAONNA IAD AGUS TÁ AN MILLEÁN ORMSA GO BHFUIL SAID SÁINNITHE ANSEO.

CUIRFIDH MÉ CURSAÍ INA GCÉART LÁ AMHÁIN.

LEAN AN TRÍDÚR AGAINN, FLASH, DALE AGUS MÉ FEÍN, AN RIAN FUINNIMH Ó PHRIONSA BARIN GO DTÍ AN ÁIT SEO:

"CAOLSÁILE AN IASACHTAÍ."

IS MARGADH FÁSAIGH É LÁN LE SMUIGLEIRÍ AGUS SCIBHINSEOIRÍ, FAOI SMACHT A GCOIMEÁDAÍ SIOCHÁNA SCÁFAIRE, BONES MALOCK.

FÓHLAIMÍD GO BHFUIL AN RIAN SIN -- FUINNEAMH Ó ACHMANN COGAÍOCHTA MHING -- I NGACH AON BHALL INÁR DTIMPEALL.

NÍL THART ORAINN ACH AN ÉADÁIL.

NÍL RUD AR BITH LE FÁIL SA MHARGADH SEO ACH AN FÚILLEACH Ó CHOGBADH DEARG AGUS IMPIREACHT LEAGHA...

FLASH, FÉACH!

...ACH ANSIN, AITHNÍMID É!

CLAÍOMH SNEACHTA NA FRIGIA A BHÍ AG BARIN ROIMH RÉ!

TÁ LEID NUA AGAINN FAOI DHEIREADH.

IS LÉIR GO DTAGAIMID AR AN ÁIT CHEART...

AR CHUALA TÚ AN T-AINM A BHÍ AR AN LEAD MÓR?

"FLASH", AR NÓS FLASH GORDON.

AN SARACHÁIN EACHTRÁIN A MHARAIGH ÁR IMPIRE...

AN CHÉAD CHLÁR EILE: TÁ AN RÚN SCÁOILTE.

THE PHANTOM

CREATED BY LEE FALK

I SUPPOSE IT WOULD BE FUTILE FOR ME TO EXPLAIN WHY YOU WANT NO PART OF THIS?

THAT IS CORRECT, SIR!

MANSPLAIN IT TO ME ALL YOU LIKE, BUT I'M WITH YOU!

NO MATTER WHAT LIES AHEAD!

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE US TO GET TO THE CAVERN?

I DON'T HAVE THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION YET.

HOW WERE YOU PLANNING TO GET THE ANSWER?

I MEAN, AFTER SLIPPING OUT OF THE DEEP WOODS WITHOUT ME?

THIS SHOULD THROW HER OFF THE TRAIL...

BEFORE WE DO THAT, DO YOU MIND IF WE MAKE A STOP ALONG THE WAY?

ON THE ISLE OF EDEN?

DO I MIND!? OH, IT'S BEEN FOREVER SINCE I'VE BEEN ON EDEN!

STRIPES! FLUFFY! BALDY!

I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THE WHOLE MENAGERIE!

Tony DePaul & Jeff Weigel* 6-12-22

EDEN WILL WORK ITS MAGIC ON DIANA, AS IT ALWAYS DOES...

I'LL SLIP AWAY THEN TO THE ONLY PLACE I KNOW THAT MIGHT LEAD ME TO THE CARNAGE AT THOSE TWO STONE LIONS...

THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS

POPEYE

BY RANDY MILHOLLAND

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.

MY FIRST PROFESSIONAL FIGHT AND I'M ALREADY DOWN FOR THE COUNT.

YE JUSK GOTSK A PAPER CUT ON THE SIGN-UP SHEET, GRAVY.

WHY DO THEY NEED PAPER THAT SHARP?!

THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS

"ENOFFS FISTICUFFS!"

PART 3

PROF. KILPH IS RUNNING AN ILLEGAL FIGHTING TOURNAMENT TO GET POPEYE TO BREAK A FIGHTING BAN KILPH HIMSELF SET IN MOTION, AND HALF OF THE TOWN HAS SHOWN UP TO JOIN.

I KNOW YOU'RE ALL TIRED OF THE FIGHTING BAN BY THE DEVILISHLY HANDSOME PROF. KILPH. NOW'S YOUR CHANCE TO WORK THAT RAGE OUT, AND THERE IS A PRIZE FOR THE BEST FIGHTER!

AND SO...

I'M GUESSING THE FIGHTER WITH BULGY ARMS AND ALL THE WINS MUST BE POPEYE, SIR.

YOU COULD PROBABLY END THIS WHOLE TOURNAMENT NOW. HAVE HIM CHARGED WITH VIOLATING THE BAN, AND QUIT WHILE YOU'RE AHEAD.

GO GET POPEYE'S LAST OPPONENT OUT OF ITS CRATE. AND DON'T MAKE EYE CONTACT. IT MISSED ITS DINNER.

OR YOU COULD DO THAT.

Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas South Dublin County Council



Laura and Carson Comerford



Harrison, Sue and Jessie



Ava Cleary



Darcie and Daisy



Linda with Parker, Alisia, Reuben, Daisy and Tilly



Skyler Scanlon and Family



Dolores Griffiths, Kendrick, Lilly Ella and Austin Griffiths



Lee, Jeff and Jennifer



Sara Jane, Lily and Nikita



Leighton Brady and Family



Harper and Family

Special Day For Pupils

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS IN CHERRY ORCHARD PARISH

Photos by Paddy Barrett

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Hunter and Carson



Elizah Cortez and Family



Brandon



Selina, Sonny and Daisee



Ava and Sienna



Heidi and Parker



Alicia with Anna, Maria and Anna Sr



Stephen, Heidi and Antoinette

“Healthy habits are learned in the same way as unhealthy ones - through practice.

Wayne Dyer

Health & Fitness

FIVE HABITS OF HEALTHY AND MOTIVATED PEOPLE



by Ursula Frawley / info@moveitfitness.ie

It's no secret that we'd all love to know the big habits that make the healthiest people stay so well week in and week out. It turns out these habits are all the simplest and most cost-effective for anybody to take up and start tomorrow. So here are the five! Why not have a look and see which of these you already consistently do every week and how you can incorporate the others.

1. Walking. It's no surprise that this is number one on the list. It's free, it's accessible and even the most unfit of people can start with a five or 10 minute slow walk and build themselves up. Study after study shows that daily walks are the magic ingredient for so many elements of health and improving metabolic diseases. My top tip? Start small but keep track of your progress. A great way to do this is with a fitness tracker, and see if you can increase your steps slowly but steadily over time.
2. Sleep. Getting a good night's sleep is restorative, not just for your health, but also for your energy and well-being the following day. So many domino effects will happen from lack of sleep. Good eating habits, exercising and feeling well will all stem from a really sleep the night before..
3. Eating real unprocessed foods. Do you know the ingredients of the foods you are nourishing your body with? A great tip with for this one is to keep your plate colourful and packed with unprocessed foods such as meat, eggs, fruit and vegetables.
4. Daily fresh air. I should add to this that fresh air early in the day is a really good indicator that you are on the road to a great night's sleep. There is so much evidence to show that being outside in nature has a positive impact on both health and wellness.
5. Limiting alcohol intake. It's really important that we pay attention to how our body responds when we drink alcohol. It may be what is derailing you from the other four habits above. Why not try and go alcohol free for a month and see is it easier for you to incorporate the other four habits here?. You might find that your motivation and energy levels are greatly increased when you reduce your alcohol intake.

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 oR WWW.MoveITfitness.ie

Summer is here and the sun is shining so let's make the most of starting a new habit while the days are long and the weather is warm.

This article is not a substitute for medical advice, diagnosis or treatment.

Remember, always consult with your GP before embarking on any change in diet or new health & fitness regime.



“ A salad is not a meal, it is a style.

Fran Lebowitz

Food with passion

WARM SMOKED SALMON POTATO SALAD

by john paul kennedy / jpcooking@gmail.com



This is a really light, fresh and delicious salad supper dish that can be prepped in advance. a lot more of us these days are working from home and this recipe is great one to get ahead and do most of the prep while on your lunch break and when it comes to supertime it's merely a bit of assembly and cooking the salmon (which cooks really quickly) and dinner is served. Quick, simple and healthy this dish that does not compromise on flavours and is a great way to get one serving of fish a week. i love the taste sensation of hot and cold together and i love that dish can be prepped and ready to serve in 12- 15minutes, just what anybody needs at the end of a long day. The recipe serves four but if cooking for less reduce the quantities accordingly or alternatively you can make additional for lunch the next day!

Ingredients: (Serves 4)

4 hot / cooked smoked salmon fillets (flaked)
baby potatoes
small bunch of dill roughly chopped
small bunch of chives roughly chopped
100g baby watercress/ cos

1 lettuce / lambs lettuce – whatever you prefer
80g of garden peas - cooked
squeeze of lemon juice
1 teaspoon of dijon mustard
2 teaspoons of white wine vinegar
2 tablespoons of rapeseed oil
sea salt and ground black pepper

john paul kennedy is a self-Taught cook and an avid fan of collecting cookery books with a passion for good old-fashioned home cooking. his passion for proper family cooking stems from his 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:

1. place the smoked salmon fillets on a baking sheet and in a preheated oven at 180 degrees cook for 12 -15 minutes but keep an eye on it you don't want to overcook the salmon. once cooked flake the salmon and set aside while you pull the salad together.
2. at the same time pop the potatoes into a large pot of boiling salted water and simmer gently for 10 - 12minutes until tender. drain and allow to cool a little before slicing them in half and place into a large serving bowl.
3. whisk together the mustard, vinegar and rapeseed oil in a separate bowl and season generously to taste.
4. pour the dressing over the warm potatoes, add the flaked salmon, dill, peas, chives and mix well. add the watercress, squeeze over some lemon juice and toss gently and serve immediately and enjoy.

This is a delicious fresh light, healthy supper with only 300 calories per serving so it's perfect for spring / summer suppers or lunches which ever you prefer. Quick and easy to prepare this can be on the table within 15 – 20 minutes so it's a fantastic supper when you crave something delicious but don't want to spend time prepping and cooking after a long day. i adore the vibrant, fresh inviting colours of this dish, so appetising and appealing i promise this will fast become one of your favourite dishes!

Contact
jp on:

Twitter: @Jpkcooking
Email: Jpkcooking@gmail.com
Instagram: jpkennedy.kennedy

Bealtaine Festival Event

HELD IN ROUND TOWER GAA CLUB ON TUESDAY

Photos by Paddy Barrett

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Marie Cousins, May Gough and Mary Mulkearn



Patricia Kavanagh, Maura Fitzpatrick, Margaret O'Neill and Celine Price



Bernie and Pearl



Audrey Hughes, Marie Coogan, Claire Morgan and Phil Breslin



Pat O'Loughlin, Nina Kavanagh and Bridie O'Brien



Pauline Fay and John Colgan

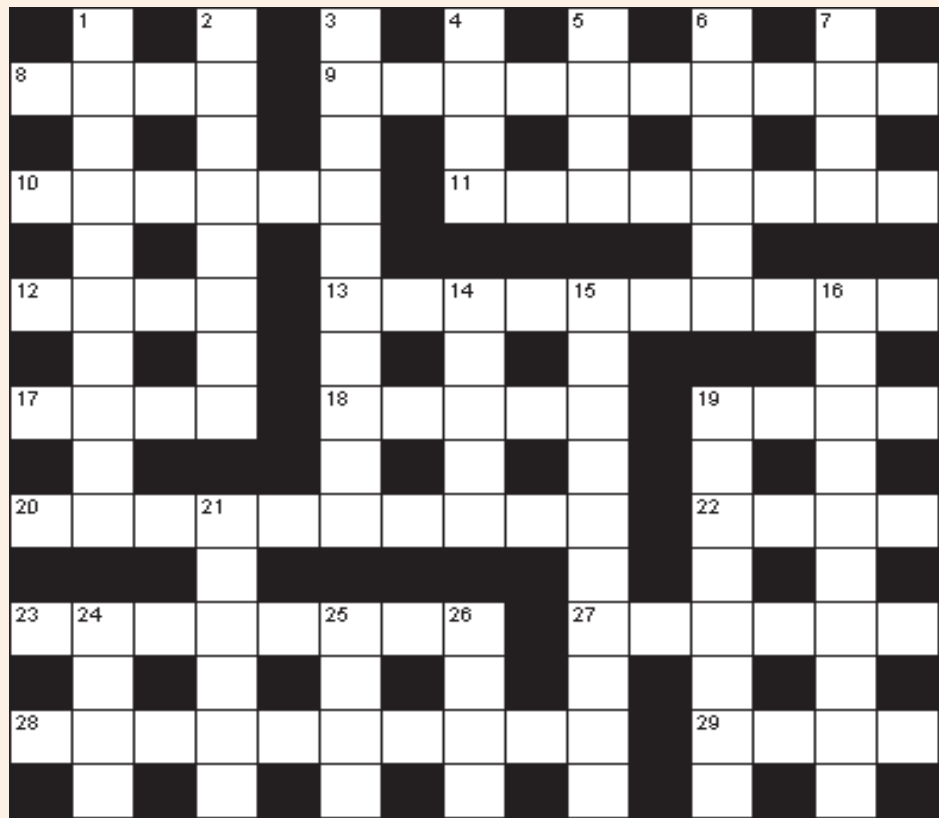


Mick O'Reilly, Tony Barrett and Jas Coogan (Band)



Marie Fleming, Mary Campbell and Patricia Fitzgerald

echocrossquiz Q2305



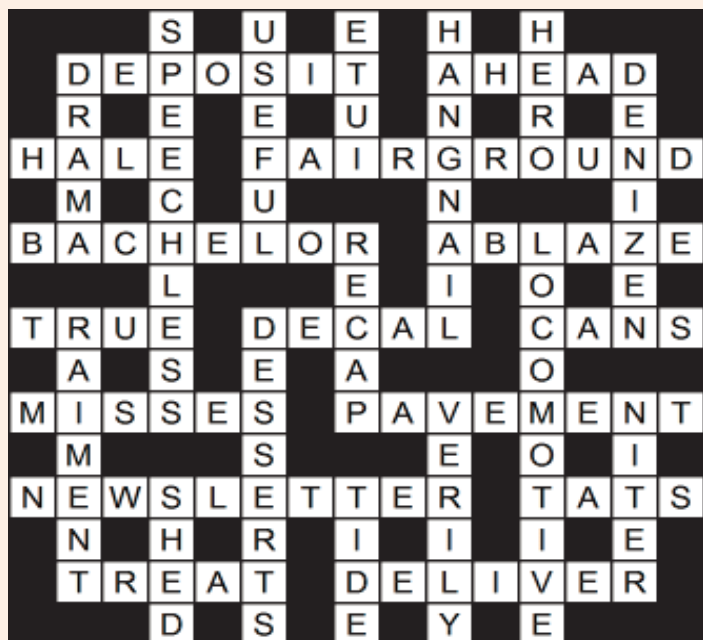
ACROSS

- 8. "S.O.S.!" (4)
- 9. Grossly unconventional (10)
- 10. Detestable (6)
- 11. Pecuniary (8)
- 12. Decorative case (4)
- 13. Worsen (10)
- 17. Weaving machine (4)
- 18. Bay window (5)
- 19. Fourth sign of the zodiac (4)
- 20. Hostility (10)
- 22. Basilica area (4)
- 23. Celebration (8)
- 27. Sexual attacker (6)
- 28. Assembly hall (10)
- 29. Double-reed woodwind (4)

DOWN

- 1. Willful (10)
- 2. A short pithy instructive saying (8)
- 3. Rambunctious (10)
- 4. Detail (4)
- 5. Area of cut grass (4)
- 6. One who modifies written material (6)
- 7. Russian emperor (4)
- 14. Exculpation (5)
- 15. Same backwards as forwards (10)
- 16. Semiconductor (10)
- 19. Title-holder (8)
- 21. An authoritative rule of conduct or procedure (6)
- 24. Astringent (4)
- 25. A chess piece (4)
- 26. Departure (4)

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS 1605



CAN YOU BEAT THIS WEEK'S CROSSQUIZ?

SUDOKU 1

8			4					
		4		9	2			
6				5	9			
				3		8	5	
		8		7			3	
		6	8			1		
				3	6			9
3			2	5				
				7	5			

SUDOKU 2

						8		
		3		4	2			
		9						
							5	
6			2	3	9		8	
			6		7	2		4
9	8			1		7	6	
							4	2
5	4							

ANSWERS

8	1	6	9	3	2	7	6	4	5
2	9	6	5	8	9	8	7	1	3
3	6	7	5	4	1	5	7	6	9
4	9	2	7	5	7	6	8	3	1
7	8	1	3	9	2	4	5	6	6
2	9	7	1	8	4	3	5	6	6
7	2	9	5	6	8	4	3	1	1
8	1	3	9	4	2	6	7	5	5
2	9	8	7	1	8	2	9	4	6

SUDOKU 2

6	3	5	7	4	9	1	8	2	8
3	6	9	2	5	8	4	7	1	3
4	7	5	1	3	6	8	2	9	4
5	3	6	8	2	9	7	1	4	4
1	2	8	5	7	4	6	9	3	3
9	4	7	6	1	3	2	8	5	5
6	1	3	7	8	5	9	4	2	2
7	5	4	3	9	2	1	6	8	8
8	9	2	4	6	1	3	5	7	7

SUDOKU 1

Poet's Corner

VERDICT

by Gerard O'Keeffe



I moved to Tallaght 35 years ago and quickly came to love it. I've been writing poetry for almost 50 years. I'm now retired and I have five grandchildren – they mean the world to me.

The verdict has finally
 Been read
 On the terrible fire
 That left 48 dead
 For years the families
 Had Fought for the right
 To know what really
 Happened that night
 Doors were chained

Exits blocked
 This should not have happened
 It could have been stopped
 Trapped inside
 They hadn't a chance
 The devil had come
 To the valentine's dance
 Unlawful killing
 But who will pay
 For the 48 lives
 That ended that day



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**.

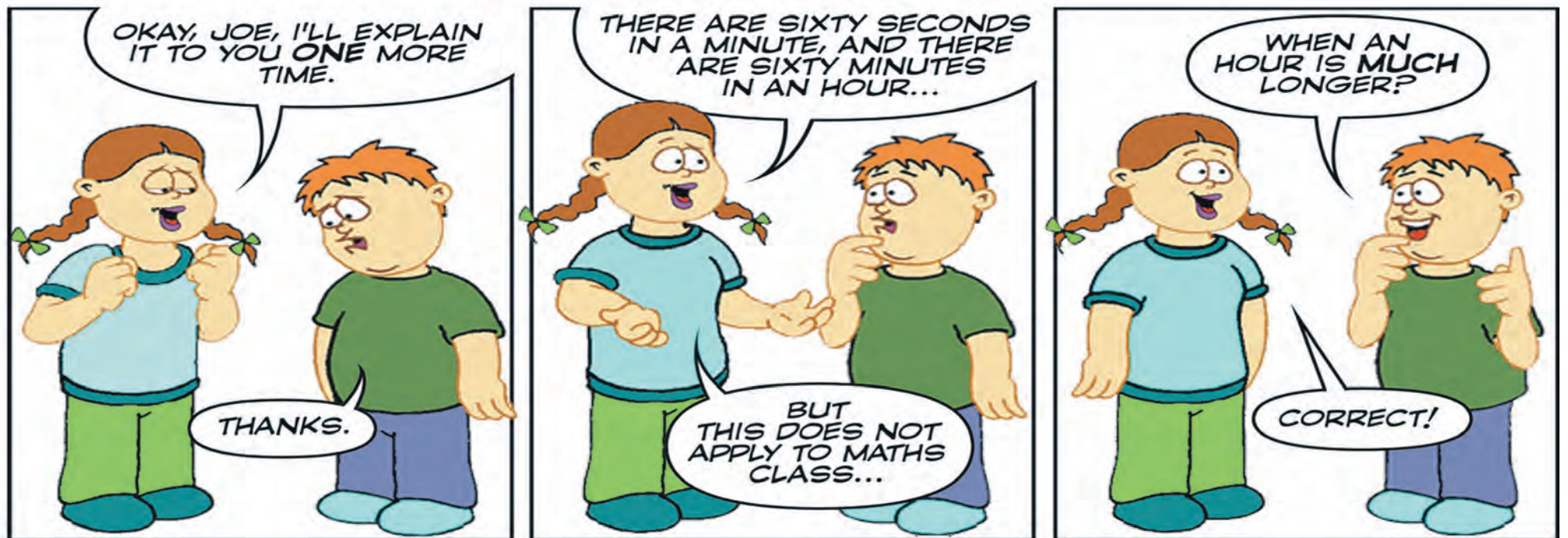
A Word with Echo So...

Brightness

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



OKAY, JOE, I'LL EXPLAIN IT TO YOU ONE MORE TIME.

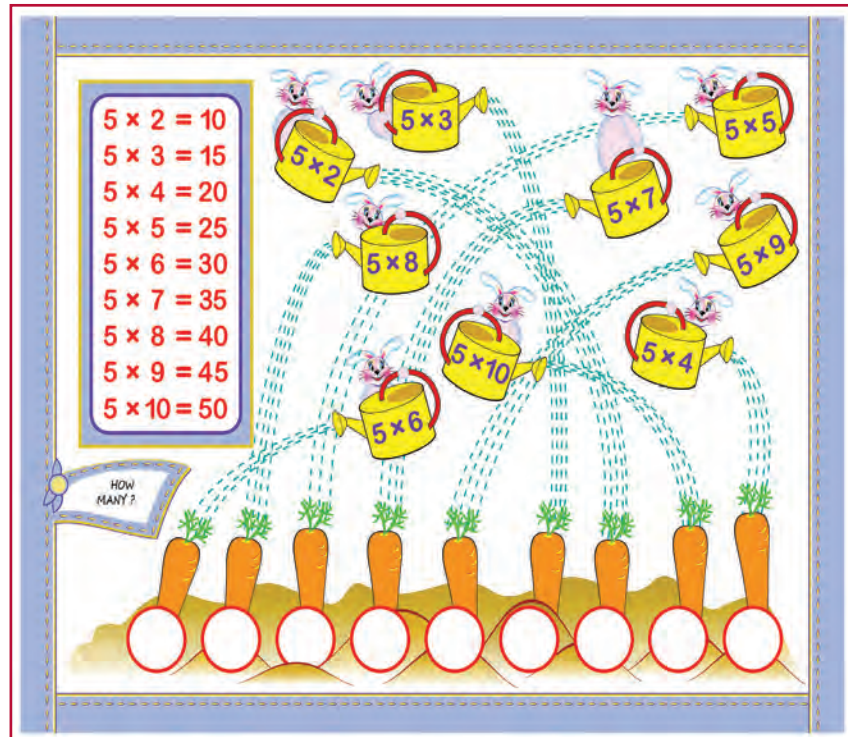
THANKS.

THERE ARE SIXTY SECONDS IN A MINUTE, AND THERE ARE SIXTY MINUTES IN AN HOUR...

BUT THIS DOES NOT APPLY TO MATHS CLASS...

WHEN AN HOUR IS MUCH LONGER?

CORRECT!



5 × 2 = 10
5 × 3 = 15
5 × 4 = 20
5 × 5 = 25
5 × 6 = 30
5 × 7 = 35
5 × 8 = 40
5 × 9 = 45
5 × 10 = 50

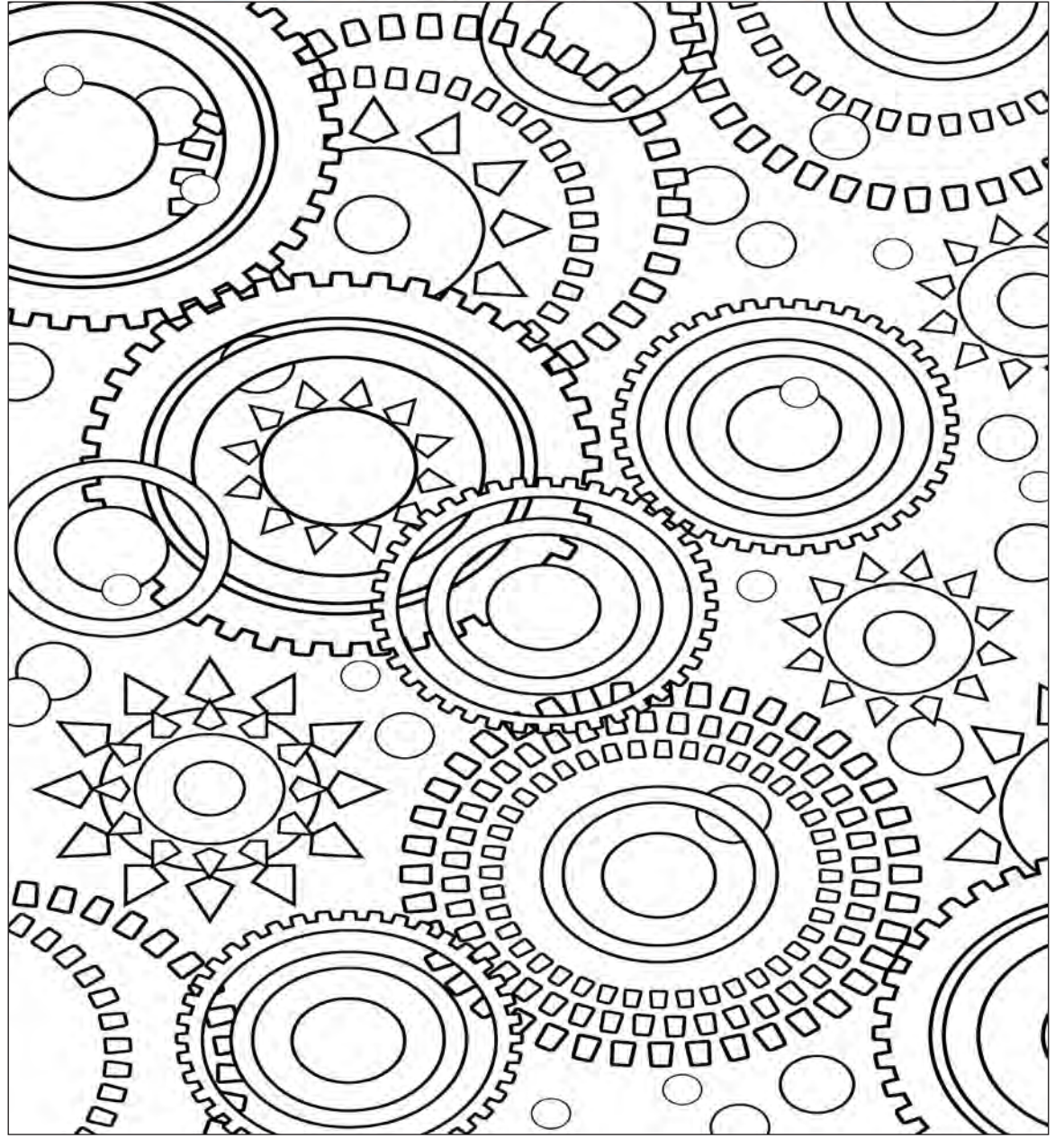
HOW MANY?

11 - 8 =	3 + =	4 + =
-	+ +	- -
=	=	=
+ 4 = 10	7 - = 6	+ = 10
+ 5 = 6	8 + = 10	7 - 4 =
+ -	- -	- -
= 4 =	= 4 =	= =
9 - =	- 3 =	+ 1 =

FIND 10 DIFFERENCES



COLOURING BOOK



LETTER LINK LOG-JAM

A MISSING LETTER ON EACH ROW FINISHES ONE WORD AND STARTS THE NEXT...

BUT WHAT ARE THE LETTERS?

LAK		PIC
KEL		ART
DRA		IDE
PIT		ANK
RUD		LSE
CHO		EEP
FOL		ING
BRE		ORK



the missing letters: E, P, T, Y, E, P, K, W.

winner



Lexi coleman, aged 6, is this week's winner of The Echo Joe Club logo colouring competition. Lexi, your prize will be on the way to you soon. All entries stay in so you have another chance to win!

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family notices

Important Notice
Items for publication for memorial pages must be in by 1pm Friday for next Thursday's paper

Tel: 468 5350
email: reception@echo.ie

ANNIVERSARY



Carroll, Thomas
In loving memory of my precious son Thomas, whose 10th Anniversary away from home occurs 29th May. Forever 21.

Son
It's been 10 long agonising years,
Since I heard your voice,
Or seen your beautiful smile,
I'd give my life to have you back,
If only for a while,
Years come and go,
But the pain I feel inside,
No one will ever know,
It breaks my heart seeing Kayla growing up without her dad,
All the things you've missed in her life,
Her communion, her confirmation, starting school,
Makes me very sad,
You never got to meet any of your nephews and nieces,
If you did you would love them to pieces,
You were taken away from us way too young,
I will always be proud of you my precious son.
Thinking of you Tom on your 10th anniversary away from home. Not a day goes by when I don't think of you. I love and miss you so much son, till we meet again, love always from your heartbroken Ma.
xxxxxxxxxx

Thomas
It's been the hardest thing to lose you,
You meant so much to me,
But you are in my heart brother,
And that's where you'll always be,
I know that heaven called you,
But I wish you could have stayed,
At least the memories I have of you,
They will never fade,
I did not want to lose you,
But you did not go alone,
Because a part of me went with you,
When heaven called you home,
So just remember one thing,
We are not apart,
You're with me in my memories,
And in my broken heart.
Loved and missed always Lou and Tommy. xxx

Brother
They say there is a reason,
They say that time will heal,
Neither time or reason,
Will change the way I feel,
Gone are the days we used to

share,
But in my heart you are always there,
The gates of memories will never close,
I miss you more than anybody knows.
Love your brother Glen.
xxxxxxxxxx

Thomas
In the blink of an eye,
Ten years has passed,
Everything has changed,
But our love and aching for you stays the same,
I miss you, but I know someday,
you will be waiting on the flipside of this life for me,
You'll always be with me,
And you'll always be my brother.
I love you Tom, Shauna. xxx

Thomas - Precious Grandson
How do I write on paper,
The feelings I have inside,
From your heartbroken nana,
Who has missed you since you died.
My heart still aches with sadness,
My secret tears still flow,
For what it meant to lose you,
No one will ever know.
Call Thomas's name out softly Lord,
And when he looks your way,
Tell him that I love him,
And miss him every day.
Forever in my thoughts and prayers, Nana. xx

Your smile was made of sunshine,
Your heart was made of gold.
We thank you for the love you gave,
And the memories that we hold.
No matter how we spend our days,
No matter what we do,
No morning dawns no evening falls,
Without a thought of you.
It's been a long 10 years since you were taken from us, we will never stop loving and missing you. Forever in our hearts Snowball, your heartbroken auntie Jen & Alex. xxxxx

Silent memories keep you near,
As time unfolds another year,
Out of our lives you may be gone,
But in our hearts you still live on,
Memories are precious,
They don't fade away,
We think of you always,
Especially today.
Love you always and forever Emma and Kev. xx

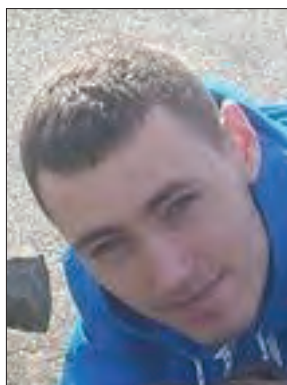
Grandson
No matter how life changes,
No matter what we do,
A special place within our hearts,
Is always kept for you.
Love and miss you always Tom Tom, Grandad Carroll. xx

Nephew
You fell asleep without saying goodbye,
But memories of you will never die,
It breaks our hearts this time of year,
It's when you are very near.
On your 10th Anniversary from home. Loved and missed so much Caroline & Karl. xx

NOVENA

Miracle Prayer
Dear heart of Jesus I ask you this special favour (mention one) take it dear heart of Jesus and place it within your own broken heart where your father sees it. Then in his merciful eyes it will become your favour not mine. Amen. say this prayer 3 days promise publication and favour will be granted never known to fail. P.S.

ANNIVERSARY



Miller, Gary
In loving memory of a wonderful Son, Brother, Grandson, Nephew, Cousin and Friend, whose 10th Anniversary away from home occurs 24th May. Also remembering his friend Thomas O'Brien whose 12th Anniversary occurs on the same day.

Son
If I could have one wish son,
A dream that could come true,
I'd pray to God with all my heart,
For yesterday and you.
For to lose a fine and precious son,
Whether man or boy,
Deprives the heart of all its warmth,
And life of so much joy.
Nothing on earth could ever replace,
The sound of your voice,
Or the smile on your face,
Nothing I write, nothing I say,
No verse, no flowers, no tears can say,
How much you are missed and loved every day.
Your wonderful nature, your heart of gold,
The very best this world could hold,
Never selfish, always kind,
These memories will never be left behind,
Til the roses lose their fragrance,
Til the heather sheds its dew,
Until I leave this world behind,
I will never stop loving you.
Miss you so much Gary, love you forever and always Mam and Dad. xxx

Brother
When you lose someone you love,
The hurt is hard to hide,
But when you lose your brother,
The hurt goes deep inside.
If heaven had a number,
I would call you on the phone,
To tell you how much I love you,
And wish you could come home.
Forget you Gary I never will,
For in my heart I love you still.
From your little bro Adam, love and miss you so much. xxx

Grandson
We cannot believe we lost our precious grandson,
In such a sudden way,
The heartache cuts us deep inside,
Every single day.
To us you were so special,
What more is there to say,
We only wish with broken hearts,
That you were here today.
How lucky is God to have such a treasure,
Take care of our Gary Lord forever and ever.
In loving memory of our precious grandson Gary, forever in our hearts, love Nanny & now reunited with your dear Grandad who left this world and joined you on the 27th of January 2022.

Nephew/Cousin
Of all the many blessings,
However great or small,
To have had you in our family,
Was the greatest one of all.
Those special memories of you,
Will always bring a smile,
If only we could have you back,
For just a little while.
We loved you from your time of birth,
There was no one like you,
You always meant so very much,
And always will do too.
The fact that you're no longer here,
Will always cause us pain,
You're forever in our hearts,
Until we meet again.

Love and miss you forever, aunts Denise, Nicky & Catherine, uncles Niall, John & Mark and cousins Saoirse, Oliver & Tilly. xxx

ANNIVERSARY



Cullen Ryan, Maura
On your 4th Anniversary.

Loving you is easy,
We do it every day,
Missing you is a heartache,
That never goes away.
Forever loved and missed. Carol, Joan, Nadine and Family.

ANNIVERSARY/ BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



Scanlon, Desmond
17th Anniversary away from home. Also remembering his Birthday, 25th May.

My Beautiful memories,
Dearer than gold,
Of a dad whose worth,
Can never be told.
The sorrow I feel,
I can never explain,
The ache in my heart,
Will always remain.
Also 51st Birthday Remembrance for my brother Darren. 3rd away from home. Happy 51st Birthday Darren, Missing you loads. Love and miss you so much, Carol, Joe and Grandchildren.

Dad
Thinking of all the happy times we shared,
And of how much we miss you,
Your big smile and all the chats,
Seventeen years since you left us,
And it feels like yesterday.
Happy Birthday x Love always Declan, Susan, Adam and Megan. xx

NOVENA

Miracle Prayer
Dear heart of Jesus I ask you this special favour (mention one) take it dear heart of Jesus and place it within your own broken heart where your father sees it. Then in his merciful eyes it will become your favour not mine. Amen. say this prayer 3 days promise publication and favour will be granted never known to fail. F.O.N.

ANNIVERSARY



Walsh, A-J
Millbrook Lawns, Tallaght. 4th January 1986 – 25th May 2020. 4th Anniversary. Four years ago on the 25th May 2020, A-J, our beloved Son and Brother passed away.

A-J
You are missed each and every day,
For you were someone special,
Who meant more than words can say,
You will be forever in our hearts.
We miss you so much,
You are loved and remembered every day.
"You're flying without wings" Mum, Dad, Marc, Graham and Orla, Tanya, Alan, Megan, Josh, Ben, Max, Amy, Dylan and Chloe.

NOVENA

Miracle Prayer
Dear heart of Jesus I ask you this special favour (mention one) take it dear heart of Jesus and place it within your own broken heart where your father sees it. Then in his merciful eyes it will become your favour not mine. Amen. say this prayer 3 days promise publication and favour will be granted never known to fail. F.O.N.

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WEB: www.tallaghtstonecentre.ie

planning notices

All planning applications must be in before 5pm Monday

tel: 468 5350
email: reception@echo.ie

South Dublin County Council

We Alan & Ramon Buckley are applying for planning permission for Internal first floor alterations. Attic conversion with w.c., dormer roof window & 1No. roof light on rear slope of roof at attic level. 1No. roof light on front slope of roof at attic level at 234 Saint Peters Road, Walkinstown, Dublin 12 D12YR65. 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

We John & Leona Farrell are applying for planning permission for Partial ground floor rear extension. First floor side extension with dutch hipped roof over. Attic conversion with w.c. with dormer roof window on rear slope & front slope of roof at attic level. 2No. roof lights on front slope & 1No. roof light on rear slope of roof at attic level at 35 Woodstown Abbey, Knocklyon, Dublin 16 D16N9E5 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

Mark & Kate Coyle are applying for planning permission for ground and first floor extensions to the side and rear elevations, new dormer window and window changes to the front elevation of the existing dwelling house and all associated site works at 7 Wainsfort Crescent, Terenure, Dublin 6W, D6W RY88. This application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of South Dublin County Council during its public opening hours of 9am to 4pm, Mon to Fri, and a submission or observation may be made to South Dublin County Council in writing and on payment of the prescribed fee (€20.00) within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by South Dublin County Council of the application.

South Dublin County Council

Tony and Alice Forshaw intend to apply for planning permission to the above authority for the construction of a new 2 storey extension to front/side, and single storey extension to side/rear of the existing dwelling, and all associated site works at 30 Glendoher Close, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16. This application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of South Dublin County Council during its public opening hours of 9am to 4pm, Mon to Fri, and a submission or observation may be made to South Dublin County Council in writing and on payment of the prescribed fee (€20.00) within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by South Dublin County Council of the application.

South Dublin County Council

William Barry and Danielle Murphy have applied for Planning Permission for development comprising a two storey extension to existing house, a new waste water treatment system and associated site works at Lisheens Blessington Road Brittas Co Dublin. D24 P262. In this regard note that Significant Further Information including amendments to the Public Notices as set out below has been furnished to the Planning Authority and is available for inspection or purchase at the offices of the Planning Authority at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, during its public opening hours, and that a submission or observation in relation to the Further Information may be made to the Authority in writing and on payment of the prescribed fee (€20.00) within 2 weeks of the date of receipt of the newspaper notice and site notice by the Authority and no further fee is required where a valid submission or observation has already been made in respect of this planning application.

Amendments to public notices -

William Barry and Danielle Murphy are for Planning Permission for development comprising a two storey extension to existing house, a new waste water treatment system and associated site works with access off Lisheen Road at Lisheens Blessington Road Brittas Co Dublin. D24 P262

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL - LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) ACTS 1963 - LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) REGULATIONS 1977 TO 1994

PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED WEEK ENDING MAY 10, 2024

SD23A/0162 09 May 2024 Permission and Retention Additional Information

Applicant: BRC Shooting Club
Location: BRC Shooting Club, Bohernabreena Road, Dublin, D24 CX67
Description: New single storey training building 12m x 6m with pitched roof & 4 no. roof lights to northeast of existing clubhouse, & planning retention sought for range 2 to the south of existing ranges & associated ground works.

SD24A/0003 09 May 2024 Permission Additional Information

Applicant: Jane Fitzgerald and Richard O'Loughlin
Location: White Gables, 17 Old Bridge Road, Dublin 16
Description: Demolition of the existing 2 bedroom house which is a semi-detached dormer bungalow, the construction of a new 5 bedroom detached house with 4.6m high single storey section to the rear, with 2 no dormer windows and 7 no. rooflights to the front slope and 1 no. dormer window and 5 no. rooflights to the rear slope and 1 no. rooflight to the single storey section to the rear, the alteration and conversion of the existing rear shed building to ancillary recreation / home office building, the construction of a new bike storage unit to the front garden, landscaping works including new parking area to the front and all associated site works.

SD24B/0044 07 May 2024 Permission Additional Information

Applicant: Sean & Carol Mackessy
Location: 57, Pairc Gleann Trasna, Aylesbury, Tallaght, Dublin 24
Description: Ground floor rear extension with flat roof over & 2no Velux rooflights. Proposed ground floor front extension, 2 storey side extension all with pitched roofs over, internal alterations at ground floor & first Floor

LRD24A/0003 09 May 2024 Permission LRD3-Application

Applicant: Montane Developments (Ireland) Unlimited Company
Location: Former CHM Premises, Ballymount Road Lower, Walkinstown, Dublin 12, D12 CK60.
Description: Montane Developments (Ireland) Unlimited Company intend to apply for permission for a Large-Scale

Residential Development at the site at Former CHM Premises, Ballymount Road Lower, Walkinstown, Dublin 12. The development will consist of amendments to permitted Strategic Housing Development (SHD) (Ref. ABP-309658-21)), which has permission for a residential development of 163 apartments with supporting tenant amenity facilities (gym, lounges and meeting room), caf?, creche, landscaping, public realm improvements, parking, and all ancillary site development works. The proposed amendments include the following: ? Change of use at Ground Floor Level of Block B from the permitted Caf? to proposed retail unit (c.363.5 sq.m). ? The incorporation of an off-license area within the proposed retail unit (c.24.4 sq.m). ? Siting of proposed signage/advertising associated with the proposed Retail unit. ? Internal reconfiguration of permitted creche area with the gross floor area reducing from c. 261sq. m to c. 235sq.m. ? Internal reconfiguration and reduction of permitted tenant amenity facilities (communal areas) from c. 472.1sq. m to c. 426.6 sq. m. ? Amendments to permitted residential apartments on Level 5 of Block C, consisting of replacing 2 no. 3 bed (5 person) units with 2no. 2 bed (4 person) units and an additional 2 bed (3 person) unit. Overall the residential provision will increase from permitted 163 no. units to 164 no. units (1no. Studio, 57no. 1 bed, 99no. 2 bed and 7 no. 3 bed). ? Changes to Level 6 of Block B, to include external retail plant at roof level within the permitted envelope of the development, to include ventilation louvres to the North & East fa?ade and a louvred roof access door for maintenance purposes only. ? Provision of an additional external Bicycle Parking Stand with 14 no. parking spaces located to the East of the building to cater for retail and creche usage. All other associated site development works, services provision, access, parking, landscaping and boundary treatment works to be carried out as otherwise granted under the parent permission Reg. Ref. ABP-309658-21 (and associated conditions).

SD24A/0107W 04 May 2024 Permission New Application

Applicant: Moffash ULC
Location: Within the townlands of Kilmactawlay and Milltown, Newcastle, Co. Dublin
Description: Development at this site on lands that include the Aylmer Road (L6003); Baldonnel Road (L2001); and lands that include a small section to the north, but are primarily to the south, of the Aylmer Road, including part of the Griffin allotments, within the townland of Kilmactawlay and Milltown, Newcastle, Co. Dublin consisting of the widening, to its south, of the existing Aylmer Road (L6003) from its junction with the Baldonnel Road

(L2001) for a distance of c. 520m to the west. The widened road will tie in with the existing road to the west of a proposed new roundabout. The new roundabout will be created by utilising lands to the north and south of Aylmer Road to facilitate access to a new internal estate road (270m in length) to its south-east with a new roundabout at its end that will provide future access to the lands to its north and south. The widening of the Aylmer Road to a 7.5m wide carriageway will be almost entirely to its south and will include a proposed new shared cycle path and pedestrian footpath along its southern side, with the existing hedgerow to be retained for large lengths, and a new hedgerow to be planted where the existing one is to be removed. The proposed new shared cycle and footpath will tie in with a proposed new footpath and cycle path that will be located either side of the new internal estate road. These works will include the provision of 2 new dry attenuation basins on the south side of the widened road. The development will include all ancillary infrastructural works, street lighting, site development and ground works, including fencing, signage, and landscaping.

SD24A/0109W 07 May 2024 Permission New Application

Applicant: Flutter Entertainment Plc
Location: Unit 5, Tallaght Retail Centre, Belgard Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24, D24 A786
Description: The development will consist of (a) the removal of the existing fascia signage, (b) the installation of green powder coated aluminium cladding panels overlaid on the existing shopfront, (c) the installation of a new double glazed Crittall framed glazing and entrance door complete with repairs to the shopfront, (d) the installation of new internally illuminated fascia signage, (e) the installation of a new internally illuminated projecting sign and (f) all associated site works.

SD24A/0110W 07 May 2024 Permission New Application

Applicant: Aishling Hogan
Location: Greenhills Community Centre, St Joseph's Road, Dublin 12, D12 Y899
Description: The continuation of use of the approved planning Ref No. SD19A/0285 for Childcare facility to cater for an increase in numbers up to 48 children between the hours 7.30am - 6.30pm, Monday to Friday, in the existing 3 No. Portacabins with designated carparking & setdown, playground, site fencing and all associated site works known as Small Wonders Early Years Centre.

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, May 23, 2024

Donore athletes take part in Irish Runner 5km



Donore athletes after the biofreeze Irish Runner 5k

A LARGE Donore Harriers AC contingent took to the roads for the Biofreeze Irish Runner 5km on our doorstep in Phoenix Park.

This race also doubled as the National 5k Road championship and Donore had one medal winner, Barry Potts, who took the M75 title.

Other members involved were 27th and 17th MS John Cleary (15.47); 89th and 5th M50 Des Tremble (17.15) 131st and 9th M45 Fred Kiernan (17.56) 229th and 19th M35 Kishor Shelake (19.12); 245th and 22nd M40 Stephen Dawson (19.23); 261st and 20th M35 John Paul O'Hanlon (19.39) 264th and 21st M35 Jim Kelly (19.38); 295th Robert Dunne (20.01) 316th & 30th WS Emily Cunniffe (20.11) 375th & 11th W40 Ariana Ball (21.06) 407th & 7th W45 Claire Mulligan (21.32) 411th & 33rd M50 John Gleeson (21.21) 414th & 41st WS Emma Jane Bane (21.24) 426th & 33rd M50 Mark Devine (21.53) 466th & 10th W45 Ruthanne Barry (22.31); 477th and 34th M50 Paul Nunan (21.31); 487th and 21st M45 Keith Creedon (21.36) 504th and 6th M65 Ken Cronin (23.00) 556th and 57th MS Stephen Murphy (22.10); 578th and 1st M75 Barry Potts (24.27); 618th and 19th W50 Jo Hughes (24.39); 632nd and 13th W45 Catherine McKeon (24.59); 750th Michelle Dawson 886th and 18th; W40 Sarah Ni Ruairc (25.34) 1,108th and 60th MS Ronan Mulhall (28.18); 1,474th and 32nd W40 Elena De Blas Menendez (34.56) 1,475th and 33rd W40 Ana Maria Rodrigo (34.56)

Peamount women march on in the All-Island Cup

PEAMOUNT United women's team progressed to the quarter-finals of the All-Island Cup in Greenogue at the weekend.

A second-half goal from Freya Healy was the difference between the sides after the hosts emerged 1-0 winners over Dublin rivals Bohemians.

The Newcastle side finished second behind Linfield on goal difference but did enough to progress in the competition.

"It was a good win for us. I was happy with the performance and more importantly keeping a clean sheet," said Peamount manager James O'Callaghan.

"The league is the priority, but this competition is a great way to give some players game time. We have a lot of injuries but its great to still get these results."

Lauryn O'Callaghan played well in defence for Peamount while Dolan and Jess Fitzgerald at midfield were others to stand out.

Peamount now focus their attention to this weekends Airtricity League encounter with DLR Waves in Greenogue.

Peas overcame Treaty United 1-0 two weeks ago and will be hoping to continue their good run of form.

"We have been going well in the last five games and we are looking to maintain this run. DLR are always a good side and we will be hoping to continue our good run of form," he added.



Peamount progressed to the quarter finals of the All-Island Cup with victory over Bohemians
Photo by Bartley Ramsay

Newtown Rangers secure promotion from Major One

NEWTOWN Rangers have officially clinched promotion from Major Sunday 1 Football, marking a significant milestone in their remarkable resurgence. Sitting eight points clear at the top of the table, they now eagerly await Mount Merrion's upcoming matches, hoping their rivals falter, to not only secure promotion but also claim the league title, reports Rory Merriman.

This achievement is particularly poignant given Newtown's turbulent history over the past few years. Just three years ago, the club found itself teetering on the brink of relegation. In the 2021/22 season, they narrowly escaped the drop, a close call that foreshadowed the tumultuous times ahead.

The following season, 2022/23, proved to be a nightmare. Despite their valiant efforts, Newtown Rangers opted out of the intermediate division in Major Sunday, only to endure a disastrous campaign that saw them relegated to Major 1

Sunday. This demotion was a harsh blow to the club, sparking fears of a prolonged struggle to regain their former standing.

However, the arrival of new managers Owen Hamilton and Graham McInerney in the current season has been a turning point. Their leadership has been instrumental in transforming the team's fortunes. Hamilton and Davies implemented a rigorous regime focusing on training, tactics, and discipline, which quickly began to yield results.

The current squad is youthful and dynamic, with most players aged between 21 and 23, complemented by the experience of two veterans in their early 30s. This blend of youthful exuberance and seasoned wisdom has proven to be a winning formula.

Newtown Rangers' recent form has been nothing short of spectacular. They have won their last five games, a streak that has propelled them to the top of the league and secured their promotion. This run of victories



Newtown Rangers secured promotion in the league.

Photo by Anthony O'Brien

is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the players and the strategic acumen of the management duo.

"We started the season off really well, but we took a dip in form about midway through the season," assistant coach Graham McInerney told *The Echo*.

"At the start of the season, our goal was to secure a promotion. Winning the league would really be the icing on the cake.

"The lads to be fair to them have done excellent to adapt to the new ways myself and Owen have implemented. We came in here with high standards set and

tactical training sessions that are applicable to match situations and the lads have done excellent," McInerney added.

"We've won our last five games and now we have secured promotion. We're just hoping that Mount Merrion mess up now."



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AMATEUR SPORTS AWARDS 2024

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April Sports Star of the Month is Adam Olaniyan

THERE was plenty to shout about for Jobstown Boxing Club at the European Youth Championships in Croatia last month.

Super-heavyweight Adam Olaniyan came out tops against Misak Tepanyan from Armenia in the 92 plus kilos to create history for his club to become the only boxer to win two European gold medals.

On his way to the final, Adam overcame boxers from Poland, Turkey and Ukraine before beating Tepanyan in the final.

In the build up to the Championships, Adam did a 14-week training camp, 11 weeks in Ireland, one week in France and two weeks in Croatia.

"It was a great experience, European gold, at Super-heavyweight, not many people my age have done this, so it's just a great experience all round to have achieved this," Adam told *The Echo*.

"This is my second time to win a gold medal so hopefully we will win a few more in the future.

"I am now looking forward to the Worlds in Croatia so hopefully we can get a gold medal there.

"The coaches in Jobstown Boxing Club do a lot for me outside the ring and that everything is good so it's great for all of them also".



Adam Olaniyan from Jobstown Boxing Club receives the Active South Dublin Sport Star of the Month Award from Laura Becker, Sales & Marketing Manager, The Plaza Hotel, William O'Connor, News Editor, *The Echo* and Thos McDermott, Head of the Active South Dublin



Thos McDermott, Head of the Active South Dublin presents the Active South Dublin April Team of the Month Award to Éanna Head Coach Darren McGovern along with Matthew McClain, James Gormley and James Kiernan. With them are William O'Connor, News Editor, *The Echo* and Laura Becker, Sales & Marketing Manager, The Plaza Hotel.

April Team of the Month

Griffith College
Éanna Basketball

GRIFFITH College Éanna won their first ever Super League title, thanks to a 93-61 win over Pyrobel Killester in the final at the National Basketball Arena last month.

The Ballyroan side led from start to finish in this contest, establishing a 10 point advantage at the end of the first quarter, 31-21, Sean Jenkins and Josh Wilson making excellent starts with 14 and 12 points respectively.

Éanna's shooting was exemplary, Matthew McClain's three was followed by another long range one from Jenkins, to put them 82-50 up by the midpoint of the quarter and they'd close it out to win 93-61.

"It's an excellent year for us, a very satisfying end to the season it's our first SuperLeague National title so it's a fantastic season for us," Éanna Head Coach Darren McGovern told *The Echo*.

"They are really a positive group of players to look after and coach all season long.

"The season is all wrapped up now and we are looking forward to a few weeks off during the summer and then we are back into pre-season in August and hope to start the season really well in October," added Darren

Athletics

Medal joy for Moyle Park athletes



Moyle Park College relay team placed 3rd in the 4x100m. Team members are Szymon, Franklin, Timmy and Dubem.

MOYLE Park College athletes competed in the Leinster Championships in Santry last week and enjoyed securing some silverware.

Franklin Onwuzulumba jumped 1.85m in the Intermediate High Jump to claim an excellent silver medal, booking his place in the All-Ireland Championships.

Ozias Miguel placed seventh in the shot putt while Dubem Amah completed a sensational double winning both the 100m and 200m. Dubem completed the 200m in a blistering 21.96 seconds.

Finally, the intermediate 4x100m relay team placed third narrowly missing out on a spot in the All-Ireland. Dubem and Franklin now progress to the All-Ireland Schools Track and Field Championships in Tullamore on June 1.



Dubem Amah, Moyle Park College was 1st place in the Intermediate Boys 100m and 200m

Leinster School Titles for Tallaght Athletes

TALLAGHT athletes produced some excellent performances to secure titles at the Leinster Schools T&F Championships in Santry last week.

Indeed, Uche Disu was in top form for Old Bawn Community School when storming to victory to win both the senior girls 100m (12.40, P.B.) and 200m (25.05, P.B.), with Joanna Shodipo (St Paul's, Greenhills) and Ellie Carruth (Firhouse C.C.) finishing 5th and 6th respectively in the same final.

Gloria Oigbochie also topped the podium for Old Bawn in the Inter girls 100m with a new P.B. of 12.28, and she later added silver in the 200m with a time of 25.28, with Brianna-Dwyer Carty (Newpark Comprehensive) stepping up a gear to take bronze in the Inter girls 300m with a time of 40.57 after finishing in 6th in the 200m

with a time of 25.36.

Dubem Amah, was in superb form, producing two excellent performances to win both the Inter boys 100m and 200m titles for Moyle Park College with respective times 11.03 and 21.96, and Sean Aigboboh, representing High School won the Senior boys 100m title with a time of 10.92.

In the senior 1500m, Cormac Dixon recorded a time of 3:56.83 to win silver for HFCS Rathcoole, while Franklin Onuluzumba won silver in the Inter high jump with a clearance of 1.80m.

Leonard Deering (Catholic University School) won the Minor boys 800m title, while Marcus Mitchell jumped 5.90m to win the U16 long jump for HFCS Rathcoole.

There will be lots to look forward to at the All-Ireland Schools Championships scheduled to take place in

Tullamore on the 31st of May and the 1st of June.

Elsewhere, at the AAI May Open in Santry on Sunday, Israel Olatunde recorded excellent times of 10:32 and 10:42 in his 100m sprint contests, as did Joseph Ojewumi in his with 10:52 and 10:64. Dubem Amah produced two solid efforts with times of 10:86 and 10:95, and Simon Essuman recorded 10:98 in his contest, while Sean O'Donnell recorded a time of 10:87, and a personal best time of 22:18 in his 200m contest.

The previous day at the Irish Runner 5K in the Phoenix Park Kahumburuka Tuahuku recorded a time of 00:16.17 when finishing 44th in the field of almost 1700 runners, and was followed home by David O'Callaghan (00:17.09), Gareth O'Keefe (00:18.15) and Adam Lawlor (00:20.11).



Gloria, Joanna, Ellie and Uche



Sean Aigboboh from Tallaght AC



Marcus from HFCS Rathcoole won the U16 Long Jump



Gloria from Old Bawn CS came first

Lucan athletes enjoy the Terenure Five-Mile Road Race

THE popular, sold-out Terenure Five-Race took place on a stunningly sunny Sunday morning, not a cloud in the sky, a humidity of 73 per cent, and no wind with temperatures already around 20°Celsius by race start.

A fantastic atmosphere awaited participants, pacers with flags and balloons assembled at the start and runners eagerly lined up behind them waiting for the off.

The route took runners from the start on Fortfield Road, along the Templeogue Road, towards Terenure village, where runners were treated to a highly entertaining drumming band, unfortunately no time to stop to enjoy, as runners turned up Terenure Road West where the sound of the drums subsided replaced by the cheers of children who had a practiced a chant to spur the runners on.

Happy to have the sneaky, barely noticeable incline behind them runners continued along the Wainsford Road, turning on to Templeville Road, looping back

on to the Templeogue Road.

The route repeated, past the very much welcomed water station just before the 3 miles mark, continuing the second lap of the course.

The final mile looping for a short distance on Wainsford Road, onto the Fortfield Road to the cheers and support of spectators and passing drivers alike, where the finish line shimmered in the morning sun. Runners were treated to a goody bag and plenty of water at the finish line, and encouraged to return to Our Lady's School, the Race HQ, where tea/coffee and snacks were available, runners could also leave items in the school before the race.

The first Lucan Harriers home was Eamon Ryan with a time of 31.25 minutes, followed by Liz Arkins at 42:49. The Fit4life members all achieved PBs, Marta Cieniuch, 54:13 and Kate Cooney, 54:56 smashing their previous PBs, and Loretta Geissel, 1:05:58 completed her first ever 5mile race.



Loretta Geissel, Marta Cieniuch and Kate Cooney from Lucan Harriers AC

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Boxing

National Boxing title for Harley and Abbey

OVER the last couple of weekends, Sacred Heart Boxing Club had two boxers compete in the National Senior Cadet Championships in the National Boxing Stadium.

These act as a qualifier for the Europeans and first up for the Killinarden Club was Harley Salinger boxing in the 44kg against-finals against Callum Keilty from Golden Cobra.

Salinger secured the victory in Round One, after a strong performance which was stopped by the referee.

Abbey Molloy was next up for Sacred Heart in the 46kg who also drew a semi-final against southpaw Tess Ormond from St Paul's BC in Waterford.

Abbey came out tops 5-0 and grew in confidence as the contest progressed to secure a place in the finals.

After convincing wins in the semi both boxers faced stiff opposition in the final.

Harley Salinger faced Mikey McDonagh from Avona Boxing Club in the 44kg final in what was a high-end battle between two top class boxers.

The judges awarded Harley the decision 5.0 with his speed and work rate being the difference. Harley is now four times national champion and from this success he now joins Team Ireland in squad training.

Abbey Molloy faced an old foe in her 46kg final in Ellie O'Brien from Tramore BC in Waterford.

These girls boxed each other in two All-Ireland finals previously, O'Brien winning the first on a 3.2 and Molloy winning the second on a 5.0.

With both girls having something to prove they started fast and it wasn't long before Abbey started finding her range with a brilliant lead hand work setting up the back hand controlling all three rounds to take the decision on a 5.0 unanimous lifting her 5th national title. Abbey now joins Team Ireland in squad training in the hope of been selected for the European Championships in Bosnia in June. Abbey won a bronze medal in the European's in 2022.

Head coach Tommy Hanrahan puts this success down to the hard work and commitment put in by a brilliant young team of boxers and coaches who leave no stone unturned.



Sacred Heart's Harley Salinger and Abbey Molloy won national boxing titles

Swimming

Walshe to compete in Open C'ships

Swim Ireland's 2024 Irish Open Swimming Championships and Olympic Trials started this week at the Sport Ireland National Aquatic Centre in Dublin.

The 5-day event will see over three hundred swimmers from sixty clubs compete for National titles in thirty-four individual events and for places on three senior National Teams, including the European Aquatics Championships (50m) in June, the Paris Olympic Games in July and the World Aquatics Championships (25m) in December.

The Championships will be the final opportunity for swimmers to post an Olympic Qualification Time (OQT) for the Games, with places also to be decided at the event as to who will represent Ireland as part of their qualified Olympic relays.

Templeogue's Ellen Walshe along with Daniel Wiffen, and Mona McSharry have already secured qualification times for Paris, while two relays, the Women's and Men's* 4x100m Medley are within the top sixteen ranking required by World Aquatics for an invite to be issued next month.

Ellen Walshe, who broke the 400m Individual Medley Irish Record just ten days ago, will compete in the 200m IM, an event in which she has already secured the OQT.

Speaking ahead of the Championships, Swim Ireland's National Performance Director Jon Rudd said, "There is only an Olympic Games itself which is more exciting than an Olympic Trials and the stage is set in Dublin for Irish swimming dreams to become reality. A home pool, an enthusiastic gallery of Irish swimming fans and a chance to book a seat on the plane to Paris. What more could we all want? Not only can our athletes claim their Paris place outright by hitting the necessary OQT's, but spots in our relays will be finalised here – and those races will have something extra about them, particularly in the instances where we know someone will be selected – it's just a case of who. If you love swimming, if you love sport, if you love the notion of the Olympic dream – you should be here at least once over these five days to will on these terrific athletes. It will be absolutely electric, and we all wish everyone the very best of luck in their final stages of preparation".

Hurling

It's do or die for Dublin hurlers against Galway in championship

DUBLIN suffered a late-on defeat to Kilkenny in the Leinster Senior Hurling Championship in Parnell Park on Saturday on a scoreline of 2-23 to 1-28.

With fifteen minutes remaining Dublin were three points to the good after a Brian Hayes goal made it 2-20 to 0-23. However it was Kilkenny who then took the initiative with John Donnelly and Eoin Cody registering points for the Cats and substitute Billy Ryan, who came on at half-time, also made a marked impact. During this crucial period of the game, Dublin only registered three points.

Indeed it was Ryan who put Cody through for the goal in the first minute of additional time at the end of the game which proved to be the difference between

the teams.

The Cats were coming into this game under some pressure having only drawn away to Carlow in their previous match in the Leinster Championship while Dublin's form by contrast has improved recently.

John Donnelly was Kilkenny's best player, registering seven points from play. However there was also a good spread of scorers for the 'black and amber' with seven other scorers, including TJ Reid (0-8 (7f)), Eoin Cody (1-3) and Martin Keogh and David Blanchfield (0-3 each).

By contrast, Dublin remain somewhat overly reliant on Donal Burke who registered 14 points (9 f, 0-2 '65). However, they did have five other scorers,

including Conor Burke (1-1), Brian Hayes (1-0), and Danny Sutcliffe and Chris Crummey (0-3 each).

In the early stages it was Kilkenny who raced into a 0-4 to 0-1 lead, with Sutcliffe registering Dublin's point and Dublin's goalkeeper Seán Brennan making a great save from a Keogh effort.

By the end of the opening quarter, Kilkenny extended this lead to five points, 0-9 to 0-4, with Chris Crummey keeping the 'Boys in Blue' in it with two points.

However, coming up to half time Dublin had reduced the deficit to two points, 0-11 to 0-9, with points from Burke and Cian O'Sullivan.

The deficit was reduced to the minimum just before the break with Colm Burke

breaching the Cats' defence to find the net.

In the third quarter Dublin had several chances to really put the Cats under pressure on the scoreboard but did not convert and also the influential O'Sullivan had to retire due to injury.

However, in the final quarter Kilkenny showed the never-say-die spirit that they are famed for to secure a hard-earned victory.

Dublin now play Galway, who the Dublin manager Micheál Donoghue previously led to All-Ireland glory in 2017, in a do or die last day of action in Leinster. In the Championship table Kilkenny are on six points, followed by Wexford, Dublin and Galway who all are on five points.

Soccer

Locals in Ireland squad for Euro qualifiers

The Ireland Women's National Team squad has been selected for the UEFA EURO 2025 Qualifiers at home and away to Sweden.

Ireland will return to the Aviva Stadium on Friday, May 31st to host the Olympic runners-up in a game which will be captained by Kilnaminagh's Katie McCabe.

McCabe is currently in Australia with her club Arsenal who play a team comprised of stars from across the A-League in Melbourne's Marvel Stadium.

The girls in green will take on Sweden for a second time in Group A3 on Tuesday, June 4 as they travel to Stockholm for what will be their 10th meeting overall at senior women's level.

Both Niamh Fahey and

Heather Payne are unavailable for this squad due to Achilles injuries, while Chloe Mustaki, and former Peamount player Tara O'Hanlon and Jamie Finn are continuing their recovery from long-term injuries.

Former Cherry Orchard player Jessie Stapleton is currently with West Ham is named in the squad as is former Peamount player Louise Quinn who plays in defence.

Following her good run of form, midfielder Erin McLaughlin makes the cut as does Megan Campbell.

Forwards Abbie Larkin who is a former Shamrock Rovers player and now lines out for Crystal Palace is in the team as is former Peamount player Amber Barrett who plays with Standard Liege.



Ireland captain Katie McCabe will lead the Irish women out at the Aviva Stadium on May 31 against Sweden. Katie is currently in Australia playing with her club Arsenal

Soccer

Moyler U15 soccer team enjoy super season

WHAT a year for Moyle Park College Under 15 soccer team.

The Clondalkin school won the West Dublin League, the Leinster Champions League, the Leinster Cup and the All-Ireland National Cup Final. The school are also awaiting an All-Dublin Final against Oatlands College. All of this was achieved by scoring 86 goals and conceding only 15.

The season began in breathtaking style when they beat St Aidan's, Tallaght in a big win in the Leinster Cup first round. They then switched attention to the league and recorded a 7-1 win against Hartstown CS before the dispatching of Templeogue in a 5-0 win. To finish off the league group campaign, Moyler enjoyed another big victory over Tallaght CS.

The school returned to knock-out football in the Leinster Cup and beat Coláiste Eanna 6-1 to set up a tie against Salesians College in which they won 2-1. Round Four of the Leinster Cup gave a mouthwatering draw against Naas CBS but once more, despite tough conditions, Moyle Park ground out a 3-2 against opposition with fair claims to win the competition.

The business end of the season began at this point and a West Dublin/Leinster Champions League playoff was due against Kingswood. Yet again, Moyle Park rose to the challenge and won 1-0 to progress to the final of the West Dublin and march into the Champions League.

The first silverware of the season was secured with a 2-0 win against Hartstown as captain Tadhg Prizeman lifted the West Dublin title. More knockout football was fast approaching and a 5-2 against Scoil Mhuire sent the team into the sixth round of the Leinster Cup. In the Champions League quarter final, they beat Coláiste Choilm in a convincing 4-1 win to set up yet another tie against Scoil Mhuire who we beat yet again, this time by 2 goals to 1 to secure a place in the Leinster Champions League decider.

An epic rematch against Kingswood in the Leinster Cup saw Moyler run out 3-2 victors to reach the final for the first time in 53 years.

The Leinster Champions League final saw Moyler win in style with a 4-0 scoreline against



Moyle Park College U15 soccer team and (inset) celebrating with the All-Ireland Cup

De La Salle Dundalk and just days later they became double Leinster Champions to add to our West Dublin title when we beat Ardgillan 2-0.

A smashing 2-0 win against Tralee CBS in the All-Ireland semi-final thanks to goals from David Ngesi and Max Ellis set up a historic All-Ireland Final against St Eunans of Letterkenny in Athlone.

The match finished 4-2 thanks to goals from Alex Snow, David Ngesi (2) and Desmond Armstrong to crown Moyle Park the 2024 Minor All-Ireland National Cup Champions.

This has never been done in the history of Moyle Park and indeed, the FAI as they did so

with an incredible 18 wins out of 18.

It would be hard to name a player of the season given the year they've had but they were always in safe hands with Elliot Homan and Roan McGrath in goal who were defended superbly by a combination of David Onwuzulumba, Tadhg Prizeman, Matas Mockus, Ayo Taiwo, Jamie Byrne, Mayson Bridgeman, Zach Healy and Jakub Owsianka. Further up the field, the work of Jack Salinger, Corey Higgins, Alex Snow, Preston Gaynor and Charlie Quinn

cannot be applauded highly enough. Up front, David Ngesi, Kesther Efe, Max Ellis, Dylan Taylor and Desmond Armstrong got the goals that have led to such an incredible season. The side was managed by Mr Condren and Mr Kerins.

Old County celebrate cup success

A GOAL with just 15 minutes remaining by Old County FC's Pharrell Manuel decided this pulsating Leinster Senior League Noel Ryan Cup Final, when they met Lucan United in CBS Captains Road, Crumlin last Saturday afternoon.

By John Mooney
sport@echo.ie

Not only did Manuel score the winner but he also got himself sent off just five minutes later for a rash tackle right in front of the referee, and it left

his side scrambling to the final whistle.

However, when the whistle sounded there was a huge pitch invasion as the County faithful ran on to greet their heroes, who now look set to make it a double by adding the Major Saturday.

For Lucan it was a hard pill to swallow, as in the first half they just were not in the game and the second they gave as good as they got.

Make no mistake on the day County were good value for the win, especially after their first-half performance.

Lucan had keeper Ernie Kernawoutic to thank for keeping them in the game,

as he turned a magnificent performance that was somehow overlooked for man-of-the-match.

He denied Cal Keane on a number of occasions, Eoghan Roe and Zack Furey, who was named man-of-the-match, to keep the score level at the break.

They could easily have been out of sight, but United came out fighting in the second half and this game really sprang to life as Brandon O'Halloran, Leo Mayers and Clayton Harte began to find the space that wasn't allowed to them in the opening half.

All was good except for the finishing

as, despite the amount of ball they had, County keeper Jamie Cleary had only routine shots to deal with.

The more this game went on the more it looked like ending in a draw, until Furey made yet another dart down the right hand side, it looked like he was crowded out but the ball somehow spun off his foot from a sliding tackle, went up in the air and Manuel headed home.

It sent the large support wild, with a roar that was probably heard back in Lucan, and all County needed to do was to see the game out, which they did

despite Manuel getting his marching orders.

OLD COUNTY: J. Cleary, K. Doherty, D. Longhi, S. Thompson, J. Farrell, Z. Furey, P. Manuel, C. Keane, L. Gibson, C. Roe, V. Godfrey, K. Bowden, D. Byrne, J. Oto, J. McNeill, C. Kelly, K. Geraghty.

LUCAN UNITED: E. Kernawoutic, M. Jesus, T. McAleese, M. Tuite, G. Hamilton, T. Kane, B. O'Halloran, C. Harte, J. Hanley, L. Myers, E. O'Halloran, O. Kendrick, R. McMahon, R. Hyland, J. McMahon, S. Lawless, M. Young.



Old County FC celebrate with the Noel Ryan Cup after their 1-0 win over Lucan United

Photos by John Mooney



Lucan United lost out to Old County after conceding a goal in the last fifteen minutes

Soccer

Rovers women march on in cup

SHAMROCK Rovers are through to the knockout stages of the Avenir Sports All Island Cup following a strong performance in which skipper Aine O'Gorman bagged a brace away to Crusaders Strikers.

The Hoops made two changes to their starting eleven from last weekend's league defeat at Turners Cross, Summer Lawless replacing Amanda Budden between the sticks with Joy Ralph starting in place of Aoife Kelly.

The sides lined out under a blaze of white at the Seaview stadium, Rovers decked in teal while Crusaders donned black and gold.

Rovers started on the front foot and would open the scoreline in the 7th minute, Ralph muscling Beth Chalmers out of the equation and teeing up her captain for the strike.

Aine O'Gorman would place the ball into the top corner with the help of a wicked deflection that deceived Maddy Harvey-Clifford.

Crusaders struggled to keep pace with Rover's sweeping passages of play, Katie O'Reilly's quick feet beating Darcy Boyle and Abigail Redmond.

The visitors were unable to take advantage of their greater spell in possession however, and were left to rue their missed opportunities when Crusaders Emily Reid showed dexterity to win the ball in midfield.

Boyle threaded it through to Darcie McNeill who left untracked, dinked the ball with her left boot over Lawless to make it all square in the 17th minute.

After the restart, a quartet of passes which started with Shauna Fox deep in the visitor's half would lead to a one-v-one between Ralph and the Crusaders keeper - however, the Greenhills native would strike the ball straight at the number 44.

The heat was as unrelenting as Rover's waves of attack and the teams stopped for a water break in the 22nd.

On returning to play, Lawless took an extra touch within her D and McNeill was quick to close down all exits for the Duleek native, trickling the ball into the back of the net in the 32nd minute.

2-1 to the home side. Rovers were quick to react, Melissa O'Kane commanding the Rover's control room from the

By **Christine Allen**
sport@echo.ie

A downward header from Jessica Hennessy trickled wide and to the right of the home side's post and at the other end, Crusaders did little to trouble Lawless with their set pieces, the Rovers keeper untroubled.

After the restart, Ralph came within inches of netting the equaliser when the number 19 controlled an O'Reilly pass and rocketed the ball beyond Harvey - Clifford's outstretched gloves - and her left-hand post.

Minutes later O'Leary feinted and slipped the ball to O'Gorman, the Wicklow native throwing her hands to her head as her shot was saved by the feet of the Strikers goal minder.

Crusaders captain Julie Nelson and defender Abigail Redmond were kept on their toes and did well to make several crucial interceptions to keep their side a nose in front.

Yet The Hoops kept on coming.

O'Gorman nearly found the net in the 65th, heading the ball downward before attempting an audacious lob - Harvey - Clifford tipping the ball clear with her fingertips in what was an exhibition in goalkeeping.

Calls for a penalty for the home side were waved away when substitute Mairead McCann took a tumble in the box with 20 minutes left on the clock.

Stephanie Zambra replaced Ralph in the 72nd while Aoife Kelly came on for Scarlett Herron in the 74th.

At last, Rover's hit the back of the net in the 81st minute, when O'Gorman muscled ahead of the Crusaders skipper and fizzed an O'Leary cross in at the near post.

In the final ten minutes, Rovers pushed for the win and Zambra would hit the outside of the far right-hand post at the death.

The game ended two goals a piece with Shamrock Rovers progressing to the knockout stages of the Avenir Sports All Island Cup.

The Crusaders will journey no further.

Back to league action and The Hoops next face table leaders Galway United this Saturday the 25th of May at Tallaght Stadium - kick off at the later time of 7:35pm.

Brave Ballyfermot fall just short in final

Ballyfermot United lose in extra time

BALLYFERMOT United u11 girls fell just short of a DDSL Division 4 & 5 cup title this weekend in a 2-1 defeat to Greystones united after extra time in Clonsaugh, in the AUL Complex, reports Rory Merriman.

The game got off to a slow start when a mix up between players in the Ballyfermot defense allowed for an easy effort for Greystones to put themselves 1-0 at the 20 minute mark.

Despite trailing at the break, the Dublin 10 side came out all guns blazing in the second half when Ballyfermot's Holly Moore connected with the end of a corner outside the box to level the scoring.

Steady at the back, Greystones held on to the

draw undeterred by Ballyfermot, who were doing everything right accept hitting the target.

The full time whistle echoed around the AUL complex, signifying one thing, extra-time.

Extra time in the DDSL U11 girls' final consisted of an additional 10 minutes of football, five minutes a half.

Unfortunately for Ballyfermot united, a free kick on the edge of the box in the first half of extra time was enough to secure a 2-1 victory for Greystones as the Dublin side failed to capitalize on any of their chances on goal in the 10 minutes.

Greystones were crowned Division 4/5 champions in what was a dog fight of battle in the DDSL U11 girls final.

"Look, I couldn't have

been prouder of the girls on the day," Ballyfermot manager Paul Moore told *The Echo*.

"Greystones are in Division 4 and we're in division 5 so to put in a performance like that against a team in a division ahead of us was great.

"We're the first schoolgirl team in Ballyfermot to make a cup final, not to mention that was the girls' first loss in two years as a team," he added.

"I felt that we deserved a win after that performance, but to be fair to Greystones, they were excellent.

"Myself and my management team Eimer Kelly, Gary McKenzie and Daryl Henderson couldn't be prouder of the girls," Moore concluded.





Action from the game between Ballyfermot Utd and Greystones Photos by Bartley Ramsay



Ballyfermot United lost out 2-1 in a close contest with Greystones United

Tallaght topple Griffeen to reach UCFL cup final



Tallaght United are through the Sidney Bedlow Cup final after beating Griffeen Valley FC on penalties Photos by John Mooney

TALLAGHT United booked their place in this season's UCFL Sidney Bedlow Cup final after a dramatic encounter, with Griffeen Valley FC, in the Phoenix Park last Saturday reports *John Mooney*.

After a cracking 3-3 draw, which went to extra time, United made it a date with Yord Road FC, they also won their semi final in a shootout, in the

penalty shout turned down soon after the restart it threw the Valley a lifeline, and they took advantage by drawing level through Sean McGarrigle, after Byrne did the spade work to set up the chance.

It turned into a game of cat and mouse from that point on, and after we headed to extra time it was Griffeen who regained the lead, in the opening



Griffeen Valley FC's Sean McGarrigal shields the ball from Tallaght United's Brian Robinson

decider.

This game was a typical semi final with both sides being cagey, even though the opening goal arrived inside two minutes play.

The Valley won a corner on the left hand side which Ross Byrne took, however, the flight of the ball fooled everyone, cannoned off the upright and ended up in the net.

It certainly rocked United and it took them a while to get into their stride but, when they did, they got back on level terms quickly enough, as Ciaran Murray put his head to an Idris Kabia centre on 15 minutes.

It got even better for Tallaght with just three minutes to go to half time as William O'Brien played a free kick from the centre circle into the Griffeen area, Alan McEvoy rose to head back to keeper Thomnas Doran, but he only managed to head into the net.

They probably just about deserved to go into the break in front, but when they had a

period, with another effort from Byrne.

It looked like it was enough as both sides began to run out of steam, but Tallaght dug deep and as the clock ran down banged home a third through Brian Robinson, when he headed home a Kabia cross.

A penalty shootout ensued and United were victorious when Darren Collins, Carl Gallagher, Will O'Brien, Jamie McKewan and Robinson all delivered from the spot.

GRIFFEEN VALLEY FC: T. Doran, A. Cleary, A. McEvoy, J. Corcoran, C. Chu, K. Ryan, E. O'Boyle, R. Byrne, D. Hui, S. McGarrigle, G. Mulligan, G. Sammon, K. Slevin, L. Neville, J. O'Brien, S. Watts, M. Burke.

TALLAGHT UNITED: G. McGinn, D. Collins, P. O'Dwyer, W. O'Brien, C. Murray, Z. Oudineche, J. McEwan, C. McDermot, C. Gallagher, I. Kabia, B. Robinson, A. Niland, P. Barry, T. Hill, E. Byrne, S. O'Neill, T. Adenini, W. Tomose.



Griffeen Valley FC lost out to Tallaght United after a penalty shootout

Soccer

The drive for five may be back on

WITH Shamrock Rovers one-nil victory at home against Derry City on Monday, the Hoops now find themselves in third place just two points off the Candy Stripes and a further four points off leaders Shelbourne, *reports Stephen Farrell.*

Even more tantalising again is the prospect of Rovers' next match— at home, to Shelbourne, this Friday, at 7.45 pm.

However Rovers' win against Derry was only their second in eight games with their previous victory against the same opposition at the Brandywell in April.

The Hoops will realise that they need to improve their win-ratio if they hope to land the 2024 League title.

Johnny Kenny, whose strike helped to deliver the crucial three points on Monday, was the main man for the Tallaght side.

Derry, by contrast, were missing their top scorer Patrick Hoban through suspension.

However the Candy Stripes began the game in an attacking frame of mind with a half-chance falling to Michael Duffy early on.

Shamrock Rovers had a great chance to take the lead after only two minutes. A long ball from Dan Cleary caused all sorts of trouble for the Derry defence. Kenny capitalised on Cameron McJannet's inability to deal with Cleary's long ball and then went past Shane McEleney and rounded the Derry goalkeeper, Brian Maher, only to see his effort cleared off the line by Adam O'Reilly for the first corner of the game.

However, seven minutes later the Hoops broke the deadlock. The Tallaght team worked the ball from the back through Captain Roberto Lopes, Darragh Nugent and Markus Poom for Kenny to lay the ball off to Graham Burke who unleashed a pile driver off his left.

Maher saved the initial effort but the in-form Kenny smartly finished off the rebound. This was Kenny's fifth goal in seven matches and his seventh goal for the season.

However, Derry were undeterred and continued to attack the Rovers' goal but with shots from O'Reilly and Will Patching, which didn't work the Rover's goalkeeper.

Coming up to the twenty-minute mark the Tallaght team had a golden opportunity to double their lead.

In a counter-attack Trevor Clarke was fouled by Ronan Boyce but the ball ran to Kenny with referee Damien MacGraith playing the advantage. Kenny took full advantage only to be fouled by McJannet for a penalty.

However, Burke's spot-kick didn't have the requisite power with Maher saving to his right and the ball going out for a corner.

Again Derry went on the attack with Cameron Dummigan going just wide.

Derry were somewhat open at the back with an effort from Kenny blocked by McEleney.

However, Rovers were able to maintain their lead for the valuable win.

Joy for Kilnarnagh U11 girls



Kilnarnagh players along with captain Jada O'Connor and Grace Donegan celebrate with the League Cup title.

Photo by Les Evans

Brave Grace lifts cup with team mates

THERE were wild celebrations at the AUL Complex at the weekend when Kilnarnagh secured the DDSL U11 girls League Cup title.

The Tallaght side turned on the style as they brushed aside the challenge of Shelbourne 7-2 to secure the team's first ever trophy.

Kilnarnagh were 3-1 up at the break with Taylor O'Neill netting the first and third goal while Abbie Halpin netted the second goal.

Indeed O'Neill's second goal just on the stroke of half time was crucial as it swung the contest in Kilnarnagh's favour.

However, the hero of the hour was Abbie Halpin who went on to net five goals in total to torment

the Shelbourne defence throughout.

"It was a brilliant result for the team and the club," Kilnarnagh manager Tony Halpin told *The Echo*.

"We have three teams at this level such is the growth of girl's football at the club and all players travelled on the coach with the team to the match.

"It was a brilliant day for all the girls' and we had great support from all the families. It's also a big boost for the club and the area".

One person on the bus with the girls was young Grace Donegan who is a member of the club.

Grace, suffered a sudden brain

bleed in January and remained in Temple Street Children's Hospital up to recently.

She was practicing with her gymnastics club on January 30 last when she suddenly collapsed and was transported to hospital.

However, Grace along with team captain Jada O'Connor and players went up to lift the cup to the delight of the travelling support.

Sophie Kenna, following in the footsteps of her dad Conor who played in the League of Ireland, was superb at centre half as was Taylor and Rose Kavanagh who was solid when introduced in the second half.



Kilnamanagh brushed aside Shelbourne 7-2 in the u11 girls league cup title

Galty Celtic secure league crown



Galty Celtic were crowned AUL division one champions

GALTY Celtic were crowned AUL Division One league champions.

The Drimmagh side went unbeaten in the league this season having won 18 games from 20 matches and drawing the other two.

Galty scored 78 goals in the league and only conceded 20 with Craig Maguire the team's top scorer with 28 goals before he picked up an injury.

The team secured the title last week in Brickfield Park when they drew with Valley Park United and the result meant they could not be caught for the title.

Galty manger John Lennon

was delighted with his team's success.

"It's a great achievement from the players and all involved with the team," John told *The Echo*.

"The team nearly went bang last year but we turned it around the response from everyone involved is great," he said.

Central defenders Leroy Brady and Stephen Mills were superb all season for Galty as was Maguire upfront.

On the cup front, the side lost out in the last 32 of the FAI Junior Cup while they narrowly lost out to Hardwicke FC after extra time in the Paddy Cole Cup.

Marks Celtic reach the Albert Walsh Cup final

MARKS Celtic have qualified for the Albert Walsh Cup final which takes place this evening (Thursday).

The Springfield side secured their place in the final when they overcame the challenge of Ratoath 3-2 after extra time in Butler Park last week.

A goal with the last kick of the game in extra time from Loba Allarpe proved the winner and kick start wild celebrations among the Marks support.

A long kick out from Keeper Ola Allarpe to his brother Loba who broke through the defence and let fly a cracking effort to the back of the net.

It was a superb win for Marks who came from 1-0 down at the break in normal time with Callum Bennett beating his man and the off-side trap to slot past the Ratoath keeper.

Marks spurred on by a big home support were awarded a

penalty in the closing stages of normal time but this was saved and extra time had to be played.

And it was Marks who came out winners as they pushed forward with fine displays from Darrell Powell at centre half, Stephen Ward, Chris Beatty and Jay Daly.

Marks, who last won the competition four years ago, will play the final in Ballyfermot.

On the league front, Marks have finished fifth after a great run since Christmas where they had occupied second from bottom at that stage of the competition.

But they will be hoping for more smiles when they play Rush side St Ita's in the decider.

The team is managed by Keith and Karl Maher who are sons of Marks Celtic stalwart Pat who sadly passed away during the year.



Marks Celtic are into the Albert Walsh cup Final

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