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

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set to open
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Night on hospital chair in excruciating pain

A MAN spent the night on a chair in Tallaght University Hospital's Emergency Department (ED) as he waited to undergo his fourth surgery in a month, reports Alessia Micalizzi. See page 15

ORDEAL FOR MAN IN HOSPITAL WAITING ON **FOURTH OPERATION**

Judge says man took advantage of his position to make sure he had full access to her

Football coach jailed for illegal sexual activity

A SOCCER coach from Ballyfermot who engaged in inappropriate and illegal sexual activity with a teenage female player has been given a six-year sentence with the final two years suspended, reports Fiona Ferguson. See page 8.

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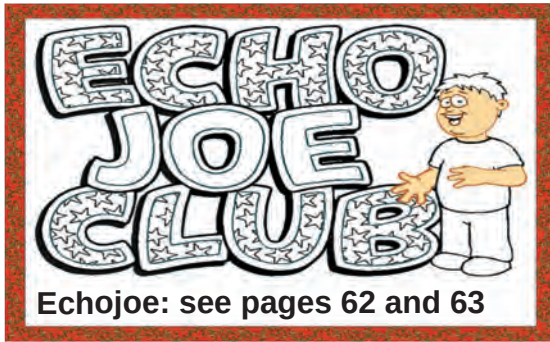
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Next Edition

The next edition of *The Echo* in the shops from Thursday, Dec 19, 2024. **Don't miss it!**

[illegible]

Business starts on page 41



Go-ahead for dementia Centre of Excellence

New ‘trail-blazing’ centre will cost more than €60 million

By **William O'Connor**
william@echo.ie

TALLAGHT University Hospital Foundation's new Centre of Excellence in Brain Health and Dementia in Cookstown Industrial Estate, has been given the green light, *The Echo* understands will cost more than €60 million.

The proposed development, a five-storey building, will represent a multi-million euro investment from Tallaght University Hospital Foundation [TUHF] in the future of healthcare innovation.

Douglas Collins, Tallaght University Hospital Foundation CEO, welcomed the decision from South Dublin County Council and revealed that the new facility will “serve as a hub for trailblazing research and development”.

The Centre of Excellence for Brain Health and Dementia, designed by Scott Tallon Walker Architects, will comprise of a central atrium, radiology department, treatment, assessment and consultation rooms, research facilities, associated offices and meeting rooms as well as a reception area, café/restaurant and

Douglas said: “Tallaght University Hospital Foundation [TUHF] has always been committed to driving the future of healthcare through innovation, and this development is at the forefront of that.

“This is a groundbreaking project which underscores our dedication to fostering an environment where visionary ideas can thrive and transform into tangible medical breakthroughs. Innovate Health, Centre of Excellence in Brain Health and Dementia will offer a stimulating environment for innovators to collaborate and accelerate the development and adoption of pioneering health solutions.

“With this project, TUHF aims to support Tallaght University Hospital to revolutionise the landscape of healthcare, setting new standards in patient treatment and care.”

The facility will be located near the Tallaght University Hospital campus, with the two connected by a pedestrian crossing. The development will also include new footpaths, bicycle racks and

Douglas added: “This facility is poised to become a national leader in healthcare innovation and TUHF is very excited to drive the Innovate Health, Centre of Excellence in Brain Health and Dementia project forward throughout 2025.”

The proposed development, located on Fourth Avenue beside Tallaght University Hospital, includes plans for a Innovate Health, Centre of Excellence in Brain Health and Dementia, and will consist of the demolition of the existing concrete beams adjoining the neighbouring unit and relocation of existing underground services.

Plans include a five-storey building with part six-storey elements and set-back accommodation and plant rooms.

Plans include the removal of 14 car-park spaces in the existing adjacent TUH car park to facilitate a new entrance park consisting of hard and soft landscaping and lighting, new footpath, signage, loading bay and accessible parking space off Fourth Avenue.

New footpath, signage, set-

down area and two accessible parking spaces off the internal hospital campus road to the west are also proposed.

An extended footpath to the west of the adjacent car park and new pedestrian crossing to enhance pedestrian access to the existing multi-storey car park are also lodged in the plans, with a new pedestrian crossing to connect the new Entrance Park with the main entrance to Tallaght University Hospital.

Secure staff bike store to the North and visitor bicycle racks in the Entrance Park, along with bin store to the east side of building and boundary fencing, walls and gates to east of site are included.

This particular part of Cookstown Industrial Estate is starting to undergo a transformation with the new Airton Road link road currently under development along with the opening of new four-storey Work IQ Innovation Centre which is the new home for start-ups and growing enterprises in South Dublin, and forms part of a new urban district, Innovation Quarter Tallaght which is walking distance to the new hospital development.

Postal delays causing ‘growing frustration’ with D12 residents

RESIDENTS in Dublin 12 have voiced “growing frustration” over “significant delays” with postal deliveries, according to newly elected TD Catherine Ardagh (FF).

Ardagh says many residents have reported they have not received their post in a timely manner or have even not received deliveries at all.

“Residents have raised concerns about missing critical correspondence such as doctor’s appointment letters, financial documents and other essential communications, leading to agitation in the Dublin 12 community,” said Deputy Ardagh.

"I have been engaging with a number of people in the Dublin

12 area about ongoing issues
with post delivery delays and I
understand how frustrating and
inconvenient this is for the
community.

"I want to assure residents that I am taking this matter seriously and am doing all I can to rectify it."

“I will be contacting An Post
to get to the bottom of what is

causing these delays and to push for a resolution as quickly as possible.

“Once I have an update, I will let Dublin 12 residents know immediately.” Residents experiencing delays or non-delivery of their post are encouraged to contact Deputy Ardagh’s office to share their concerns.

Age-friendly meeting centre in Clondalkin just about to open

After safety audit is completed, the formal opening will take place in mid-December

By Maurice Garvey

maurice@echo.ie

AFTER decades of trying to open an age-friendly meeting centre in Clondalkin village, the initiative is one step closer following an open week at Orchard Lodge.

South Dublin County Council has given the keys to a state of the art multi-use meeting centre to the board of directors.

The building is not yet open to the public as a safety audit is being conducted, but those involved hope it is imminent.

“We would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the council team who handed over such a lovely facility for us to manage for seniors and carers of Clondalkin village and surrounding area,” said Thyges Kavanagh, Chair of BOM Orchard Lodge Meeting Centre.

“The Board was delighted to take possession of the facility a few weeks ago. Some of the board have been working hard and looking forward to this day for over 20 years, others joined the campaign in recent years.

The board is made up of representatives from many of the groups who will use the building.

The centre was open for viewings this week for groups or individuals to have a look around and discuss their particular hopes for use of the amenity.

“Many local groups have already expressed their interest in using the centre and the Board of Management are eager to include as many interested parties as possible,” said Thyges.

“The formal opening of the centre for full-time use will be in mid-December – we are waiting for the final safety audit to be completed. Then it’s full steam ahead.”

Local businesses are invited to support or donate towards the upkeep of the centre.

If residents would like to give a few hours as a volunteer, the board would love to hear from you. The centre will be run by volunteers for the foreseeable future.

For more information email gold.ochardlodge@gmail.com Facebook : Orchard Lodge Meeting Centre or call 083 844 6002.

“The formal opening of the centre for full-time use will be in mid-December . . . Then it’s full steam ahead



FACILITY: The inside of the Orchard Lodge in Clondalkin Village



Carol singing at The Square this Christmas with Tallaght Vine group will help families

TALLAGHT VINE Mass will raise funds for families in need this Christmas through carol singing at The Square.

The event will wrap up this year’s “Help Us Help Others” campaign, first started by the group 10 years ago. Everyone who would like to support it is welcome to attend The Square Shopping

Centre on Saturday, December 21, where the Vine group will perform carol singing from 2pm to 4pm.

“We hope that with the increasing number of donations we’ll be able to help more families this year,” said chairman Joe Geoghegan.

Last year, the campaign helped 50 Tallaght families and provided equipment for a school.

“We also would like to support one more school this year, helping those families who can’t afford to buy all the equipment needed or can’t pay for trips,” added Joe.

Speaking of the carol singing, he guaranteed that “it’s always an entertaining couple of hours with every cent raised helping others.”

“Come along and spread some Christmas joy.”

Tallaght Vine group thanked all those who supported them in 2024 and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and peaceful New Year.

To keep up with their events and learn more about the group, check out Vine Mass on Facebook or reach out to vinemass@gmail.com.



PRIDE IN CONTRIBUTION: Youthpass Romania Exchange with Alegra Lalor



HAPPY DAYS: Alegra Lalor with some of the Personal Development Certificate Winners

Celebrations of the amazing contribution of our young people

Ballyfermot Youth Service recognised the participation of their young people in the community

By William O'Connor
william@echo.ie

“Tonight is a celebration of the young people’s participation throughout the year and to recognise their amazing contribution

BALLYFERMOT Youth Service celebrated their youth participation evening. The event is a celebration of young people’s participation throughout the year and to recognise their contribution in the community. The night also highlighted the positive impact the young people in the service have on the area. “It is always a huge success and is recognition of young people in our service” says Jody Byrne from Ballyfermot Youth Service.

“Throughout the year the young people of Ballyfermot participated in many different events such as Peer Education, Kayaking Instructor Training, Youth Summer Employment Programme, and Leadership programmes, to name but a few. “We, as a youth service, are very fortunate to have Erasmus plus Accreditation from our National Agency Léargas which is funded under the European Union. “This has allowed us to create many travel opportunities for the young people such as

Youth Exchanges throughout Europe, European Solidarity Corps Volunteer opportunities, Discover EU Inclusion youth mobility and trainings and much more. “Tonight is a celebration of the young people’s participation throughout the year and to recognise the amazing contribution they have made to their community. “Many have volunteered throughout the year at events and festivals within the community. We want to highlight the positive impact these young people have in their community.”



HAPPY DAYS: Ballyfermot Youth Service making a different kind of music



PROUD AS PUNCH: Conor Moran (right, back row) with the Kayaking Proficiency Award winners

New sports pavilion plans in Tymon Park are approved

Five submissions were received with concerns regarding location and environmental impact

By **Alessia Micalizzi**
alessia@echo.ie

PLANS for a new sports pavilion at Tymon Park South were welcomed by South Dublin councillors at December's County Council meeting.

It will be a one-storey pavilion building with two separate team changing rooms and WC areas, two storage areas, and a plant room.

Ancillary landscaping works will be done in the area adjacent to the new building, and CCTV will be installed.

The building is part of a wider SDCC proposal to build 10 sports pavilions for clubs across the county.

Tymon Park South was the last one to receive approval after Kilnamanagh open space, Sean Walsh Park, Kiltipper Park, Willsbrook Park, Arthur Griffith Valley Park, Corkagh Park, Griffeen Valley Park, Dodder Valley Mount Carmel, and Collinstown Park.

Five submissions were received during the public consultations for Tymon Park South,

with concerns regarding the proposal location, potential block of the park views within the car park, and environmental impact.

"The location was screened for environmental impact and represents the optimal position for the proposal," said Teresa Walsh, Director of Environment, Water and Climate Change with SDCC while presenting the Part8.

"I'm delighted, it's badly needed," said Tallaght councillor Mick Duff (Ind) who thanked SDCC for listening to the concerns raised over anti-social behaviour in Tymon Park South's pitches and restricting vehicle access.

"This is a further enhancement to Tymon Park South," he added.

"People were changing and undressing in the field, now we are offering them the proper facilities they should have."

"I wouldn't particularly look at the view from a car park," said Rathfarnham/ Templeogue councillor Pamela Kearns (LAB) in relation to the public consultation's concerns.

"But I know that girls changing at the edge of the pitch, they like their privacy."

Funding close to €10m is required for the 10 pavilions, and SDCC previously said they hope to have them all completed in 2025.

Close to €2m was secured in Sports Capital Grants, and another €2m came from SDCC's 2024-2026 Capital Programme.

Ms Walsh said SDCC will come back to elected members with the Tymon Park South project costs after the start of the tendering process.

CHANGING ROOMS: A new sports pavilion has been approved for Tymon Park



“But I know that girls changing at the edge of the pitch, they like their privacy.”

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NTA presentation leaves a lot of questions to be answered

Councillors frustrated at the hour-long presentation without answers to queries

By Maurice Garvey

maurice@echo.ie

THE National Transport Authority (NTA) delivered a presentation during Monday's monthly meeting at South Dublin County Council.

However, there was frustration that some of the questions that councillors asked the NTA at the meeting were not answered.

Following the hour-long presentation, councillors had their say, and some of the questions were answered, but the agenda moved on, and members were told they could write their questions to the NTA.

Cllr Louise Dunne (SF) felt this "should have been mentioned before it took up an hour of the agenda."

"We've wasted an hour asking those questions when they weren't going to be answered. That should have been relayed to us before," said Cllr Dunne.

SDCC chief executive Colm Ward said the NTA have "committed to following up to individual councillors and addressing specific concerns because a lot of the questions were local specific, and they probably wouldn't have had a response ready."

Responding to this, Cllr Pamela Kearns (Lab) understood that "the NTA were asked if we could email questions ahead of the meeting and they told us no."

"If they allowed us to email questions in before the meeting, then they would have had the answers prepared," said Kearns.

During the presentation, NTA chief executive Anne Graham outlined work they are involved with including providing over €80m in funding to SDCC since 2020.

Bus and Luas use by passengers is up by approximately 25 per cent since pre-Covid.

The presentation also covered SDCC Active Travel schemes, including the D24 Neighbourhood Cycle Network, Dodder Greenway, and Lucan Urban Greenway.

The NTA is also delivering the BusConnects Core Bus Corridors, with the Tallaght/Clondalkin bus corridor the ninth of 12 routes approved to date just recently.

Cllr Kay Keane (PBP-Sol) raised concerns about 'ghost buses' having witnessed people waiting at bus stops.

"When I've enquired, I'm told its lack of drivers, but I have seen three buses sitting at a terminal, surely it can allow a call to the depot and for a bus to pull out? It's getting beyond a joke on the 27 route, it can be overcrowded and people standing at bus stops," said Cllr Keane.

Cllr Caroline Brady (FG) said most buses are full by time they get to Penny Hill in Lucan and also referenced a personal experience of waiting for a ghost bus.

Cllr Joanna Tuffy (Lab) asked who the NTA is answerable to, and if a government minister could request they change the prioritisation of transfer plans for an area, citing a preference to focus on bringing the Luas to Lucan.

"I know some TDs have promised to bring the Luas to their areas, including my own, so who would decide that?" asked Tuffy.

Eoin O'Broin (SocDems) wondered if people lose out because of fines, referencing anti-social behaviour at the 13 bus route in Bawnogue.

PBP-Sol Cllrs Madeliene Johansson and Jess Spear, called for more frequency on routes.



Cllr Linda de Courcy (Ind Ire) enquired about data and the volume increase of cyclists using cycle lanes compared to before cycle lanes were installed.

Cllr David McManus (FG) asked if there are any plans for 24-hr bus routes and expressed concern at the recruitment issues bus operators have in hiring drivers.

NTA chief Anne Graham acknowledged "difficulty" in recruitment for operators even though "conditions for drivers are good."

"We do offer as much as we can in terms of meeting the demand . . . we know that we have to do better in meeting demand," said Ms Graham.

Delays for buses in some instances where it looks like they just have not arrived at all according to real-time, is attributed to congestion.

"So, it might seem like a ghost bus but actually it's a bus getting significantly delayed in road traffic congestion," said Ms Graham.

She said there is a need for more infrastructure in place over the coming years to offer a more reliable service and that there are plans for 24-hr routes along the main spines.

"When I've enquired, I'm told its lack of drivers, but I have seen three buses sitting at a terminal, surely it can allow a call to the depot and for a bus to pull out? It's getting beyond a joke on the 27 route, it can be overcrowded and people standing at bus stops"

Gaisce gold awards to 73



PRESIDENT Michael D Higgins presented 73 young people with the Gaisce Gold Award at a ceremony in Áras an Uachtaráin.

Each year the Gaisce Gold Award ceremony celebrates the tremendous societal contribution made by these

young people, recognising the milestones which they have reached in their personal development journey.

Alia Hamzawi from St Colmcille's Community School is seen here receiving her award from the president.

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Six-year sentence for soccer coach for illegal sexual activity

Witness said he bought her football boots, and later underwear and a sex toy

A SOCCER COACH from Ballyfermot who engaged in inappropriate and illegal sexual activity with a teenage female player has been given a six-year sentence with the final two years suspended.

Richard Farrell (61) was convicted by a jury following a trial earlier this year of four counts of defilement, which occurred on dates between August 2008 and January 2009 when the young woman was 16. He was aged 45 at the time and a soccer coach for her team.

The young woman told the Central Criminal Court in her victim-impact statement of the harmful and far-reaching effects of the offending on her life.

She said that looking back to when she met Farrell she appeared “very childlike” and a “tomboy, in soccer gear every day” and it pains her now that a man could have looked at her in sexual way.

She said she could not believe that a coach would be interested in her and for a time felt like she could achieve anything. She said her dreams were crushed when she realised it never had anything to do with soccer. She said that she had loved soccer at the time but she now hated it.

The young woman said Farrell had got to her at an impressionable age when she was learning about love and knew nothing about grooming. She said she had believed the abuse was love.

The court heard that she wished to retain her anonymity but had no issue with Farrell being named.

“I could not imagine hurting anyone, not alone the most precious in society – children,” she told Farrell. “I hope my words haunt you forever,” she told him.

Farrell, with an address at Lough Conn Avenue, Ballyfermot, had pleaded not guilty to the offences at his trial. He has one prior conviction for a road-traffic offence.

The maximum sentence for these offences is 10 years, as Farrell was in a position of authority.

Passing sentence on Monday, Ms Justice Eileen Creedon said it was clear the offending had a profound effect on the young woman, impacting her confidence, trust and relationships.

She said Farrell was older and someone with considerable life experience, as well as being in a position of authority as the girl’s sports coach. She said he took advantage of his position to make



sure he had full access to her.

She said Farrell had groomed the girl over a period prior to the inappropriate sexual behaviour.

Ms Justice Creedon noted she had to have regard to rehabilitation. Farrell has been assessed by the Probation Service as at low risk of reoffending.

She noted Farrell, a father and grandfather, has not been in trouble before or since, apart from a road-traffic offence, and there were testimonials before the court outlining his contribution to the community. She took into account that he had co-operated with the investigation.

The judge set a headline sentence of seven years imprisonment.

Ms Justice Creedon imposed a sentence of six years and suspended the final two years on conditions including two years’ probation supervision and that he participate in appropriate offence-related assessment and treatment to include a therapeutic programme for sexual harmful offending.

Further conditions include co-operation with any multi-agency management of risk, in particular in relation to any restrictions regarding his access to children or other vulnerable persons.

A prosecuting garda told Fiona Murphy SC, prosecuting, that Farrell and the girl came into contact when he was a coach for her soccer team.

The girl said her team had not been doing well until Farrell took over. She said he was good at putting players where they should be and identified her as someone with talent. She said

they had “craic” after drills were finished and it was fun, but quite childish looking back.

She said everyone liked him, called him “Richie” and he had nicknames for the girls.

He took her phone number to contact her about sports matters, but that over time the contact became more personal and sexualised in nature. Farrell introduced himself to the girl’s family.

The court heard that Farrell became “a big feature in her life” and that he started collecting her at night and driving her around, which progressed to sexual activity. Farrell bought her presents initially such as football boots and later underwear and a sex toy.

The sexual contact began in the summer of 2008 and occurred multiple times a week.

The girl later made a complaint and Farrell was interviewed by gardai in May 2020. He said he knew the girl but denied the defilement charges. He said there had not been any sexual relations with her that were unlawful and all sexual contact was after she turned 18 years old.

The court heard Farrell had been working as a soccer coach throughout this period.

In her victim-impact statement the young woman said she could not believe an adult was giving her so much attention, which made her feel special, but that his attention to her came at a price – it was conditional and transactional.

She said it was relatable that she had a crush on a man she admired, but his response was not relatable and he should have shut it down immediately. She noted that despite annual safe-

guarding training, he had actively pursued a sexual relationship with a young girl he had authority over.

The young woman also described how difficult it was for her medical and therapy sessions to be signed off to the court process.

She said the legal system was invasive and she was made to feel like she was on trial with “every inch” of her background combed through. She said her own words were used against her.

“I fail to see what relevance sexual history has in any child sexual abuse case,” she said.

She said that as tough as it had been to hold her head up, she had come forward for the right reasons and in the hope that he could not hurt anyone else. She thanked those who had supported her and encouraged her to keep going.

John Fitzgerald SC, defending, said Farrell accepts the verdict of the jury that he had sexual relations with someone 30 years younger than himself. He accepts it was highly inappropriate and wrong.

He said Farrell’s wrongful behaviour was limited and isolated to this injured party only and was not part of ongoing attempts to groom or engage in sexualised behaviour with children.

Counsel said the offending he had been convicted of comprised four months of his 61 years of life.

Mr Fitzgerald said Farrell had been heavily involved in soccer and earned his UEFA badge to work in that field, but that all ended as a result of the allegations.

He said Farrell had made a very serious error with very serious impacts but was not seeking to minimise what he did. He said Farrell was doing well in prison.

Counsel asked the court to take into account character statements outlining his skills as a coach and his contribution to the community. He said many had benefited from his voluntary involvement as a coach and not all of that could be taken away. He also handed in a letter of apology from Farrell.

Mr Fitzgerald said the offending had been highly serious and inappropriate but occurred during an isolated time frame and injured party in particular circumstances. He asked the court to extend what leniency it could given Farrell’s age.

Romanian crime gang were linked to ram raids on stores

THREE members of a Romanian organised crime gang are to be sentenced in relation to a number of ram raids in the east of the country last year, reports Niamh O’Donoghue.

The men were arrested as part of operation ‘Docht’ targeting an organised criminal group responsible for burglaries and high-value vehicle thefts on July 3 and 4 last year.

In one incident, a “dummy car” was rammed through the front window of a phone shop in Dublin city centre. A Vodafone shop in Newbridge was also targeted earlier that night. Later that night a car was rammed through the gates of a motor dealer on Naas Road.

The arrests were made after an intelligence-led operation by the Garda Eastern Region and involving units attached to Dublin Metropolitan Region, Eastern Region and National Units of Gardai. The court heard all three were from Romania.

Ricardo Stancu, Daniel Murgea, and Ionut Leonard Petriu appeared on Monday before a sentencing hearing at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court.

Stancu (38), of North Circular Road

Dublin, and Murgea (31), also of North Circular Road, pleaded guilty to burglary, criminal damage and organised crime offences.

Petriu (19) of Middle Abbey Street, Dublin, pleaded guilty to assisting the group and his culpability was the lowest of the three, the court heard.

Each of the accused pleaded guilty on their trial date in October this year and further pleas were entered today. Stancu and Murgea are in custody but Petriu is on bail.

Detective Garda Tom McEvoy gave evidence that gardai received a call to attend the 3 Store in Henry Street after a car crashed into its front window. A silver Mercedes described as a “dummy car” was abandoned there and extensive damage was done to the front of the shop. The gang left with nothing because the mobile phones were kept in a safe.

The “dummy car” – a stolen Silver Mercedes – was also used to smash through the front window of the Vodafone Shop at the Whitewater shopping centre in Newbridge just before 2.30am on July 3, 2023.

The next day they rammed a car into Leinster Motors in Clondalkin. They used a Citroen C5 there to break through the gates and stole a 5-series BMW at 12.30am on July 4, which was later used as a getaway car.

At around 4am they used the stolen silver Mercedes to ram the front window of the 3 Store on Henry Street. Gardai established the vehicle had been used at Whitewater Shopping Centre on July 3, 2023. Four suspects were ultimately identified from CCTV using a 5-series BMW as a getaway car. Gardai established the car was stolen the same night from Leinster Motors, Clondalkin. Stancu was not involved in the Leinster Motors incident but was involved in the Henry Street and Whitewater Centre offences.

Det Garda McEvoy told Gareth McCormack the total damage to the 3 Store was €49,459 and there was €1,051 worth of damage to stock, but nothing was stolen. A further €7,000 was lost from lack of trading following the incident.

The court heard Murgea has no previous convictions in Ireland but has

13 in Italy and three in France for offences including theft, dealing in stolen goods and criminal association. Stancu has one previous conviction. Petriu has one previous which relates to “paying someone else to do a driving theory test”, the court heard.

The court heard that at the Whitewater Shopping Centre, a silver Mercedes Benz with two occupants wearing gloves approached the front of the shop. There was extensive damage done to the shop and they broke into the store with bags in hands and left with the store till. Apart from the till, no other items were taken as the phones were in a safe. €16,000 worth of damage was caused in that incident.

A BMW 5 Series was stolen from the car dealership in Clondalkin and over €4,000 worth of damage was caused to the gates of the dealership.

In the incident at Leinster Motors, damage to the front gate amounted to €1,753 and there was a further €2,700 in damage to the Citroen.

Mr Dean Kelly SC, for Stancu, said his client went back to Romania as a teenager before returning to Ireland,

was put in touch with people and was under pressure to take part.

He said his client was a foot soldier who was taking rather than giving orders. He said a significant amount of damage was caused at Henry St and The Whitewater Centre shops plus loss of earnings.

Seoirse Ó Dunlaing SC, for Murgea, said his client was a Romanian national who was facing a substantial time in custody. Mr Ó Dunlaing said there was evidence he was under the control of other people.

Mr Ó Dunlaing said his client was working in the kitchen prison where he is on enhanced status since October 2023. He said a letter handed into court made reference to mental health problems and he is on disability benefit.

Fergal McMorrow BL, for Petriu, said his client has one previous conviction. He said the father-of-three is working in a well-known hotel. He remains in gainful employment and has been promoted to chef. He came to live in Ireland in 2018.

Judge Orla Crowe said she would sentence them on Wednesday.

Cuckoo’s Nest redevelopment proceeds apace with new roof

Focus will now be turned to crafting a space that combines tradition and modernity

By William O’Connor
william@echo.ie

WORK ON the redevelopment of the Cuckoo’s Nest pub is moving along with a new roof installed on the original house.

Developers of the Nest, the Mulvaney brothers from St Peter’s Crescent in Walkinstown, plan to extend and renovate the public house and also retain the original front of the building.

The planning approved by the local authority includes the re-establishing of a public/gastro pub at ground- and first-floor level.

The development will consist of the construction of a three- and four-storey building to the side and rear of the existing building which will accommodate a public house use at ground-floor level along with retail/shop local use, also at ground floor.

Eleven apartments will be built overhead, comprised of five one-bed apartments and six two-bed apartments.

In an update this week, developers said: “This month saw a significant milestone: the installation of a brand-new roof on the original house. While it may seem like a small detail, it’s an essential step in preserving the character of the building while preparing it for its future role as the heart of our establishment.



DETAILS: Cement been poured at the Cuckoos Nest development on Wednesday morning (inset) the inside of the original house

“A lounge at the back, tailored for live entertainment, where music and performance will create unforgettable evenings

“With the pub’s external framework nearing completion, we will be turning our focus to the all-important internal build-out. We’re carefully crafting a space that combines tradition with modern comforts, and we’re excited to share a glimpse of what’s to come:

“A small front bar, designed for an intimate and welcoming experience, where conversations and connections take centre stage.

“An upper mezzanine, offering a private

space for special gatherings, perfect for celebrations or quieter moments.

“A lounge at the back, tailored for live entertainment, where music and performance will create unforgettable evenings.

“In total, the space will span around 450 square metres, providing ample room for moments of celebration, relaxation, and everything in between.

“The process has been longer than anticipated, but our commitment to excellence has never wavered. Each decision

is being made with care, ensuring that every detail reflects our vision of a warm, inviting, and vibrant pub experience”.

The site, which contains the original Cuckoo’s Nest house, was bought by the Lynch Family in the 1960s and ceased trading on May 20, 2015.

The Mulvaney brothers purchased the pub in July 2021, for a sum believed to be in the region of €1.2 million from previous owner Michael Keogh who built the Temple Woods housing development on the site.

Cllr. Teresa Costello

tcostello@cllrs.sdublincoco.ie

Phone: 083 130 3292

Advice Clinics:

Tallaght Village

Saturday 11am - 1pm

Ahernes Pub

Tuesdays 6pm -7pm

Greenhills Community Centre

Monday 7.30pm-8.30 pm

& Friday 9am - 10 am

Brookfield Tuesdays 10 - 11

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Double cause for celebration as Mary is top of the class

PRIMARY Education graduate, Mary Peen, from Rathcoole, had a double cause for celebration after achieving ‘top of her class’ status at the annual Hibernia College conferring ceremony which was held at Dublin’s Convention Centre recently.

In addition to receiving her Masters qualification, Mary was honoured with An Duais Ghaeilge Gael Linn – the Gael Linn Irish prize, for achieving the highest grade in Irish in her cohort on the Primary programme.

This year, Mary was one of over 930 graduates from all 26 counties to qualify with Masters in Primary and Post-Primary teaching, or with a Postgraduate Diploma in Inclusive and Special Education.



HONOURED: Mary Peen



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Data shows closing of the education gap

Numbers attending third level education in Ballyfermot vary

By **Alessia Micalizzi**
alessia@echo.ie

THREE secondary schools in Ballyfermot saw less than 40pc of their students accessing third level education in 2023, according to the Feeder Schools data published this week.

While the data showed an overall closing of the education gap in the country, with 64% of DEIS school leavers making it to college in 2023, the gap still exists and is well visible in the Dublin 10 postcode area.

Only 32pc of school leavers from Kylemore College enrolled into university in 2023, 36% from St Dominic's and 38% from St John's College De La Salle. All the three schools saw a decrease from 2022, when St Dominic's sent 61% of school leavers to college.

More positive news came from Ballyfermot Caritas College with 67pc of students making it to third level education, compared to 38pc in 2022.

These are not the lowest numbers in the Dublin area as only 25pc of Tallaght's Killinarden Community School students accessed university in 2023.

Numbers in Dublin 24 vary from 44% of students going into college from Mount Seskin CC to 52% from St Aidan's and 75% from St Mark's.

But Tallaght did well as an overall increase of students who went to college after their Leaving Certificate was recorded across most of the schools.

The same variation applied to Clondalkin, where St Kevin's and Collinstown Park saw the number of their school leavers accessing university falling from 2022, while data from Coláiste Bride, Moyle Park, and Deansrath CC



STATISTICS: The Feeder Schools data said 67% of students from Caritas College attend third level

increased respectively to 76pc, 68pc, and 45pc.

Back into the city, Crumlin was another area where opportunities to progress in education are still too little, with 48pc of students from Rosary College and 32pc of students from Clogher Road CC accessing universities. Both schools showed a small improvement from 2022.

According to the Feeder Schools data, the education gap is even more evident when it comes to accessing "traditional universities," such as Trinity and UCD.

In Dublin 6, about 68pc went on to a

traditional university, compared with 26pc in Dublin 10.

On the other hand, the development of more technological universities such as TU Dublin allowed more students to progress in their education regardless of their area.

The Feeder Schools statistics does not include apprenticeships or other kinds of post leaving certificate education, which are growing and might be preferred by students from disadvantaged areas who need to enter the workforce earlier compared to their peers from affluent families.

Echoopinion...

Let's help families struggling this Christmas time

APPEALS are being made throughout the county to help families with food and treats and to help struggling parents who wonder how they are going to provide for their families.

Local groups in Tallaght, Clondalkin and Ballyfermot need your help in helping these families and loved ones have a Happy Christmas.

The Quarryvale Family Resource Centre are aiming to provide for 200 families while 'A Helping Hand' in Tallaght is filling a bus with food to support families.

'A Helping Hand' will be making hampers to help make Christmas a little better for families and individuals.

The National Society of St Vincent de Paul recently launched its annual appeal as it expects calls for help will exceed last year's record of 250,000.

Vincent de Paul say that calls for help to their offices locally continue to increases. Help with food and energy continue to be the main reason for these requests.

National St Vincent de Paul President Rose McGowan said, "Despite the one-off payments made by the Government coming this month and next there are many people who will continue to struggle to meet basic family expenses particularly on special occasions such as Christmas.

"Those hardest hit will include one parent-families, low-income workers; households on fixed social welfare incomes; low-income households in rural areas; people with disabilities and their carers. That is why we are seeking donations to help families pay for food, heat their homes and ensure their children get a decent Christmas."

While this time of year is very costly for all families, we can all play our part supporting families struggling in the community.

Commuters to benefit from the enhanced Dart scheme

Park West, Cherry Orchard, Clondalkin/Fonthill and Kishoge will benefit

By **Alessia Micalizzi**
alessia@echo.ie

SOUTH Dublin County Council welcomed An Bord Pleanála's approval of an enhanced Dart+ South West scheme between Heuston station and Hazelhatch, Co Kildare.

According to the planning application, capacity on the route will be increased from 12 to 23 trains per hour per direction, which could serve approximately 20,000 passengers per hour each way.

The five stations of Park West and Cherry Orchard, Clondalkin/Fonthill, Kishoge, Adamstown, and Hazelhatch and Celbridge will all be served, for the benefit of all the commuters living in or around those areas.

Electric trains will be deployed to replace the current diesel ones along the whole route, meaning the environment will benefit from the project too.

The scheme covers circa 20km from Hazelhatch to Glasnevin via the Phoenix Park Tunnel Branch Line.

According to SDCC, its approval set the way for potential "additional stations in the future."

Works outside of Iarnród Éireann lands will be required to implement the scheme, such as widening of the railway corridor for four-tracking, bridge reconstruction or improvements, and the construction of substations to provide power.

BENEFIT: Kishoge Train station



Over €6,000 raised for Food Bank

THE Institute of Pranic Healing was "absolutely delighted" to raise €6312 for Ballycullen Food Bank on Sunday, December 8.

At a well-attended 'wellness fundraiser' in Tymon Bawn Community Centre, meditation, breathing exercises, and stress relief treatments were available and followed by a raffle.

While taking time for self-care and relax, participants contributed to help families in need this Christmas.

"The food bank is fantastic," said organiser Katherine McKenna. "They are making sure the children get what they need and that's why we thought about them."



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Rhasidat's mother Ade filled with pride

Awards presented at the IACI's International Gala Night



AWARDS: Charlie O'Connor, Shanessa Igberase, Emma Kenny, Pius Ojo and Pastor Peter Amujo.

By Alessia Micalizzi
alessia@echo.ie

RHASIDAT Adeleke's mother Ade was filled with joy and pride as she collected the Sports Person of the Year Award for her daughter at the IACI's annual Intercultural Gala Night. Integration of All Children in Ireland (IACI) praised the achievements of members of the migrant community at an entertaining

ceremony at the Maldron Hotel in Tallaght on Saturday, December 7.

Besides the beloved Olympian from Tallaght, five more awards were presented by Pastor Peter Amujo, with former councillor Charlie O'Connor attending as special guest.

Emma Kenny won the "Heart of Kindness Award" for her support to newcomers to Ireland, while Shanessa Oseadeba Igberaese was announced "Young Entrepreneur of the Year" for her great achievements in education and her work at a bakery business.

Musician Pius Ojo was "Artist of the Year"

and international clothes designer Olabisi Olamide was "Entrepreneur of the Year."

To wrap up with a bit of romance, Mr and Mrs Matina Igberaese were nominated "Couple of the Year."

"The Gala Night included a delicious meal, games, a fashion parade, and a dancing competition," said Yemi Ojo, Chair of South Dublin Migrant Integration Forum and organiser of the event.

"Everyone was happy celebrating and creating relationships which are the aims of the Intercultural Gala Night."



PRIDE: Ade Adeleke with Yemi Ojo.

“Everyone was happy celebrating and creating relationships which are the aims of the Intercultural Gala Night

Sinn Féin

CLlr William Carey

📞: 085 2076950

✉️: wcarey@cllrs.sdublincoco.ie

South Dublin County Council,
Clondalkin,
Dublin 22

CONSTITUENCY CLINIC TIMES

🐾 Tue	10am - 11am	Bawnogue Community Centre
🐾 Wed	10am - 11am	Saggart - Old School House
	11.30 - 12.30	Newcastle - St Finians Com. Centre
🐾 Thurs	10am - 11am	Knockmitten Com. Centre
	11.30 - 12.30	Rathcoole Community Centre
🐾 Fri	10am - 11am	Clondalkin Civic Offices

GAA Club to plant 2,000 native mini forest trees on grounds

LUCAN Sarsfields, in collaboration with the 100 Million Trees Project, make a significant step towards environmental sustainability and community engagement with the GAA Club becoming stewards of the largest mini forest on any sporting site in Dublin community club grounds.

David Mulcahy, co-founder of 100 Million Trees Project, and proud sponsor of this initiative, in conjunction with AIB, said: "At the heart of this initiative lies a shared commitment to the environment and the community, as 2,000 native Irish mini forest trees are set to be planted, transforming a designated area along the Grand Canal in Lucan into a thriving ecosystem."

"We are thrilled to partner with the powerful 100 Million Trees Project for this fantastic intervention," said Abby Shiels, Dublin Ladies Gaelic Football Goalkeeper.

"By combining our efforts to plant native Irish trees, we aim to create a lasting impact on the local environment and inspire others to take action for a greener and more sustainable future."

David Mulcahy added: "The project aims not

only to contribute to Ireland's ambitious afforestation goals but also to foster a sense of community pride and environmental stewardship."

Linda Bermingham, AIB Branch Manager in Lucan, commented, "As part of our commitment to supporting sustainable communities, AIB has a long-standing relationship with Lucan Sarsfields GAA Club, and we are delighted to support this community initiative. Our team is proud to be involved in the planting of a 2,000 native-variety mini forest at the GAA Club grounds.

"With 170 branches embedded in communities across the country, AIB has a central role to play in supporting our 3.3 million customers and positively contributing to the communities we operate in."

This event is a testament to the collective power of public-private partnerships, showcasing how organisations with a shared vision can come together to make a lasting impact. The collaboration between the 100 Million Trees Project, Lucan Sarsfields GAA Club and AIB exemplifies the strength of unity in tackling environmental challenges.

Night on hospital chair while man waited for fourth operation

Patient in excruciating pain was told that ‘he couldn’t be guaranteed a bed or a trolley’

By Alessia Micalizzi
alessia@echo.ie

A MAN spent the night on a chair in Tallaght University Hospital’s Emergency Department (ED) as he waited to undergo his fourth surgery in a month.

Adam Haskins (39) of Naas Road, Clondalkin, suffers from a kidney disease that causes the formation of stones in his kidney.

Following a surgery in October that was supposed to leave him stones free, an “excruciating pain” brought him back to TUH Emergency Department several times.

On Wednesday, November 27, a stent to remove new stones had already been inserted in and removed from his kidney three times, when the pain had him going back into the ED once again.

Adam arrived at the ED at 2pm that day, only to be treated the following morning after 7am.

As “he couldn’t be guaranteed a bed or a trolley,” he spent his night in pain on one of the chairs.

When he eventually saw a doctor from the nephrology department, he found out that he was given the wrong medications by the urologists who previously treated him, leading to the stones coming back after every surgery.

While he is now at home recovering after his last emergency surgery, Adam

doesn’t want the way he was treated to be brushed off.

“It all took a toll on my mental health. I’m not in a good place mentally right now.

“I don’t understand why I was treated that way.”

The night of November 29 was, in fact, only the last part of the “ordeal” he went through at TUH.

The first time he turned to the ED in early November, he arrived “in shock from pain”.

After incredibly long waits while in that pain, he underwent surgery and was discharged the following day, even if he claimed not to feel well enough.

“Security came to the ward and told me to pack my bags.

“I wasn’t being aggressive on any of the patients or staff, so I couldn’t understand why.”

Adam said he wasn’t physically forced to leave but that he felt “threatened” to do so.

The same pattern was allegedly followed every time he went in, causing him stress besides pain and leaving him with questions unanswered, until having to accept to spend a whole night on a chair.

Besides his mental well-being, Adam lost five weeks of work.

“Hopefully this is the last operation, which he shouldn’t have had to have in the first place,” said his mother

Geraldine, who blames the lack of investment into TUH’s staff and resources for what her son went through.

“We are not blaming the staff, the nurses, or doctors who do a great job. I am putting a hundred per cent of the blame on our [former] Government.”

Tallaght University Hospital notably has “one of the busiest Emergency Departments nationally with a catchment population of approximately 450,000 people,” as stated on the HSE website.

Two weeks ago, another local woman told *The Echo* she found TUH’s ED to be “like a war zone,” after her father-in-law was left waiting for 8 hours with a chest fracture and a bleed in his brain.

“TUH has been exceptionally busy in the last few weeks,” a spokesperson for the hospital told *The Echo*.

“Activity year to date in the Hospital Emergency Department is up 8pc or 4,082 attendances.

“The Hospital has a significant historical deficit in inpatient beds and as a result the Hospital operates at 110% occupancy all of the time.

“We regret there are lengthy delays and long wait times, all patients are triaged and are seen by the clinicians based on their clinical need which may result in some patients waiting longer to be seen.”

According to the spokesperson, this will be addressed by a new ward block in planning.



BAD EXPERIENCE:
Adam Haskins suffers from a kidney disease

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Communication boards have a positive impact in community

THIRTEEN communication boards in playspaces across the county followed the initial pilot project at Corkagh Park, according to South Dublin County Council.

The other installed communications boards are located at playspaces at Collinstown Park, Waterstown Park, Griffen Valley Park, Hermitage Park, Willsbrook Park, Tymon North, Willington and Limekiln, Rathfarnham Castle Park, Greenhills Park, Perrystown, and Kilnamanagh.

The communications boards were installed following the provision of a specific budget line in the SDCC revenue budget, which allowed for the initial pilot project and the roll-out of the 12 additional boards as outlined above.

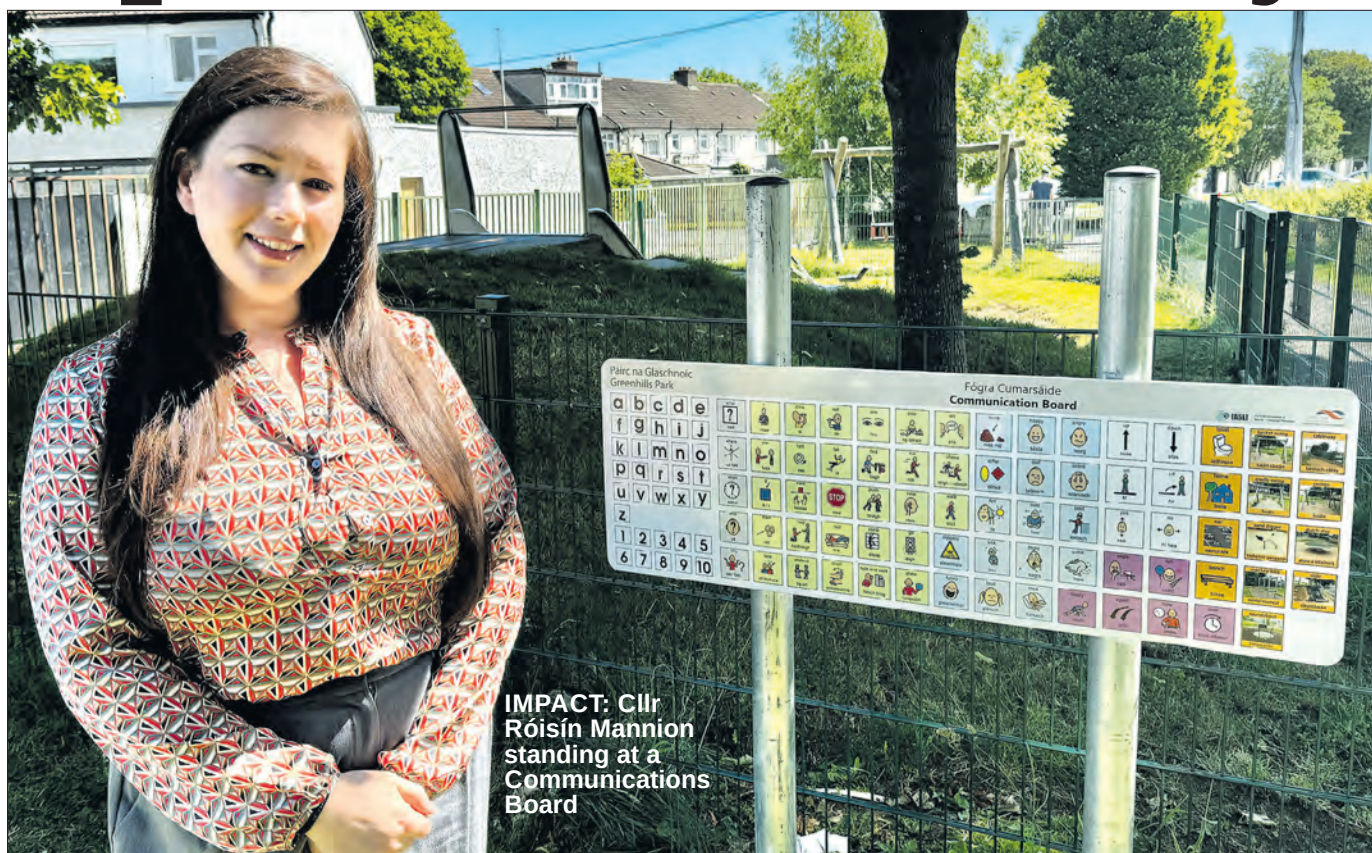
The boards are useful in the bigger, enclosed playgrounds with a large variety of equipment.

Communication Boards assist inclusive play and allow non-verbal children or any child struggling to communicate to get to play the way they wish within these environments. The council is examining the roll-out of communications boards at appropriate locations and are including communications boards in all new and refurbished playspaces at the construction stage going forward.

Speaking after the decision at December's Council Meeting, Councillor Róisín Mannion said:

"Communication boards have a hugely positive impact when it comes to making our playgrounds and other facilities more inclusive for children with additional needs or who are non-verbal.

"The commitment from the council to ensure that all future play spaces incorporate communication boards at the construction phase – as well as in future refurbishments – is an important step in making South Dublin a more inclusive place."



IMPACT: Cllr Róisín Mannion standing at a Communications Board

Major disturbance outside pub sees a man arrested

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

A MAN was arrested outside a Clondalkin pub on Friday night following a major disturbance, which saw a vehicle go up in flames.

The incident occurred at the Dutch Village Shopping Centre, outside Boomer's Pub, in the Woodford area.

Footage on social media shows a man armed with a baseball bat arguing outside the pub with another man, before he is tackled to the ground by gardai.

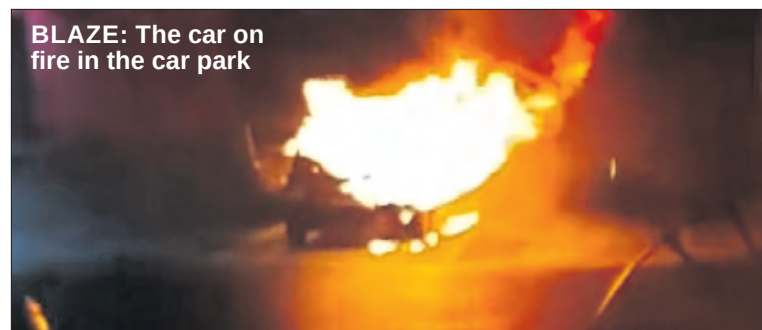
Footage by patrons in the bar show a

vehicle across the car-park up in flames, and rolling towards a Boylesports bookies premises.

A garda spokesperson told *The Echo*: "Gardaí are investigating an incident of criminal damage by fire that occurred on Woodford Walk in Clondalkin, on Friday night, December 6, shortly before midnight.

"A male in his 30s was arrested at the scene and conveyed to a garda station in West Dublin. The damaged vehicle was removed for a technical examination."

BLAZE: The car on fire in the car park



"A male in his 30s was arrested at the scene and conveyed to a garda station in West Dublin"

Cllr Mick Duff

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Carols at
St Mary’s
in Lucan

A CAROL service is scheduled to take place at St Mary’s parish in Lucan on Sunday, December 15, at 4pm.
The performance will feature St Mary’s Chorale with St Mary’s Junior Choir, Colette and Michael Grant.

Plans for
Firhouse
Leisure
Centre

A PROPOSED expansion of use of existing ground-floor-level shared studio room within Firhouse Community and Leisure Centre has been approved by South Dublin County Council
This will allow for an additional pre-school / Montessori classroom for up to 24 children between the hours of 9am to 1pm, associated with adjoining childcare facilities within the Millenium Building at Firhouse Community and Leisure Centre .

Heritage Centre project
could be built in 12 months

Development would cost up to €7.5m according to Capital Programme estimates

By Alessia Micalizzi
alessia@echo.ie

SOUTH Dublin County Council would like to see the Tallaght Heritage Centre project starting in Q2 2025, said SDCC Director of Economic, Enterprise and Tourism, Jason Frehill.
Starting with an initial budget of €3 million that was set aside for the project in 2022, the centre would now cost up to €7.5m according to the Three Year Capital Programme 2025–2027 presented at December’s Council meeting.
“We’re not coming back with crazy and ridiculous prices, we are just making sure that we can deliver with the budget we set aside,” said Mr Frehill in response to councillor Ronan McMahon (Ind) questioning the increase of the cost over the years.
“There was a Part 8 approval for the project and tender documentation ready to go. We are reviewing the final costs before we go out with it,” he added.
According to SDCC, the centre will be built in approximately 12 months.
As of 2023, the Part 8 plans included the construction of a new two-storey structure on Old Blessington Road, accommodating gallery and exhibition spaces.
The development, with a gross floor area of 870 sq m, will be part of a wider ‘cultural quarter’ with Rua Red and Tallaght Library.
To facilitate development, the proposals suggested removing a boundary fence, a bottle-bank, bike lockers and 39 existing car-parking spaces.
Associated site works included landscaping a courtyard garden, planting, 20 bicycle-parking spaces, lighting and signage.



CULTURAL QUARTER:
An artist's impression of
the centre

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Unprovoked attack by former boxer with 38 previous convictions left a man blind in one eye

A FORMER boxer has been imprisoned for seven-and-a-half years for an “unprovoked attack” with a guitar which left a man blind in one eye, reports *Claire Henry*.

Dublin Circuit Criminal Court heard that Thomas Finnegan (36) of Bawnlea Drive, Tallaght, Dublin 24, was found guilty of assault causing serious harm and production of an article in the form of a guitar at the Applegreen service station, Jobstown, Tallaght, on June 22, 2023.

He has 38 previous convictions, which include convictions for assault, criminal damage, public order and road traffic offences.

Passing sentence on Monday last, Judge Jonathan Dunphy said Finnegan was convicted by a jury last month. He said the aggravating factor in this case was that it was an unprovoked attack, and Finnegan left the scene afterwards.

He also noted that the injured party was knocked unconscious, and Finnegan continued to kick him. The level of injuries sustained by the injured party and the non-acceptance of the jury’s verdict were also considered aggravating factors.

Judge Dunphy said Finnegan has previous convictions, of which five were from the circuit court. He also noted that Finnegan has come to the attention of the gardai since this offending in 2020.

The judge said the mitigating factors are that this man is a father of six and has a good relationship with his children. He further noted the clean urine report which was handed into the court, his involvement in sports and his motocross accident.

Judge Dunphy set a headline sentence of nine years for the count of assault causing serious harm, but suspended the final 18 months after

considering the mitigating factors. For the production of an article, he set a headline sentence of three-and-a-half years and suspended the final 12 months. Both sentences are to run concurrently. He also placed Finnegan under the supervision of the probation services for two years post-release.

He backdated this sentence to when Finnegan went into custody on this matter.

Detective Garda Elaine Markham told Marc Murphy, BL, prosecuting, that gardai were alerted to an altercation in the forecourt of Applegreen service station on the date in question. When gardai arrived at the scene, there was no one present, but bloodstains were seen on the ground. Gardai then travelled to the Accident and Emergency Department of Tallaght Hospital, where they found the injured party.

The court heard that CCTV footage

was obtained, and Finnegan was identified. During the course of his trial earlier this year, the court heard that Finnegan and the injured party got into an altercation. A “boxing match” took place in the forecourt, and Finnegan stuck the injured party with a “right-handed punch”, which knocked the man to the ground.

Det Garda Markham said the man was then kicked several times while he lay on the ground. Finnegan briefly left the area and returned with a guitar, before striking the man with the guitar.

The court heard that the injured man has lost his sight in his left eye and has been told that this is likely permanent. His left eye is also shrunk due to the injury.

The injured man did not wish to make a victim-impact statement. The Director of Public Prosecutions outlined that the maximum sentence

for assault causing serious harm is life in prison and five years for the production of an article. The DPP believed that this offending lies in the top end of the mid-range, which Mr Justice Dunphy agreed with.

Mr Barry Ward SC, defending, told the court that his client had completed his Leaving Certificate and had become a gym instructor. He got involved in boxing and, for a period of time, was a professional boxer, but due to a motocross accident and the head injuries he sustained, he was no longer able to box.

Counsel said his client maintains that it is not him who was on the CCTV footage.

He said his client has a good work history, and his previous convictions are mostly for minor matters.

Mr Ward asked the court to consider leaving some light at the end of the tunnel for his client.

Seven years for man who raped a woman after drugs were spiked

Victim said the courier who brought drink and drugs sexually assaulted her and then left

By **Eimear Dodd**
news@echo.ie

A MAN who raped his landlady when she was in a state of temporary paralysis after her drugs were spiked and she was raped by another man, has been jailed for seven years.

Dmitrus Aleinkovs (31) with a former address in Dublin 24 was convicted at the Central Criminal Court in October of one count of rape in June 2016. The court heard the victim wishes for Aleinkovs to be identified but to retain her anonymity.

Aleinkovs returned to Latvia before he was charged and has been in custody since his extradition back to Ireland in December 2022.

Imposing sentence on Friday, Ms Justice Karen O’Connor said Aleinkovs’s behaviour towards the victim was “degrading and humiliating” in light of the woman’s vulnerability.

She said this case was about the “horrific treatment of a human being, a vulnerable woman” who was “rendered powerless by a person who degraded and raped her”.

Ms Justice O’Connor noted the woman was then “subjected to further attack by a person who was living in her home”, saying that Aleinkovs took advantage of the victim, who thought he might help her.

She said Aleinkovs subjected the victim to “further humiliating and degrading treatment” by raping her when she was unable to move.

Having considered the mitigation and Aleinkovs’s personal circumstances, she imposed a seven-year sentence, backdated to December 2022 when he went into custody.

The Central Criminal Court heard that the woman, the defendant and others had been socialising prior to the incident. The woman stayed up after



others, including Aleinkovs, went to bed.

She contacted a ‘dial a drink’ service to get further alcohol and also to obtain cocaine. A short time later, a courier arrived with drugs. This man entered the house and went into the sitting room with the woman.

She was immediately affected after taking the drug, and found herself unable to move her body but completely awake and alert.

In her state of near paralysis, the courier removed the clothes from the lower part of her body, then raped her.

When he was finished, this man arranged her and put a cushion over the lower part of her body. He removed the drugs before leaving.

A short time later, while she was still in a state of paralysis, Aleinkovs came into the sitting room and saw the woman. He then raped her.

The woman gave evidence during the trial that she was internally screaming at Aleinkovs and her eyes made clear she expected help, not a further assault. This rape lasted five minutes, but to her, it felt endless.

Afterwards, Aleinkovs put her jeans on her, then left.

She was later able to get to her phone and raise the alarm, with her

father coming to the house to help her.

Reading her victim-impact statement, the woman said her life has been “irrecoverably changed”, and the “scars of that day stay with me forever”.

She said she has been living in a “constant state of fear and anxiety” and struggles with panic attacks.

She said she “thought he was going to help me but instead he raped me . . . he could see in my eyes I didn’t want this to happen”.

She said she “could see the pleasure in his face, which was sickening”.

Gardai made efforts to identify the first attacker, but he still has not been found, the court heard.

In her sentencing remarks, Ms Justice O’Connor said the woman’s drugs had been “spiked” by the first attacker, and that the gardai’s extensive efforts to apprehend him had been unsuccessful.

The judge said the aggravating features of this case relating to Aleinkovs’ offending included the breach of trust, the woman’s vulnerability and that Aleinkovs had been living in her home at the time.

She noted that Aleinkovs had been a tenant living in the woman’s house and had been socialising with her prior to

his offending. The court considered this offending to be a “huge breach of the trust”, the judge said.

The court heard at an earlier hearing that the victim had sublet part of her home to Aleinkovs before this incident and that there had been consensual sexual intimacy between them, which ended when he objected to continue to pay rent due to their intimacy.

Aleinkovs made a voluntary statement to gardai and provided a DNA sample. He left the jurisdiction and travelled to Latvia without having been charged.

A European Arrest Warrant was issued and Aleinkovs was extradited to Ireland in December 2022. He has been in custody since then and has no previous convictions.

Ms Justice O’Connor noted while there was no suggestion Aleinkovs was trying to evade justice, “his departure led to delay in this matter progressing”.

She noted the mitigation includes Aleinkovs’s work history in this country and his lack of previous convictions.

In her impact statement, the woman said what happened has also affected her family who has been “living in a state of constant worry”. She said it has had a “devastating effect” on her relationship with her children, as she is pushing her anxieties and “irrational” fears about men onto them.

She said she has feelings of worthlessness and low self-worth. She said she fears sleep paralysis and doesn’t feel safe when she sleeps.

The woman referred to the shame she felt “when this was all over and my Dad looking at me lying there helpless, knowing what had happened before he arrived was soul-destroying”.

“I will never forget the look in his eyes,” she said.

She described feeling like she was

not worth anything that night, but was “something to be used and discarded like rubbish when he finished with me”.

The woman said she feels dirty and tainted in a way that will never be clean again. She also fears intimacy and worries she will never have a normal relationship again.

She asked the court to consider the emotional and psychological “devastation” caused to her life and expressed the hope that “justice can be served to bring some sense of closure”.

Ms Justice O’Connor thanked the woman, noting that “it takes courage to walk up here in a very formal environment and sit in front of a group of strangers and to provide a statement like this” and to go through a criminal trial.

She wished the woman well for the future.

The investigating garda agreed with Eanna Mulloy SC, defending, that while gardai looked at the woman’s phone, it was not forensically examined. It was further accepted that leads to identify the first attacker dried up after two properties were searched.

Mr Mulloy outlined the client’s personal circumstances, work history and other mitigation.

He said his client decided to return home before any criminal charges had been brought.

He asked the court to take into account all of the surrounding circumstances including the other “predator” who “availed of tools, medications, and planned a particular operation to take advantage of the victim’s trust in relation to services she was paying for”.

Mr Mulloy submitted to the court that some of the victim’s distress was “initiated by another offender who remains at large”.

He asked the court for as much leniency as possible for his client.



Mother sues Garda Commissioner over death of son in head-on crash

THE MOTHER of one of three men who died in a head-on crash while travelling the wrong way down the N7 on the Naas Road to evade gardaí is suing the Garda Commissioner and various other parties in the High Court.

Brenda Taylor is seeking damages for alleged personal injuries and distress arising out of the death of her son, Graham Taylor (31), who was a passenger in the BMW 3 Series being driven by Carl Freeman (26).

Dean Maguire was the third man in the vehicle, which burst into flames after crashing into an oncoming truck late on July 7, 2021.

An inquest into Mr Freeman's death heard the occupants had to be identified using DNA samples taken from relatives.

The truck driver was left with serious, but not life-threatening injuries.

The three deceased men, all with addresses in Tallaght, had a litany of previous convictions.

On Monday, barrister Fred Gilligan, for the Garda Commissioner and other State parties, said his clients cannot file a defence to Ms Taylor's proceedings for some time due to certain matters beyond their control.

However, there will be a full defence delivered in time.

Mr Justice Anthony Barr said he understood the reasons and adjourned a motion brought by Ms Taylor's barrister, Brian Carroll, instructed by MacGuill

& Company. He gave Mr Carroll permission to seek to re-enter his motion if needed.

Ms Taylor has sued the Garda Commissioner, the Minister for Justice, the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Ireland and the Attorney.

Her case is also against a number of non-State parties, including a solicitor representing the estate of Mr Freeman and a woman alleged to be the owner of the BMW 3 Series.

She has also sued the Motor Insurance Bureau of Ireland, which is funded out of the insurance policies of every motorist to compensate victims of uninsured or untraced drivers.



TRAGEDY: Flowers at the scene on the N7 in July 2021



GYM: Plans have been approved for a 24-hour gym at Kilnamanagh Shopping Centre

24-hour gym gets green light in Kilnamanagh Shopping Centre

Plans are approved for a change of use of part first floor retail to gym

By William O'Connor
william@echo.ie

PLANNING permission has been approved for a 24-hour gym at Kilnamanagh Shopping Centre.

Applicant Holohan Fitness Ltd planning includes the change of use of part of the first floor from retail to gym use within a unit with a gross floor area of circa 790sqms.

Plans include alterations to ground floor lobby entrance and steps and the installation of temporary wheelchair access ramp to the lobby entrance along the centre's eastern elevation.

Planning permission was approved for a 24-hour gym along with two new external signs, including manifestations to first floor windows and installation of bicycle parking.

Twenty submissions were made to this planning and the local authority previously asked for additional information.

71 reports of trees fallen during Storm Darragh

SEVENTY-ONE reports of trees fallen and branches blocking roads were made to South Dublin County Council during Storm Darragh.

The extremely strong winds hitting the country on Friday, December 6 reached South Dublin too which was included in a Status Orange weather alert by Met Éireann.

"We had crews out over the weekend working in adverse condition, I would like to acknowledge their contribution," said SDCC Chief Executive Colm Ward at the monthly Council meeting on Monday, December 9.

The impacts of the storm included fallen trees blocking roads, damage to power lines and to temporary structures.

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South Dublin councillors unhappy with procedures

Monthly manager's report on projects will not be followed by questions

By Alessia Micalizzi
alessia@echo.ie

FRUSTRATION and confusion were evident at the South Dublin County Council December meeting as some councillors weren't happy with changes in the usual procedures.

After an amendment made last month, the monthly report presented by the SDCC Manager with updates on the county's projects won't be followed by councillors' questions anymore.

In the new procedures, on trial until May 2025, they will accept the report and submit questions to the Manager at a different time, via email or in person.

"I disagree with the changing of the standing orders," said Palmerstown / Fonthill councillor Madeleine Johansson (PBP).

"It was approved at a very poorly attended meeting," said Firhouse/Bohernabreena councillor Emma Murphy (FF). "[The amendment] went to a vote in relation to the manager's report. It was widely debated, and we came to a consensus."

Rathfarnham/Templeogue councillor Ronan McMahon (Ind) and Clondalkin councillor William Carey (SF) added to the disagreement as they thought the finance and policies' parts of the report were still open to questions.

The reason for the change is the need to "get to the business" more quickly



CONFUSION: South Dublin County Council headquarters in Tallaght

during meetings and have more time to discuss councillors' motions rather than the manager's report.

"I have no issue with being here taking questions from across the floor

as I have always done," said Colm Ward, SDCC CEO.

"But it was having an impact in terms of time taken away, and the report is only for noting anyway."

Mr Ward explained that according to the new procedure he will now "commit to responding to councillors' questions on his report within the same week of the council meeting."

Students' talent on display at Ballyfermot Library

BALLYFERMOT College of Further Education is proud to announce a student-curated content creation and photography exhibition at Ballyfermot Library.

This engaging and insightful exhibition opens at 5.30pm on Tuesday, December 17, showcasing a diverse range of works exploring various topics from A Day Inside an Election Count, to Postcards from Home, Living with Neurofibromatosis, and much more.

Each body of work offers a unique perspective on complex and often misunderstood themes, encouraging visitors to reflect on the stories and ideas presented. This event is not just a showcase of talent but an invitation to the community to engage with the students' work.

The exhibition promises to be a thoughtful and approachable experience for all, highlighting the creativity and insight of this group of students.

They are all participants on Ballyfermot College's Levels 5 & 6 Content Creation and Photography Course.

TOGETHER FM - HOW TO FIND US



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

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You can also tune in on smart speaker. Just say Hey Alexa / Hey Google play Together FM on tune in.

Scan this QR Code to tune into our station!



Youth Awards



RECOGNITION: Youthpass at the Ballyfermot Youth Service Awards See story and photos on page 24



TRAD FEST 20 IN SOUTH DUBLIN

IS COMING



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tradfest.com



CHATTY: Dory Hudson with Patrick Kielty on The Late Late Toy Show

Little Dory helps Patrick on The Late Late Toy Show

Then top singer Jazzy meets her on the show and Dory says ‘I love your outfit’

By Alessia Micalizzi
alessia@echo.ie

“Imagine how stressed Mama Duck would be when she’s getting her bits and bobs in the shop and all her kids are following after her

A LITTLE Tallaght girl held the stage at the RTÉ Late Late Toy Show through witty jokes and her astonishment when meeting superstar Jazzy. Dory Hudson (8) is the daughter of TikTok star Jessica Hudson who showed on the social network how excited they both were for Dory’s upcoming appearance on RTÉ. Dory was host Patrick Kielty’s first ‘helper’ and the two kicked off the show together on Friday, December 6. After telling everyone that she was named after Finding Nemo’s beloved character – “Just keep swimming” is her motto – Dory went on to show stuffed animals and pet toys.

“Imagine how stressed Mama Duck would be when she’s getting her bits and bobs in the shop and all her kids are following after her,” she said, getting many laughs from the audience. “Loads of children, all over the place, how does she manage?” she continued while attaching a queue of stuffed duck babies to Mama Duck’s back and humming ‘Hush, Little Baby’ as they went along. Between aquarium’s fishes, dancing monkeys, and build-a-bears, Dory announced she will be a vet when she grows up. But it’s not only animals she loves, as she was left flabbergasted by top singer Jazzy meeting her on the show.

“I saw her driving past my car sometimes,” Dory said to Patrick before Jazzy came in. The Crumlin-born singer-songwriter gave Dory a hug and said how happy she was to be on the show meeting her fans, just to be cut off by the girl’s chat again – “I love your outfit!” “I think you could probably host the rest of this, I’ll see you later on,” laughed Patrick. First aired in 1975, The Late Late Toy Show is one of the most popular on Irish television, and every year it showcases the best toys of the year during the Christmas shopping season. Over €4 million was raised by this year’s Toy Show Appeal, supporting many children charities across Ireland.

Live crib promises to be ‘uplifting and entertaining

“THERE IS nothing like it!” exclaims producer Brian Ó Gaibhín about his latest venture, reports Ryan Butler. Following on the wonderful success of Ireland’s only living crib, ‘Beithlin Beo,’ Aisteoirí Chrónáin, with support from Tower Credit Union, Newlands Garden Centre, South Dublin County Council, South Dublin Chamber of Commerce, and Foras na Gaeilge, proudly present ‘A Beithlin Beo – Live Crib’ on Saturday, December 14, and Sunday, December 15, in the Ionad Cultúir – Irish Cultural Centre, Clondalkin. Once again, it promises to be an uplifting, entertaining, and spiritual experience with choreographed movement to a specially collated musical soundtrack. An Beithilín Beo will enthrall, entertain, and recapture the wonderful Christmas spirit in everyone from three years old to 93 years old in this unique community presentation.

Construction of the life-size stable is being undertaken by Muintir Chrónáin and the local community, in the old traditional way. The Beithilín Beo was devised by ex-Ros na Rún soap star Brendan Murray. Produced by Brian Ó Gaibhín, Leo Mac Tiarnáin, and Gearóid Ó Cathain and directed by Oisín Mac Tiarnáin. The cast and crew are all members of Aisteoirí Chrónáin and friends of Muintir Chrónáin and Áras Chrónáin. Admission is free. There will be tea, coffee, hot chocolate, and mince pies served after each performance. Donations are very welcome and gladly accepted to help ensure the continuation of this wonderful magical community project each year. Make sure to check it out when it is performed in the Irish Cultural Centre in Clondalkin on December 14 and 15.



MAGICAL: Live Crib

‘State can’t keep relying’ on families to fill in its gaps

Elderly are being negatively impacted by lack of public health nurses in county

By **Alessia Micalizzi**
alessia@echo.ie

SOUTH Dublin elderly are being as negatively impacted as children by the longstanding lack of Public Health Nurses in the county according to councillors’ reports.

South Dublin County Council will write to the next Minister of Health after a motion was unanimously agreed at the Council meeting on Monday, asking once again to acknowledge and discuss the lack of PHN services.

The Echo previously reported on mothers “screaming into the void” when trying to get their newborns checked and their development assessed within the Dublin South West health centres, which had a vacancy rate of 52pc as of August 2024.

However, for elderly people who have mobility issues or can’t always rely on other family members, the PHN are crucial too.

“I know someone whose elderly father has to travel to the hospital to get their catheter emptied and changed,” said Tallaght councillor Jess Spear (PBP).

“It’s putting a strain on the elderly mother who can’t always make that journey, which then puts a strain on younger family members.

“The state can’t keep relying on family members to fill in its gaps.”

Tallaght councillor Niamh Whelan (SF) agreed that not having Public Health Nurses trained to change a catheter can’t

be considered good enough.

“An 82-year-old lady is receiving palliative care for cancer in her home. Her family have to bring her to Tallaght Hospital for the catheter, in what we know is already a stretched and overcrowded A&E.”

“I know an 84-year-old lady who is living alone and doesn’t have the money to put handrails on her stairs nor to make her bathroom more accessible,” added Deputy Mayor Alan Hayes (Ind).

“The HSE told her they can send her a public occupational therapist in 179 weeks.”

The underrated impact that a lack of PHN services has on the county definitely came up on a lot of doors while canvassing according to Clondalkin councillor Eoin Ó Bróin (SocDems).

But while some think that the emigration of qualified Irish nurses and doctors should be tackled to retain more staff, others are sure that the HSE recruitment freeze is where the problem is.

“It’s not only in the PHN service, it’s across the broad range of all the HSE services,” said Tallaght councillor Mick Duff (Ind). “We do need answers from the Government.”

“We have a brand-new healthcare centre in the heart of Clondalkin,” added councillor William Carey (SF).

“One year after the building was finished, it is more likely to be derelict than to be staffed and opened.

“The moratorium needs to be overturned.”



Recycle more this Christmas Déan níos mó a athchúrsáil an Nollaig seo

Wrapping paper, Christmas cards, Glass, Cans, Plastic, Christmas trees, Batteries and WEEE can all be recycled, so this Christmas South Dublin County Council is encouraging everyone to recycle. Please visit www.sdcc.ie for Christmas Tree recycling locations.

For more information on how these items & more can be recycled go to www.sdcc.ie
Le haghaidh tuilleadh eolais maidir leis an athchúrsáil, tabhair cuairt ar www.athcliaththeas.ie



“An 82-year-old lady is receiving palliative care for cancer in her home. Her family have to bring her to Tallaght Hospital for the catheter, in what we know is already a stretched and overcrowded A&E

Ballymount Civic Amenity, Christmas and New Years Opening Hours 2024/2025

CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Monday 23rd Dec 9.00am - 5.00pm | • Monday 30th Dec 9.00am - 5.00pm |
| • Tuesday 24th Dec 9.00am - 3.00pm | • Tuesday 31st Dec 9.00am - 3.00pm |
| • Wednesday 25th Dec CLOSED | • Wednesday 1st Jan CLOSED |
| • Thursday 26th Dec CLOSED | • Thursday 2nd Jan 9.00am - 5.00pm |
| • Friday 27th Dec 9.00am - 5.00pm | • Friday 3rd Jan 9.00am - 5.00pm |
| • Saturday 28th Dec 9.00am - 5.30pm | • Saturday 4th Jan 9.00am - 5.30pm |
| • Sunday 29th Dec 9.00am - 5.00pm | • Sunday 5th Jan 9.00am - 5.00pm |

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, noble of the forest



GOOD: Holly Berries offer a good source of food for birds in mid-winter

IN PREHISTORIC times, Holly was regarded by our early ancestors as one of the seven ‘noble trees’ of the woods.

Along with Oak, Hazel, Yew, Ash, Pine and Apple, these seven trees were highly prized for their value as food (nuts, acorns and apples), wood for building (yew and pine) or for weapons and tools (ash and holly).

In the ancient Celtic alphabet, Ogham, the symbol for Holly is represented as three horizontal strokes on the left face of a stone, and is referred to by the name ‘tinne’.

This word translates as ‘iron bar’, reflecting the very dense, strong nature of the wood from this small tree.

Holly, therefore, has been seen to represent strength and protection.

It was often grown along property boundaries, where its wood and its prickly leaves helped to provide protective barriers to keep cattle in and trespassers out.

Also, as Holly is an evergreen plant which remains

green and glossy throughout the bleak mid-winter, it encouraged communities to remain strong and resilient throughout the hungry season.

Most grazing animals tend to avoid eating the tough prickly leaves of Holly, particularly when there is plenty of other food available.

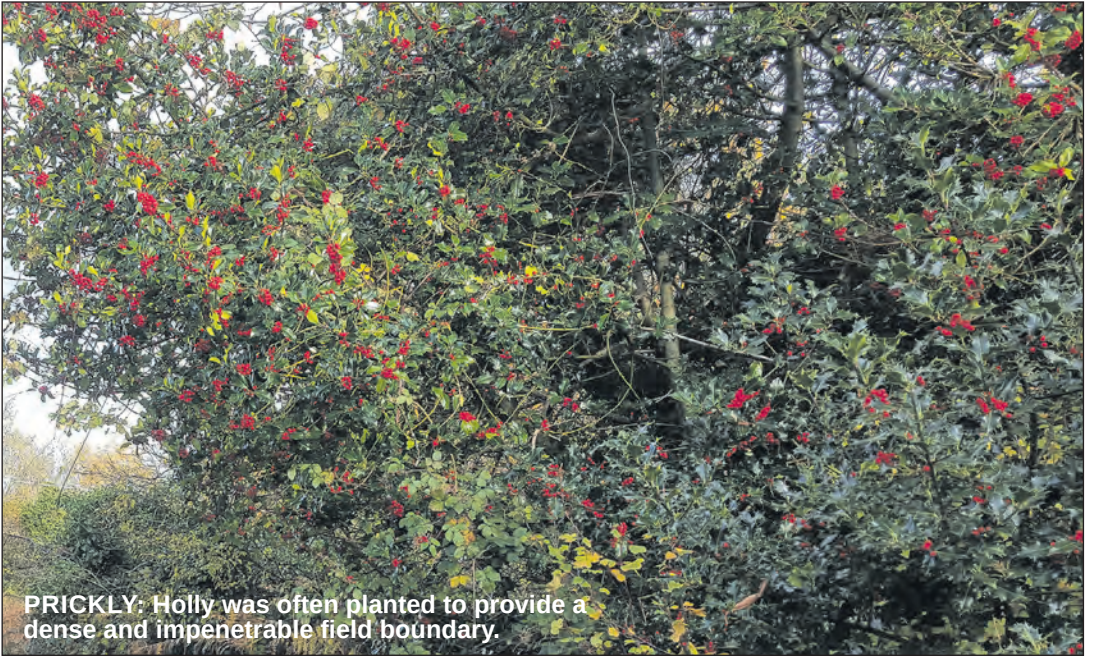
Leaves towards the top of the bush, however, are further away from the efforts of grazing animals, so the plant saves energy by not making these leaves tough and prickly.

In the past, the branches at the top of the tree were often cut in mid-winter and fed to cattle and sheep.

In Irish mythological tales, Holly is associated with Na Fianna and with the pagan God Lugh, when it was used to make spears, javelins, darts, and poles for chariots.

In ancient Ireland, Holly would have been associated more with the harvest feast of Lugh, or Lughnasa, which occurs on August 1.

This was the seasonal time for competitive chariot races. Today, however, Holly is most associated with mid-winter and Christmas.



PRICKLY: Holly was often planted to provide a dense and impenetrable field boundary.



WARMING UP: Bona, Babs and Denise

Run raise almost €2 Tallaght p

‘Electric atmosphere’ was one of many descriptions of the 5km run for Tallaght Rehabilitation Project

By Alessia Micalizzi
alessia@echo.ie

Over €1,900 was raised at a running event to support the community work of Tallaght Rehabilitation Project (TRP).

At least 150 people attended the Jobstown Running Club’s Christmas Run on Saturday, December 7, and contributed to a good cause.

Starting from Kiltalown House, where TRP is based, the run went on for 5km in what was described as “an electric atmosphere.”

“It was great to see all the people warming up at the gates of Kiltalown House at 9.30am and buzz around the facility,” TRP Manager Pat Daly told *The Echo*.

“It was one of positivity and fun, with lots of children who came with their parents for the run.”

Medals were given to the first runners crossing the finish line and goodie bags were there for every finisher. DJs Dean

and Reece took care of music entertainment.

“We are so grateful to the club for choosing us, and we were delighted with the response within the Tallaght community,” said Pat, who is hopeful to see the event coming back for a second year.

He explained the money will go towards resources and materials for the service they provide and ensured it will be “wisely spent within the organisational structure.”

“Every penny and funding we get here is crucial to the work we do,” he added.

“I would like to thank Stephen Martin, Paddy Whelan, and all the guys from the Jobstown Running Club for pulling the event together.

“Thank you to all our own TRP staff for their support on the day, in particular, Carla and Vanessa.”

The Connect 4 Project and Tallaght Gardaí supported the event while South Dublin County Council provided the inflatable start and finish lines.

“It was great to see all the people warming up at the gates of Kiltalown House at 9.30am and buzz around the facility. It was one of positivity and fun, with lots of children who came with their parents for the run



Celebrating International Day of the Volunteer



THANK YOU: Danielle Anderson, Carol Mullins and Kamila Cyluk

DECEMBER 5 was International Volunteer Day, an observance mandated by the United Nations General Assembly in 1985.

Each year Tallaght University Hospital marks the occasion with a special get-together for the hospital volunteers who play an indispensable role in enhancing the experience of patients, their carers and visitors during their time with us, whether it is for a brief or extended period of time.

This is an opportunity for the hospital to thank our volunteers and show our gratitude for the invaluable

support they provide to the patients, families and staff of TUH every day of the year.

Volunteers in the hospital support patients in a number of ways through our Pastoral Care team as Ministers of Communion and Volunteer Chaplains.

They also run a Volunteer coffee shop in the main atrium which is a very welcoming place for patients, their families and staff. There are also volunteers who meet, greet and escort people as they arrive for appointments and may need some help in finding where in the hospital they need to go.



GREAT SUPPORT: Former Tallaght Person of the Year Sinead Tighe with current Tallaght Person of the Year Glenda Smullen Murphy



TIME TO REST: Volunteers in Tallaght University Hospital in between helping others



HAPPY HELP: Volunteer group in the hospital enjoying a well-earned break

Urgent demand for National Action Plan for Travellers’ mental health

THE GOVERNMENT has been called on to implement a National Action Plan for Traveller Mental Health.

Sinn Féin spokesperson on Mental Health Mark Ward TD was speaking after today’s protest outside Leinster House by Traveller groups.

Teachta Ward said: “Today, Traveller groups gathered outside Leinster House to call for a radical change in mental health care.

“They called for the implementation of a National Action Plan for Traveller Mental Health. They called for the establishment of an Ombudsman for Travellers, and they called for a state apology.

“These issues have been going on for years.

“In June 2022, I stood in solidarity with Traveller groups and campaigners who protested outside the Dáil calling for a National Action Plan for Traveller Mental Health.

“In November 2021, a Joint Oireachtas Report was published on the key issues affecting Traveller communities.

“There were 84 recommendations in the report on how to improve the lives of Travellers in health, employment, education and accommodation. Each one of these affects mental health.

“Ninety per cent of Travellers say mental health problems were common in their community.

“Eleven per cent of Travellers will die by suicide. This

is shocking and is over seven times higher than the general population.

“While we can all get lost in statistics, behind each one of those percentages there is a man, woman or child with hopes, dreams and aspirations just like anybody else.

“I have supported the campaigners who every year call for a National Action Plan for Traveller Mental Health.

“This plan must have the appropriate resources in place and must be culturally appropriate.

“Mental health problems within the Travelling Community are systemic of wider problems that Travellers face in accessing appropriate accommodation, education and employment opportunities.

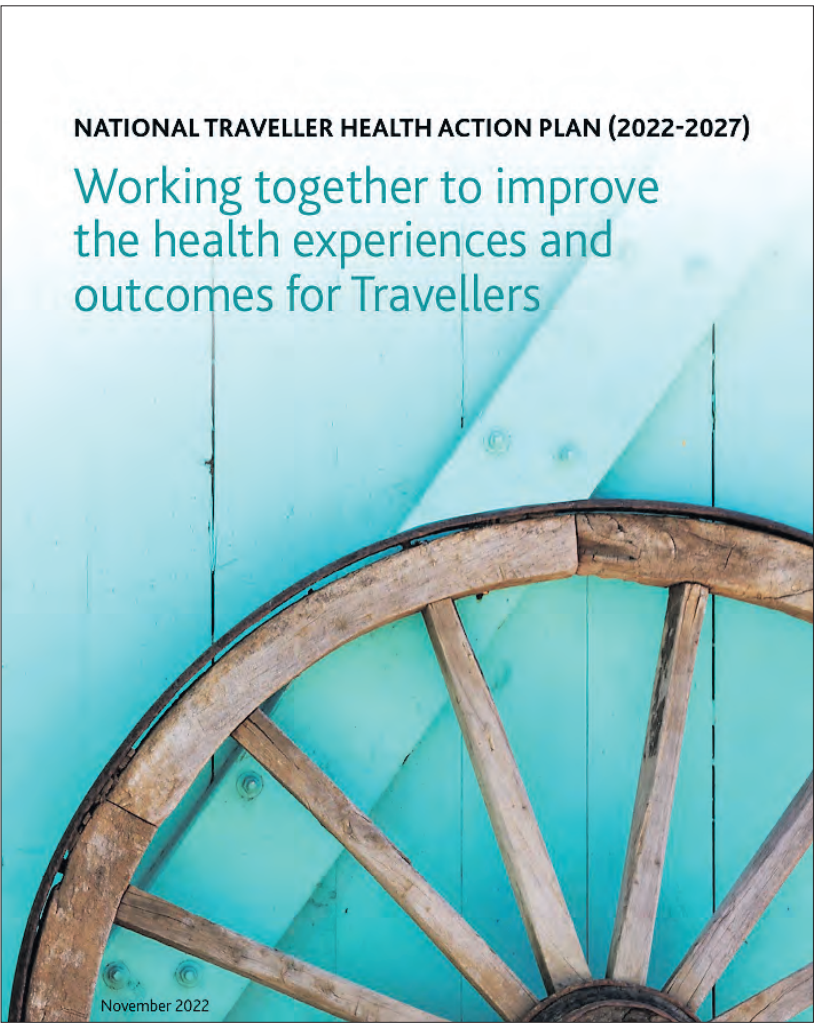
“Travellers experience racism and exclusion daily.

“Deficient and substandard living conditions, as well as precarious accommodation and homelessness, have a severe detrimental impact on mental health.

“Lower educational outcomes have a damaging impact on employment opportunities, while chronic unemployment then leads to negative consequences on mental health.

“The 84 recommendations in the report, if implemented, would go a long way towards addressing this.

“I have written to the Minister for Health and asked that a National Traveller Mental Health Action Plan is put in place.”



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Private land at Mill Centre not being considered for purchase

‘If we don’t own the land it’s not going to be for the benefit of the people of Clondalkin’

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

PRIVATE land behind the Mill Shopping Centre in Clondalkin is not being considered for purchase by South Dublin County Council.

At a recent area meeting, a motion by Cllr Linda de Courcy (Ind Ire) requested that the council purchase the land to ensure the development is “focused on the people in the village and not a for-profit contractor.”

In response, SDCC said the land is one of the larger infill sites within the boundary of the Clondalkin Local Area Plan (LAP) and privately owned. The council say it is included within the boundary of the LAP to ensure that any development on the site is in accordance with the principles of the LAP and any future proposals will have to demonstrate how the site supports the village and is in line with the proper planning and sustainable development.

However, de Courcy was “disappointed” with the response, which “guarantees nothing,” and cites recent large-scale developments in Clondalkin which have had a less-than-desirable impact.

“My concern is high-rise-density complexes. At Laurel Park on New Road, there is an apartment block of mainly HAP. There was a recent fire, an incident with a tenant kicked out. There is often a massive amount of anti-social behaviour when you have an excess of social housing.

“At the back of Cappaghmore, trees



NOT CONSIDERED: The site behind the Mill Centre is not a landholding that the council are currently seeking to acquire

“At the back of Cappaghmore, trees were cut down behind people’s homes for a new development which has led to loss of privacy. Why couldn’t they not push it back a bit and keep the trees?”

were cut down behind people’s homes for a new development which has led to loss of privacy. Why couldn’t they not push it back a bit and keep the trees, the aesthetic and the privacy?” asked de Courcy.

Public consultation work on the Clondalkin village LAP is currently taking place.

SDCC said in their response to de Courcy that the site does not represent a

landholding that they are currently seeking to acquire.

Cllr de Courcy said her understanding was that the site was zoned for community but changed to residential.

“The initial plan was for build-to-let apartments, I had asked for it to be used for leisure. It is probably too big for that. Cllr Francis Timmons supported calls for an active elderly development

on the site.

“It would be much better for SDCC to buy it, have control and a development for the good of Clondalkin village. People living here for 50/60 years might even have the option of moving into such a development, staying in their community and freeing up housing. If we don’t own the land it’s not going to be for the benefit of the people of Clondalkin,” said de Courcy.

Community centres are winners with grants of almost €800,000

By **Alessia Micalizzi**
alessia@echo.ie

THIRTY-ONE community centres across the county were granted a total of €729,000 according to a South Dublin County Council report.

The centres had the chance to apply for funding under the Community Centre Management Support Fund and were successful after an assessment of their existing usage and expenses.

Operational costs were the biggest slice of the pie with €354,000 allocated to the 31 centres, followed by funds for employment, training, and governance amounting to €256,545.

€118,700 was also allocated for the organisation of local community events.

Twelve Youth and Community centres received funds, including Bawnogue, Knocklyon, Knockmitten, St Mark’s, Brookfield, Fettercairn, Whitechurch, Jobstown, Adamstown, Ballyroan, Palmerstown, and Ballyowen Castle.

Twelve more community centres were among recipients: The Park, Earlsfort, St Aengus, Rathcoole, Saggart Schoolhouse, Neilstown, Greenhills, Perryston Manor Estate, Rowlag, Glenasmole, Dominic’s, and Killinarden.

Three recipients are registered as “Community and Leisure centres,” namely Quarryvale, Kingswood and Firhouse.

Other projects such as The WEB/Whitechurch Old Library, St Finian’s Community Hall, Kilnamanagh Family Recreation Centre, and Fettercairn Youth Horse project were successful in receiving the grants.



FUNDING: Fettercairn Community centre was one of the centres to receive funds



GETTING CREATIVE: Roisín Bermingham and Conor Ryan (Dulux Ireland) and Deirdre Kearns (Manager Firhouse Community Centre) with 5th year students from Firhouse Community College who volunteered along with Dulux staff to paint the centre

Getting creative with Let's Colour Project

THE FIRHOUSE Community Centre was a hive of activity over the past week where many hands made light work.

A not-for-profit organisation called Volunteer It Yourself (VIY), teamed up with the Dulux Let's Colour Project along with the much-needed help of the 16 hardworking fifth-year students from Firhouse Community College to complete a week-long colour-passion project.

The mission was to get creative at the centre, transforming the community space with some much-needed colour.

A well-established social enterprise, the VIY model helps local young people learn construction skills whilst renovating vital community spaces.

VIY typically works with NEET (Not in Education, Employment and Training) and at-risk young people, who are mentored by professional tradespeople, whilst gaining hands-on experience and City & Guilds accreditations by helping to repair and renovate local community spaces.

Having delivered over 900 community projects in the UK, this is VIY's first project in Ireland in response to demand and in light of its ambitions to establish the organisation and its model here.

The centre is a success story that is home to so many local groups including childcare, fitness and sports, Men's and Sister's Sheds, to name just a few.

The Dulux Let's Colour Project has helped hundreds of local community projects over the years across Ireland.

Roisín Bermingham, of Dulux Ireland, said: "Change started here one week ago and, thanks to everyone's hard work, there is an uplifting feeling in the building through the use of creative colour. The stunning mural pays homage to everyone involved in the centre which is just so special."

Dee Dee Whelan, VIY Senior Programme Director UK & Ireland, said 'It's our ambition that VIY can positively help and impact as many local communities and young people as possible.

As a scalable model, we're excited to see where this pilot project can take us and how we can deepen our work in Ireland to deliver powerful social impact in communities here, with the backing of our longstanding VIY partners including Dulux and City & Guilds.'

Alan Dalton, Tradesperson & Mentor for over eight years with VIY, who led on this project in Dublin, said, "Having mentored thousands of learners in the UK during my time with VIY, it's been a joy and privilege to see VIY flourish here in Dublin.

"It's been great to expand our longstanding partnership with Dulux with the team in Ireland, getting to know the community here and learning about differences in the education system. We hope this will be the first of many for VIY."

Irish visual artist, Shannon Wilson, worked with the students to create a giant colourful mural depicting all the different members who benefit from the centre.



COLOUR CODED: Fifth-year students Calum Dempsey, Layla O'Sullivan, Alicia Salinger and Mia Mynes from Firhouse Community College



St Matthew's celebrate its g

Fiftieth anniversary of parish culmina

By **Maurice Garvey**

maurice@echo.ie

IT IS a big year for the parish of St Matthew's in Ballyfermot – it is celebrating its 50th anniversary – having first opened their doors to the community here in 1974.

To commemorate this special Golden Jubilee, the parish is hosting an anniversary Mass on December 15.

In September, St Matthew's held a family fun day in the parish grounds, which was a great success, and last week they held a concert with Firhouse Singers entertaining the crowd.

"It went really well, everybody enjoyed a great time and we are looking forward to our Jubilee Mass on December 15," said Helen, a chief organiser for the concert at St Matthew's.

Previously, Michelle Long, pastoral

council St Matthew's told *The Echo* that the actual date for the anniversary Mass for St Matthew's would be on December 22.

"But the Archbishop (Dermot Farrell) can't make it on the 22nd so we are having it on the 15th," explained Michelle.

On their parish website, St Matthew's says it wants to commemorate the event by gathering all of the very first volunteers who gave of their time back in 1974.

"If you or someone in your family volunteered in St Matthew's in around 1974 we'd love to hear from you. We hope to hear your stories, see your photos and hope you will share your ideas on how best to share these memories during this Jubilee year."

Anyone interested can email stmatthewsparishcentre@gmail.com leaving their name and contact details, or leave your name and contact details in St Matthew's sacristy.

“If you or someone in your family volunteered in St Matthew's in around 1974 we'd love to hear from you. We hope to hear your stories, see your photos and hope you will share your ideas on how best to share these memories during this Jubilee year



MEMORIES: St Matthews are looking for old photos as part of their 50th celebration

parishioners golden jubilee tes in a Jubilee Mass on December 15



CELEBRATION: Sr Cabrini and Fr Alvin Tendo

Help make festive season better for families and others



APPEAL: A Helping Hand is seeking donations for Christmas time

A CHARITY appealed to the community’s generosity again as the need for donations during Christmas is on the rise, *reports Alessia Micalizzi.*

Tallaght-based A Helping Hand, founded by Independent councillor Dermot Richardson, is now making hampers “to help make Christmas a little better for families and individuals” and called for donations on their Facebook page this week.

Tinned and packaged food, tea, coffee and any other hot drinks, as well as meat and supermarkets vouchers, are the most-needed items in terms of food. Toys for all ages, soft drinks, sweets, and toiletries would also help making the holidays better for many, and hats, gloves, scarfs, and sleeping bags are just as important as food donations during the cold season.

The charity started their Christmas donations collection in early November with a two-day appeal at Ashleaf Shopping Centre in Walkinstown.

They followed with their annual appeal at The Square on Saturday, November 30 where locals were encouraged to fill the charity’s double-decker bus with goods.

As more and more families struggle, A Helping Hand are not even close to consider themselves done and renewed their appeal.

“Please help us support as many families and individuals as possible,” they said while listing all that is needed for the hampers they will hand out before Christmas Day.

A dream team will support them this year, with comedians Al Porter and Joe Dowlin, and singers Mary Byrne and Karen Black hosting a Christmas sing-along at the Jobstown House on Sunday, December 15.

Tickets are €10 and can be booked at the bar or calling 086 604 2007.

The event will take place in The Vintage Room from 8.30pm with all proceeds going to A Helping Hand’s Christmas appeal and directly into making up the hampers.

To donate for A Helping Hand, visit their Facebook page “A Helping Hand Dublin / Good Morning Tallaght”, contact Dermot at 087 203 6468, or Katrina at 087 433 5504.



GIVE A LITTLE AID: The charity's fundraising bus



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Only 4 people can say they played pro soccer for Rovers and Chelsea

Retired postman made 105 appearances for Rovers and also played for Chelsea and Derry City

By James Ffrench
news@echo.ie

JUST four people worldwide can say they played professional football for Shamrock Rovers and Chelsea. John Coady is one of them.

A retired postman, Coady made 105 appearances for Rovers across two spells, with stints at Derry City and Chelsea sandwiched between them.

The Rathmines native began his footballing career as a 12-year-old with Leicester Celtic, but he had been playing the world's game for much longer than that.

"Yeah, it started with, I suppose, just on the street. I was born in Grove Park in Rathmines and there was basically little or nothing else to do during the long summer holidays and any holidays for that matter.

"And even after school, we played football morning, noon and night," John said.

"And then, of course, Rathmines being so close to Rovers' old home, Milltown, I was brought up there for my first game – my eldest brother Tommy brought me to Milltown when I was about six years of age, I think.

"And then just from 9 or 10, I just started going on my own and hardly missed a match."

Dreams would turn into reality for a 20-year-old Coady when, after trialling for his favourite club, he joined the Hoops and broke into the first team shortly after.

The Dubliner won four League of Ireland titles in a row and two FAI Cups during his first stint, but it wasn't just the success which mattered.

“I was delighted to get out of Chelsea in the end. They changed managers, and the new manager obviously didn't like me, my face didn't fit at all. So I was really, really pleased when Jim McLaughlin came and said he wanted to sign me for Derry City



PERFECT: John Coady, a life-long Rovers fan



POSITIVE: John Coady in the dug-out in Tallaght Stadium

"I remember my first Cup Final of Rovers; we won six Cup Finals in a row in the 1960s and I managed to get over to the replay of the 1969 one.

"The green and white Hoops, it was mesmerising, because we didn't get to see many football matches, because it

just wasn't a thing in those days. But seeing that was just . . . my biggest dream was just to play for Rovers and the Cup Final, and lucky enough, that came through a couple of times."

"So that was just epic," he added.

With success came attention from across the pond and Coady signed for Chelsea for £25,000 in December 1986.

Despite enjoying a positive debut season, a change of manager the following year left the Irishman out of favour in West London.

"Yeah, I was delighted to get out of Chelsea in the end. They changed managers, and the new manager obviously didn't like me, my face didn't fit at all.

"So I was really, really pleased when Jim McLaughlin came and said he wanted to sign me for Derry City.

"He was saving my bacon, to be honest."

A four-year spell at Derry City saw Coady do a league and cup double in 1989 as he racked up over 100 appearances for the Candystripes.

Despite spending nearly half a decade at the club, Coady remained in Dublin and commuted to the Brandywell for matches, with an unusual training arrangement in place.

"We trained with Shels, Pat Byrne was manager of Shels so he'd no problem with us training with them, which was a godsend in itself."

Such an arrangement is unimaginable in the current football climate, which has grown inexplicably in recent years, according to Coady.

"Since Covid, I think, I don't know what happened to the Irish public psyche, but they seem to just want to go and see live football, rather than put on their jersey and head to the pub on a Sunday afternoon."

The figures back this up, with average attendances in 2019 just 2,173, compared to 3,790 for the most recent season and overall spectators have jumped from 391,000 to 682,000 in those years.



PROUD: John with a photo of the Shamrock Rovers team he played with

The league has become mainstream, but Coady insists that this must be capitalised on.

"I think from my perspective, as I'm not involved in any club as such in a professional role, I think my thing would be the stadiums, for sure, because that's where I think the public is, that's where you're generating money.

"Again, if you're a coach at a club, all you want is to get your academies sorted and that's the starter from the ground up.

"And then, you don't have that time, you have to grasp the nettle while you can. We have people coming in the gates, but it's about keeping them coming."

In the now, Coady, a life-long Rovers fan, has followed them across Europe this season, most recently to Vienna

where Stephen Bradey's side snatched a deserved 1-1 draw at the home of Austrian giants Rapid Vienna.

The league has achieved unprecedented statistics off the pitch in the turnstiles and Rovers are doing similar on the park as they continue to pave the way for Irish sides in European competition.

A luxury trip to Chelsea comes soon, where Coady, along with this wife, has been invited to attend in one of the club's corporate boxes.

Despite this, it's Tallaght Stadium on Thursday which the former Hoop's player is looking forward to most.

"It was lovely of them but I'm looking forward to the Borac match first, I'm still thinking we can qualify for the top eight automatically."

John Coady – Rovers born and Rovers bred.

Lucan couple sees first-hand the impact of their support

A journey to Uganda with World Vision Ireland allowed them to meet their sponsored child

IN AN inspiring journey, two local Lucan residents, Anthony and Gráinne Whitmore, recently travelled to Uganda with World Vision Ireland to meet their sponsored child, Joshua, and see the impact of their support first-hand.

Gráinne and Anthony have been supporting World Vision Ireland for over 25 years and described the meeting as a “life-changing experience”.

Gráinne shared, “For my husband Anthony and I, the highlight of our trip was getting the opportunity to meet our sponsored child, a beautiful 13-year-old boy, named Joshua. It was an honour and privilege to be welcomed by the entire family and shown around their home”. Despite a language barrier, they were able to converse with the family, thanks to the assistance of World Vision translators.

“Joshua loves football and luckily for my husband, who happens to be a football enthusiast and FAI Football coach, he quickly engaged Joshua and his friends with an impromptu football training session. To see Joshua’s face light up and see my husband in his element, was something to behold . . . sports has no boundaries.” Gráinne reflected.

A memorable moment for Gráinne and Anthony was their visit to Joshua’s school.

Anthony made a wonderful decision to share a piece of Ireland with Joshua and his classmates by presenting them with footballs and past season jerseys donated by his local club, Glenville Football Club in Palmerstown.

“Joshua and his school team quickly donned the jerseys, and with the help of one of the teachers, a football training session was in full play. What was meant to be a quiet session with the team, soon turned into a huge gathering as curious eyes eager to see what was happening out on the field”.

Gráinne shared. “The delight on the children’s faces as they squeezed in line for opportunity to get involved, I know this memory will live with Anthony for a very long time to come.

“For me personally, my highlight was meeting Joshua and all the children. To witness how little they had but how much hope and joy they

“Family members responsible for water collection, mainly women and children, used to have to walk up to 3km per day to fetch water

INSPIRING: Anthony and Grainne with Joshua and (inset) spreading the joy at Joshua’s school



have was truly inspiring. Their smiles will stay with me forever.”

The trip included a tour of local schools, water projects, literacy and health centres, and community projects, so sponsors could see the direct impact that their donations are making.

After a visit to a local Water Pump Station, Gráinne and Anthony reflected that “it has enhanced community life in so many ways.

Family members responsible for water collection, mainly women and children, used to have to

walk up to 3km per day to fetch water. Long walks with such a heavy load can take their toll. Children could be late for school, or for some, so exhausted they drop out. Since the freshwater pumps have been installed in schools and local villages, children can remain in school and mothers can focus on other domestic, or other economic activities”.

Anthony and Gráinne were especially impressed by the new sanitation facilities at the local schools they visited.

World Vision has constructed gender-specific and disability-accessible latrines in the schools within the area programme, enabling more children, particularly girls, to remain in education.

“World Vision aim to empower children, especially adolescent girls, to

pursue education by removing barriers and ensuring their health is prioritised. I have also learned that some schools have implemented mother case centres and breastfeeding shelters to encourage teenage mothers to go back to school, which include early childhood development to nurture the growth of their children,” said Gráinne.

Witnessing the tangible impact of their support was a deeply moving experience for Gráinne and Anthony. They said: “we have been involved with World Vision for 25 years.

“To have had the most amazing opportunity to see how our donations and fundraisers are being put into such good, practical and life sustaining projects makes us feel extremely humble.

“As a family we are committed and have recently involved our two boys,

to keep the tradition going, and signed them both up as child sponsors, so they too can become involved and hopefully take on their role as future child sponsors advocates.”

Their experiences have inspired them to champion Child Sponsorship with World Vision, as they shared that they “would highly recommend anyone to become involved with World Vision by becoming a Child Sponsor.

“We have been so lucky to witness first-hand how your generosity will truly be put to hard work to make the most meaningful impact on the most vulnerable children and their communities”.

If you would like to become a child sponsor, please visit worldvision.ie or call us on 01 498 0800 for more information.

Vehicle charging points at Ballyfermot and Walkinstown await approval from council

ELECTRIC vehicle (EV) charging points could be installed in Ballyfermot and Walkinstown in 2025 if their location is approved by Dublin City Council, reports Maurice Garvey.

Among the sites across Dublin being currently assessed are Ballyfermot Leisure Centre and Walkinstown Library.

At this week’s Dublin South

Central area meeting, Cllr Ray Cunningham (GP) asked for an update on the schedule for the installation of public charging points.

In response to Cllr Cunningham, DCC said the four Dublin local authorities have appointed E-Power as the successful tenderer for the provision of public EV charging points across Dublin under the local authority tender.

“The concession contract runs for four years with the option to extend the term by an additional two years. The terms of the contract grant E-Power a 10-year licence at each approved site to provide public EV charging services,” said a council spokesperson.

“The contractor is currently assessing all of the sites identified during the tender process, and

preparing a schedule of works for the installation of the underground and overground equipment. The contractor has advised that it is anticipated that the first round of equipment will be commissioned in Quarter 1 2025. This timeframe is dependent on upgraded electricity supply at each site.”

Another location being assessed is Bushy Park in Terenure – Rathdown

Avenue.

A site at Mary’s Lane in Dublin city centre was deemed “unsuitable” under the current framework due the length of the licence agreement.

DCC is currently seeking an alternative city centre location. The terms of the contract allow Dublin local authorities to identify additional suitable sites for inclusion over the duration of the contract.

Christmas

5-page feature

ShopLocal

Ten reasons to shop local this Christmas



1. **Local Economy:** When you purchase at locally owned businesses rather than nationally owned, more money is kept in the community because locally-owned businesses often purchase from other local businesses, service providers and farms. Purchasing local helps grow other businesses.

2. **Non Profits Receive Greater Support:** Local business owners donate more to local charities than non-local owners.

3. **Unique Businesses Create Character & Prosperity:** The unique character of your local community is defined in a large part by the businesses that operate there, and that plays a big factor in your overall satisfaction with where you live and work.

4. **Environmental Impact Is Reduced:** Small local businesses usually set up shop in their home town or village centre, providing a centralised variety that is much friendlier to a community's carbon emission score. This generally means less congestion, habitat loss and pollution.

5. **Most New Jobs Are Provided By Local Businesses:** Small local businesses are the largest employers nationally. Plus the more jobs you have in your local community the less people are going to have to commute which means more time and less traffic and pollution.

6. **Customer Service:** Local businesses often hire people with more specific product expertise for better customer service. You are also going to see these people around locally and this can create a very friendly atmosphere, especially because they have to face you day after day!

7. **Local Business Owners Invest In Community:** Local businesses are owned by people who live in you community. They are less likely to leave, and are more invested in the community's welfare and future.

8. **Public Benefits Far Outweigh Public Costs:** Local businesses generally require a lot less infrastructure and more efficiently utilise public services in comparison to large multinational stores.

9. **Competition and diversity leads to more consumer choices:** A business environment in a community made up of lots of small businesses, encourages innovation and maintaining low prices over the long-term.

10. **You Matter More:** We talk a lot about exerting influence with your purchasing choices, or "voting with your wallet." It's a fact that businesses respond to their customers, but your values and desires are much more influential to your local community business than the larger chain stores.

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Firhouse Christmas Craft Fair returns for its 4th year

THE FIRHOUSE Community Craft Fair returns to The Speaker Conolly car park on Saturday, December 14 and 21 for their annual Christmas Craft Fair.

Now in its 4th year, this Craft Fair has become a firm fixture in the local calendar, and is loved by the whole community.

The first markets were set up in 2021 to showcase the talents of artists, makers and crafters from the Firhouse, Knocklyon, Bohernabreena and South Tallaght area, following the creation of the Firhouse Community Crafts network. The network, which meets once a month in the Firhouse Community Centre provides a space for like-minded people to meet, learn, and share ideas, and now has over 70 members.

There will be a lot to choose from at this year's market. With

everything from wood craft, paintings, handmade skin care products, soaps, candles, preserves, jewellery, knitwear and more, this market is sure to have something to attract anyone who is looking for unique, locally handmade gifts.

This year's market is already sold out, and there will be over 20 stalls each day, with lots of gift ideas on offer. We will have many traders, including Forager.ie, who recently won the Michael Dooley Environment Award at the Tallaght Person of the Year Awards, and Teegan's Treats, who won 2 Blas na hEireann awards this year!

Other regulars include candles and more from Maureen Murray Design and Ciara's Candles, jewellery from Jackson Jewellery, Margenta Jewellery and Dee Kearney Ireland, artwork from The Pebble House Ireland, Lisa Simpon Art, Anthea

West Art, Studio Vivek, and Art by Emma. There will be wood craft from Woodn't Waste it Crafts, Pat McCartan, Ian Hutchinson Woodturning and Michael Cunningham, knitwear from Karen Seymour, and crafts, cards etc. from Sandra's Decoupage, Krafty Katelyn, and Olivia's Decoupage Pots.

We also welcome Olly's Farm Honey, who was awarded 3 Stars in the prestigious Great Taste Awards, Siobh Bakes, Cosy Little Keepsakes, The Cookie Jar, Head.Meltz and Annazartandpassion.

Firhouse Scouts will be there too, showing off the talents of their junior members.

At the first market, on Saturday 7th December, customers will be entertained from 1 to 2pm by the fabulous local The No Commitments Choir, who will be fundraising for VISIT, the Voluntary Independent Services Tallaght, who aim to assist families in poverty. Led by sister and brother team, Kate and Conor McGowan, this is a singalong event, so feel free to join in!

Then, on Saturday the 14th, from 12 to 1pm, the brand new, Firhouse Ukulele Band will make their first performance at the market, showing off their musical talents! Having only started this spring, they are already starting the concert circuit, and are going from strength to strength!



We always have guest charities at our Christmas markets, and this year, our charity at the first market are the Irish Guide Dogs, and at the second will be the Fettercairn Community Christmas Appeal.

Come along and pick up something unique and special, and enjoy the day. And why not have lunch in The Speaker Conolly, and

browse the market with a mulled wine or Baileys coffee from the fabulous Caffè Duomo!

That's Firhouse Christmas Craft Fair on December 7 and 14, at The Speaker Conolly, running from 11am to 4pm each day. Watch Firhouse Community Crafts social media pages for more updates over the coming weeks.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

CINDERELLA: ROYAL BALLET: Tuesday, December 10th @ 7.15pm
FOR KING + COUNTRY'S A DRUMMER BOY CHRISTMAS: LIVE: Saturday, December 14th @ 2.00pm
A CHRISTMAS CAROL (2020): Sunday, December 15th @ 2.00pm
THE NUTCRACKER: ROYAL BALLET: Tuesday, December 17th @ 7.15pm
LES MISERABLES: 40TH ANNIVERSARY: SPECTACULAR STAGED CONCERT: Sunday, February 2nd @ 3.00pm
TALES OF HOFFMAN: ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: Wednesday, January 15th @ 6.45pm
SWAN LAKE: ROYAL BALLET: Thursday, February 27th @ 7.15pm
JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR LIVE: Sunday March 2nd @ 3.00pm
ROMEO AND JULIET: ROYAL BALLET: Thursday, March 20th @ 7.15pm
BILLY ELLIOT THE MUSICAL LIVE (20TH ANNIVERSARY): Sunday March 30th @ 3.00pm
TURANDOT: ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: Tuesday, April 1st @ 7.15pm
DIE WALKURE: ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: Wednesday, May 14th @ 5.15pm
BALLET TO BROADWAY: ROYAL BALLET: Thursday, May 22nd @ 7.15pm



FIRHOUSE VILLAGE MARKET

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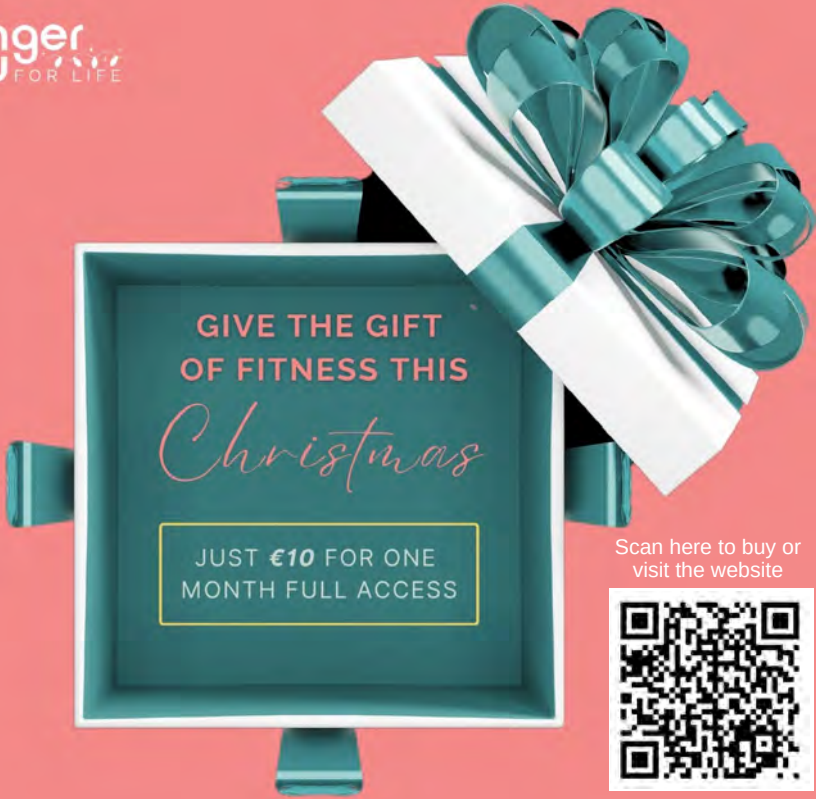
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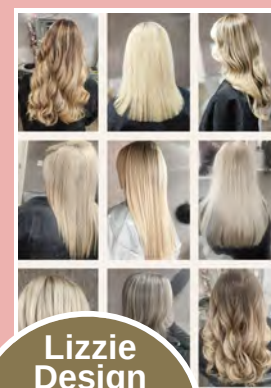
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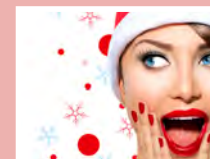
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Chicken Caesar Salad
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herb stuffing, mash, seasonal root vegetables, red wine jus

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Zeus Packaging sees its pre-tax profits drop by over 50 per cent

Following the purchase of Cima Paper, irregularities were discovered

By **Maurice Garvey**

maurice@echo.ie

RATHCOOLE company Zeus Packaging saw pre-tax profits decrease by 54 per cent to €11.26m last year.

Revenues rose by 8 per cent from €402.3m to €433.63m on the back of the group's continuing acquisition strategy.

The group, founded by Brian O'Sullivan in 1998, had pre-tax profits of €24.3m in 2022.

A large reason for the decrease in profits was an €11m charge in respect of a creditors' arrangement in connection with an Italian firm, Cima Paper, purchased by Zeus in June 2023.

Zeus purchased 70 per cent of Cima Paper. A note attached to the accounts stated that after the purchase of Cima Paper "irregularities were discovered by the group which among other things impacted debtors and stock balances acquired".

The note stated that the Italian firm was put under court administration by the group in October last year.

Staff employed by the group last year increased from 777 to 903.

Staff costs rose from €33.35m to €42.34m.

Zeus has over 50 locations worldwide, including Ireland, UK, Germany, Spain, Poland, Eastern Europe, New Zealand, Canada, China and Australia. Group employment is c.900 people total across 26 countries worldwide.

Pay to Mr O'Sullivan last year, the sole director, dipped from €2.19m to €2.17m.

The directors report stated that group's earnings before interest depreciation and amortisation was €25.8m against €33.7m in 2022.

It said that this reflected "a solid underling performance for the year".

Accounts show that Zeus in June last year paid out €10.4m for share capital of Armagh-based packaging firm James Hamilton & Co (Lurgan).

The accounts also show in March 2023, the group bought Polish firm Polpack for €2.5m.

Zeus's pre-tax profit took account of non-cash depreciation costs of €3.4m and non-cash amortisation costs of €4.3m.

“Accounts show that Zeus in June last year paid out €10.4m for share capital of Armagh-based packaging firm James Hamilton & Co (Lurgan)



IRREGULARITIES: Zeus bought 70 per cent of Cima Paper

Contractor of the Year goes to Sisk at property industry awards 2024

CONSTRUCTION group Sisk was announced as winners of this year's 'Contractor of the Year' at the KPMG Irish Independent Ireland's Property Industry Excellence Awards 2024, reports Maurice Garvey.

The awards acknowledged the best in leadership, innovation and sustainability in the Irish property sector.

Sisk, which operates out of Naas Road, Clondalkin, and numerous sites across Ireland and the UK, was honoured for its scale, expertise, and innovative approach to delivering complex projects across Ireland and Europe.

Speaking at the awards, Jim Clery, Partner and Head of Real Estate at KPMG, said this year's winners demonstrate tremendous achievements across a spectrum of categories.

"From redefining urban landscapes to preserving historic landmarks and delivering inclusive housing solutions, these projects exemplify the transformative potential of our vital sector," said Mr Clery.

In July, Sisk reported profits more than tripled to

almost €36 million last year due to strong growth in key markets.

Sicon Ltd, the holding company for the Sisk construction group, reported that turnover rose 43 per cent to €2.5 billion last year from €1.74 billion in 2022. Pre-tax profit grew more than 300 per cent to €35.9m in 2023 from €11.5m the previous year.

Sisk operates mainly as a construction and engineering contractor in Ireland, Britain and Europe.

A breakdown of its figures show that Irish turnover grew around 40 per cent to €1.4 billion in 2023 from slightly less than €1 billion in 2022.

Earlier this year, Sisk moved over 200 of its staff into a newly retrofitted building at Citywest Business Campus.

The firm employs approximately 1,500 people in Ireland.

The Citywest building retrofit project was completed by over 150 Sisk staff, and has solar panels on the roof, external air source pump, VFF air-conditioning and a state-of-the-art gym.



WINNERS: Sisk workers demonstrate expertise and innovation

Musician Breslin was Chamber Christmas get-together speaker

Former Blizzards frontman Niall Breslin was on song with mental health speech

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

A FUN afternoon was had by all at the annual South Dublin Chamber Christmas lunch, which took place on Friday, December 6, at the Clayton Hotel, Liffey Valley.

Musician and mental health advocate Niall Breslin was the keynote speaker for this year's Christmas lunch.

The event saw a large crowd of attendees from the business community, along with local representatives from South Dublin County Council, and the political world.

Guest speaker for this year's lunch was former Blizzards frontman and Leinster rugby player Breslin, who became an award-winning author for his book *Me and My Mate Jeffrey*.

The memoir/self-help book won the 2015 Irish Book Award for popular non-fiction.

Breslin is a prolific advocate and public speaker on mental health.

"Our Christmas lunch is always a special occasion, as businesses from the smallest to the largest

multinationals sit down together to enjoy a shared lunch" said South Dublin Chamber CEO Peter Byrne.

"This year was a little bit special as we had Niall Breslin share with us his experiences of 'Finding Peace in the Chaos of the Modern World'.

"His wonderful talk asked us to examine our lives, support our friends and colleagues and ask for help when we need it. We also presented five Awards to our County Council on the founding of our County 30 years ago, to our hospital, Tallaght University Hospital on 25 years since they took in their first patients, to Roadstone celebrating 75 years, to our Civic Theatre opening 25 years and to Partas on their 40th anniversary.

"We also recalled our own foundation in Tallaght Village 40 years ago. A good time was had by all as people reacquainted with old friends and made new ones" added Peter.

On arrival, attendees enjoyed the customary mulled wine at reception, a segment of the event which is sponsored by the hotel itself.

South Dublin Chamber CEO Peter Byrne took to the stage to welcome guests to the event.



GREAT AFTERNOON: Clíodhna O'Byrne (Dep CEO), Niall Breslin, and Peter Byrne (CEO)

Women supported at new entrepreneur programme

WOMEN are encouraged to apply for an entrepreneurship programme at TU Dublin.

TrailblazHER at TU Dublin announced the launch of its First Steps Programme – a free, community-based programme supporting women in the Dublin region to explore entrepreneurship as a career pathway and if right for them, to start their own business.

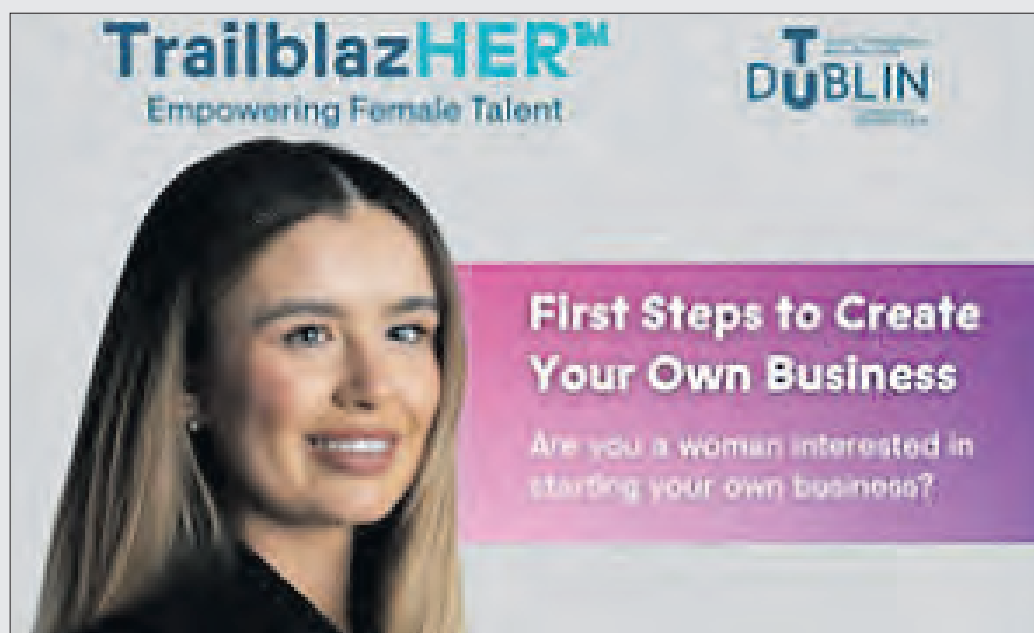
The programme provides step-by-step guidance on how to start a business from scratch.

Participation is free for all attendees and the programme would particularly like to engage with women who have limited means, have no previous experience in business or are considering a change from their current position into entrepreneurship.

The First Steps Programme is a free community-based initiative delivered by TrailblazHER at TU Dublin that will launch in January 2025.

A key objective of the programme is to signpost and connect participants with the broad range of supports available to them.

The programme comprises



two-steps:

Step 1 will host in-person information sessions from January 27-30, 2025, at four locations across Dublin, including South Dublin and Dublin City (venues tbc).

This is an introduction to entrepreneurship, so attendees can decide whether Step 2 is

for them.

Step 2 is an in-depth programme consisting of six half-day workshops open to 20 applicants, starting February 10, at TU Dublin's Aungier Street campus.

The workshops walk participants through each stage of business development

including idea generation, testing and validation, planning and living as an entrepreneur.

Participants will have access to mentors, relatable role models, co-working spaces and the support of the TU Dublin Enterprise team.

Find out more details at www.TUDublin.ie/First-Steps

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Over half of employees expect seasonal gifts and bonuses

WorkHuman research sees many struggle with finances

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

ALMOST 70 per cent of Irish employees are expecting an end-of-year bonus, according to new research by tech software firm WorkHuman, reports Maurice Garvey.

The study shows that around half of employees are also expecting gifts from colleagues and managers, while 37 per cent of workers believe that bonuses and gifts are tied directly to their performance at work.

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

"The festive season offers organisations a unique opportunity to celebrate employee contributions and cultivate a culture of appreciation," said Niamh Graham, Senior Vice President of Global Human Experience at Workhuman.

"When done right, recognition at the workplace goes beyond holiday gifts or bonuses, creating lasting connections and positive effects on employee engagement, morale, and an environment where employees feel valued year-round."

The research suggests that many people struggle with the financial side of Christmas, with almost 60 per cent citing the cost of holiday expenses as a primary source of end-of-year stress.

Meanwhile, just under 20 per cent said professional demands of meeting end-of-year goals and navigating performance reviews added to the strain.

Over a quarter of workers surveyed said they struggle to fully disconnect over the Christmas break, with 32 per cent expecting to respond to work emails.

Earlier this year, WorkHuman announced it was planning to add almost a dozen specialist artificial intelligence (AI) roles in Park West.



FOUNDER: Eric Mosley says festive season offers a unique opportunity for firms

“Recognition at the workplace goes beyond holiday gifts or bonuses, creating lasting connections and positive effects on employee engagement

Ballyfermot student honoured at Royal College of Surgeons

A MATURE student from Ballyfermot was recently awarded a Uversity graduation certificate at a special ceremony at the Royal College of Surgeons, reports Maurice Garvey.

Ballyfermot man Luke Doyle, graduated from Maynooth University (MU) with a Bachelor of Social Science (Honours), Anthropology & Social Policy.

His academic journey was distinguished by being awarded 'Academic Excellence in the Final Year,' reflecting his commitment and dedication to study. Luke has a deep passion for social change, especially in policy development.

Uversity is a registered charity providing scholarships for mature students, from less advantaged backgrounds, to pursue their dreams of achieving a bachelor's degree in approved colleges and universities across the island of Ireland.

This year, 22 students were awarded graduation certificates upon completion of their bachelor's degrees.

Uversity has been awarding third-level scholarships to adult learners since 2018 and has awarded over 270

scholarships to date.

Uversity Programme Director, Gretta FitzGerald said: "We have seen first-hand how life-changing adult education can be for promoting personal and professional development. We were delighted to recently celebrate the academic achievements of our 22 graduates. They are an inspiration, and we wish them the very best of luck in their future careers."

Uversity Sponsor Dermot Desmond said: "I have always been a firm believer in the power of education; the good it does both for an individual and the community as a whole. Therefore, it is heartening to see the commitment of our Uversity Scholars to their studies, and it's a memorable achievement for the 22 graduates from across the island of Ireland."

There are two levels of financial support available, depending on whether the scholarship recipient has dependent children.

Those without dependent children will receive €5,000 per annum for their degree, while those with dependent children are awarded €7,000 per annum.



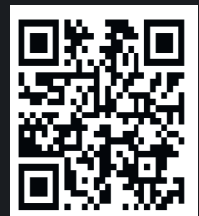
HONOUR: Uversity Sponsor Dermot Desmond and Uversity Chairman Michael Horgan present Luke Doyle with a Uversity graduation certificate at a ceremony at the Royal College of Surgeons.

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Model School in Inchicore scoops RIAI gold for ‘transformative design’

THE refurbishment of a 19th-century primary school in Inchicore has received Ireland’s most prestigious architectural honour, reports Maurice Garvey.

Inchicore National School has been transformed by a “reimagination” and “adaptive re-use” of the old school campus and building.

Architectural firm Donaghy+Dimond was awarded a Gold Medal from the Royal Institute of Architects (RIAI) for the repurposing of the Model School Inchicore’s original 1853 building and design of a three-storey extension.

Adjudicators say it creates a “transformative experience for students and teachers alike.

“This building, through its inventive reimagination of the old also delivers a highly sustainable building in all its facets, from adaptive re-use of the old school, to the creative design and use of natural materials in the new, transforming an existing place, and supporting people and communities in the process,” said RIAI President Sean Mahon.

“The RIAI Gold Medal is the pinnacle of architectural achievement, a prestigious honour, steeped in history and the highest recognition an architect can attain.”

In a video by RIAI showcasing the project, Breda McEvoy, Principal of Inchicore NS, recalls they had to use prefabs for schoolchildren and a building that was “cold, very damp.”

“There was a great spirit in the school, but it did affect the teaching and the learning for pupils when the building was in such a poor state.”

Principal McEvoy said the architects looked at the stone building and made modifications for a “very usable space.”

The RIAI jury was unanimous in awarding the Gold Medal to Donaghy+Dimond, headed by UCD Assistant Professors Will Dimond and Marcus Donaghy, saying that they had delivered “a project of real delight and social significance for the school and local community.”



SUSTAINABLE: The Model School in Inchicore

New library development to include historic Ardscoil Éanna

Proposals include a glazed bridge link connecting new building to the existing structure

PLANS have been lodged by Dublin City Council for a proposed new library development at 314-318 Crumlin Road which includes an historic house, formerly known as Ardscoil Éanna.

This house is a protected structure and the proposal includes a new single-storey and partial two-storey branch library building.

The ground floor of the library will be comprised of a combined adult and children’s library space, an events room and other ancillary spaces.

The first floor of the library will be made up of a reading room and meeting room and ancillary staff rooms while at first-floor level the proposal includes a glazed bridge link connecting the new library building to the existing Ardscoil Éanna House.

The proposal includes the change of use of the historic house from school use to library use and ancillary café use including offices, WC facilities and multifunction rooms.

Conservation repair works and alterations are proposed to the historic house, including demolition of the non-original front porch, modifications to a number of ground-floor openings and enlargement of a first-floor gable window to accommodate the proposed bridge connection to the new library building. Internal alterations are proposed to

return rooms to their original layout and to facilitate accessible toilets.

To the southern boundary, the existing pedestrian historic gate and the historic stone wall are to be retained, repaired and modified and a section of the southern boundary wall is modern and will be removed. A new vehicular and pedestrian entrance to the site will be formed from the Crumlin Road. It is proposed to remove the existing northern boundary wall.

The existing northern elevation of the new library building will form part of the northern boundary of the site. A new accessible pedestrian entrance will be formed to Rafter’s Lane and the western boundary will be a metal railing with a pedestrian gate and landscaping.

The existing eastern boundary wall is to be retained, and landscaping works are proposed that will form an accessible public realm within the site to include a library lawn and external seating with associated services and civil works.

18 on-site bicycle-parking spaces are proposed, with 12 adjacent to the pedestrian entrance at the southern boundary of the site and six adjacent to the pedestrian entrance at the northern boundary of the site. One on-street accessible car space is proposed, on Lissadel Road.



HISTORIC AND MODERN: An artist’s impression of the library at former Ardscoil Éanna

Demolition of Silver Granite for 43 apartments and a gastro pub

Local authority will receive financial contribution of almost €600,000 for facilities development

By **William O'Connor**

william@echo.ie

PLANS to demolish the Silver Granite Pub in Palmerstown to make way for a five-storey mixed-use development, including 43 apartments, has been approved by South Dublin County Council.

Applicant Hollyville Investments Ltd plans include the demolition of the existing building on site and the construction of a five-storey over partial basement, with mixed-use development comprising a gastro pub/restaurant, two retail units, associated bin stores, bike stores, one ESB sub-station, all at ground-floor level and a small plant room.

Proposals include 43 apartments made up of 17 one-beds, 13 two-beds and 13 three-beds on the upper floors, all provided with private balconies/terraces; communal roof gardens; car-parking; bicycle-parking; landscaping and upgrades to public realm, including upgrades to existing pedestrian crossing on Kennelsfort Road Upper.

In making its decision, the council have listed 24 conditions including a financial contribution of €557,451.74, in respect of public infrastructure and facilities benefiting development within the area of the Planning Authority.

Construction Traffic Management Plan and Construction Management Plan must be submitted to the council prior to the commencement of any works associated with the development.

A number of submissions were made to the council during the planning process including by newly elected TD Paul Gogarty, Palmerstown Residents Association and Cllr Madeline Johansson.

APPROVED: An artist's impression of the Silver Granite plans



Scoil Aonghusa gets permission for new school extensions



GO-AHEAD: Scoil Aonghusa in Balrothery

PLANNING permission has been granted for new school extensions at Scoil Aonghusa junior and senior national schools in Balrothery.

The planning includes the construction of a new single-storey extension to the Junior

National School to provide a new SEN suite comprising two classroom bases, a central activities space, shower & WC facilities, ancillary spaces and a new external play.

Proposals also include for two storey

extension to the Senior National School comprising three en-suite new mainstream classrooms and two resource rooms.

Plans allow for a remodelled car park increasing the number of car spaces from 35 to 45 and associated site works.

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E letters

Letters and emails should be kept as short as possible. We reserve the right to edit any submissions. Letters must be received by Tuesday, 3pm prior to publication

Ben Dunne's family inherits €30 million and his son's loans of €4m are discharged

Dear Editor,

BEN DUNNE, a multi-millionaire with more money and time on his hands than he could handle, bequeathed the entire €30 million estate to his family.

Not only that, he discharged €4 million in loans furnished to his son Mark. His brother Frank bequeathed a large sum.

The astute businessman who built up an empire worth €43m played a pivotal role growing,

Dunnes Stores supermarket empire before being removed by the trustees and handed a substantial exit package.

He died while on holiday in Dubai last year, aged 74. His will, directed that his children Robert, Caroline and Nicholas would be discharged: "from any legal liability to repay any debt which may be due from them".

The "rest, residue and remainder" of his €30m estate "of every nature and kind" together with "any property" including his shares in the

chain of BD GYMS has been bequeathed to his wife Mary. The combined net assets of the tycoon's multiple gym businesses grossed €12m, but garnered multi-million-euro annual profits.

Apropos tax inheritance, Budget 2025 supports only parents and their offspring. Specific assets, parents can bequeath to their children tax-free, during the parents' lifetime or on death, has gone from €65,000 to €400,000.

But no such largesse applies to a single childless individual.

The most that individual can now bequeath to someone tax-free is €40,000, up from €32,500 pre-budget with any excess above that threshold taxable at 33 per cent.

Former Justice Minister, Alan Shatter eliminated on the 5th count in Dublin Rathdown said that inheritance tax: "is state-approved grave robbery".

Yours sincerely,
Gerry Coughlan,
Kilnamanagh.

Perfect festive recipes for those living with Crohn's and Colitis

Dear Editor,

I AM writing to let you know of the perfect Christmas gift should readers have someone living with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) in their lives.

Crohn's and Colitis Ireland has just published the Crohn's and Colitis Diet Information & Recipe Book featuring over 60 mouth-watering, gut-friendly recipes.

There are more than 40,000 people living with IBD in Ireland. Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis are the most common types, with symptoms including abdominal pain, diarrhoea, fatigue, and weight-loss.

We know from a survey conducted earlier this year of 1,400 people with IBD across Ireland that more than two-thirds do not have access to specialist dietary advice and support, which is why this brand-new cookbook is simply a must-have.

While the exact causes of IBD are not fully understood, diet and changes in gut bacteria may influence symptoms and contribute to an overactive immune response and bowel inflammation.

This is why maintaining a balanced, healthy diet is important in helping people to better manage the condition.

Recipes featured range from light, easy-to-digest options for days when IBD may be acting up, to meals filled with flavours and textures that everyone can enjoy.

There is also expert advice on managing diet during flare-ups, as well as practical strategies for dining out, travelling, and navigating special occasions, helping people to live their lives fully without the constant stress of what to eat.

Anyone concerned about IBD can call our Support Line on 01 531 2983 (Mon/Wed/Fri, 9.30am-12.30pm).

The cookbook is available to Crohn's and Colitis Ireland members for €10 and to non-members for €20 – visit www.crohnscolitis.ie/help/shop

Here's to finding yummy new favourites, rediscovering old comfort foods and bringing the joy back to eating again this Christmas.

Yours sincerely,

Amy Kelly,
Chief Operating Officer,
Crohn's & Colitis Ireland,
Carmichael Centre for Voluntary Groups,
North Brunswick Street,
Dublin 7.

TASTY: Crohn's & Colitis Diet Information & Recipe Book



Crohn's & Colitis
DIET INFORMATION
& RECIPE BOOK

Written by Gastroenterology Dietitian, Lorraine Cooney

For
Crohn's
& Colitis
Ireland

Tributes to farmer alongside a deluge of invective towards Travelling people

Dear Editor,

TRESPASSER and father-of-11 John "Frog" Ward (43) was shot by farmer Padraig Nally in 2004 amid allegations of trespassing on his 65-acre farm at Cross near Lough Corrib on the Mayo-Galway border.

Padraig Nally got a six-year prison sentence for manslaughter quashed in 2006. In a re-trial, he was found not guilty of manslaughter.

Padraig Nally claimed it was either him or John 'Frog' Ward who would die.

Hundreds of mourners who attended his tearful funeral, heard his sister Maureen announce he was free from: "pain and suffering, anxiety and worry" that blighted his life over 20 years.

"Padraig, you are now free from the frustration of not being able to work.

"Free from the pain and suffering and free from the anxiety and worry that was so much part of the last quarter of your life".

Dozens of friends posted tributes to the deceased. But others left a deluge of invective and vituperative comments directed towards

Travellers resulting in Nally's on-line 'condolence page' being disabled.

One person penned: "Rest in peace Padraig. You stood tall against the caravan-using nomadic Travelling society".

Latisha McCrudden was "very disheartened and upset to read the comments on RIP.ie.

"Once again, Ireland showcases its hatred abuse and discrimination and non-acceptance towards the Traveller community."

Speaking on RTE's Morning Ireland, Pavee Point co-director Martin Collins denounced the

onslaught of vile posts that: "sow the seeds of division and hatred".

"We are very concerned at the racist commentary and the vile messages which have been put on social media which have put Pádraig Nally on a bit of a pedestal. He is portrayed as a hero, and John Ward is being vilified and demonised."

Yours sincerely,
Gerry Coughlan,
Kilnamanagh, Dublin 24.

Local history with Monica McGill

Peppers and spice, and all things nice, from the past to the present

The ingredients used in Christmas recipes date from thousands of years ago

AH, THE tastes, the smells, the sights, the sounds of Christmas – they’re a special part of the major annual Christian feast celebrating the birth of the Christ Child.

Psychologists hold that of all the senses, smell and taste are the strongest links with our childhoods.

These senses bring back our memories more strongly than any of the others. Included in those smells and tastes are the spices traditionally associated with food at this time of year.

It’s intriguing to see where some originate and their importance in history and trade. Some of the best-known spices are explored below.

For some, Christmas preparations begin in October.

That’s when aficionados make their Christmas puddings – not for the coming Christmas, but next year’s feast. Ingredients are assembled, equipment scoured with boiling water, aprons donned and the fun begins.

Among the most prized heirlooms may be Granny’s recipe, followed for years, and never bettered.

Theodora Fitzgibbon (1916-1991), who was a woman of many talents, was perhaps best known in her later years as the doyenne of Irish cooking.

Her traditional Christmas pudding recipe has 18 ingredients. For anyone who missed the October “deadline” and still wants her recipe, it’s available at <https://donalskehan.com/recipes/theodora-fitzgibbons-traditional-christmas-putting/>

Cinnamon
Amongst the spices included in Theodora’s recipe are cinnamon and nutmeg. Cinnamon is the interior bark of the Cinnamomum species of trees, more often sold in powdered form (see <https://www.rte.ie/brainstorm/2019/12/19/1101922-why-cinnamon-is-the-christmas-spice-that-keeps-on-giving/>). It is used in foods and mulled wine as well as in scented candles, and is perhaps the quintessential aroma of Christmas.

However, its medicinal properties are being studied, and it was used as an ingredient in special oils as well as in ancient Egypt as part of the process of mummification.



HUMBLE: Nutmeg Myristica

The Cinnamomum Verum tree is an evergreen, originally from Sri Lanka and Southern India. For more information, see www.kew.org/%E2%80%BA+plants+%E2%80%BA+cinnamon

Nutmeg and Mace
Whereas nutmeg is the nut found nestling in the fruit of the Myristica fragrans evergreen tree, mace is the covering of the nutmeg.

This important tree originally grew only in Indonesia’s Moluccas (or Spice) Islands.

Once, nutmeg was the rarest spice (and so the most costly).

In the late 18th century, a pound weight of nutmeg bought in London

would set you back about €500 in today’s money. It was much prized by wealthy, boastful folk at the time who used it in their foods and in their odour-busting pomanders.

Little wonder, then, the Dutch East India Company was so interested in the humble nutmeg and its control in the 1600s.

Bitterly-fought wars were conducted over who would control its production and trade.

The Dutch are reputed to have swapped an acreage of swamp in America for the rights to the Indonesian island where the Myristica fragrans tree was native.

The swampy ground became New York! Today, nutmeg (and of course mace) is produced in various parts of Indonesia and also in Grenada.

Cloves
The Moluccas (or Spice) Islands are also the native home to a species of tree of the Myrtle family called Syzygium aromaticum.

Skilled workers hand-pick the unopened tiny flowerbuds of this tree which are then dried to produce the cloves we know so well.

Cloves have been renowned since before 1600 for their preservative, therapeutic and flavouring abilities. (See <https://www.kew.org/read-and-watch/christmas-spices>.)

The smell of oranges studded with cloves evoke strong memories of Christmas.

However, medicinally, if the dentist isn’t available, oil of cloves is still used to ease a toothache if it’s applied sparingly to the offending area.

Also, a hot whiskey to soothe a chest cold on a cold winter’s night is made better by adding a few cloves.

Ginger
Edible ginger is the rhizome of the

Zingiber officinale plant native to South-East Asia. Rhizomes aren’t roots; they are a type of plant stem growing just under or on the soil.

Adding a zing (apologies for the pun) to various foods, ginger is an herbaceous plant with long green leaves that look a little like our tall meadow grass.

The ancient Romans are said to have brought ginger to Northern Europe, having bought it from Arab traders.

It was greatly sought after during the Middle Ages as a component in various foods and medicines.

However, before you rush to grow it in your garden, be careful – some of the plant’s near relatives are injurious to health. (See Ginger, Zingiber officinale – Wisconsin Horticulture.)

Salt
We perhaps think “common” salt is the most available spice or condiment, but it was once so rare that the ancient Romans used carefully measured weights of it to pay their soldiers.

Perhaps that’s where the old saying “Not worth his (or her) salt” comes from, when describing a lazy fellow worker who doesn’t merit their pay. Our word “salary” comes from sal, the Classical Latin word for salt.

The salt we use to flavour our food isn’t from a plant.

It’s a mineral called sodium chloride (NaCl, to our science buffs) and it’s mainly mined out of the ground or by evaporating sea water to produce sea salt.

One of the four main tastes our tongues can appreciate, this edible salt (also known as table salt) has been an essential ingredient for thousands of years to preserve and pickle all kinds of foodstuffs.

By these methods, foods were made

available to people all year round.

The Chinese were using salt up to 6,000 years ago for its preservative and curative properties.

“Rubbing salt into the wound” may help to clean an abrasion of dirt and reduce inflammation, but its stinging when so used describes also the added insult of the saying.

Salt has a wide variety of uses, from medicine and religious ceremonies to agriculture, pottery, for de-icing our roads and in many industrial processes.

Years ago, if the fire in the grate was in danger of setting the chimney ablaze, a handful or two of salt thrown directly onto the fire soon put it out.

Pepper
Pepper is available in many natural colours, but perhaps the most used here is black pepper.

The pepper referred to here is the small, hard, dried seed of the Piper Nigrum vine.

It produces what we know as the black peppercorn, not to be confused with the much larger, fleshy fruits available in our shops in red, yellow, green and other varieties.

The condiment black pepper is native to India’s Malabar Coast, although the plant is grown in other tropical areas also.

Pepper, whether ground or as whole seeds, has been used to flavour food and assist in early medical practices for thousands of years.

So, when you tuck in to your favourite Christmas foods and drinks this year, consider how our festivities have been enhanced by these (and other) exotic spices, brought initially by ancient trade routes and through many a haggling bargain between different trading nations. Happy Christmas to all!



EXOTIC: Black peppercorn

Advertorial

2024 – A year of growth, change and looking ahead at Tower Credit Union

AS WE reflect on the past year, it's clear that 2024 has been a year of growth and transformation for our credit union.

From welcoming new members to launching exciting new products and services, we've worked hard to enhance your experience and provide you with the financial solutions you need.

With the year coming to a close, we invite you to attend our Annual General

Meeting (AGM) on Monday, **December 16th at 8:00 PM** in the **Louis Fitzgerald Hotel, Clondalkin**.

This is your chance to hear about our community work, our future plans, and how we plan to continue to serve you, our valued members.

Plus, we'll be giving away **20 x €100 One4All gift cards** as prizes for those in attendance!

As Christmas approaches, time is running out to apply for our **Christmas Cash Loan**.

This fantastic product offers a one-year loan term, so you'll be free to enjoy the festive season and still have plenty of time to pay it off so you are in the clear for Christmas 2025.

We're also proud to announce the launch of our new-look website. Designed with

you in mind, our app and website allow you to apply for loans, manage your accounts, and even join as a new member—all from the convenience of your phone or computer.

Thank you for being part of our community in 2024. We look forward to seeing you at the AGM and continuing to serve you in the year ahead!

Tower Credit Union Team

Advertorial

Kidspace is your No1 destination for soft play and parties

PARENTS rate us as a top local venue for kids' entertainment. With centres located in the heart of Rathfarnham village and also in Greenogue (just outside Rathcoole) both have handy on-site parking and the delicious Nest Café which serves tasty breakfast and lunch options as well as hot beverages and snacks.

Kidspace Rathcoole features 10,000 sq ft of fun. Our Soft Play areas are suitable for babies from up to 10 year olds and with separate areas to cater for both. The playcentre features:

- 4 slides
- 5 ball pools
- Construction and Kitchen role play areas
- A race track with go-karts and tricycles
- A zip line on the 4th story which hovers over glass panels
- A pamper parlour for a mini manicure, glitter tattoos or hair styling (just ask our staff and we can add on a kids' treatment to your visit).

There is also a lego room which is a big hit for kids' birthdays tucked away in a private space upstairs. Just ask our staff to show you around. It's just one of our 7

themed party rooms available to book for your celebration.

Kidspace Rathfarnham features Soft Play areas suitable for babies up to 8 years. We have 2 separate playcentre areas suitable for babies and bigger kids. Your little ones will love exploring our playframes featuring a 4 lane slide and a sensory area which is a popular addition to the playcentre.

Both venues now offer our amazing Laser Quest Experience. After dark you can book the venues exclusively for your party. Using the latest digital laser gun technology, with specialist lighting and heart pounding music, Laser Quest is the ultimate combat experience suitable for 6 years +.

In addition we cater for babies and toddlers with our popular midweek activity mornings run by quality, professional play and child development experts.

Choose from Sensory Play, Messy Play or even a Baby Rave or pick up a loyalty card or monthly pass for unlimited weekday option.

Find out more on kidspace.ie



Life & Social

The Echo – dedicated to having the conversation about local arts and entertainment. Tell us your story.

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Ultimate family show

A CHRISTMAS CAROL COMES TO THE CIVIC

By **Ryan Butler**
news@echo.ie

"IT'S my favourite story in the world", beams Aaron Monaghan of Livin' Dred Theatre Co, who are thrilled to announce the return of their critically acclaimed production of Charles Dickens much-loved story 'A Christmas Carol.' Adapted for the stage and performed by multi-award-winning actors Aaron Monaghan and Bryan Burroughs, 'A Christmas Carol' returns for a major national tour in December 2024, following on from its sell-out runs in 2022 and 2023. "Even though it's a returning production, it's never the same show when it comes back, as we're always striving to improve it, make it funnier, to involve the audience more, to make the scarier bits scarier, and to really and truly earn the Christmas Spirit." comments Bryan. Devised straight from Dickens classic text, the actors—dressed in snazzy suits—play all the characters at breakneck speed using an array of colourful hats, scarves, and an Ikea coat rack! Playful, hilarious, heartwarming, and fun, A Christmas Carol is a triumph of physical theater and the perfect festive family day out. The famous cautionary tale tells the story of miserly Ebenezer Scrooge as he is visited by ghosts who take him on a journey through his past, present, and future one fateful Christmas Eve. This production is funny, slightly scary, utterly heartwarming, and features a surprise special guest appearing as Tiny Tim...

This week, we sat down with Aaron and Bryan to discuss the "ultimate family show," which plays at the Civic from December 13-14.

This is your third year in a row taking part in this production; this is probably a walk in the park for you guys! What is it that keeps you coming back?

Aaron: It's my favourite story in the world. It has everything in it, and it just makes me feel so overwhelmed with joy and warmth and fear and sadness. And the style in which we perform the show is just pure imagination, physicality, and playful silliness. To get to do that in front of families and young people is just joyous, so we keep coming back every year.

Bryan: It's an incredible story with brilliant writing that asks everything of us as performers. We get to play multiple characters running the full gamut of human experience from happiness and joy to grief and loss, despair and doubt to belief and hope. Plus, how else am I going to justify hanging out all day with my best friend when we're in our 40s? And even though it's a returning production, it's never the same show when it comes back, as we're always striving to improve it, make it funnier, to involve the audience more, to make the scarier bits scarier, and to really and truly earn the Christmas spirit.

Have there been any challenges or highlights working on it so far?

Aaron: There have been times when we've been sick and lost our voices; there have been times when there were more people in the audience than we had seats. Those moments we genuinely don't know how we're going to get through the performance. But then, every single time, something just clicks; the story and the audience literally carry us through. There is just something literally magical about this gorgeous little piece of theatre.

Bryan: The challenge is in some ways the best part in that we push each other to keep getting better and better so that the show becomes something more and more remarkable the more we do it. The highlights are when the audience are so on board that they gasp

where we hope they're going to gasp, where they're achingly silent ringing the sadder moments, when the young people are truly scared of Scrooge, and of course, when they laugh and cheer at all of the fun parts.

How has the preparation differed compared to your other projects?

Bryan: We have a short hand as actors and friends that is more intuitive and felt than spoken, so it means that in other rehearsals where there might be differing styles of acting at play or barriers to communication, in "Carol"'s rehearsal room we get to where we need to get to very fast, which then opens the door for more invention, playfulness, and creative discovery. I inherently trust Aaron as an actor and friend in my soul and so know him to be one of the most inventive, alive, spontaneous, and talented actors in the world. It's a joy to step on stage with him, look him in the eye, see a cheeky glint in it, and then let it rip!

Aaron: When we re-rehearse it, it's always trying to improve moments. We're so familiar with the story and the show that we've even caught ourselves accidentally speaking each other's lines without either of us noticing it's happened! We just get into a zone where the story and the words just flow. So lots of new things happen in every show.

I think we both know each other so well that we sort of know how the other moves, speaks, or even thinks! It's a rhythmic thing or something, where we're sort of "in sync" once we start performing. So we try really hard to preserve that playfulness and invention and not to rehearse it too much.

What drew you to the Civic?

Bryan: It's a lovely theater, and I've gotten to work on and perform a number of shows here like The Blanch and Stones in His Pockets whilst also getting to be part of a festival of solo shows with my own show, BEOWULF THE BLOCKBUSTER, so I have very fond memories of very kind and engaged audiences as well as enjoying a vast number of shows here.

Aaron: This is well agreed upon within the theatre industry. The Civic has one of the most amazing staff in the country; everyone talks about how friendly and helpful they are, so you're always happy to go there. On a personal level, one of my first professional experiences was performing Alone It Stands, which toured to the Civic. It was a really special job and a brilliant experience. Directing my wife, Clare Monnelly, in her show Charlie's A Clepto was a real moment that gave me such a buzz. Livin' Dred is 20 years old this year, and we've performed in Civic a lot in that time: one of my proudest moments was seeing The Dead School play there in the Dublin Theatre Festival. So I'm just thrilled to be back at Civic, celebrating 20 years of Livin' Dred.

Do you have any special ties to Tallaght?

Bryan: Yes, an ex-girlfriend from 20 years ago who I hope hears about the show, comes to see it, and is so impressed that she is filled with regret that she let me get away.

Aaron: As a pure culchie, fresh up from the country, the first time I heard of Tallaght was when I met Emmet Kirwan when we were training to be actors at Trinity College. It was my first day, and I felt so out of place I might as well have been on the moon. Emmet chatted to me; he spoke so fast I thought he was rapping (obviously he lagged me off for being from Cavan), but he was incredibly kind and friendly to me. That made me feel like I could belong there. I was instantly a massive fan of Emmet Kirwan, have been since, and always will be. And that's what I think of when I think of Tallaght!



AWARD WINNING:
Aaron Monaghan and
Bryan Burroughs. Photo by
Ross Kavanagh by kind
permission of the Ark

What are your respective plans for the New Year (I understand that Bryan has a very eagerly anticipated project releasing!)?

Bryan: I'm very excited that two shows I've had the pleasure of directing in the recent past are getting a remount. Tara Lovett's 'The Whispering Chair,' produced by Livin' Dred, will get a Dublin outing in the spring, and Gavin Kostick's 'Fight Night,' with Aonghus Og McAnally for RISE productions, is off to New York for a run off Broadway, so that's very exciting.

As far as acting goes, I had the pleasure and privilege of being directed by Tim Burton this summer for a part in 'Wednesday' series two for Netflix. I'm sworn to secrecy, but it's going to be mind-blowing!!

Aaron: I shall be mid-preparation for a new Livin' Dred production in 2025, which hasn't been announced just yet... You'll just have to check out www.livindred.ie to find out. But the thought of it is making my heart sing. On New Years Eve itself, I will be sitting in with Clare, petting our big silly dog, thanking our lucky stars for the divine gift that is our daughter, and hopefully taking stock of another mad, mad, mad but wonderful year.

Who would you like to thank?

Bryan: The brilliant team at Livin' Dred and Donal and everyone at The Civic for having us. It's going to be brilliant.

Aaron: Bryan, Suzie, and Archer, who are the crew of the show; Darragh and Amy at Livin' Dred, and our board; my wife and daughter and dog for letting me go on tour with my best friend for Christmas; all at the Civic who've made everything so easy; all the venues we get to visit; every single audience member who comes to see 'A Christmas Carol', and most specifically, our mams.

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50 year celebrations

FOR ST MATTHEW’S CHURCH IN BALLYFERMOT

Photos by **Paddy Barrett**

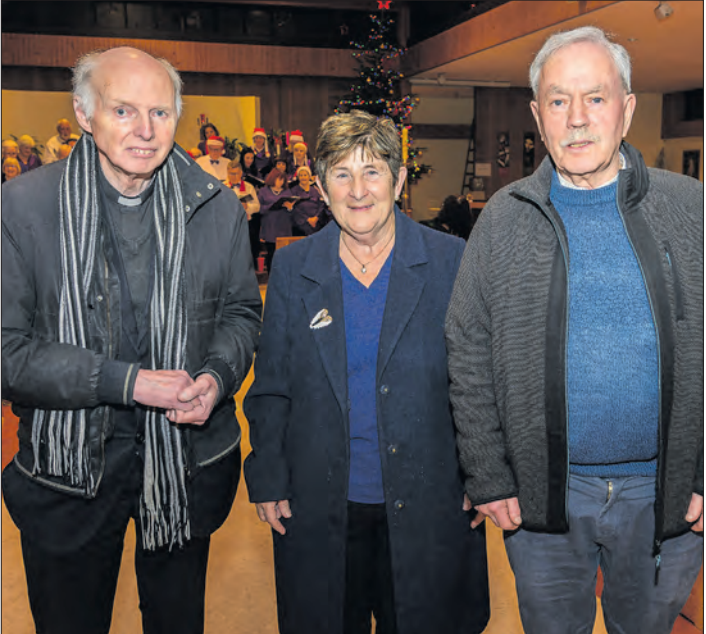
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Anna Horrigan and Noelle Fitzsimons



Stephaney William, Sylvia McManus and Declan Lynch



Fr Piaras, Helen Mountaine and Jimmy McManus



The choir that performed during the celebration



Andy Duggan, Marie Clinton, Tommy Clinton, Dan Browne and Lucy Browne



Yvonne Hart Foster, Sr Cabrini, Fr Alvin Tendo and Sr Anne Marie



Helen Doran and Carmel Varley

The Pirates of Dreamland

DRAMA GROUP BASEMENT PRODUCTIONS HOST PANTO

By **Ryan Butler**
news@echo.ie

"LOCAL drama group Basement Productions is once again bringing the fun of Christmas pantomime to the children and families of Ballyfermot," exclaims Emma Faye.

This year's panto, 'The Pirates of Dreamland,' was written by Emma Faye and is directed by Billy Mangan, with all shows already booked out! Featuring lots of goodies and baddies and their largest cast to date, this original story sees Emily with her four pals taking on the evil Captain Bartholemew Blackditch and his band of pirates in a bid to rescue her little brother from being trapped in Dreamland forever!

Work began on the script back in August, with some elements of the storyline being inspired by Jim Henson's 1986 movie, Labyrinth. "We even have our own sassy magic puppet, Georgina, who helps guide the girls along on their adventure where they meet some other very interesting characters that look suspiciously like people Emily already knows in real life!"

Basement Productions would like to thank the entire cast and crew for their dedication and hard work at their twice-weekly rehearsals since October, with one member coming from as far away as Cavan for what they hope will be a very entertaining and funny show for everyone.

Catch them at the Ballyfermot Community Civic Centre from December 17-19.



d reAMIANd: Kaden o'Connor, Joanne Anderson and Gizmo heavey
Photos courtesy of Dylan Faye & Emma Faye

Seaborne

NUALA'S BOOK SHORTLISTED FOR AWARD

By **Ryan Butler**
news@echo.ie

NUALA O'Connor, originally from Mill Lane and the author of the shortlisted novel 'Seaborne' for the Irish Book Awards, says, "I had heard the name Anne Bonny

on the wind for years—a young Irish woman tried for piracy in the Caribbean—and when I dug in some more, I knew she was fiction-worthy." 'Seaborne' was nominated for Eason Novel of the Year along with 'Our London Lives' by Palmerstown

resident and writer Christine Dwyer Hickey.

Nuala tends to travel "a lot" to participate in festivals, events, and appearances; "it's exhausting but enjoyable—I love talking books and literature."

She states that the writing itself, along with the research, is "always" her favorite part of the book-writing process, coupled with the research of deep diving into archives and libraries, old books, and images. She writes and researches in tandem, so it's a "lively process" for her.

In March next year she has a poetry collection coming out with feminist press Arlen House, containing thirteen years' worth of poetry; she is also working on a memoir about late-diagnosed autism.

For their help and support, Nuala would like to thank her agent, Grainne Fox, all at New Island Books, Arlen House, and all other publishers who "take a punt on me."

The ceremony took place on November 27; well done on your nomination, Nuala!



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Christmas Celebrations

SENIOR CITIZENS PARTY IN THE KINGSWOOD LODGE

Photos by **Paddy Barrett**

Photos taken for *The Echo* are available to purchase. Email reception@echo.ie or call 01-4685350.
You can view *The Echo* Photography Policy on echo.ie



Harry White and Pat McCormack



Maureen Stewart, Linda Bramble, Monica Kelly and Joyce Morrin



Ray, Dolores and Carol



Anthony McGrail, Rosaleen McGrail and Noilín Uí Bhroin



Lee Chevalier, Cllr Jess Spear, Helen Graham and Valerie Gaynor



Joe, Marie and Pat



Brenda Boyd and Nancy Flynn



Pat McCormack with Anne and Joe Shadlow



Tom Lillis, Betty Fitzpatrick, Kay Lillis and Mary Fitzpatrick

Camera Club competes

CLUB TAKES PART IN IPF NATIONAL SHIELD COMPETITION

By **Ryan Butler**
news@echo.ie

LAST month Clondalkin Camera Club participated in the Irish Photographic Federation (IPF) National Shield Competition.

The National Shield Competition is open to all clubs affiliated with the Irish Photographic Federation and took place in the Barbican Centre in Drogheda.

The competition is open to non-advanced photographers but permits two images from two advanced photographers as defined by the Irish Photographic Federation.

Clondalkin Camera Club was one of 22 clubs that entered this competition.

The National Shield Competition is a print competition presented as two individual panels of eight images per panel, one monochrome panel and one colour panel.

The competition was judged by three qualified judges selected by the IPF judges committee.

Judging is anonymous regarding the author and club. Each judge scores the image out of 5, and as a result, 120 points per panel are available.

Clondalkin Camera Club finished 14th overall out of 22 Teams that entered and were also awarded an honourable mention for one of their colour panel images Titled 'Baby Kestrels.'

Overall, the club and its photographers have achieved great results and made significant progress. Thank you to Joe Joyce, chairman of the Clondalkin Camera Club, for his collaboration on this review; check the group's socials if you wish to find out more about their plans for the rest of the year!



competition: Honourable mention: Louise Skelly, clondalkin cc, "3 Baby Kestrels" inset: Joe Joyce club chairman, Brian McKeown Founding member and Mick White new member Liaison officer

Together We Rise

NOW AND THEN PRODUCTION PREPARE FOR LATEST SHOW

inspired:
Audition
Workshop
with
Kenneth



By **Ryan Butler**
news@echo.ie

"WE were two weeks away from opening 'Jesus Christ Superstar when COVID hit!" explains Catherine Griffin of Now and Then Production Company when asked about what inspired their latest production, 'Together We Rise.'

"Our motto during that time was "together, we rise, and that is where the title came from."

This show, which will mark their first play that is not performed in St Mary's Priory, is a mashup of scenes from well-known musicals such as 'The Greatest Showman,' 'Phantom of the Opera,' 'West Side Story,' 'Come From Away,' 'Les Miserables,' and 'Hamilton.'

She has cited one of the key challenges in preparing for the show being that there is "so

much" talent already, and it will therefore be difficult to cast.

It has been a busy year for the company, having a sold-out production of 'Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat' in April; they are currently back rehearsing after taking a break for the summer.

Next year, the group plans to perform a full musical such as 'Sister Act'; however, the rights will be expensive, so they are hoping they can raise funds with this upcoming variety show.

For their help with the show and the year in general, Catherine would like to thank Patricia Dunne, the committee, the cast, her colleagues on the production team Biddy and Ken, and Helen McCann.

Auditions for 'Together We Rise' take place on December 12 at St Mary's Priory; the show will perform in April next year.

“Desserts are the fairy tales of the kitchen—a happily-ever-after to supper.

Terri Guillemets

Food with Passion

PERFECT PAVLOVA’S - PERFECT CHRISTMAS DESSERTS

by **John Paul Kennedy** / jpkennedy.kennedy@gmail.com



I typically find it a challenge to identify a dessert that everyone will eat after the huge feast that is Christmas dinner. In my experience, Pavlova’s are the perfect dessert as they are light and are a great get-ahead dessert that can be made on Christmas eve. I’m sharing two of my favourites that are sure to satisfy all your guests this year! A fruit version and a chocolate version! How bad can that be!

Prodigious Strawberry & Passionfruit Pavlova

Ingredients:
8 egg whites
500g castor sugar
½ teaspoon of vanilla extract
2 teaspoons of cornflour
2 teaspoons of white wine vinegar
600ml of double-cream
1 teaspoon of vanilla bean paste or extract
300g fresh strawberries
25g icing sugar
6 passionfruit

Method:

1. line a baking sheet with parchment paper and using the base of a 25cm spring form tin draw out a circle and preheat your oven to 170 Degrees.
2. using a free standing mixer or hand held mixer, pop the egg whites from 8 separated eggs into a large mixing bowl and mix on high speed until stiff peaks form.
3. Add the sugar gradually one tablespoon at a time until with the mixer turned on, until the mixture is nice and shiny.
4. Add the vanilla extract, white wine vinegar and cornflour and fold through carefully until combined.
5. Dollop the mixture onto your prepared tin making sure to stay within the circle and using a spatula smooth the top and sides and pop into the oven reducing the temperature immediately to 120 degrees and bake for 1 hour.
6. Turn off the oven and allow the Pavlova to cool completely. I often make this the day before serving – it also freezes well for up to one month.
7. When ready to serve invert the Pav onto a serving dish and peel off the parchment paper.
8. Whip up your cream until nice and softly whipped.
9. In a processor add the strawberries and icing sugar and blitz until you have a nice smooth consistency. Scoop out the inside of the passionfruit into a small bowl.
10. generously lather the top of the Pav with the cream and adorn with drizzles of Passionfruit and strawberry coulis and serve immediately. It will last up to 3 days stored in the fridge but best served on the day it’s made.

John Paul Kennedy IS A SELF-TAUGHT COOK AND AN AVID FAN OF COLLECTING COOKERY BOOKS WITH A PASSION FOR GOOD OLD-FASHIONED HOME COOKING. HIS PASSION FOR PROPER FAMILY COOKING STEMS FROM HIS GRANDMOTHERS, WHO WERE BOTH EXCELLENT COOKS, ONE OF WHOM WAS A TRAINED CHEF. **JP** PROMISES TO BRING US PLENTY OF FAMILY-INSPIRED RECIPES AND TASTY TREATS WHILE SHOWING US HOW TO GET THE BASICS RIGHT.

Chocolate Pavlova:

Ingredients: (Makes one generous Pavlova)

300g castor sugar
6 egg whites
1 teaspoon of good vanilla extra
1 teaspoon of white wine vinegar
3 tablespoons of cocoa
100g of finely chopped plain dark chocolate
Topping:
300g chopped strawberries
500ml double cream
1 teaspoon of vanilla extract
Coarsely grated dark chocolate to decorate

Method:

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C/160°C Fan/gas mark 4/350°F and line a baking tray with baking parchment.
2. Beat the egg whites until satiny peaks form, and then beat in the sugar a spoonful at a time until the meringue is stiff and shiny. Sprinkle over the cocoa and vinegar, and the chopped chocolate. Then gently fold everything until the cocoa is thoroughly mixed in. Mound on to a baking sheet in a fat circle approximately 23cm / 9 inches in diameter, smoothing the sides and top. Place in the oven, then immediately turn the temperature down to 150°C/130°C Fan/gas mark 2/300°F and cook for about one to one and a quarter hours. When it’s ready it should look crisp around the edges and on the sides and be dry on top, but when you prod the centre you should feel the promise of squidginess beneath your fingers. Turn off the oven and open the door slightly, and let the chocolate meringue disc cool completely.
3. When you’re ready to serve, invert on to a big, flat-bottomed plate. Whisk the cream till thick but still soft and pile it on top of the meringue, then scatter over the strawberries. Coarsely grate the chocolate and sprinkle haphazardly over the top, letting some fall, as it will, on the plate’s rim.

Pavlovas are the perfect Christmas dessert to serve for family and friends because they are light, airy, and beautifully festive. Their crisp meringue shell contrasts delightfully with the soft, marshmallow-like interior, creating a texture that everyone loves. Topped with whipped cream and fresh seasonal fruits, pavlovas offer a refreshing and elegant end to a hearty Christmas meal. Plus, their snowy white appearance and customizable toppings make them a visually stunning centrepiece for your holiday table. Enjoy the sweet, delicate flavours and the joy they bring to your festive gatherings!



**Contact
JP on:**

Twitter: @JPKCooking
Email: JPKCooking@gmail.com
Instagram: [jpkennedy.kennedy](https://www.instagram.com/jpkennedy.kennedy)

“To enjoy the glow of good health, you must exercise..

Gene Tunney

Health & Fitness

THE POWER OF FUNCTIONAL FITNESS



by Ursula Frawley / info@moveitfitness.ie

When was the last time you tried to run for a bus or rush to get to an appointment on time? How did your body respond when it was put under pressure? If you struggled to keep up with a friend on a walk or have found that climbing stairs is becoming a chore, it might be time to start training your body for the real-life activities where we need our fitness to support us best!

Specifically, training that we do that helps us in everyday life is called Functional Fitness. It's all about training your body to handle the everyday tasks and movements we do without thinking – like bending, lifting, and climbing – and making them easier and more efficient. What are some great ways to gain this functional fitness that will specifically help us in everyday life? Here's a few ideas you can try at home that will reap great rewards!

- 1. Sit on a chair and stand up – the basics!** This move might seem easy, but it's super effective for strengthening your legs, glutes, and core. Next time you sit on a chair, focus on keeping your knees hip-width apart and pushing through your heels to stand up tall. Avoid leaning to one side or letting your knees come together. You may not have paid attention to this before, but it's all about form! Do this 5-7 times, take a quick rest, and repeat. The more you practice, the stronger and more stable you'll feel with this daily activity. Repeat for as many times as you feel able

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

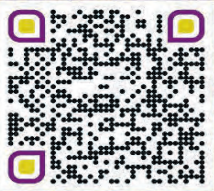
- and make sure to listen to your body and stop when you need to.
- 2. Step up and down.** Got a step at home? Great! If not and you have stairs, that works really well too. Stepping up and down is a fantastic way to work your legs, heart, and posture all at once. Stand tall, focus on your balance, and make sure each step is focused, slow and controlled. When you step up, use your whole body, and when you step down, stay smooth and strong. This everyday movement is a game changer and is a fantastic way to train your body for this everyday movement.
 - 3. Sit up from a lying position.** The first move you do every morning when you get out of bed can be an exercise in disguise. Try lying on the couch (or bed) and practice sitting up slowly without using your hands. At first, you might need a little help from the couch or bed, but over time, focus on using your core to sit up strong to a seated position. You'll be amazed at how much stronger your core gets – and how much easier it becomes to hop out of bed each day!
- Enjoy these really effective daily practices and, with repetition, you will notice a huge difference to your everyday function and fitness!
- 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.



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Clíodhna O'Byrne (Dep CEO), Niall Breslin and Peter Byrne (CEO)



Sinead Murphy, Jenny Nolan and Karen Harrington (AIB)



Sasha Stepanenko, Amy Archbold and Leah Duffy



Ger Nolan and Seamus Magann



Lucy Nugent and John Kelly



Suzanne McCabe, Emma Cronin and Jennifer Cleary



Dan Coyne, Susan Coyne, Dermot Coyne, Andrea Clarke and Tracey Farrell



Margaret Considine (President Chambers Irl) and Declan Duke



Shane Geraghty and Anne Killeen

Annual Christmas Lunch

HELD BY SOUTH DUBLIN CHAMBER

Photos by **Paddy Barrett**

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James Mooney, Wayne Cutbart, Julianna Conroy and Paul Mullins



Colm Ward (CEO SDCC), Thomas Stone (President South Dublin Chamber), Mayor Baby Pereppadan and Peter Byrne (CEO)



Colonel Mick Moran (Irish Air Corps) and Canon William Deverell



Miriam Collins and Bernard Bennett (Partas)

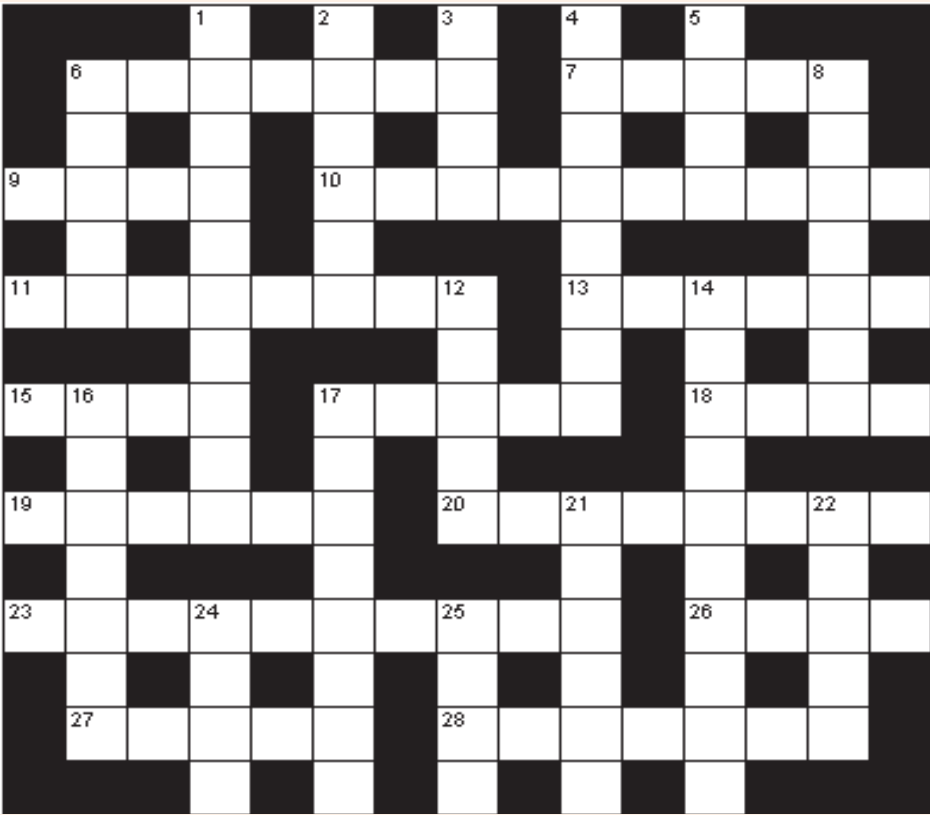


Mark Ward, TD with Sasha, Amy, Leah, Tracey and Dan



Alyssa Velles and Megan Dunn

echocrossquiz Q1212

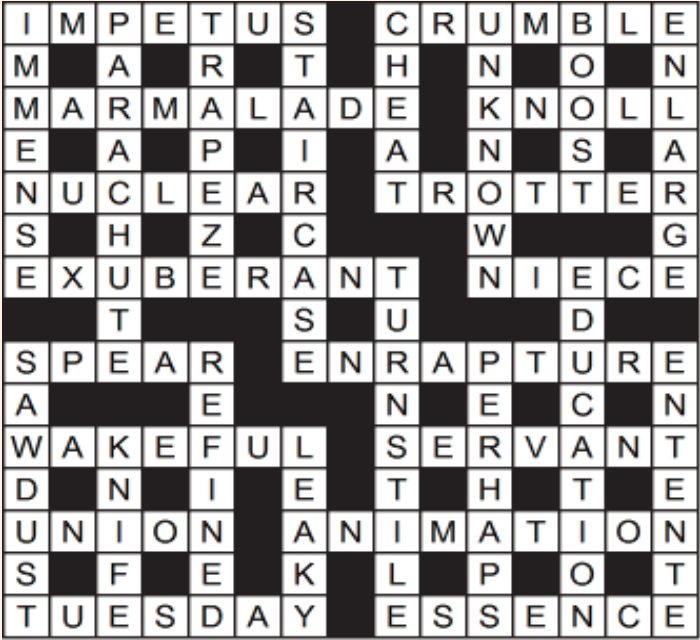


- ACROSS**

 - 6. Quantify (7)
 - 7. Get hold of (5)
 - 9. Decorative case (4)
 - 10. Rambunctious (10)
 - 11. Restrain (8)
 - 13. Cold (6)
 - 15. Flunk (4)
 - 17. Words to live by (5)
 - 18. Jump up and down (4)
 - 19. Attorney (6)
 - 20. No longer living (8)
 - 23. Considerate (10)
 - 26. Emanation (4)
 - 27. Inhabit (5)
 - 28. In perfect circumstances (7)
- DOWN**

 - 1. According to custom (10)
 - 2. Brouhaha (6)
 - 3. Yachting cap (4)
 - 4. Thankful (8)
 - 5. Carnival (4)
 - 6. French for "Morning" (5)
 - 8. Living accommodations (7)
 - 12. Country (5)
 - 14. Intangible (10)
 - 16. Embarrassed (7)
 - 17. Arrange in due order (8)
 - 21. File holder (6)
 - 22. Bad-tempered (5)
 - 24. Utilizer (4)
 - 25. Dart (4)

LAST
WEEK'S
ANSWERS
0512



CAN YOU BEAT THIS WEEK'S CROSSQUIZ?

SUDOKU 1 SUDOKU 2

					8	3	5
				5			1
			2		6		
		4	7			9	6
	9	2			4	1	7
							2
2				9			
6		5				1	
	7		1	5			

				6	3		
				9			7
			3			1	9
		5					1
				7		8	
8			1	4			5
			9	5			3
	9					4	8
	3	4				7	

ANSWERS

6	1	7	8	9	2	4	3	5
5	8	4	3	1	7	2	9	6
9	3	2	4	5	9	1	8	7
3	6	9	2	4	1	7	6	8
4	2	8	5	7	6	3	1	9
1	7	6	9	3	8	5	4	2
2	6	1	9	7	8	3	6	5
7	6	1	5	9	4	8	2	3
8	4	3	6	5	2	9	7	1

SUDOKU 2

9	6	5	2	1	4	7	8	3
3	1	2	8	7	5	9	6	4
4	8	7	3	6	9	5	2	1
2	5	4	9	8	1	6	3	7
8	7	1	4	6	3	2	9	5
6	9	3	5	2	7	4	1	8
7	4	6	1	3	2	8	5	9
1	2	9	7	5	8	3	4	6
5	3	8	6	4	9	1	7	2

SUDOKU 1

Poet's Corner

DICKIE

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.

Every step of
the way
To the candy
store
Just for old
times sake
We will listen
once more
To Simple Simon
And do as he
says
Remembering
the ballrooms
In those far off
days
When he took to

the stage
And the girls
would all roar
Spit on me
Dickie
As we danced on
the floor
He has gone
home to stay
To that ballroom
in the sky
With the rest of
the greats
Wipe the tear
from your eye
R.I.P Dickie



ACH NUAIR ATÁ AN
DEIS AGAM É SEO
A DHÉANAMH?

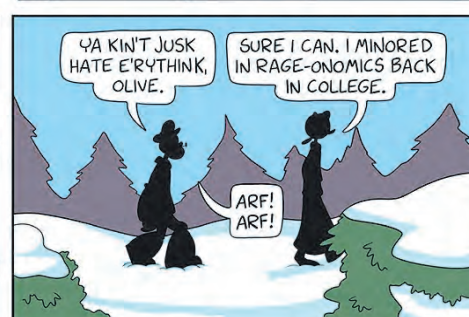
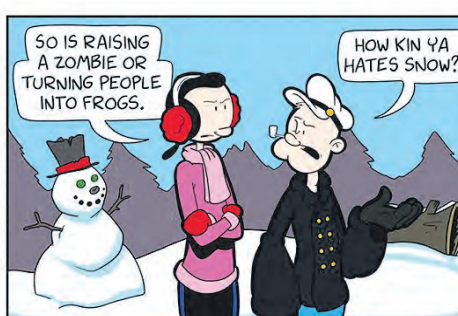
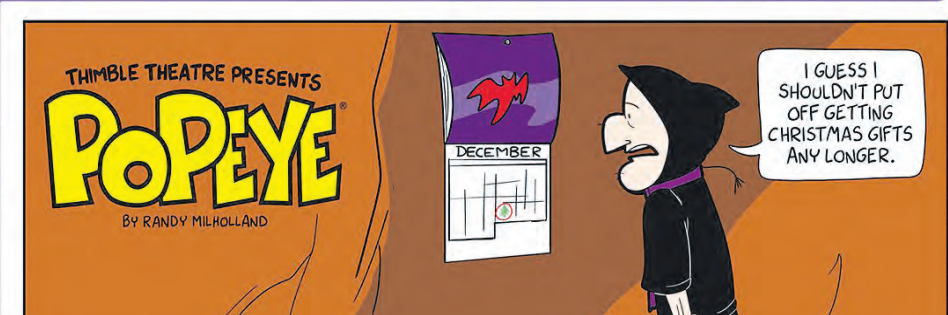
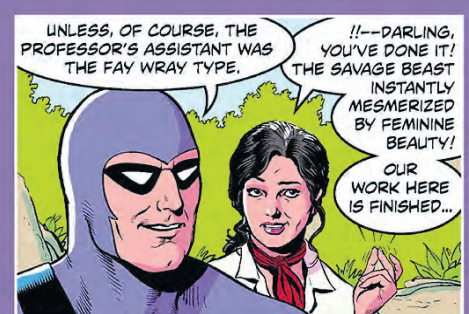
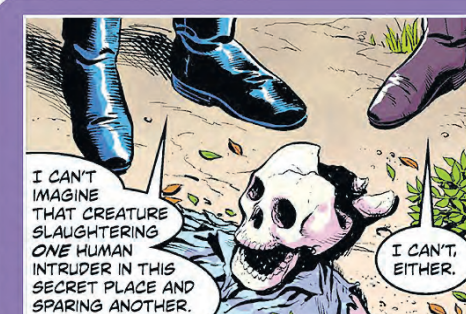
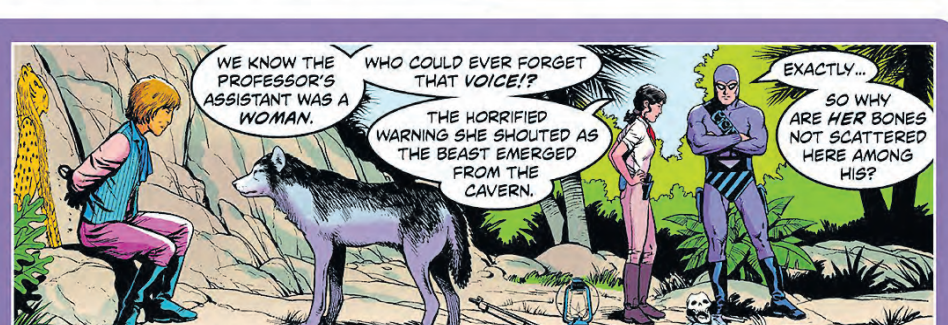
IS FIÚ É GO LÉIR.
BEAGNACH.



--TÉIMID SUAS MAR SIN.

DAN SCHÖBE
6-9-24

LIGEANN AN FEAR DRAGAINN AIR FÉIN NACH BHFUIL EAGLA
AIR ACH MOTHÁIM AN GLEACFÓIBE INA CHUISE.





Patrick and Sophie



Rob, Denise and Pat



Kate and Allie



Stephen Martin and Paddy Whealan



Gavin and Finn



Tallaght Person of the Year Glenda and Stephen



John, Katie and Dylan



Gemma, Jackaline, Pam, Kevin, Maria, Colin and Sabina



Hugh and Kaylee

Rehab Project Charity Run

ORGANISED BY JOBSTOWN RUNNING CLUB

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Marina, Vivian, Jonathon and Arman



Paul, Stephen and Liam



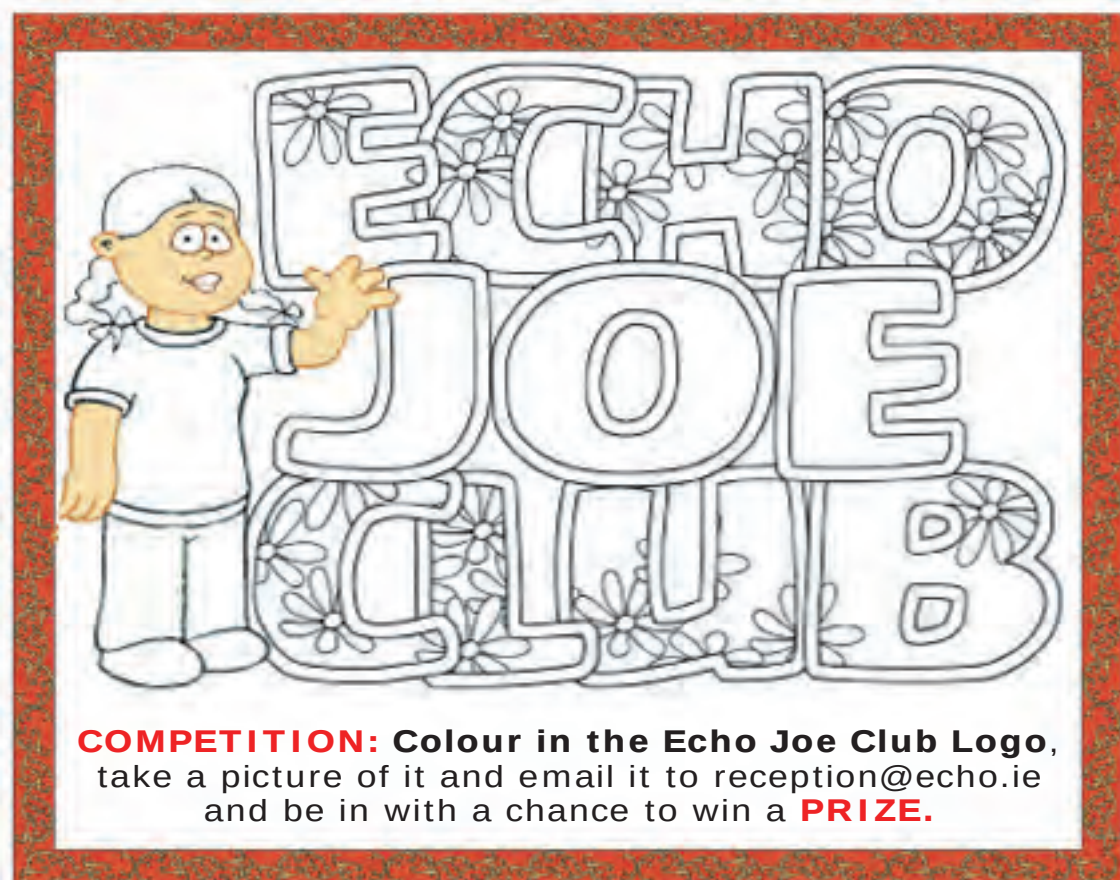
Shane, Daragh, Ian, Ciara, Elaine, Stephen and Katie



Vanessa, Maria, Louise, Michelle and David



Louise and Annmaire



A Word with Echo So...

Naughty or Nice

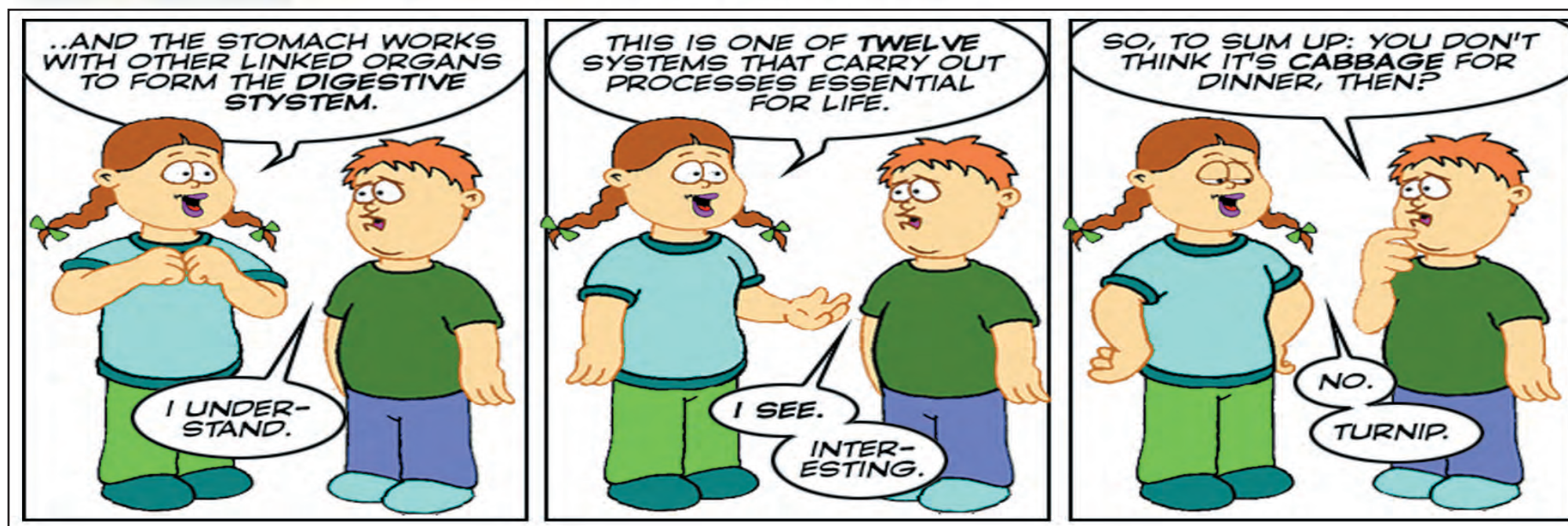
CLUBBERS, HOW MANY WORDS (TWO LETTERS OR MORE) CAN YOU MAKE FROM THE ABOVE WORDS?

5-20 pretty good! 21-35 excellent! 36 and over - you do realise these have to be real words, don't you!

1	14	27
2	15	28
3	16	29
4	17	30
5	18	31
6	19	32
7	20	33
8	21	34
9	22	35
10	23	36
11	24	37
12	25	38
13	26	39

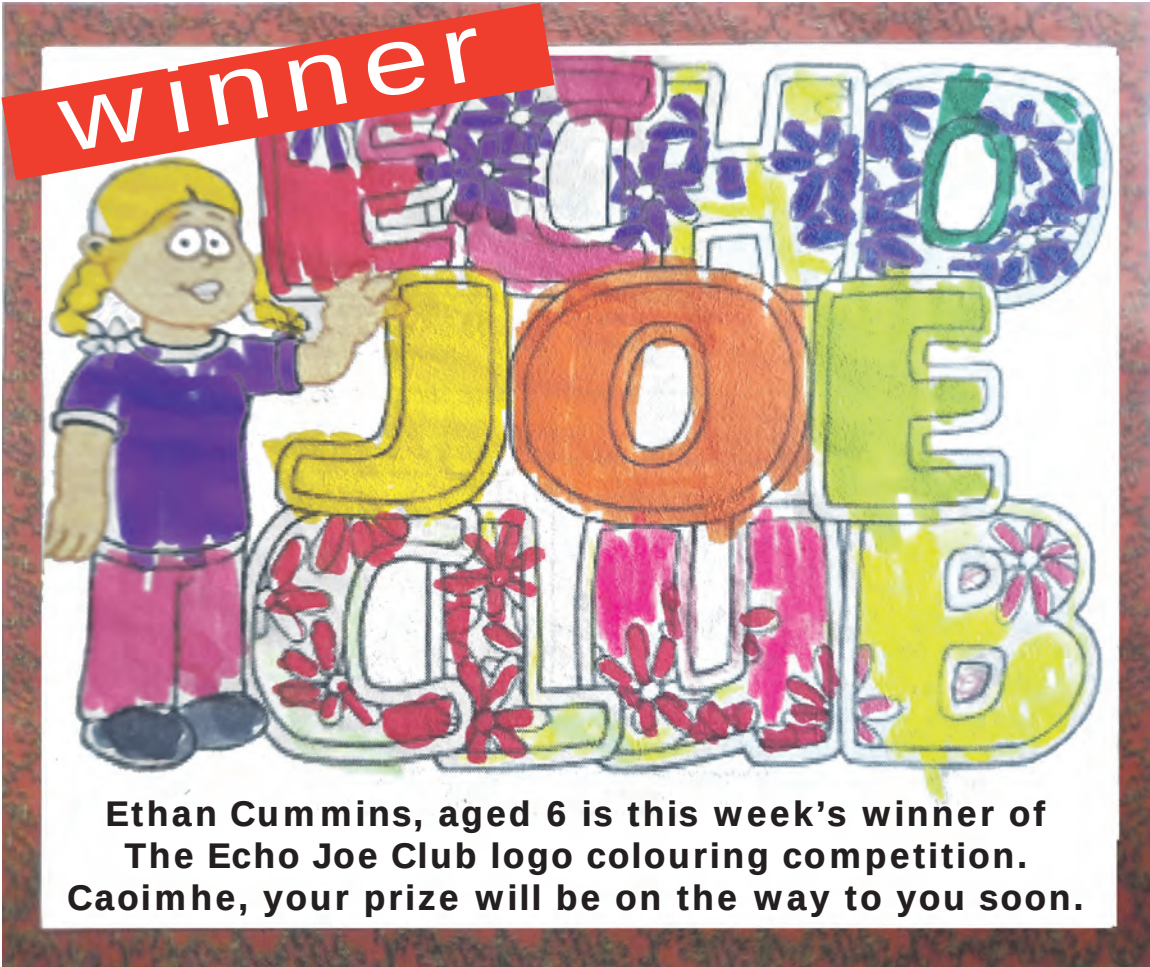
MERRY
CHRISTMAS
DECEMBER
SNOWMAN
SANTA CLAUS
DECORATION
CELEBRATIONS
SNOWFLAKES
MISTLETOE
PRESENTS
CHARITY
CANDLES
FROSTY

WINTER
ICY
MYRRH
ANGEL
HOPE
CAROL
STAR
TOYS
XMAS
TREE
BELLS
GIFT
WISH





Colour
us in!



Ethan Cummins, aged 6 is this week's winner of The Echo Joe Club logo colouring competition. Caoimhe, your prize will be on the way to you soon.

Winter Wonderland

HELD IN COLLINSTOWN SPORTS COMPLEX

Photos by **Paddy Barrett**
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Taylor, Grace, Holly and Alexandra



Jack and Seán



Mollie, Kaycee and Karley



JP (Coach), Archie, Taylor, Chloe and Sofia



Kal



Enjoying the Winter Wonderland



AJ and Edward



Holly, AJ and Alan



Snowman with Dane, Caleb, Rían, Zack and Ollie

Christmas Concert

IN ROWLAGH CHURCH BY NORTH CLONDALKIN CHOIR

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North Clondalkin Choir in full voice in Rowlagh Church



Mary O'Brien, Leo Dunne and Paula Cullen



Sophie Jameson with Ellie and Ollie Flood



Dylan Whyte and Saffron McCarthy



Lewis, Rian and Conor



Pat, Sally, Theresa and Patricia



Emiliya, Daniel and Eva



Patrick, Alan and Stephen

Christmas Party

HELD BY SRULEEN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION IN CLONDALKIN

Photos by **Paddy Barrett**

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Santa and Ronan



Senan and Suzie



Sarah and Jackson



Kasia, Zuzia and Kaczmarek with Santa



Santa with Saoirse, Aoibhin and Carmen



Liam and Senan Keighery



Emma, Lily and Ryan



John and Kyle O'Flanagan with Santa

December 19, 2024

December Echoes

64-PAGE MAGAZINE TO KEEP AND ENJOY OVER CHRISTMAS

9-Day Christmas TV Guide

From Christmas Eve to New Year's Day

Interview with Santa

Working hard to get to you safely again this year

Festive Food

With JP

Church Services

Christmas Sing Along

All the lyrics inside

Christmas 2024 Bumper Edition!
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Season

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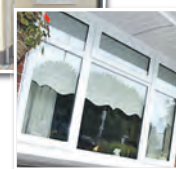
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family notices

Important Notice
Items for publication for memorial
pages must be in by 1pm Friday
for next Thursday's paper

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email: reception@echo.ie

ANNIVERSARY



Boyle, Eileen
Whose 2nd Anniversary away from home occurs 17th December.

Eilo
Our lives go on without you,
But nothing is the same,
We have to hide our heartache,
When someone speaks your name,
Sad are the hearts that love you,
Silent are the tears that fall,
Living without you,
Is the hardest part of all,
You did so many things for us,
Your heart was so kind and true,
And when we needed someone,
We could always count on you,
The special years will not return,
When we were all together,
But with the love in our hearts,
You walk with us forever.
Sadly missed by your partner
Matthew and Family. xxx

No words or verse can ever say,
What I feel on this sad day,
You left a place no one can fill,
I miss you mam and always will,
Your resting place I visit,
Flowers I place with care,
But no one knows the heartache,
As I turn and leave you there,
Quietly today your memory I treasure,
Loving you always,
Forgetting you never,
No length of time can take away,
My thoughts of you from day to

day,
I feel that you are with me,
In everything I do,
So I will spend today thinking about you.
Sadly missed and never forgotten by your heartbroken daughter Lynda. xxx

A special smile,
A special face,
A special mam we can't replace,
You gave your love,
Your whole life through,
God bless you mam,
We love you too,
A loving mother is now at rest,
For each of us she did her best,
Her love was great,
Her heart was kind,
A beautiful memory left behind.
Sadly missed by your sons
Thomas and William. xxx

Nanny
A day that is filled with sadness,
Returns to us today,
To mark the day you left us,
In such a sudden way.
In thoughts we see you just the same,
In love and pride we speak your name.
Time passes and life goes on,
But from our hearts,
You will never be gone.
Loved and missed always by
your grandchildren Lauren,
Amie, Shane and your great-grandson Jack. xxx

Nan
No matter how life changes,
No matter what we do,
A special place within our hearts,
Is always kept for you,
Can't believe it's been one whole year since you left us,
You're missed and loved beyond words,
I will cherish all the memories I have of you Nan.
All my love your granddaughter Aisling and great-grandson Dylan. xxx

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



Scannell, John
13th Birthday away from home occurred 5th December. Late of Killinarden Estate. Also remembering my mam Mary.

Today always meant so much to us,
Now it only brings me tears,
I wish that God could have spared you,
For just a few more years.
I'm thinking of you today Dad,
I know that's nothing new,
You were in my thoughts of yesterday,
And you'll be in tomorrow's too.
The memories I'll cherish forever,
They always make me smile,
I just wish I could hold you close again,
If only for a while.
But until that day that we unite,
And we'll no longer be apart,
But until that day, remember Dad,
You are always in my heart.
"Happy Birthday Pop"
Loved, remembered and missed by your son John.

ANNIVERSARY



Morgan, Eamon
In loving memory of a dear Son, Dad and Brother who died 16th December 2021. 3rd Anniversary away from home.

God saw you getting tired,
He gently took your hand,
He said, "Come with me Eamon,
come to the promised land".
You went to heaven so suddenly,
We always wonder why,
But the saddest part of all,
Was we never said goodbye.
You gave a gift so others might live,
A gift so precious and rare,
So fly with the angels,
And rest with Dad,
And you will always be in our prayers.
Sadly missed, always remembered by your loving Mam and all the Family. xx

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



Tighe, Bernadette
1st Birthday away from home occurs 12th December. Late of Kilnamanagh.

No matter how life changes,
No matter what we do,
A special place within our hearts,
Is always kept for you.
No words can heal our heartache,
Or stop our fallen tears,
Or take away our memories,
Of a Wife, Mam & Grandmother we loved so dear.
We do not forget you and never will,
We think of you every day,
We love and miss you always.
From the bottom of our hearts, your loving family.

ANNIVERSARY



Matthews, Margaret
In loving memory of our mam Margaret Matthews, 5 years gone, 8th December 2024. Also remembering our dad Frank Matthews who was 19 years in heaven, 30th July 2024.

We celebrate their heavenly birthday's.
Mam, 21st November.
Dad, 29th November.

Always on our minds,
In our thoughts,
And forever in our hearts.
Love Gary, Yvonne and Deirdre and all your loving Family.

NOVENA

Miracle Prayer
Dear heart of Jesus I ask you this special favour (mention one) take it dear heart of Jesus and place it within your own broken heart where your father sees it. Then in his merciful eyes it will become your favour not mine. Amen. say this prayer 3 days promise publication and favour will be granted never known to fail. M.C.

NOVENA

9 Day Novena to St. Anthony.
St. Anthony, I resort to thy protection and aid, as proof of my affection and faith, I offer this candle which shall burn every day. Please comfort me in my difficulties and through thy living in the house of my Saviour, intercede for me and all those I love so that we may always hold God in our hearts and be provided for in our necessities, I beseech thee, St. Anthony, to have infinite pity in regard to the favour I ask of thee (here mention your favour). Please help me to overcome all difficulties which I now leave at thy feet. 3 Our Fathers, 3 Hail Mary's, 3 Glory Be to the Father's. This novena should be said for 9 days in succession. Each day a candle should be lit and a copy of this prayer left in the Church to help another soul in distress and to increase devotion to St. Anthony. This miraculous Saint grants everything no matter how difficult and before the termination of the nine days. But even if your request is granted, the Novena must be fulfilled. Holy St. Anthony pray for us. B.B.

NOVENA

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planning notices

All planning applications must be in before 5pm Monday

tel: 468 5350
email:reception@echo.ie

South Dublin County Council
We Clive & Amanda Kavanagh are applying for planning permission for 2 Storey side extension with pitched roof over with partial ground floor rear extension with pitched roof over & 1No. roof light at 11 Griffreen Glen Green, Lucan, Co. Dublin K78R289 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, Jennifer & Keith Gantley intend to apply for planning permission for development at this site, 64 Tymon Crescent, Dublin 24, D24PNH5. The development consists of a first-floor side extension with tiled hip roof and parapet with roof light, attic conversion with dormer roof and windows to the rear, tiled canopy to the front elevation, two roof lights to the front of the existing roof, internal alterations, and all associated site works. This application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of South Dublin County Council during its public opening hours of

9am – 4pm, Mon-Fri, and a submission or observation may be made to South Dublin County Council in writing and on payment of the prescribed fee (€20.00) within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by South Dublin County Council of the application.

South Dublin County Council
Tony Ennis is applying for planning permission for Installation of a 4.8m x 8m x 2.9m high Garden Room to contain a Home Office/Study, home/personal gym & shower in the rear garden, finished externally in timber/metal cladding in the rear garden at 3 Dunmore Grove, Kingswood, Dublin 24, D24VXK5. The Planning application may be inspected or purchased at the offices of South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Town Centre, Tallaght, Dublin 24. During its public opening hours of Monday to Friday from 9.00am - 4.00pm, and may also be viewed on the council's website - www.sdcc.ie. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to South Dublin County Council on payment of a fee of (20.00 euro) within the 5 weeks of receipt of the application by South Dublin County Council and such submissions or observations will be considered by the Planning Authority in making a decision on the application. The Planning Authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions or may refuse to grant permission.

Dublin City Council
I, Andrew Brennan, intend to apply for permission for development at 65 Tyrconnell Park, Inchicore, Dublin 8, D08 TDC9. The development will consist of: 1. Permission to construct a single storey extension to the side and rear of existing dwelling house, demolition of coal shed wall on west boundary, internal alterations, and all associated site works. 2. Permission for removal of existing front boundary railings, gate & plinth. Construction of partial walls, pillars, gated vehicular entrance & partial dishing of kerb. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of Dublin City Council, Planning Department, Block 4, Ground Floor, Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin 8 during its public opening hours (9.00a.m. - 4.30p.m.). A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the planning authority on payment of the prescribed fee (€20.00) within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application, and such submissions or observations will be considered by the planning authority in making a decision on the application. The planning authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions, or may refuse to grant permission.

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL - LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) ACTS 1963 - LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) REGULATIONS 1977 TO 1994

PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 29, 2024

SD23A/0345 Information Applicant: Gerard & Aileen Gannon Location: 62, Dodsboro, Lucan, Co. Dublin Description: Construction of a two storey detached dwelling with attic conversion; New vehicular entrance at the rear of the existing site accessed from Shackleton Way roadway; All together with all associated site works.	25 Nov 2024	Permission Additional	Extensions to Dwelling House consisting of :1.) Demolition of existing single storey areas of dwelling house and existing single storey areas of dwelling house and existing external structures to rear of dwelling house; 2.) Construction of 2-storey extension to front and side comprising new front bay windows and a new side gable ; 3.) Construction of an extended roof ridge with hipped end to existing roof; 4.) Construction of dormer structure with window with flat roofs to rear roof; 5.) Construction of single-storey and 2-storey extensions to the rear with flat roof to single-storey structures and pitched roof with hipped end to 2-storey extension; 6.) Conversion/ Alteration of Attic/Second floor Level space to a bedroom and associated areas; 7.) Construction of New Velux Rooflights to front and side pitched roof; 8.) Construction of New/ Revised Windows sizes/ positions to Side and Rear Elevations; 9.) All Consequent Internal & External Demolitions & Alterations: 10.) Construction of pedestrian / bicycle gate to side (northern) site boundary onto fortified Drive; 11.) Widening of extending vehicular gateway to fortfield; & 12.) All Ancillary site Development and Services Works.	D16K6H7 Description: Consist of an attic extension to an existing dwelling and all ancillary site works.
SD24A/0181W Information Applicant: Daare Arqam Trust Location: Units 33-34, Hills Industrial Estate, Lower Lucan Road, Lucan, Co. Dublin. Description: The overall site includes a Protected Structure (Steward's Crafts Record No. 020), Units 39-40, Hills Industrial Estates, Lower Lucan Road, Co. Dublin. The proposed development will consist of:- Change of use from gym to wholesale outlet and local shop;- Minor alterations to the elevations to facilitate the change of use;- The provision of car parking spaces, bicycle spaces and a loading bay for deliveries and;-All associated site development works.	29 Nov 2024	Permission Additional		LRD24A/0010W LRD3-Application Applicant: Cairn Homes Properties Ltd. Location: St. Finian's Way, Newcastle South, Newcastle, Co Dublin Description: An amendment to the permitted north-eastern access point linking to St. Finian's Way to allow for pedestrian / bicycle access only; and, The provision of a new vehicular point of access in the north-eastern section of the site between Phase 2, approved under LRD23A/0011, and the lands to the north that are under separate ownership, amendments to services and all associated site development works. The overall permitted housing layout will remain as per the parent permission approved by South Dublin County Council and An Bord Plean?la under the LRD process. The proposed amendment will not result in any change to the total number of units to be provided on site and no other amendments are proposed as part of this application.
SD24B/0282 Information Applicant: Jennifer & Daniel Magee Location: 242A, Orwell Park Glade, Dublin 6w Description: Planning Permission sought for new dormer roof structure to the side and rear with ventilated rooflight to existing side tiled roof: Conversion of existing attic area into a new non-habitable storage area with first floor internal alterations	26 Nov 2024	Permission Additional	SD24B/0427 Information Applicant: Sean and Niamh O'Neill Location: 255C, Orwell Park Glade, Templeogue, Dublin 6W Description: The Development will consist of; (i) demolition of single storey conservatory to rear, attached single storey garage to the side, and chimney to side; (ii) construction of part single / part two storey extension to front, side and rear of existing semi-detached dwelling, to include; covered porch to front, rooflights, and amendments to all elevations; (iii) all ancillary works, inclusive of landscaping, boundary walls and treatments, SuDS drainage, necessary to facilitate the development.	SD24A/0259W Retention New Application Applicant: Lister Machine Tools Ltd Location: Lister Machine Tools, Bluebell Industrial Estate, Bluebell Avenue, Dubin 12, D12W6DV Description: A detached single-storey storage shed to the rear of existing industrial unit.
SD24B/0293W Information Applicant: Caroline & Bryan O'Toole Location: 2, Cannonbrook Avenue, Lucan, Co. Dublin Description: a) two story extension to the side of the dwelling including; b) building up the new side gable wall to form a pitched roof with a gable end; c) conversion of the existing attic into a non-habitable room and; d) a single storey extension to the rear. This is all together with associated site works.	26 Nov 2024	Permission Additional	SD24B/0439W Information Applicant: Ronan O'Malley Deirdre Hegarty Location: 20, Wainsfort Drive, Dublin 6w Description: Widening of the front entrance vehicle access gates including the removal of the front entrance gates with the front garden wall and pillar to be partially demolished to widen the vehicular entrance to 5425mm. New porch canopy over the front entrance door to the dwelling, finished with roof tiles colour matched to the existing.	SD24B/0528W Permission New Application Applicant: Barry and Susan Smullen Location: 24, Colthurst Crescent, Lucan, Co. Dublin, K78 X273 Description: Conversion of existing attic space comprising of modification of existing roof structure, new gable window, new access stairs and flat roof dormer to the rear.
SD24B/0396W Information Applicant: Paul & Ciara Maguire Location: 179, Fortielf Road, Terenure, Dublin 6W, D6WAF82 Description: The development will consist of Alterations &	27 Nov 2024	Permission Additional	SD24B/0453W Information Applicant: Graham & Sandra Gentles Location: 33, The Crescent, Boden Park, Dublin 16,	SD24B/0529W Permission New Application Applicant: Orla and Garreth Yeates Location: 65, Monalea Grove, Knocklyon, Dublin 24, D24 N9WT Description: Conversion of existing attic space comprising of modification of existing roof structure, raising of existing gable c/w window, new access stairs and flat roof dormer to the rear.

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, December 12, 2024

Joy for Red Rhino's James



James McGuirk with coach Karl

SENSEI James McGuirk of Red Rhino Kickboxing club won the All-Ireland full contact K1 ISKA Kickboxing title two Saturdays ago, after defeating Matthew Vaugahan in the final bout, reports James Ffrench.

McGuirk and coach Karl run the Rathcoole gym, with the pair having worked together for a number of years.

Coach Karl set up the gym with McGuirk his first fighter as a coach and they have enjoyed tremendous success working together.

McGuirk became Karl's first junior and world champion to win the ISKA, his first senior ISKA champion and also his maiden professional fighter, with McGuirk now 3-0 after the weekend's victory.

The pair worked with Highland Boxing academy for the fight, something which was key in the success says Karl.

"Normally with two different clubs it's a bit difficult but I have to give a shoutout to Eddie, Padraig Hyland and all the sparring guys."

"It felt like one team for one goal."

When asked what's next for McGuirk, Karl is just focused on enjoying the moment.

"Let's just enjoy this moment", he said.

"The phone calls are coming in fast to go to America but there is nothing set in stone yet."

"I am very proud of him and it's hard to see him giving and taking it all so it's nice to get the win", he added.

Super Ellen makes it four records from four swims

Templeogue Swim Club member delighted with results in Budapest

ELLEN Walshe brought her record-breaking form into the first night of finals making it four records from four swims at the World Swimming Championships (SC) in Budapest on Tuesday evening.

Walshe, who is the Active South Dublin in association with *The Echo* and South Dublin County Council Sport Star of the Year, finished an outstanding fifth place in the 200m Individual Medley and was fourteenth overall in the semi-finals of the 50m Butterfly.

In the 200m IM the Templeogue swimmer took an additional one second off the record she had set in this morning's heats. Starting with 2:08.32 from her bronze medal winning performance at the European Short Course Championships in 2023, the 23-year-old clocked 2:06.50 this morning and 2:05.52 this evening to lower the record by almost three seconds.

USA's Kate Douglass set a new World Record to win the Final in 2:01.63.

Less than 20 minutes before the Medley Final, Walshe lowered her own 50m Butterfly Irish Record, from 25.65 in

this morning's heats to 25.45, a total of .45 of a second off her 2022 best of 25.90.

Speaking after the 200m Individual Medley Final Walshe commented 'That's an absolutely stacked heat, it's great to be a part of it with the girls and we can only build from there, but yeah, it's a massive step forward from last year and I'm delighted it's another second off this morning's swim, which I wasn't sure if we could find, but it was there, so absolutely delighted'.

On having 20 minutes between races Walshe said 'I guess the 50m I kind of just use it as a warm-up swim as well and I knew I obviously wanted to be down under 26 (seconds) again tonight and that's where I was, so I said if that's three records, then let's make it four.'

"I went into the 200 (IM) a lot more confident than I thought I would this week, because I think of the 50 (Butterfly) out in front."

Walshe is back in the pool on Thursday in the 100m Individual Medley, an event in which she set a new Irish Record of 59.30 in November.



Ellen Walshe of Templeogue Swim Club broke four records at the World Swimming Championships in Budapest
Photo by Castrovillari Photo

Peamount women appoint new manager

PEAMOUNT United have announced Gary Seery and Emma Donoghue as their management team for the 2025 season, reports James Ffrench.

Seery has previously worked as an analyst for the Ireland U21's under Stephen Kenny as well as doing so for the Ireland Senior Women's Team.

The Clare native is a UEFA A qualified coach and alongside Emma Donoghue, will look to turn fortunes around for Peamount after a disappointing 2024.

The duo will take over in the wake of James O'Callaghan's departure from the club after an eight-year stint in Greenogue.

O'Callaghan won three league titles during his tenure, after he succeeded current Ireland Women's manager Ellen Gleeson.

United finished sixth in their title defence last season, 21 points off winners Athlone Town but also recorded a memorable victory in Champions League qualifying over Belarusian champions Dinamo Minsk before bowing out against Osijek of Croatia.

Athlone have just lost their head coach Ciaran Kilduff who rejoined Dundalk as manager, with the race for the 2025 Women's Premier Division title looking as open as ever.

James O'Callaghan stepped down as Peamount manager after eight years in charge
Photo by Bartley Ramsey





Adam Olaniyan receives the Active South Dublin Sports Star of the Month for November from Thos McDermott, Head of Active South Dublin, William O'Connor, News Editor, *The Echo* and Michael McDonagh, HR Manager, Tallaght Cross Hotel Plaza Hotel

November Sports Star of the Month is Adam Olaniyan

ADAM Olaniyan became World Youth Superheavyweight Champion at the championships in Montenegro. The Jobstown Boxer became the first Irishman to hold any medals at both World and European Championships after he won gold in the latter earlier this year, an unprecedented achievement in the context of the history of Irish boxing. In Montenegro, Adam overcame the challenges of competitors from Iraq, Hungary and Mexico before being crowned this years champion. "I'm absolutely over the moon to win the gold medal at the World Youth Championships," said Adam. "It's very rewarding for all the hard work that I have put in this year since the Europeans back in April. I just went straight back into the gym and I kept going. "My coaches at Jobstown Boxing Club, they have put in so much work. I would not have been able to win it without them. They have worked so hard getting me to the finals and I'm delighted for them also," added Adam. A student at TUD Dublin, Adam is taking a well-earned break and has plenty to look forward to next year.

November Team of the Month

Shamrock Rovers U17 women's team

SHAMROCK Rovers U17s women's team clinched the League of Ireland title and Cup double. The Tallaght side have enjoyed a superb season on both the league and cup fronts in what was the clubs first titles secured at this level. In the league, they won 11 matches out of 13 in the elite phase, to see off closest rivals Waterford by five points. In the Cup final, Rovers overcame the challenge of Athlone Town 5-1. The team have Laura Fanning, Ella Kelly and Hannah Butler who are in the Ireland U17s international squad while Keelin Comiskey, Mia Murtagh, Kassie McLaughlin and Sophie Byrne are members of the U16 Ireland squad. "We are delighted to win the league and the cup," said Shamrock Rovers U17 captain Robyn Gleeson. "It's great to be part of a fantastic team and win a first title for the club at U17 level. "We are looking forward to next season and hopefully defend the title".



Shamrock Rovers U17 players Kayla Maguire, Robyn Gleeson, Keelin Comiskey from Thos McDermott, Head of Active South Dublin, David Kennedy, editor, *The Echo* and Michael McDonagh, HR Manager, Tallaght Cross Hotel Plaza Hotel

Basketball

Dublin
Lions roar
past
Swords

Abbey Seals Dublin Lions edged a 65-63 win over iSecure Swords Thunder in Division One in Coláiste Bríde, despite managing to put up only six points in the final quarter.

The Clondalkin side appeared to be coasting to victory after opening up an 18-point advantage deep into the third quarter, but with the help of Makayla Miller, who amassed a game-best 36 points, Swords battled their way back to lead by three midway through the fourth.

And it was only late free throws by Sofia Paska, who totalled 23 points on the night, that saw Lions anchor down to scrape the win.

Elsewhere, Cleveland Rockets made it four wins on the bounce after they ran out emphatic 91-61 winners over Oblate Dynamos in Lisburn Racquets Club on Saturday afternoon.

Éanna go
down to
students

It was not the return from the international break that defending champions, Griffith College Éanna were hoping for as they suffered a fourth-quarter collapse, resulting in an 85-62 loss to UCD Marian at home in Coláiste Éanna in the Super League.

Just a solitary point separated the two sides by the close of the third quarter, but Éanna were kept scoreless for almost the next six minutes while UCD put together a 17-point run, Ronan Byrne and Colm O'Reilly combining for 16 points in that period to help their side to only their third win of the season so far.

Elsewhere, Templeogue picked up only their second win of the campaign as they surmounted the challenge of EJ Sligo All-Stars 71-66 when the two sides locked horns in the National Basketball Arena.

Immanuel Allen and Tavis Fagan inflicted the bulk of the damage on the visitors as they combined for 59 points, the latter totalling 19 rebounds in partnership with Callum McGrail.

Feehan appointed to board
Olympic Federation (OFI)

BASKETBALL Ireland CEO John Feehan has been elected to the Board of the Olympic Federation of Ireland (OFI) during an EGM.

Feehan was one of 14 candidates for six non-executive director positions.

Speaking following his election to the Board, Basketball Ireland CEO John Feehan said: "It's an honour for basketball to have a voice at the highest level of elite Irish sport and I am proud to be that representative as part of the Board of the Olympic Federation of Ireland.

"The Paris Olympics proved to be another huge success for our sport, as the wider sporting community witnessed the excitement, skill and speed of 3x3 basketball for the first time on a global stage," Feehan continued. Through the introduction of Basketball Ireland's 3x3 High Performance programme in 2023, we have created the pathway for Basketball Ireland to be represented at Los Angeles 2028. It's a huge challenge for our players, coaches and volunteers, but I'm excited to see them meet it head on."

Feehan added: "The entire country was immensely proud of the success of all our representatives at Paris 2024, I look forward to working with newly elected President of the OFI Lochlann Walsh, Vice-President Sarah O'Shea and my fellow Board members to ensure we build upon that success during the coming Olympic cycle."

Lochlann Walsh was elected as the latest President of the OFI, while Sarah O'Shea was chosen as Vice-President during the Extraordinary General Meeting.



Basketball Ireland CEO John Feehan has been elected to the Board of the Olympic Federation of Ireland

Athletics

Donore's
Abdel
knocks 20
seconds of
Personal best

ABDEL Laadjel (13.29.79) knocked 20 seconds of his personal best for the 5,000m indoors distance and jumped from 19th to 5th on the all-time Irish rankings when he competed in the 6th edition of the Sharon Colyear-Danville season opener indoor meet at Boston University on Saturday evening (07.12.2024).

Competing in the second-ranked heat, the Donore Harriers athlete ran in 6th place through the opening 2 kilometres reached in 5.25. He then progressed to 4th and made a bold move for victory with about one-kilometre remaining. However, he was unable to match the superior finishing speed of Yaseen Abdallah (13.22.29) of the Arkansas Razorbacks and was pipped on the line for the runners-up spot by Joey Nokes (13.29.61) of the BYU Cougars.

A clearly delighted Abdel said afterwards: "I am well happy with that." Put into context, his new time is superior to the indoor times of great Irish athletes such as Mark Carroll, John Treacy, Daragh McElhinny and John Doherty. He is now 25th in the overall Irish rankings for the 5,000m.

After having spent over 3 years at Providence College on Rhode Island, Laadjel announced last week that he will be joining the prestigious Oregon Ducks (see photo) Division 1 intercollege team from January 2025. He paid tribute to Irish athletics legend Ray Treacy, his Providence Friars coach: "I am forever grateful to Ray for teaching me this sport from the ground up and helping me grow every step of the way. Now I'm excited to work with Coaches Jerry Schumacher and Chris Solinsky at Oregon, and I'm looking forward to the next chapter."



Donore Harriers Abdel Laadjel in second during the indoor meet at Boston University

GAA

Davis
U21
march
into
decider

THOMAS Davis will contest the Go-Ahead Ireland Dublin Under 21 'B' Football Championship decider against St Brigid's this weekend after they defeated Fingal Ravens by a single score in Rolestown on Saturday.

Storm Darragh had an expected influence on the game as it finished goalless, 0-10 to 0-09.

Davis started the game excellently and thanks to scores from impressive midfield pairing of Jack O'Connor and Sean Benton and the free-taking of Fionn Lynch, they went in at the interval five points to the good.

Following the restart, the Tallaght side worked relentlessly to prevent any clear-cut Fingal scoring opportunities with both Kai Young at full-back and Jamie Palmer at centre-back both starring at the heart of the visitors defence.

Captain Kevin Mullarkey delivered a leader like performance, along with Ross Mullarkey who looked sharp throughout.

A late Tadhg Farrelly point proved to be the decider as Davis advance to the final against Brigid's on Saturday.

Another away side St Mary's Saggart saw victory at the weekend as they became the U21 'D' champions after a 5-01 to 2-08 win over Na Fianna.

Despite playing against the wind in the opening half, Mary's managed to head in at the break in front courtesy of goals from Jacob Comiskey and Tadhg Morris.

Na Fianna showed resilience in the second half limiting their opponents to very little from open play but the concession of two penalties to Dean Simpson along with hallmark performances from centre-back Harry O'Keefe and midfielder Dan O'Kelly secured the victory for Mary's.

Elsewhere in the 'G' final, St Mark's lost 2-04 to 3-11 against Trinity Gaels.

Sarsfields topple Faughs in U21 decider

Lucan boys do enough to lift hurling title

LUCAN Sarsfields clinched the Go-Ahead Ireland Dublin Under 21 'A' Hurling Championship title after they defeated Faughs 3-10 to 1-08 at a stormy O'Toole Park on Saturday.

Storm Darragh did have an adverse effect on proceedings, preventing a fluent game of hurling from breaking out.

Faughs started the better of the two sides and won a penalty within three minutes which James O'Brien duly converted.

Sean Harkness hit over two frees in response as O'Brien and Harkness led the early charge for their sides.

Faughs increased their lead to two but it proved to be short lived as a well worked move resulted in Darragh Meehan finding the net for Lucan.

Further points from David Mulqueen and Harkness stretched their lead out further compounded by the third major of the day as Darragh Lyons expertly found Liam Garrigan to fire home past Kevin Hogan in the Faughs goal.

Oisín Walsh got one back on the stroke of half time to cut their arrears to five at the interval.

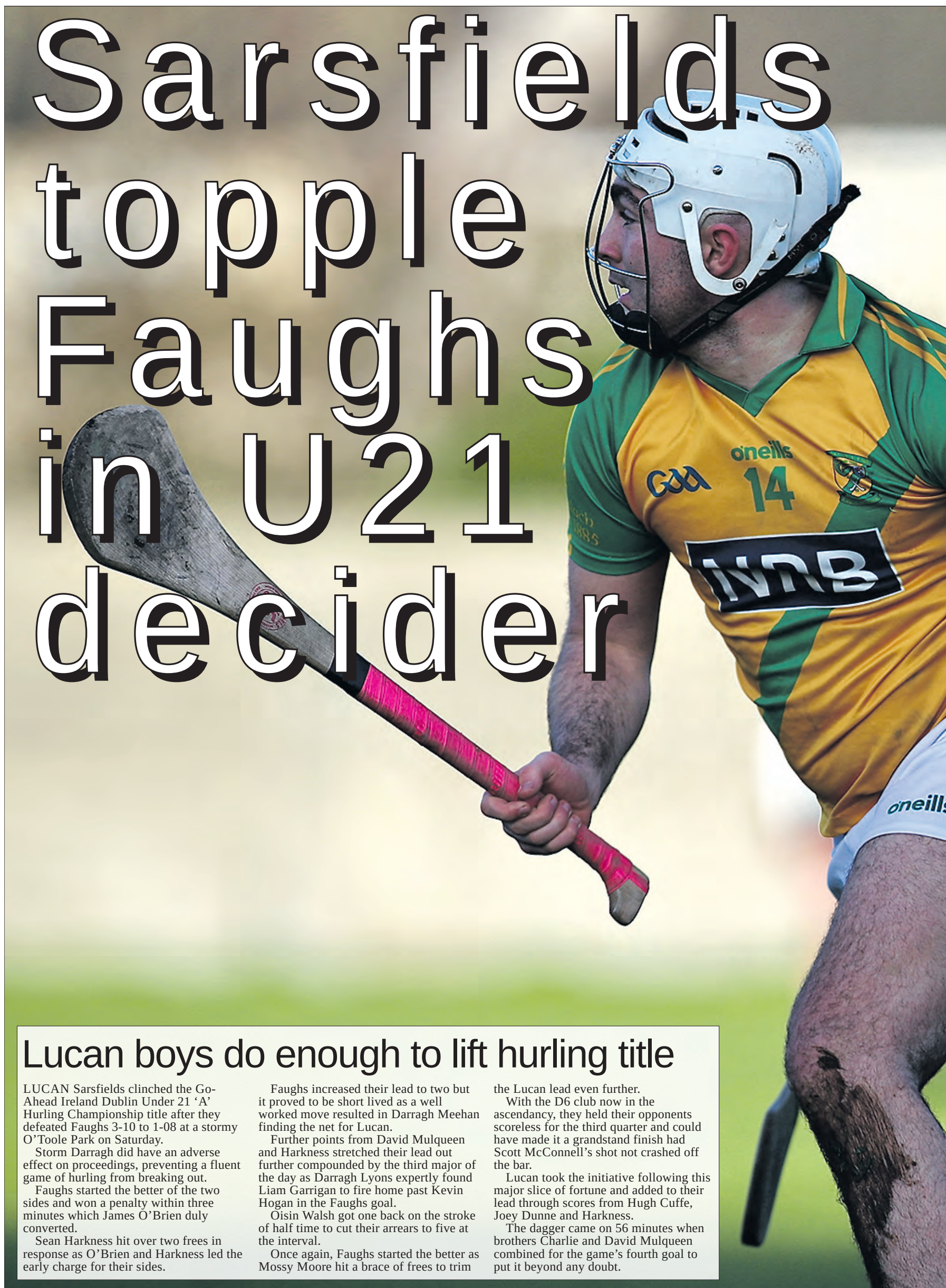
Once again, Faughs started the better as Mossy Moore hit a brace of frees to trim

the Lucan lead even further.

With the D6 club now in the ascendancy, they held their opponents scoreless for the third quarter and could have made it a grandstand finish had Scott McConnell's shot not crashed off the bar.

Lucan took the initiative following this major slice of fortune and added to their lead through scores from Hugh Cuffe, Joey Dunne and Harkness.

The dagger came on 56 minutes when brothers Charlie and David Mulqueen combined for the game's fourth goal to put it beyond any doubt.



Scott McConnell Faughs in action against Massimo Pappalardo of Lucan Sarsfields in O'Toole Park. Photo by Martina McGilloway



Lucan Sarsfields celebrate their victory over Faughs in the Go-Ahead Ireland Dublin Under 21 'A' Hurling Championship in O'Toole Park

Delight for Boden U21 camogie team beating Lucan in final



Ballyboden St Enda's U21 camogie team

BALLYBODEN St Enda's were crowned Dublin U21 'A' Camogie Champions after a 3-09 to 1-10 victory over Lucan Sarsfields on Friday evening.

Storm Darragh threatened to take away from a potential classic between two evenly matched sides which thankfully didn't transpire.

Lucan started well and found scores just that bit easier to come by in the first half.

Boden's Julie Vaughan took the fight to Sarsfields early on as she worked tirelessly across the middle third.

Despite the even nature of the opening half, due to their clinical eye in front of goal Sarsfields took a four-point lead heading into the interval.

Such a cushion means very little in hurling, and Boden proved this with an impressive tally of 3-04 in the second half to turn the game on its head.

The introduction of Abbie Fitzgerald brought a boost as they settled and found their rhythm thanks to a cracking goal from Karrie Rudden, along with some fine scores from Emma Moran and Leonie Power.

Boden's backs were also key, keeping Lucan to just 0-4 for the second half.

The strong second half performance stemmed from an inspirational performance from Sadie Codd in full back, as well as a cool, calm, and collected Enya Kennedy in goal.

The all-female management team of past and present players were undoubtedly immensely proud of St Enda's second half performance.

Superb work rate, fight and skill were on display from all those who stepped onto the pitch on Friday evening, ultimately resulting in the mammoth five-point win.

Just two of the team are ineligible to play at the same grade next year, with the future of camogie within the club looking very bright indeed.



Action from the U21 camogie final between Lucan Sarsfields and Ballyboden St Enda's

Athletics

Dixon makes European debut

TALLAGHT Athletic club's Cormac Dixon made his debut at European Cross Country Championships on Sunday last. The talented young athlete travelled through a few time zones from Providence College, Rhode Island, USA to Antalya in Turkey a few days earlier to join the other members of the Irish U20 team.

Competing early on Sunday morning he went out fast with the leading group of athletes for the first half of the 4,800m contest but unfortunately jet lag seemed to take its toll, and he faded back through the field of

runners to finish 4th of the Irish sextet in mid field in 34th place. Although disappointed, he will have learned valuable lessons from the experience.

Elsewhere, in the Valencia Marathon in Spain, David O'Callaghan recorded a respectable time of 2:50.32, as did Gerry Dore and Gareth O'Keefe who recorded times of 3:01.06 and 3:05.6 respectively, while Matthew Reid & Cian O'Connor received their trophies after finishing first and second in their respective Dublin U18 and U19 Juvenile Cross Country league series.



Cormac Dixon competing for Ireland in Turkey



David O'Callaghan, Gerry Dore and Gareth O'Keefe

Cycling

Josh to cycle in Europe for Italian team



Josh Callay has joined the team in Italy

Lucan Cycle Racing Club rider Josh Callay has accepted a contract to ride in Europe next year for Campana Imballaggi Geo&Tex Trentino.

The Italian racing team has created World and European Champions in the past and Josh will be hoping that this leads to a professional contract where he will compete in the world's biggest races like the Tour De France and represent Ireland at the World Championships.

The 18-year-old, who has been racing for six years, will compete in numerous big races throughout Italy including the Giro Nex gen (u23 giro) as well as events in other European countries such as Spain and Poland.

Campana are hoping to build and expand their calendar further for next year.

Callay will join up with the Italy based team for a short training camp just after Christmas.

The Dubliner is a student at C.U.S secondary school on Leeson Street where he is doing his leaving certificate.

Cricket

Delany plays key role for Cricket team

KNOCKLYON'S Laura Delany played a key role as she helped Ireland Women's Cricket team secure a historic 3-0 clean sweep over Bangladesh.

Delany was named Player of the Match as Ireland took the win with a dramatic penultimate ball victory in the third T20I of the three-match series on Monday.

After a tightly contested affair, 15 was needed from the last over to take the win and Delany stepped up striking three consecutive boundaries in the last over to get Ireland home with one ball to spare.

The Dubliner finished with an impressive 36 runs from 31 deliveries for the day, the second highest out of her team.

Speaking after being

crowned Player of the Match, Laura Delany said, "Yeah I'm really delighted with how that last over went but more I'm just delighted for the team.

"We played some really good cricket in this T20 series and to finish it off with a win today just shows everyone what we are capable of," she added.

"It's just brilliant to be back in around the girls I was injured there for a bit but it's an amazing team to be part of and I'm so delighted to be back on the pitch wearing the green jersey."

Ireland Women have now completed their first-ever multi-format tour of Bangladesh, finishing with an historic 3-0 T20I series win.

The squad will be back on the road in January when they tour India for three ODIs.

Knocklyon's Laura Delany played a key role as she helped Ireland Women's Cricket team secure a historic 3-0 clean sweep over Bangladesh



Soccer

Former Rovers player Jess enjoying football with Forest

By **Christine Allen**
sport@echo.ie

IT'S Friday evening, early December, and Storm Darragh is about to make landfall over Ireland.

Across the water, former Shamrock Rovers centre half, Jessica Hennessy, has paused her Christmas shopping in the bustling city of Birmingham to pick up *The Echo's* call.

Like the scheduling of our interview itself, I'm about to learn that the twenty-three-year-old's transfer to Nottingham Forest in September of this year was a last-minute deal.

Opportunity knocks

"So on the Thursday (before I left), my agent rang and just said, 'Look, there's a chance Nottingham wants to sign you,' Hennessy recounts, seeking refuge from the noisy shopping centre. "I was like, oh okay, that's great! My season is over in five games time—five weeks or something like that. And he was like, 'Oh no, the deadline is actually tomorrow.'"

"I didn't think it would go through just because of the short notice," she shares. "I went into work on Friday morning and then my agent rang and said, 'Look, Jessica, this is going to go through. You have to get to the airport. I was on a flight to England with my dad at half two that afternoon.'"

Hennessy's departure was, without a doubt, a significant blow to the Tallaght tiki-taka's backline.

However the centre-half is quick to reveal that the support from the Rovers HQ was solid.

"Collie (O'Neill—head coach) was the first one to ring me, and he was just saying to me like, 'It's a great opportunity. I would never step in your way to not let you sign.' So once I had Collie's approval, Ciaran Ryan's approval, and all of the club's approval, I felt better about doing it.

"The girls sent me lovely messages telling me to go and smash it," she adds. "Naturally I did feel guilty about leaving. But I have to say Rovers were so professional about the whole thing, and they were so good to me for the last two years. I can't thank them enough for everything they've done because I wouldn't be half the player I am on and off the pitch if it wasn't for them."

With the full blessing of both her former teammates and the club, the Hoops fan favourite was now within a hair's breadth of realising her childhood dream.

It was then, in midair, that the prospect of becoming a professional footballer (and the change that this would invariably bring) dawned on the Westmeath native.

"It was frightening," says Hennessy. "I was asking my dad and my mom, 'Is this the right thing? Am I doing it too fast? And they were just like, no."

"But in the back of my head I knew I had been prepping for this for so long. I knew Rovers were always going to be there for me if it didn't work out—Collie said that, you know, 'we would welcome you back with open arms.' And I did appreciate that. So that's why I just said, Look, I'm going to take a chance, and if it doesn't work out, I can always come home. I'll regret it if I don't."

2024 campaign

The Rovers 2023 Players Player of the Year switch from green and white

to Garibaldi Red came off the back of a difficult six months for The Hoops—a season in which their first league win did not materialise until June.

"Mentally, it was a tough season," Hennessy surmises. "Last year we maybe over-exceeded (expectations), and this year we under-exceeded. But I think that sometimes you need to have those seasons to really look at yourself as players."

"Obviously, we didn't win the games that we wanted to win, and we didn't get into the cup final like we wanted to. But for how the season went for us, we still didn't do too badly. We got into a final...and I think as a group, we definitely got stronger."

Rovers Women fans will know all about Hennessy's trademark last ditch interceptions, persistence to win the ball and strength.

The former Hoops two seasons in Dublin 24 were a masterclass in the art of defence - a collage of neat challenges, developed alongside the formidable Maria Reynolds, that ultimately caught the eye of those over on Trentside.

"Maria and I had the same mindset and the same calmness when we played," says Hennessy. "When I left, Maria really took my position and made it her own. She was absolutely brilliant. Yes, I was still watching the Rovers games! I couldn't help myself—it was still my team at the end of the day!"

Settling in The East Midlands

Hennessy's move to the banks of the River Trent coincides with a period of promise for women's football at Forest.

As part of an ambitious vision for the club as a whole, owner Evangelos Marinakis has declared his commitment to the establishment of a

fully professional women's side from the start of the 2025/26 season.

An intimidating and uncharted environment for the majority of players coming from the underfunded Women's League of Ireland.

For former Shamrock Rovers defender Jess Hennessy?

A little. But not so much.

"I was lucky to have had the chance to experience a semi-professional setup at Rovers before turning fully professional," she reflects. "It meant that the transition to Forest wasn't as much of a massive step. The Rovers environment set us up for other clubs down the line. For me, that made all the difference."

For Hennessy, entering the historic 30,445 seater City Ground is a moment she will never forget.

"When they brought me into the stadium, it was a pinch-myself moment," she says, beaming through the speaker. "Like, my breath actually went. I thought Tallaght was big! The stadium is unbelievable. I could actually just relive that moment for the rest of my life."

Patience is a virtue

A regular starter for The Hoops, Hennessy has needed to master the skill of patience underneath forewoman Davies—"Her" footballing brain is just unbelievable," she chimes.

Since making her debut on September 29th, the number 6 has secured just two 90-minute starts for Forest alongside a smattering of minutes across the league and cup.

A challenge that Hennessy anticipated or a source of frustration? "I knew it was going to be tough," she tells us. "Training is just on a different level, and it took me a while to get used to playing with new



Jess Hennessy in action
Photo credit NFFC Women

players. Carly and the lads kind of just said that they're building me in slowly because I just needed to settle. That's what I've done, thankfully. I'm training well now, so hopefully things start to change.

"But I'm in no rush either. Like Mollie Green and Kate Longhurst, they're two massive names in the centre half position, so while I might not be getting minutes, I'm learning so much from them. I'm just delighted to be on this journey and this path."

As our conversation draws to a close, a tannoy announcement drowns out Jessica's voice. Rather than seeing it as an unwelcome interruption, it

sparks another question—that of a senior international call-up.

"Since I was a little girl, I've always dreamed of playing for Ireland," says Hennessy. "I got no caps when I was underage—I had a few trials, but I didn't get any caps, so I think that's made me even hungrier to get a senior cap now. But my main priority is just settling down, getting minutes at Forest, and hopefully I'll get a cap. If it's in ten years time or two years, I'll just be happy to be involved. But I'm just enjoying my football. If it happens, brilliant. If it doesn't, it is what it is—everything happens for a reason."



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The Echo is inviting nominations for the following categories in the 2024 Amateur Sports Awards presentation night to take place in The Plaza Hotel on Thursday, January 30, 2025

**Sports Club of the Year
Sports Manager/Coach of the Year
Sports Volunteer of the Year
Sports Club Development of the Year**

Nominations must be emailed to sport@echo.ie along with contact details and a brief reason for the nomination. The closing date for entries is Friday, December 20, 2024 and the winners will be announced on the Awards Night.

Soccer



Shelbourne manager Damien Duff from Ballyboden with the SSE Airtricity/Soccer Writers Ireland 2024 Men's Personality of the Year Award and his parents Mary and Gerry

SHELBOURNE celebrated further success at the SSE Airtricity/Soccer Writers Ireland Annual Awards Banquet 2024 as Damien Duff and Conor Kearns both collected awards.

The Shels manager was given the Men's Personality of the Year award while Kearns claimed Goalkeeper of the Year award. Duff has been manager at Tolka Park for three seasons,

the first of which he finished 7th and reached the FAI Cup final, the second season saw Duff guide Shels to a respectable 4th place finish and last season they won the most coveted prize in Irish football and stopped

Shamrock Rovers in their pursuit of five in a row. The former Shamrock Rovers player and coach poached fellow award winner Kearns from Galway United after an impressive 2022 season with

Galway United in the First Division. The former Ireland u21 international has proved to be a major coup for Shels, keeping 30 league clean sheets across the last two seasons.

Lucan United are in flying form

LUCAN United signed off for the winter break with a resounding 7-1 victory over FC Eagles, in Airlie Park Astro on a sunny Sunday morning, reports John Mooney. The Eagles might have thought that Storm Darragh had passed, but Lucan produced their own storm and blew them away in this DDSL Under 18 Major clash. It's been a tough season so far for the

home side, after stepping up a division, but the lads have been starting to show a bit of form over the last few weeks and Sunday was the icing on the cake. They opened their account inside 10 minutes when Liam Keenan gathered the ball just outside the area and, with no defender closing him down, he smashed home the opener. Three minutes later that score was doubled as Mohamed Haj was taken



Lucan United's Conor Crooke keeps an eye on the movement of FC Eagles Jakub Warchim



Lucan United had a resounding 7-1 win over FC Eagles Photos by John Mooney

down in the area, dusted himself down and slotted the resulting penalty. Instantly you feared for the Eagles and it went on to get worse as, on the half hour mark, Andrew Walsh crashed home number three to give them a comfortable lead. The onslaught continued after the restart when Lucan were awarded another penalty, in the 50th minute, that Conor Crooke coolly dispatched. While straight from the kick-off it was 5-0 to the home side when Keenan slipped the ball to Walsh, who was in acres of space, and he was never going to miss such an opportunity. It was tough on the side that is propping up the division, but the home

side were not in a forgiving mood and continued to pile forward in search of more goals. Two more were to follow as Haj bagged his second of the morning, and Michael Gartland finished off the rout. However, there was some consolation for the Eagles hard work, when sticking to an impossible task, as Karol Konichi netted just before the final whistle sounded. LUCAN UNITED: Sean Ryan, Muhammad Haj, Cian Gorman, Andrew Walsh, Ivan Wall, Liam Keenan, Michael Gartland, Nicolae Compiimulti, Kevin Azeh, Conor Crooke, Ethan Kristic, Jamie O'Connell, Alex Drozb, Saad Khan

Jason extends contract with St Pat's'

JASON McClelland has extended his contract at St Patrick's Athletic. McClelland arrived in Inchicore ahead of the 2020 campaign and will be heading into his 6th season as a Saint next year. The 27-year-old from Tallaght has made 128 appearances for the club, scoring nine times, in the current St Pat's squad, only Chris Forrester (378 appearances) and Jamie Lennon (218) have played more times for the club. The former UCD midfielder was part of Pats 2021 and 2023 FAI Cup winning squads, coming on in both finals against Bohemians at Aviva Stadium. Speaking following the announcement of the extension, McClelland said, "The last five seasons at the club has been great so I'm looking forward to my 6th year in 2025."

"I've loved it here, St Pat's has been part of my life and my families life over the last five years and I'm looking forward to continuing that." Manager Stephen Kenny also commented, "Jason has been an integral part of St Patrick's Athletic for the last five seasons, so we're pleased that he's agreed to extend his stay with us. "He has an extremely high level of professionalism, his attitude to training is always first class and he is a brilliant team-mate", he added. Pats have been busy in recent weeks with Ryan McLoughlin and Romal Palmer also signing new deals at the club, along with former Waterford FC Barry Baggley joining the club for an undisclosed fee from Fleetwood Town.

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Soccer

Kenny out and Burns in?

Reports emerged on Friday that Shamrock Rovers could be set to lose their top goal scorer Johnny Kenny with the striker set to be handed an opportunity in the Celtic first team once his loan deal expires in January.

According to the Scottish Daily Record, Kenny will be given a chance as the club's third choice striker, behind Kyogo Furuhashi and Ireland international Adam Idah.

The Sligoman made the move to the hoops in January 2022 and went on loan to Scottish Championship side Queen's Park before returning to Ireland with Rovers where he has spent the last two seasons.

The Ireland u21 international has enjoyed a breakout year this season, scoring 18 goals from 37 games, seven of those coming in Europe with Kenny sitting joint fifth top scorer in the Conference League this season on three goals.

The news was coupled with reports by the Irish Independent that Rovers have had another bid rejected by MK Dons for Darragh Burns after an initial offer was deemed not sufficient.

The hoops are keen to keep the 22-year-old who has impressed on loan at the club this season.

Rovers look to make it a high five in Europe

SHAMROCK Rovers welcome Bosnian champions Borac Banja Luka to Tallaght Stadium on Thursday night as they look to make it five games unbeaten in the UEFA Conference League, reports James Ffrench.

Stephen Bradley's side earned a mightyly impressive point away to Austrian giants Rapid Vienna last time out thanks to Johnny Kenny's third goal of the competition.

That result leaves the hoops as one of only six sides still unbeaten in the competition and in an extremely strong position in the table, as they sit 10th on eight points, a total which should see them through in the top 24 regardless of their final results.

Despite this, Rovers will look to finish as high as possible in the table, with an unlikely top eight finish still possible but a more realistic objective of a potential home second leg on offer in the play-off round in February.

Their opponents on Thursday, Borac Banja Luka, sit 15th in table, just a point off the hoops with their domestic season still in play, an advantage they will look to use against their opponents who have played just two competitive games in the last three weeks.

Despite winning their domestic league last year, Borac sit third currently, six points off top spot, with their European exploits clearly taking a toll.

Their debut season in the group stages of a European competition has seen them earn some very credible results, including a 1-1 draw at home to Greek giants Panathinaikos and wins over Rovers opening day opponents APOEL Nicosia and Austrian side LASK.

Bradley should have no fresh injury concerns heading into his side's fifth game of the competition, as they look to create more history in Tallaght on Thursday.



Shamrock Rovers will be hoping for more celebrations in Tallaght Stadium on Thursday. Photo by George Kelly

Tamhlacht storm to a big victory

TAMHLACHT FC 2nds mirrored Storm Darragh last Saturday morning when they welcomed Glasnaion FC 2nds to Sean Walsh Park, Tallaght, and blew them away on an 11-2 scoreline, reports John Mooney.

This game was in the bag inside the first 15 minutes of this contest as the home side had raced into a 4-0 lead, and even though the visitors pulled two back in the space of five minutes on the half hour mark this result was never in doubt, in this UCFL Division 3A game.

The only doubt was who would pick up the match ball, as both Brandon Brooks and Adam

Wallace both scored hat-tricks in a totally one sided affair.

Having said that, unlike most games of this magnitude, Glasnaion battled on until the final whistle, even though they were chasing a lost cause, and never once dropped their heads despite the mounting scoreline.

Graham McNevin opened the home side's account, from an Eoin Moore pass, on seven minutes and between the 11th and 16th minute they were 4-0 up as Brooks bagged two and Wallace one.

Glasnaion were shell shocked but gadthered themselves and Brandon Kenna reduced the



Tamhlacht FC's Calvin Dunne keeps Glasnaion FC's Ross Carroll at bay during their UCFL Division 3A game last Saturday



Tamhlacht FC 2nd's had an empathic win over Glasnaion FC 2nd's beating them 11-2 Photos by John Mooney

deficit to two, on 30 minutes, with two quick fire goals, but, really, that was as good as it got.

Three minutes later Brooks completed his hat-trick, and Wallace brought their tally to six just on the stroke of half time.

I thought Tamhlacht would have made wholesale changes at the break, however, they continued with their strong 11 and three minutes after the restart it was 7-2 when Moore slotted home.

Wallace completed his hat-trick on 56 minutes before Moore, Jordan Longhi and Francis Brooks finished off the scoring.

With only one more game before the Winter break Tamhlacht are second in the Division and can look forward to the second half of the season, when they can concentrate on chasing leaders Santry Forest down.

TAMHLACHT FC: S. Brophy, C. Dunne, C. O'Neill, F. Brooks, J. Walsh, R. Longhi, C. Dunne, B. Brooks, E. Moore, A. Wallace, G. McNevin, C. Kelly, A. Dunne, J. Longhi, S. Tormey, J. Whelan, B. Kinsella, K. Murphy, G. Travers.



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