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Bridge Club celebrates 50 years playing cards page 40

Boomers Pub aparthotel plans are refused page 45



see page 35 to 39

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Man storms out of dock after a jury convicted him of the murder of grandfather (55)

Cold-blooded killer 'executed' man 'without mercy'

A COLD-blooded killer who "executed" a grandfather "without mercy", shooting him repeatedly when he answered the front door at his mother's home, shouted: "F**k you and your fair trial" and stormed out of the dock after a jury convicted him of murder on Tuesday, *reports Fiona Magennis.* See page 12

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***The Echo* Newspaper Group**
covers the following areas:

TALLAGHT: CITYWEST, KNOCKLYON, TEMPLEOGUE, RATHFARNHAM, WALKINSTOWN, BALLYCULLEN, SAGGART, RATHCOOLE & BLESSINGTON
CLONDALKIN: NEWLANDS, MONASTERY, RED COW, BAWNOGUE, DEANSRATH, LIFFEY VALLEY & NEILSTOWN
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Managing Director: Emma Kennedy *emma@echo.ie*
Executive Editor: David Kennedy *editor@echo.ie*
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Next Edition

The next edition of ***The Echo*** in the shops from Thursday, Dec 12, 2024. **Don't miss it!**



SUSPECT: A member of the public walked into Ballyfermot Garda Station with a suspect device

Garda Station closed due to suspect device

This is a serious development which puts the whole community at risk

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

BALLYFERMOT Garda Station was closed to the public on Monday after suspect devices were found at the station.

The station re-opened later on Monday night following a response from the Irish Defence Forces and an army bomb-disposal team which responded to the scene.

The station was closed as a precaution and the devices were removed for destruction and technical examination.

A garda spokesperson told *The Echo* that on Monday morning "a member of the public entered the station and suspect devices were found at a nearby location."

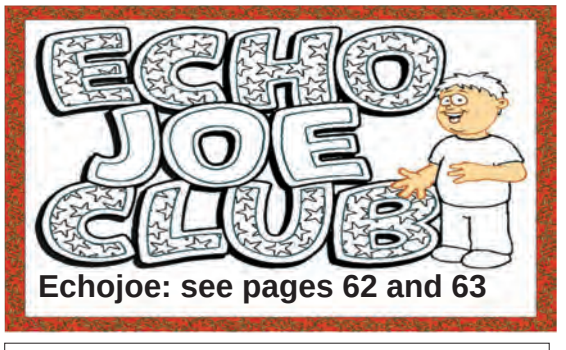
"As a precaution the Garda Station was closed and a cordon was put in place. The Irish Defence Forces Explosive Ordnance Disposal were requested."

Cllr Daithí Doolan (SF), chair of the Joint Policing Committee, said it was a worrying incident but thankfully nobody was hurt.

"This is a very serious development and puts a whole community at serious risk. This is totally unacceptable. And those involved need to be stopped.

"Only for the member of the public seeing the device and bringing it to the garda station the situation could be a lot worse.

"I would encourage anyone with any information to please contact the gardaí to ensure those behind the incident can be arrested and face justice," said Cllr Doolan.



Echojoe: see pages 62 and 63



December 5, 2024

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Residents groups concerned over HSE primary care centre plans

Over-centralisation of health services may take away from town core

By Maurice Garvey
maurice@echo.ie

PLANS for a primary care centre in Rathcoole have raised concerns amongst local resident groups about the suitability of the site and "over centralisation" of health services in the four districts area.

The HSE proposes to move an existing primary care centre in Citywest, and build a four-storey primary care centre building in Citywest Campus, Citywest Campus, Garters Lane.

According to planning documents, it will provide general primary care, mental health, disability and older person services.

Whilst welcoming primary care services for the catchment area, Lynn Tierney, on behalf of the Saggart Area Residents Association, says the proposal lies within the country of residential developments planned and proposed for the area.

In a submission to SDCC for the planning proposal, Tierney believes the proposed development would require rezoning of the land at the proposed site.

"Changes to zoning is of concern in relation to any precedent that will be set for rezoning of surrounding lands, without having consideration for the long-term structural, community and infrastructure needs of the area," said Ms Tierney.

A submission to the plan by Alan Fairman, Rathcoole Community Council, states that there is no documentation provided by the HSE to "justify the size of the proposed building or indicate the planned population base it is designed to serve."

"There is also no analysis from a business or community impact perspective on the effect the centralisation of such services will have on the core of the three small rural towns. Saggart, Rathcoole and Newcastle all have existing pharmacy outlets, GP practice offices, dentists, physiotherapy practices, counselling services and specialist clinics."

Fairman expresses concern that an "over-centralisation of health services" will take away from town cores in addition with the "potential cross subsidisation of business space and parking costs."

Mr Fairman also notes that the site belongs to Citywest Hotel owner Cape Wrath Unlimited Company, who have their own plans for the site, and that this proposal could lead to a legal challenge."

The development will be accessed via the existing avenue to the Citywest Campus entered from Garters Lane at the existing traffic-light-controlled junction, with a new internal road layout from the existing roundabout on the access avenue to provide two vehicular entrances to car-parking within the subject site. The car-parking will be divided into a dedicated staff car-park and a visitor car-park with both to be controlled by barrier access and a total of 158 car-parking spaces provided. The proposal also includes bicycle-parking, service yard, pumping station, SuDS drainage, PV panels at roof level, signage, landscaping, boundary treatment and all associated site works and services.

CONCERNS: An artist's impression of the primary care centre at Citywest Campus

> "There is also no analysis from a business perspective . . . Saggart, Rathcoole and Newcastle all have existing pharmacy outlets, GP practice offices, dentists, physiotherapy practices, counselling services

Centric360 acquires HCS cybersecurity service provider

CITYWEST-based IT and cybersecurity service provider HCS has been acquired by Centric360, *reports Maurice Garvey.*

Investment vehicle Centric 360 is owned jointly by Pamela Farrell and Brian Larkin, former directors of the Dublin Technology Group, which was acquired in 2020 by Eir.

The acquisition was followed by further investment in HCS throughout 2025, including the expansion of its service portfolio and team.

Over the past 30 years, HCS, who have offices in Citywest, Waterford and Cork, has become a highly successful managed services business spanning cyber security, cloud, digital transformation and telecoms.

Since 2020, HCS has increased its turnover from €3.5m to a projected revenue of €8m in this financial year and more than doubled its team from 24 to 50 employees.

Larkin and Farrell see significant scope for further investment in the business in 2025, scaling the existing HCS service portfolio and expanding the sales and professional services teams.

The acquisition also includes the purchase of HCS headquarters in Waterford.

The current HCS owners and directors – Sean Hegarty, Dan Hegarty and Neil Phelan – will continue in their roles.

Pamela Farrell will become Chairman and Farrell will assume the role of Managing Director.

HCS CEO Neil Phelan said: "It was important for us to join forces with people who understand our brand and history. Together, we hope to continue driving growth not just for the business but for our employees and customers too."

Pamela Farrell added that they look forward to further "investing in operations, expanding the team and delivering value for money for our customers."

"In turn, we intend to open up new opportunities while building on the organisation's existing legacy of delivering transformational, innovative services which customers can trust," said Ms Farrell.

ON THE MOVE: Dan Hegarty (Head of Sales, HCS), Pamela Farrell and Brian Larkin, (owners of Centric360), Neil Phelan (CEO, HCS), and Sean Hegarty, (Head of Operations, HCS)

Business starts on page 41

House in Tallaght on rental market at €3,400 per month

A HOUSE in Tallaght on the rental market is available for €3,400 per month, *reports Maurice Garvey.*

The four-bed property in Millbrook Lawns is recently refurbished, according to property agents Ray Cooke.

It is listed by Ray Cooke's as a "bright and spacious" property in the "ever popular and extremely sought-after location of The Crescent, Millbrook Lawns."

"Dublin city centre is only a 21-minute drive or a quick hop on the close by Luas," says the listing on the property agent's website.

The house is well laid out with light filled rooms after been recently refurbished and decorated throughout.

It boasts a "stunning extension to the rear, spacious sunny rear back garden with storage shed and a fully fitted modern kitchen with all mod-cons. Location is ideal being close to every conceivable amenity including schools, shops, bars and restaurants, parks, sports and leisure facilities, public transport and Luas lines, The Square shopping centre, TUD Tallaght and Tallaght university hospital."



RENTAL: The property in Millbrook in Tallaght

Ray Cooke also has a five-bed property in Brownsbarn available to rent for €4,000 per month.

Split over three floors, the Brownsbarn Wood house contains four bathrooms, five double bedrooms, a games room, balconies to the front and back, and two designated parking spaces.

Meanwhile, a five-bed on Cromwellsfort Road, Walkinstown, is on the rental market for €3,750 per month.

Conerney Letting Department say the property is BER C1 rated, has two bathrooms, is in "excellent condition" with double glazed windows, fitted gas central heating system with timer, large radiators and two stove fires, one of which is fitted with a back boiler that also heats the water when the fire is lit.

Man seriously injured in hit and run

A MAN sustained serious injuries following a road traffic collision on the Cheeverstown Road in Tallaght.

The man in his twenties was travelling on an e-scooter and sustained the injuries after a collision with a car on Friday, November 1.

The incident occurred shortly before 7am and the car involved in the collision failed to remain at the scene.

Gardai have issued an appeal for witnesses to come forward who may have camera footage, including dash-cam and were travelling in the area between 6.45am and 7.15am. They are asked to make this footage available to investigating officers.

A garda statement issued Monday, December 2 said: "Gardaí are appealing for witnesses following a serious road traffic collision that occurred in Tallaght, Dublin 24 on Friday, November 1, 2024.

"Gardaí and emergency services attended a collision involving a car and an e-scooter on the Cheeverstown Road shortly before 7am.

"The car involved in the collision failed to remain at the scene.

"A man (20s) who was travelling on an e-scooter sustained serious injuries as a result of the collision.

"Gardaí are appealing for any witnesses to this collision to come forward".

Anyone with any information is asked to contact Tallaght Garda Station on (01) 6666000 the Garda Confidential Line on 1800 666 111, or any Garda Station.

Teenager died from drug overdose outside 3Arena

Inquest hears teen collapsed outside a concert on St Patrick's Day

By Seán McCárthaigh
news@echo.ie

A TEENAGE girl who collapsed outside a concert at the 3Arena in Dublin on St Patrick's Day this year died from a drug overdose, an inquest has heard.

Aoibhe Martin Quinn (17) from Willow Drive, Clondalkin, Dublin 22 collapsed outside the concert venue on North Wall Quay where she was treated by emergency services.

Thousands of young people were attending a performance by techno DJ, BLK, in the 3Arena on the evening.

The opening of the inquest into the teenager's death at Dublin District Coroner's Court on Wednesday heard she was brought to the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital by ambulance but was pronounced dead a short time later at eighteen minutes past midnight on March 18.

The coroner, Aisling Gannon, said the results of the postmortem on the deceased's body confirmed she had died from "acute MDMA toxicity."



INQUEST: Aoibhe Martin Quinn tragically passed away in March

MDMA, which is commonly known as ecstasy, is a controlled drug regularly associated with raves and dance clubs.

Ms Gannon said the postmortem showed there were no other contributory factors in Aoife's death.

Aoibhe's mother, Sarah Quinn, gave evidence of being present in the Mater hospital when her former partner, Garrett Martin, formally identified his daughter's body to gardai.

The inquest heard that Mr Martin was unable to attend the hearing due to circumstances beyond his control.

Sergeant Adrian Kildea gave evidence that he was alerted to an unresponsive female being given CPR by emergency crews outside the 3Arena who died a short time later after being brought to the Mater where CPR efforts had continued.

Sgt Kildea said inquiries had established Aoibhe's identity and he met her parents in the hospital.

Detective Inspector Ken Hoare applied for an adjournment of the inquest under Section 25 (1) of the Coroners Act on the basis that criminal proceedings are under consideration in relation to the teenager's death.

Det Insp Hoare informed the coroner that a criminal investigation was ongoing but he expected a file on the case would be forwarded to the DPP "in a number of weeks."

The coroner granted the application and adjourned the hearing for mention until May 28, 2025.

Offering her condolence and sympathy to the teenager's relatives, Ms Gannon noted they had "suffered a terrible bereavement."

Media reports published following the concert last March claimed three people were injured during the event at which someone jumped from the tiered seating area onto the ground below.

Videos shared on social media showed a girl falling from an upper tier down into the standing section of the arena.

Photos outside the 3Arena also showed young people lying on the ground, seemingly heavily intoxicated, before and after the concert.

In a statement following the event, a spokesperson for the 3Arena confirmed that three people were injured during the performance by BLK and had been treated by medical staff.

The spokesperson also stated that the concert had "extensive security staff in attendance" as well as "a substantial medical team" with gardaí present "inside and outside throughout the event."

However, the 3Arena did not comment on the death of the teenager outside the venue.

Gardaí had also deployed a large number of officers from its public order units on standby as part of the operational plan for policing the event.







SMILES: Ben Grealy, Sean O'Shea and Tom Dunbar



HAPPY: Emma and Francis

Over 150 Santa cyclists brave the wintry conditions for charity

Tenth anniversary of Laurels Crew Santa Cycle raised over €5,000 for Ronald McDonald House

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

"The craic was superb. We got through town easily and back to the Laurels in Clondalkin village, all in all a two-hour trip

OVER 150 cyclists braved the conditions on Sunday for the annual Laurels Crew Santa cycle.

This was the 10-year anniversary of the event, created by Damien Long and Denis McCarthy in 2015

The crew's chosen charity partner this year is Ronald McDonald House and although the final total is yet to be added up, the Santa cycle has raised over €5,000.

Derek Cummins, a Laurels Cycle Crew volunteer said the camaraderie created by all involved helped to make it a memorable day.

"There were 155 plus cyclists taking part. The weather was terrible when we started out at 4pm from the Laurels pub in Clondalkin village, but people just got on with it. By the time we got to Phoenix Park, it calmed down a bit.

"We had the bus with us, music, motorbikes and support from garda motorbikes, people were feeling really great.

"The craic was superb. We got through town easily and back to the Laurels in Clondalkin Village, all in all a two-hour trip."

On their return to Clondalkin village, the crew were welcomed by family and friends, then headed into the warmth of the pub for some mince pies and a few tipples.

"I have to say the how fantastic the local choir are when we arrive back in Clondalkin Village. We want to also thank the Order of Malta, all the volunteers, motorbikes, and gardai for their support in making it a great day, and it is all for a good cause with all proceeds going to Ronald McDonald House

"We will certainly do it again next year, and as Damian said on the day, we are just so proud of the effort everybody put into it," said Derek.



CHEERS: Danielle and Roz



JOY: Paula Swane, Luke Swane, Rita Conroy, Brad Lerman, and John Conroy



FUN: Triona Cross and Sinead Rafferty

Two trees removed ‘regrettably’ according to council authority

Public backlash in October led to council saying it will look to its communications skills

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

TWO TREES have had to be “regrettably” removed on independent specialist arborist advice in Lucan village, according to South Dublin County Council.

Part 8 plans for revamped Lucan village scheme were passed in 2022, and included plans for the removal of seven trees.

Work on the green and removal of trees led to a public backlash in October with the council saying they will look at how they communicate their plans.

At the Lucan area meeting, Cllr Liona O’Toole (Ind) asked for an update on the current status of the Village Green, including progress, details of tree removal/planting, and commitment to installing Christmas lights, which used to be hung around trees at the green.

In response to Cllr O’Toole, SDCC said the public consultation stage for the scheme included the removal of seven trees was indicated, while two trees (spruce and birch) were expected to be retained.

“Regrettably, those two additional trees have had to be removed on independent specialist arborist advice, but will be replaced by mature trees later in the project. The birch was removed as its roots have already considerably damaged the wall causing stonework to fracture and dislocate and this will in time cause a collapse of the wall. The spruce tree was originally assessed as being suitable for removal and replanting, but a detailed risk assessment has subsequently concluded that this is not feasible,” said SDCC.

The council said the Christmas lights there were damaged “due to entanglement with branches” and could not be salvaged for re-use, “however replacement lighting will be arranged” in consultation with the Festival Committee and councillors.

“Planting to the village green will include trees and shrubs such as spindleberry, serviceberry, hydrangea and lavender as well as over 600 perennials and grasses,” said SDCC.

Cllr O’Toole said the removal of trees in the Village Green caused concern within the community and reiterated calls to improve communication in future developments.



UPDATE: An artist impression of the Lucan village plans

Night Belongs To Us event in Adamstown

AS PART of their ongoing commitment to inclusion, and supporting the development of young artists, SDCC Arts Office have invited the neurodiversity support group ThisIsMe to co-produce the latest The Night Belongs To Us event in Adamstown Youth and Community Centre on Friday, December 6.

The Night Belongs To Us is an events programme for young people that features live performances by young musicians, DJs, spoken word artists, and comedians. The programme provides emerging performers with opportunities to showcase their work in front of young audiences, and addresses a need expressed by young people for opportunities to socialise and attend events in their local communities.

On December 6, ThisIsMe Neurodiversity, together with NOISE Music and Alternative Entertainments, will create an event for young people that is accessible to all, including neurodivergent audiences and performers. The Night Belongs To Us in Adamstown Youth and Community Centre will take place in a specially designed sensory space that will provide young audiences with a unique live experience, and allow neurodivergent young people to be fully included. It will feature live acoustic performances by members of the SubSounds Youth Music Collective.

For over 15 years SubSounds have been providing young musicians with opportunities to create and perform their own music. It has built a national reputation for excellence, and the current collective has a membership of over 70 talented young musicians.

SubSounds is managed by Alternative Entertainments, funded by Music Generation South Dublin, and supported by CONTACT Studio.

Comhairle Contae
Átha Cliath Theas
South Dublin County Council

CISTE NA STRUCHTÚR STAIRIÚIL (CSS) 2025

D’éirigh go hiontach leis na tionscadail a cuireadh i gcrích i mbliana faoi Chiste na Struchtúr Stairiúil (CSS) agus d’fhógair an Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta **Ciste na Struchtúr Stairiúil do 2025.** Is í Irenie McLoughlin, an tOifigeach um Chaomhnú Ailtireachta, Roinn LUPT i gComhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas, a dhéanfaidh é a riar thar ceann na Roinne.

Príomhaidhm **Chiste na Struchtúr Stairiúil** is ea aire a thabhairt do struchtúir agus d’fhoirgnimh stairiúla agus iad a athchóiriú ar mhaithe leis an bpobal.

In 2025, déanfar deontais idir €50,000 agus €200,000 amháin a thairiscint faoi Chiste na Struchtúr Stairiúil, agus díreofar ar thionscadail níos mó a bhaineann le feabhas, athchóiriú nó athúsáid na struchtúr oidhreachta, sa chás gur:

- Léiríodh tairbhe shoiléir do phobail nó don phobal i gcoitinne, nó
- Léiríodh tairbhe shoiléir do mhuintir na háite (ní mór tabhairt faoin bpróiseas pleanála do thionscadail dá leithéid, de réir mar is gá)

Ní mór na doiciméid seo a leanas a chur leis an iarratas:

- **Foirm Iarratais Chomhlánaithe A**
- **Ráiteas Cuimsitheach Modha maidir leis na hOibreacha** (léigh an treoir chun tuilleadh faisnéise a fháil maidir le hábhar an ráitis mhodha)
- **Seicliosta an Iarratais**

In **Imlitir CSS/2024 ‘Ciste na Struchtúr Stairiúil’,** leagtar amach feidhmiú na scéime agus tá gach foirm iarratais ábhartha le fáil inti. Ní mór an Imlitir a léamh go cúramach. Tá **doiciméad treorach ar leith chun cabhrú le hiarratasóirí** cur isteach ar an Scéim CSS ann chomh maith (Leabhrán Treorach d’Iarratasóirí CSS 2024). Féach Suíomh Gréasáin SDCC chun tuilleadh sonraí agus an fhoirm iarratais a fháil www.sdcc.ie.

Nóta: Is féidir le hiarratasóirí cur isteach ar **Chiste na Struchtúr Stairiúil** agus ar an **Scéim Infheistíochta san Oidhreacht Thógtha** araon, é sin ráite ní féidir le hiarratasóirí leas a bhaint as maoiniú faoin dá cheann.

Féadtar iarratais faoin gciste seo a dhéanamh le ríomhphost **planningdept@SDUBLINCOCO.ie**
(Ábhar: Scéim Deontais um Chaomhnú Ailtireachta – CSS25) nó sa phost chuig:

An Rannán um Chaomhnú Ailtireachta,
An Rannóg Talamhúsáide, Pleanála agus Iompair,
Comhairle Contae Bhaile Átha Cliath Theas,
Halla an Chontae, Tamhlacht, Baile Átha Cliath 24.

Tabhair do d’aire gurb é an spriocdháta chun iarratais chomhlánaithe a chur isteach chuig Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas ná roimh **5pm, an 17 Eanáir 2025.**

Ní ghlacfar le hiarratais dhéanacha.

HISTORIC STRUCTURES FUND (HSF) 2025

After another successful year of completed projects under the Historic Structures Fund (HSF), the Department of Housing. Local Government and Heritage has announced the **Historic Structures Fund for 2025.** This will be administered by Irenie McLoughlin, Architectural Conservation Officer, LUPT Dept, South Dublin County Council on behalf of the Department.

The primary focus of the **Historic Structures Fund** is on caring for and restoring historic structures and buildings for the benefit of communities and the public.

For 2025, the Historic Structures Fund will offer grants from €50,000 up to €200,000 only, and focus on larger enhancement, refurbishment or reuse projects involving heritage structures, where:

- A clear community or public benefit has been demonstrated, or
- A clear residential benefit has been demonstrated (such projects must be advanced through the planning process as necessary)

Applications must include all the required documentation listed below:

- **Completed Application Form A**
- **Comprehensive Method Statement for the Works** (refer to guidance for further information on the content of a method statement)
- **Application Checklist**

Circular HSF/2024 ‘Historic Structures Fund’ sets out the operation of the scheme and includes the relevant application forms. The Circular should be read carefully. There is also a **specific guidance document to assist applicants** in applying under the HSF Scheme (HSF 2024 Guidance Booklet for Applicants). See SDCC Website for further details and application form www.sdcc.ie.

Note: Applicants can apply under both the **Historic Structures Fund** and the **Built Heritage Investment Scheme,** however applicants cannot avail of funding under both.

Applications under this fund may be made by email **planningdept@SDUBLINCOCO.ie** (Subject: Architectural Conservation Grant Scheme – HSF25) or by post to:

Architectural Conservation Section,
Land-Use Planning and Transportation Department,
South Dublin County Council,
County Hall, Tallaght, Dublin 24.

Please note that the deadline for submissions for completed applications to South Dublin County Council is before **5pm, 17th January 2025.**

Late applications will not be accepted.

Web: www.sdcc.ie

Pedestrian bridge 'very high expense for council to put in'

Calls made to address traffic concerns at junction on dangerous motorway

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

CALLS have been made for a pedestrian bridge to be built at a "motorway" junction at Chapelizod Bypass for pedestrian safety.

Previous calls have been made by councillors to address traffic concerns at junction, especially with Gaelscoil Inse Chór located beside it.

However, the potential high cost for a pedestrian bridge would be among the reasons why it is unlikely Dublin City Council will commit to the endeavour.

BusConnects have plans for the road network but local representatives believe it needs intervention from the city council traffic department, and a pedestrian bridge has been one of the ideas proposed.

Speaking at the recent Dublin South Central area meeting, Cllr Michael Pidgeon (GP) asked for a meeting between the city council and the school to discuss safety and the pedestrian crossing.

Colm Ennis, a city council engineer from the traffic department said traffic signals are already in place for what is a wide road.

"Using signalised crossing is the best way to cross that road. With regard to a foot bridge…it would be a very high expense for the council to put in. Examples say, outside RTE in Donnybrook, and places like that, and are they being used as much as possible."

Cllr Darragh Moriarty (Lab) offered Palmerstown junction as another location nearby as an example that has a foot bridge.

During his tenure in the traffic advisory group, Mr Ennis said they haven't installed any pedestrian bridges over the last 10 years.

However, he did commit to speaking with the advisory group and getting back to councillors with an update.

At an area meeting last July, Cllr Vincent Jackson (Ind) said it is a major crossing with the complex and St John of Gods.

"A huge amount of pedestrians use the memorial to get to the park and they get in that way," said Cllr Jackson, who believes BusConnects is being "used to kick everything down the road."



CONCERNS: The junction on the Chapelizod bypass

Youth Project celebrate 20 years of 'many successes'

Projects primary aim has been encouraging self-respect in young people

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

PAST and present members and staff celebrated "the many successes" of 20 years of Killinarden Community Council Youth Project.

On Friday, November 29, over 100 people attended KCCYP's 'birthday' at the Plaza Hotel.

A project founded in 2004 with three full-time youth workers, KCCYP identified the needs of young people who weren't engaged in any activities or services in Killinarden.

Their drop-ins became immediately popular with over 150 participants per week and the Late Night At Risk groups brought the project forward.

Adult volunteers started joining along and helped the local youths enjoy "many adventures during Mid Term, Easter/Halloween and Summer breaks including trips to the Aran Islands, Alton Towers, The Blarney Stone, Disneyland Paris, Surfing in Donegal and The Giants Causeway."

The Project encouraged young people to partake in sports or general training which led them to successful lifestyles, and its community-based approach created long lasting trust and understanding with them.

It then adapted to new approaches to youth work, while continuing to offer youths "safe spaces to relax, chill out and interact."

The KCCYP centre currently includes a dedicated youth space, the climbing wall, a gym and the newly added music room, and provides a platform for one-to-one support.

"Our primary aim has been encouraging self-respect in our young people, and supporting them as they achieve their goals," said KCCYP Senior Youth Worker Trish Kane.

"We believe being open and honest with them is vital and that all young people can succeed if nurtured and encouraged to do so."

Trish and Eileen Hedderman, another youth worker, received a gift on behalf of the community council "for the tireless dedication and commitment to the young people of Killinarden."

"Without the guidance and support of this ship's incredible captains Hilda Hamilton and Cecil Johnston, none of our work could be possible," said Trish.

To learn more about the Project's mission and activities, visit www.killinardencoco.ie/youth-project. *See photos on page 50*



CELEBRATION: Patricia Kane, Hilda Hamilton and Eileen Hedderman enjoying the celebrations

Over €50k raised at pitch and putt memorial cup



FUNNY CLOTHES: Participants at the Mary O'Toole Memorial Cup

OVER €50,000 has been raised to date by the Mary O'Toole Memorial Cup, a pitch and putt game established 14 years ago by local man Jeff O'Toole in memory of his aunt, *reports Alessia Micalizzi.*

Mary, from Crumlin, was a key figure in Jobstown Community Centre and did great work for the Tallaght community.

The money goes to a different local charity every year according to what the winners choose.

On Saturday, November 23, €5,300 that was raised this year went to Féileacáin, supporting parents of stillborn babies.

The Cup takes place in Bohernabreena and requires participants to wear funny clothes or costumes to "have a laugh while supporting serious causes."

FESTIVE NIGHTS AT THE ABBERLEY

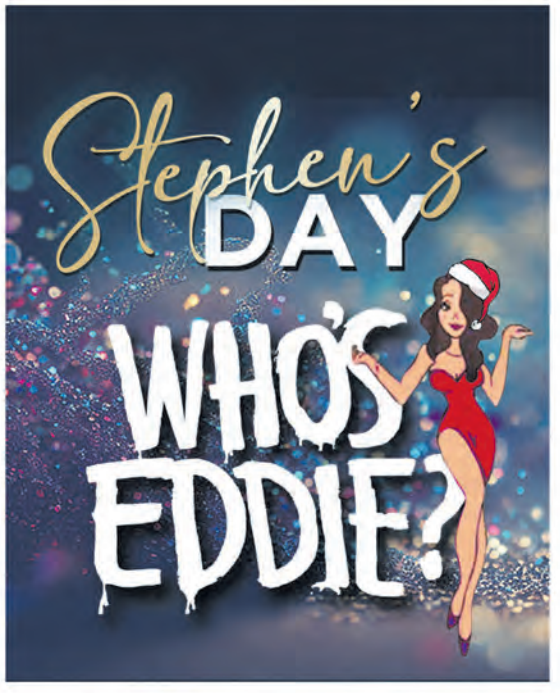


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court reports

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Man who stole electric scooter jailed for two years

A MAN who stole an electric scooter in a "mean-spirited theft" has been jailed for two years, *reports Eimear Dodd.*

John O'Brien (44) with an address at Cloverhill Prison, but formerly of no fixed abode pleaded guilty to the theft of an electric scooter on Dame Street on January 31, 2022. He has 119 previous convictions including for theft, robbery and drugs offences.

Dublin Circuit Criminal Court heard that the injured party went to a Centra on Dame Street around midnight, leaving his e-scooter inside the door of the shop while he went to pay.

He noticed an argument between shop security, O'Brien and two other men at the door. During this altercation, O'Brien grabbed the e-scooter and took off in the direction of Trinity College.

The injured party chased after O'Brien. When he caught up, he pleaded with O'Brien to return his e-scooter. O'Brien threatened the injured party, saying he would kill him if he didn't leave the scooter.

While he was afraid, the injured party again asked for his e-scooter back, then grabbed it. Another man, who had been part of the argument outside the shop, punched the injured party to the back of his head.

This man told the victim if he didn't let go, he would be killed. The court heard this man had shouldered the injured party in the shop to prevent him chasing O'Brien.

The victim was terrified, but kept holding onto the e-scooter.

Gardai were in the area and spotted O'Brien riding the e-scooter in the middle of the road. The injured party was still holding on and shouting for help.

They intervened and arrested O'Brien. Nothing of evidential value was obtained during interview. O'Brien told gardai he was homeless and when shown CCTV, said he couldn't remember much.

O'Brien was on bail for other offences at the time of this incident and is currently serving a sentence, the court was told.

The investigating garda agreed with Luigi Rea, BL, defending, that his client left school at 14, completed training courses before succumbing to addiction issues.

Mr Rea said this was a "mean offence" committed late at night and his client recognises what he did was wrong. O'Brien is remorseful and regrets his actions, counsel said.

Mr Rea said the death of his client's father and two sisters had a profound effect on him.

O'Brien now accepts he must deal with his addiction and has been taking steps while in custody.

Imposing sentence on Friday, Judge Orla Crowe said this was a "mean-spirited theft", but thankfully, the e-scooter was recovered in part as gardai were in the area.

Judge Crowe noted that O'Brien has a "chronic" addiction and his life had descended into the "inevitable chaos that ensues from that", but is doing well in custody.

She noted the aggravating features include his previous convictions and that he was on bail at the time of the offence.

The judge noted O'Brien is currently in custody, with an earliest release date in December 2027 and that certain structures had been put in place to support him when he is released.

Having considered the mitigation, she imposed a two-year sentence backdated to when he pleaded guilty. Judge Crowe said this sentence would run alongside the sentence O'Brien is currently serving and the same structures will remain in place for his release.

Jail for series of burglaries and carrying €33k worth of cocaine

Man (23) with 44 previous convictions is jailed for five years and three months

A MAN who was caught carrying over €33,000 of cocaine and was also involved in a series of burglaries has been jailed for five years and three months, *reports Eimear Dodd.*

Keith McCormick (23) of La Touche Drive, Bluebell, and Riverview, Church Road, Mulhuddart, pleaded guilty at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court to possession of drugs for sale or supply on May 12, 2020.

He further pleaded guilty to other charges, including burglary, unlawful use of a vehicle, possession of stolen property, and driving without a licence or insurance on dates between September 2020 and May 2021.

McCormick, also known as McCormick-Smith has 44 previous convictions including for theft, burglary, unauthorised taking of a vehicle, criminal damage and possession of drugs.

In February, McCormick was sentenced to three years and two months with the final 12 months suspended for his role in a series of offending on January 23, 2022 during which a man died.

McCormick and co-defendant Adam Murphy (23) had been carrying out a spate of crimes, where they were robbing cars with the intention of selling them. Murphy stole Ian McDonnell's car outside his place of work in Dublin 22, before driving off with Mr McDonnell on the bonnet.

Mr McDonnell was thrown from the bonnet of the car and onto the roadway. He died shortly afterwards.

Murphy of Cherry Orchard Crescent, Ballyfermot, Dublin 10, pleaded guilty to manslaughter and was handed a 12-year sentence with the final two-and-a-half years suspended on strict conditions.

Imposing sentence in February, Judge Dara Hayes said McCormick had been "involved in a chain of events that led to the death of an innocent man".

The court heard that McCormick's earliest current release date is June 2027.

Sentencing McCormick today/yesterday (Wed) Judge Orla Crowe noted that McCormick had committed a series of offences, many of which were committed while on bail.

She imposed a global sentence of six years and six months before she suspended the final 15 months on strict conditions including that McCormick keep the peace and be of good behaviour for two years and engage with the Probation Service for 12 months upon his release from prison.

Judge Crowe said McCormick was from a pro-social and law-abiding family and that it had been accepted by various gardaí that he was "very vulnerable and easily led". It was also accepted



that he is now remorseful.

She said he was an early school leaver who became involved in drugs and got into debt due to his addiction. He had to deliver drugs to discharge the debt.

Judge Crowe accepted that McCormick has since been working towards his rehabilitation in prison and a probation report before the court was positive but he is still considered him to be at a high risk of re-offending, mainly due to his addiction. She noted that he is now drug-free which the judge said was "to be commended".

In relation to the drug offence Judge Crowe noted that the legislature deemed the offence so serious that it carried a maximum penalty of life imprisonment and a minimum mandatory term of ten years.

She said this was to reflect the seriousness with which the legislature and society views drug dealing and "the chaos" the drug industry causes.

At a sentence hearing last week the court heard that McCormick was seen by gardai cycling on Thomas Street in the early hours of May 12, 2020.

He didn't stop when gardai tried to talk to him and took evasive action, discarding a package onto the ground.

Gardai managed to stop McCormick and the package, which contained 479g of cocaine valued at €33,568, was recovered.

He was arrested, made full admissions when interviewed and was co-operative. He told gardai that he was delivering the drugs to a particular location to repay a small drugs debt and apologised.

Garda Shane Cunningham agreed with Kathleen Leader SC, defending, that her client said he panicked when he saw gardai and apologised for his involvement.

It was further accepted he didn't know what was in the package, but was aware it was related to criminal activity.On September 30, 2020 a homeowner in Mount Merrion became aware that a number of people were at their car outside their property.

A male voice was heard to say "reverse it out the drive", while another voice said "get in".

When the homeowner went outside, the Mercedes car was still in the driveway. He noticed the car door was open and the key – which had been in the hall – was gone. Scratch marks were found on the front door lock.

Around 3am, gardai observed a group of men including McCormick in another vehicle. The key for the Mercedes car was found when this car was searched.

On December 27, 2020, two cars, one of which contained a €1,000 buggy and other items, were taken from outside a property in Templeogue.

One of the cars was later recovered and DNA samples taken from the vehicle matched McCormick's.

The second vehicle and items, including the buggy, were not recovered.

In a victim-impact statement, the injured party said this had a profound impact on their family, causing feelings of loss, violation and heightened vigilance.

The following month, a Range Rover was taken from outside a property in Leopardstown following a burglary on January 10, 2021.

In a separate incident on the same night, a handbag, containing bank cards and a €500 voucher, was taken from another car parked outside a house, also in Leopardstown.

This bank card was used to carry out a number of transactions in petrol stations in Ballymount and Lusk.

The Range Rover and another stolen car, a Kia Sportage, were seen on CCTV driving in convoy on the M50.

McCormick was seen on CCTV leaving the passenger side of the Range Rover at one petrol station and, later in the driver's seat of the Kia Sportage. He put fuel into the Kia Sportage then drove away without paying.

Runners found during a search of McCormick's house in late January 2021 matched those he was seen wearing on the CCTV.

The owner of the stolen handbag said in a victim-impact statement that her sense of security was "shattered" following this incident and she is now nervous in her home.

The owner of the Kia Sportage outlined the significant impact on his partner and children in his impact statement. He said he suffered a financial loss well in excess €17,000 which included the car's value and new tools, which he had recently bought for work.

On May 21, 2022, a Skoda jeep belonging to a man working a farm in the Dublin 22 area was taken. The vehicle was reported stolen and was later spotted by gardai in the Station Road area of Clondalkin.

Gardai followed the jeep, which parked in a housing estate, then three men got out. McCormick was in the driver's seat.

They told gardai they'd bought the car an hour earlier for €1,000. McCormick was arrested.

He did not provide gardai with a driving licence or proof of insurance.

Investigating gardai agreed with Carol O'Doherty BL, also defending, that McCormick is easily led, and other individuals were always involved in his offending. It was accepted that McCormick's pleas were of value.

Probation and psychological reports were handed to the court.

Ms Leader noted that McCormick has a number of previous convictions and some sentences are currently under appeal to the Court of Appeal.

She asked the court to take into consideration his guilty plea, apology, co-operation and his young age at the time.

He is from a pro-social family and left school after his Junior Certificate. McCormick completed further training and some work history.

Ms Leader said McCormick is "easily led" and became involved with an anti-social group. He started to use drugs at 16 and built up a debt, which he had to repay by delivering the cocaine.

She said McCormick had no involvement with the cocaine, except to take it from one location to another.

Ms O'Doherty said McCormick is aware he is facing a long period in custody. She noted that he built up a large number of convictions over a two-year period, but does not wish to be involved in further anti-social behaviour.

The court was also asked by defence counsel to consider the principles of proportionality and totality when imposing sentence.

Call for answers into baby's tragic death from Meningitis B

Parents brought their baby son to Tallaght Children's Hospital emergency unit

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

"TOO many unanswered questions don't let them find their peace," said an interpreter on behalf of Nicolae (28) and Olesea (24) Marandici, who lost their son at CHI Temple Street in September.

The couple, who live in Citywest, called for an independent inquiry into how their seven-month-old baby Mihai was treated in Tallaght Children's Hospital's emergency care unit.

Originally from Moldova, the couple spoke to *The Echo* with the help of an interpreter.

Mihai's experience with the hospital started on Sunday, September 22, when his body's high temperature worried his parents – they had previously associated it with the baby's teeth coming out.

In the emergency unit, he was tested and given medications, while Nicolae and Olesea struggled to be explained about what was going on by the staff. The three stayed for six hours until they had to go back home because Nicolae had to work the next day.

The following day, Mihai's temperature was still high, and he was seen by a GP who prescribed him antibiotics and referred him to Tallaght's emergency unit again, noting that he had to be treated urgently.



TRAGEDY: Baby Mihai with parents Nicolae and Olesea

This time, the family spent the night in the emergency department. Mihai was tested again and given more medication which could bring down the temperature.

It was on the early morning of Tuesday, September 24, that he started developing red spots everywhere, from his neck to his belly, and hips.

The parents recall again that "they weren't really told anything and that they kept ringing for staff from the hospital room," but with no response.

The spots, which were revealed to be a symptom of Meningitis B, were initially downplayed to an allergic reaction to the antibiotic, and Nicolae and Olesea were told not to worry because the blood tests results were okay.

"Around 5am, Mihai's blood pressure started being very low, and the doctors decided to transfer him to the Children's Hospital in Temple Street," said the parents.

There, they were told he was suffering from a septic shock, and that he had a 30pc chance to survive but that he could have disabilities if the infection reached its brain.

In a very sudden deterioration of the situation, they were then informed that Mihai could be transferred to a hospital in Stockholm, Sweden, where they would have had the right treatment for him.

Just as they were browsing for plane tickets, another doctor approached Nicolae and Olesea and told them that Mihai was in his last heartbeats, and to come see him if they wanted to say goodbye.

A baby covered in red spots and his skin having gone purple around his eyes, they said they struggled to recognise him and that he wasn't "the same Mihai."

The pathologist's investigation confirmed Mihai tested positive to Meningitis B, which needs to be treated in a short window of time.

"This means Tallaght Hospital didn't give the right treatment at the right time," the parents believe.

"Did they just lie to us when they were saying everything was okay, or could they just not realise it on time?"

These are among the distressing questions that Nicolae and Olesea are now living with, and that made them feel like they needed to pursue the truth.

After travelling to Moldova to give Mihai a proper service with their family, the couple first met with an Irish solicitor on Friday, November 22.

The investigation is ongoing to find out if the right care was given to Mihai during his time in Tallaght Hospital. Reports will have to be shared with CHI Temple Street too, which means it might take weeks or months for the Marandicis to finally receive answers.

In the meantime, they still struggle to realise what happened and feel like they have "lost their purpose."

"Olesea is not fit to work yet, Nicolae says Mihai was his reason to keep working hard," said the interpreter. "They are traumatised and cry all the time. They just don't know how to start living again."

"They couldn't stay in the same house they were renting when Mihai was alive, so they are living with friends now."





Calls for factories to dispose of material during Halloween

Residents are concerned groups of youths are starting fires as early as August

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



CONCERNS: Council workers removing bonfire material supported by Gardai on Mayberry Road coming from Broomhill on Halloween day

THE record number of bonfires lit in the lead-up to Halloween was one of the main concerns raised at the Kilnamanagh Neighbourhood Watch meeting on Monday.

In a packed St Kevin's Family Resource Centre, residents from the area called for local factories to dispose more carefully of their flammable material in the future, and take their bit of responsibility within the bonfires issue.

According to a spokesperson for Kilnamanagh Neighbourood Watch, the bonfires typically lit by groups of youths started around the end of August then continued increasing until the week following Halloween night.

"Both the Gardaí and South Dublin County Council were very good during that period," said the spokesperson. "But they can only do so much."

"The industries are being negligent even in terms of damage to the environment and we believe new bylaws need to be introduced."

Speaking of garda involvement in the community, according to the residents it would be good for the young people of Kilnamanagh to see more gardaí around and to have a closer relationship with them as it used to be in the past.

"However, residents believe that issues like the bonfires come more often from youths from outside of Kilnamanagh, arriving here with the Luas," added the spokesperson.

> **"The industries are being negligent even in terms of damage to the environment and we believe new bylaws need to be introduced.**

Canisters and the abuse of other drugs were discussed at the meeting as other issues among local youths.

Car break-ins are also heavily concerning the residents of Kilnamanagh, alongside illegal parking at the Luas roundabout.

"There are signs showing parking is forbidden on certain sides of the roundabout," the spokesperson for Kilnamanagh Neighbourhood Watch said.

"Three or four cars are usually parked on each of those sides and it's getting very dangerous."

At Monday's meeting, Gardaí announced they will start issuing tickets for those drivers.

Lastly, they reminded residents to dial 999 rather than the individual stations for emergencies or to report crimes, as a call to the station will have to be passed on to the 999 line anyway.

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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Holiday season starts in style

JINGLE BELL ROCK: Shamrock Rovers FC super fan, nine-year-old Dara Moran is pictured with Shamrock Rovers FC footballers, from left, Scarlett Herron, Aaron Greene, Pico Lopez and Áine O'Gorman and Director of Nursing Fionna Brennan, Clinical Director Ike Okafor, Assistant Director of Nursing Blaize Whelan and CNM 2 Joppa Lynne Paris in CHI at Tallaght where they helped turn on the Christmas lights and get the holiday season started in style. Photo by Mark Stedman

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Cold-blooded killer 'executed' grandfather 'without mercy'

Man storms out of the dock after a jury convicted him of the murder of grandfather (55)

A COLD-blooded killer who "executed" a grandfather "without mercy", shooting him repeatedly when he answered the front door at his mother's home, shouted: "F**k you and your fair trial" and stormed out of the dock after a jury convicted him of murder on Tuesday, *reports Fiona Magennis.*

The jury of six men and six women deliberated for eight hours and 20 minutes before returning the unanimous verdict on Tuesday against Cailean Crawford (28), who had pleaded not guilty to the murder of Thomas McCarthy (55) on July 27, 2020 at Croftwood Park, Ballyfermot, Dublin 10.

Crawford is already serving a jail sentence for conspiring to murder gangland criminal Wayne Whelan, who survived a September 2019 murder attempt but was subsequently shot dead following another attack two months later.

Mr McCarthy's partner, Nia O'Reilly, wept and shouted: "You murdering rat. Weasel. Pig," at Crawford as he left the court. After proceedings concluded, Ms O'Reilly apologised to the court for her earlier outburst.

The jury agreed with the State's case that Crawford was the assassin who fired several times, fatally injuring Mr McCarthy, having come to the scene in a blue Ford Fiesta car which was seen driving in and out of the area on CCTV.

Following Crawford's outburst, Mr Justice Tony Hunt commented: "The mask slips I suppose members of the jury…He hasn't even the courage to stay here and listen because he knows what I'm going to say in a moment."

After the verdict was returned, Mr Justice Hunt thanked the panel for their hard work and diligence and told them they should have "no regrets" and "no remorse" about the verdict they had reached when they look back at the case.

Referring to Crawford, the judge said: "He's not an unlucky man whose only crime was to lend a phone and a van to another man. He's not a victim of circumstance. He is, in fact, a very dangerous individual."

He told the jury that as a result of their verdict, "the good people of Ballyfermot", whom they had heard Crawford "slur" in the witness box, will be able to "live free of him for some time".

He said what was needed to perpetrate a crime like this one was "someone cold-blooded", someone who is "a shell of a human being" and who "doesn't have any emotions".

"The amount of people who would be prepared to do something like this are in short supply," said the judge.

Mr McCarthy, who had five children and two grandchildren, was living in the UK at the time and had returned home to visit his family and his mother, who lived at the address in Ballyfermot.

Prosecuting counsel Bernard Condon SC had told the trial there was "undoubtedly more than one person involved" in a "conspiracy" over the murder. He said the



MURDERED: Thomas McCarthy was murdered in July 2020

State's case was that Crawford was the gunman who repeatedly shot Mr McCarthy "quite viciously and without mercy".

The 12 jurors rejected the defence case that Crawford, last of Clifden Terrace, Ballyfermot, was involved in drug dealing and had loaned a phone and a GoVan he had hired on the morning of the killing to associate Charles McClean.

McClean (35) was described earlier this year by a Central Criminal Court judge as a "remorseless" criminal, after he sentenced him for calling Mark 'Guinea Pig' Desmond to a drugs meeting in a Dublin park, where the gangland figure was gunned down.

McClean, who was already serving consecutive sentences of 16.5-years for facilitating the murder of Thomas McCarthy and conspiring to murder Wayne Whelan, was jailed for an additional three-and-a-half years for impeding the apprehension of the person who murdered Mr Desmond.

The State had argued that Crawford was the person who was driving the GoVan and that he was also the driver of the blue Ford Fiesta which was seen moving in and out of the area on CCTV.

Mr Condon said it was the prosecution case that a group of people were involved in planning and carrying out the murder of Mr McCarthy, with a number of cars used which were purchased using false names. He said that movements of the accused's van and other vehicles involved, including a black Mercedes, a Skoda, a Ford Fiesta, and a Toyota Avensis, showed "dry runs" being carried out in the days before the murder.

Crawford took the stand during his trial and told the jury that he was being "blamed" as the "centre point" of a murder he didn't commit after he loaned the van to McClean. He said he had handed the van over to a man with "bones sticking out of his face" who was a "mate" of McClean's.

Crawford said he assumed McClean "needed the van to collect drugs". He said McClean had previously given him a Lyca SIM card to use after Crawford agreed to collect and transport drugs on "two or three" occasions in the Ballyfermot area.

In his closing address, Mr Condon said the jury had been presented with "a tissue of lies".

He said Mr Crawford's evidence was "full of untruths and equivocations and dishonesty" and described the accused's claim that the movements of his van were due to drug dealing as "absurd".

Mr Condon said that Mr McCarthy was shot seven times, meaning "he never had a chance in that style of execution" and died in his mother's hallway. Some of the cars were later found burnt out, with a 9mm semi-automatic weapon retrieved from the Fiesta.

In his closing speech, Mark Lynham SC, for Crawford, said it was the defence's case that the accused was involved in drug dealing.

"You've heard nothing to disprove that. There's nothing in his movements to connect him to this plot," said Mr Lynam.

"So yes, at a minimum, he is involved in criminality – but being a criminal doesn't mean you're a murderer," he said.

Counsel reminded the panel that an eyewitness had given a description of the person suspected of being the killer as being six-foot tall, "not young, possibly late 30s, very skinny" and "junkie-looking", with a black tooth or tooth missing. He said that the accused did not match this description.

After the jury returned their guilty verdict, Mr Justice Hunt told the panel he could now fill them in on a few things and comment on some matters which he had not made comment on after the closing of the case.

The judge said the suggestion that it might be a junkie who had committed the murder was presumably based on the single piece of eyewitness evidence heard.

He said from his experience, most addicts are "victims of circumstance in a way that this man isn't a victim of circumstance".

They may commit crimes, he said, but they do so mostly out of "desperation" and a response to "immediate need".

"What most of them don't do however, members of the jury, is turn to cold blooded murder," he said. "The crime that was committed in this case would not, I think, be entrusted to a junkie because it's more likely to be botched by someone in withdrawal or under the influence of drugs."

He said sometimes "junkies" might be asked to do something peripheral, like hand over a gun before a murder.

He told the jury that they had been presented with "a limited version of the truth" and had decided the case "on the evidence that you have".

Mr Justice Hunt said the panel had been told not to conduct any research during the case. "I'm sure the first thing most of you will do when you go home is consult Mr Google." He said he would save them the trouble by telling them "the tale".

The judge said in September 2019, there had been an attempted murder in Lucan, County Dublin [Wayne Whelan].

Again in an "uncanny co-incidence", the judge said, three getaway cars were used which was "perhaps somewhat similar to what was used in this case".

He said the three cars were burned out and a fourth was intercepted by the gardaí.

"In any event, the fourth car was stopped. Who was in it? No prizes for guessing. Mr McClean and Mr Crawford," said the judge.

Mr Justice Hunt told the jury Crawford was charged with attempted murder but pleaded guilty to lesser offences.

In September 2021, Crawford was sentenced to seven years with the final two suspended having pleaded guilty to conspiracy to murder father-of-three Wayne Whelan at Griffeen Glen Park, Lucan, between May 15 and November 15, 2019.

Charles McClean, last of St Mark's Drive, Clondalkin, was sentenced to eight years.

"So what happened less than a year later was no accident and you needn't worry when you are looking back on this case," he told the jury.

"There's no accident, no bad luck about this."

He told the jurors that McClean is serving a "very long sentence for a combined total of three escapades".

Mr Justice Hunt exempted the panel from jury service for a period of 20 years.

He remanded Crawford in custody to December 20 when he will be handed the mandatory sentence for murder of life imprisonment.

Under cross examination whilst giving evidence in his own defence, Crawford had denied a suggestion by prosecuting counsel that he was trying to "mislead" the jury because he was in "cahoots" with Charles McClean.

Crawford maintained the van had been collected at around 9.30am on the morning of the murder and that he then went to his grandmother's house where he had food, a shower and changed his clothes. He said he left his grandmother's house at around 11.30am to go and collect the van.

Mr Condon suggested that Crawford had not previously admitted to gardaí that the van had been involved in drug dealing because he was "now inventing this detail".

Crawford said he had been afraid of being "branded a rat" for speaking to the gardai, as he knew the danger he would be in.

"If I don't explain my side of the story now, I'll never get a chance to do it. I'll be branded a rat, but I'm willing to do that rather than being convicted of a murder I didn't do," Crawford said.

Echoopinion...

Drivers urged to stay safe and sober

THE Road Safety Authority is urging drivers nationwide to stay safe and sober over the Christmas holidays.

New data from the Medical Bureau of Road Safety (MBRS) shows concerningly high levels of alcohol and other drugs in driver toxicology testing.

This is in line with new survey research from the RSA which also identified concerning behaviours and attitudes among motorists in relation to driving under the influence.

During the month of December 2023, 14 people lost their lives on Irish roads and 124 were seriously injured.

So far this year, there have been 165 people killed on Irish roads.

Chris Rea used to sing 'Driving home for Christmas' and authorities here want people to do their driving responsibly to prevent further tragedies on Irish roads.

With December bringing holiday celebrations into full swing, the RSA, gardai, and the MBRS are urging motorists to stay drug and alcohol free to prevent collisions and protect all road users this Christmas.

Busy year for Migrant Integration Forum

THE South Dublin Migrant Integration Forum celebrated the outcomes of a busy year with their Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, November 23.

The organisation set up eight events in 2024 to help newcomers integrate and understand their rights, such as an Africa day Festival, the Back to Education and Employment Fair, and an End of the Year Party.

"With an adopted constitution, a bank account, a PPS and PPN number, a registration form for new members, and a committee, 2025 is definitely looking brighter," said Chair Yemi Ojo.

"We are a grassroots organisation making a positive impact in our community through volunteers, who are the world's unsung heroes."



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Higher demand for food bank – donations urgently needed

Volunteer underlines the fact that there is a major need approaching Christmas time

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



VOLUNTEERS:Transition Year students helping Ballycullen Food Bank for Christmas

"IF YOU'RE thinking not to donate because someone else is doing it, please donate, because it's never enough," said Ballycullen Food Bank volunteer Sue Ralph.

According to the voluntary group which has been active for five years, there is a "major increase" in families in need of food donations approaching Christmas time.

"People, community groups and local schools are all being very generous, so it sounds like there's a lot.

"But it goes away in a heartbeat," said Sue.

The food bank already reported a "higher demand" in September, following back-to-school costs and the beginning of the colder season, and had to give people less than what they normally would.

This time around, the food bank could receive additional support after winning the Jim Lawlor Special Needs & Carers Award at Tallaght Person of the Year 2024, which usually opens a lot of doors within the community.

"A lot more people will know about us now and are already reaching out," said Sue.

"We are hoping that more companies or local businesses will come on board because with such an increasing demand, we need funding for the upkeep of the food bank and support with the donations."

However, Sue thinks that a food bank shouldn't be too happy of its growth. "It's not like a business, we would actually like to see a decline in people needing us."

> **"We are hoping that more companies or local businesses will come on board because . . . we need funding for the upkeep**

A project started by Sue's friend, Tracy Griffin, to help neighbours with food donations they used to store in their own houses, it then escalated during the difficult times of the pandemic.

Social workers came on board and with the Facebook page opened more people could approach the group for help or to donate.

The TPOTY award was still "a shocker," for Sue, who got a text message at 10.45 on the Awards ceremony night and was "over the moon."

Sue and the other volunteers will be meeting donors and recipients in the back yard of Firhouse Community College for the next two weekends – on November 30 and December 1, and December 7 and 8, from 12 midday to 2pm – for their Christmas Food Appeal.

Non-perishable food and cupboard essentials are welcome, along with tubs of sweets, biscuits, Christmas treats, and Christmas dinner essentials such as cranberry sauce and gravy.

"Anything for the children's packed lunches is important too," added Sue. "In the aftermath of Christmas things are tight and if the adults are big and bold, the kids aren't and need their lunch."

"I'd like to thank Senan Nolan from Firhouse Community College who facilitated the food bank, Jacinta Clyne, Ms Whelan and all the students who help us throughout the year. Without them, we'd be lost."

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

Lucan's Airlie Park maintenance soon to be handed over by the developer

A CONTRACTURAL arrangement will see the maintenance of Airlie Park in Lucan handed over by the developer of the park to South Dublin County Council, *reports Maurice Garvey*

At the recent Lucan/Palmerstown/North Clondalkin area committee, Cllr Paul Gogarty (Ind) – who has since been elected to the Dáil – asked SDCC to act "immediately on the outstanding maintenance issues" at Airlie Park Cricket Ground.

Gogarty says this includes dealing with "dangerous drain lines, sanding, spiking, seeding, fertilising" and other issues outlined in the Cricket Leinster report from last March.

According to Gogarty, members of Adamstown Cricket Club have indicated a willingness to take over the maintenance.

In response to Gogarty, SDCC said the cricket pitch at Airlie Park is maintained by a landscape contractor who is working on behalf of the main contractor that developed the park.

"This is a contractual arrangement which is in place until such time that the maintenance of the soft landscaping of the park is handed over."

SDCC have raised the condition of the pitch with both parties and requested works to improve the playing surface.

"The gravel drains, aeration and fertilising were specifically identified as issues to be addressed. Emphasis was placed on getting the works completed in October while weather and ground conditions were suitable," said SDCC.

"Given the current arrangement that is in place it would not be appropriate for Adamstown Cricket Club to take on the role of maintenance. In fact, to do so may create difficulties with the existing contract. When the maintenance contract concludes in 2026, the maintenance of the pitch will be carried out by the Public Realm Section."

Develop public speaking skills

LUCAN Toastmasters host their latest meeting Thursday, December 5, at 7.45pm at the Springfield Hotel, Leixlip, and guests are most welcome to join us.

It is a friendly, vibrant club which offers a safe environment to develop public speaking and communication skills.

They meet on the first and third Thursday of each month in the Springfield Hotel, Leixlip at 7.45 pm.

Admission is free for new guests where a warm welcome awaits.

For further details, follow Lucan Toastmasters on Facebook, Instagram or LinkedIn or contact vpmlucantoastmasters@gmail.com.

THE Echo
Best Small Family Business of The Year 2021
Real Local News

Robbie is boxing clever with training programme

Boxing coach is passionate about helping boxers reach full potential

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

A BOXING coach has developed a simulated training programme which he believes can reduce the need for traditional sparring by "up to 50 per cent without compromising performance."

Robbie Murray, St Matthews boxing manager in Ballyfermot, and a former undefeated Irish professional champion, says his new training initiative is already producing results.

Last month, Murray received his Master's in Sports Science Performance Analysis, in Croke Park stadium, awarded by Portobello Institute on behalf of Liverpool John Moores University.

His research, involving members from various Irish Athletic Boxing Association (IABA) clubs, culminated in a tournament at St Matthew's, officiated by IABA referees.

"The programme's impact was further proven when two boxers from my study triumphed at the Emerald Box Cup in Tallaght, in a higher-level boxing category, a clear indicator of the programme's ability to accelerate skill development."

"This innovative programme analyses movement patterns and fighting styles, while including technology to create realistic fight replication," said Murray.

As an experienced fighter, Robbie is acutely aware of its risks.

This motivated him to create a programme that he believes can reduce the need for traditional sparring without impacting performance.

"I am passionate about helping boxers reach their full potential and actively seeking both female and male volunteer coaches to help deliver it at St Matthew's Boxing Club," said Robbie.

"I also developed a web app, www.boxingwinner.ie, which provides a complete learning pathway for boxers of all levels with over 150 videos, audio workouts, and simulated training drills. This resource is available to everyone, completely free of charge."

Murray credits boxing for his health, overcoming severe childhood asthma by developing his lung capacity through the sport.



MASTER: Robbie Murray received his Master's in Sports Science Performance Analysis

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HEALTHY: The Walk and Talk group in Wales in September and (inset) Stephen Brennan

Jobstown Walk and Talk needs sponsorship to keep on

Founder says the weekly walks are great for mental health but he needs help

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

A POPULAR community group is in high need of sponsorship and funding to avoid closing down.

Jobstown's Walk and Talk founded by Stephen Brennan in 2022 grew bigger and bigger over two years as it offered people in the area an opportunity to get out of the house and chat their problems away.

However, weekly local walks, and occasional group trips like last September's hike to Snowdon Peak in Wales all have costs that Stephen can't keep covering alone.

"I'm doing everything myself, and I really want to put it out there that I need help and sponsorships, or it will have to stop."

> **"I'm doing everything myself, and I really want to put it out there that I need help and sponsorships, or it will have to stop**

Stephen pays for transport for people to get to the walks' and hikes' starting points, sandwiches, and water to wait for them at the end of their walks.

"At the moment I'm only charging people €10, but I can't charge them more than that. I believe mental health should be free."

Since he spread the rumour around, Stephen already received a few messages from local people, some committing to throw "a hundred euro here and there," some to help with setting up donations and raffles.

"Organising raffles takes time and effort, and I have a full-time job and two kids," Stephen told *The Echo*, but he believes that with someone else on his side, he can get everything "up and running" soon and get sponsorship on top of it.

Stephen, who won the Learning and Innovation Award at Tallaght Person of the Year 2024, improved people's physical and mental health in his area through his own initiative and is now asking for external support to keep doing it.

Relaxing and care

AN AFTERNOON of "relaxation and self-care" will support families in need ahead of Christmas.

On Sunday, December 8, from 2pm to 5pm, Tymon Bawn Community Centre will host a wellness fundraiser set up by the Institute of Pranic Healing for Ballycullen Food Bank.

Meditation, breathing exercises, and stress relief treatments will be followed by a raffle.

"The food bank is fantastic," said organiser Katherine McKenna. "They are helping anyone who is struggling in the area especially with Christmas ahead."

"They are making sure the children get what they need, and they are so respectful of the people they donate to."

Katherine welcomed everyone to join for the activity they feel they need most, from meditation at 2pm to breathing techniques at 2.30pm and Pranic Healing treatments from 3.30pm onwards.

While taking some time for themselves, participants will also contribute to increasing the food bank's stock and allowing them to have more to donate to families in need.

Silly Santa raffle

THE Women's Collective Ireland, Lucan, are hosting their Christmas Celebration on Wednesday, December 11, from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm.

Expect a joyful morning brimming with festive fun, featuring mince pies, carols, festive treats, and the much-loved Silly Santa Raffle. Residents are invited to attend and enjoy treats, tunes, and the holiday spirit.





Christmas bonus for Tallaght Town – plans get the go-ahead

All-weather pitch for the football club gets the planning thumbs-up and can now proceed

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



PROTEST: Members in Tallaght Town protesting last year for new facilities

CHRISTMAS arrived early for Tallaght Town Football Club with the news that they have received permission to construct an all-weather pitch at their grounds in Carolan Park.

It's the third time that the club has applied for permission to build an all-weather pitch, with the previous two planning with floodlights refused by the local authority.

However, club chairman Alan Merriman told *The Echo*: "that the club is delighted with the outcome to receive planning permission".

Tallaght Town currently has over 650 members fielding 42 teams including an over-35s, senior teams, eight girls' teams in the DDSL, a Football For All programme, academy each weekend and schoolboy teams.

"It's a massive plus to get the plans over the line. We have so many teams, the club is growing, there is lots of new estates built over the past few years, so this new pitch will be a big bonus for the club.

> **"It's a massive plus to get the plans over the line. We have so many teams . . . so this new pitch will be a big bonus**

"It will be a full size 11-a-side pitch which will also be used by our underage teams in the club".

It has been a long time coming to secure planning for the pitch for Carolan with the club working behind the scenes for the past three years on the project.

Alan, who is eight years at the club explains: "The committee is working hard to get facilities for our teams. We also use the Postal Club, but with the growth of the club this new astro will be a huge help to coaches and players,".

Tallaght Town hopes to start work on the pitch next summer with the project expected to cost in the region of €500,000.

The club has already secured €192,000 in sports capital funding and is planning a big fundraiser next October to help cover costs.

"We are working hard to raise funds, and we have a big fundraiser planned for next year.

"Everyone now is working hard to get this pitch up and running," added Alan.

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court reports

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Accused threatened to kill former girlfriend and intimidated person assisting Gardai in investigation

A DUBLIN man assaulted a former girlfriend before threatening to kill her and attempting to intimidate her into withdrawing her garda complaint, a court has heard, *reports Fiona Ferguson*

Gareth McGrath (35) and the woman met while they were attending residential addiction treatment and had a brief relationship after leaving the facility.

Dublin Circuit Criminal Court heard that problems soon arose in the relationship and McGrath became violent towards the woman.

McGrath, of Kilmartin Drive, Tallaght, pleaded guilty to assault causing harm to the woman on two dates on July 29 and August 8, 2023.

He further pleaded guilty to threatening to kill her on August 8, 2023 and intimidating a person assisting An Garda Síochána in the investigation of an offence between August 14 and 23, 2023.

McGrath appeared for sentencing via video link from prison. He has 15 previous convictions.

In her victim-impact statement, the woman said they had met while they were both vulnerable and she trusted him at the start, but the relationship quickly became violent and the trust disappeared. She said she suffered violent and unprovoked assaults and had no option but to contact the gardai.

She said McGrath then tried to pressure her into saying she was lying. She said the offences had a huge effect on her. She suffered flashbacks and other psychological effects.

"I hope I never have to cross paths with him again," she said, "I am terrified of Gareth."

Judge Pauline Codd adjourned sentencing until early next year to allow a probation report be prepared.

Garda Aaron Melinn told Jane Murphy BL, prosecuting, that on July 29, 2023 McGrath and the woman had an argument outside her apartment and he became angry as she did not want him to come inside.

He punched her to the face several times and threw her to the ground, causing her to bang her head and side of her ear on the ground. Her neighbour witnessed the assault and came to her aid.

A witness saw her head bang on the kerb and was concerned as she did not get up straight away.

Garda Melinn said about ten days later McGrath was at the woman's apartment, found her phone and became jealous of certain friends she had on Facebook.

He punched her a number of times, put her to the ground and cut into her breast with a butter knife.

A week later she made a complaint to gardai and said he had also threatened to kill her.

She presented at the garda station with multiple bruises including a severely bruised left ear, a hearing deficit in that ear, a bump to her forehead and puncture wound to her chest. Gardai were sufficiently concerned at her condition to have her assessed by a doctor who referred her to A&E.

The court heard that during her time in hospital the intimidation began with McGrath exerting pressure on her to drop the complaints. She did contact gardai to say she wished to withdraw the complaint at one point but ultimately stood over her statement.

Paul Comiskey O'Keeffe BL, defending, handed in testimonials and a letter of apology from McGrath. He said McGrath has been making excellent use of the educational facilities in prison.

Mr Comiskey O'Keeffe submitted McGrath's addiction issues were linked to and clearly contributed to these offences. He said McGrath had began to abuse cannabis, cocaine and alcohol after his parents separated when he was a teenager.

McGrath is now clean of drugs and had been attending treatment for alcohol dependency.

He said McGrath's wider family are law-abiding citizens and he intends to live with his father when he is released from prison, which would be a pro-social environment. He has a positive relationship with his parents. He has worked in metal fabrication and has work available to him.

Mr Comiskey O'Keeffe asked for rehabilitation to be taken into account and said McGrath was a man with promise in his future. He said a place in residential treatment was available to his client.

Counsel submitted McGrath was facing up to and taking responsibility for his actions.

Four years in jail for man who pointed a shotgun at gardai

Accused had 12 previous convictions for theft, fraud and public order offences

By Sonya McLean

news@echo.ie

A MAN who pointed a double-barrelled shotgun at uniformed unarmed gardaí causing the officers to have "genuine concerns for their lives" has been jailed for four years.

Michael Donoghue (21), of Stocking Hill, Stocking Lane, Rathfarnham, pleaded guilty at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court to possession of a firearm and making threats to kill at his home on December 20, 2023.

He has 12 previous convictions, mainly for theft and fraud and public order offences.

At a hearing earlier this month, Garda Michael Fox read his victim-impact statement into the record.

He said when he was staring directly at "two black barrels of a shotgun" the only thought in his head was that his mother would never get over his death.

"I fully believed that I was going to be killed. Killed for doing my job, killed for going to help members of the public," Garda Fox said before he added that he was simply doing his job and responding to a call from members of the public.

Three gardaí read their victim-impact statements into the record describing that while they appreciated their job as a garda was an occupation that came with risk, they never expected to be placed in such fear.

They described watching Donoghue as he approached the vehicle and "waiting for gun to go off", "waiting to be shot". One garda, who was only six weeks into his career at the time, said his "life flashed before his eyes".

It was accepted by defence counsel Michael Hourigan SC that while it was later discovered that the shot gun was not loaded, the gardaí that day would not have been aware of that.



He acknowledged that gardaí were not in a position to know that their lives were not in danger.

Judge Orla Crowe said on Wednesday that this was "a deeply serious matter" and that the officers had "genuine concerns for their lives".

"Gardaí had been called in to assist and they were obliged to investigate," she said before she added that Donoghue pointed the gun directly at the officers.

The judge said it was clear they were gardaí as they were in uniform and sitting in a marked patrol car.

She acknowledged that Donoghue had "significant medical difficulties that led to significant drug difficulties" but said while this gives a reason for his offending it is not an excuse.

Judge Crowe acknowledged that Donoghue has expressed a genuine apology, has been doing well in prison and has a loving and supportive family. He had provided urine analysis which demonstrated that he is now drug-free.

The judge noted that the maximum penalty available to the court, because the "legislature consider it so serious" is 14 years.

She said the offence also carries a mandatory minimum term of five years unless there are exceptional circumstances in the case which would make the imposition of such a sentence unjustified.

Judge Crowe set a headline sentence of eight years before she imposed a term of five years.

She noted that Donoghue has been working on his rehabilitation in prison and suspended the final 12 months of the term. Donoghue must keep the peace and be of good behaviour for two years and engage with the Probation Service for 12 months.

Judge Crowe said the gardaí had come to Stocking Hill that day at the "behest of someone in that location".

She said the gardaí were doing "their lawful duty on behalf of all the people of Ireland" and they were not to know that the weapon was not loaded.

Garda Thomas Kinsella told Aoife O'Leary BL, prosecuting at the earlier hearing, that officers arrived at Stocking Hill following a call in relation to a disturbance there.

He was the driver of the patrol car and he and his colleagues were in uniform and unarmed. When they arrived at the halting site at 12.40am everything was quiet so he drove to a cul-de-sac and turned the patrol car.

Donoghue was then spotted approaching the patrol car and pointing a shotgun at the vehicle. He was in an agitated and aggressive state.

Garda Kinsella said he had genuine concerns that Donoghue intended to shoot at him and his colleagues. He reversed the patrol car in an attempt to get away. Donoghue continued to approach the car, pointing the weapon at the officers inside.

He then ran to the back of the halting site and threw the gun over a wall.

Garda Kinsella said a call was made for back up and two of his colleagues ran to retrieve the gun.

Donoghue then ran off into a caravan before he re-appeared carrying a black steel, three-foot-long crowbar.

He threatened gardaí that he would strike them if they approached him and called the officers "pigs and rats".

Donoghue retreated into another building beside one of the caravans and refused to come out. He was ultimately arrested, after back-up arrived and was later detained for questioning. Nothing came out of those interviews and he has been on remand in custody since.

The shotgun was retrieved and it was discovered that it was not loaded. It was a 12 gauge double-barrel shotgun and was later deemed, following a subsequent ballistic examination, to be in fair condition.

Garda Kinsella accepted a suggestion from Mr Hourigan that his client is genuinely remorseful for his actions that night and has written a letter of apology.

Mr Hourigan said his client has a condition which has limited his growth. He said he started abusing drugs as a young teenager after being the victim of bullying.

Counsel said his client has suffered from acute depression for a very long period of time and "first exhibited suicidal ideation at the age of ten years old".

Mr Hourigan said his client's condition has had "a profound impact on how he viewed himself". He said he was "very much a solitary child" and only found comrades when he fell into the company of other addicts.

Counsel handed in letters from Donoghue's mother and brother and said he is from a loving and supportive family.

He has been doing well in prison and is not due for release until July next year on a separate offence.

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Six more schools get funds boost for school-gate safety and access

SIX more schools in South Dublin were included in the NTA Safe Routes To School (SRTS) programme aimed at improving access and reducing traffic at school gates, *reports Alessia Micalizzi.*

Glenasmole NS, Sacred Heart SNS, Scoil Áine Naofa, Scoil Naomh Áine, St Thomas JNS in Lucan and St Colmcille's SNS in Knocklyon are set to be "safer" with improved footpaths, zebra crossings, bollards and railings.

South Dublin County Council said the SRTS programme is a response to safety concerns raised by parents, with "94 per cent of respondents supporting improvements that prioritise pedestrian and cyclist safety" in a 2021 SRTS survey.

In the council's Budget 2025, €2.552 million was allocated for road safety and improvement works including €825,000 for new pedestrian crossings and traffic-calming works.

A sum of €2.185m will be provided for Road Safety Promotion, School Wardens and Education Work while over €500,000 will be used to manage on-street and off-street parking.

Tallaght councillors recently asked for St Kilian's and Scoil Santain, as well as areas like Kiltalown Avenue and Maplewood Road, to be provided with safety improvements at school gates.



PASSING THE TORCH: Seamus Vaughan (Principal) Gillian, Teresa, Sheila, Claire and Kevin O'Connor



BOUQUETS: Teresa witha Presentation from Daisy Mae Commerford and Freya Reynolds

Farewell to Teresa after 44 great years in St Dominic's

Former secretary intends to hike and walk

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

ST DOMINIC'S primary school in Tallaght will feel like a different place as secretary Teresa O'Connor retired after 44 years.

Teresa will now "spend more time with her five grandchildren" and "take to walking and hiking," she told *The Echo.*

Friday, October 25, was her last day of work at the school – she first started there as a secretary aged 20.

Originally from St Maelruan's Park, Teresa moved to Knocklyon when she got married and took care of her children besides working at the school.

But she has always been there for all the students, parents, and staff she worked with at St Dominic's over those 44 years.

"She has a fantastic ability to get on with people," said St Dominic's principal Seamus Vaughan. "She has always been very welcoming to the new pupils and everyone."

Teresa knows all about St Dominic's as she basically spent her entire life there.

But the time to pass on the torch has come, as she turned 64 years old.

For twenty-four of those over forty years she teamed up with Loreen Conway, co-secretary, and has now been replaced by new secretary Karen McQuillan.

"I've always loved my job. I just enjoy working with children and parents," she said.

When asked about highlights of her career, she said she loved Christmas time at St Dominic's and all the events and initiatives the school would organise.

While carrying in her heart all those memories during retirement, she will be happy to spend more time with her own 'pupils', her five grandchildren.

She will also try to do a bit more walking and hiking in nature, which she always loved in her time off from work.



FANTASTIC: Teresa O'Connor, Anne Darcy, Frances O'Duffy and Lorraine Conway



GOODBYE: Pupils entertaining the retirement send-off

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TUD Tallaght students run 720k to help men's health

Second-year sports science youths ran 60k each for Movember

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



WINNERS ALL: The second-year students who raised €4,700 on the track at Tallaght Athletics Club

TWELVE second-year sports science students from TUD Tallaght raised more than €4,700 for Movember, the men's health global movement.

The initiative was brought forward by students Aaron Jackson, Fionn Tighe, Jake Dalton, Ciagan Davoren, Fionan Turner, Ryan Lowry, Calvin Kavanagh, Sean Bailey, James Breen, Alfie Byrne, Ben Casey and Stuart Burke.

They committed to run 60km throughout the month as part of the "Move for Mental Health" Movember's campaign, which reminds everyone that 60 men pass away to suicide every hour globally.

"It's a representation of the battle of each individual," said Jake Dalton, one of the runners, "And we all made sure we got it done."

From Tallaght and Kiltipper to Ballymun and Balbriggan, the 12 students ran in their local areas and organised their runs as they could, from doing 5km several times a week to catching up on treadmills for longer distances.

What mattered was giving their free time to support health awareness and an overall important cause.

"As men find it hard to express emotions, we wanted to show people how important it is to express those emotions," said Jake.

"Talking about what's wrong has an impact on you and on people around you.

"It's important that we start doing it not only during Movember, but always."

The group is "overwhelmed" by the support they received and surprised at how much they raised.

Beyond the 720km they ran in total, they also organised an additional fundraising run with the help of a coffee shop in Malahide, close to where one of the group's members live.

Movember is a movement and charity raising awareness on men's mental health and conditions affecting men such as prostate and testicular cancer.

It started in Australia in 2003, then spread worldwide and funded over 1,320 men's health projects around the world since.

Firhouse Singers Christmas spectacular

THE Firhouse Singers will put on a Christmas show spectacular in Ballyfermot, at St Matthew's Church, on Wednesday, December 4, at 7.30pm.

There is free admission to this performance and it promises to be excellent.

On the night there will also be a collection and raffle for "St Matthew's, Celebrating 50 Years".

For more information contact 087 9195012.

Esker Active Retirement festive get-together

ESKER Active Retirement Association is hosting their Christmas in-house party on Wednesday, December 18.

The group meets every Wednesday in St Andrew's Parish Hall, Main Street Lucan, from 1.30pm to 4pm.

They play bowls, Scrabble and card games, but the most important part of the club is meeting up with friends old and new.

The Christmas party at St Andrews parish hall, will feature festivities, music, dancing, food and fun.

TOGETHER FM - HOW TO FIND US

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Over €45,000 raised by RAMS in Rhythm in 2024



IN TUNE: RAMS in Rhythm sing out for four charities this year

OVER €45,000 was raised for four charities by the Retired Active Men's Social (RAMS) in Rhythm in 2024.

The group RAMS in Rhythm, based in Newcastle, is made up of retired men who enjoy singing and bringing music to community events while also fundraising.

Capuchin Day Centre, Down Syndrome Kildare, the SVP Holy Family Conference and Our Lady's Hospice in Harold's Cross were the nominated charities to receive RAMS revenue this year.

Representatives from the charities collected their cheques at the RAMS annual end-of-year activity morning in Newcastle Community Centre on Thursday, November 28.

The group wrapped up a fruitful 2024 while celebrating in style and, of course, performing.

As RAMS Chair Paddy Becton wished everyone a "Very Happy Christmas," the men – whose age ranges between 65 and 95 – delighted guests and members with a rendition of 'On the one road'.

"We are so pleased of all our efforts, socialising, fund days away in Navan, and all our singing events," RAMS Secretary Matthew Dowling told *The Echo*. "Plenty of life in the old dog yet!"

RAMS in Rhythm will perform a Christmas function in the Springfield Hotel on Friday, December 6, and sing in Liffey Valley Shopping Centre to fundraise for SVP Holy Family Conference on Saturday, December 14 from 12 noon to 3pm.


South Dublin
Christmas Markets
SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL
TALLAGHT
FRIDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2024
12PM - 8PM
RATHFARNHAM
CASTLE PARK
SUNDAY 8TH DECEMBER 2024
12PM - 5PM
HOT FOOD & DRINKS
ARTISAN PRODUCE
+CRAFT STALLS
ALL DAY
ENTERTAINMENT
Winter in Dublin
Dublin's Outdoors
Comhairle Contae
Átha Cliath Theas
South Dublin County Council



DISPLAY: Pupils and teachers from St Kevin's Boys School with members of the Men's Shed and (inset) St Kevin's Girls School pupils at the pencils

Local Men's Sheds put their carpentry skills to good use

Seven coloured pencils in wooden barrels are located at entrance of schools

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

> "I also have children who attended and grandchildren who now attend St Kevin's

TWO MEN'S SHED'S artworks were donated to St Kevin's school in Kilnamanagh and are now displayed in front of the Girls' and Boys' schools' entrances.

Each of the displays are made of a wooden barrel supporting seven big coloured pencils pointing up and an eraser, with a plaque reading "Scoil Naomh Caoimhin" attached to the barrels.

Ann Marie Coughlan, a local resident who used to run the St Kevin's Parents Association, thought the place needed revamping and contacted the Kilnamanagh Men's Shed asking if they were interested in "putting the carpentry skills to use."

At the same time, explained Dermot Matthews from the Men's Shed, some wooden barrels recently donated to the group by Powerscourt distillery needed an idea to be used in the right way.

"I also have children who attended, and grandchildren who now attend St Kevin's," said Dermot.

He and Pat Sullivan organised the woodwork to make the pencils and the eraser, while Brendan Ryan took care of the barrels and other members helped with paint work.

"The teachers seemed very happy," Dermot told *The Echo.*

Marion O'Hara, secretary at St Kevin's, said the donations were "extra special" as they marked the appointment of two new principals, Ms Alison Walshe for St Kevin's Boys' School and Ms Karen Donnelly for St Kevin's Girls' School.

KFRC Men's Shed (Kilnamanagh) meet on Tuesdays in Tree Park, to provide local men with a social platform and engaging activities such as carpentry.

After their gifts to St Kevin's, they also made a wishing well for ABACAS Special School, who now have it in their allotment garden beside Kilnamanagh Credit Union.

Improved work at Killinarden Park will benefit community

THE OFFICIAL opening of the newly improved Killinarden Park took place this week.

Children from The Sacred Heart National School, members of the Croí Ró Naofa GAA Club and Sacred Heart Football Club and members of the local community were in attendance to celebrate this event.

Speaking at the event, Mayor Cllr Baby Pereppadan who was joined by local Councillors, Colm Ward, Chief Executive of SDCC, Teresa Walsh, Director of Services, and staff of South Dublin County Council said: "Works began on site here 12 months ago, to upgrade the park in accordance with the plans developed with the local community over several months.

"The park enhancements now include provision of a little walking and cycling route and other new accessible routes though the park.

"New play spaces, exercise areas, a skate ramp and a multi-use games area have been provided.

"A major upgrade of the existing grass pitches has also been undertaken. New improved entrances with associated signage now welcome visitors, and there has been extensive tree and shrub planting throughout the park.



HAPPINESS: The official opening of the newly improved Killinarden Park

"I would like to acknowledge and thank the community for all their assistance and input during the preliminary design stage and their support for the project during construction. It is a joy to see the park so well used and I look forward to seeing it providing amenity, recreation, and environmental benefits to the community of Killinarden for many years to come."

This project has been funded by South Dublin County Council's three-year capital budget and supported by the National Transport Authority via Active Travel Grants and the Department of Sport via Sports Capital Grants. Nicholas de Jong Associates carried out the planning and design work on this project with Clonmel Enterprises Ltd civil contractors realising the vision on the ground.

Encouraging men to seek help in changing abusive behaviour

Fifty-nine men from Tallaght turned to MOVE – an increase of 23 per cent on previous year

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

FIFTY NINE Tallaght men sought help to change their abusive behaviour in 2023, according to MOVE Ireland.

MOVE (Men Overcoming Violent Emotion) Ireland aim at rehabilitating men who chose to be violent in their relationships, and were happy to report a nationwide increase in men who were referred or self-referred to the service.

Self-referrals were more than half of the overall referrals in Tallaght, where, according to the report, addiction and mental health-related referrals are critical too.

Fifty-nine men from Tallaght turned to MOVE in 2023, an increase of 13pc from 52 men in 2022, while a 49pc increase was recorded in Dublin City and a 34pc nationally.

"It's incredibly encouraging to see that more people are seeking help to change abusive behaviours," said MOVE Ireland's CEO Michelle Walsh.

"I found MOVE and I needed to," said service user David, who recalled coming from a "deprived background where drinking and drugging was just what we did," and emotionally and physically abusing his partner during Covid.

"I have heard my story being told by so many others who chose to be violent in their closest relationships.

"I'm desperately ashamed of what I did and realise the damage I caused, that I had absolutely no right to cause, and should never have done. I accept full responsibility."

Through the 12 programmes MOVE run nationally, men are given "the tools to change their destructive behaviours and rebuild their relationships."

They enter support groups and learn about unravelling their emotions and taking accountability.

According to Dr Walsh, "domestic violence from a perpetrator perspective is one of the last taboos," but a rise in men wanting to change can be "a positive shift in addressing the roots of the problem."

"Domestic violence encompasses a wide range of abusive behaviours that goes beyond physical harm," she explained.

"It involves various forms of manipulation, control and intimidation, including sexual abuse and coercive control.

"Perpetrators come from all walks of life, and the reasons behind their abusive behaviour can be complex, involving a combination of personal history, psychological issues, and learned behaviour."

"Perpetrators come from all walks of life, and the reasons behind their abusive behaviour can be complex, involving a combination of personal history. . .



POSITIVE CHANGE: Dr Michelle Walsh CEO MOVE

"I hated MOVE for the first 6 weeks or so, I was full of pride and ego," said another service user, Derek, who comes from a background of alcoholism and violence.

"But then something happened, I started to listen. I surrendered and I heard my 'own story' from the mouths of the other men on the programme, it was like they held up a mirror to me"

"I have learned so much about emotions, I never spoke about emotions before. I suppose I was afraid. I lived in fear all my life."



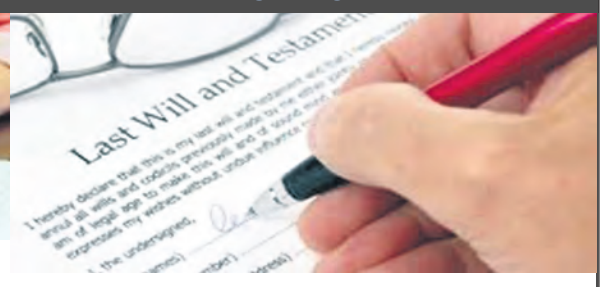
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Green Eye

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

Dainty and cute, but hardy



POPULAR: Cyclamens come in a range of bright colours, including a sparkling white

A WINTER-FLOWERING potted plant that has become very popular in recent years is the Cyclamen.

These distinctive little plants arrive in the shops and garden centres from October. They are sold either in individual pots or they are mixed in with other winter-flowering plants in colourful displays.

Cyclamens are native to the Mediterranean, stretching eastwards to Greece and Turkey, as far as Iran.

They were introduced into western Europe in the late 17th century and became popular as a garden plant by the early 1900s.

Cyclamen's leaves and flowers grow from underground tubers which look like flattened circular potatoes.

Individual leaf and flower stems grow directly from this tuber, reaching to between 15cm and 20cm high.

The glossy green leaves can be round or kidney-shaped, with either smooth or scalloped edges. The leaf surface can be patterned with splashes of silver and bright green, while the underneath can be coloured dark red.

Cyclamen's flowers range in colour from pure white to delicate pink, cerise, purple, and vibrant red. They have five petals that are fused together at the base to form a cup.

What makes the flowers distinctive, however, is that these petals then sweep backwards.

This lifts the rest of the petals upwards into the air, making the flower look like a dainty butterfly at rest.

Once the flowers have been pollinated and the seedhead begins to ripen, the flower stalk curls back down towards the ground, ensuring that the seeds drop safely into the soil.

The seeds are coated in a sticky sugary substance that attracts ants.

These insects carry the seeds away and feed on the seedcoat, discarding the undamaged seed when they are finished.

In this way the Cyclamen spreads around in the vicinity of the parent plant.

Some species of Cyclamen are tolerant to deep cold, down to -20° Celsius. Most of the species sold here in Ireland would generally be hardy down to -4° Celsius.



DELICATE: The opening of the Cyclamen flower faces towards the ground, while the petals rise upwards



SMILES: At the Santa Dash for Relay for Life in Corkagh Park

Santa dash

Corkagh Park sees 500 people taking

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

FIVE hundred people took part in the Relay for Life's Santa Dash fundraiser run for cancer research and care in Corkagh Park.

On Sunday, December 1, starting at 12 noon, the Clondalkin community, joined by members of running clubs from all over Dublin, filled Corkagh Park with a great atmosphere.

"The weather was on our side, and it was great to see so many coming together in the fight against cancer," said one of the founders of Relay for Life South County Dublin, Caroline Corcoran.

"There was a smile on everyone's face."

The 5km run along the park took the more trained runners about 20 minutes and the walkers and amateur runners up to an hour.

The revenue, still being counted, will fund four different projects initiated by the Irish Cancer Society – night nurses, volunteer drivers, research and a free helpline number.

As the last participants crossed the finish lane, Christmas-themed costumes and music entertainment contributed to a fun community afternoon.

Relay for Life South County Dublin then received sponsorship from various local groups.

Runners from North Clondalkin Running Club, Clondalkin flyers, Liberties Running Club and Cherry Orchard Running Club took part in the event.

Besides fundraising and celebrating cancer survivors, the run "is a great way to remember the people we lost to cancer," added Caroline.

"I'd like to praise North Clondalkin Running Club, as it was their committee who put a lot of work in setting up the event."



HAPPY DAYS: Smiles all round at the Santa Dash Relay for Life



g part in the Relay for Life fundraiser



STRIDING AHEAD: At the start of Relay for Life in Corkagh Park

The importance of podcasts that help deal with women's health



EXCELLENT: TUH launch their podcast series

A NEW podcast series from Tallaght University Hospital (TUH) funded by the South Dublin County Partnerships Health Project (Fettercairn) has just been released which focuses on Women's Health.

The six individual episodes released as part of the hospital's Let Talk About series look at Endometriosis, the Importance of Cervical Screening, Brain Health and Dealing with Brain Fog, Pelvic Prolapse and Incontinence, Good Heart & Bone Health and finally, Menopause.

Those contributing to this series are all highly trained and respected experts in their fields.

The speakers included Consultant Gynaecologists Aoife O'Neill and Alison DeMaio, Consultant Endocrinologist Lucy-Ann Behan, and Advanced Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health Sinead Cleary, Cheryll Gilmore, and Colleen Byrne as well as Endometriosis Clinical Nurse Specialist Paula Earley.

They were joined by their colleagues Advanced Nurse Practitioners David Askin (Bone Health), Shirley Ingram (Heart) and Cathy McHale (Brain & Memory).

The podcasts also featured Grainne Wall, a Specialist Urogynaecology Physiotherapist, and the Hospital's Head of Psychology Neuropsychologist, Dr Valerie Twomey.

Consultant Gynaecologist Aoife O'Neill, also the Clinical Director of the Women's Health Centre at TUH, said, "I was delighted to participate in these podcasts which cover in detail so many different aspects of Women's Health.

"Hopefully, by listening to these podcasts, women who are often the primary carers in their families will understand how important it is that they also prioritise their own health."

Launching the podcast series, The former CEO of TUH, Lucy Nugent, said, "I would encourage everyone to listen to these excellent free podcasts where our experts and highly qualified staff share a wealth of important medical and practical knowledge on each topic. All of the episodes are in keeping with TUH's important mission of becoming a hospital without walls, striving to improve the health of the population we serve."

The podcasts were funded as part of a partnership project between the South Dublin County Partnership Health Project (Fettercairn) and Tallaght University Hospital.

As they were being launched, the Coordinator of the Fettercairn Community Health Project Samantha Griffin said, "All of these episodes are an excellent free resource for the public in terms of health promotion and the prevention of illness.

"I would urge anyone to log in and listen to them, because as we all know when it comes to health, prevention is better than cure."

You can hear all of the podcasts on the Tallaght University Hospital YouTube channel. They are also available on the Apple Podcasts and Podbean platforms.

> **"Hopefully, by listening to these podcasts, women who are often the primary carers in their families will understand how important it is that they also prioritise their own health . . . I would urge anyone to log in and listen to them, because as we all know when it comes to health, prevention is better than cure**

Fiery dragons show chemical reactions and colour changes

Scientist Susan has created a show to encourage students to think about STEM careers

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

OVER 400 students learned about colour changes and chemical reactions through the "Science of Dragons" show at The Civic theatre during Science week.

Scientist and Queen's University graduate Susan Carvell, aka Scientific Sue, created a show inspired by the children's book 'How to Train Your Dragon', to inspire a curiosity and love for science through storytelling.

On Tuesday, November 26, fifth and sixth classes from Tallaght and Clondalkin attended the show, including students from Tallaght CNS, St Mary's NS, St Bernadette's SNS, St Mark's, Scoil Aoife, Talbot NS, Cnoc Mhuire Senior School and St Thomas's.

The children were called on stage by Sue to engage in experiments with materials, chemical reactions, colour changes and combustion.

They met 'Stormfly the mood dragon' and Sue's trainee Vikings and dragons and became apprentice scientists for a day.

"The response from the children was really good, there were a lot of hands up to participate, and some of them nominated as volunteers in the show," said Simone McCann, South Dublin County Partnership officer who managed the event.

"The interactive side of it was the best, teachers told me the children really enjoyed all the activities."

The participation of DEIS schools to the "Science of Dragons" during Science Week was an initiative of South Dublin County Partnership's "Inspiring the Future Ireland."

It was sponsored and funded by Google and Research Ireland.

"Our aim is to introduce students to STEM disciplines at a young age, showing them examples and options that can inspire and motivate them," said Ms McCann.

"We encourage girls and boys to approach STEM careers."



HOT STUFF: Susan Carvell shows how it's done



HAPPY LEARNING: Rhanne, Emma, Carmen , Sophie, Grace and Simone



ENJOYMENT: Asman, Sophie and John



CHEERS: Deirdre Murphy (Google), Susan Carvell, Simone and Sophie (Inspiring the Future World)



GETTING WITH IT: Susan with Peter, Ollie and Chloe

Citywise Education celebrates great efforts of youth leaders

CITYWISE has been running leadership programmes and activities for young people in the community for over 25 years, with part of that work supporting young people to be active members of their community, and positive role models to their younger peers.

Citywise Education held a ceremony in Citywise educational hub on Tuesday, November 26, to celebrate their youth leaders.

Citywise leaders take part in weekly training and then take on responsibility around the Citywise centre, helping with youth groups, supporting primary school students with homework or taking ownership for managing resources.

These leaders are regular volunteers in their community and help to make our community a better place. To recognise this involvement and dedication, Citywise uses a system of certificates, with young people working from Level 1 to Level 3 depending on their length of engagement.

On the night,17 certificates were awarded to youth leaders in the Citywise Education centre based in Jobstown with 150 parents, peers and community members present. In addition, young people were also recognised for their efforts towards their education. Three students – who racked up the most study hours during a recent competition – received MacBooks donated from Citywise supporters, Adobe.

Speaking about the night, Daire Hennessy, CEO of Citywise said "It was a fantastic night of celebrating young people from Citywise.

"This year, our youth leaders have not only been role models in our own community, but they have also been part of training other young people with leadership skills in Clondalkin and Ballymun. That's a real testament to how great these young people are as a group."

Red Shoes display depicts lives of 267 women killed



RED SHOES: Members of Women's Collective Ireland

THE lives of 267 women lost to femicide in Ireland since 1996 will be commemorated with an art installation outside the County Hall in Tallaght on Sunday, December 8, *reports Alessia Micalizzi.*

The exhibition will feature 267 pairs of red shoes painted and donated by women across all Ireland, as part of a wider international campaign known as The Red Shoes Campaign.

The Tallaght exhibition will mark the first Red Shoes display in Ireland and was organised by Women's Collective Ireland calling women in their communities to action against gender-based violence.

"It's a powerful way of remembering all the women we lost," said Rita Harte from WCI Lucan, who is co-ordinating the Tallaght launch. "They were someone's sisters and mothers."

The statistics tracked by Women's Aid Ireland's Feminicide Watch revealed that 87 per cent of the women murdered in Ireland were killed by men they knew, with half of these women losing their lives at the hands of a current or former partner.

With red symbolising the blood of women who lost their lives, and shoes representing their absence, the campaign is ongoing in numerous countries in Europe, South America, and Africa. The visual artist and original creator of The Red Shoes Campaign, Elina Chauvet, will be flying to Tallaght for the day.

"'The Red Shoes' is a call to conscience to show solidarity in the face of a situation of violence against women in the world, a concern for the death of women, girls, and young people who continue to disappear and be murdered before the indifferent gaze of the authorities," Ms Chauvet said about her work.

"'The Red Shoes' is a collective memory, an evocation, a void, a silent march, it is a longing, the return home of our loved ones," she added.

The exhibition will be in the County Hall Plaza on Sunday, December 8, from 12 noon to 4pm.

Four pairs of the shoes displayed in Tallaght will be then shipped to Mexico, where the campaign started in 2009, to be added to the first-ever Red Shoes exhibition.

Overdue book is returned to Ballyroan Library after 42 years

Book was borrowed in January 1981 from one of the Dublin Municipal libraries

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

A BOOK was returned to Ballyroan Library in Rathfarnham nearly 43 years after being borrowed.

Apparently a very good read for the borrower with no name, Summer on Boomerang Beach by Australian writer Mary Patchett tells the story about a family holidaying on a small island of the Great Barrier Reef and befriending an Aboriginal boy.

It was borrowed for the last time in January 1981 from one of the Dublin Municipal libraries as they were known at the time before South Dublin County Council existed.

"Unfortunately, we have no way of knowing which library the book was borrowed from as it was so long ago and our records don't go back that far," a SDCC Senior Librarian told *The Echo*. "As it wasn't returned with a record, we don't know who returned it."

"Books are lent for a fortnight," ironically reads the discoloured library's record on the book's frontispiece, and "Damage to or loss of books will be charged to the borrower."

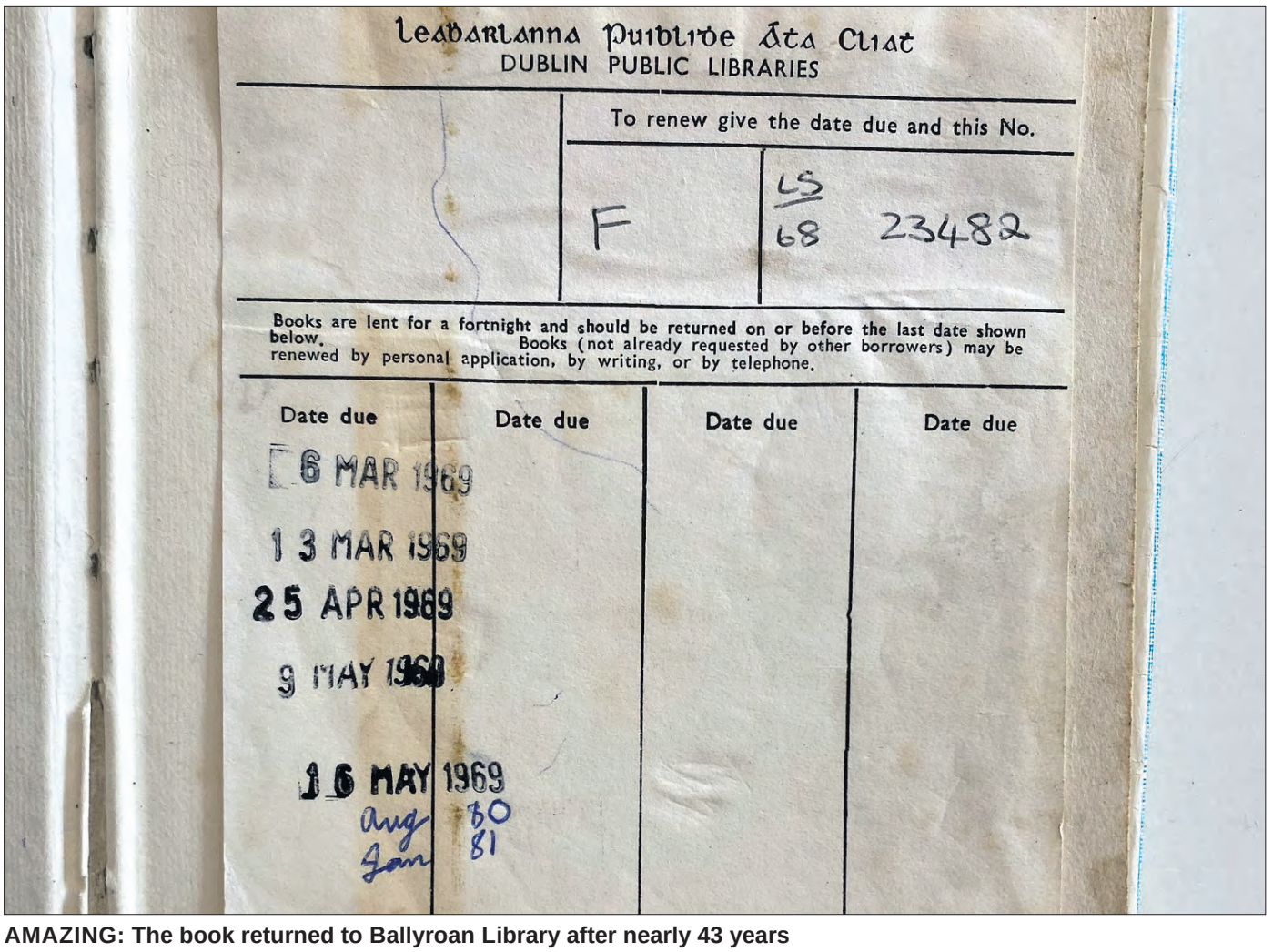
Luckily for the borrower or for the person returning the book on their behalf, overdue fines were abolished in 2019.

Another librarian told *The Echo* it wouldn't be possible to calculate how much the mysterious borrower would have owed to the libraries if fines were still in place.

"Obviously it would be different prices and currencies through the years.

"To give an idea, we could say they would have had to pay 20 pence for every week the book was kept beyond the time it was due."

> **"Another librarian told *The Echo* it wouldn't be possible to calculate how much the mysterious borrower would have owed to the libraries if fines were still in place**



AMAZING: The book returned to Ballyroan Library after nearly 43 years



IN A CLASS OF THEIR EOIN: Sinn Fein's Eoin O'Broin, TD who topped the poll in Dublin Mid West with Cllr Eoin O'Broin (Soc Dems) in the count centre in Adamastown



ALL SMILES: Shane Moynihan (Fianna Fail) is all smiles after he was elected in Dublin Mid West with his wife Teresa and baby Cuán

Election winners

Dublin South West elected

Seán Crowe (SF) –	11,226 votes. 14.8% first preference. Count 6.
Colm Brophy (FG) –	12,498 votes. 12.7% first preference. Count 7.
John Lahart (FF) –	13,814 votes. 12.4% first preference. Count 10.
Ciarán Ahern (Lab) –	11,349 votes. 8.7% first preference. Count 11.
Paul Murphy (PBP-SOL) –	9,928 votes. 8.7% first preference. Count 11.

Dublin Mid-West elected

Eoin Ó Broin (SF) –	9,892 votes. 20.8% first preference. Count 1.
Mark Ward (SF) –	7,923 votes. 11.2% first preference. Count 9.
Emer Higgins (FG) –	8,580 votes. 10.1% first preference. Count 12.
Shane Moynihan (FF) –	7,231 votes. 10.0% first preference. Count 13.
Paul Gogarty (Ind) –	7,106 votes. 7.7% first preference. Count 13.

Dublin South Central elected

Catherine Ardagh (FF) –	8,027 votes. 10.7% first preference. Count 14.
Jen Cummins (SocDems) –	7,404 votes. 9.0% first preference. Count 15.
Aengus Ó Snodaigh (SF) –	7,137 votes. 12.0% first preference. Count 15.
Máire Devine (SF) –	6,509 votes. 10.3% first preference. Count 15.



DELIGHT: Mark Ward and Eoin O'Broin, both retained their seats in Dublin Mid West and supporters after the count in Weston Airport

Four of five TDs retain

Green Party loses but former Green Party

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

IN DUBLIN Mid-West, it was success again for Sinn Féin's Eoin Ó Broin and Mark Ward, who secured 44% of the vote for themselves.

Ó Broin topped the poll as expected, pulling 9,892 votes and elected on the first count.

Ward was elected on Count 9 with 7,923 votes, a count that also saw outgoing Gino Kenny (Sol-PBP) lose his seat.

Transfers from excluded Aontú and Irish Freedom Party candidates gave Linda de Courcy (Ind Ire) enough votes to push past Gino Kenny and see him excluded.

Kenny, first elected as a TD in 2016, received just 2,608 first preferences but transfers were not going to be enough this time around.

Emer Higgins (FG) comfortably retained her seat, with running mate Vicki Casserly's elimination helping Higgins over the line.

Two new faces in Mid-West with Cllr's Shane Moynihan (FF) and former Green Party TD Paul Gogarty elected.

The elimination of Lucan's Casserly provided a good boost for Moynihan and Gogarty to get over the line.

The Fine Gael vote was not as friendly for Cllr Eoin Ó Broin (SocDems), who was looking really good for a seat earlier in the day but just misses out this time.

Dublin South-West saw four of the five outgoing TDs re-elected, with the Green Party losing their seat.

It was a comfortable election for Sean Crowe (SF), Colm Brophy (FG), and John Lahart (FF).

Paul Murphy (Sol-PBP) won the last seat without reaching the quota.

The new TD in South-West is Ciarán Ahern (Lab), who was elected as a councillor in June and now heads to the Dáil after Count 11 saw him up to 11,349 votes.

A poor showing for outgoing TD Francis Noel Duffy, who picked up just 1,931 first-preference votes.

Tallaght councillor Teresa Costello (FF), a first-time Dáil candidate, was the pick of the chasing pack, and stayed in the race until the latter stages.

Dublin South Central, a four-seater, was one of the most exciting constituencies in the country. At one stage on Sunday, just over 1,400 votes separated the candidate in first place, from the candidate in ninth place.

Ultimately, it saw the election of three new TDs.

Senator Catherine Ardagh was elected on Count 14 with 8,027 votes. It was Ardagh's third attempt at winning a Dáil seat, missing out on by only 35 votes to Brid Smith in 2016.

Count 15 finally revealed the remaining three seats with Jen Cummins (SocDems), a first-time Dáil candidate,



e outgoing their seats

y TD Gogarty re-elected as Independent

securing 7,404 votes.

Big day for Sinn Féin in South Central with stalwart Aengus Ó Snodaigh (7,137) and Máire Devine (6,509) both securing seats.

Sinn Féin had a third candidate in the running for a seat, Daithí Doolan, who was eliminated after count 11.

Sitting TD and Right to Change leader Joan Collins failed to retain a seat she first won in 2011.

Following the retirement of Brid Smith, Hazel De Nortúin (PBP) was in the running for a seat, but the surplus from Ardagh was not kind for the Ballyfermot councillor.

Green Party TD Patrick Costello lost his seat on the ninth count.



MAKING HIS MARK: Mark Ward and Eoin O'Broin of Sinn Fein both retained their seats celebrate with supporters in Weston

Predictable result in general election



TRANSFERS: Cllr Vicki Casserly at the count centre in Adamstown

THE general election returned a predictable result with Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael set to continue their coalition, *reports Maurice Garvey.*

Sinn Féin had the highest percentage of first voter preferences in each of the three constituencies in *The Echo*'s catchment area: Dublin South-West (SF secured 20.8% first preference votes), Dublin Mid-West (32%) and Dublin South Central (31.2%).

Of the 14 Dáil seats up for grabs in the three constituencies, Sinn Féin won five.

Four TD's lost their seats, while one, Brid Smith (PBP), announced her retirement last year.

However, for the three largest parties, their respective first preference vote shares across the country, are all down from the 2020 general election.

Sinn Féin the highest, a loss of 5.5% first preference vote share, Fianna Fáil -0.3% and Fine Gael -0.1%.

Green Party first preference was down -4.1% and they lost all but one of their 12 TDs, including Francis Noel Duffy in Dublin South West, and his wife Catherine Martin, the Dublin Rathdown outgoing Minister for Tourism.

The party also lost Patrick Costello in South Central.

Gino Kenny (PBP) in Mid-West and Joan Collins (R2C) were the other casualties in GE 2024.

The biggest first preference vote share gains were for the Social Democrats (1.9%), Labour (0.3%), and Aontú (2%).

Independents and Others are lumped together, collectively making a gain of 5.6%.

Voter turnout fell in the general election to 59.71% despite a big public campaign by the Electoral Commission and the registration of 400,000 new voters on the register.

In 2020, turnout was 62.9%.

The European average is 67%.

Data from the European Social Survey in 2020 showed that 90% of those aged 60+ say they voted but only 50% of those aged 18-34 turned out to vote.

This apathy is especially disappointing given 2024 was an even lower turnout.



OVERJOYED: Councillor Brian Lawlor (Fine Gael) speaks to newly elected TD for Dublin Mid West Shane Moynihan (Fianna Fáil) in Weston Airport

AS PART of *The Echo* celebrating over 40 years, we're celebrating you, and local faces and places. Over the last four years we've shared the stories of local people, and remind ourselves of the great community spirit alive across local areas. This week, ***Ken Doyle*** talks to Ciara Fogarty, founder of Facebook page, I Grew Up In Clondalkin



HONOURED: Ciara Fogarty, Clondalkin girl at heart

The Echo – celebrating community for 44 years



INSPIRING: Ciara Fogarty at the Round Tower Visitor Centre in Clondalkin

CIARA Fogarty was a North Clondalkin girl with a difference as she was growing up.

Despite being from an Irish family, Ciara was born in Canada. This was until her extremely wise parents were told about this up-and-coming part of Clondalkin called Harelawn being built and that they could have a slice of it.

The Fogarty bags were duly packed, and before she knew it, Ciara was safely settled on Irish soil.

"I had a fantastic childhood in Harelawn," Ciara tells me. "We did all of the usual things you do when you're a kid in a semi-rural area. So much fun, and I made friends for life there. And that's before I even get to the food."

In those days, Harelawn was the culinary capital of North Clondalkin because it had a Chinese chip van. How exotic. I will admit that the curry sauce was good (not the best though, we had a debate about it).

A few years later, the family moved again, this time to leafy Floraville in the village.

So Ciara carried on and moved into a successful career, but she was always reminded of the area that she was raised in.

Her unwavering affection for Dublin 22 led her to set up a Facebook page 'I grew up in Clondalkin.'

Ciara takes up the story, "I had no particular ambition for the page, I just thought it might be a nice way for people to remember Clondalkin in the old days but before I knew it, there was 13,000 members in the group."

"We have people from all over the world interacting and we had an extremely well attended reunion night in the GAA club. The over-riding sentiment amongst the members seems to be that they had the best time of their lives in Clondalkin."

"I'm also reliably informed that I coined the phrase Clondalkin-ite but the dictionary people haven't been in touch yet."

Ciara also ensured that the new diversity of Clondalkin is also celebrated and acknowledged. Along with her friend Louise Zaimova, she's also set up the "Multicultural Clondalkin" page which is also proving extremely popular.

Through her excellent Facebook initiative and also her work on the board of Bawnogue Community Centre, she won a 'Local Hero' award in Clondalkin through the scheme set up by Trevor Gilligan TD and this led to many adventures.

"It was great to meet the other nominees for a start. I also ended up presenting awards with the Tánaiste. I also did some work with Peamount Hospital which was inspiring and eye-opening."

"I was honoured at a ceremony organised by 'The Treetop' and McElroy's funeral home. This was a new venture which hopefully will grow over the coming years."

When she's not being Clondalkin's Local Hero, Ciara's day job is working with young adults with learning disabilities, a suitably positive and giving profession.

Having met her partner Barry six years ago, they have now settled into domestic bliss in Kill, Co. Kildare, but Ciara will always be a Clondalkin girl at heart.

> **"I had no particular ambition for the page, I just thought it might be a nice way for people to remember Clondalkin in the old days but before I knew it, there was 13,000 members in the group. We have people from all over the world interacting and we had an extremely well attended reunion night in the GAA club**



UNWAVERING: Ciara Fogarty just loves Clondalkin

The Salvation Army provided places for a record 205 families

Report shows that a combined 76,000 meals were served to parents and children

A CHARITY provided emergency accommodation for an extra 32 homeless families in Dublin last year, according to its annual report.

A record 205 families took refuge in The Salvation Army's three family hubs across the capital, compared to 173 in 2022.

The 2023 report shows that in Clonard Road (Crumlin) Houben House (Harold's Cross) and Greencastle (Coolock), a combined 76,000 meals were served to parents and children.

Young mother Chloe Coffey, 25, is among the new residents at Houben House.

A problem with the crèche attended by her son Jackson, four – who suffers from a life-limiting heart condition – forced her to leave her job, meaning she was unable to afford her €2,700 monthly rent.

She recently outlined her plight directly to Housing Minister Darragh O'Brien and party leaders during a housing special on RTÉ 1's Upfront programme.

"I left my job and just could not sustain the rent and I had to declare myself homeless," she said.

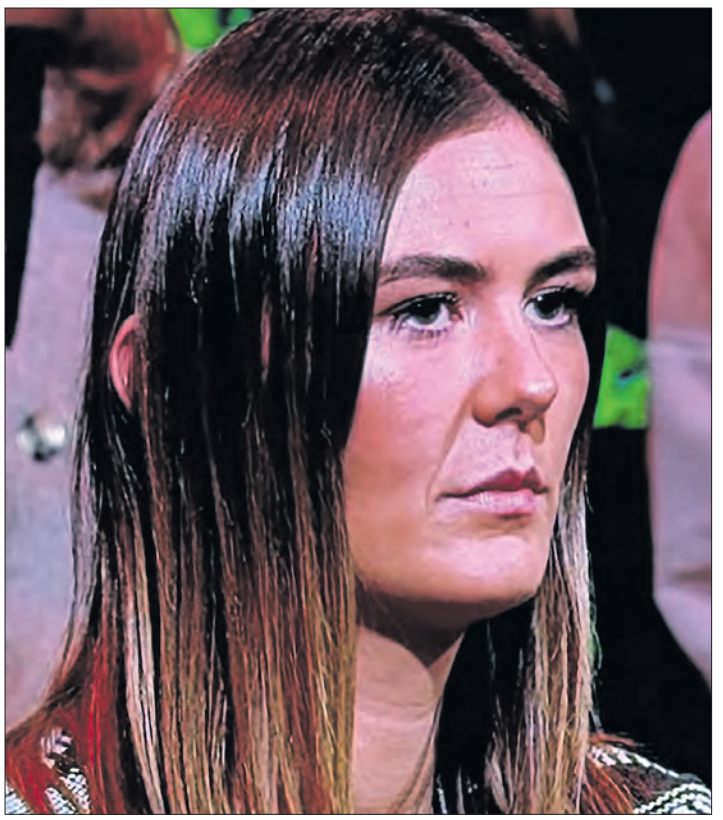
"I'm very grateful to have somewhere over my head, but you can't cook a meal and supervise your child in a communal kitchen. You can't do both at once.

"I don't even want to get up in the mornings, I'm constantly crying, then [my son] is wondering 'why is mammy always upset?' "

Staff in the church and charity's three family and three adult-only hubs (Granby Centre, York House and Rease House) work to alleviate the pressure of homelessness through a wide range of activities organised for residents.

These include programmes to prepare them for independent living, employment schemes, stress-reduction activities, walking groups and support groups based on the Twelve Steps of Recovery programme.

> "I left my job and just could not sustain the rent and I had to declare myself homeless



DESPERATE: Chloe Coffey, grateful to have somewhere



DIFFICULTIES: Marion Ruffet – we work on all these issues

"Despite the enormous difficulties, our families work hard to see beyond their current circumstances, engage with our services and work towards a better future for themselves and their children," said The Salvation Army's Divisional Commander in Ireland, Marion Rouffet.

"There are many different issues related to homelessness that will prevent people from living to their full potential; lack of adequate housing options, financial difficulties, mental health challenges and language barriers.

"We work on all these issues to help people move forward in their lives.

"Our dedicated staff work with housing agencies to find suitable accommodation and we also design and deliver several classes and workshops to help people learn about budgeting, healthy eating and other skills vital for life beyond the family hub."

The annual report also reveals that staff at some of the homeless family hubs are sometimes at risk of 'compassion fatigue', due to their work with individuals exposed to trauma.

Prolonged interactions can have a significant impact on mental and physical health and is counteracted by a Health and Wellbeing Policy for staff. The charity also runs an active chaplaincy service, which offers pastoral support to residents, staff and families.

The Salvation Army, funded by the Dublin Region Homeless Executive and the HSE, is one of the largest providers of emergency accommodation in Dublin, providing more than 250,000 bed nights a year across its six lifehouses.

Playboard games launched to offer fun and inclusivity to encourage active lifestyles for all

ACTIVE Cities Dublin, in partnership with South Dublin County Council, is delighted to announce the launch of Play Innovations Target Games at the MUGA in Collinstown Sports Complex and Quarryvale Community Centre.

This exciting initiative brings a new, interactive dimension to physical activity in South Dublin.

The playboards offer a fun and inclusive way to encourage active lifestyles for all ages.

Users can enjoy friendly competitions using the boards' built-in scoring systems or create their own games, making the experience both engaging and adaptable.

Key Benefits of the Playboards –

Innovative Activity: A refreshing alternative to traditional sports, encouraging creativity and movement;

Community Focus: A resource designed to bring people together, fostering social connection through fun and play;

Accessibility: Free to use and available during the centres' operating hours, ensuring access for everyone.

This initiative reflects Active Cities Dublin's commitment to enhancing health and well-being through accessible, community-focused activities in line with its partnership with South Dublin County Council.

The playboards are now installed at Collinstown Sports Complex and Quarryvale Community Centre and are free to use whenever the centres are open. Active Cities Dublin continues to work closely with South Dublin County Council to deliver innovative projects like this, ensuring our communities have opportunities to stay active, healthy, and connected.



GO FOR IT: At the launch of Play Innovations Target Games

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.

Show us your Jingle Bells and enter our Christmas Tree competition.
See page 67





Advertorial

Firhouse Christmas Craft Fair returns for its 4th year

THE FIRHOUSE Community Craft Fair returns to The Speaker Conolly car park on Saturday, December 7 and 14 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 Caffe 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.

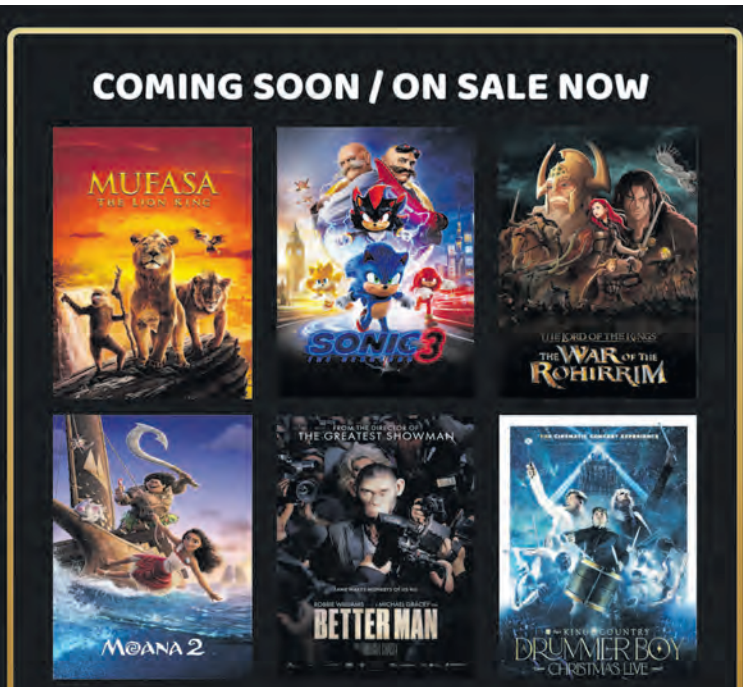














South Dublin Christmas Markets

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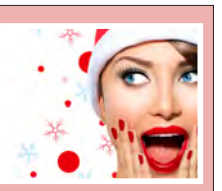
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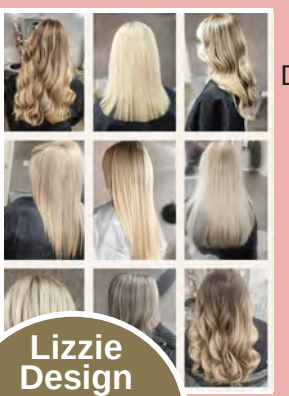
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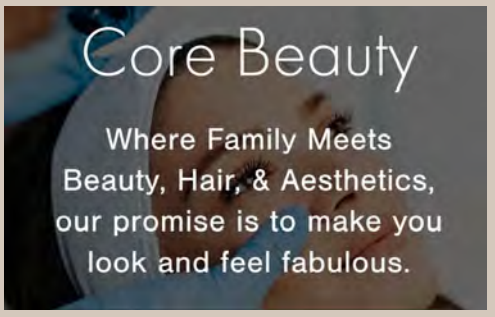
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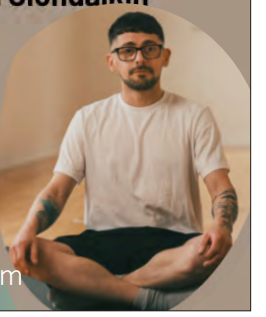
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Never a bridge too far for this Clondalkin club after 50 years

Bridge club tackles isolation and offers an affordable pastime for those on a pension

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



FASCINATING: Kathleen Dunne, Teresa Beesley, Kathleen Burke, Pauline Smith, Joanne Killeen, and Kathleen Mahon, all toasting the 50th year of Clondalkin Bridge Club

A SENSE of community and a fascinating game are what kept Clondalkin Bridge Club going for fifty years according to secretary Louise McGrillen.

On Thursday, November 28, the club celebrated the 50th anniversary since its Thursday Bridge nights were organised in Clondalkin village.

In 1974, local keen bridge players Kay Buckley and Evelyn Ferris were tired of having to travel outside Clondalkin to play the game and organised a public meeting in the village.

As turnout exceeded all expectations, beginners' bridge classes were set up in a local girls' secondary school to teach future members and local resident Gerry McCabe is still remembered today for having kindly donated all the materials for the new club.

Among the 75 current members, 63 attended the 50th anniversary ceremony at the Louis Fitzgerald Hotel in Newlands Cross, including longest-serving members Kay Giblin, Celia Doyle, and Monica Moffat.

A presentation was given by current President Denise Byrne followed by a dinner and music and dancing until late.

A special tribute was made to Anne O'Connor, who encouraged new members to join the club in recent years as she taught bridge classes in the village.

"Our current age range goes from 50+ to 100, the age of our oldest member," explained Louise who has been with the club for the last 20 years.

"Many of them have been living in Clondalkin for all their married life at least, some are now living alone, and our club offers an outlet to socialise and keep your brain active.

"It tackles isolation and offers an affordable pastime for people who are living on a pension."

Besides that, bridge is an unpredictable and challenging game and according to Louise that's what made it so popular among participants in the area.

"It's sometimes perceived as too complicated, but with a bit of patience you'll understand that it really is accessible to everyone, and that it will hold your interest in the long run."

Clondalkin Bridge Club meet at St Joseph National School on Monday and Thursday nights and have another game session at the Maldron Hotel in Newlands Cross on Wednesday mornings.

The group who regularly meet in the Maldron will soon relocate in the Senior Citizen Community Centre recently opened in Clondalkin village.

After 50 years, the club keeps encouraging new people to join. In the annual membership which costs €15, social occasions like dinners and summer events are included.

> **"Our current age range goes from 50+ to 100, the age of our oldest member . . . Many of them have been living in Clondalkin for all their married life at least, some are now living alone, and our club offers an outlet to socialise and keep your brain active**



CHEERS: Anne Dunne, Angela McGreevey, Josephine Faughnan, Anne O'Connor, Matt Daly and Alayne Young

Top graduation prize for Ballyfermot boy

ADAM Crawford received top accolades at the Carlow College, St Patrick's Conferring Ceremony for 2024 receiving a graduation prize for achievements for his third-level studies.

In addition to receiving his BA (Hons) in English & History, Adam, from Ballyfermot, was awarded the Constance Markievicz Award in recognition of academic excellence during his time at Carlow College.

Staff and students at Carlow College had a day of celebration for its Class of 2024 on Friday as 152 graduates were conferred in the College's graduation, which took place in Carlow Cathedral.

The ceremony conferred awards across undergraduates in Arts & Humanities; English & History; Social, Political & Community Studies; and Applied Social Studies.

Michael Moriarty, well-known author and educator delivered the keynote address at the graduation.

Speaking of the ceremony, Dr Margaret Murphy, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Registrar of Carlow College said: "Today is a day of celebration for our new graduates and their families and friends. It is a proud day for the college and we applaud the achievements of the class of 2024. We look forward to hearing about the next stages in their journeys, whether that is in employment or further study.

Carlow College President, Fr Conn Ó Maoldhomhnaigh warmly congratulated the graduates who come from 16 different counties across Ireland.

"As College President, it is my pleasure and privilege to acknowledge the exceptional achievements of all of our graduates.

"They have been part of our journey over the past three to four years and we wish them the very best as they continue on their own individual paths" said Fr Ó Maoldhomhnaigh



ACHIEVEMENT: Adam Crawford accepts his prize from Carlow College President, Fr Conn Ó Maoldhomhnaigh

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Residents groups concerned over HSE primary care centre plans

Over-centralisation of health services may take away from town core

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

PLANS for a primary care centre in Rathcoole have raised concerns amongst local resident groups about the suitability of the site and "over centralisation" of health services in the four districts area.

The HSE proposes to move an existing primary care centre in Citywest, and build a four-storey primary care centre building in Saggart, on lands at Citywest Campus, Garters Lane.

According to planning documents, it will provide general primary care, mental health, disability and older person services.

Whilst welcoming primary care services for the catchment area, Lynn Tierney, on behalf of the Saggart Village Residents Association, says the proposal lies within the context of residential developments planned and proposed for the area.

In a submission to SDCC for the planning proposal, Tierney believes the proposed development would require rezoning of the land at the proposed site.

"Changes to zoning is of concern in relation to any precedent that will be set for rezoning of surrounding lands, without having consideration for the long-term structural, residential, social and transport needs of the area," said Ms Tierney.

A submission to the plan by Alan Fairman, Rathcoole Community Council, states that there is no documentation provided by the HSE to "justify the size of the proposed building or indicate the planned population base it is designed to service."

"There is also no analysis from a business or community impact perspective on the effect the centralisation of such services will have on the core of the three small rural towns. Saggart, Rathcoole and Newcastle all have existing pharmacy outlets, GP practice offices, dentists, physiotherapy practices, counselling services ,and specialist clinics."

Fairman expresses concern that an "over-centralisation of health services" will take away from town cores in addition with the "potential cross subsidisation of business space and parking costs."

> **"There is also no analysis from a business perspective . . . Saggart, Rathcoole and Newcastle all have existing pharmacy outlets, GP practice offices, dentists, physiotherapy practices, counselling services**



CONCERNS: An artist's impression of the primary care centre at Citywest Campus

Mr Fairman also notes that the site belongs to Citywest Hotel owner Cape Wrath Unlimited Company, who have their own plans for the site, and that this proposal could lead to a legal challenge."

The development will be accessed via the existing avenue to the Citywest Campus entered from Garters Lane at the existing traffic-light-controlled junction, with a new internal road layout from the existing roundabout on the access avenue to provide two vehicular entrances to car-parking within the subject site; The car-parking will be divided into a dedicated staff car-park and a visitor car-park with both to be controlled by barrier access and a total of 158 car-parking spaces provided; The proposal also includes bicycle-parking, service yard, pumping station, SuDS drainage, PV panels at roof level, signage, landscaping, boundary treatment and all associated site works and services.

Centric360 acquires HCS cybersecurity service provider

CITYWEST-based IT and cybersecurity service provider HCS has been acquired by Centric360, *reports Maurice Garvey.*

Investment vehicle Centric 360 is owned jointly by Pamela Farrell and Brian Larkin, former directors of the Evros Technology Group, which was acquired in 2020 by Eir.

The acquisition will be followed by further investment in HCS throughout 2025, including the expansion of its service portfolio and team.

Over the past 30 years, HCS, who have offices in Citywest, Waterford and Cork, has become a highly successful managed services business spanning cyber security, cloud, digital transformation and telecoms

Since 2020, HCS has increased its turnover from €3.5m to a projected revenue of €8m in this financial year and more than doubled its team from 24 to 50 employees.

Larkin and Farrell see significant scope for further investment in the business in 2025, scaling the existing HCS service portfolio and expanding the sales and professional services teams.

The acquisition also includes the purchase of HCS headquarters in Waterford.

The current HCS owners and directors – Seán Hegarty, Dan Hegarty and Neil Phelan – will continue in their roles.

Meanwhile, Larkin will become Chairman and Farrell will assume the role of Managing Director.

HCS CEO Neil Phelan said: "It was important for us to join forces with people who understand our brand and history. Together, we hope to continue driving growth not just for the business but for our employees and customers too."

Pamela Farrell added that they look forward to further "investing in operations, expanding the company's capabilities, and bolstering the team."

"In turn, we intend to open up new opportunities while building on the organisation's existing legacy of delivering transformational, innovative services which customers can trust," said Ms Farrell.



ON THE MOVE: Dan Hegarty (Head of Sales, HCS), Pamela Farrell and Brian Larkin, (owners of Centric360), Neil Phelan (CEO, HCS), and Sean Hegarty, (Head of Operations, HCS)

E business

tel: 4685350 email: business@echo.ie

Norwegian real estate firm buys stake in the Dalata Hotel Group

Oslo-based firm already owns shares in Swedish hotel group Pandos and Scandic Hotels

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

NORWEGIAN real estate company Eiendomsspar has acquired a 5.45 per cent stake in Dalata Hotel Group, which operates all the Maldron and Clayton hotel brands.

Eiendomsspar now owns nearly 11.7m shares in Dalata after increasing its stake from 4.06 per cent .

The company first disclosed its interest in Dalata at the end of October when its stake rose above 3 per cent .

Chief executive of Eiendomsspar Sigurd Stray told The Irish Times that he sees it as a "financial investment" that would "hopefully provide a fair return over time."

Mr Stray said the investment was based on Dalata being a "a well-driven company with a good position in Great Britain and Ireland" and a view that its shares are trading at a "fair market price in the current market climate."

Eiendomsspar also owns a 25 per cent stake in Swedish hotel property group Pandox, which owns and leases 159 hotels across Europe, including locations in Dublin, Cork, Galway and Belfast.

The Oslo-based firm also includes a 14.7 per cent stake in the Scandic Hotel Group in its portfolio, which runs 264 hotels.

Dalata announced a €600m debt refinancing last month.

The group secured a green term loan facility of €100m as well as a multi-currency revolving credit facility of €375m and raised €125m from its first private placement of senior secured notes with a maturity profile of between five and seven years.



GOOD POSITION: Maldron Hotel is part of the Dalata Hotel Group

> **"Eiendomsspar also owns a 25 per cent stake in Swedish hotel property group Pandox, which owns and leases 159 hotels across Europe**



New multi-sensory room

PURE Telecom, which is based in Citywest, officially opened a multi-sensory room for children visiting Children's Health Ireland at Connolly.

The room and services were entirely funded by Pure Telecom's fundraising initiatives for Children's Health Foundation.

Children's Health Foundation raises vital funds to support sick children and their families in Ireland. It has been instrumental in driving cutting-edge research into childhood illness and treatment, while also supplying funds for state-of-the-art facilities, advanced equipment, and enhanced services for Ireland's most critically ill children. In total, Pure Telecom has raised more than €130,000 for Children's Health Foundation through a combination of staff and customer fundraising initiatives.

The multisensory facility offers a stress-relief haven for children visiting the Children's Health Ireland at Connolly urgent care centre. It has been tailor-made to benefit those with autism, learning challenges and sensory sensitivities.

The busy hospital environment can be challenging for these children and their families, which can impact their overall experience and ability to receive the service they need. The room provides a tranquil escape from what can be a sensory overload and features soothing elements including gentle lighting, immersive wall projections, tactile objects and calming shimmering lights.



CALMING: Paul Connell (CEO, Pure Telecom), Zuzanna Kulakowska, and Janet Carter (CHI Staff Nurse OPD), at the opening of CHI at Connolly's new multi-sensory room funded by Pure Telecom

The room is expected to benefit hundreds of the patients and their families who attend Children's Health Ireland at Connolly each year.

Speaking about the room, Fionna Brennan, Director of Nursing Children's Health Ireland at Tallaght & Connolly said: "The multisensory room is of huge benefit to children who attend Children's Health Ireland at Connolly.

"These facilities offer a therapeutic benefit for patients with sensory issues and allow a safe, calming place for children before and after procedures. The opening of this facility marks another positive step forward in creating a holistic, inclusive and calming environment at what can often be a stressful or overwhelming time for families and children."

Paul Connell, CEO, Pure Telecom, said: "Children's Health Foundation are working to support sick children and their families in Ireland. Through the generosity of our customers and staff, we have raised vital funds that are bringing about positive change in the lives of those facing extremely challenging times.

"We chose Children's Health Foundation as our charity partner because of the enormous role it plays in the health of children in Ireland. It is an honour to support an incredible organisation that touches hearts, heals wounds, and spreads rays of joy amidst adversity."

E business

tel: 4685350 email: business@echo.ie

The Smooth Company gets nomination for national award

It took Aine Kennedy nearly two years to perfect her product

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

LUCAN beauty product supplier The Smooth Company has been nominated as one of 26 companies for the SFA National Small Business Awards 2025.

The aim of the awards is to celebrate the achievements of small business in Ireland and to recognise the vital contribution of the small business sector to Irish industry.

The Smooth Company was founded by entrepreneur Aine Kennedy, who has gone from packing products at home with her grandad and sister, to an award-winning business that has its brand at major stores such as Brown Thomas, Arnotts, the UK, and customers in over 50 countries.

Kennedy's start-up has been nominated as a finalist in the retail category (up to 50 employees) for the SFA awards.

However, she has already won accolades for the venture, including a 'Highly Commended' in the Marie Claire UK Hair Care awards 2024, a high-style beauty award in 2023 and an 'Emerging New Business 2023' from the National SFA Small Business Awards.

It took Aine nearly two years to perfect her award-winning Smooth Stick, and she has documented her small business journey online, racking up over 95 million views on TikTok.

Sue O'Neill, Chair of the SFA Awards Judging Panel, said the strong response to the awards programme highlights the resilience of Irish small businesses.

"The Small Firms Association remains committed to celebrating the achievements of small business owners. With 273,000 small businesses employing almost half of Ireland's private sector workforce, these awards shine a spotlight on excellence, innovation and success across every sector and region of the country," she said.

> **"With 273,000 small businesses employing almost half of Ireland's private sector workforce, these awards shine a spotlight on excellence, innovation and success**



TOP PRODUCT: The Smooth Company – Aine Kennedy (right) delighted with her work

An Cosán awards empower people to break poverty cycle

OVER 30 learners attended An Cosán's Further Education Awards ceremony in Tallaght to receive QQI awards in Community Care, Community Development and Business Administration with Digital Skills, *reports Maurice Garvey.*

Based in Jobstown, Tallaght, the mission of An Cosán, Ireland's largest community education provider, is to empower people through education and break the cycle of poverty.

All 32 awardees of the Level 5 courses have completed a two-year journey to gain their professional qualification.

An Cosán's Deputy CEO, Anne Genockey, said that "for some it wasn't always an easy journey" but they "stuck with it, in spite of all of these challenges."

Expressing gratitude to Dublin Dun Laoghaire Education & Training Board (DDLETB) for their continuing support of community education programmes at An Cosán, Ms Genockey said their support is "essential in providing the learner supports required to run these programmes and achieve these outcomes for learners."

Lisa Keating, who graduated with a QQI Level 5 award in 'Business Administration with Digital Skills', received a standing ovation from the audience for sharing her moving learner journey speech.

Lisa spoke about how, upon returning to live in Ireland from the UK with her children, she didn't know where she was going.

"When I walked into An Cosán the light shone on me and my path would become clear," said Lisa who started on the Return to Learning course, then went on to complete a learning module in Communications, before taking on the business course.

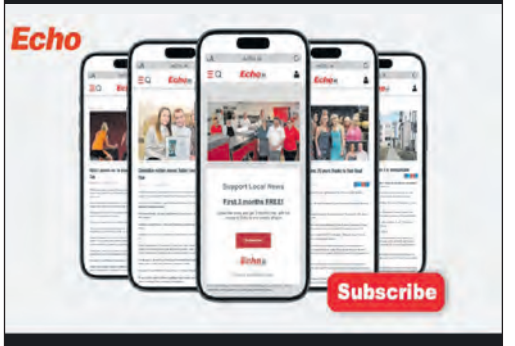
Lisa also shared how she secured a learner work placement with Bank of America and whilst there met lecturer and author of 'Poor', Katriona O'Sullivan, who was visiting the bank to speak to work-placement participants.



CHALLENGES: Anne Genockey (Deputy CEO, An Cosán) with Marija Knezevic

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property

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All systems go for houses off the Blessington Road

Four two-storey houses will have eight parking spaces on site

PLANNING permission has been granted by South Dublin County Council for the development of four houses off Blessington Road.

Applicant Ciara Mackin received planning for the development of four two-storey, three-bedroom semi-detached houses with eight parking spaces and associated site works at site at Corbally Close off Blessington Road.

A number of submissions were made by residents and councillors and the council had previously sought additional information.

The plans for the houses were granted permission by the local authority.



GO-AHEAD: The site to the right on the Blessington Road

Residence with 10 bedrooms goes for auction with price tag of €645k

A RESIDENCE on Main Street Tallaght with 10 bedrooms with a price of €645,000 went for sale by online auction this week.

This red-brick residence sits on just over 0.2 acres and is currently configured as a 10-bedroom, four-bathroom care facility, offering the flexibility to be easily adapted to suit the discerning buyer's needs.

Bathed in natural light, the living spaces are both bright and airy, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere throughout. Opportunities to acquire a property of this caliber in this area are rare.

The accommodation comprises an entrance hallway, a spacious living room, a downstairs bedroom with ensuite, a conservatory.

Other features include exceptional red brick, double fronted property in good condition throughout, very spacious specification spanning 202 square metres, 10 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms + shower room – easily reconfigured, gas-fired central heating, solar panels, large flowing driveway with space for multiple cars, very spacious rear gardens with steel shed and utility shed and private gated entrance.



SPACIOUS: The property on Main Street in Tallaght Village

Extension of their 10-year permission sought by Grange Backup Power

GRANGE Backup Power Ltd have applied for a Further Extension of Duration of permission for a 10-year permission for the construction of a 115MW Peaker Power Plant in a single-storey building with a mezzanine-level office and electrical control area.

This building has a platform height of 17.52m, seven shafts with a height of 20.74m and two stacks with a height of 25m.

The development also includes water and fuel tanks with associated pump houses; one building consisting of a compact workshop and warehouse and a security area, with a height of 6.5m; site access and entrance gates; internal roadways and footpaths; security fencing; six car-parking spaces (one of these is accessible) and appropriate landscaping, all on a site of 1.23 hectare site in the north of Grange Castle Business Park. The total gross floor area of the facility is approx. 3,583 sq m. This application relates to development which comprises of an activity which requires an Industrial Emissions Licence in accordance with the First Schedule of the EPA Act 1992 as amended.

property

tel: 4685350 email: property@echo.ie

No-no for Boomers Pub plans for 22 rooms in Dutch Village

Aparthotel proposals are considered "out of character with the site and the surrounding area"

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

PLANNING permission has been refused for an aparthotel that included 22 rooms at Boomers Pub in the Dutch Village in Clondalkin.

Applicant Honeybridge Ltd had sought permission for the change of use of part first floor from function room to aparthotel and construction of two new floors over first floor complete (at second- and third-floor levels) to provide aparthotel and ancillary accommodation.

The total number of aparthotel rooms provided was 22 and the plans included the existing roof over first floor to be removed complete to facilitate the development.

Other works included the reduction in size of ground-floor lounge-floor area to provide new separate stairs and lift to serve the aparthotel rooms on the first, new second and new third floors.

The external entrance doors to the stairs/lift area would have been the previous entrance doors to the lounge area and the roof garden would have been accessed through the new stairs and lift.

In reaching its decision, South Dublin County Council said: "The proposed development by way of scale, mass, bulk and overall height is considered out of character with the site and surrounding area, and if permitted, would interfere with the quality and character of the urban landscape. The applicant has also failed to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Local Authority how the design responds to the character and overall context of the site, and if supported, would set an undesirable precedence for other such inappropriate design responses elsewhere in the County".

The council went on to say: "As currently proposed, the applicant has failed to adequately address car-parking issues on the site, more particularly the development fails to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority that there is either sufficient car-parking (both standard and mobility impaired) available on site and within the applicant's control to support the development OR to alternatively justify why a reduction in the car-parking standards below those set out in the South Dublin County Development Plan 2022-2028 is acceptable. As such the proposals are considered contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.



REFUSED: An artist's impression of the plans for Boomers Pub

Community Family Centre plans now lodged with council



PROPOSED: An artist's impression of the plans for the Deansrath Family Centre building

DEANSRATH Health Centre has lodged plans with South Dublin County Council for a new three-storey Community Family Centre building.

The site for the proposed developed is off St Cuthbert's Road on lands currently used as St Cuthbert's Park, St Cuthbert's Road in Clondalkin.

The plans include the three-storey Community Family Centre building of 955 sq m, which will include an early learning centre, therapy and consultation rooms, parenting rooms, computer classrooms, stores, offices, meeting rooms and ancillary accommodation. There will also be external play areas, car parking, bike parking and shelters, bin storage, new vehicular and pedestrian access and gates off St. Cuthbert's Road, perimeter fencing and associated groundworks and signage at a site off St Cuthbert's Road

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Tallaght Community Council light the Living Christmas Tree in village

Neighbours, volunteers and Tallaght Person of The Year Glenda gathered just before sunset to mark the beginning of the festive season in Tallaght

THE NEWLY announced Tallaght Person of the Year Glenda Murphy Smullen officially welcomed Christmas to Tallaght village last weekend.

Tallaght Community Council (TCC) volunteers, joined Glenda, past Tallaght People of the Year, category winners and residents to light up the living Christmas tree in The Dancers Garden on Main Street last Sunday.

This is the 9th annual ceremony led by TCC, they began this annual tradition in 2016 to help bring festive cheer to the village. In recent years, local businesses have joined the festive efforts and begun to add window murals, external festive decorations, and lights on their buildings. TCC have requested lighting and a power source from SDCC to help them further develop the annual Christmas ceremony in Tallaght village.

"We love this village event each Christmas, it brings neighbours together just before sunset, for a chat and to mark the beginning of the festive season in Tallaght village.

"Thanks to Canon Deverill and Fr Al for blessing the tree again for us this year and to Glenda for doing the honours of lighting the tree," said Liz Kennedy, Voluntary Chair of TCC 2024/25.

Following the switching on of the lights, The Well held a social reception for the gathered crowd in their quaint cottage on Main Street. There was a warm cuppa, mulled wine, and tasty festive treats on hand for everyone, with an impromptu acoustic performance by John and Bobby Keeley.

There was an international flavour to the sweet treats, with TCC volunteer Laimis Isoda bringing traditional Lithuanian biscuits along, they went down very well with everyone! For more photos see the Tallaght Community Council social media channels.

"We love this village event each Christmas, it brings neighbours together just before sunset, for a chat and to mark the beginning of the festive season in Tallaght village





Tallaght Person of The Year Glenda with her family



TCC volunteers, Tara, Brendan, Laimis and Peter



Norman, Nico, Joe, Glenda, Rose, Pat and Sinead



Bobby and John gave an impromptu acoustic performance

41st 1984 to 2024

TALLAGHT PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2024

Go n-éiri leat Glenda!



Glenda Murphy Smullen, Tallaght Person of The Year 2024

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Drug debt of €1,000 ballooned up to €26,000 after a few weeks

A MAN transporting over €215,000 of cannabis was put under pressure by others after his €1,000 drugs debt ballooned to €26,000, a court has heard, *reports Eimear Dodd.*

James Glynn (33) of Claraoibhinn, Claremorris, Co. Mayo, pleaded guilty to possession of cannabis for sale or supply on November 12, 2023, at Pinewood Park, Tallaght Co. Dublin. He has no previous convictions and has not come to garda attention since the incident.

Detective Garda Enda Gromley told prosecuting counsel that gardai were carrying out a surveillance operation after receiving confidential information.

They observed Glynn stop his Toyota car and then engage with two other men. A Honda car driven by one of these men was reversed towards the boot of the Toyota, and a large suitcase was transferred into the boot.

Gardai later stopped Glynn's car. He told them there was "weed" in the boot. After caution, he said two suitcases of weed were in the boot, but he didn't know the value.

Det Garda Gormley said Glynn seemed "shaky and alarmed" at the scene but also "almost happy to be caught" as this would bring an end to it.

He told gardai that he smoked cannabis and was made to do this as he had built up a drug debt of €27,000.

Over 10kg of cannabis was found in the suitcases, with a value of €215,940.

Glynn made further admissions when gardai interviewed him. He said he was the subject of extortion as he had run up a drug debt of €1,000, which he ignored for a few weeks as he was moving from Dublin back home to Mayo.

When he went to deal with the debt, he was told that a "tax" had to be paid, and he now owed €26,000. He said he was told he could deal with the drug debt by carrying out jobs.

Det Garda Gormley said Glynn was not due to profit from his involvement beyond repaying his debt. The witness agreed with Kathleen Leader SC, defending, that her client was cooperative and made admissions during interview.

It was also accepted that Glynn told gardai he started to take cannabis to self-medicate, arising from a childhood trauma. He also admitted to taking other drugs from time to time, including ketamine and cocaine.

Det Garda Gormley agreed that Glynn said he built up a small drug debt that he did not deal with while he was moving from Dublin back to Mayo, which became a more significant debt.

He agreed with Ms Leader that Glynn was subject to credible threats and accepted that the defendant did not wish to ask his family for further money to repay these debts.

It was accepted that Glynn is remorseful and aware of the upset caused to his family. A probation report and references were handed in.

Ms Leader said her client is working and living a pro-social life in Mayo, where he volunteers with a local charity.

Judge Pauline Codd said it was "extraordinary" that a debt of €1,000 could jump to €26,000 "at the whim of people higher up the drugs trade".

She said this case fell into the exceptional category and imposed a sentence of four and a half years, suspended in full on strict conditions, including 12-month probation supervision and that he must continue to attend counselling.

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

Fianna Fáil wins the largest share with the Green Party losing out on all but one of its 12 seats

Dear Editor,

WITH multiple seats up for grabs, Fianna Fáil has won the largest share of first-preference votes, with 21.9 per cent, ahead of second-placed Fine Gael on 20.8 per cent and Sinn Féin on 19 per cent.

In Dublin South-West, PBP Paul Murphy took the final seat there, together with Labour's Ciarán Ahern, Fianna Fáil's John Lahart, Fine Gael's Colm Brophy and Sinn Féin's Seán Crowe.

Undoubted loser, Green Party Francis Noel Duffy ended his election bid at count three as did 11 of the Green's 12 seats, with party leader Roderic O'Gorman, the sole survivor. High-profile TDs to lose their seats were: Catherine Martin, Stephen Donnelly, and Chris Andrews.

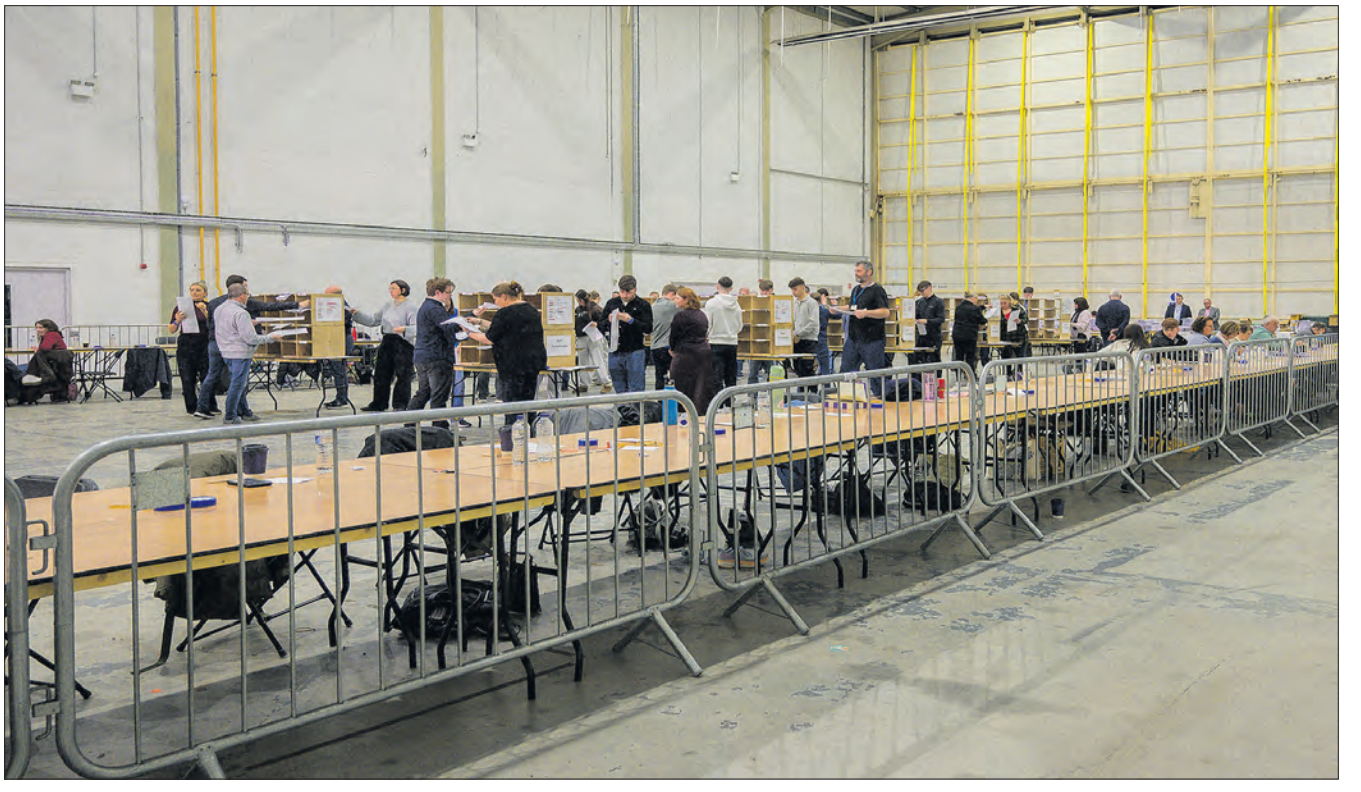
The fourth count saw former MMA Fighter Paddy Holohan banished and his 3,034 votes distributed. The seventh count saw Fine Gael's Colm Brophy elected with 12,498 votes after garnering 3,455 transfers. His wife, Fine Gael councillor Maeve O'Connell, was elected in Dublin Rathdown.

As the eleventh final count ended, PBP's Paul Murphy and Labour's Ciaran Ahern were elected without reaching the quota.

The surplus votes of 1,411 targeted Paul Murphy who trailed at 396. Fianna Fáil TD John Lahart was re-elected after he got 4,016 transfers. His running mate, Theresa Costello, was banished.

Count ten saw Labour's Ciarán Ahern garner 725 transfers reaching 9,958 votes shy of the 11,138 quota. The transfer of 11,000 voters from Fettercairn to Dublin Mid-West saw Sean Crowe top the poll at 14.8 per cent and Paul Murphy elected to the 34th Dáil. Gerard "The Monk' Hutch who was foiled by Marie Sherlock made a swift exit from the RDS count centre saying: "I'm running all my life".

Yours sincerely,
Gerry Coughlan,
Kilnamanagh.



NUMBERS GAME: The centre in Weston Airport which hosted the Dublin South West count at the weekend

2024 Tallaght Person of The Year

Dear Sir,

It was with great pleasure that Tallaght Community Council hosted the 41st Tallaght Person of The Year Awards 2024 at The Maldron Hotel on Saturday, November 23. It truly was a night to remember.

The night began with a red carpet Prosecco reception for all the nominees guests and supporters. The Maldron served a beautiful variety of dishes from around the world while the nominees and supporters were entertained by local trad band, Thirsty Session who play in St Anne's GAA club.

The event ceremony was held in the Shannon Suite, theatre style, and was MC'd by Al Porter. The event was attended by Mayor Baby Pereppadan, past winners of the award, gold and silver sponsors and nominees.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our sponsors and supporters, the judges and everyone who played a part in making the night so special.

It would be impossible for us to host this event without the support of businesses and organisations in the community.

Tallaght Person of The Year is a community centred awards and the support from the audience on the night was fantastic and extremely uplifting.

No matter who the winner was in each category everyone in the room cheered.

The awards ceremony ended with three standing ovations for our two Lifetime Achievement Award winners Pat Dunne and Mary Kelly, and of course there was a rapturous applause for the newly crowned Tallaght Person of The Year Glenda Murphy Smullen who also received a standing ovation.

Thank you to our outgoing Tallaght Person of The Year Nico Crowley for a great year and for graciously handing over the chain of office to Glenda.

I want to thank the Maldron staff and the TCC committee for the incredible work they did on the night and in the days leading up to it.

A huge thank you to our wonderful compere Al Porter who kept the show going and we look forward to seeing you all next year as we celebrate the wonderful community of Tallaght.

Yours sincerely,
Liz Kennedy,
Volunteer Vice Chair,
Tallaght Community Council



AWARD: Glenda Murphy Smullen, Tallaght Person of The Year 2024

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Ciaran Carr Christmas Busk

11TH ANNUAL BUSK COMES TO CLONDALKIN VILLAGE

By **Ryan Butler**
news@echo.ie

THE uniqueness of the busk is in its simplicity; it's a completely cost-effective idea; it just requires people showing up and giving up their time," explains Clondalkin-born singer-songwriter and RTE folk award nominee Colm Gavin when asked about the 11th annual Ciaran Carr Christmas Busk in Clondalkin Village.

This year's line-up is "far and away the most illustrious we've ever had," featuring Shosby, Leslie Dowdall (In Tua Nua), RTÉ 2FM rising stars Brad Heidi & Kylabelle, Sadbh Keane, Colm, and many more.

The busk initially began in 2014 and has raised thousands for the Ciarán Carr Foundation since its inception.

Ciarán was a popular local figure who played for Round Tower GAA club and died of sudden adult death syndrome in 2012.

In the wake of his passing, his parents, Gemma and Philip, established the Ciarán Carr Foundation to raise money to put defibrillators in local amenities, and they regularly gave first aid courses.

Gavin recently performed two sold-out benefit concerts in New York City at the prestigious Joanne's on West 68th Street, a venue run by Lady Gaga's father, Joe Germanota.

Gavin curated and performed at both concerts, which were in aid of the Lupus Research Alliance, the illness that Lady Gaga's aunt Joanne passed away from in December 1974, and for whom the venue is named.

Colm Gavin's brand new album 'Diggin' the Idleflower', his fourth official release with Beo Records, was launched in Whelan's in May this year. 'Song for Sam', one of the tracks from the new record, has spent the better part of a month on the RTE Radio 1 Recommends list. Colm is fresh off the heels of a UK/US/IRL tour, becoming one of the most celebrated artists on the Irish music circuit today.

This tour saw him return home to bring his own unique blend of witty onstage banter and sensitive compositions to venues in Galway, Clare, Connemara, Armagh, Belfast, and Dublin.

He also recently performed as part of an evening of contemporary Irish music that was being presented by Aras Chronain, along with Madelyn Monaghan and Caitriona Sherlock.

This year's busk is set to be the "biggest yet," according to Colm, so don't miss out when it is performed outside the Clondalkin Credit Union on December 21 at 7:30 pm; get your tickets now!

This week, we sat down with Colm to discuss the event:

How did this gig come about for you? Have you performed for the foundation before? If so, what have your previous experiences been like?

For many years now, I've performed at the Christmas Eve busk on Grafton Street in aid of the Simon Community. I remember seeing an interview with Glen Hansard; he was sitting in Tompkin Square Park and said that his hope for the busk was that perhaps in every town in Ireland, or every major city, the local musicians would get together at Christmas time, sing a few songs in the centre of town, and give the money over to a local charity, and I loved the directness of that idea. So in 2013, I approached local luminary Conor McGrath, whom I've always looked up to, and put the idea to him. The following Christmas of 2014, we had the first ever Ciarán Carr Christmas Busk!

Have there been any challenges or highlights of working on it so far? How has it differed from other gigs you have done?

The uniqueness of the busk is in its simplicity; it's a completely cost-effective idea; it just requires people showing up and giving up their time. The busk usually lasts an hour, we sing a few songs, and people give what they can. A very straightforward exchange.

What can we expect from the busk? Will it be material from the artists, such as yourself, holiday favourites, or a mix of both?

This is, far and away, the biggest line-up we've ever had. Leslie Dowdall, whom your readers will know from the classic Irish 80s group In Tua Nua, will be performing at this year's busk. Shobsy will be making an appearance, 2FM rising stars Brad Heidi and Kylabelle are set to be with us, George Murphy and Daoirí Farrell; it's an absolutely cracking line-up. Artists sing whatever they like, Tara Abbey might sing a seasonal carol, Zoe Clarke might sing an original song, it all depends, the spontaneity adds to the fun of it all, and we might have surprise appearance or two, you never know.

I'd say you're delighted to be back home for Christmas! I understand you've had a very busy year in the US as well; tell us more!

It's been a whirlwind of a year; I can't quite believe that as we're speaking, it's presently mid-November; it felt like June 10 minutes ago. I've had shows in the United States and UK, and I've just finished a string of gigs around Ireland. "Song for Sam" from my most recent album "Diggin' the Idleflower" has been selected for the RTÉ Folk Awards 2025, so that's a huge honour. I'll be doing a homecoming show on December 20th in Áras Chrónáin, tickets for which are on sale now but are almost 50% sold out

What are your plans for the New Year? Are there any more EPs or singles in the pipeline?



BUSK: Clondalkin singer-songwriter Colm Gavin

Separate from my own solo endeavours, I write for a lot of other artists on the country music circuit, the pop scene, and even musical theatre. A number of different artists will be releasing songs of mine in the coming months. I've also been co-writing with the brilliant Kiera Dignam. We've amassed quite a bouquet of songs that I'm really proud of, which I think will ultimately amount to tracks for her next album. I have shows booked for Scotland and the UK in 2025, so it's set to be another busy year.

Who would you like to thank for helping you with this opportunity?

I'd like to personally thank every single person who makes the busk happen, from the audio engineers, stewards, volunteers, and crew to the performers who come from every corner of Ireland to make it happen. Gemma & Philip Carr do phenomenal work all year round; this is just our little gesture back to them.



20 year celebrations

FOR KILLINARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL PROJECT ON FRIDAY

Photos by **Paddy Barrett**

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Jenny, Lily, Melonie, Imelda and Ann



Pat and Hilda



Trish Kane (KCCYP), Andrea Molloy (SDCC), Mick Farrell (KWETB) and Martin McEntee (DDFERB)



Alan Gibbons and Stephen Carrick



John Derwin and Tony Hamilton



D24 Dance Group



Lauren Condon, Tanya Condon, Nicola Curran and Marie Barnes



Anna Bowden and Callan Caulfield



Patricia Kane, Hilda Hamilton and Eileen Hedderman

Dominic's Search for a Star

TALENTED KIDS PUT ON OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES

THE talent was out in force again last week for Dominic's Community Centre's annual talent show 'Dominic's Search for a Star'.

This is the fourth year of the show which takes place in Rua Red and each year it keeps getting better and better.

"We have lots of future stars on our hands. We can't wait to see where they all go from here," said Niamh Valentine, Community Centre Team Leader, Dominics Community Centre.

"We had 13 acts in total and each one put on an amazing performance. The three judges Nicole Kelly from Xquisite Dance, Audrey Brown and Jayden Stephens all had a very hard job on the day to pick the four winners. We would like to thank them for giving up their time and volunteering to judge the show for us.

"All of the acts put on outstanding performances and we would like to congratulate them all. Well done to Izzy, Suki, Ella M., Fíadh, Ollie, Grace, Ella O'B., Sean, Érinn, Kayla, Teagan, Mia, Leon & Ella W".

The staff at Dominic's Community Centre worked alongside the children over the last few weeks to get them ready for the show and the management of the centre would like to thank them for all their hard work in the run up to the show and on the day itself, without them the show would not have been the success it was.

The winners were 1st Place Érinn: Keelan, 2nd Place: Ella Ward, 3rd Place: Suki Bulfin & Ella Mansfield and 4th Place: Leon Kwiatkowski.



CIAss ACts: search for a star Contestants and (inset): Judges, Audrey, Jayden and Nicole

A Christmas carol

FAMILY SHOW 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 it's 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 theatre, 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...

Don't miss the ultimate family show when it plays at the Civic from December 13-14!



AWARD WINNING: A Christmas Carol

MORAN
RED COW INN
EST. 1690

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E: redcowinn@moranhotels.com | www.redcowinn.ie

Christmas fair

ANNUAL EVENT HELD IN KINGSWOOD ON SATURDAY

Photos by **Paddy Barrett**

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The Byrne family



Xquisite Dance entertained the crowd on Saturday



Santa with Lee, Gigi and Leni



Tommy, Nicola, Sebi, Susi and Danny



Santa with Ethan, Sloane and Ciara Kehoe



Fitzsimons Academy



Santa with Lewis and Max



Rose Cooney and Kingswood Heights Foroige Youth Club

The Farming for Nature Handbook

OLLY NOLAN SHARES HIS VIEWS ON SUSTAINABLE FARMING

By **Ryan Butler**
news@echo.ie

IRISH farmers—including Olly Nolan, a mixed stock farmer from Glenasmole—have joined forces for a new book combining scientific research with local knowledge that gives farmers and others practical tips on how to create a more sustainable future while protecting land and nature.

At a time of great challenge and uncertainty for farm families, 'The Farming for Nature Handbook' is a practical guide to protecting and restoring nature.

With contributions from more than 50 Irish farmers, the book also shares farmers' experiences of how working with nature can help reduce costs and improve incomes.

While there is widespread awareness of the environmental damage caused by poor farming practices, this book, in contrast, attempts to highlight the positive ways farmers can sustain and enhance our natural environment and benefit from the results.

It is hoped the 'Farming for Nature Handbook' will become the essential guide to caring profitably for our land.

The book, which was launched on November 28th, was inspired by regular requests to the non-profit 'Farming for Nature 'project from landowners, farmers, smallholders, and growers wanting to learn how best to manage their land, big or small, in a way that enhances habitats, protects profits, and safeguards our natural environment and rural communities.

The Farming for Nature project was set up to support, encourage, and inspire farmers who farm, or who wish to farm, in a way that will improve the natural health of our countryside.

Olly Nolan is one of the contributors and shares his views on sustainable farming in the book. He says, "It's very important to remember that in Ireland we have over 100 species of bees, and the honeybee is only one of them. So, I'm always conscious of not having too many colonies of honeybees in one area. Too many beehives would also end up competing with all these other important pollinators who are also under pressure due to loss of habitat and pesticide use."

The Farming for Nature Handbook shares tips for a better farming future and shows how to manage land in a way that enhances habitats, increases wildlife, and harnesses natural processes while protecting livelihoods, food security, and profiles. It is not just targeted at farmers but is for anyone who wants to grow, garden, and gather better.

The book was conceived and developed by Brigid Barry, researched and mainly written by conservation ecologist Dr. Emma Hart on behalf of Farming For Nature, and co-edited by Dr. Brendan Dunford of the Burrenbeo Trust. It is beautifully illustrated with watercolours and sketches by farmer and artist Clive Bright, as well as digital images by scientific illustrator William Helps.


BETTER FARMING: Glenasmole Farmer Olly Nolan

The book has been described by President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins as "a timely and essential contribution to the on-going discourse on how we, as a society, must respond to some of the most pressing challenges of our time.".

The Farming for Nature Handbook, published by Dingle Publishing, was launched on November 28th, 2024. RRP €30. It is available to order (and pre-order now) at www.farmingfornature.ie

The book was supported financially by the National Parks and Wildlife Service, the Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine, and the Lifes2Good Foundation.


UNIQUE STYLE: Kilmainham based singer-songwriter Keelan X

Somebody Else

KEELAN X LATEST COVER

By **Ryan Butler**
news@echo.ie

"WATCHING Top of the Pops as a youngster was an early inspiration," beams Kilmainham-based singer-songwriter Keelan X (real name Keelan Cunningham). He is thrilled to share his latest cover, 'Somebody Else' by the 1975, now available on YouTube. He has infused his unique style into this iconic track. "It was a lot of fun (and a ton of hard work!), and I'm excited to hear what you think."

'Top of the Pops' served as an early inspiration for the musician, as he "loved the combination of music and fashion."

When asked about nerves, Keelan states he believes, "A little bit of nervousness is healthy when performing as you know it's meaningful. I'm never nervous recording... I'm just excited and can't wait to capture a vibe and put down an initial song arrangement and vocal idea. I find the process endlessly fascinating." He is also complimentary of his suburb, praising its "laid-back nature and local history, plus it feels like a neighborhood."

He also prefers to record his songs rather than perform live because he finds it exciting to watch a song develop from scratch. He has recorded and plans to release a cover of The Weeknd's song early in 2025, as well as a version of a "well-known" U2 song later in the same year. His first release in 2025 though will be an original song he has just finished recording called 'Good Times.'

Keelan would like to thank his friend James for helping and organising behind the scenes, Yas, Zulal, and Cecilia for helping with Spotify, YouTube, and social media promotion, all the musicians and producers for the time they've spent working on music together, and his brother Alan for influencing his music when he was younger.

Santa Dash

FUNDRAISER HELD FOR RELAY FOR LIFE IN CORKAGH PARK

Photos by **Paddy Barrett**

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The Hanrahan Family



Aaron, Frankie and Jean



Santa and the Maher family



Jackie, Alan, Lorraine and Caroline



Black Paddy Fabu-D with Team Coby



The start of the Santa Dash



North Clondalkin Runnig Club



Asia Kuzma and Diana Stahl



Emily and Matt

> Chicken pot pie – those are my three favorite things.
>
> *Pablo Francisco*

Food with Passion



CHICKEN POT PIE WITH HERBY DUMPLINGS

by **John Paul Kennedy** / jpkennedy.kennedy@gmail.com

Now we are in the midst of Winter I crave these one-pot delicious supper dishes. Imagine coming home to the comforting aroma of a Chicken Pot Pie with Herby Dumplings wafting through your kitchen. This dish is the epitome of cozy, home-cooked goodness, combining tender chicken and vibrant vegetables in a rich, creamy sauce. Topped with fluffy, herb-infused dumplings, each bite is a delightful blend of flavours and textures. Whether you're looking to impress guests or simply enjoy a hearty meal with your family, this recipe is sure to become a beloved favourite. Let's dive into this delicious journey and create a dish that warms both the heart and soul! Great for leftovers the following day, but do add a drop of water to the casserole filling to loosen it before re-heating in the oven for about 15 minutes.

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.

Ingredients:

For the Chicken Pot Pie:
2 tablespoons olive oil
50g of butter
1 onion, chopped
2 carrots, diced
2 tablespoons of plain flour
500ml of hot chicken stock
1 rotisserie chicken, shredded
150g frozen peas
3 sprigs of fresh thyme
100ml of single cream (optional)
Salt and pepper to taste

For the Chicken Pot Pie:
475g self-raising flour
2 tablespoons of chopped parsley
100g cheddar cheese
225g unsalted butter
2 tablespoons of cold water













Method:

Prepare the Chicken Pot Pie Filling:

1. Preheat your oven to 200 degrees.
2. Heat olive oil and butter in a large pot / heavy duty casserole dish over medium heat. add the onion, thyme and diced carrots and cook off for about 5 minutes.
3. Stir in the flour and cook for 1-2 minutes.
4. Gradually add the chicken stock stirring constantly until the mixture thickens.
5. add the shredded chicken, peas, (cream if you're using it) salt, and pepper. Simmer for 10 minutes.

herby dumplings:

1. In a large bowl, combine the flour and butter and mix until you get a breadcrumb consistency. Then add the cheese and chopped parsley and water and bring together to form a dough.
2. Rollout and using a small scone cutter, cut out 12- 14 dumplings. This is a very pliable dough so you can re-roll it to get enough scones to cover the casserole.

how to cook:

1. Pour the chicken pot pie filling into a large baking dish / leave in your heavy duty casserole dish as I do.
2. Place the herby dumplings on top of the filling and place into the oven.
3. bake for 40 minutes, or until the dumplings are golden brown and cooked through, the pot pie filling will be bubbling up too!

Enjoy, this is one of my new go-to favourite suppers, perfect for this time of year. This recipe would also be delicious with left-over turkey meat so great for Christmas leftovers! It's so comforting and inviting. Requires a few minutes preparation and using a pre-cooked rotisserie chicken is a game changer in getting a delicious supper on the table within an hour!

Contact JP on:
Twitter: @JPKCooking
Email: JPKCooking@gmail.com
Instagram: jpkennedy.kennedy

Festive stalls and family fun

AT THE SAGGART VILLAGE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FAIR

Photos by **Paddy Barrett**

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Chelsea, Noeleen, Courtney, Jayden, Sophia and Louise



Ciara, Sam, Éabha and Caden



Shinu, Nisha, Anna, Sarah, Fiona and Andreea



Margaret and Amy



Atharr, Rishdan and Dimya



Alison, Jack and Dylan



Emilia, Lucia and Cali



Jay, Estha, John, Oscar and Izzy



Yasmin, Ametullah and Aliyah

"Some people want it to happen, some wish it would happen, others make it happen.

Michael Jordan

Health & Fitness

EMBRACE THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS WITH ENERGY AND JOY

by **Ursula Frawley** / info@moveitfitness.ie



It's December! It's often referred to as the most wonderful time of the year! The Christmas season is in full swing, bringing with it extra celebrations, fun and enjoyable moments with loved ones, and a break from the usual routines. While this season is filled with celebration, it's also a time when our schedules can get very hectic, and some of our healthy habits might take a backseat. That's perfectly okay! This is a time to treasure the memories and focus on the good without wasting time with guilt.

To help you stay energized and feel your best throughout the run up to Christmas, here are a few simple and easy to implement tips:

1. Enjoy a Daily Walk:

Take a few moments each day for a short walk. It doesn't need to be a big event—just a little time outside for yourself or with someone special. Whether it's a stroll through a park or a peaceful woodland walk, this habit boosts your energy, lifts your spirits, and keeps you moving during this busy season.

2. Add More Colour to Your Plate:

Make fruits and vegetables a priority in your meals. The more colourful your plate, the more nutrients you'll give your body to stay healthy and energized. These vibrant foods support your immune system and overall well-being, especially when sleep and routine take a backseat to festive nights out and family get togethers.

UrSUlA FrAWlEY IS A PERSonAl TRAInER AnD oWnER of MovE IT fITnESS. HER onlInE STREnGTH & fITnESS ClASSES, WHICH Run llvE SEvEn TIMES A WEEK, HAvE BEEn HElPInG WoMEn To fEEl STRonGER AnD fITTER SInCE 2020. HER onlInE AnD In-PERSon PRoGRAMMES ARE foCuSED on MoTIvATInG AnD CHAnGInG A MInDSET To EnjoYInG THE fITnESS jouRnEY, WHIlE fEEllnG EMPoWERED WITH A PoSITIvE MInDSET. uRSulA llvES In DuBlIn 24 WITH HER HuSBAnD AnD fouR CHIlDREn. GET MoRE InfoRMATIon BY EMAIlInG HER AT Info@MovEITfITnESS.IE oR WWW.MovEITfITnESS.IE

3. Stay Hydrated:

With all the delicious food and festive drinks, it's easy to forget about hydration. Keep water within reach and consider alternating your drinks with a glass of water when you're on a night out. Staying hydrated helps your body stay balanced, energized, and more ready for the next morning! Your body will thank you the next day!

4. Find a Few Moments of Stillness:

Amid the Christmas craziness, carve out just 10 minutes for quiet time. Early mornings are perfect for this—a moment to breathe, clear your mind, and set a positive tone for the day. This small act can make a big difference, helping you feel calm and focused during a busy season. Early mornings are my favourite time of the day – before the madness of the day begins – you can take a few moments to breathe, relax and enjoy peace & quiet.

Remember that, above all, the most important part of this season is the joy and connection it brings – especially with those friends and family we don't see that often.. By caring for yourself with a few simple habits, you'll feel more energized to soak up every fun moment with your loved ones. Here's to a Christmas full of happiness, health, and memories!

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.





Christmas Fair

AT TALLAGHT SPORTS COMPLEX ON SUNDAY

Photos by **Paddy Barrett**

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Mandy Hynes and Family at Genie G Photography



Tiegan Rowan and Ceadan Martin



Kayla Eustace, Mia Murray and Chelsey Kidney



Lynda and Jacinta Wynne



The Reynolds Family at Genie G Photography



Mary McLoughlin and Ann Carroll



Mary McLoughlin and Sarah



Jane Carnduff, Tiegan Rowan and Amy Rowan



Kathryn Griffin, Ashley Byrne and Bernie Beirne

DÚISÍONN M'FHIR, **GAN TORANN AR BITH.** SCRÚDAÍONNSIAD A **N-AIRM** AGUS CUIREANN SIAD A **MAISC COMHRAIC** ORTHU. AR FEADH NÓIMÉAD, TÁ **BRÓD** ORM.IIOI

FLASH GORDON

TUGAIM TRÁTH **FAIRE NA HOÍCHE** DOM FÉIN AT FEADHSEACHTAINE MAR AITHRÍ D'EASPA GLIAME.

CAITHFIMID **SÁILE** A SHEACHAINT. NÍ **PÓILÍNÍ** MUID. NÓ SAIGHDIÚIRÍ LE **CEANNACH** CHUN **BRISEADH** AS A BPOSIT. IS **PATRÓL MARAITHE FHADTRÉIMHSIGH** MUID ATÁ FAOI MHIONN CHUN NAIMHDE AN TIMPIRE MING A GABHÁIL. TÁ AN **FEAR** MARBH ACH TÁ ÁR **MIONN** BEO FÓS.

TÁ NA TARGAIDÍ AG DUL ISTEACH SA **STÁISIÚN TRÁDÁLA,** A SHÁIRSINT MORDO.

DEARBHAIGH A **BHFÉINIÚLACHTAÍ, A MHAOR.**

"**ZARKOV, HANS.** ACHMAINN EOLAÍOCHTA. TARGAID GRÁID **B.**"

"**ARDEN, DALE.** ACHMAINN FAISNÉISE. TARGAID GRÁID **D.**"

"**FEAR DRAGAIN BOK.** TRÉATÚIR COMHRAIC. TARGAID GRÁID **C.**"

"**GORDON, FLASH.** MÓRNAMHAID NA HIMPIREACHTA. TARGAID GRÁID **S.**"

TÁ SÉ DEARBHAITHE. GLUAISEACHT PHIONSÚIR **2-23.**

DAN SCHKADE 6·2·24

PATRÓL MARAITHE!

IONSAÍMIS!

CUIREADH IN AGHAIDH GO **LÁIDIR** Ó **GHORDON** AGUS BHOK - -- **CHAILLEAMAR** DP 5 AGUS 11 -- DP 8 --

--TÁ ARDEN **GORTAITHE--**

A CHOMHRÁDAÍ, TRÚPAÍ BREISE AG TEACHT!

MUINTIR SEABHAIC!

ARÍS -- MUINTIR SEABHAIC!!

AN CHÉAD CHLÁR EILE: SEASÚR AN ÉIN CREICHE.

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THE PHANTOM

CREATED BY LEE FALK

!! I SEE LIGHT UP AHEAD!

DAYLIGHT!!

DARLING, WE'VE **DONE IT!!**

I THINK I ALWAYS **KNEW** WE'D FIND THIS PLACE, BUT--!

I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE **REALLY HERE!**

SNIFF! SNIFF!

=GASP!=

DEVIL! **HERE,** BOY...

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DEVIL, **GUARD!**

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?

FOR STARTERS...?

WELL, I DON'T SEE A CAMERA ON THE GROUND. OR A SATELLITE TRANSMITTER...

AND I DON'T SEE ANY EVIDENCE THAT **TWO** ADVENTURERS LOST THEIR LIVES HERE.

JUST THE ONE...

Tony DePaul & Jeff Weigel 12-25-22

www.thephantomcomics.com

THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS

POPEYE

BY RANDY MILHOLLAND

I'M NOT SURE IF THESE ARE NORMAL COOKIES OR SEA HAG'S CURSED COOKIES THAT TURN PEOPLE INTO COOKIES THEMSELVES.

I GUESS THAT'S WHAT THE BREAK ROOM'S FREE SNACK TABLE IS FOR.

Have One!

I DID IT!

DID WHAT? FIGURE OUT THE IRREGULARITIES IN MY PAYCHECK?

OH, UH... WOW... STILL LOOKIN' INTO THAT.

BUT NO! I CAPTURED POPEYE!

popeye.com

I TRAPPED HIM IN AN EMPTY VOID, AND THE BEST PART IS I CAN WATCH AS HE SLOWLY GOES MAD!

OMIGOWRSH... IT'S SO... QUIET.

THERE'S NO CHRISTMAS MUSIC HERE! I KIN FINALLY HEAR MESELF THINK!

MARIAH CAREY KIN'T REACH ME!

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YOU SHOULD SEND HIM SOME COMFY PILLOWS AND A NICE BOOK TO READ. REALLY TOP OFF THE TORTURE.

SHUT UP SHUT UP SHUT UP SHUT UP!

12-1

TASQ-ART

FLASH GORDON TRANSLATED BY GARY MOLONEY WITH LETTERING BY ROB JONES PAGE EDIT BY HAL LAREN **WWW.TASQART.COM**

Craft Fair

IN ÁRAS CHRÓNÁIN ON SUNDAY

Photos by **Paddy Barrett**

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Sadhbh Rosenstock and S O'Kane



Lee, Kelly, Archie and Lily



Zibi and Aleks



Margaret Fitzpatrick and Ryan Monaghan



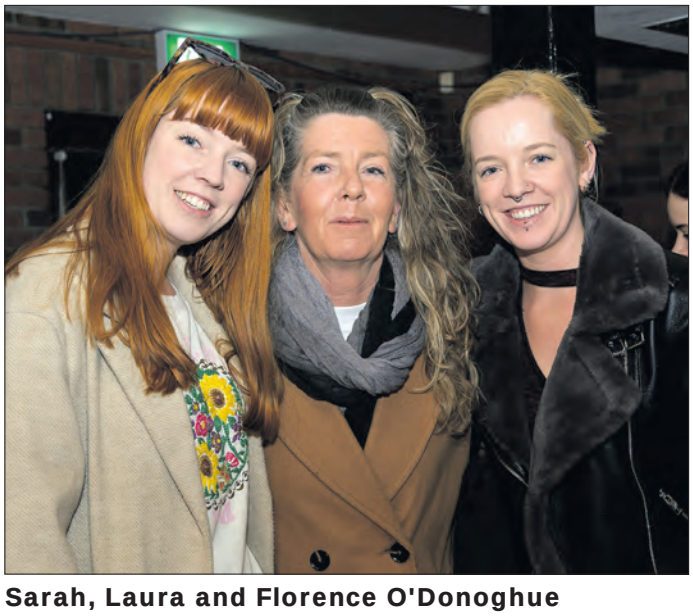
Judith and Tony Edmonds



Ceadan, Daimhin and Ceolan



Molly Kelly and Conor Lyons



Sarah, Laura and Florence O'Donoghue

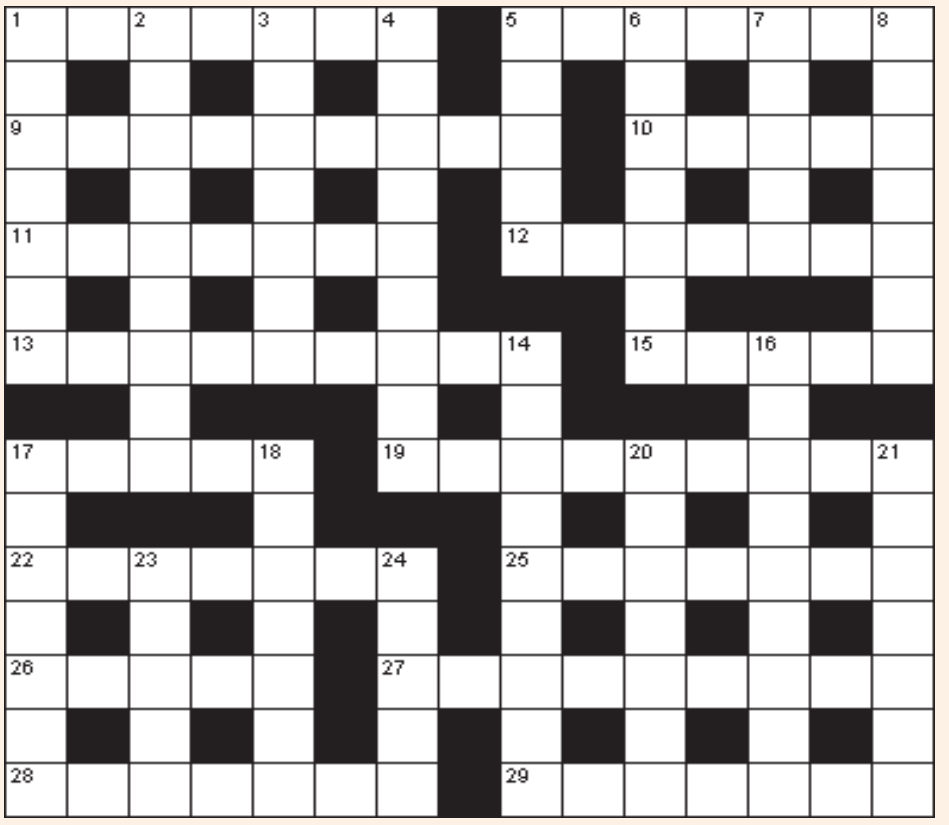


Louise Pedrescki



Catherine Caffrey with May

echocrossquiz Q0512



ACROSS

1. Impulse (7)
5. Fall apart (7)
9. A preserve made of the rind of citrus fruits (9)
10. Small hill (5)
11. Atomic (7)
12. Harness racing horse (7)
13. Joyously unrestrained (9)
15. Daughter of a sibling (5)
17. Primitive weapon (5)
19. Hold spellbound (9)
22. Vigilant (7)
25. Handmaiden (7)
26. Labor association (5)
27. The making of cartoons (9)
28. Day after Monday (7)
29. Core (7)

DOWN

1. Huge (7)
2. A skydiver needs this (9)
3. A swing used by circus acrobats (7)
4. Flight of steps (9)
5. Swindle (5)
6. Unidentified (7)
7. Increase (5)
8. Make bigger (7)14. Ticket gate (9)
16. Learning (9)
17. Fine particles of wood (7)
18. Cultivated (7)
20. Maybe (7)
21. Accord (7)
23. Blade (5)
24. Porous (5)

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS 2811

S	P	E	C	T	A	C	L	E	■	A	G	A	M	A
O	■	G	■	H	■	R	■	P	■	R	■	L	■	C
L	O	O	S	E	L	Y	■	I	N	T	R	U	D	E
A	■	T	■	R	■	P	■	C	■	I	■	M	■	T
R	A	I	M	E	N	T	■	U	N	C	A	N	N	Y
■	■	S	■	I	■	■	■	R	■	L	■	U	■	L
R	E	M	I	N	I	S	C	E	■	E	N	S	U	E
E	■	■	■	■	■	T	■	A	■	■	■	■	■	N
D	I	T	T	O	■	I	N	N	O	C	E	N	C	E
U	■	O	■	V	■	M	■	■	■	U	■	Y	■	■
N	O	U	V	E	A	U	■	O	T	T	O	M	A	N
D	■	R	■	R	■	L	■	K	■	B	■	P	■	A
A	M	N	E	S	I	A	■	A	B	A	S	H	E	D
N	■	E	■	E	■	N	■	P	■	C	■	E	■	I
T	H	Y	M	E	■	T	R	I	C	K	S	T	E	R

CAN YOU BEAT THIS WEEK'S CROSSQUIZ?

SUDOKU 1

		1			4			5
8		7		1	9			
			9					4
		4	6	2	8			1
							6	
				8	5	2	9	
5		9					8	
	3				1			6

SUDOKU 2

	2							6
	4				3			7
			9		4			
		1					9	3
		3	8			4		2
7							5	
				7				5
		6	3				7	
		5		9			2	

ANSWERS

3	2	1	8	6	9	4	7	5
4	9	5	3	7	2	6	1	8
8	6	7	5	1	4	9	3	2
6	1	3	9	5	7	8	2	4
9	5	4	6	2	8	7	3	1
7	8	2	1	4	3	5	6	9
5	4	9	2	3	6	1	8	7
1	7	6	4	8	5	2	9	3
2	3	8	7	9	1	4	5	6

SUDOKU 1

3	2	8	1	5	7	9	4	6
1	4	9	6	2	3	5	8	7
6	5	7	9	8	4	2	3	1
4	8	1	5	6	2	7	9	3
5	9	3	8	1	7	4	6	2
7	6	2	4	3	9	1	5	8
9	3	4	2	7	8	6	1	5
2	1	6	3	4	5	8	7	9
8	7	5	9	6	1	3	2	4

SUDOKU 2

Poet's Corner

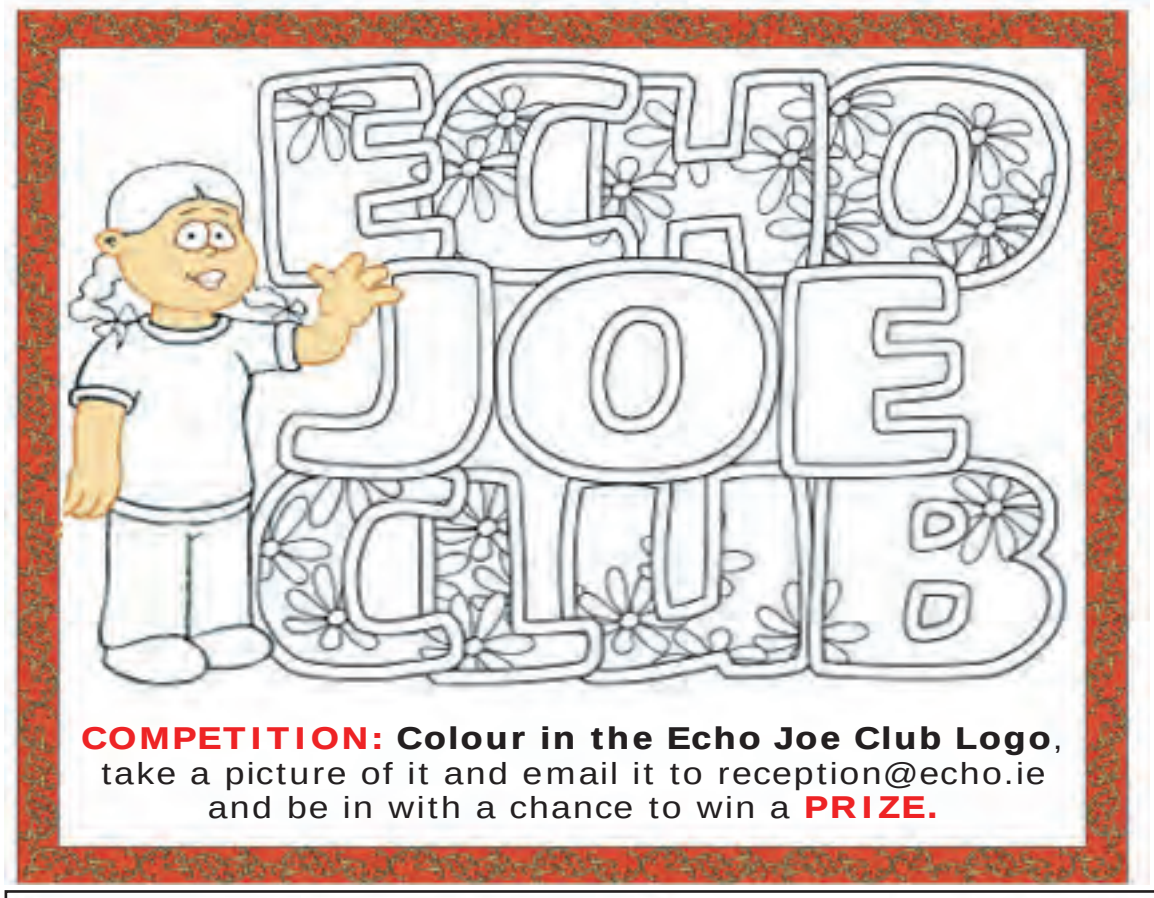
PLANNED

by **Gerard O'Keeffe**



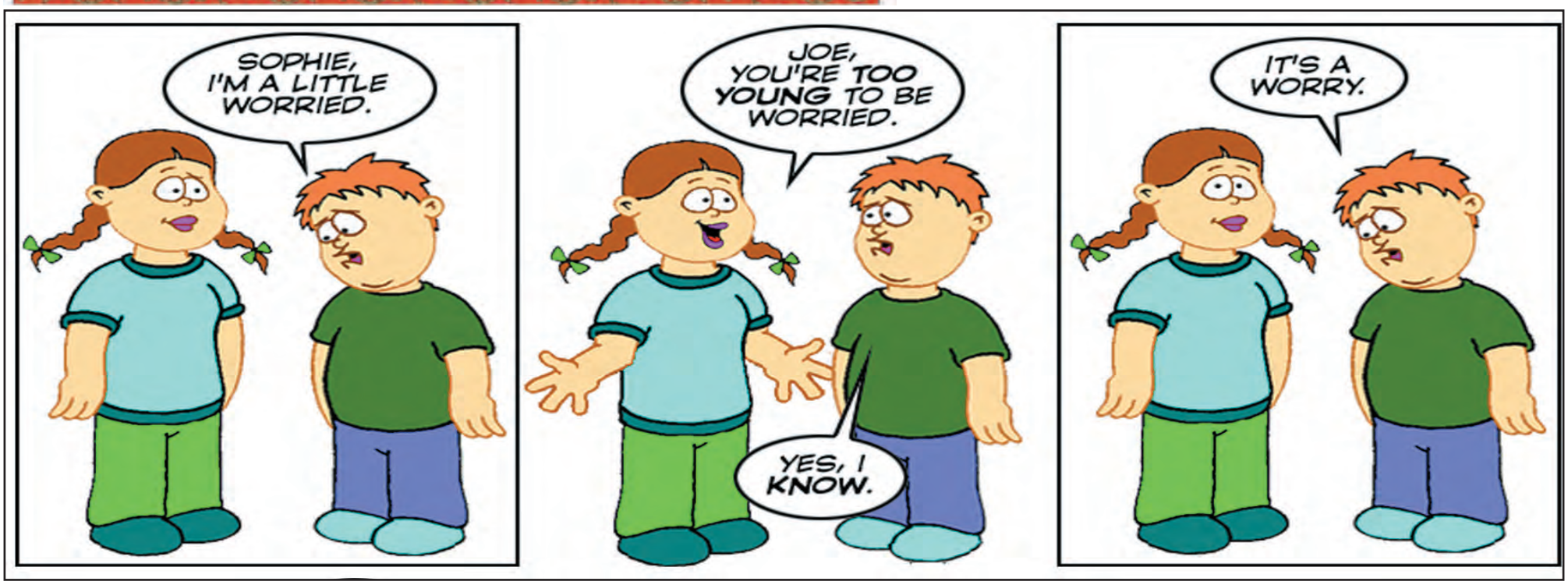
I moved to Tallaght 35 years ago and quickly came to love it. I've been writing poetry for almost 50 years. I'm now retired and I have five grandchildren – they mean the world to me.

In their 80s still
Holding hands
Life has not
been
All they
planned
But they had
each other
Through the
ups and downs
Would not
change a thing
For a million
pounds
Their love grew
stronger
As the years
went by
To her he never
lost the glint
In his eye
To him she will
always
Be his queen
The most
beautiful
Girl he has ever
seen

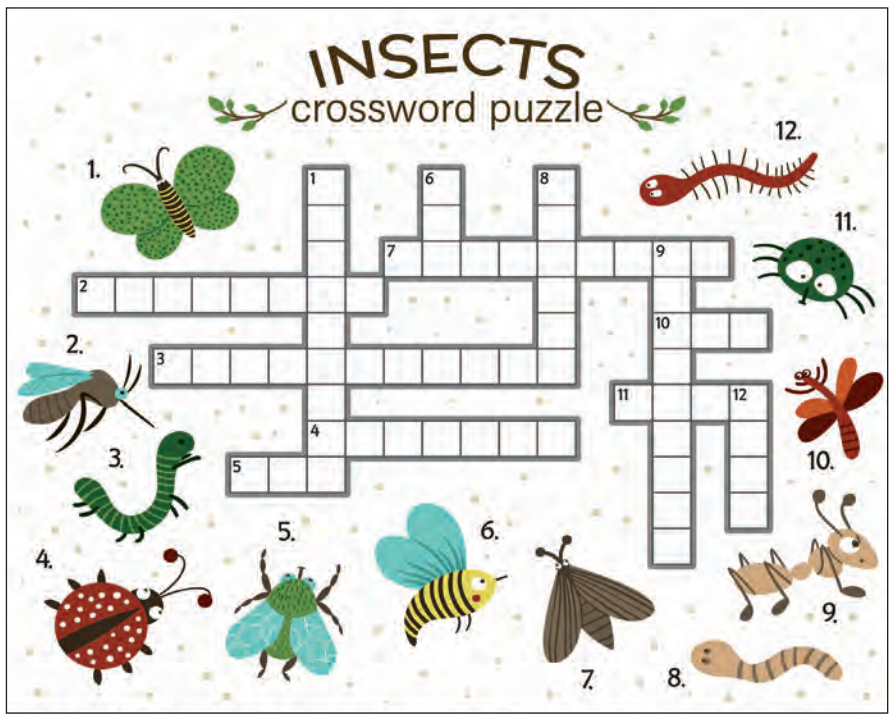


COMPETITION: Colour in the Echo Joe Club Logo, take a picture of it and email it to reception@echo.ie and be in with a chance to win a **PRIZE.**









These 2 pages of Awesome, Amazon, Activities

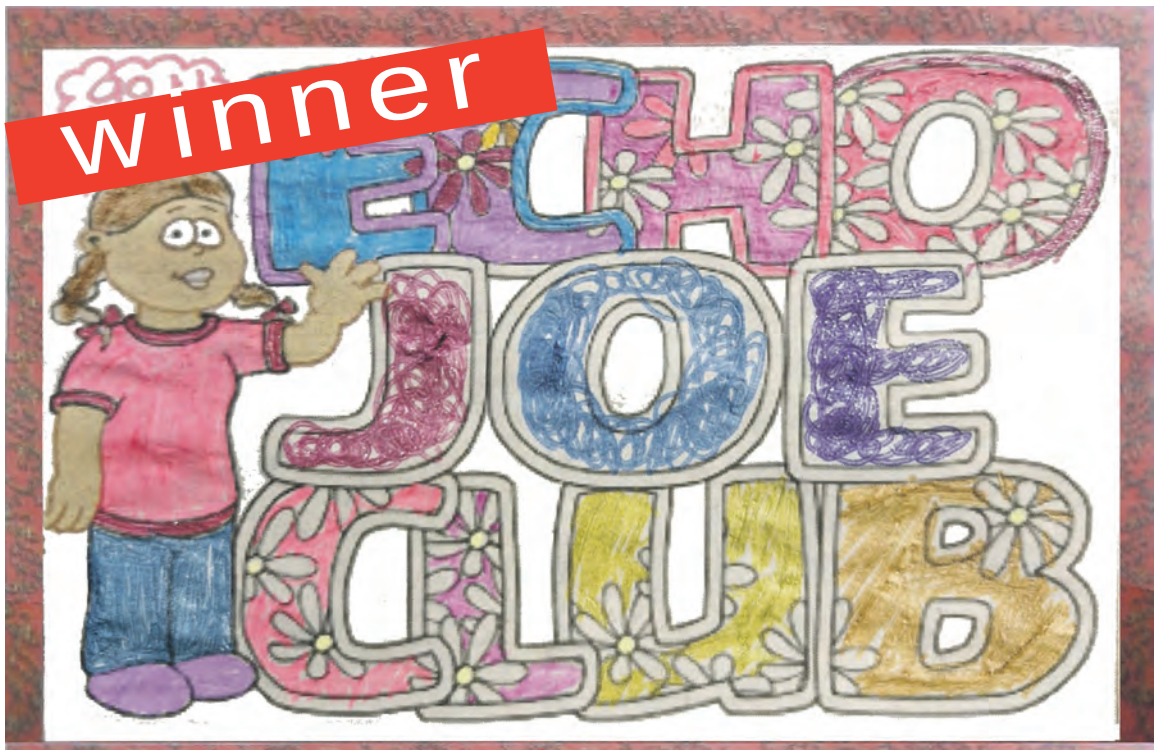
FIND 10 DIFFERENCES













Sisters Sofia Adams, aged 10 (top) and Kate Adams, aged 7 are this week's winners of The Echo Joe Club logo colouring competition. Sofia and Kate, your prize will be on the way to you soon.

All entries stay in so you have another chance to win!

are kindly sponsored by aws InCommunities

A Holly Jolly Christmas

CROFTWOOD GREEN/PARK CHRISTMAS EVENT ON SATURDAY

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***



The White Family at the event in Ballyfermot



Kirsty and Madison Rae Tobin



Frankie, Chloe and Josh



The Grinch, The Elf, Santa, Kirsty, Madison Rae, Leah, Dessie, Rocco and Isabelle



The Grinch, The Elf, Santa, Emily, Sophia and Lyndsey



Gemma and Stacey



John and BoBo



Lyndsey Donoghue, Betty Bennett and John Mc

Bridge Club 50th celebrations

CLONDALKIN CLUB PLAY THEIR CARDS RIGHT AT ANNIVERSARY

Photos by **Paddy Barrett**

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Margaret Smith, Joan Steed, Kathleen Burke and Pat Naughton



Stephen McCabe, Walter Rockett, Andrew Harwood and Tony Byrne



Helen O'Connor, Maura Downey and Kay Doyle



Monica Moffat, Celia Doyle and Denise Byrne



Kathleen Dunne, Teresa Beesley, Kathleen Burke, Pauline Smith, Joanne Kileen and Kathleen Mahon



Theres McLoughlin, Chris O'Shea and Pauline Condron



Anne Dunne, Angela McGreevey, Josephine Faughnan, Anne O'Connor, Matt Daly and Alayne Young



Gay Allen, May Giblin, Louise McGrillen and Bernie O'Connor

Youth Leaders recognised

CITYWISE EDUCATE HONOUR ROLE MODELS

Photos by **Paddy Barrett**

Photos taken for *The Echo* are available to purchase. Email **reception@echo.ie** or call 01-4685350.
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Sarah Maschrzak and Sabrina Marais (Adobe)



Aaron Duke with Thomas Holohan



Youth Leaders proudly hold their certificates



Citywise Educate recognised some of their Youth Leaders at the ceremony



Daire Henneassy and Larry Byrne (Volunteer)



Joel Osaghae (Gaisce Award) and Ger Brady



Aaron Duke with Gift Kamara



Aoife Murray and Sabrina Marais (Adobe)

Christmas Tree Competition

Show us your Jingle Bells and be in with a chance to WIN A €100 Shopping Voucher in time for Christmas!

So message us a photo of your Christmas Tree using the hastag #theechocompetition, through Facebook, Instagram or X, or email it to us at christmastree@echo.ie and you're in with a chance to win €100

The winner will be announced in our bumper, Christmas edition on December 19

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SAT 10 AM 5 PM

SUN 10 AM 5 PM

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family notices

Important Notice
Items for publication for memorial pages must be in by 1pm Friday for next Thursday's paper

Tel: 468 5350
email: reception@echo.ie

ANNIVERSARY



Berkeley, Cormac
2nd Anniversary occurs 5th December.

In Loving Memory of a very special Fiancé
When God was making soulmates,
As far as I can see,
He made a special soulmate,
Especially for me,
He made a perfect gentleman,
Compassionate and kind,
With more love and affection,
Than you could ever wish to find,
He gave my darling fiancé,
A heart of solid gold,
Only my heart can hold,
He was someone I could talk to,
That no one can replace,
He was someone I could laugh with,
'Till tears ran down my face.
Next time we meet will be at heaven's door,
When I see you standing there,
I won't cry anymore,
I will put my arms around you,
And kiss your smiling face,
Then the pieces of my broken heart,
Will fall back into place.
Miss you so much, always and forever, from your fiancée Helen.

On the 2nd Anniversary of our beloved son Cormac Berkeley
A million times we missed you,
A million times we cried,
To have you back for one moment,
Would be the greatest gift of all,
To us you were so special,
What more is there to say,
We only wish with broken hearts,
That you were here today.
R.I.P. from your broken hearted Mam and Dad.

My Daddy's 2nd Anniversary away from home
I really miss you daddy,
And I wish that you were here,
To hug me with your loving arms,
And lend a kindly ear,
I know I have to understand,
But things seem out of place,
Now that I can't play with you,
Or see your smiling face,
And although I'm really sad,
To think that you are gone,
I know that you're in heaven,
With the angels playing on,
I never will forget you,
And I just wanted to say,
I wish that you were here,
With us every day.
Your loving children Myles and Bella. xxx

To no longer see your face,
Breaks me every day,
So suddenly you were taken,
That I didn't get to say.
Just how much I love you,
And that you were my life,
The pain I felt when you passed,
Cut me like a knife.
I'll never be complete again,
I never will be free,
From this eternal grief,
So deep inside of me.
I wear a mask of coping,
I am in complete despair,
I cannot mend what's broken,
My heart's beyond repair.
Eternally loved and cherished by your heartbroken sister Linda, brother-in-law Gary, niece Gracie and Jean.

Rest in peace little Brother
I loved you for all your life,
And I will miss you for the rest of mine.
All our love always and forever Dave, Lyndsey, Georgia, Alex and Amelia.

Cormac
It was the hardest thing to lose you,
You meant so much to me,
But you are in my heart brother,
And that's where you'll always be,
Our family chain is broken,
And nothing feels the same,
But as God calls us one by one,
The chain will link again,
Thinking of you today and every other day,
On your 2nd Anniversary away from home,
You are missed more that I can put into words,
And your memory will live on forever.
All my love your big brother Sean, Amy, India, Dawson and London.

In loving memory of my big brother Cormac
You're in my thoughts every day,
And that's how it will always be,
For you may be up in heaven now,
But you'll always be with me,
If only I could have the chance,
To see your face once more,
Or to hear your voice one final time,
Just like it was before,
The day that heaven calls for me,
Will be relief from all this pain,
I will run to you with open arms,
And we'll be together again.
From your little brother Conor and Anna.

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



Malone, Ian Keith
Whose 50th Birthday occurs 8th December. Late of Ballyfermot Avenue.

A birthday wish for you today,
We miss you more than words can say,
The pain and tears we try to hide,
Our hearts are broken deep inside,
No presents to give, no cards to send,
But you'll have our love as long as we live.
Happy 50th Birthday Son. Too dearly loved to ever be forgotten, love Mam & Tom.

If Heaven had a number,
I'd call you on the phone,
To wish you Happy Birthday,
And ask you to come home,
A kiss blown up to the sky so blue,
Catch it Ian it's just for you.
Happy 50th Birthday Bro, Love & miss you dearly, Carol & nephew Jack.

A Birthday wish we send today,
But not on a card in the usual way,
But written in gold on a cloud above,
And sent to you with all our love.
Happy 50th Birthday Bro, love Debbie & Brian.

My brother was so special,
I valued him with pride,
I never knew how special,
Until the night he died.
Happy 50th Birthday Bro, love Michelle & nephew Aaron.

A thoughtful brother,
A special friend,
A heart of gold,
The very best this world could hold.
Of all the gifts in life,
However big or small,
To have you as my brother,
Was the greatest gift of all.
Happy 50th Birthday Bro, love Eddie & Paul.

NOVENA

Prayer to Our Lady of Mount Carmel
O, most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, Fruit of the Vine, splendorous of Heaven. Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this my necessity. O, Star of the Sea, help me and show herein you are my mother. O, Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succour me in my necessity. There are none that can withstand your power, O, show me here you are my mother. O, Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee. Sweet Mother, I place this cause in your hands. Amen. **S.T.**

ANNIVERSARY





Breen, John and Zara
John's 2nd Anniversary occurred 3rd December. Zara's 26th Anniversary occurs 7th December.

We thought of you today,
But that is nothing new,
We thought of you yesterday,
And the days before that too.
We think of you in silence,
We often speak your names,
All we have are memories,
And some pictures in a frame.
Your memory is a keepsake,
From which we will never part,
God has you in his arms,
And we have you in our hearts.
Missing you always and forever from your loving Family.

ANNIVERSARY



Murphy, Paul
20th Anniversary occurs 8th December.

December is here with sad regret,
The day, the month we won't forget.
Silently, sadly, came a call,
Without farewell you left us all.
No matter how life changes,
No matter what we do,
A special place within our hearts,
Is always kept for you.
You went away so quietly,
So as not to cause us pain,
But you will never be forgotten,
In our hearts you will remain.
A golden heart stopped beating,
Hard working hands at rest,
It broke our hearts to see you go,
God only takes the best.
Our hearts are full of memories,
Of which we would not trade,
Memories that fill our thoughts,
Each and every day.
The little things you said and did,
Are with us all the while,
And every time we think of you,
We cannot help but smile.
Sadly missed, wife Mags, daughters Grace & Miriam, Sons-in-Law and Grandchildren.

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. **C.E.**

ANNIVERSARY





Smith, James and Ellen
Whose Anniversaries occur 7th and 9th December. Late of Castle Lawns.

Your presence we miss,
Our memories we treasure,
Loving you always,
Forgetting you never.
Forever in our hearts from all the Family. xx

NOVENA

Novena Heart of Jesus
Dear Heart of Jesus in the past I have asked for many favours I ask you for this very special one. Take it Dear Heart of Jesus and place it within your broken heart, where your Holy Father sees it then in his merciful eyes it will become your favour and not mine. Say this prayer for 3 days promise publication and favours will be granted never known to fail. Promise to publish, many thanks for favours received and about to be received. **A.M.**

NOVENA

Angel Of Portugal
Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore you profoundly. I offer you the most precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges and indifference by which he is offended. And, through the infinite merits of his Most Sacred Heart, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. I beg of You the conversion of poor sinners. **R.G.**

NOVENA

Angel Of Portugal
Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore you profoundly. I offer you the most precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges and indifference by which he is offended. And, through the infinite merits of his Most Sacred Heart, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. I beg of You the conversion of poor sinners. **T.G.**

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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

Planning permission sought for a change of use of a existing detached single storey structure formally used as a medical practice into a two bedroom residential dwelling with two new ventilated rooflights in existing front tiled roof: two new ventilated rooflights to the rear tiled roof: removal of existing roller shutter door to gable end and infill with brick surface: internal alteration and associate site works at 10A. Templeroan Lodge, Knocklyon, D.16. For Padraigh & Marian Duffy. The Planning application may be inspected or purchased at the offices of South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Town Centre, Tallaght, Dublin 24. During its public opening hours of Monday to Friday from 9.00am - 4.00pm, and may also be viewed on the council's website - www.sdcc.ie. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to South Dublin County Council on payment of a fee of (20.00 euro) within the 5 weeks of receipt of the application by South Dublin County Council and such submissions or observations will be considered by the Planning Authority in making a decision on the application. The Planning Authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions or may refuse to grant permission.

South Dublin County Council

Emmet O'Haire intends to apply for Planning Permission for a development at Main Street, Newcastle, Co Dublin D22 NY89. Planning Permission is sought for first floor dormer extensions to each side of an existing detached dormer dwelling, ancillary alterations to all elevations including additional side windows and roof window, removing the door from the front elevation and all ancillary 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.

Dublin City Council

I Lucia Hastings intend to apply for planning permission for development at this site 10 Somerville Ave, Walkinstown, Dublin 12, D12 A2C0. The development will consist of: New door to the front of the house. With pedestrian access. New low level boundary wall to the front with gated access. Single storey extension to the rear. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of the Planning Authority during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the Planning Authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL - LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) ACTS 1963 - LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) REGULATIONS 1977 TO 1994

PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 29, 2024

SD23A/0345 25 Nov 2024 Permission Additional 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.

SD24A/0181W 29 Nov 2024 Permission Additional 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.

SD24B/0282 26 Nov 2024 Permission Additional 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

SD24B/0293W 26 Nov 2024 Permission Additional 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.

SD24B/0396W 27 Nov 2024 Permission Additional Information
Applicant: Paul & Ciara Maguire
Location: 179, Fortield Road, Terenure, Dublin 6W, D6WAF82
Description: The development will consist of Alterations & 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.

SD24B/0427 29 Nov 2024 Permission Additional 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.

SD24B/0439W 26 Nov 2024 Permission Additional 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/0453W 28 Nov 2024 Permission Additional Information
Applicant: Graham & Sandra Gentles
Location: 33, The Crescent, Boden Park, Dublin 16, D16K6H7
Description: Consist of an attic extension to an existing dwelling and all ancillary site works.

LRD24A/0010W 25 Nov 2024 Permission 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.

SD24A/0259W 27 Nov 2024 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.

SD24A/0260W 29 Nov 2024 Permission New Application
Applicant: Sandymark Limited
Location: Site 604, Jordanstown Road, Greenogue Business Park, Rathcoole, Co. Dublin, D24KR50
Description: Alterations to an existing granted planning application (Reg. Ref. SD23A/0342 for a Proposed Warehouse Development with Ancillary Office & Staff Facilities) at Site 604, Jordanstown Road, Greenogue Business Park, Rathcoole, Co. Dublin. The subject alterations for which Planning is now sought for are as follows: 1. Inclusion of an additional dock leveller door to the front south-eastern elevation plus associated access ramp extension within the yard area. 2. Elevations alterations associated with above adjustments. 3. Proposed underground sprinkler water holding tank, 263sqm, 2.8m deep with FFL at 3.25m below the front yard level, effective capacity of 600m3. 4. Proposed underground sprinkler pumphouse, 68sqm, 2.8m deep with FFL at 3.25m below the front yard level. 5. Proposed access lobby enclosure (to the underground pump house), 34sqm, 2.85m high, located on the front south-eastern elevation. 6. Minor associated drainage adjustments due to the inclusion of the alterations above. All other details will remain as per the granted application Reg. Ref. SD23A/0342. SD24B/0527W 25 Nov 2024 Permission Applicant: Location: Asad ud Din New Application 3, Liffey Road, Liffey Valley Park, Lucan, Co. Dublin 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
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Deputy Sports Editor: William O'Connor

Thursday, December 5, 2024

Golden boy Adam attracting big attention with pro-offers

Jobstown boxer dream is to win gold at Olympics but he is not funded by Sport Ireland

ADAM Olaniyan has enjoyed a whirlwind few weeks since becoming World Superheavyweight Champion in Montenegro, *reports James Ffrench.*

The Jobstown boxer was known on a national scale prior to the Championships, holding the National and European belts, but his reputation has gone up a few levels since, according to Olaniyan.

"Loads of people have been recognising me since I came back, it's been great for the community", the 18-year-old said.

Rest and a prolonged break from training would have been at the forefront of most boxers following a gold medal success at a World Championships, but Olaniyan simply couldn't stay away too long from the gym.

"When I came back I was telling myself I would take weeks off but I went back training eight or nine days after.

"I can't not do anything, the training at the minute is just ticking things over."

University exams will be next on the agenda for the current TUD Digital Marketing student, but his success in Montenegro has attracted attention from the professional scene.

"I've had loads of pro-offers from America and England, but I haven't really been thinking about it too much

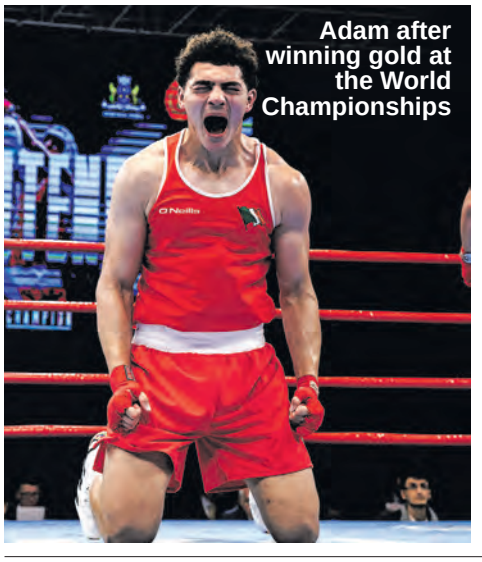
"My dream is the Olympic gold medal, but I am not getting funded by Sport Ireland so that's why I'm in a bit of a limbo situation at the minute."

With Kellie Harrington's historic success in Paris during the summer and now Adam Olaniyan becoming the first Irish boxer to hold European and World medals, Irish boxing is in as good a place as it's ever been, a sentiment Olaniyan agrees with.

"I definitely think we are up there with the best, we have always been a strong nation but we are starting to really perform outstandingly at these major events in the last few years.

"You look at Kellie Harrington, we only used to have a select few but now you could say every boxer has a chance of winning gold."

Lennox Lewis remains the boxer Olaniyan holds in the highest regard, and the Dubliner will look to embark on a similar path the former Canadian Olympian took to professional boxing.



Adam after winning gold at the World Championships



Adam in action in the final of the World Superheavyweight Championship in Montenegro last month

Disappointment for Ireland and McCabe

Ireland Women's National team fell to a 2-1 loss to Wales at the Aviva Stadium in the second leg of their 2025 European Championship play-off.

The Welsh hit two goals in 20 minutes in the second half and despite Anna Patten pulling one back late on, the visitors held out to secure a maiden euro's qualification.

The 1-1 draw in Cardiff last Friday had put Ellen Gleeson's side firmly in the driving seat heading into the second leg on Tuesday but Wales settled well in the opening minutes.

Ireland came closest to opening the scoring though, with Denise O'Sullivan's brilliant outside the box strike hitting the post.

Chances fell to both sides nearing the second half in an end to end finish to the first 45 but it remained level at the break.

Following the restart, the deadlock was finally broken as after a controversial penalty was awarded, Hannah Cain sent Courtney Brosnan the wrong way to put the visitors in front.

Wales should have had a second on 58 minute when they caught Ireland on the break but Angharad James' powerful effort was well saved by Brosnan.

They would have their second just under 10 minutes later as after some good build up play, substitute Carrie Jones shook off Caitlin Hayes, drove at the goal and finished cooly into the bottom left corner to send the Welsh fans delirious.

A late Patten header would prove only a consolation as the visitors held out to the heartbreak of the Irish players.

The loss will provide some long days of thought ahead for some of the Irish players, in particular some of the elder statesmen who may look to retirement from the international game.



Ireland captain Katie McCabe from Kilnamanagh will be disappointed with Tuesday's defeat to Wales

Martial Arts

Gold for Daire



Daire Andrew Pender won gold at the European Championships

Pender tops in European Championships

Daire Andrew Pender was part of the Irish team who competed at the WMO Muay Thai European Championships in Limassol, Cyprus.

Pender, a Tallaght native and member of Ultimate Fitness Gym D12, won gold at the event.

The Irish representatives won 14 medals altogether, 11 gold, two silver and one bronze along with one Pro Am European Championship belt.

The competition featured fighters from six different gyms across Ireland competing against the best Europe had to offer.

Pender and Ireland took home an impressive tally of medals, picking up more than the English Muay Thai team.

Hockey

Mixed results for Glenanne

GLENANNE womens first took on Avoca for the second time in two weeks in what proved to yet again be a very close game as they went down 2-1.

Glenanne started the better of the two teams and won a corner in the first three minutes after great ball from Kate O'Connor who finished off the corner she helped create with a goal from a fantastic straight strike.

Avoca responded moments later winning a corner of their own but it came to nothing.

The first Avoca goal came from a ball flicked low into the circle, Faith Brock, who had a great match saved it, but the ball fell to an Avoca player who flicked it into the net. Avoca put the pressure on and won another corner, but it was well dealt with by the Glenanne's defence.

In the second quarter there was lot of Glenanne pressure but equally at the other end a close moment nearly resulted in an Avoca goal, the ball came off the post from a short corner strike and after a scrappy bit of play luckily resulted in a free out to Glennane.

The breakthrough goal came for Avoca when they were awarded a corner but Glenanne broke the line and had a player sent to the halfway line, Avoca made the most of the player advantage and scored to make it 2:1.

Avoca continued to attack the Glenanne circle but were kept out by great defensive and goalkeeping displays. Glennane applied the pressure back on to Avoca in the final moments but could not find an equaliser.

In the Division 3/4 Cup second round clash between Glenanne Womens seconds and Bray seconds delivered an exciting encounter, with both teams starting strongly. Bray opened the scoring in the first quarter, capitalizing on a well-executed attack to take an early 1-0 lead.

Glenanne responded with determination in the second quarter, showcasing excellent teamwork. A brilliant defensive move was capped off by a superb pass from Hannah Quinn to Megan O'Brien, who finished clinically to level the score.

However, Bray's resilience and attacking prowess proved decisive. They regained control with three unanswered goals, stretching their lead.

Despite a late short corner for Glenanne after the final whistle, Bray defended well and finished the 4-1 winners.

Glenanne will now regroup and turn their focus to the Division 3/4 Shield competition.

Glenanne Women's thirds delivered an impressive 5-1 win over Pembroke in a lively match at St Mark's Community School in Tallaght.

The game started strong for Glennane, with Sarah Ingram converting a short corner to open the scoring. Pembroke hit back shortly after, leveling the game at 1-1 before halftime.

In the second half, Glennane turned up the heat. Charly Ryne restored the lead with a sharp finish, and Alannah Hanaphy, teaming up brilliantly with Aitana Byrne Parades added a third.

Sarah Ingram struck again from a short corner to make it four, and Sinead Hennessy sealed the victory with a late goal.

A solid team effort and clinical finishing ensured a well-earned win for Glennane.

Despite losing 3-4 at home, Glenanne Womens 4th put in a valiant effort against a strong UCD team on Saturday.



Action from Glenanne's match

Athletics

Brave show from Abdel



Abdel Laadjel in the Manchester race

Abdel Laadjel finished eighth in a time of 21.39 in the Manchester Road Race at the weekend out of 8,362 finishers.

This was Abdel Laadjel's finest race yet. The Thanksgiving Day annual Manchester Road Race at Connecticut is one of America's most prestigious athletics events.

This was the 88th version of the race, which was held over the unusual distance of 4.737 miles.

Laadjel, in the colours of Donore Harriers, ran in the leading group of about a dozen runners through the opening two miles in cool, rainy conditions.

As the field spread out over the hilly terrain, he found himself somewhat adrift in 6th place.

Despite keeping a strong pace, he lost two places in the final uphill climb to the finish line, but he was very satisfied to finish comfortably inside the top 10.

Laadjel, aged 21, was the youngest athlete among the top 10 finisher, with 6th place finisher Anthony Camerieri the next youngest at 24.

The race was won by American Andrew Colley (21.09) a 2.10 marathoner, with Mexico's Eduardo Herrara (21.15) – a 3.52 miler - in 2nd place. Edwin Turgat, a Kenyan Olympic Games finalist with a 5,000m PB of 12.57, came 3rd in 21.19, with Britain's Patrick Devers, the NCAA 10,000m champion in 2021, in 4th place in a time of 21.20. Among the leading athletes to finish behind Laadjel were Irish senior international Barry Keane, Canada's Ben Flanagan, the 2019 Japanese 10.000m champion Kazuki Tamura, and 39 years-old Kenyan born Sam Chelanga, who came 2nd for America in the 2023 Pan American Games and has a 10k PB of 27.08.

Abdel will next compete in the 5,000m at the Sharon Colyear-Danville season opener indoor meet at Boston MA on the 7th of December 2024.

Basketball

Mixed results for basketball teams

IN Basketball Women's Division One, 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.

Jessica Fairweather chalked up another big display with 21 points, eight rebounds and five assists, while Caitlin Gloeckner and Georgie McGrath combined for a further 30 points for the homeside, who put up their second highest game total of the campaign so far.

Abbey Seals Dublin Lions edged a 65-63 win over iSecure Swords Thunder 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.

It's now five from five for McEvoy's Cavan Eagles in Women's Division One after they produced a big performance at both ends of the court to card a comprehensive 80-50 triumph over Templeogue in the National Basketball Arena.

The current leaders boasted no less than five players in double figures by the close of proceedings, Rahmena Henderson and Lanetta Williams chalking up 37 points between them, while also combining with Niamh Tolan for 29 rebounds, as Templeogue were confined to their lowest game total of the campaign so far.

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Athletics

Donore U17 boys claim gold medal in Tramore



Donore Harriers Boys U17 gold team at the National Juvenile cross country in Tramore

DONORE Harriers Athletics Club had 23 athletes competing in the National Juvenile uneven ages cross country in Tramore at the weekend.

Harriers U17 Boys team won gold with Harry Cahill, Charlie O'Neill , Rhys Johnson and Liam Morris all doing their bit to get over the line.

Elsewhere, Daniel Hughes and Dylan Clarke won county and province medals, Laura Nunan finished 10th in the under 19 and Tighe Morris in his first national cross country finished 21st.

Donore also had various athletes at races in Valencia and Connecticut.

At the Valencia marathon Barbara Cleary hit a new national w50 record with 2.46 while Iain Fitzgerald got a 2.31 PB, completing the race along with Sean Fox, Kevin Odgers and Pia Kramer.

Abdel Laadjel had a very impressive finish at the Manchester Road Race in Connecticut, finishing eight out og 8,362 finishers.

The annual Thanksgiving race is one of America's most prestigious athletics event compassing a distance of 4,737 miles, with Laadjel finishing ahead of Irish senior international Barry Keane, Canada's Ben Flanagan, the 2019 Japanese 10.000m champion Kazuki Tamura, and 39 years-old Kenyan born Sam Chelanga, who came 2nd for America in the 2023 Pan American Games and has a 10k PB of 27.08.

Basketball

Éanna edge out by Marian

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 in the Super League at home in Coláiste Éanna.

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.

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 Tavias 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.

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Former Davis boss takes over at Clane



Former Thomas Davis manager Paul Kelly is new Clane boss

THOMAS Davis clubman Paul Kelly has been appointed as manager of Kildare Senior football club Clane for the 2025 season.

Kelly previously managed Naas in 2021 where he took them to the county title.

He led his own club Davis to the 2019 Dublin Senior County Final, a first for the club in 28 years after previously leading the club to its first Dublin Minor "A" Championship Final in 1987.

The Tallaght native most recently managed the Tipperary County Men's footballers when he took the job in November of 2023 on a three year-deal before resigning in the summer of 2024.

During his eight-month spell over the Premier County, Kelly's side were relegated from the Allianz Football League Division 3 after just one win from their seven games.

They enjoyed a better championship, defeating Waterford by four to reach a Munster semi-final where they were heavily beaten by Kerry.

Following elimination from the All-Ireland Championship, in a difficult Tailteann Cup group, Tipperary finished third after defeats to Down and Meath despite another victory over Waterford.

Lucan U21s into hurling final

LUCAN Sarsfields clinched their spot in the final of the Dublin Under 21 'A' Hurling Championship after they comfortably dispatched Raheny on a scoreline of 3-22 to 1-13 at St Anne's Park on Saturday afternoon.

Hosts Raheny started slowly and Sarsfields took the initiative, racing into a five-point lead courtesy of the accurate free taking of Sean Harkness.

They tightened their grip in the opening half through further scores from Hugh Cuffe, Liam Garrigan and Matt Coogan to put a degree of distance between the sides.

Harkness continued to be central to Sarsfields scoring as following a blocked Hugh Cuffe shot, he fired home to widen the gap to eight points.

Brian Dunne kept the home side in contention with an array of fine scores, eventually cutting their arrears to just two points but they were dealt a big blow when Harkness raised another green flag at the end of the third quarter.

The away side hit 1-03 in the final quarter with David Mulqueen grabbing the major, pulling away comprehensively to set up the decider with Faughs next Saturday.

Lucan into camogie d



Sarsfields send Jude's packing in extra time

LUCAN Sarsfields will contest the Dublin Camogie u21 Division 1 final after they defeated St Jude's in dramatic fashion in extra time, 4-07 to 0-17 points, *reports James Ffrench.*

Sarsfields started well and early goals from Sophie McIntyre and Aoibheann Stokes gave them a 3-03 to 0-06 lead over their opponents at the break.

That healthy cushion would be short lived following the restart Jude's began to tag on a healthy array of scores, showcasing their excellent point taking abilities.

The bulk of the Jude's scoring came from Dublin intercounty stars and PWC All Star duo Aisling and Claire Gannon, with the sisters instrumental to much of Jude's play.

The Templeogue side enjoyed a much better second half than their opponents but tremendous work rate from Sarsfields ensured extra time would have to take place to decide the winner.

In a backs to the wall 20-minute period, 1-01 from Sinead Daly was enough for Sarsfields to take the win and seal a spot in the final against Ballyboden St Enda's this weekend.

Speaking following the result, manager Emer Keenan said, "Playing Jude's is always a battle, especially in Tymon so we're delighted to get over the line in a tough semi-final."

"It was a real team performance, especially when it went to extra time, she added.

"We got through the match with no injuries and everyone is looking forward to the final."

o U21 ecider



Milly Hughes of Lucan Sarsfields in action against Alex Falvey of St Jude's

All Star Claire Gannon is marked by Chloe Shannon (R) and Niamh Roche (Lucan Sarsfields)
Photos by Martina McGilloway

Boden book their place in U21 camogie final after win over Kilmacud



Ballyboden St Enda's beat Kilmacud Crokes to book their place in the U21 A final

Ballyboden St Enda's booked their place in the final of the Dublin Camogie U21 'A' final after they defeated Kilmacud Crokes 2-08 to 3-04 in the most dramatic of finales.

St Enda's had revenge on their mind following defeat to Crokes in last years U21 'A' decider and they started with that intent as points from Aine Rafter and Emma Moran gave them a great platform to build upon.

Sadie Codd and Julie Vaughan at full back and midfield respectively put in huge shifts and a major from Megan Deegan gave Boden a four-point cushion at the interval.

Th restart began with multiple positional changes on the Crokes' side as they clawed back the lead and went four in front themselves heading into the final quarter.

Crucial saves from Enya Kennedy in the St Enda's goal prevented the game getting away from them as Aine Rafter and Emma Moran once again provided the scores in the second half for Boden.

Heading into the final moments of the game trailing by two, the ball fell to Abbie Fitzgerald who put the ball beyond the Crokes keeper to send her side to a second straight final at this level.

Speaking following the win, manager Martha O'Donoghue said, "Our senior players really stepped up and showed their leadership.

"I am really proud of our girls, they never gave up and fought right to the end", she added.



Action from Ballyboden St Enda's and Kilmacud Crokes in the U21 semis

GAA

Tower's raise over €11k at Monastery Marathon

Money raised to help develop facilities at Clondalkin GAA Club

ROUND Towers Clondalkin GAA club raised over €11,000 following their Core Monastery Marathon on Saturday, *reports James Ffrench.*

The event saw eight volunteers run a full marathon of the pitch along with two others who did a half marathon.

Mick Hallows, Natalie Behan Halpin, David Chapman, Niall Corless, Alex Darby, Niall Connaughton, Keith Dwyer, Cormac McManus all completed the full 42 kilometres, 82 laps of the pitch, while Alan Milton and Damien Murray successfully ran 41 laps.

The money raised will go to the development of another 4G Astro pitch which will take place as an expansion of the club's all-weather facilities.

Speaking following the event, Club Chairman Alan Milton said, "It was a great community day, some of the younger members even finished the marathon alongside their parents.

"It was great organisation from Ed and Jess O'Malley."

The go fund me page remains open for anyone looking to donate.



The volunteer runners on Monastery Road. Photos Matthew Lysaght



Niall Corless is passed some refreshments during the marathon



Mick Hallows and Damien Murray are all smiles during the marathon

Rathcoole side reach U21 hurling showdown

Commercials will contest the final of the Dublin Under 21 'B' Hurling Championship after they got the better of Ballinteer St John's, 1-23 to 3-05.

Despite the final result, proceedings at Marlay Park were much tighter, with the visitors only pulling away in the last quarter.

Dublin Senior Hurler Diarmuid Ó Dúlaing was key, hitting an extremely impressive ten points over the course of the hour, with Daniel O'Kelly and David Dungan also chipping in with five points and three points respectively.

Their foundation for the victory lay in defence, with the concession of just five points crucial in the outcome of the match.

Neil Lawless, James O'Leary, Harry O'Keeffe and Jacob Comiskey put in mammoth shifts in the backline, while Tadhg Morris drove the team forward from midfield, displaying excellent skill and work rate in his endeavours.

They sealed their place in the final thanks to a late goal from substitute Jack O'Keeffe.

After winning the Intermediate Championship this year, Commercials will look to finish the year with another bit of silverware when they face Naomh Barrog next Saturday, after they defeated Clontarf by 10 points in the other semi-final.

Motorsport

Denning in flying form in Jeddah

ALEX Denning placed second at the final race of the GT4 European Series in Jeddah at the weekend.

Denning, alongside his race partner Tom Emson, finished second in Race 1 on Saturday out of 35 drivers (28 classified), 3.642 seconds off winners Team Speedcar drivers Lariche and Consani.

Race 2 on Sunday saw the same winners as the pair won by a sizeable 11.746 seconds ahead of second place, with Denning and Emson finishing in 10th place.

Speaking on his Instagram following the weekend, the Rathfarnham native said, "Oh Yesss, 2nd in Saudi Arabia."

"Absolutely delighted to take 2nd place today after a very tough year.

"Thank you to absolutely everyone who had supported me over the weekend", he added.

The second-place finish in Jeddah caps off an impressive year for Denning, who raced at six different venues as part of the GT4 European series, those race destinations include Circuit Paul Ricard, Misano, Spa-Francorchamps, Hockenheim, Monza and of course Jeddah.



Rathfanham's Alex Denning placed second in the GT4 European Series in Jeddah last weekend

Boden in 3 camogie finals

BALLYBODEN St Enda's will compete in three U21 Camogie finals this weekend, with teams representing the club in the Division 1, Division 5 and Division 6 Championship finals respectively.

Boden defeated Kilmacud Crokes in the Division 1 semi-final last weekend after a late Abbie Fitzgerald goal at the death sealed a final clash with Lucan Sarsfields on Friday night.

After three wins from three including a ten-point win over Lucan in the semifinal, Boden will face Kilmacud Crokes in the Division 5 Championship final on Sunday.

Then finally, St Enda's will also compete in the Division 6 Championship final against St Finians on Sunday, who are the only side to defeat Boden in the championship.

Soccer

Crumlin aim to get back to the top in Leinster Senior League

Crumlin United are a club steeped in footballing history but after relegation last year they sit in the unusual position outside the top tier of the Leinster Senior League.

A club so strong underage and with a history of bringing through talented footballers, Robbie Keane for one, should always be in the top tier, but the landscape of football in this country has changed dramatically since Ireland's record goal scorer lined out in D12.

"We have an ever-changing squad of players", manager James Lee said.

"You bring through a talented 18-year-old, the national league is all over them with the u20 or u18 League of Ireland academies.

"That's happened to us with three or four payers."

"It's almost like the young players at the club, as soon as they get a run they're gone.

"Your always replacing players."

Despite this, Lee aims to return Crumlin to the top of the LSL pyramid once again, where they belong, he says.

"With us what we are doing we are bringing through young lads, we have a lot coming through."

"It's probably the most quality I've seen coming through, Lee added.

"The objection of the season is to get promoted back to the top where I feel we belong.

"We've lost quite a bit like every club, would I like some more experience, yeah possibly.

"We will be patient but we will challenge the players to get promoted."

A home tie against Lee's boyhood club Collinstown lies next for Crumlin, as they look to finish 2024 on a high.

"We will looking to challenge and try get into the top three and get back into the mix after Christmas", the Crumlin manager added.

Rovers star Sorcha picks up U17 Player of the Year

Midfielder Melia played a key role in the Hoops treble success this season

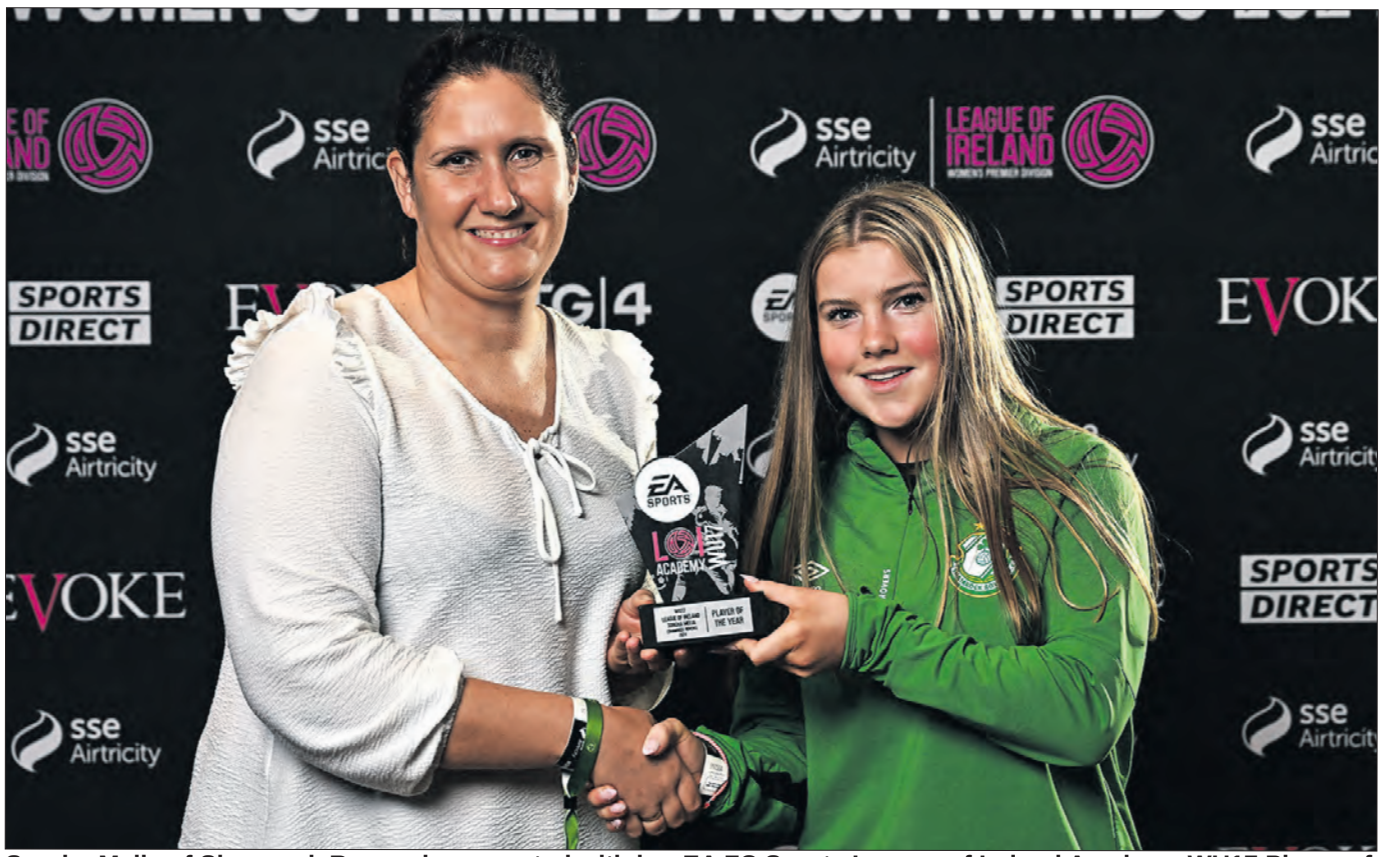
SHAMROCK Rovers academy player Sorcha Melia was named 2024 EA Sports WU17 LOI Academy Player of the Year at the 2024 SSE Airtricity Women's awards.

Melia was part of a Rovers U17 side who secured an unprecedented treble this season, winning the LOI Academy Women's U17 Tier One league and cups.

The Ireland underage international played a key role in their success, scoring double digits and registering multiple assists as Rovers scored 44 goals in the league, the most in the division.

Melia also featured for the Ireland U17's throughout the year, setting up the winner for Tallaght girl Rebecca Devereux in a 1-0 victory against Portugal.

Elsewhere, Athlone Town swept up the majority of awards, with Hazel Donegan claiming U19 Player of the Year, Katie Keane won SSE Airtrcity Women's Premier Division Young Player of the Year and Athlone manager Ciara Duff was named Premier Division Manager of the Year.



Sorcha Melia of Shamrock Rovers is presented with her EA FC Sports League of Ireland Academy WU17 Player of the Year Award by Hannah Dingley, head of Women's Football at FAI, during the 2024 SSE Airtricity Women's Premier Division Awards at the Aviva Stadium Photo by Sportsfile

Mixed start to the season for defending champions Lucan

AFTER claiming a mammoth LSL Senior Sunday and Charlie Cahill Cup double last season, the highest honours any side can win at the level, Lucan United have endured a mixed start to the 2024-25 season.

The tremendous success last year was met with a number of players departing at the beginning of this season, with four players departing and seven younger players coming in.

As such, Lucan are a side in somewhat of a transition with their form in the first half of the season suggesting that, but they still only lie in fourth position and not too far away from the leading pack.



Lucan United Leinster Senior League team

Speaking on the first half of the season, United Manager Keith Baker said, "We aren't as consistent as last year, there has been some lads in and out so."

"We had lost just two games in 13 in all competitions, but we were drawing a lot of those games, Baker added.

"It's just about getting the right players on the pitch with so many new signings."

Despite the more youthful nature of the squad, stalwarts such as Mark Byrne and Conor Clifford remain, both who played professionally across the water.

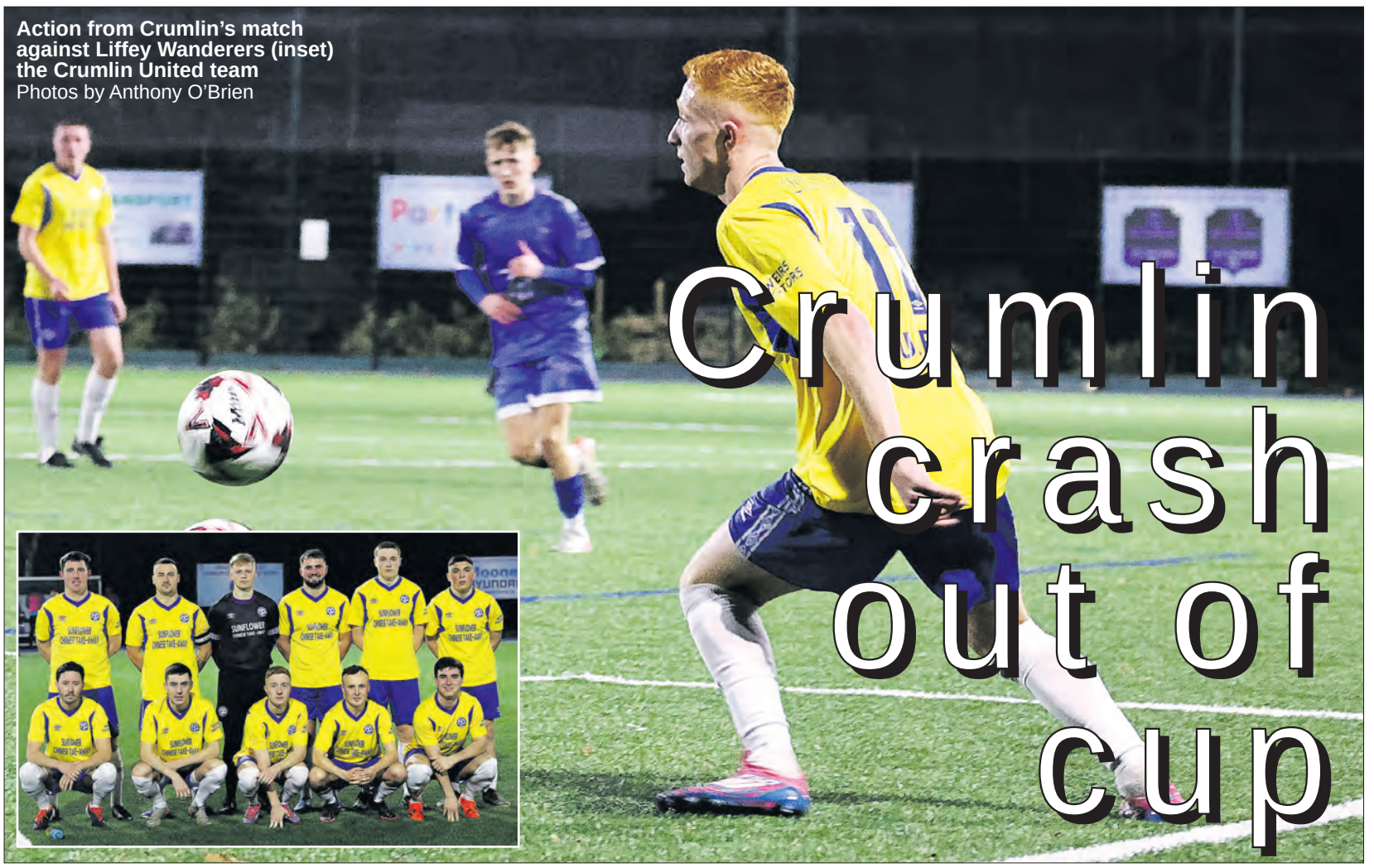
Baker will be looking for the pair to kick on and hold out a helping hand to some of the younger players, with a Charlie Cahill quarter final to come and a chance to retain their crown.

"I'd be hoping we will be there or thereabouts.

"We want to obviously retain the Charlie Cahill and give a good account of ourselves in the league."

United face Bangor on Friday before travelling to Wayside Celtic before the Christmas break.

Soccer



Action from Crumlin's match against Liffey Wanderers (inset) the Crumlin United team
Photos by Anthony O'Brien

Crumlin crash out of cup

CRUMLIN United fell to 2-1 loss to Liffey Wanderers in the second round of the FAI Intermediate Cup at Pearse Park on Friday night.

Despite opening the scoring through midfielder Sam O'Donoghue, a goal in each half including a 89th minute winner from Sean Doran sealed Liffey's safe passage to the third round.

Both sides compete in Leinster Senior League Division 1 Sunday, with Crumlin, relegated from the top tier last year, sitting sixth while Liffey sit six places below them and eight points adrift.

As such, along with a home advantage, Crumlin were certainly favourites coming into the game and started in that manner as midfielder O'Donoghue scored his first goal in senior football to give his side the lead.

However, the hosts failed to press on their advantage and Liffey restored parity on 27 minutes as Callum Goad found the net from a corner, in circumstances Crumlin will certainly not be pleased with.

A tight first half with few chances for either side ended level.

The restart saw the hosts up the tempo and take control of the game, dominating possession without creating a whole lot with it as they lacked some creativity and killer instinct in the final third.

Wanderers held firm against the backdrop of heavy Crumlin pressure and found their winner with a minute of normal time remaining, following a goal mouth scramble from a free kick which Jack Funge took full advantage of at the back post.

The hosts will be disappointed with the concession of two soft set piece goals and they will look to bounce back against Collinstown next Tuesday in their final fixture before the Christmas break.

Firhouse launch women's section



Firhouse Carmel FC recenlty launched a women's adult football team

FIRHOUSE Carmel FC recently launched a women's adult football team as they look to enter a side into the Dublin footballing pyramid.

The side was established just a couple of months ago with the objective of entering into the East Women's Football League which begins in March.

After a 30-year hiatus without a senior women's side, Firhouse had their first fixture against Knocklyon at the weekend.

The formation of the side comes off the back of the birth of the women's section of the club four years ago, with the club fielding at age groups U14, U12, two sides at U11 and U10.

They currently train every Saturday at the Community College in Firhouse with a strong squad of up to 25 players.

A panel of coaches are currently running the team, but they are still looking for a permanent manager with enquiries welcome.

St Pat's strengthen their squad

ST PATRICK'S Athletics' Romal Palmer has signed a two-year contract agreeing to a permanent stay in Inchicore.

Palmer joined Pats on loan from Turkish side Göztepe in February ahead of the 2024 season where he made 25 appearances, scoring three goals and registering one assist as the Saints finished third.

The 26-year-old is a product of the Manchester City academy where he spent 10 years before joining Barnsley in 2017, making 70 appearances in the EFL Championship between 2019 and 2022 before moving to Turkey in July 2022.

The Englishman joins fellow countryman Tom Grivosti in extending his stay in Dublin 8 and speaking on the club's official announcement of the deal, Palmer said, ""It feels amazing, signing a new deal has been in the works for a while now, it was a no brainer for me really"

"The way that I was received by everyone when I joined last season, The Gaffer Stephen Kenny coming in helped me a lot, confidence wise and building me up and I feel like that is what I need at this point of my career, to get back playing games and try to be the best version of myself and I feel like I can do that at St Pat's.

"It's a brilliant club. I can't wait to be back at Richmond to see all the fans and push on from there."

Manager Stephen Kenny added, ""Romal had a really positive impact on the team when he came back from his long-term injury, and scored two crucial European goals against Vaduz and Sabah."

"He's a brilliant midfield player, with a high level of technical ability, combined with a really strong work ethic."

"Romal has an infectious personality, he's already become an integral part of the fabric of the group, he's a joy to coach and his individual skill level is great to witness every day.

"If he can stay fit, Romal can have a real impact on the season ahead."

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Soccer

Rapid show from Rovers who bank over to €5.8m

SHAMROCK Rovers confirmed their place in the knockout rounds of the UEFA Conference League as they battled to an impressive 1-1 draw away to Rapid Vienna.

The result also rewards Rovers with €133,000, taking their total prize money in European competition this season to roughly just over €5.8 million.

In front of a noisy, home partizan crowd of 20,700, including 800 away fans, Rapid went ahead early through a brilliant volley from centre half Nenad Cvetkovic after just 10 minutes, before Johnny Kenny rained on the Rapid parade and equalised on 55 minutes after a brilliant cross from Josh Honohan.

The point all but secures Rovers' place in the play off round of the competition, as they become the first Irish side ever to play European football beyond Christmas.

Back by a raucous Austrian crowd, the hosts were quickest out of the blocks and hit the woodwork twice before going ahead from a corner, when the ball fell to unmarked centre half Cvetkovic who's sweet volley gave Leon Pohls no chance.

Rapid continued to probe and put severe pressure on the hoops' backline, who were wasteful when space opened up for Farrugia and Kenny to break.

The half time whistle came and gone and the festival atmosphere around the Allianz Stadion continued with little jeopardy, even after a penalty for the hosts was chalked off after a VAR check.

That jeopardy would soon appear for the hosts as Stephen Bradley's side broke with Watts and Farrugia linking up before Honohan drove at the Rapid defence, producing a wonderful stepover before finding Johnny Kenny to restore parity and score his fifth goal in Europe this season.

Both sides hit the woodwork in the final quarter of the game, with Kenny unlucky to not find the winner.

In the end, Stephen Bradley's side held out for a historic result in the Austrian capital and ended their opponents perfect record in the competition.

Bosnian Champions Borac Banja Luca await Rovers next in Tallaght, where a win would give Rovers an unlikely chance of making the top eight and automatic passage to the round of 16.



Shamrock Rovers will be delighted to have secured a draw in Vienna

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