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Man found in garden suffered fatal stab wound to the chest page 18

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Postive development as social housing accommodation to open in March

128 apartments to open at De La Salle school site

THE FIRST phase of social housing accommodation at 'Stonemount' the former De La Salle National School site in Ballyfermot is set to open in spring of 2025, *reports Maurice Garvey* See page 3.

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January 23, 2025

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New global head appointed by Uniphar Group in Citywest HQ

New chief has worked with Pfizer and AstraZeneca and Sanofi

By Maurice Garvey
maurice@echo.ie

UNIPHAR Group has announced the appointment of Isaac Batley as Global Head of Medical and Scientific Communications.

With its global HQ in Citywest Business Park, Bately will lead the growth of Uniphar's medical communications capabilities.

Mr Batley is an experienced CEO with 35 years' experience within healthcare and pharmaceutical communications.

Batley's career includes serving as Chief Executive Officer at SCIRIS where he scaled the medical communications division globally, and heading-up the European Leadership Team at Cello Health before becoming Chairman of the communications agency.

Prior to this, Batley built and sold his own medical communications agency and held a Director-level role at Quintiles working specifically in clinical trials for the NHS.

He spent the first part of his career working with AstraZeneca, Sanofi and Pfizer and his experience and expertise positions him to advance Uniphar's medical communications, focusing on integrating scientific insights to benefit healthcare professionals, patients, and stakeholders.

Bately said "Medical communications is the unifying thread that ties together the extensive service areas and capabilities that Uniphar has to offer.

"It touches every aspect of the organisation and presents an exciting opportunity to bring these capabilities together in a way that delivers impactful and meaningful results. My remit will cover the whole organisation, working to integrate and present Uniphar's expertise in new and innovative ways."

The appointment reinforces Uniphar's ongoing commitment to bringing complex medicines to complex markets, and ensuring an expert team of industry leaders to deliver specialist services to more than 200 international clients across 180 countries.

"My remit will cover the whole organisation, working to integrate and present Uniphar's expertise in new and innovative ways

UNIFYING THREAD: Isaac Batley is a CEO with over 35 years experience in healthcare

Woodies and Chadwicks had strong year

WOODIES DIY, Home and Business, enjoyed a strong end to the year with average revenue up 6.4 per cent helped by growth in both transaction and average transaction values, reports *Maurice Garvey*.

It follows a decline in revenues for Grafton Group, in which Woodies are a subsidiary, who saw like-for-like revenues decline by 2.7 per cent last year.

Grafton Group plc, an international business headquartered in Dublin and listed on the London Stock Exchange, saw sales hit in Finland by economic weakness.

However Woodies' and Chadwicks' businesses in Ireland had good years.

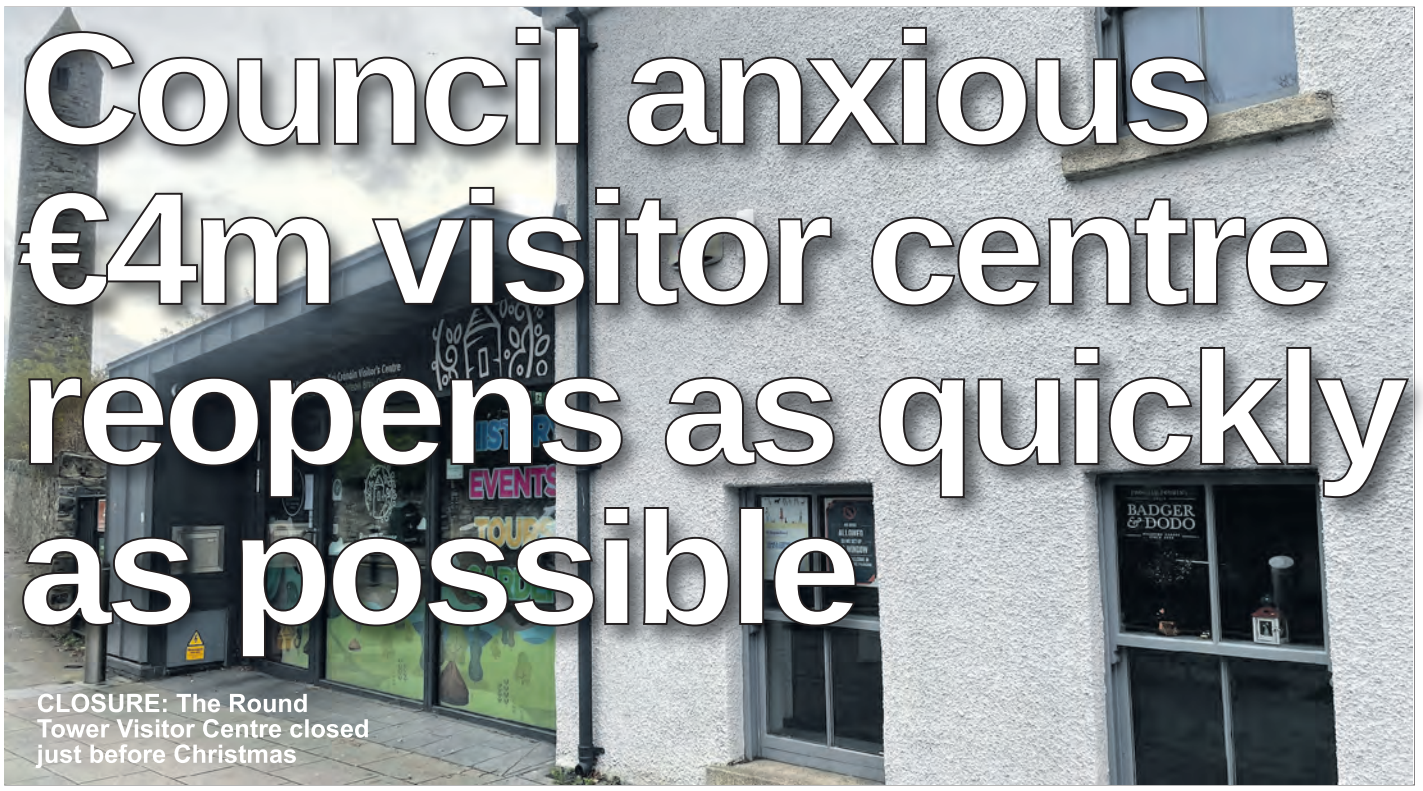
Woodies has a number of stores in Dublin and across Ireland, including Tallaght, Lucan and Naas Road.

Grafton Group operate a number of brands with strong market positions in distribution, manufacturing and DIY retail sectors of the building materials industry.

In Ireland, Chadwicks delivered revenue growth of 1.6 per cent during the year which benefitted from a strong trading performance in the last two months.

STRONG: Woodies in Tallaght

Business starts on page 33



CLOSURE: The Round Tower Visitor Centre closed just before Christmas

Council anxious €4m visitor centre reopens as quickly as possible

New business called for after Round Tower Centre closes

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

SOUTH Dublin County Council are anxious to secure a new management licence holder for Round Tower Visitor Centre Brú Chrónáin.

However, concerns were raised with the council around the management of the centre in 2022 "to no avail", according to a previous licensee Jonathan Barr.

Mr Barr, owner of East Village Coffee in Clondalkin, began his tenure as licence holder at the Round Tower visitor centre with a business partner in October 2020.

During his time there, Barr flagged "serious concerns" about the viability of that centre with the council and eventually stepped away from any involvement with the centre in June 2023.

From July 2023 the centre was operated by Barr's previous business partner at the Round Tower, but it closed before Christmas 2024 and remains closed to the public.

The Happy Pear were the first licence holders when the centre opened in 2017 but they announced they would not be reopening in 2020 following lockdowns, citing a loss of revenue due to covid.

Among the chief concerns for licence holders are the scale and size of the facility, rising costs, the many different functions the centre provides, and the amount of staff required to cater for visitors and maintain the centre.

Above all, it is a "badly designed" building, according to Barr, who was left extremely frustrated in his dealings with the council.

Calls have been made by local councillors to re-examine the management model of the centre, which has a café, visitor centre museum, and gardens.

Cllr Eoin Ó Broin (SocDems) believes it is a "tall order" to expect a restaurateur to manage all the functions of a visitor centre on their own, while Cllr William Carey (SF) feels the current model for the centre has "failed" and needs to be re-examined.

Ó Broin has a Motion for the next area meeting, requesting that SDCC directly manage the gardens, museum and local produce shop parts of the Round Tower Heritage Centre.

In a report this week, SDCC, who are the primary stakeholder and leaseholder for the €4 million centre they invested in, say they are "anxious" that it reopens "as soon as possible" and that the "process to secure a new management licence holder is being advanced."

The centre is not staffed with council employees but Barr believes they could hire a security subcontractor to open and close the centre, along with some other changes that would make a big difference to the overall efficiency of the management.

"To be honest, the whole model is not working. It is very badly designed and too big to maintain. The grease traps are far too big. Bills are too high. Too much manpower is needed," said Mr Barr.

"I'm not happy its closed. I'm from Clondalkin and we need life in the village."

Barr realised "quite quickly" that it wasn't going to work, and although able to renegotiate rent, the council were unable to reduce the €13,500 in rates.

"They seemed to understand issues presented to them but then came back with a terrible offer," says Barr, who feels the council are blissfully unaware of the challenges facing businesses in the current economic climate.

Residents are saddened to see the centre closed, among them Maria O'Connor, who was reared in a house beside the Round Tower and still has family living there, including her 95-year-old uncle Sean.

Maria and her husband Brian Ronan, were heavily involved in the 'Rally Around the Tower' campaign.

"There is a feeling in the area that you can't just hand the keys over to someone and expect them to do it all. The place has a deep history, as far as I am concerned it should be recognised as a UNESCO site. It is the only Round Tower in Ireland that hasn't had its cap rebuilt. Hopefully the council keep it in their plans," said Maria.

With the council set to keep going under the current model, Barr fears the next person in will struggle if no changes are made.

"If they were serious about the situation they would have been talking to people like me. I think I'm best placed to advise," said Barr.

"Lots of companies are overreaching now because revenue are collecting their covid loans. If the council approached me again I wouldn't go near the place unless negotiating a hefty fee.

"The busy weekends are good but on quiet weekdays, you still have to have staff in at the front, in the café, in the kitchen, clean the toilets. It is oversized.

"The council don't want to have staff there but they could subcontract for a security company to open up and close."

SDCC say they will use the temporary closure to "undertake some essential maintenance within the visitor centre and to allow for the transition to a new operator."

"In the meantime, and within the spirit of maintaining the integral part Brú Chrónáin plays in the life of the community in Clondalkin, the council will open the centre for a number of bespoke events and tours over the next few weeks which include two Tradfest events. The council is aware of only one pre-booked tour that has been postponed, and the council is working with the volunteer tour guiding group to facilitate this group at an appropriate time and, will work to facilitate school tours and others as the need arises," said SDCC in a report on the centre this week.

Water disruption is becoming a real possibility

THE likelihood of significant water supply disruption in the Greater Dublin Area is becoming a real possibility, reported South Dublin County Council.

Water outages affected several estates in South and West Dublin at the beginning of the year, when freezing temperatures caused a number of water-main bursts and leaks which was "unprecedented" according to the Council.

The Water Operations crews worked around the clock to repair pipes and bring supply back to normal, but the pressure on demand is still high.

"We have mobilised additional Contractor crews to assist with bringing demand back to acceptable levels," reads an update on SDCC's website from Friday, January 17.

"At the moment, demand in the Greater Dublin Area is at an all-time high, peaking at record levels of over 659 million litres per day on Monday, January 13.

"This could present itself as low pressure to large areas and/or night-time water restrictions similar to the measures that had to be taken after Storm Emma in 2018.

"In addition to leaks and bursts on the public network, we believe that leakage in private water networks in businesses, housing estates, apartment blocks, parks etc. is a significant contributing factor to the spike in demand."

At the Rathfarnham/Firhouse area meeting on Tuesday, January 14, Councillor Róisín Mannion (SF) reported residents in Knocklyon and Kiltipper had been in touch with her after experiencing "recurrent water outages," which might be "unrelated to weather."

"I am following up with Uisce Éireann in hope of getting clarity of what infrastructure improvements are taken into consideration when planning, given the volume of development in the area recently," she told *The Echo*.

South Dublin County Council invited everyone to help drive down demand by reporting leaks in public areas and taking steps to conserve water as much as possible at home.

Uisce Éireann provides recommendations on how to be aware of water issues in the house and how to conserve at www.water.ie/conservation/home.

Iveagh Trust to let 128 apartments on former De La Salle school site

First phase of social housing will open in March or April for those on housing list

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



DELIVERED: Development forms part of over 800 units to be built

THE FIRST phase of social housing accommodation at 'Stonemount' the former De La Salle National School site in Ballyfermot is set to open in spring of 2025.

Iveagh Trust will open 128 apartments for letting in March or April to those on Dublin City Council's housing list.

It forms part of a development for over 800 units that Dwyer Nolan Developments Ltd are building at the site.

Cllr Daithí Doolan (SF) welcomed the news: "This is a hugely positive development for Ballyfermot. Over 418 apartments delivered for those on the city council housing list.

"The apartments will be allocated under the Choice Based Lettings process and will be up on line very shortly. If you are interested in being considered for one of these homes I would strongly encourage people to contact Dublin City Council or your local city councillor."

Information sent to city councillors outlines details of the Stonemount project.

It is hoped that further phases will be added later this year to provide an additional 290 homes.

The first block is made up of 55 one-beds, 67 two-beds and six three-beds.

There will be on-site staff presence at Stonemount, seven-days a week, with estate managers and care takers who may also live on-site.

There will also be a support officer available to tenants, a community room and estate manager's office.

> **"If you are interested in being considered for one of these homes I would strongly encourage people to contact Dublin City Council**

All properties are fitted with quality kitchens and bathrooms and are let unfurnished. The rental charge will be based on household income and calculated in accordance with the DCC rent scheme. DCC says there is no 'right-to-buy' on any of their housing schemes

To apply for a home at Stonemount, you must go through the Choice-Based Lettings (CBL) scheme.

Apartments will be put on CBL in three phases by the city council, who will select the tenants and "nominate" them to the Iveagh Trust for housing.

'Humane' immigration process needed and quicker assessment system called for

SOUTH Dublin County Council has called on the new government to end the Direct Provision system and include in their programme a "humane" immigration process.

"Direct Provision was created in April 2000 by the then Fianna Fáil government and was supposed to last six months," said Councillor Francis Timmons (Ind) who proposed the motion at the Clondalkin area meeting.

"It's now been 25 years of misery. The system is not fit for purpose."

Within 'Direct Provision', hotels and hostels are paid by the Government to accommodate asylum seekers waiting for a decision on their International Protection application.

The asylum seekers get meals, a medical card and a weekly allowance of €38.80, and are only allowed to work six months after their first application.

Inhumane conditions and overcrowding have often been reported within the accommodation centres, and the extreme length of the application process doesn't make it easy for people to move on with their lives.

"I have a friend who has been going through interviews for six years to prove she has the right to stay," said Cllr Darragh Adelaide (PBP) who called the system "cruel" and supported the motion.

"People are languishing there. The centres are located away from communities, making it very hard for new people to integrate."

A "quicker assessment period that is fairer on people in the system" is needed according to Cllr Timmons too.

The motion also called for "state-owned and run" accommodation facilities for asylum seekers rather than private companies' properties.

"I realise we have a housing crisis, and things are not as easy," said Cllr Timmons.

"But we have to be humane with everybody and end profiteering out of people's misery."

"My life has been enriched by the many people [in Direct Provision] that I have met, and many of them have become my friends," he concluded.

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Clondalkin community set to showcase diversity and inclusion

St Patrick's Day Parade has been renamed Clondalkin Comunity Event

CLONDALKIN St Patrick's Day parade has been renamed Clondalkin Community Events, *reports Maurice Garvey.*

Cllr Francis Timmons (Ind), who set up the parade 10 years ago, says the aim of the rebrand is to "showcase diversity, inclusion, integration and creativity."

"Community is everything and we aim to celebrate it, our annual sensory street will be a feature again this year," said Timmons.

"It seems a while away but once Christmas is over, we start planning the event. People can keep updated on our Facebook page where they can register to take part, volunteer or propose who is the grand marshal.

"Clondalkin Youth Band have committed to taking part. The popular K&G Funfair will also be back. We will also have Colm Gavin and friends who will provide some pre parade music."

The parade will take place on March 17, while further events are planned for Clondalkin Festival in June and Creative Clondalkin in October.

"Community is everything and we aim to celebrate it, our annual sensory street will be a feature again this year



PARADE: Members of Round Tower GAA Club at the St Patrick's Day parade last year

"We rely on a grant from South Dublin County Council and donations from local businesses. Already the Mill Centre management company have committed to a donation and will do facepainting in the Mill on the day.

Masseys always donate the grand marshals car and Thorton's the truck and bins.

"Anyone with any ideas or suggestions on how we can make the parade even better please contact us and let us know, the parade would not happen only for the dedication of a small committee made up off Francis, Pat, Darren, Jean and Lorraine who work tirelessly to ensure the parade goes off without a hitch," said Timmons. Email info@clondalkinstpatricksfestival.ie or visit clondalkinstpatricksfestival.ie

Safetalk host training sessions

SAFETALK are hosting a training session 'Suicide Alertness for Everyone' at Rua Red, Tallaght, on February 6, from 10am to 1.30pm.

SafeTALK is a half-day alertness training which prepares attendees, regardless of prior experience or training, to become a suicide-alert helper.

Most people with thoughts of suicide don't truly want to die, but are struggling with the pain in their lives.

The event teaches the four basic steps to recognise when people have thoughts of suicide, prepares participants to identify persons with thoughts of suicide and connect them to suicide first aid resources.

Training is free and suitable for those age over 18.

Booking is essential at Open To All: SafeTALK Training (Suicide Alertness for Everyone) Rua Red, South Dublin Arts Centre, Tallaght, Dublin 24 - Booking by Bookwhen

Pick up a copy of *The Echo* in your local shop* every Thursday or scan the QR code to subscribe online

*The Echo is on sale in local stores

Archbishop Michael Jackson to lead first vine mass of the year

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

ARCHBISHOP Michael Jackson will lead the first Tallaght Vine Mass service of the year on Saturday.

"This is the first time that we have been honoured to have our service led by Archibishop Jackson, and it will truly be a very special occasion," said Joe Geoghegan from the Vine group.

The service will take place in Saint Maelruain's Church in the village on Saturday, January 25, at 7pm.

"The Vine service is an ecumenical, Taize style service based on the early Christian journey where people would meet and share their thoughts on the readings and gospels in a more intimate atmosphere," explained Joe.

"The prayers collected from our prayer walls in different churches around Tallaght are burned during the service.

"It's an opportunity for Christians to come together and celebrate our faith. The service is followed by refreshments, and everyone is welcome."

For more information, check out the Vine Mass Facebook and Instagram pages.

To get in touch, e-mail vinemass@gmail.com or phone Joe on 0876569223 or John on 0872620993.



SERVICE: Peter Keogh, Olive Kenna, Rev Cannon William Deverell and Reiltin Geoghegan

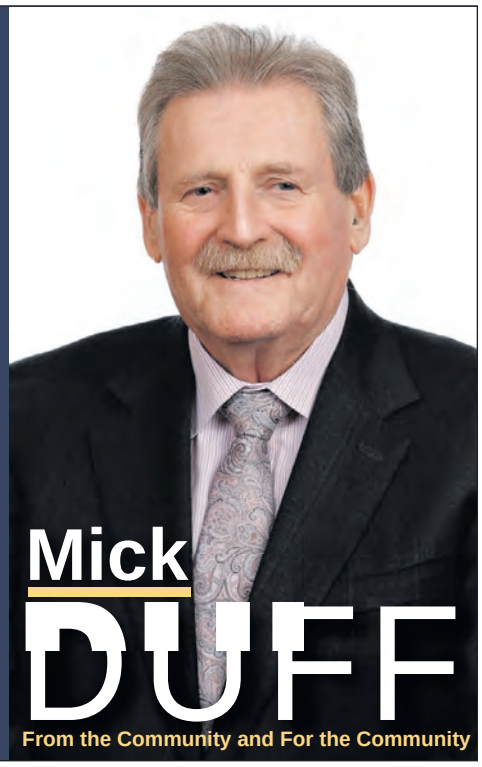
Cllr Mick Duff

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

Mick can be contacted on:
Mobile: 087 2865570

Email:
mduff@cllrs.sdublincoco.ie

Twitter: @CllrMickDuff



Mick DUFF
From the Community and For the Community

Mobile health units

AS PART of the Healthy Ireland Fair, the Irish Heart Foundation and the Marie Keating Foundation will have two Mobile Health Units outside Tallaght Library in Parthalán Place on Wednesday, January 29.

The Irish Heart Mobile Unit will offer free blood pressure and pulse checks to adults, and heart health information from 9.30 to 5pm.

The Marie Keating Mobile Unit is staffed by a specialist nurse and has cancer information available to the public from 10am to 4pm.

Public consultation for the proposed instalment of 14 glamping pods in the Camac Valley Caravan and Camping Park is open until Monday, February 3.

The details of the proposal can be consulted on the Council's website at consult.sdublincoco.ie, where submission and observations can also be made.

Alternatively, they can be sent via post to SDCC Environment, Water and Climate Change department. Applications for an assessment of environmental impacts can also be made to An Bord Pleanála.

Glamping pods in Camac Valley

PUBLIC consultation for the proposed instalment of 14 glamping pods in the Camac Valley Caravan and Camping Park is open until Monday, February 3.

The details of the proposal can be consulted on the Council's website at consult.sdublincoco.ie, where submission and observations can also be made.

Alternatively, they can be sent via post to SDCC Environment, Water and Climate Change department. Applications for an assessment of environmental impacts can also be made to An Bord Pleanála.

Elderly housing works are based on individual needs

Calls to review policies around refurbishments for elderly council tenants

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

REFURBISHMENT works for elderly council tenants are "based on individual needs," said South Dublin County Council.

At the January Council meeting Tallaght Central councillor Mick Duff (IND) called on SDCC to review its policies around refurbishment of social houses for older tenants.

"Refurbishment of the bathroom should ensure accessibility to a walk-in shower and comfort height toilet as standard for the new tenant needs, as per an Occupational Therapist report," read his motion.

In response, the Council confirmed that accessibility refurbishment works recommended by Occupation Therapists can be part of the re-let process when households composed of persons aged 55 or over are involved.

However, such works are based on individual applicants' needs and "are not part of routine re-let works," the Council explained.

SDCC highlighted that such applicants will be considered for age-friendly housing developments, which are "designed to meet the needs of older persons living independently for longer."

"In our new age friendly housing developments, we install as standard a level access shower or wet room and provide sufficient space and adequate support in walls so that bathrooms can be upgraded if the need arises in the future.

"Approved social housing applicants whose households comprise solely of persons aged 55 or over will be considered for age friendly specific accommodation in accordance with our policies for rightsizing and the allocation of age friendly accommodation."

> **"In our age friendly housing developments, we install as standard a level access shower or wet room and provide sufficient space and adequate space ...**



POLICIES: The new elderly housing at Brady's Court in Tallaght

€250k upgrade to park opened



INVESTMENT: At the opening of the €250,000 upgrade investment to Greentrees Park

THE official opening of the €250,000 upgrade to Greentrees Park took place this week and will transform the public space.

Greentrees Park encompasses two green areas covering 13 acres in total and has undergone a phased upgrade over the past six months.

This includes a new footpath exercise loop, planting 100 mature trees, park benches, bulb planting, and enhancing pedestrian entrances, making it a welcoming and inclusive environment for all

Speaking at the opening Mayor Baby Pereppadan added: "I would like to extend my gratitude to the Public Realm Section of South Dublin County Council, who worked alongside O'Brien Landscapes for the work they have done to improve the park.

"A special thanks to the local community and elected members for their collaboration, support, and input on this project.

Comhairle Contae
Átha Cliath Theas
South Dublin County Council

DO YOU OWN AN XL BULLY TYPE DOG

From 1 February 2025, it will be illegal to own an XL Bully type dog without a 'Certificate of Exemption' issued by the local authority in which the dog resides.

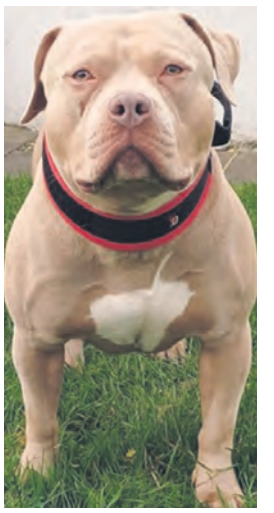
Owners that wish to keep their XL Bully type dog must apply for a Certificate of Exemption before 1st February 2025. The Certificate of Exemption allows them to keep their dog until the end of its natural life.

XL Bully owners in the South Dublin County Council area can download the required forms on our website - https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/environment/animal-welfare/xl-bullies-certificate-of-exemption/xl-bully-regulations.html

Definition of an XL Bully type dog.

The XL Bully type dog is a variant of the wider American Bully breed type. The XL Bully type dog is typically larger (both in terms of height and body shape) and more muscular than other American Bully breed types such as the 'Micro', 'Pocket', 'Standard' and 'Classic'.

Owners should use the **Physical Conformation Standard** https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/environment/animal-welfare/xl-bullies-certificate-of-exemption/xl-bully-regulations.html to determine if their dog is an XL Bully type.



It is the owner's responsibility to determine if their dog is covered by the ban.

A Certificate of Exemption is FREE OF CHARGE.

Web: www.sdcc.ie

Former councillor Jim was a larger than life character

GAA Clubman played a huge role in the development of St Mary's and Commercials GAA

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

A "STRONG voice for the community" and a "fantastic personality," the late local councillor and GAA selector James (Jim) Daly will be missed by many in Rathcoole.

Originally from Offaly, he made Rathcoole his home as he moved to Dublin for work, becoming involved in local GAA clubs first and in politics later on.

"He was one of the volunteer builders of our first clubhouse in 1985," said John Morris from Commercials Hurling. "He had a huge interest in the game having played himself in Offaly and then seeing his sons play for Commercials."

Jim eventually became a manager and selector for the club and "was involved in some of our most successful teams during the late 80s and early 90s," Commercials wrote on their Facebook page.

Following the same path with another sports landmark in Rathcoole, St Mary's GAA, he was appointed as a selector in 1997, on "one of the most successful senior teams in the club," and led them to win the Dublin Senior Football League Division 1 in 2004.

By then, he had also officially opened St Mary's refurbished clubhouse and car park while serving as Lord Mayor of South Dublin.

His role as a Fianna Fáil representative for the county started in 1990, after former TD and Dublin County Councillor Seán Walsh passed away, and Jim was co-opted to replace him in the Tallaght–Rathcoole constituency.

He grabbed the seat over Charlie O'Connor, another well-known political representative in the area, who now remembers Jim with affection.

"After that initial disagreement, we became good friends and always had a good relationship," Charlie told *The Echo*.

"He was a busy councillor who did good work and had a keen interest for the Tallaght South area which back then included Rathcoole, Saggart, and Brittas.

"He's always been a strong voice for the community.

"The huge turnout at his funeral mass was, I suppose, a tribute to all the work he did."

Jim went on to spend ten more years serving Tallaght South as a councillor, from 1999 to 2009.

He was Mayor of South Dublin between 2002 and 2003.

Praises to his personality were made by the two Rathcoole sports clubs too.

"He had a fantastic personality," said John from Commercials. "Which I think showed through when from a community volunteer he turned into a civic representative.

"During his years with the club he was always prepared to help in any way he could."

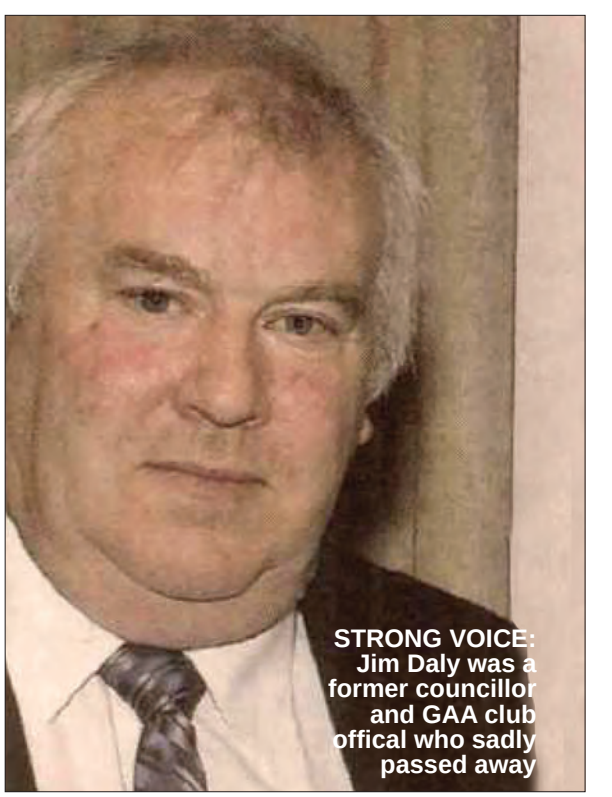
"He was known for his great storytelling, infectious humour, and the warmth he brought to everyone around him," added the club on their Facebook page.

"He was a larger-than-life character," added Brendan Murray from St Mary's. "He always had a funny story for everyone and as a councillor he was a great help to us."

Jim Daly passed away on Thursday, January 16 in Tallaght University Hospital.

He will be missed by his wife Mary, his sons John, Colman and Enda, brothers Paul and Gerry, sister Mary and his nine grandchildren.

> **"He was a busy councillor who did good work and had a keen interest for the Tallaght South area which back then included Rathcoole, Saggart and Brittas**



STRONG VOICE: Jim Daly was a former councillor and GAA club offical who sadly passed away

St Mark's help relaunch energy theme

AN TAISCE Green-Schools officially relaunched its energy theme for primary and secondary schools around the country, thanks to its new partnership with EirGrid, the operator and developer of Ireland's electricity grid.

To date, over 3000 schools have been awarded the energy flag since the beginning of the Green-Schools' programme in 1997, with great interest already received for participation in the coming year.

During the 2023-24 school year, schools saved a combined 18 million kWh of electricity, equivalent to 58 million cups of tea, due to their participation in the Green-Schools' programme, proving that interest in energy is strong among Ireland's school children.

Now, with a formal structure in place thanks to this exciting new partnership with EirGrid, the energy theme will encourage primary and secondary school children to develop their awareness around energy conservation and how to effectively manage this important resource in our schools and homes.

Speaking at the official launch of the partnership at St Mark's Junior National School, Tallaght, Suzanne Collins, Head of Public Relations, EirGrid said: "This partnership represents an incredible opportunity to engage young people in a tangible and impactful way, to empower students to lead the charge for positive change in their communities and we look forward to an exciting year of learning ahead."

At EirGrid we believe that addressing energy challenges requires everyone's participation and we're excited to collaborate with An Taisce's Green-Schools' energy theme to make energy conservation a shared priority together," added Collins.

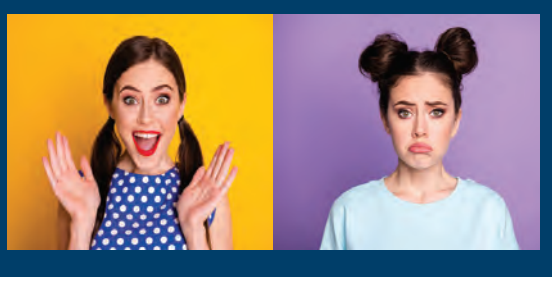


ENERGY THEME: Students from St Mark's Junior National School relaunching the An Taisce Green-Schools energy theme for primary and secondary schools around the country

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Man dies in house fire

GARDAI continue to investigate a fire in Lucan Village which led to the death of a man.

The man, in his 40s and originally from Poland, died following a fire in an apartment building.

Gardai and emergency services responded to the blaze at approximately 6am on Sunday.

It is understood that gardai do not suspect foul play and that a suspected electrical fault is believed to have caused the fire.

The fire took place in close proximity to accommodation that was being used to house Ukranian refugees.

Health Fair will host number of talks

A HEALTH fair takes place on Friday (January 24) at Adamstown Youth and Community Centre.

The event will feature talks by a number of mental health services including Jigsaw, Pieta House, Health Ireland and Bereavement.

For more information contact Marsha at 087 6627996.

Homes 'very seriously' at risk close to River Camac

Family discovered their back garden wall collapsed into river

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

HUNDREDS of homes could potentially be at risk from damage following the partial collapse of a house into the River Camac in Inchicore.

The incident was brought up at the South Central area meeting this week with Dublin City Council, an emergency motion by Ciarán Ó Meachair (SF) calling for the council to treat the damage to the home as a matter of urgency.

On January 3, Ellen Blehein (32) and husband Robert Somerville (30), discovered their back garden wall had collapsed into the river at their house on Tyrconnell Street.

Although aware of the area's flood risk, they never anticipated such severe damage and estimate repair costs could reach up to €100,000.

Concerns in the area exist that other homes could be affected by future erosion along the river.

At the area meeting, Pádraig Doyle, executive manager at the council's engineering division, acknowledged it is a "complex situation" with sensitivities around any work that may be carried out from a moral and legal framework.

He said the formal position is that this is private property and the residence of private houses has no remit for the city council.

"At the same time, we are very sympathetic to these particular people and to the dangers other houses face. Once you start interfering you risk more damage."



COLLAPSE: The back garden wall collapsed into the River Camac

"Doesn't mean we are taking responsibility but do recognise it is a difficult situation for people. We have to assess legal and moral position. If we do one house, we are potentially on the hook for hundreds of houses," said Mr Doyle.

At the meeting, Cllr O'Meachair said the situation was "unacceptable" and "I don't think people should have to go on RTE or Irish Times" to resolve it.

Cllr Daithi Doolan (SF) said he didn't comprehend the enormity until he stood in their kitchen and saw the "home tilting in towards the river."

"This can happen to anyone on that street. Some haven't recovered from the last flood ten or so years ago. They acknowledge speed of DCC and OPW but seek assurances that DCC assess and plan for works, timeframe and responsibility."

Cllr Vincent Jackson (Ind) said there is a "limitation on what residents can be responsible for."

"We take an awful lot of responsibility that isn't ours. I'd prefer if the OPW took on this responsibility."

DCC are taking it "very seriously" and have put a lot of resources in so far to stop any further damage but are not going to be able to fund it all.

DCC said they will be talking to the OPW and will give a report to members at the next monthly meeting.

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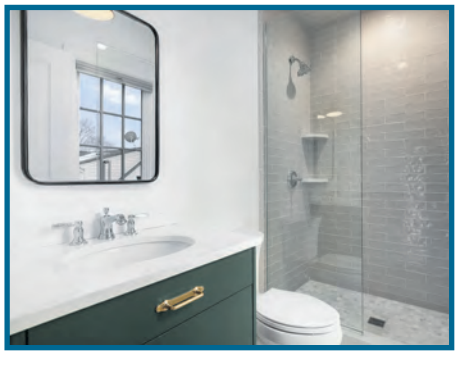


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Carpenter (25) who bit a garda and assaulted another is jailed

18 months jail for man who behaved in a 'disgraceful way' while intoxicated at takeaway

A CARPENTER who bit a garda, assaulted another garda and two other men while intoxicated, has been jailed for 18 months, *reports Natasha Reid and Eimear Dodd.*

Dublin Circuit Criminal Court previously heard that Nathan McCarthy (25) of Lower Kimmage Road, Terenure was foaming at the mouth when assaulting one of the officers.

The gardai had been called when he attacked two men eating a takeaway in their car in South Dublin, after he had been refused food by a takeaway restaurant.

McCarthy had pleaded guilty to six charges, including three assaults causing harm, one ordinary assault, one criminal damage, and one unauthorised taking of a car. They all arose out of an incident on November 1, 2023 at Ballymount Lower in Walkinstown.

Imposing sentence on Wednesday, Judge Martin Nolan noted McCarthy was intoxicated on the night and had behaved in a "disgraceful way".

The judge said it was "serious misbehaviour to attack four people in the way he did" and to cause criminal damage as he did was a "serious matter".

"People are responsible for their own actions, intoxication is no excuse," Judge Nolan said.

Having considered McCarthy's personal circumstances and the mitigation, the judge imposed a three-year sentence, with the final 18 months suspended on strict conditions to encourage rehabilitation.

Judge Nolan said McCarthy was a "young man" with a future, but a person "can't behave in the way he has and not undergo a custodial term".



The judge noted that McCarthy acknowledged he was intoxicated and said he had no recollection of events. However, Judge Nolan said McCarthy was still responsible for his actions.

"If you render yourself so intoxicated you commit crime, you must pay a price for that crime," Judge Nolan said.

The court previously heard that McCarthy had entered Hillbillies Takeaway shortly before it was due to close at 10pm. He repeatedly shouted at the manager: 'Where's my food?', became aggressive and punched the counter. He was told that he hadn't ordered any food and that gardai would be called if he didn't leave.

He then grabbed the card machine and pulled the screen of the till from its wires. He banged it a few times before throwing it and smashing a glass lampshade, which prevented it hitting the manager.

McCarthy then left the takeaway and approached two men sitting in a parked car, having their takeaway. He aggressively asked them where they were from, said he had a knife and that he would kill them if they didn't get out of the car.

They tried to close the door, however, he lunged in and began choking one of the men, who became lightheaded but managed to get out.

They managed to lock him in the car, during which time he moved it slightly by letting off the handbrake. He caused €1,500 worth of damage to the interior and a window; the court saw CCTV footage of him smashing the driver's window with his feet and climbing out.

He then ran straight at one of the men, who tried to flee, but tripped. McCarthy began kicking him on the ground and choked him again. He also threw punches at the other man before gardai arrived.

One of the gardai gave chase, and McCarthy punched him three times to the head. He continued to lash out, even after the garda withdrew his baton and struck him with it.

The second garda arrived and withdrew his incapacitant spray. Warning him and deploying the spray had no effect on him, and gardai observed that he had white froth coming from his mouth.

He then bit one of the officers in the forearm, drawing blood.

He was arrested, and when eventually fit to be interviewed, he claimed no recollection, saying he had drunk two bottles of wine.

He was shown CCTV footage and commented: "It's f***ing not on, I shouldn't have done it."

The court heard that he had 21 previous convictions for road traffic matters, and none for violence.

The garda who sustained the bite received booster injections for infectious diseases.

McCarthy's barrister said that there was no particular motivation for the attack, that he seemed to have snapped.

"He didn't get his food," remarked Judge Martin Nolan.

His barrister suggested that a confluence of factors ran up to this incident, and handed in a letter of apology from him.

A letter from his grandmother, who had raised him, set out that it was out of character for him.

The court heard that he had €20,000 drug debt at the time. His barrister said that he'd had a breakdown of sorts, but he is currently in full-time employment and has cleared his drug debt.

He brought €200 in compensation to court as a small token of remorse.

Prison for 'henchman in an attempt to extort two innocent people' out of €20k

A MAN, who was "a henchman in an attempt to extort two innocent people" out of €20,000, has been jailed for two-and-a-half years, *reports Sonya McLean.*

Des Smyth (25), with an address at The Island, Chaplizod, pleaded guilty at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court to charges of making unwarranted demands with menace in March 2020.

A second man is due before the courts on similar charges.

Detective Garda Sarah Barry told Diana Stuart BL, prosecuting, the charges related to two victims – a man whose half-brother was a drug dealer and owed a debt and his boss.

Both victims had nothing to do with the drug industry and were unconnected to the debt.

Judge Orla Crowe said very serious threats were issued and that Smyth was "a henchman in an attempt to extort two innocent people".

She said the contact was repeated and the threats were very serious.

She imposed a sentence of four years and suspended the final 18 months for three years to encourage Smyth in his drug rehabilitation.

Det Gda Barry said CCTV footage showed Smyth and a co-accused arriving at the first victim's place of work on March 20, 2020.

They called to the office and said the first victim owed them money.

They told the staff that the man owed €20,000 and that they would return the following day to collect.

The staff told them that the victim said he didn't owe any money, but a threat was issued that they would slit the man's children's throats if they didn't get the €20,000.

Later that day, this victim's boss got a phone call from a number connected with the co-accused but there is no evidence to confirm which of the men were speaking to him as the man could hear two people speaking.

The man told the callers that he didn't have any money to give them, but the callers replied that he had a car, a house and named his other business. He told the callers that the first victim would sort it out.

He later got a further five calls from a private number but he didn't answer them.

Det Garda Barry confirmed that the first victim lived "a clean life" and had no drug addictions.

He had been working for the second victim for five years.

The first victim got a call from his sister who told him that a note had been put through their door saying they were looking for one of his relatives and if they did not get the €20,000, they would burn the house down.

Det Garda Barry confirmed that the first victim's half-brother owed a debt.

Further phone calls were received again threatening to kill the victim if the money was not handed over.

The callers knew his wife's name and the fact he had children.

Gardaí were alerted and confidential information led to Smyth and the co-accused being nominated as suspects. CCTV footage from their arrival at the victim's place of work also led to their identification.

Det Garda Barry accepted in cross-examination from Keith Spencer BL, defending, that the men knew the victim's half brother due to the fact that they were involved in a drug dealing operation together.

She further accepted that Smyth was his co-accused "right hand man".

She confirmed that although the calls came from the co-accused's phone, both victims always said that the threats came from two different voices so gardaí were unable to establish who issued which threats.

Mr Spencer said Smyth was led into this "murky world" due to his own drug addiction and asked the court to accept that his involvement was lower than that of his co-accused.

He said it was "an odious crime visited upon two people who had nothing to do with the world he (Smyth) inhabited at the time" and as such, Smyth had brought two men "into a world they had no business being in".

Counsel said his client was remorseful and that he had a "been recruited into a campaign that he had nothing to do with".

Accused allegedly threatened to 'slit' the throat of TD's partner

Politician Paul Murphy was canvassing about abortion laws during alleged incident

By **Tom Tuite**
news@echo.ie

A MAN walked up to People Before Profit TD Paul Murphy and allegedly threatened to "slit" his partner's throat as the politician canvassed about abortion laws, a court has heard.

Joseph Cloherty, 42, of no fixed address, appeared at Dublin District Court on a charge under section 5 of the Non-Fatal Offences Against the Person Act.

Mr Cloherty, who contests the allegation, is accused that without lawful excuse, he made a threat to Paul Murphy, intending him to believe it would be carried out that he would kill or cause serious harm to Jessica Spear.

The incident is said to have taken place on May 23, 2023.

The Dublin South West TD was in Tallaght and was allegedly threatened to his face that his partner, Jessica Spear, would be seriously harmed.

Ms Spear is a People Before Profit councillor for Tallaght Central.

Gardai submitted a file to the Director of Public Prosecutions, who directed summary disposal of the case at the District Court level.

Judge Paula Murphy asked for an outline of the evidence to decide on the trial venue issue.

Garda Elaine Markham said that Paul Murphy had set up a stall at Belgard Square. The TD was there giving out leaflets in relation to a pro-abortion bill.

It was alleged that the accused "walked up to Paul Murphy and threatened to slit his partner's throat".

Gardai have taken statements from her and the TD. "That's a lie," Mr Cloherty told the judge as the garda concluded the evidence summary.

Jurisdiction was accepted for the case to be heard in the District Court and not in the Circuit Court, which has broader sentencing powers.

Mr Cloherty, representing himself, disputed the evidence, telling the judge, "They were talking about killing babies."

Judge Murphy took it that he was pleading not guilty and remanded him on bail to appear again on February 10 to set a hearing date.

Mr Cloherty had mentioned earlier in the preliminary hearing that he had been in hospital on a previous court date, and the judge advised him to get a letter to confirm that he was fit to attend court.

On conviction, the threat charge can carry a fine, a 12-month sentence in the District Court or imprisonment for up to 10 years if dealt with in the Circuit Court.



INCIDENT: Paul Murphy, TD, was allegedly threatened to his face that his partner would be seriously harmed



One week left for the owners of XL Bully dogs unless exempted

New laws come after a series of attacks and the death of a woman in Limerick

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

XL BULLY dog owners in South Dublin County have one week left to apply for a 'certificate of exemption' from new regulations banning ownership of this breed.

Ireland forbade the importing, breeding, selling and re-homing of XL Bully dogs in October 2024.

From February 1, 2025, owning an XL Bully dog will be illegal too, unless holding a "Certificate of Exemption" issued by the local authority.

The new legislation comes from a series of recent attacks on people by 'dangerous' dogs such as the XL Bully, including the death of a woman in Limerick in June 2024.

In September 2024, an XL Bully allegedly dumped out of a van by its previous owners attacked a man in his 60s in Killinarden.

The man was helped by a neighbour who had to put the dog down with a gun.

Residents of the estate that is at the foothills of the Dublin mountains said that sheep and cattle were attacked by similarly dumped dogs around the same time.

However, animal welfare groups protested the legislation as it lacks a proper plan to rehome the XL Bully dogs currently living in Ireland.

The application form for a certificate of exemption can be downloaded from www.sdcc.ie.

Along with the completed form, the owners will have to supply further documentation such as their proof of identity and address, a valid dog licence, and a microchipping certificate.

Only owners who had their XL Bully dog neutered by a registered Veterinary Practitioner can receive a certificate of exemption.

A Veterinary Confirmation of Neutering Status Form will also have to be completed and attached, countersigned by a veterinary.

An exception is made for those dogs who were determined medically unfit for neutering by a vet, which can be included in the same form.

Once the application is submitted, South Dublin County Council will come back to owners with either a certificate of exemption, a request for further information if needed, or a letter of refusal.

Reasons for refusals are notified in writing, and owners are welcome to re-apply after having addressed them.

If further applications are refused, and a certificate of exemption is not in place before February 1, 2025, owners will be required to surrender their dog to the Dog Warden.

Seizure and detention of dogs may involve An Garda Síochána.

If owners doubt whether their dog is an XL Bully, they can consult the Physical Conformation Standard published by the Government at www.gov.ie.

Any owner found to be in breach of the regulations can be fined up to €2,500 or imprisoned for up to three months, under the Control of Dogs Act 1986.

Their dog may be then seized and euthanised in a humane manner.



DANGEROUS: An XL Bully dog



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Suspension of works due to anti-social behaviour at park

Contractor stops work as gardai investigate incidents



ISSUES: The contractor stopped work in St Cuthbert's Park

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

GARDAI are investigating anti-social behaviour which led to the suspension of contractor works at a Clondalkin park before Christmas.

The nature of the anti-social behaviour is unclear however *The Echo* understands it was reported to gardai and is currently under investigation, with hope that contractors return to the site in the coming weeks.

Works at the park include plans for a new playground and soccer pitch.

St Cuthbert's has experienced issues over the years including joyriding, drug dealing and illegal dumping – despite the best efforts of local stakeholders to tackle the problems.

In 2018, contractors overseeing the development of social homes were forced off the site, following reports of intimidation, theft of tools, vandalism of workers cars, and late-night arson attacks.

Cllr Eoin Ó Broin (SocDems) said: "The proposals for the park are fantastic and include playgrounds, a teen space, a dog run, a training soccer pitch and work on a heritage site around the church ruin.

"I'm sure the issues can be resolved soon to get the construction back on track. It'll be great when finished."

A spokesperson for SDCC said: "Works are being carried out at St Cuthbert's Park on behalf of South Dublin County Council. There were some instances of anti-social behaviour on site in December, which are currently under investigation by An Garda Siochana. Preparations are currently being put in place for the contractor to return to site and this is expected in early February 2025."

Mick was 'first man to score in a live televised GAA match'

"THE first man to score in a live televised GAA match," Mick Kennedy will forever be remembered by Faughs GAA after nearly 70 years with the club, *reports Alessia Micalizzi.*

Mick, a Tipperary native and passionate hurling player who moved to Dublin in the mid-1950s, passed away on January 9 at the age of 89.

When he joined Faughs GAA in 1957, he already held a regional Minor Hurling medal and an All-Ireland trophy won with Tipperary.

It was while playing for Leinster that he became the first to score in a televised hurling match, the Leinster-Munster Railway Cup aired in 1962 on Telefís Eireann, a distinction he would always talk about to the young generations of Faughs.

With his adoptive club he went on to win three Dublin Senior Hurling Championships in 1970, 1972 and 1973, after ironically losing out to Tipperary by one point in 1961.

When his playing days were over, Mick maintained his interest in all things hurling and went on to become a selector, for Faughs and for the Dublin Senior team, an administrator at Faughs and eventually Club President for one term.

His impact, however, went well beyond the game itself, as he "was never far from the pitch," and would always "stand in corner forward," at Faughs matches, said Karol O'Brien from the club.

"Mick would never let his beloved Faughs down," Karol went on, not even "on many a cold wintery Sunday morning when men of youth struggled to get out of bed."

However, "To just 'stand in' wouldn't be in Mick's nature and as soon as the ball would be thrown in, he would be pulling hard and often."

Faughs GAA still have on record Mick togging out for the Faughs Senior Hurlers in a game against Cuala in Dalkey, at the age of 64, and scoring two points.



IMPACT: Mick Kennedy

"Off the field, Mick worked for John O'Malley's clubhouse team for functions every weekend, usually as door man but would occasionally step in behind the bar when a busy period arrived," explained Karol, highlighting how everyone involved easily became fond of him.

"Following an illustrious career Mick was always happy to sit down and regale his captivated listeners with a yarn or two about the 'Good Old Days' and how hurling was played back in the day.

"He was an accomplished footballer too and played for Dublin's Kickhams."

For Mick, Faughs was a "family affair", said Karol, as his wife Kitty was also involved in the club's social scene and their sons Tom, Micheál, Paul and Liam all played hurling with Faughs through the years and adding up more titles to the family collection.

Mick will be deeply missed by Kitty, their four sons, their daughter Helen, and their 15 grandchildren.

*Echo*opinion...

Companies unsure where they will stand

SHORTLY after he was sworn in as the 47th President of the United States this week, Donald Trump made swift changes to government using the executive order.

It has been a fast start for Trump's second term with issues like immigration, the pardoning of those involved in January 6, and withdrawing from major international agreements to the fore.

Closer to home there could be significant change for US multinationals in Ireland.

The new US President's pledge to impose "taxes and tariffs" on trade with foreign countries has already caused a stir in the business community, with many companies unsure where they will stand over the coming months.

The possibility could disincentivise large US multinationals expanding abroad in places like Ireland where they already have a massive presence.

Irish enterprise authorities are constantly working to secure new investments and job projects and fear the threat of tariffs will impact US firms motivation to set up here.

No wonder senior Irish politicians were eager to change their tune on Trump once he won the election – it is best to try and be on the good side of the new administration.

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Grant of €21 million for council to progress active travel facilities and school road safety

SOUTH Dublin County Council received a €21.5 million grant from the National Transportation Authority (NTA) to progress with active travel facilities and road safety around schools.

The council will progress to construction, subject to contract, of four new schemes, including Grand Canal to Lucan Urban Greenway and sustainable travel paths on Whitehall Road, Templeville Road, Glendown Road and from Tallaght to Clondalkin.

Major active travel schemes funded by the NTA and currently in construction include the Dodder Greenway, the Dublin 24 Neighbourhood Network, the Castletymon Road Active Travel Scheme and Clonburris Southern Link Street.

The funding will allow the Safe Routes to Schools and Safe School Zones programmes to be expanded in 2025, along with provision of cycle-parking facilities across the county.

"This funding allocation will allow SDCC to continue to design schemes in its ambitious Cycle South Dublin active travel network, providing new and critical active travel links for all residents of South Dublin to enjoy," commented the Council on social media.

Hot words at council's meeting on sex and gender identity

Age-inappropriate parts in SPHE textbook not found after scrutiny by councillors

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

A MOTION calling on the Minister for Children to remove parts of the Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) curriculum from schools sparked a heated debate at the January SDCC meeting.

Clondalkin councillor Linda De Courcy (IndIre) claimed that portions of the SPHE deal with "sex, pornography and gender identity in horrendously explicit and wholly inappropriate terms for 12- to 15-year-old children."

She said a video of a woman masturbating was allegedly to be shown to students of that age and that they were asked to engage in such discussions as part of the SPHE.

The motion and its claims received backlash from most of the chamber, from Tallaght councillor Mick Duff (Ind) calling it "complete and utter fiction," to Tallaght councillor Niamh Whelan (SF) saying it was "nothing more than a dog whistle."

"Pornography is readily available at [teenagers'] fingertips," said Cllr Whelan.

"Anyone who wants to teach them respect, responsibility, boundaries, what is wrong and right in a relationship, particularly around sex and consent is welcome to do so," she added.

Several councillors mentioned having read the SPHE textbook "cover to cover" before the discussion and not having found any of the "age inappropriate" parts Cllr De Courcy mentioned.

"This motion was not fact-checked," said Palmerstown-Fonthill councillor Niamh Fennell (SF). "The video Cllr De Courcy talks about was part of an educational programme for SPHE teachers and under no circumstances young people would be shown that in our schools."

Firhouse-Bohernabreena councillor Emma Murphy (FF) brought in her personal experience, highlighting how positive it is for the SPHE programme to be covering gender identity.

"There was never the space for me as a member of the LBGTQ+ community to ever be found within any sexual education programme in this country," she said.

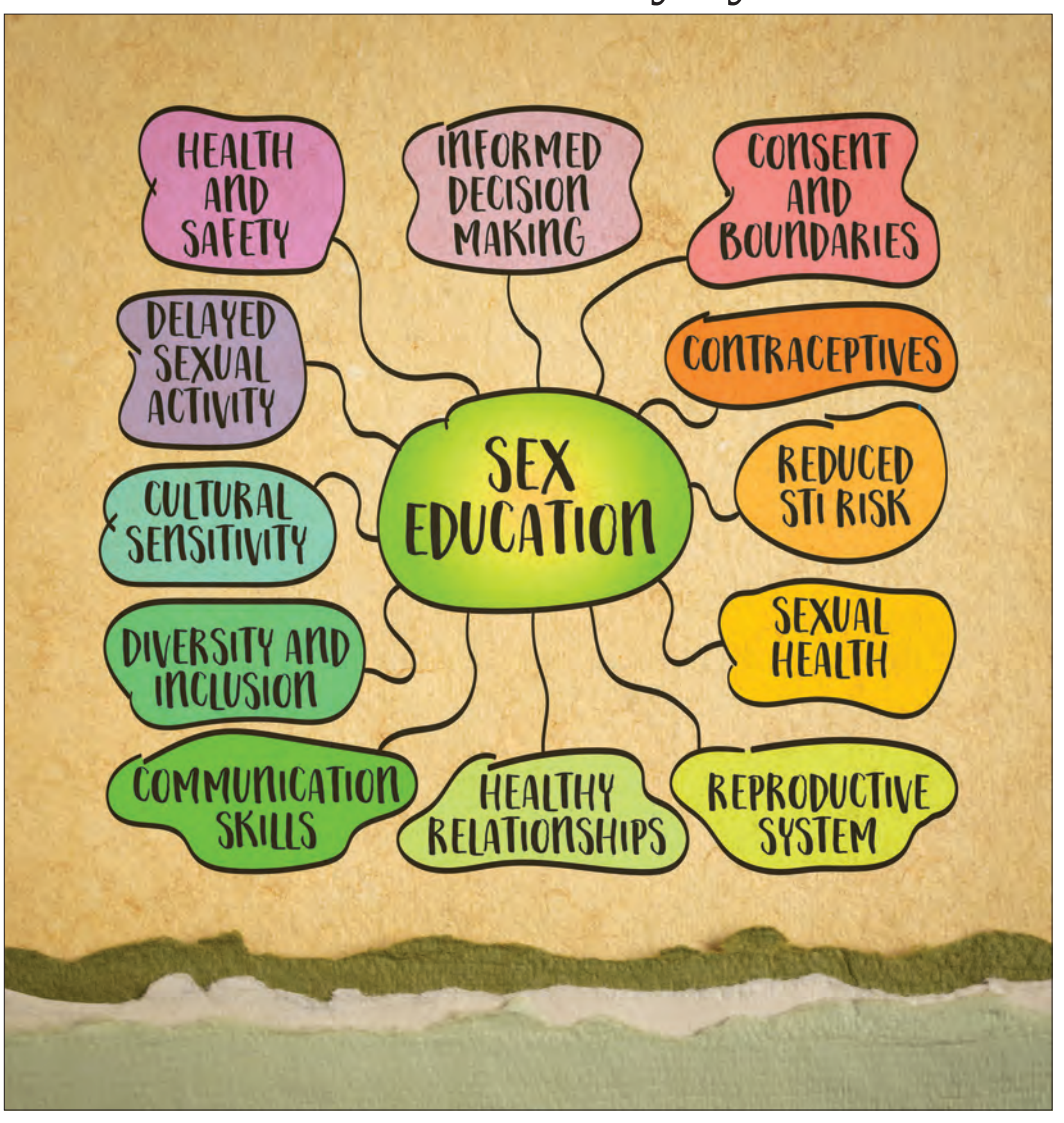
"We fear what we don't know we fear what we're ignorant of."

Rathfarnham-Templeogue councillor Justin Sinnott (SocDems) and Cllr Duff mentioned all the different public bodies and institutions, including church representatives, who worked together to create the SPHE curriculum as it is today.

"If we were to support this motion, we would be saying that all of those were complicit in promoting pornography to under 18s, which is illegal in this country," said Cllr Sinnott.

Many councillors agreed that illegal pornography, which teenagers access online through their phone, is the actual issue to be addressed as it is leading to increased sexual violence in that age range in the country.

Rathfranham-Templeogue councillor Ronan McMahon (IND) and Palmerstown-Fonthill councillor Glen Moore (Irish Freedom Party) voted in favour of Cllr De Courcy's motion.



> **"Anyone who wants to teach them respect, responsibility, boundaries, what is wrong and right in a relationship, particularly around sex and consent is welcome to do so**

Civic Centre sensory room will cater for neurodivergent adults and children

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

A NEW sensory room opened in Ballyfermot Community Civic Centre this week.

Funded by Dublin City Council, the sensory room will be available to book by parents of neurodivergent children, teenagers and adults in the Dublin 10 area.

The opening on Tuesday coincided with Autism Friendly Champion Training Day, which was delivered by Aslam, Ireland's Autism charity in association with NeuroVibe Tribe/D10 Autism Friendly Committee.

Representatives from Aslam were presented with a cheque for €4,000, the proceeds of the recent Christmas Fair organised by Ballyfermot Community Civic Centre, DCC, Liffey Partnership, Familibase, Together FM, NeuroVibe Tribe and Ballyfermot Family Resource.

For further information about Autism Friendly Training and sensory room bookings, contact Antoinette Martin at NeuroVibe Tribe at 086 3489245 or email neurovibetribe@gmail.com or d10autismfriendlytown@gmail.com.



AUTISM FRIENDLY: Dolores Barr and Amanda Smith in the new sensory room

Cupán tae and a chance to practice the cúpla focal

RESIDENTS who wish to practice or improve their Irish conversation are invited to attend a weekly group in Lucan.

The group of "like-minded people" meet on Wednesday mornings in St Mary's Parish Centre, Lucan, from 10.30am to 11.30am.

New participants are invited to join them for a cupán tae and cúpla focail.

There is no charge for the group chat, just a donation towards tea/coffee.

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Shroud of Turin replicas are unveiled in parish churches

Parish priest describes the process as ‘a special meaningful moment for many

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

REPLICAS of the Shroud of Turin were unveiled in the Kilnamanagh-Castleview parish churches in a special celebration at the weekend.

The unveiling took place during the Vigil Mass on Saturday, January 18 at St Kilian’s, Kingswood, and the morning Mass on Sunday, January 19 at St Kevin’s, Kilnamanagh.

Parish priest, Father Frank Drescher, described it as a “special and deeply meaningful moment for many in our parish and visitors alike.”

“We are here not only to listen to the Word of God and celebrate the Eucharist together but also to unveil and bless a faithful copy of the Shroud of Turin, a so-called ‘replica’, a powerful and moving reminder of Jesus’ love and sacrifice,” he said during his homily.

Speaking at the unveiling he explained the spiritual significance of the replicas:

“The Shroud of Turin is an ancient linen cloth that many believe to be the burial shroud of Jesus Christ. It bears the faint image of a crucified man and is widely venerated as an icon of Christ’s suffering and death. While the age and origin of the Shroud continue to be debated, its significance as a symbol of faith is undeniable.

“The Shroud helps us imagine the depth of his love and how much he endured to save us. It’s not just a story of pain and suffering; it’s a story of deep and passionate love – love for each one of us.”

During the homily, Fr Frank spoke directly to the young Confirmation candidates attending the Masses, urging them to reflect on the significance of the Shroud in their own faith journeys:

“Faith is lived out in the small, everyday choices we make: helping someone in need, saying sorry, forgiving others, taking time to pray, or coming to Mass. These actions show our love for God and for one another.”

The replicas will be permanently displayed in both churches, and parishioners and visitors are welcome to view them and take time for personal prayer and reflection during the usual opening hours.

For more information about visiting the replicas, contact the Kilnamanagh-Castleview Parish office.



MOVING REMINDER: Fr Frank Drescher at the special celebration

> **“The Shroud helps us imagine the depth of his love and how much he endured to save us. It’s not just a story of pain and suffering; it’s a story of deep and passionate love – love for each one of us**

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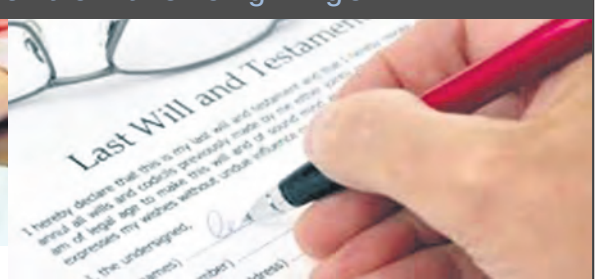
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Man (50) found unresponsive in garden suffered a fatal stab wound to the chest

A MAN who was found unresponsive in the garden of a house in Tallaght over a year ago suffered a fatal stab wound to the chest, an inquest has revealed, *reports Seán McCárthaigh.*

A sitting of Dublin District Coroner's Court also heard that a Garda investigation is ongoing into the murder of Tadhg Delaney (50) from Clondalkin who passed away at Tallaght University Hospital in Dublin on November 15, 2023.

Mr Delaney was brought to the hospital after being discovered in the front garden of a property on Dromcarra Avenue, Jobstown, Tallaght earlier that evening shortly before 8.30pm.

A murder investigation was subsequently launched following the findings of a postmortem carried out on the deceased's body.

The results of the autopsy were not disclosed at the time by gardaí for operational reasons.

At the opening of an inquest into Mr Delaney's death on Wednesday, the coroner, Clare Keane, revealed that the postmortem had shown that the victim had died from a stab wound to the chest.

The deceased's father, Timothy Delaney, gave evidence of formally identifying his son's body to gardaí at Dublin City Mortuary in Whitehall.

Mr Delaney explained that he had been alerted by gardaí that his son had died suddenly in Tallaght.

Inspector Denise Donegan applied for a six-month adjournment of the inquest under Section 25 (1) of the Coroners Act on the basis that the Garda investigation into Mr Delaney's murder was ongoing.

Last November, gardaí from the serious crime unit in Tallaght issued a renewed appeal for information regarding Mr Delaney's murder on the occasion of the first anniversary of his death.

Two people have been arrested to date as part of the investigation, while gardaí continue to follow several lines of inquiry.

Gardaí have particularly appealed for anyone who was in the Dromcarra Avenue area of Jobstown between 5pm and 8.30pm on Wednesday, November 15, 2023 to come forward as well as anyone with video footage, including motorists with dash-cam recordings from the Dromcarra, Kilclare and Cheeverstown Road/N81 areas during the same period.

Offering her condolences to relatives of Mr Delaney who attended the hearing, Dr Keane granted the application for an adjournment of the inquest and fixed July 23 as the date for the coroner to be updated on the progress of the investigation.



INQUEST: Tadhg Delaney

Man (67) defrauded about 1,200 people while posing as barrister

Judge issues bench warrant for insolvency practitioner who failed to turn up for sentence

A JUDGE has issued a bench warrant after a man who defrauded about 1,200 people while posing as a barrister and personal insolvency practitioner failed to turn up for his sentence, *reports Jessica Magee and Isabel Hayes.*

David Williams (67), with an address in Lacken, Blessington, Co Wicklow, pleaded guilty to multiple sample counts of deception on dates between January 2019 and June 2020.

He also admitted to charges of providing legal services while an unqualified person and acting as a personal insolvency practitioner while an unauthorised person during the same period.

In a separate matter, Williams pleaded guilty to defrauding a Galway woman in her 80s by dishonestly inducing her to buy a mini-digger for over €7,000.

Williams was due to be sentenced on Friday, but he failed to show up and medical letters were handed in to the court instead by his defence counsel, Pieter Le Vert BL. His sentence was also adjourned last November for medical reasons and he has previously failed to attend court.

Judge Orla Crowe said she did not believe the documentation provided to the court warranted adjourning the matter.

She acceded to a prosecution request for a bench warrant to be issued for Williams' arrest.

William's former partner, Crystal Talia (46), of the same address, was in court on Friday to be sentenced for her role in the offence. She previously pleaded guilty to impeding an investigation by allowing Williams to use her bank accounts on dates between September 2018 and May 2020.

The court heard that the Garda National Economic Crime Bureau investigated a firm called THL Legal, which offered a range of legal services including advice about work permits, leave-to-remain applications and family reunifications.



Most of the people seeking advice were not of Irish origin and had paid sums averaging €1,500 to the company, the court heard.

THL had Facebook and Twitter accounts and a website advertising themselves as "a dynamic firm of experienced lawyers," although the company was never a solicitors' firm and was not registered with the Law Society, the court heard.

The court heard Williams is not and never was a practicing barrister, nor was he ever on the Roll of Practising Barristers.

THL's offices in Greenogue Business Park, Westmanstown, Rathcoole, Co Dublin were raided by gardaí who seized a large number of files, including a client list with 1,200 names on it.

Williams then set up another legal firm called Moore, Barrington and Walters (MBW) which operated from November 2019 to May 2020, until its offices were also raided by gardaí.

Williams was arrested in May 2020, but in June of that year, counsel said he was "toting himself out" as a personal insolvency practitioner in a third business called Global Business Recovery, or GBR.

The court heard that Talia and Williams were in a relationship and living together in Kildare with a number of children at the time of the offences. They met when she was working as a carer for his elderly aunt.

Talia opened a bank account used for trading as THL and then MBW, into which unwitting victims transferred fees for what they believed would be legitimate legal services.

The court heard that as some of these clients realised that the relevant legal work they had requested was not being carried out, they began to report the firm to the gardaí or the Law Society.

When arrested, Talia said Williams had set up THL Legal and asked her to set up a bank account that he could use for the business, as he said he was going through marital difficulties in the UK.

She was not involved in the day-to-day business of THL or Williams' other firms and she has no previous convictions.

Handing down sentence on Friday, Judge Crowe noted Talia "trusted someone who did not deserve to be trusted".

The judge noted Talia allowed two of her bank accounts to be used for Williams' offending, including after the first account came under garda investigation.

She said Talia ought to have been "sufficiently concerned" by the search warrant on the first bank account so as to have known something was going on.

The judge took into account a number of mitigating factors, including Talia's prior good character, her family situation and her good work record.

She handed down a 12 month sentence and suspended it entirely on a number of conditions.



‘No planning means no construction’

CONCERNS: The Modular home being delivered in Kingswood

Residents voice concerns over modular cabin brought onto private land

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

SOUTH Dublin County Council asked a landowner to “cease and discontinue” development as a modular cabin was moved onto the land with no planning permission.

Residents in Kingswood reported the disruption caused by the attempt to bring a prefabricated home onto land adjacent to their estate, at the intersection of Kingswood Castle and Ballymount Road, on Monday, January 13.

Councillor Jess Spear (PBP), representing the residents, said SDCC sent a warning letter to the landowner in November, when the first signs of development on the land were visible, but no planning application was submitted.

She added that the attempt to move the cabin onto the land wasn’t successful because it couldn’t pass through the gates, and that it caused traffic disruption.

“Residents are not opposing development,” Cllr Spear said. “I think they welcomed that derelict land being cleared.

“But they would like to know what’s being built without permission, because they live there. Not knowing what’s happening is a big part of the problem.”

Cllr Spear explained the lack of information is causing rumours to be spread, which can “easily be seized upon by those who aim to spread hate and fear.

“Some were told that multiple homes were going to be delivered, some were talking about asylum seekers being accommodated,” she said.

Without a planning application to consult, residents don’t know if safety regulations are being complied with and if the development will have some form of impact in the environment they live in.

According to Cllr Spear, the landowner didn’t submit any information within four weeks after having received the warning letter.

On Thursday, January 16, the Council issued a planning enforcement notice and required the landowner to “cease and discontinue any further development on the land.”

The landowner must remove the concrete platform, drainage and electrical services, boundary walls and fencing, and all resultant debris within February 24, and “return the site to its predevelopment state.”

Heating scheme picks up Energy Globe Award

THE Tallaght District Heating Scheme received the Energy Globe Award 2024 for Ireland, announced South Dublin County Council.

The award recognised the scheme’s “significant contribution to sustainable heating and carbon reduction in the Tallaght area,” commented SDCC.

The scheme is operated by the Council through Heat Works, Ireland’s first not-for-profit energy utility based on Belgard Road.

By reusing waste heat from a nearby data centre, it provides low-carbon heating to a number of public buildings in the area, including South Dublin County Council facilities and TU Dublin buildings.

According to SDCC, this approach reduces carbon emissions by approximately 1,500 tonnes annually and makes a significant impact on the nation’s decarbonization efforts.

The project is set to expand in 2025, through the connection of 133 affordable apartments to the network and further extending its reach within Tallaght.

The Energy Globe Award is an environmental prize awarded to sustainable projects by Austria-based Energy Globe Foundation.

Heat works and its scheme will represent Ireland at the Energy Globe International Awards Ceremony held annually in Austria.



SCHEME: Admir Shala, District Heating Development Manager, Melitta Schubert, Ambassador of Austria to Ireland, Teresa Walsh, Director of Services, SDCC Therese Pender, Senior Architect, SDCC, Josef Treml, Trade Commissioner & Commercial Counsellor, Austrian Embassy



My motivation is back, says Stephen, after festive slip-up

Walk and Talk founder went immediately back to the healthy life he knows he can have

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

WALK and Talk South Dublin founder Stephen Brennan is looking forward to "climbing mountains" again after overcoming difficult times during the holidays.

Opening up to his supporters and to *The Echo*, Stephen said that after a few years off drugs, his struggles "came back" over Christmas and made him lose all motivation.

"I thought I would never have to deal with that again.

"I was afraid, and it made me think I would never come out of it for good."

Like he already did in the past, he then decided he couldn't let his life slip away, and had the drugs gone straight after.

"I don't want to regret not having the great life I know I can have. When the New Year's came, I said, 'It's enough.'"

"I immediately tried to go back to a healthy life and to hang out with different people."

An early morning regular at the gym, Stephen also started to attend support meetings and, most importantly, he went out on his walks.

"I went by myself and cleared my head. I realised that every time I had a slip, I came back stronger and more determined.

"If I didn't make mistakes, I wouldn't have created Walk and Talk."

Stephen founded Walk and Talk in his native Jobstown in 2022, inviting people to get out of the house and chat their problems away while going on a walk, whether they were struggling with mental health, addiction, or anything else.

Over two years the group grew bigger and bigger and encouraged people in other areas of Dublin to create one.

At Tallaght Person of the Year 2024, Stephen received the Learning and Innovation Award for the precious platform he was offering to his community.

The announcement that he couldn't keep Walk and Talk running due to its increasing costs and a lack of public funding came unexpectedly before Christmas but was immediately followed by many messages of support and donations.

"Tallaght is great for support. The number of messages I got, even for me personally, was unbelievable," said Stephen. "There wouldn't be any Walk and Talk without them."

Walk and Talk is currently running events four times a week.

The Monday walks leave Jobstown Garage at 6pm and according to Stephen are the ones that would "start you up" if you're at a beginner level.

They take place around the new Jobstown Park on the way to Killinarden.

> **"I went by myself and cleared my head. I realised that every time I had a slip, I came back stronger and more determined**

The Wednesday walks go through Dodder Valley Park and can help people improving on their fitness skills if they like it.

The buses to Dodder Valley that are now provided by Active South Dublin leave the Jobstown Garage at 6.15pm.

For Saturdays, Stephen organises hikes across or outside County Dublin and takes care of transport to and from the hikes' locations, as well as refreshments.

Last year, Stephen's impact on the community 'peaked' as he brought 35 people to Wales for a weekend, to climb the country's highest mountain.

"I'm looking forward to climbing a few big mountains again," he told *The Echo*.

The Saturday hikes' buses leave Jobstown Garage at 7am and Stephen charges €15 per person or €20 for longer trips, which "barely cover his costs."

A novelty for the new year, Stephen took on doing a 5k run followed by a sea swim every Sunday morning in Portmarnock and welcomes all to join him.

"We leave from Jobstown garage at 7.30 am – I have two cars with 12 seats."

Sharing life stories and struggles with people he meets during his walks, as well as during his support meetings, makes a huge difference according to Stephen.

"It's so important. If you don't do that then you don't see all the amazing people who might be in your same situation."



DETERMINED: Stephen Brennan says Tallaght is great for support

Ninety years a-growing for St Agnes Church, with a Mass of Celebration and a blessing

ST AGNES Church in Crumlin celebrates its 90th anniversary this year and will be hosting a special Mass on February 2 – all are welcome to attend.

The date of consecration for St Agnes Church was February 10, 1935, by Archbishop Byrne.

St Agnes pastoral council is preparing a few events throughout 2025 to mark the occasion.

On Sunday, February 2, the 12.30 pm Mass will be a Mass of Thanksgiving for the presence of the Salesian Order in the parish.

The Salesians are an integral part of the parish community since their involvement from 1970 and have contributed hugely to the development of the parish and church.

To honour the presence of the Salesians, the parish will unveil and bless a commissioned stained-glass image of St John Bosco, their founder, at the end of Mass on February 2.

This will be followed by a cup of tea/coffee in the parish centre which all are welcome to attend.

Fr Eunan McDonnell, Provincial of the Salesians, will be the main celebrant along with other Salesians.

St Agnes Church was built to accommodate the growth of the village of Crumlin in the 1930s.

It was designed in the Hiberno-Romanesque style.

Apart from the restoration of the church roof and the refurbishment of the stained-glass windows, little construction was undertaken until 2013, when a major transformation of works enriched the spiritual experience of the congregation.

Today parishioners enjoy wonderful natural lighting through the stained glass windows when attending services at St Agnes.



NATURAL LIGHTING: St Agnes Church, designed in the Hiberno-Romanesque style



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WORLD ATHLETICS INDOOR TOUR GOLD



Ukrainians told to relocate from holiday village homes

Many have already set up lives in the Blessington area and have children at school

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

OVER 100 Ukrainians have been told to relocate from their accommodation at a former holiday village in Blessington.

Up to 110 Ukrainians have been living at The Avon for around two years but were issued notification from the Department of Integration telling them they will be relocated by February 7.

Ukrainians who spoke to RTÉ say they have jobs and that their children are in school in the area.

The department cannot guarantee they can stay in or near the area, that pets cannot be accommodated and they will have 48 hours' notice in advance of the transfer.

Many have set up lives in the Blessington area, where they have jobs and their children are in school.

As of December, 111,389 PPS numbers had been given to Ukrainians Under Temporary Protection.

The Department of Integration is now ending accommodation contracts as the demand decreases and where there are vacancies at contracted accommodation sites.

In some cases, the providers are ending contracts themselves to return to the private sector, or to offer their accommodation for other uses.



CHANGES: The Avon, home for over two years

> "The department cannot guarantee they can stay in or near the area, that pets cannot be accommodated

Family of scaffolder who died were unhappy about health and safety conditions at construction

THE family of a scaffolder who sustained fatal injuries in a fall at a building site in north Dublin were unhappy about health and safety conditions at the construction project, an inquest has heard, *reports Seán McCárthaigh.*

However, an inspector with the Health and Safety Authority, who investigated the death, said the scaffolding appeared to have been erected properly, while other workers on the site had been satisfied with its condition.

Stephen Hamilton (43) a father of three from Newman's Mills, Athboy, Co Meath, died in Beaumont Hospital on October 12, 2021 from a severe head injury sustained in the accident at the site in Killeen, Oldtown, Co Dublin earlier that morning.

The deceased, who came originally from Tallaght, Dublin, had been working as a scaffolder for Airside Scaffolding Contractors (also known as CB Scaffolding) on farmland where a new two-storey house was being built.

A work colleague, Ken Hyland, said he was standing on a truck as Mr Hamilton was dismantling the scaffolding and passing pieces of equipment to him.

At one stage, Mr Hylan said he heard "a loud thump" and turned around to see his colleague had fallen from a height of around 12 feet onto the concrete floor of a conservatory under construction.

Evidence was heard that Mr Hamilton had blood all over his face, was disoriented and was struggling to pick himself up off the ground.

Mr Hyland told the coroner, Cróna Gallagher, that his colleague would usually wear a hard hat and safety harness at work but not on the day of the incident.

In reply to questions from Niall Tansey, solicitor for Mr Hamilton's family, Mr Hyland said practice at Airside had now changed following his colleague's death with more enforcement and the non-wearing of personal protection equipment now a sackable offence.

The inquest heard Airside Scaffolding Contractors was successfully prosecuted for a breach of workplace health and safety legislation in 2023 and fined €500.

The owner of the property, Joe Collins, was also found guilty of breaches of building regulations and fined €500.

HSA inspector, Frank Kearns, told a sitting of Dublin District Coroner's Court on Monday that the DPP had directed that there should be no criminal prosecution in relation to the circumstances of Mr Hamilton's death.

Mr Kearns said he believed the deceased may have been working "outside his reach" to remove a vertical scaffolding pole which could have weighed around 17kg.

The inquest heard a nine-foot pole was found on the ground beside Mr Hamilton after the fall.

In reply to questions from the coroner, Cróna Gallagher, Mr Kearns said it was not clear who was responsible for enforcing the wearing of personal protective equipment on a building site but added: "everyone should know themselves."

Mr Tansey complained that the scaffolding had been dismantled following the accident although Airside's own safety statement said the scene of any accident should be preserved.

The company's managing director, Chris Byrne, said he was unaware of that element of the policy but accepted the scaffolding should have been left up "in hindsight."

> "The company's managing director, Chris Byrne, said he was unaware of that element of the policy but accepted the scaffolding should. . .

Mr Byrne said he did not believe a safety harness would have had any effect but observed that with 25 years' experience the deceased should have been known to wear a hard hat.

However, he also claimed it was "very hard to enforce" such regulations.

The victim's mother, Christine Hamilton, said the deceased was the eldest of her three children in what was a close-knit family.

Ms Hamilton said her son was hard-working and a very experienced scaffolder.

She told the inquest that she was informed by doctors at Beaumont Hospital that they were doing their best to keep her son alive but that he would be left in a permanent vegetative state if he survived.

The inquest heard Mr Hamiton's life-support machine was turned off at 6.50pm on October 12, 2021 and he was pronounced dead ten minutes later.

Ms Hamilton said she was heartbroken about her son's death and had extreme difficulty in speaking about what had happened.

She said she struggled to cope with both the loss of Stephen and her husband, Gerry, who died from cancer in May 2023.

The deceased's younger brother, Stephen Hamilton, who also works as a scaffolder, said he had become "extremely anxious" about his own safety at work as he kept replaying what had happened to his brother in his mind every day.

The witness said scaffolding was one of the most dangerous jobs in the construction sector and scaffolders would not be allowed near a site if they were not equipped with the required safety gear.

Mr Collins gave evidence that he had been seeking planning permission for a number of years to build a family home on the site.

The inquest heard the property owner was at work as a consultant to the Irish Dairy Board in Dublin city centre when he was alerted to what happened at around 10.15am.

He said he was about to go out to the site immediately when he received another call to indicate the incident was not serious as Mr Hamilton was up "walking and talking" so he did not return until 4pm.

Mr Collins said he had taken on the role as the main building contractor himself due to difficulties and delays in getting someone for the job.

He told the hearing that he had only hired "blue-chip traders" for both quality and health and safety reasons.

The witness said he felt qualified for the role as he had worked as chief risk officer with the Irish Dairy Board. Mr Collins noted that he also worked as a farmer, so was very conscious of health and safety issues.

Cross-examined by Mr Tansey, he accepted he had no formal qualifications for appointing himself as the designated project supervisor for the construction stage.

He outlined how he would attend the building site every day – sometimes "after hours" when he was working elsewhere but "full-time" on two days per week.

The witness said he was not surprised that work was continuing on the site when he returned to the scene as he had not realised at the time the seriousness of the incident.

He understood the scaffolding needed to be fully taken down because it was dangerous but he could not recall who had told him that.

The inquest had been adjourned last July after a number of witnesses had expressed concern that they needed to be legally represented at the hearing.

The resumption of the inquest this week was dogged with interruptions between lawyers for the various parties with Mr Collins' solicitor accusing Mr Tansey at one stage of "trying to run a liability case."

The hearing before a jury of six men was adjourned and is expected to conclude on Tuesday.



GREAT OPPORTUNITY: The students from Greenhills Community College

Viva España for 25 students taking part in a working holiday in Malaga

Greenhills College participants will be immersed in a 'rich and diverse culture' for 10 days

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

TWENTY-FIVE students from Greenhills Community College will take off to Malaga, Spain, for a ten-day work placement related to their studies.

Through the Erasmus+ programme, Greenhills CC have given their students this precious, international opportunity for the past four years.

Participants were selected among numerous applicants across all courses, including Childcare, Social Care, Science, Engineering, Art Portfolio, Software Development, Nursing, and Pre-Teaching and Learning.

Tutors Paula Nugent and Laura Fox organised and co-ordinated what they call a "working holiday" and are "looking forward to travelling with the group and representing Greenhills Community College."

Ms Nugent told *The Echo*: "It is truly a wonderful opportunity for our students, as they will be immersed in such a rich and diverse culture.

"They will be assigned to work placements for ten days in Malaga that [are] related to their field of study as this will be very beneficial to their professional and personal growth and development.

"On this programme we provide flights, accommodation and spending money for all 25 students.

"We also organise a day trip to the beautiful local village of Frigiliana, visit the Caves of Nerja, take students on a sunset boat trip, do beach activities.

"We will visit a Flamenco show and do a sunset hike to a famous landmark in the centre of Malaga."

The students will spend 14 days in the Spanish city from Sunday, January 19, to Saturday, February 1.

New 'creative inspiration and networking opportunities' for women in Enterprise Centre

WOMEN'S Collective Tallaght launched their new programme made up of weekly classes and events to take place between February and April, *reports Alessia Micalizzi.*

One of 17 Women's Collective Ireland projects, WCI Tallaght is based in the Brookfield Enterprise Centre.

The group welcomed all the women of the community to join them on their registration day on Tuesday, January 21.

"A morning filled with creative inspiration and networking opportunities," said WCI Tallaght.

"We encourage you to spread the word and invite your colleagues, friends, and family."

Among the WCI weekly events are yoga and Pilates classes, a Walk and Talk group for mothers, health and wellbeing workshops, and social events.

Important occasions will be marked, such as St Brigid's Day in February when WCI Tallaght will host a "Women's Celebration Workshop" and International Women's Day in March with a panel talk.

WCI also offers key services for women such as domestic abuse counselling and free period and sexual health products.

A women's library and a laptop/table loan scheme are available for women accessing their programmes.

Visit www.womenscollective.ie and the group's social media to learn more

Contact – tallaght@womenscollective.ie or 087 346 4002 to sign up for courses and services.

Women's Collective Ireland, supporting "grassroots women's empowerment," is a project funded by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.

> **"We encourage you to spread the word and invite your colleagues, friends, and family . . . Among the WCI weekly events are yoga and Pilates classes, a Walk and Talk group for mothers, health and wellbeing workshops**



CREATIVE: Barbara, Fulvia and Tara

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

Saving the Ash trees



IMPORTANT: Ash seeds hang in clumps like bunches of keys

WHILE most native trees are still bare of their leaves, one tree species still looks like it is carrying some clumps of leaves along their branches, even if these look withered and brown.

This tree is the Ash, and the withered-looking clumps are not leaves but are bunches of seeds.

These seeds are often referred to as Ash keys, because they look like bunches of old, medieval-like keys.

Ash holds onto these seeds over the winter, and waits until early spring to drop then, at which time they have a good chance of successfully germinating and growing.

The Ash tree is perhaps one of our most culturally important trees. It was seen by our ancestors as one of the 'nobles of the forest'.

We also talk about the 'clash of the Ash', referring to the use of the wood from Ash to make hurleys for the uniquely Irish sport of hurling.

Ash trees, like most native trees, provide a home and food for many other species such as mosses, lichens, insects, birds, mammals and other invertebrate creatures.

It is estimated that Ash supports close to 1,000 different species, some of which rely only on Ash to survive.

Today, unfortunately, Ash is struggling with a disease which arrived into Ireland from continental Europe around 2012.

Ash Dieback Disease is caused by an airborne fungus which infects the tree and causes its leaves to wilt.

It has a particular effect on the crown of the tree and in the roots, where it causes these to rot.

It appears that young trees are more susceptible than mature trees, and in some areas almost 100 per cent loss of young trees has been recorded.

Scientists are working hard to find Ash trees around the country that are resistant to this disease.

With intensive research underway, they can hopefully breed and grow new disease resistant trees and help save this noble of the forest.



IN DANGER: In winter, Ash's bunches of seeds look like withered leaves



Power of One team come third in world's toughest race across the Atlantic

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

A LUCAN father and his team came third in the World's Toughest Row competition as they honour the memory of a 13-year-old girl who passed away last year.

Saoirse O'Driscoll passed away in April 2024 due to a congenital heart condition, leaving her family "devastated."

With four friends and dads, Saoirse's father John O'Driscoll embarked on a 5,000km row across the Atlantic Ocean to mirror the struggles of all the sick children who "cross the Atlantic every day," and fundraise for medical research.

Team Power of One, as they call themselves, won the bronze medal while competing with 38 teams and were first in the five-rower category.

For 39 days, 14 hours and 31 minutes at sea, they battled "relentless waves, squalls, a Saharan sandstorm, blisters upon blisters, sleep deprivation and physical exhaustion,"

They did all of that on a 8.6 m long, 1.5 m wide boat, "shallow as your kitchen board," said John.

The team left from San Sebastian de La Gomera, Spain, on Wednesday, December 11, and reached Antigua in the Caribbeans on Sunday, January 19, welcomed by family members and friends for a moving reunion.

Speaking ahead of the challenge, John told *The Echo*, "People don't understand how difficult it is for children with CHD, because from the outside they look completely fine.

"Throughout her life, Saoirse underwent 40 surgeries, and every basic activity could be hard for her, from getting ready for school to carrying her bag from class to class.

"But she was a happy, resilient and thoughtful child. She defied the odds, lived life to the fullest and brought a smile to everyone.

"She was an inspiration."

Once upon the Antigua shore, John broke down in tears while holding a flare aloft for his "superhero" and the "sixth member" of the team.

"This wasn't just about crossing an ocean," he said.

"This was for Saoirse, for her memory, and for every family who needs the support of these incredible charities. The Power of One is about what we can achieve together, even in the face of the greatest challenges.

Besides John, the other rowers are Conor McCarthy, Daragh Kelly, Enda McNicholas, and Roger McMorrow.

The team first undertook the challenge in 2022, after training for two years, with the sole purpose of fundraising.

They then decided to make it a tribute to Saoirse's legacy as she passed away in 2024.

"She was a beautiful soul who from a young age devoted herself to helping others," added John.

While the trip is entirely self-funded, the aim is to raise €500,000 for The Children's Heart Centre at Crumlin Hospital and Heart Children Ireland.

To date, €430,600 was raised. To donate, visit www.idonate.ie/fundraiser/teampowerof1.

"Throughout her life, Saoirse underwent 40 surgeries, and every basic activity could be hard for her, from getting ready for school to carrying her bag from class to class

n close to €500,000 target in world's ghes row



INSPIRATION: Saoirse O'Driscoll who died last year



TEAM SPIRIT: Roger McMorrow, Daragh Kelly, Conor McCarthy, John O'Driscoll and Enda McNicholas

Jiving and quicksteps bring glitz and glamour



QUICKSTEP: Celebrity chef Kevin Dundon from Clondalkin and his dance partner Rebecca Scott

THE second couple to take to the 'Dancing With The Stars' floor this week was celebrity chef Kevin Dundon from Clondalkin and his partner Rebecca Scott. They danced a quickstep to 'Soda Pop' by Robbie Williams featuring Michael Bublé, *reports Ryan Butler.*

Arthur Gourounlian said, "Let me tell you something: you definitely can move. Sometimes it was like you were running instead of dancing. But overall I couldn't take my eyes off you."

Brian Redmond said, "As a quickstep, it was quite dapper in places, but missing the odd bit here and there.

"Overall, you recovered very well. Much better than last week."

Kevin and Rebecca scored a total of 18 points.

The final couple, Tallaght Taekwondo Olympian Jack Woolley from Tallaght and Alex Vladimirov, closed the show with an energetic jive to The Kid LAORI and Justin Bieber's viral hit Stay.

Brian said, "With your background, I was hoping that the kicks and flicks would be on point, and my God, were they. Energy was great, and timing crystal-clear."

Karen Byrne said, "I feel I'm – for once – lost for words. You're so captivating to look at."

Arthur said, "You didn't just show up, you brought the house down. Fireworks were exploding everywhere. The Taekwondo kick delivered a knockout performance."

Jack and Alex scored a total of 33 points.

The glitz, glamour, and nail-biting competition will continue on RTÉ One and RTÉ Player next Sunday, January 26t at 6:30pm.

> "You didn't just show up, you brought the house down. Fireworks were exploding everywhere. The Taekwondo kick delivered a knockout performance



KICK START: Tallaght taekwondo Olympian Jack Woolley and his dance partner Alex Vladimirov

Apology after 'left the building' statement from Sinn Féin councillor on FF absences

A SINN FÉIN councillor apologised to two Fianna Fáil colleagues after controversial statements made at the December council meeting, reports Alessia Micalizzi.

"All of the Fianna Fáil councillors seem to have left the building," had said Clondalkin councillor William Carey (SF) after a roll call to vote for a motion that encouraged SDCC to purchase derelict houses in the county to tackle housing shortage.

"I was visiting my extremely sick father, and I had to step out for some time, so when councillors are not here there are reasons," responded Tallaght councillor Teresa Costello (FF) who had just joined the motion vote remotely.

"I am sure all the councillors who are not here have good reasons, as any others in this chamber would have," she continued.

Cllr Costello and Rathfarnham-Templeogue Cllr Yvonne Collins were going through bereavement of a family member at that time.

"At our previous council meeting in December and following the course of a debate on a motion, I passed a comment on the absence of Fianna Fáil councillors in the chamber," said Cllr Carey opening the January Council meeting.

"I understand that this caused some upset to several councillors, namely Cllrs Costello and Collins, who unfortunately had to suffer bereavement.

"My intentions were never aimed personally, and my comments were prompted politically by suggestions made on the voting records and attendance in the chamber.

"I want to acknowledge that Cllrs Costello and Collins have excellent attendance records in chamber, and I wish to apologise for any upset I caused them during those difficult times.

"I hope both councillors will accept my apology," he concluded, followed by Cllr Collins thanking him.

During the roll call for the motion on Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) on derelict houses, Teresa Costello was in fact the only Fianna Fáil councillor present, and she abstained.

The motion passed with 17 votes out of 26, with the eight votes against coming from Fine Gael, Independent Ireland and the Irish Freedom Party.

Council commits to a proactive approach to protection of hedgerows and their heritage

THE protection of South Dublin County's hedgerows is ruled by European and national legislation, says South Dublin County Council.

Clondalkin independent councillor Francis Timmons questioned the council's power to preserve hedgerows and their heritage after some of them were clear felled in Rathcoole and Newcastle in 2024.

While SDCC acknowledges the value of hedgerows in their County Development Plan, the enforcement of protection policies and objectives is "set out in national planning legislation," and "are particularly strong when land is subject to development that requires planning permission."

The council explained that Ireland adheres to international and European regulations to preserve biodiversity and acts accordingly with the National Planning Framework, the National Biodiversity Action Plan, and Environmental Impact Assessment screenings.

Among the important objectives outlined in the county's Development Plan, is the protection and the enhancement of the County's hedgerow network, "in particular hedgerows that form townland, parish and barony boundaries recognising their historic and cultural importance in addition to their ecological importance."

Within the "Natural, Cultural and Built Heritage" chapter, SDCC ensured that "intact hedgerows or trees will be maintained above the 120m contour line within the county and "the strong rural character will not be diluted."

The council also committed "for no net loss of hedgerows on any development site and to take a pro-active approach to protection and enforcement."

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Welcome for disadvantaged primary schools DEIS+ help

Survey shows that communities became more disadvantaged over last six years

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

WEST TALLAGHT principals welcomed the new government's commitment to introduce DEIS+ classification for particularly disadvantaged primary schools.

Nationwide, over 1,000 schools benefit from the Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS) programme.

The need of an additional DEIS "band" for particularly disadvantaged areas was raised over the last years by Tallaght, Darndale and Ballymun school principals in the Dáil.

Their request was supported by research, such as the 2023 POBAL index showing those communities became more disadvantaged over the last six years, and PISA showing the gap in Literacy and Numeracy between DEIS and non-DEIS schools is widening.

Previously, a survey of 17 of the schools represented by the principals group found that nearly half (48 per cent) of students had experienced homelessness, abuse, bereavement, suicide, crime, violence or addiction, and 54 per cent have special education needs compared to 14 per cent in non-DEIS schools.

"DEIS+ should exist by the beginning of the school year in September 2025," said Conor McCarthy, Principal at Tallaght CNS in Jobstown.

"The Department of Education Social Inclusion section has recognised this need for a number of years so having it included by Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael and the RIG in the Programme for Government is a positive step. There can't be any time wasted in implementing this scheme. If consultation is necessary, it has to start immediately."

"It's brilliant to have a commitment to DEIS+ in the Programme for Government. We have been advocating for DEIS+ for years," said Orla Hanahoe, principal at Cnoc Mhuire SNS in Killinarden.

The enhanced supports principals request for DEIS+ schools are counsellors, speech and language and occupational therapists, more teaching posts, and space dedicated to trauma informed practices and interventions.

"Therapeutic intervention and trauma informed nurture supports will have the most positive impact on literacy and numeracy scores in our schools," said Ms Hanahoe.

"All schools in our group are already implementing versions of these supports through local partnerships, charity, grants and fundraising but it is not sustainable without formal, sustained support from the Department of Education," explained the principals.

"The other educational commitments in the Programme for Government such as reduced class sizes, increased Capitation, Minor Works and ICT funding should also be increased proportionally for DEIS+ schools," they added.



PRINCIPALS: Conor McCarthy, Tallaght CNS, Dearbhla Byrne, Knockmore JNS, Orla Hanahoe, Cnoc Mhuire SNS and Maeve Cloke, St Brigid's JNS, Brookfield



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www.plazahotel.ie
Selected dates available for large groups. Minimum numbers apply.





HELPING: Debbie Dolan (right), one of the CARP staff, with one of the women



VICTIMS: Doing their best to break the habit



HAVOC WREAKED: James Kelly, CARP manager, with Debbie Dolan





INTIMIDATION: Stills from documentary and (inset) documentary maker Pa

Crack cocaine exposes targeti

Vulnerable women and mothers are a

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

YOUNG women and mothers who suffer from crack cocaine addiction are being targeted by drug dealers with new "marketing" techniques and intimidation.

"Four [rocks] to your door for a score, quicker than Domino's," is one of the texts they have been receiving through social media, as reported by female users attending the Community Addiction Response Programme (CARP) in Killinarden, Tallaght.

Over the last five years, frontline addiction services shed light on a 'crack epidemic' affecting West Tallaght, which is far from being eradicated.

In a recent documentary by Ballycullen native Patrick Doran, 'Hope in a Crack Epidemic', CARP workers and users explained vulnerable women and mothers in the area are an 'easy target' for those who are profiteering out of the epidemic.

"I think it comes through Snapchat because it doesn't stay long on there," a CARP staff member said in the documentary, speaking about the dealers' 'techniques.'

"Sometimes [the women] don't even leave their own houses.

"Crack was put in somebody's letterbox and then they were told 'Well, you owe me.' There's that level of intimidation as well."

Other messages, according to the service users, would say "Bring two friends and get a free rock."

"I was totally shocked," Patrick told *The Echo* speaking about his work on

"I also thought of dealing as something happening in street corners, and I found out they are using the same marketing techniques you'd see in a clothes shop. You can't escape it, it's haunting you



trick Doran

e documentary ing techniques

n easy target for purveyors of misery

the documentary.

"Being from Ballycullen, I had no idea this was happening just down the road.

"I also thought of dealing as something happening in street corners, and I found out they are using the same marketing techniques you'd see in a clothes shop.

"You can't escape it, it's haunting you."

Equally hard to eradicate is the judgement and stigmatisation these women go through in the community.

"Someone would say 'hi' to me and then their kid goes 'crackhead'," said one of the women interviewed in the documentary.

"The shame that is attached to women who use and have kids . . . It needs to change," added a CARP worker. "It is soul-destroying for them."

"I could see they are trying their best, but this weighed on them very much," Patrick told *The Echo.*

"People suffering from addiction shouldn't be treated like they're not human beings."

CARP was set up in 1995 in Killinarden to meet an increasing need in the area.

In 2018, their pilot programme specifically dedicated to crack female users was the first of its kind in Ireland and brought on a completely new approach.

Women are not expected to change their drug use while attending, but to benefit from a nurturing, empowering and not-judgemental environment where they engage in activities that are not related to drugs.

According to CARP, this tends to make them change their use "organically," and a men's programme was created in 2024 based on the success of this approach.

"The drug trade is dependent on what's easy to bulk up and make the most profit off, and unfortunately crack is one of those," said CARP manager James Kelly.

"It is wreaking havoc on the women and men of Tallaght."

James believes a lack of funding for services like CARP makes it even harder to tackle the epidemic.

"With the crack cocaine situation just getting worse and the problem being ignored, we call on the Government to do more for addiction services."

"Crack and drug use are everyone's problem. While we have received funding, it is only on a yearly basis.

"This funding needs to be guaranteed and prioritised to address the issues on a daily basis."

New 'Walk and Talk' group in Ballyfermot



TACKLING FITNESS: Daniel Murphy

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

A NEW 'Walk and Talk' group was created in Ballyfermot by a local man who wants to help the community face struggles together.

Daniel Murphy (39), from Ballyfermot, recalled struggling with mental health issues and addiction since his late 20s.

"About 15 years ago I was going through depression and anxiety, and as a way to cope, drinking became my main thing," he told *The Echo.*

"I wasn't happy with myself not being able to function."

He eventually managed to come out of it and has been keeping away from alcohol for the last ten years.

Over Christmas, going through bereavement and other issues within the family led him to feel as down as back then, but he decided to react differently this time.

He went for a first mind-clearing walk on his own, then started reaching out to people to have a chat and that's when it clicked.

Inspired by other existing Walk and Talk groups across Dublin, he decided to spread the word and start his own.

"It's an ongoing battle, it will go on for the rest of my life.

"But you don't have to be in your mind all the time, sitting around overthinking.

"That's why I created this group called 'Getting together.' I want to have something there for the community, for people of all ages and struggling with whatever issue to come out and get to know other people."

Daniel welcomes people from Ballyfermot but also from Chapelizod, Inchicore, Kilmainham and all the surrounding areas to come join him.

At the moment, 'Getting together' walks are on Mondays and Fridays starting at 5:30pm from the main entrance of Ballyfermot Sports Complex (BLCO).

From the close-by GAA clubs' fields and through the park up to California Hills, participants will easily walk 5 kilometres ending back at the meeting point.

"There is no pressure for anyone to open up, it could take a few weeks before you feel comfortable enough," said Daniel.

"It's just people getting to know each other and we'll take it from there."

For updates on the walks, follow Getting Together on Facebook and TikTok.

"That's why I created this group called 'Getting together.' I want to have something there for the community, for people of all ages and struggling with whatever issue to come out and get to know other people

AS PART of *The Echo* celebrating 45 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 Breeda Bonner ahead of the St Brigid's Festival



ROLE MODEL: Breeda Bonner is a former councillor and school principal

The Echo – celebrating community for 45 years



APPRECIATION: Breeda Bonner speaks of huge affection of the people coming together to organise the St Brigid's Festival

THIS week's subject is born, bred and buttered Clondalkin.

Erstwhile Clondalkin based teacher, school principal, Councillor and an awful lot more besides, Breeda Bonner has been doing her bit and then some for Dublin 22 for more years than she'd care to remember.

We were delighted to have a chat with her on the eve of her latest local passion project, Clondalkin's St Brigid's festival.

More of that anon, but Breda will tell us about her early years. Unsurprisingly, Clondalkin features heavily.

"I always say I'm true Clondalkin but my family has roots in Wicklow and Donegal so my friends say I'm not part of the club," she laughs.

"My family moved to Clondalkin in the late 50s and in 1962 I was born, at home, so I consider myself a true Clondalkin-ite even if my pals don't!"

"I remember growing up in the area was quite idyllic. You'd get together with your friends in the morning and go off walking. Who knows where, could be Lucan, could be Tallaght and these were all country walks. You'd come home when it was dark, have your dinner and do it all again the next day."

"I went to school at Scoil Mhuire and then Scoil Íde. Even at school, I knew my career path because I wanted to be a teacher for as long as I can remember."

So it was that Breeda emerged from St Pat's some years later with all of her qualifications. All she needed now was to find a school to employ her.

Breeda, being Breeda found a home for her talents soon enough, in St Bernadette's, a new school in Quarryvale. And you don't need me to tell you - that's in, ahem, well, Clondalkin.

"At that time in the early 80s, Quarryvale was seriously underdeveloped. It seemed like people were chucked into the area from all over the place and there were no facilities for the residents whatsoever. I'm delighted to say that this changed over time, but we had some testing times in the early days."

"I became Principal in 1997 and although the job came with a huge amount of new challenges I absolutely loved it. As Principal you have to wear many hats as you're involved in every aspect of the running of the school. My ethos was always the same though, from the day I started my teaching career, the most important thing is that the kids get the best education possible."

After twenty years as Principal of St Bernadette's, Breeda decided to retire from teaching to possibly do something else. Politics wasn't necessarily the dream, but as Breeda will tell us, it was quite a natural step.

"My grandfather was James Everett, a TD in Wicklow as was my uncle Liam Kavanagh, so I've been a member of the Labour Party all my life."

"I started just helping out with various things for Robert Dowds, our local Labour councillor and then when Robert was elected to the Dáil, I was co-opted into the role and I spent eight happy years as a councillor in Clondalkin."

I'd struggle to list Breeda's achievements in the area but they include playing a major part in the establishment of Clondalkin Tidy Towns (naturally she's still very much involved and considers this possibly her finest hour locally), and the Round Tower Centre, starting the first ladies Gaelic Football team in Round Towers, and now of course, being a leading force for the St Brigid's Festival.

Organisation of the festival itself is led by the formidable Caitríona Leavy who Breeda compares to St Brigid herself!

"It was natural that I got involved because I've been visiting St Brigid's Well since I was a child and when I taught, I always made sure that the students got a chance to visit and learn about it."

"We will be doing the traditional walk from town and all the things we normally do, but the programme for the weekend has blossomed into a really spectacular, entertaining and spiritual event."

"For example, last year, we had the Mummers of Fingal perform for us and they were great so Caitríona and I thought we could form our own Mummers troupe. So we did. We're called Cleanairí Chluain Dolcain and I'd like to thank Damien in the Laurels for giving us the space to make our costumes."

"We've got so many musical guests and craft groups and various other attractions coming to join us. It's going to be a wonderful few days and we're already planning even more for next year's event."

Breeda speaks with huge affection and appreciation for all of the people who are coming together for the Festival and will ensure a warm welcome for anyone who comes along to the proceedings.

Now happily retired, Breeda and her husband Brendan have a few things on the bucket list to tick off in the coming years. They've already raised son Noel and daughter Áine.

As our conversation concludes, Breeda puts an important date in my diary. The festival will be covered in the bilingual TV programme Na Féilte Tine. Imbolg on RTE 1 TV on Bank Holiday Monday, February 3 after the 6 one news. It will be really worth watching she assures me.

It's safe to say that as long as Breeda's going, she'll be working to make Clondalkin an even better place, retirement or not. Her enthusiasm and affection for the place is infectious.

"The St Brigid's Festival will be a reflection of that and I urge you not to miss it.

"I remember growing up in the area was quite idyllic. You'd get together with your friends in the morning and go off walking. Who knows where, could be Lucan, could be Tallaght and these were all country walks. You'd come home when it was dark, have your dinner and do it all again the next day.



PASSION: Breeda Bonner tells us about the upcoming St Brigid's Festival

Request for 24-hour service for 16 bus route through Rathfarnham

SOUTH Dublin County Council supports the 16 bus route going through Rathfarnham to become a 24-hour service.

Following a motion by Councillor Yvonne Collins (FF) and widely supported at the Rathfarnham-Firhouse January committee meeting, a written request was issued to Dublin Bus and Transport for Ireland.

"Difficulties with public transport in our area were previously highlighted," said Cllr Collins.

"We have no Luas, no Dart or train stations. We're completely reliant on the buses."

Cllr Collins said she put this motion forward to enhance the only type of public transport available in the area and to have a better service from the airport considering the "extraordinarily expensive" costs of getting a taxi to South Dublin from there. Cllr Ronan McMahon said he supported the motion, which he considered a "great idea," and that a 24-hour 16-route would take off the pressure from the only other 24-hour bus route going near the area, the 15.

"In times of government formation, it's good to have our voices heard on this matter," said Councillor Alan Edge (IND) who also supported Cllr Collins's motion.

"It's much needed by residents of our area," said Cllr Paddy Cosgrave (LAB).

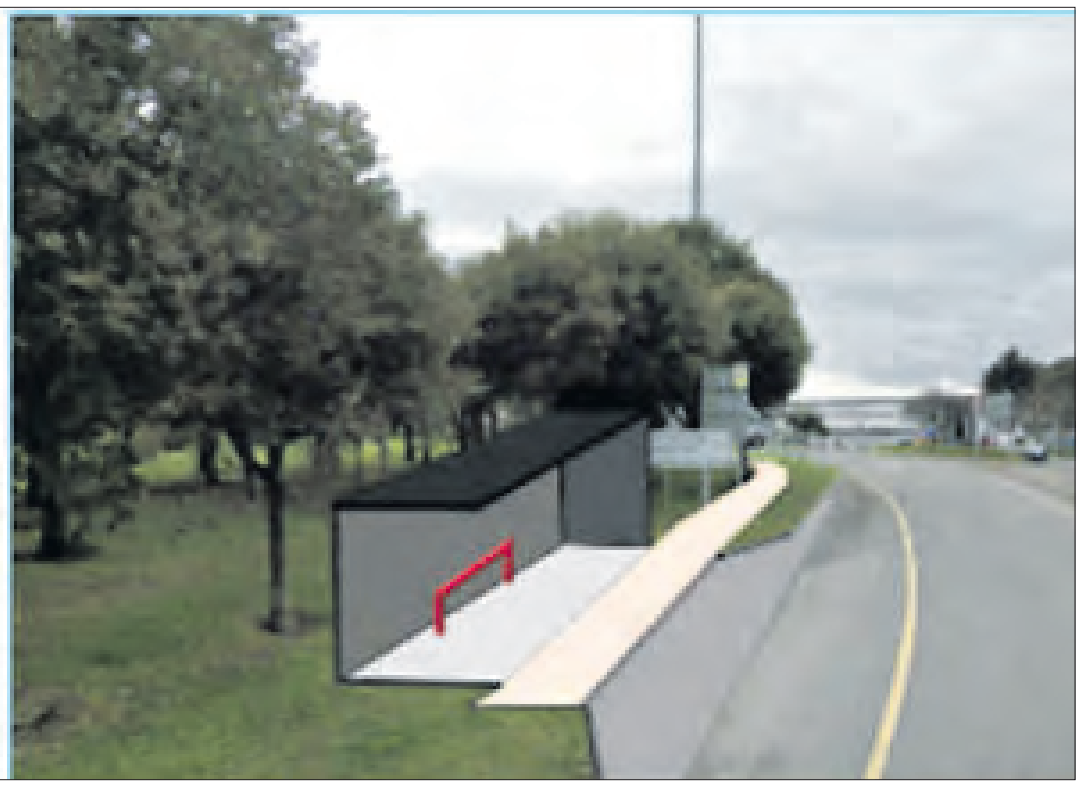
The 16 bus is a 75-stops route going from Dublin Airport to Ballinteer through Dublin's northside, the city centre, Harold's Cross, Terenure, and Rathfarnham.

Traffic-hazard bus stop to be moved from the N7 location

The new bus stop will be more accessible for bus users



SLIP ROAD: Bus shelter will be relocated to the Browns Barn slip road



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

"In fact, it should lead to shorter walks to the bus stop

A BUS stop on the citybound route from Citywest will be moved away from the Naas Road after being identified as a traffic hazard, South Dublin County Council announced.

Located at the intersection with Baldonnel Road, the bus stop serving Citywest Business Campus will be moved further east on the slip road at Brownsbarn.

At the original location on the high-speed N7, locally known as the Naas Road, the lack of a proper pull-in space for buses and the amount of exiting traffic coming from the Baldonnel Road can lead to dangerous movements among drivers, said a council officer.

At the new location on the N7 slip road, within the Business Campus, a bus shelter and a pull-in zone will be provided, reducing speed dangers and making it more accessible for bus users.

"In fact, it should lead to shorter walks to the bus stop," the officer said in response to councillors asking how the relocation would affect people working in the Campus.

"No observations were made during the public consultations."

Bus routes 125 and 126 connecting West County to Dublin city go through the Naas Road, and SDCC has plans to move the westbound bus stop away from it too.

The official starting date for relocation works will be confirmed.

Over €9m allocated for 2025 road works and maintenance

OVER €9 MILLION was allocated by South Dublin County Council for road works and maintenance in 2025, *reports Alessia Micalizzi.*

The greater part of the budget will be used for footpath repairs and improvements (€3.65m) and road resurfacing (€3.4m).

€700,000 was allocated to 'Patching and Estates' and €300,000 to upgrades in Social Housing Estates.

"We are being smarter in the use of money," said SDCC Senior Engineer Gary Walsh while presenting the programme, explaining that patching allows to target specific segments of the roads that need repair, such as potholes, rather than resurfacing the whole road.

With a focus on sustainability, €200,000 will be spent for cycle-track maintenance and environmentally friendly techniques will be used while carrying out the works.

Cement will be replaced with GGBS concrete, with an estimated carbon reduction of 32pc, and existing asphalt will be reheated using renewable energy according to the council presentation.

"We are very conscious of our carbon footprint and we're making sure to do what we can to reduce it," said Mr Walsh at the Clondalkin area meeting on Wednesday, January 15.

Twenty-five out of 139 roadworks operations will be in the Clondalkin LEA, including Adamstown Road, Watery Lane, Fonthill Road (South), Newcastle Main Street and Rathcoole Main Street.

Woodford and Cherrywood are among the estates that will have footpaths repaired, and social housing estates, Deansrath and Lealand, will be upgraded.

The annual Roadworks Programme includes repairs brought to SDCC's attention by elected members and members of the public.

Compared to Budget 2024, about €350,000 more was allocated to the programme.

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New global head appointed by Uniphar Group in Citywest HQ

New chief has worked with Pfizer and AstraZeneca and Sanofi

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

UNIPHAR Group has announced the appointment of Isaac Batley as Global Head of Medical and Scientific Communications.

With its global HQ in Citywest Business Park, Bately will lead the growth of Uniphar's medical communications capabilities.

Mr Batley is an experienced CEO with 35 years' experience within healthcare and pharmaceutical communications.

Batley's career includes serving as Chief Executive Officer at SCIRIS where he scaled the medical communications division globally, and heading-up the European Leadership Team at Cello Health before becoming Chairman of the communications agency.

Prior to this, Batley built and sold his own medical communications agency and held a Director-level role at Quintiles working specifically in clinical trials for the NHS.

He spent the first part of his career working with AstraZeneca, Sanofi and Pfizer and his experience and expertise positions him to advance Uniphar's medical communications, focusing on integrating scientific insights to benefit healthcare professionals, patients, and stakeholders.

Bately said: "Medical communications is the unifying thread that ties together the extensive service areas and capabilities that Uniphar has to offer.

"It touches every aspect of the organisation and presents an exciting opportunity to bring these capabilities together in a way that delivers impactful and meaningful results. My remit will cover the whole organisation, working to integrate and present Uniphar's expertise in new and innovative ways."

The appointment reinforces Uniphar's ongoing commitment to bringing complex medicines to complex markets, and ensuring an expert team of industry leaders to deliver specialist services to more than 200 international clients across 180 countries.

> **"My remit will cover the whole organisation, working to integrate and present Uniphar's expertise in new and innovative ways**



UNIFYING THREAD: Isaac Batley is a CEO with over 35 years experience in healthcare

Woodies and Chadwicks had strong year

WOODIES DIY, Home and Business, enjoyed a strong end to the year with average revenue up 6.4 per cent helped by growth in both transaction and average transaction values, *reports Maurice Garvey.*

It follows a decline in revenues for Grafton Group, in which Woodies are a subsidiary, who saw like-for-like revenues decline by 2.7 per cent last year.

Grafton Group plc, an international business headquartered in Dublin and listed on the London Stock Exchange, saw sales hit in Finland by economic weakness.

However Woodies' and Chadwicks' businesses in Ireland had good years.

Woodies has a number of stores in Dublin and across Ireland, including Tallaght, Lucan and Naas Road.

Grafton Group operate a number of brands with strong market positions in distribution, manufacturing and DIY retail sectors of the building materials industry.

In Ireland, Chadwicks delivered revenue growth of 1.6 per cent during the year which benefitted from a strong trading performance in the last two months.



STRONG: Woodies in Tallaght

E business

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Call-out for companies to pay into community benefit scheme

Another tax on companies 'is ludicrous' and is anti-business and anti-employment

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

CALLS have been made to introduce a community benefit scheme to be paid into by companies and businesses that use extensive state resources.

A Motion by Cllr William Carey (SF) sought support for the proposal at the monthly council meeting.

Speaking at the meeting, Cllr Carey said his Motion is "aimed at companies such as data centres" with "low worker/job ratios" and that a fund would "benefit" community groups and organisations.

From talking to residents in Newcastle, Carey said the proposal referred to an existing community benefit scheme in Dublin city centre, citing an example of €10 million invested by the company involved in the Poolbeg incinerator facility.

"I think it works out at €600 per year going into community funding to support local groups in the area."

While not wanting to go into the pros and cons of data centres, Carey does not believe it is sufficient that companies involved in taking up "huge resource" pay-basic commercial rates.

"We can't have those sort of resources where there are no jobs available," said Cllr Carey.

While supportive of such measures, Cllr Madeleine Johansson (PBP) noted that a previous proposal of hers to increase rates for data centres and big business in the budget was "voted down, including by yourself and Sinn Féin."

"While I support the proposal, we could have done it directly in the budget and I would have argued at the time that we should have done it. Secondly, I would also argue that we need to make these corporations pay and the best way to do that is to provide services for people through taxation and the increase of corporation tax," said Cllr Johansson.

Cllr Ronan McMahon (Ind) felt the Motion was "short-sighted", noting that businesses pay a lot in "commercial rates, VAT, corporation tax, employers, PRSI, capital gains tax, DIRT, and other small taxes, and also act as a tax collector for Revenue."

"I think putting another tax is ludicrous on companies and is anti-business and anti-employment. Data centres and others act as a magnet to other international companies who employ huge amounts of people and contribute handsomely to the economy," said Cllr McMahon.

Cllr Darragh Adelaide (PBP) supported the proposal, citing 80 data centres in Ireland of which "half are in our council area" using huge amounts of electricity and water.

"The average data centre uses the same amount of electricity as 23,000 homes. By 2028 it is expected that they are going to be using 27 per cent of all electricity in Ireland. The Commission for Regulation of Utilities has warned of blackouts," said Adelaide who would like to see a ban on new data centres.

Following a vote, the motion was passed, and a letter will be issued to the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment.



SUPPORT: The motion was discussed at the monthly council meeting

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Chambers Ireland welcomes Programme for Goverment

CHAMBERS Ireland has welcomed the Programme for Government but argues that the success of the measures contained within the plan will depend on its execution, *reports Maurice Garvey.*

Speaking following the announcement of the programme this week, Chambers Ireland chief executive Ian Talbot issued a challenge to the new government to deliver on its commitments.

"Success will hinge on execution. The next five years of policy must prioritise infrastructure delivery as a cornerstone for driving and sustaining competitiveness. The new Government must act pragmatically to expedite progress on infrastructure including housing, energy, water and wastewater treatment, and transport," said Mr Talbot.

"Improving our delivery capability should be a central theme across all areas of governance. This is why we called for greater devolution to local authorities in our General Election manifesto. It's time to get things moving.

The Government needs to be bold in leveraging our renewable energy potential and investing in our ports. This will be fundamental to driving our economic growth and achieving our climate targets and planning reform will be a critical enabler of this progress."

Chambers Ireland are also calling for progress on free trade agreements.

"We have long called for greater progress on advancing the Free Trade Agenda and strongly support the ratification of CETA. The next Presidential Election offers a timely opportunity to hold a referendum on this crucial agreement."

"While the measures in the Programme will need to be assessed in greater detail, we also welcome the emphasis on skills, developing our data centre infrastructure, childcare and safety in our communities. We look forward to a successful outcome of the approval processes now commenced," said Mr Talbot.



CHALLENGING: Ian Talbot Chambers Ireland CE

New TUD President 'deeply honoured' for role at this time

Dr Lillis commits herself to championing the talented students as they shape their futures

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

NEW President of Technological University Dublin (TUD) Deirdre Lillis is "deeply honoured" to be entrusted with the role during a time of growth for the college.

TUD includes campuses in Tallaght, Bolton Street, Aungier Street, Blanchardstown and Grangegorman.

Following her appointment, Dr Lillis thanked the governing body "for entrusting me with the responsibility of leading our university through this next pivotal stage of its development."

Dr. Lillis currently serves as Assistant Secretary-General at the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, overseeing the Research, Innovation, Evidence for Policy and EU/International Division.

She has led key national initiatives, including the Impact 2030 Research and Innovation Strategy and the Global Citizens 2030 International Talent and Innovation Strategy.

Her extensive experience and expertise encompasses government operations, policy development, international collaborations and the nexus between policy and research.

A Chartered Director, Lillis has held roles on the governing authorities of various prominent organisations, including the board of the Higher Education Authority, the Senate of the National University of Ireland and the board of the Irish Writers Centre.

In a statement following the announcement, Dr Lillis said: "Since its establishment as Ireland's first Technological University in 2019, TU Dublin has built on a proud heritage of offering accessible pathways to high-quality careers, as well as advancing internationally recognised research with significant regional and global impact. We pride ourselves on offering applied, practical and practice-based education, working closely with employers and stakeholders to provide you with a real-world learning experience and employment opportunities when you graduate," said Ms Lillis.

"At the heart of our university are its people – students, staff and all who contribute to making TU Dublin a vibrant and inspiring community. I am committed to championing you, our talented students, as you shape your futures and make a meaningful impact on society," she added.

> **"We pride ourselves on offering applied, practical and practice-based education, working closely with employers and stakeholders to provide you with a real-world learning experience and employment opportunities when you graduate**



PROUD: Dr Deirdre Lillis has led key national initiatives

Record profits by SEAI with activity up by 13 per cent

THERE were record profits recorded last year by the Sustainable Energy Authority (SEAI) who enjoyed a record €616m in grants and support for energy upgrades and clean energy projects, *reports Maurice Garvey.*

This represented a 13 per cent increase in activity by the national energy authority in 2024.

Two-thirds of the funding – €420m – was allocated to 54,000 home energy upgrades which included upgrades for more than 7,700 homes deemed to be in energy poverty.

There was a total of 3,609 heat-pump grants paid out by the SEAI in 2024.

However, almost 22,000, or 40 per cent of the total 54,000 home upgrades, achieved a B2 energy rating or higher.

The authority also say they support the publication of 170,694 domestic and more than 5,750 non-domestic building energy ratings, a record since BERs were first introduced.

The SEAI's low interest Home Energy Upgrade Loan Scheme was also launched last year.

Meanwhile, just under 8.5 per cent, or €52m of SEAI spending supported the roll-out of electric cars across the country.

This included grants for 12,000 new electric vehicles and 15,400 EV home chargers.

The annual report revealed that more than 3,500 businesses received grant support for energy upgrades.

The grants included energy audit vouchers, training programmes, supports for renewable heat and microgeneration, as well as the newly launched Business Energy Upgrade Scheme.

The total cost of these business grants and supports came to €62m. This was 10 per cent of all SEAI investments during 2024.

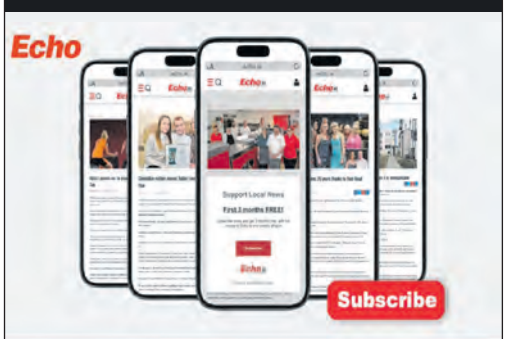
In addition to all this, the SEAI awarded €22m in energy research grants.

It also allocated €61m to major public sector pathfinder building upgrade projects making last year a record year for home energy upgrades.

GRANTS: Sustainable Energy Authority (SEAI)

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Cherry Orchard's 137 units form part of a larger plan

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

PROPOSALS for 137 homes in Cherry Orchard were presented to Dublin City Council this week, which form part of larger plans for the site.

Last year the Land Development Agency (LDA) and Dublin City Council (DCC) received planning application for over 700 cost-rental and social-housing homes for the Cherry Orchard Point project.

It is located on a site owned by the city council beside Park West and Cherry Orchard Railway Station.

Phase 2 plans for 137 "affordable for sale (AFS) own-door residential homes" were presented to the city council for approval to be submitted to An Bord Pleanála.

Planning for Phase 1 of the project (708 homes), was approved last year by ABP.

A report by the LDA on Phase 2 states that the 137 AFS units contain a mix that consists of houses and duplex dwellings.

Current estimated value for Phase 2 is €2.21m.

According to the LDA report, the Investment Team notes that there is "a level of uncertainty in forecasting inflation" and accurately assessing future delivery costs.

Figures included in the report exclusive of inflation include the scheme's all-in development cost of €61.72m.

Development costs equate to cost per home of €450,500, "thereby challenging the viability of the scheme given the average market value per home of €452,200."

The intended approach is to enter a partnership with DCC on the basis they can confirm AHF funding of 100k per home – a total of 13.7m.

"Until such time that confirmation is provided there remains a risk to the viability of the scheme. It is imperative to secure formal confirmation from the local authority regarding the grant allocation before proceeding to the next project pathway," said the report.

The site is designated for development under the Dublin City Council Development Plan 2022-2028 and is subject to the objectives of the Park West -Cherry Orchard Local Area Plan 2019 (LAP).

Phase 2 application is targeted to submit to ABP by end of January.



PROPOSAL: An artists impression of the development

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Over 300 units at Airton Plaza bought by Cluid Housing

OVER 300 residential units in Tallaght were purchased by housing body Cluid for social housing, *reports Maurice Garvey.*

The Airton Plaza development is Cluid's biggest cost rental to date and contain 328 units

According to the Irish Times, the agency bought the development from property investment group ESR Europe for a fee understood to be about €159.7m.

The scheme of A-rated homes is spread across two main blocks and also features commercial spaces, retail units, and a creche.

The site also features commercial spaces, retail units, and a creche, though these will not be owned or managed by Clúid.

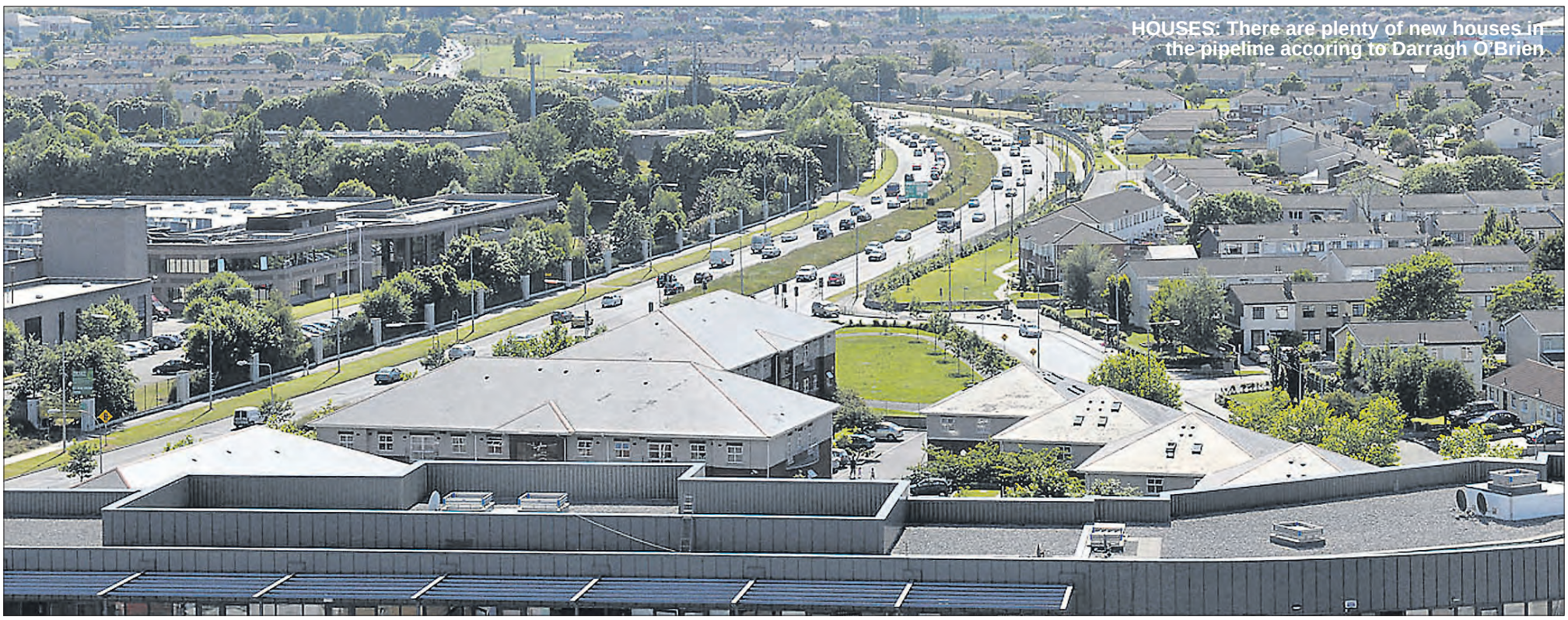
Airton Plaza spans about 270,000 sq ft and was developed by Mableground

In a statement to The Irish Times, Clúid described the project as its biggest cost rental scheme to date. It opened applications for cost rental tenants in November, and expects the new social and cost rental residents to begin moving in this month.

The scheme is designed for would-be renters who do not qualify for social housing but who cannot access the private market without support.



DEVELOPMENT: Airton Plaza



HOUSES: There are plenty of new houses in the pipeline accoring to Darragh O'Brien.

'Robust stock of new housing is in the pipeline' says Minister O'Brien

Notices for new homes in South Dublin in 2024is up 32 per cent compared to 2023

THE Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has published its monthly data on the number of Commencements Notices (residential construction starts) for December 2024 and the total number of all new home commencements in 2024.

In 2024 there have been commencement notices for 4,728 homes in South Dublin, up 32 per cent compared to 2023 (3,575 homes).

Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien said:

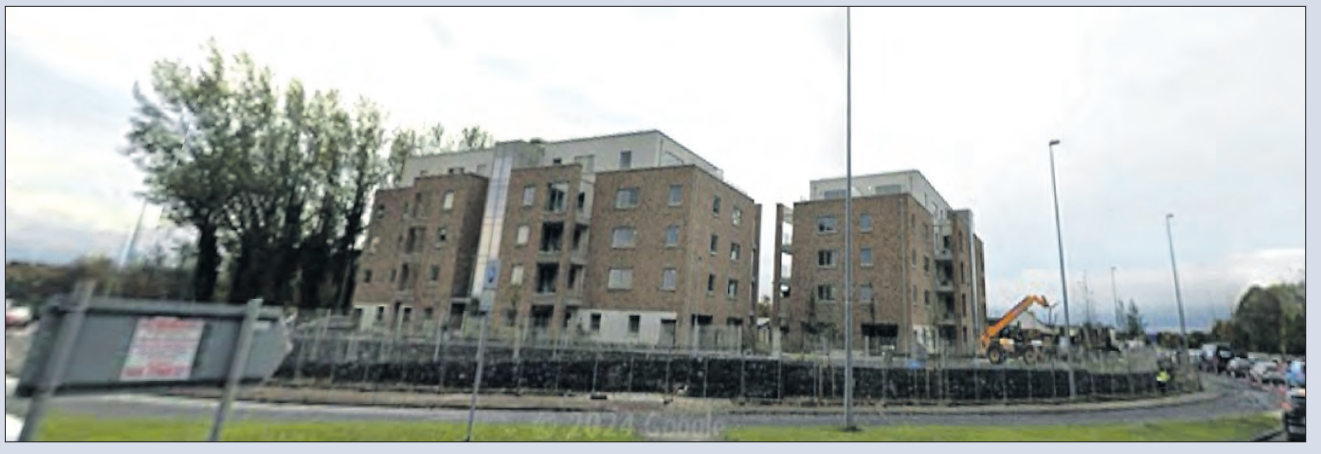
"Strong figures on home starts in South Dublin in 2024 confirm that a robust stock of new housing is in the pipeline.

"Government initiatives such as the development levy waiver and the Úisce Éireann rebate have had a positive impact in getting projects off the ground with the ultimate goal of increasing our housing supply to meet housing needs.

"This significant rise in housing supply will enable more people to become homeowners and also help increase access to a wider range of secure housing options."

Nationally, the data shows that between January and December 2024, there were 60,243 new homes commenced, up 84 per cent from the 32,801 recorded in 2023. This equates to, on average, 239 new homes commenced every working day during 2024. This is the highest number of annual residential commencements since records began in 2014.

Council to take possession of 162 social housing units



HANDOVER: The Nangor Mills/Nangor Court project will be advertised on www.sdcc.ie

SOUTH Dublin County Council took handover of 162 homes in newly built social-housing developments at Balgaddy, Lucan and Nangor, Clondalkin.

Sixty-nine one, two and three-bedroom homes make up the Balgaddy development, including two-storey houses, duplexes and apartments, with "many new residents receiving the keys to their new homes in time for Christmas," said SDCC.

Sixty apartments, 15 houses and 18 duplexes are available in the Nangor Mills/Nangor Court project and will be advertised on Choice Based Letting through www.sdcc.ie.

According to the Council, both developments will be "in close proximity" to existing local community services.

"These projects reflect our aim to provide a range of housing options that are high-quality and energy-efficient to meet the needs of households on our social housing list, commented SDCC.

"They form part of our ambitious construction programme under the Council's Housing Delivery Action Plan 2022-2026."

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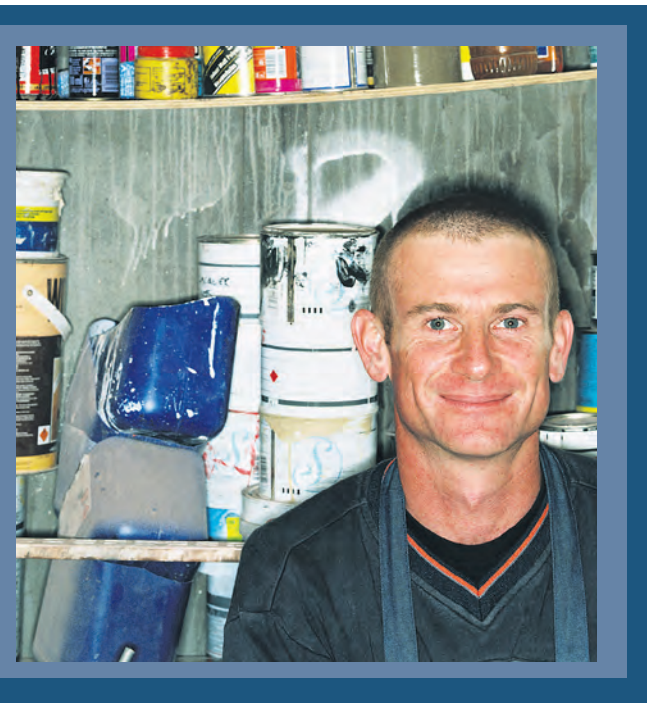
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E letters

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

Support the hard-won rights of the LGBTQ+ community

Dear Editor,

AT JANUARY'S Clondalkin Area Committee meeting I had a motion down and agreed. The motion stated that this Area Committee stands by and is proud of the vital work undertaken by LGBTQ+ groups in Dublin and throughout the country. At a time when LGBTQ+ rights and protections are coming under attack from reactionary elements, we call on the new incoming government to stand firmly with the LGBTQ+ community and commit to policies that will advance progress and equality for LGBTQ+ people and request this motion is sent to Taoiseach and Tánaiste and included as a report from Area Committee to Full Council.

I grew up as a gay man pre-decimalisation and can see many societal changes. I was around ten when I began to know I was different and I didn't know why – my teens where a dark and lonely place with no one I felt I could turn to. I wouldn't want that for any young person. The awful language and attitudes of the past belong in the past, we should have moved on from queer-bashing, both verbally and physically.

Many I knew died of AIDS, got married to the opposite sex or entered religious life. The times I grew up in were, when it came to sex, full of judgement, guilt and shame. Our treatment of single and unmarried mothers and the institutions of the time show us just how awful life was for anyone perceived to be outside of what was considered and judged by some to be the social norms.

If it was not for David Norris and others maybe I and others wouldn't have had any hope. It was a desperate judgemental society with a terrible attitude to human sexuality. With no talk about sex, no talking about consent, respect and choices, many struggled in life. For many they were not the good old days. I for one wouldn't want to go back to those dark ages and time.

Despite all the progress that's been made with Marriage Equality, Gender recognition and in other areas, the reality sadly is that LGBTQ+ rights are under attack around the world and here in Ireland and there's a lot of work to do.

These rights where hard-won and cannot be lost, to many fought for so long that all members of the LGBTQ+ community could have rights. In Ireland for example research shows us that 76 per cent of LGBTQ+ feel unsafe in school, while 88 per cent feel isolated in their school. Just 14 per cent of LGBTQ+ victims of hate report the Hate Crime.

We need robust and comprehensive training amongst those tasked with enforcing the new hate crime laws in order to build greater confidence in reporting hate crime. It's not good enough to just introduce Hate Crime legislation, it needs to be enforced with education both for the public and those tasked to enforce it. Social media can all too often be a place of attack, misinformation and disinformation,

Certain agendas by a few seek to undermine the human rights of some. We have the appalling actions of big tech companies like Meta in reversing protections for LGBTQ+ and other groups and we need to see the Digital Services Act rigorously enforced when it comes to these social media companies now actively facilitating hate on their platforms. The relentless attacks, particularly on the trans community, is beyond offensive, it shocking and disgraceful.

I and many others are concerned about attacks on the LGBTQ+ community and the increasing dangers on our community, The levels of self-harm and mental health stress is unacceptable, I believe the new incoming government needs to stand firmly with the LGBTQ+ community and commit to policies that will advance progress and equality for LGBTQ+ people in the programme for Government, The motion was sent to the Taoiseach and Tánaiste and included as a report from Area Committee to Full Council.

I have no doubt 2025 will be a challenging year for the LGBTQ+ Community and the future may be uncertain but I am certain we are stronger and safer when we stick and work together. There are many battles ahead and campaigns to be had, but we must also battle and unite together to ensure we don't loose any of the rights we have gained.

Yours sincerely,
Cllr Francis Timmons,
Clondalkin.



Drink makers Diageo and Heineken are set to hike up the price of a pint

Dear Editor,

A PINT of plain will soon become a pint of pain for many pub-goers as pint prices are set to reach €7.00 when the fourth price hike kicks in. Diageo has notified publicans that their costs will rise by 6 cents from February 3.

With the price of a pint marked at €5.77, publicans claim they make only 17 cents for every pint pulled, after paying €1.77 in taxes, €2.06 to the drink's maker, €1.41 in payroll costs and €1.05 in overheads. Once VAT and publican's margins are added on, the price jump amounts to 30 cents extra for a pint 'at the tap'.

Consumer advocate Michael Kilcoyne queried Diageo's pricing strategy saying: "It's savage. The man that likes to go for his pint now is going to be more rare because they won't be able to afford it".

The Vintners Federation of Ireland (VFI) has a poster bearing the headline "No Profit in Pints" while furnishing a detailed breakdown of where a customer's money goes, with the provision: "If the Government wants a thriving hospitality sector, it must support local pubs through pro-business measures".

Not all licenced premises are currently displaying the prices of drinks for sale, which they are legally obliged to do so.

Drinks maker Heineken indicated the price of its standard and alcohol-free Heineken, will jump by 6 cent per pint onwards from June. At tourist stomping ground Temple Bar, a pint costs €9.95 and a 30 cent rise means the beverage would exceed €10.

Yours sincerely,
Gerry Coughlan, Kilnamanagh.

Democratic values and the rule of law

Dear Editor,

TODAY IS a fretful day with anguish for all who care about how our societies are run.

Many millions have suffered at the hands of the US government and their military adventures while at the same time, they speak of democratic values and the rule of law.

I cannot think of a more sorrowful day than today. I am thinking of all those hundreds of thousands of working immigrants fearful of the knock on the door from US immigration.

I am thinking of the millions across the globe fearful of what this unhinged man will do if he gets out of the wrong side of the bed some morning.

I want to say to them that they are not alone.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Doran,
Dublin 22.

'Time will uncover the true motives of those with execrable agendas'

Dear Editor,

MR TRUMP utters the Oath of Office as he is sworn as the 47th President of a great but badly divided country.

He simulates sincerity as he states:

"I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

Extremely unlikely.

"Journalism is the only profession explicitly protected by the US Constitution, because journalists are supposed to be the checks and balances on government.

"We're supposed to be holding those in power accountable, asking the critical questions. We're not supposed to be their megaphone. That's what the corporate media have become." Quote by Amy Goodman, political journalist USA.

We who respect honesty and our rules-based democratic institutions in western countries are unnerved by Trumps's past behaviour and constant vilification of those perceived as his enemies.

Will he now do to, facts and truth-loving journalists who may have crossed him what Edgar Allan Poe said: "To vilify a great person is the readiest way in which a little person can attain greatness."

Truth is now on trial, facts are its witness, and time eventually uncovers the true motives of those with execrable agendas.

Yours sincerely,

John J. May, author and poet,
Blessington, Co Wicklow.

Local history with Monica McGill

Culture, craic and camaraderie in abundance at Áras Chrónáin

You don't have to be fluent in Irish to visit, but it helps if you are willing to practice

ÁRAS CHRÓNÁIN on Watery Lane in Clondalkin was once a private residence known as Orchard House. It was bought by the Cusack family in 1955. They were the last family to live there.

The Cusack family were in residence in Orchard House until 1989 when they sold it to Muintir Chrónáin, a group of local people supporting the Irish language and culture.

Orchard House became Áras Chrónáin and our Irish cultural centre began in earnest. The Áras is an excellent example of the benefits that everyone can enjoy when a local legacy building is re-purposed properly.

It is only through the initial generosity and dedication of both the Cusack family and Muintir Chrónáin that the Centre's members and visitors can enjoy "the Áras" as it is today, and also take part in the thousands of cultural events there since 1989.

TradFest 20 – the "plug

Upcoming events scheduled for the Áras (and elsewhere) are part of the TradFest 20 celebrations, starting on 22nd January. For full information, visit https://araschronain.ie/ and https://tradfest.com/

Irish language

You don't have to be a fluent speaker of Irish to visit the Áras, but it helps if you're willing to practise it even a little. Together with our Irish-language schools, Áras Chrónáin is a kingpin in Clondalkin's effort to keep our native language and traditional customs thriving.

History

For many years before 1989, Muintir Chrónáin were dedicated to fostering the Irish language and traditions. It remains an ongoing enthusiasm.

They also achieved their aim to establish and run Clondalkin's Irish cultural centre. They have won many awards for their successes down the years.

Standing in its own grounds beside Clondalkin's medieval streetscape, the roughly triangular site on which the Áras stands is bounded by the River Camac, Watery Lane and Orchard Lane.

Knowledgeable locals insist that Orchard Lane is the thoroughfare's proper name – not Orchard Road as written on roadsigns and some maps.

Within a good *puc fada* of Clondalkin's Round Tower, the house is sheltered by trees and has extensive grounds.

Like the best examples of our local heritage, it's architecturally remarkable. Idiosyncrasy is a hallmark throughout the building. It stolidly retains a few mysteries, although some more information has been discovered recently about its past.

It takes courage, imagination, sensitivity, dedication, energy and fundraising to do what has been done with the Áras.

Down the years, Muintir Chrónáin have proved their prowess in all these.

The house was built in three main phases over an unknown number of years, but was certainly a significant building in our landscape by the 1820s, around the time of the third building phase. So far, no-one has discovered who any of the builders or architects of the house may have been.

First main phase – the oldest part of the house

This first phase is the earliest and humblest existence of the house, although presumably it was sufficient for the needs of its occupants when it was erected.

It comprises the back portion of the house, i.e. the room now known as An Clúid and the accommodation above it.

Some say the front door of the house at this time faced what is now the enclosed side garden and its velvety lawn. If so, then the current school gateway onto Orchard Road may have been the exit to the rest of the village. Regular live Irish music sessions are held in An Clúid and it retains its homely, kitchen feel. It has access to the bar. The "craic" must have been mighty in this room over the centuries and continues today.

There were stone-built outhouses at the back of the building, thought to have been part of this initial phase. They were removed to make way for the modern Halla, where larger events are held.



CULTURAL CENTRE: Áras Chrónáin, an excellent example of benefits

Photo: © Monica McGill



RESPLENDANT: Part of the entrance hall – note the two archways

Second main phase

As before, no-one is sure when the second phase was created. It comprises a number of additional rooms, again erected in two storeys. This brought the footprint of the house closer to its modern main exit onto Watery Lane. To provide access between the first and second phases, the builders at the time inserted a small set of interior steps upstairs, so the dimensions of the second phase can be guessed, a little.

Third main phase

This main phase dates from about the 1820s. It brought the groundplan of the two-storey building once again closer to Watery Lane. A large new wing was added at the front, creating the present house and was the most expansive building phase. If it's true that the original front door faced towards Orchard Lane, then this additional wing swivelled the orientation of the house to face Watery Lane instead.

This third phase or new two-storey wing comprises the resplendent front rooms of the present house – chiefly the entrance hall, the front portion of the reception room known as An Seomra Siamsa, the reception room known as An Grianán, the present staircase and the narrow bar area. This part of the bar was once a corridor connecting the oldest with the newest parts of the house.

The impressive main staircase leads from the entrance hall to the upstairs landing and rooms. By now, the house had joined the other grand houses of the locality and become approximately as we know it today

Most of the original features of the house have been carefully kept as first built, at great cost and effort. Some are mentioned here.

Old and new combine to give a sense of calm and balance.

The driveway sweeps upward from the Watery Lane vehicular access to the front door and the car-park area at the side of the house.



CRAIC: The Clúid retains its homely kitchen feel

The front façade

Like all grand houses of its time, the outer front of the Áras conveys subtle impressions of generational wealth, a comfortable though somewhat formal opulence – and also the gracious welcome the visitor may receive within.

There is a fanlight over the main door, with an archway continued in the interior of the ope.

The sash windows on either side of the door have their own archways, curiously continued on the inside of one in a conical shape. All the windows have been replaced using sash design and retain their original glass.

The original granite stone steps to the house add to the solemnity of opening the original heavy, solid hall door and entering the generous hall.

Two archways opposite the hall door are easy to miss because the eye is drawn to the beautiful mahogany hand-rail and staircase leading from the entrance hall to the large window on the return before it continues curling up towards the rooms above.

There are capacious double doorways to right and left in the entrance hall. Two lead to reception rooms. One room is known as An Grianán, because if the weather's right, it's bathed in sunlight.

It was the optimal room for 19th century ladies to do their needlecraft, the long summer evenings of natural light assisting their eyesight.

A companion door to the opposite side opens into An Seomra Siamsa, which is a general activities room now, available for various gatherings. The fireplace was hand-crafted by an Áras member.

Some of the rooms upstairs are used as offices, others for language or music classes, meetings and other activities as arranged with the Áras management.

See https://araschronain.ie/ for full list of activities and events.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh to those who helped in preparing this article.

Life & Social

The Echo – dedicated to having the conversation about local arts and entertainment.Tell us your story.

tel: 01 4685350 **email:** news@echo.ie

Award is stepping stone for Dafhyd

KILLINARDEN ACTOR RECEIVES SOUTH DUBLIN INCUBATION AWARD

By **Ryan Butler**
news@echo.ie

CREATIVE Ireland South Dublin put out an open call for the Incubation Award for an Artist in South Dublin. The recipient has been award-winning Killinarden actor, Dafhyd Flynn. He'll use the award to develop a film with a production company he's working with on a sensitive but very relevant subject matter.

"I want to create more of my own projects, and this award is a stepping stone for me in doing so. It was new for me at the time, but I do enjoy writing and conjuring up a story, and in the future I don't want to be solely recognised for being on screen but for creating and one day hopefully directing also, and this award has gotten me off the mark and on track. Thank you so much; I am so grateful for it!"

The script tells of a young man dealing with the loss of his best friend through alcohol; after a few months of his grief, we come to the pinnacle of the pain he's endured as he blames himself for not being there to help.

"The production company I have joined up with to bring my script to life is Harp Media. I have collaborated with Harp Media three times now, and we have built up a great working relationship. I first worked with them on the short film 'Drifting,' in which I starred alongside Paul Mescal. The success of that short made it a no-brainer when they asked me to act in their debut feature, 'Lakelands,' which won Best Irish Film at the Galway Film Fleadh and was one of the highest-grossing Irish films in 2023 when it was released. I then acted in their short film 'Duffle Bag Boy' directed by Chris Higgins, who I have worked closely with in developing this script. The experience of working alongside them on 'Lakelands' is what convinced me that they were the right people to help bring my script to life. They filmed in their hometown of Longford, and the way they involved their community and got local buy-in was an inspiration. It was like a communal art project onset! I want to bring that same energy to creating something local and authentic in my hometown of Killinarden"

What was your immediate reaction to winning the award?

To be honest, I was surprised I got it because I applied for it late! I literally only applied for it the day before applications closed because I was unsure of the finalised date, so I wasn't expecting it! I am so grateful for it because I don't want to just be known for acting; I want to create content as well, and this award provides a good stepping stone for that! Who knows, maybe one day I'll even get to direct something!

Would you describe 'Michael Inside' as your breakthrough?

Yeah, I would say it was, but I also remember I had worked with Frank Berry before that on 'I Used to Live Here' when he came to Killinarden looking for young actors to star in a story about mental health and suicide; I decided I'd try my hand at it; I wasn't very familiar with acting at the time, but I just figured I'd try out for it and give it a go. I remember I partook in these part-time acting courses in Bow Street, and Lisa Richards helped me get cast, for which I am so thankful.

Do you still get nerves when preparing to perform, and if so, how do you deal with them?

I wouldn't say so much anymore; maybe if it's a project I'm not familiar with, there might be a few nerves, but nothing major. My approach to performance stays pretty much the same: I read the script the day before filming starts! Obviously, I would make sure to know the basics of the plot as early as possible but it isn't until the day before filming starts that I would read the script because generally, I'm good at learning a lot of lines in a short amount of time.

What was it like working with Paul Mescal?

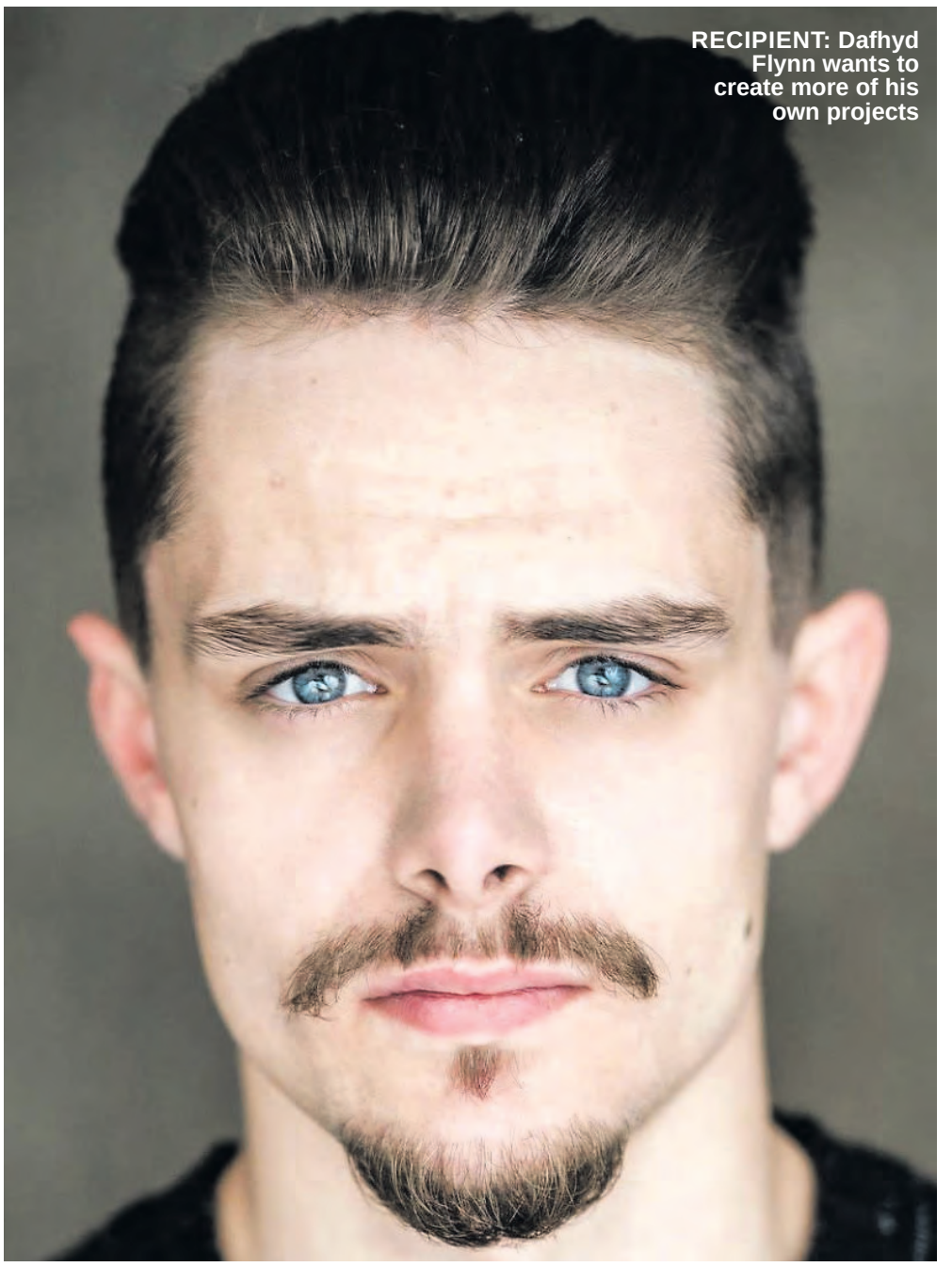
Paul's great! Our film was done in 2019, so 'Normal People' wasn't out yet. He was telling me about it while we were filming! He's a lovely guy; we had great craic! The film itself is lovely as well, 'Drifting.' It's a lovely story about a GAA player and a farmer's son, a great allegory about how the young teen-early 20s demographic adjusts to getting into the real world; the writers Robert and Paddy (Robert Higgins and Patrick McGivney) were great to work with as well!

What would be your favourite project that you've ever worked on?

I love working on music videos; something about the way a storyline is based in the theme of a song appeals to me. I have particularly fond memories of the music video for 'Roy's Tune' by Fontaines DC; the music video for that song was filmed one day up in the north on a farm, and the other day was spent filming in Dublin city centre. It was great craic and so much fun!

What are your career plans for 2025?

I'm looking forward to filming my own project! I wrote this short script about a young man dealing with the loss of his best friend through alcohol, and after a few months we come to the pinnacle of the pain he's endured as he blames himself for not being there to help. I wrote this about two and a half years ago. With this award, I am hoping to get this story from paper and bring it to life on the screen for audiences to see. I also have more projects on the horizon this year in terms of acting. I'll be taking more breaks from acting this year, as you can't afford to sit around waiting for the next big opportunity to come; you have to have other outlets. In recent years, I have been working a 9-5 job whenever I'm not acting.



RECIPIENT: Dafhyd Flynn wants to create more of his own projects

Who would you like to thank for helping you get to this point?

It sounds a bit obvious, but my ma, Margaret, for pushing me to take opportunities and try out acting when I was younger, when I was maybe a bit more shy or naive. I would also like to thank Frank Berry for being a mentor for over twelve years; I would consider him a lifelong friend now! Above all, I would love to thank those two for their peace and support over the years!

THE CIVIC COMEDY CLUB
Bringing the best Irish Comedians to your local theatre
SATURDAY 1st Feb | 8.15pm
feat. PAT MCDONNELL Joe Dowlin, James Downey, Paul Marsh & Ben Verth MC.
See www.civictheatre.ie or contact Box Office (01) 462 7477
THE CIVIC
THE CIVIC COMEDY CLUB

> There is nothing better than a friend, unless it is a friend with chocolate.
>
> *Linda Grayson*

Food with Passion



BANANA BREAD LOAF CAKE

by **John Paul Kennedy** / jpkennedy.kennedy@gmail.com

This loaf cake, while called bread, is really a cake and is perfect served for brunch or as a post-supper treat for dessert with a dollop of cream and a cup of tea.

The great thing about this recipe is it's really versatile! This recipe is for a loaf cake, however, it can be made as muffins, delicious for breakfast. I mix this recipe up from time to time, with the addition of chocolate chips, pecan nuts and or walnuts. You can, of course, omit these ingredients and serve it as a plain loaf cake, whatever way you chose to make it I promise you its utterly delicious. I really like to include nuts, as it adds a lovely texture to the cake.

This yummy sweet treat will last up to a week in an airtight container, so you have a special treat to look forward to at the end of a long hard-working day or as a little treat in yours and the families lunch boxes.

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: (makes 1 loaf cake)

4 really ripe bananas – mashed
125g unsalted butter
2 beaten eggs
150g soft light brown sugar
250g plain flour
1 tablespoon of baking powder
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
100g dark chocolate chips/ chunks
Pinch sea salt









Method:

1. Preheat your oven to 180 degrees.
2. Grease and line a loaf tin with butter and baking parchment paper.
3. I use my food mixer to beat together the butter and sugar until light and fluffy.
4. Add the eggs a little at a time, mixing well, and then add the mashed bananas. If adding chocolate chips and nuts, add at this point.
5. Sift in the dry ingredients and fold gently into the batter – be careful not to over mix.
6. Pop the cake mixture into your prepared tin and bake in the oven for 55 minutes.
7. To check the cake is fully cooked insert a metal skewer into the middle of the cake – once it comes out clean your cake is baked.

Leave to cool before popping on the kettle and cutting a large delicious slice to enjoy. I tend to bake this loaf cake at least once a month. I have been making this for a number of years now. My brother Gavin, when I make this can never wait for this to fully cool down before he cuts his first slice. It is yummy if still slightly warm, however be warned, it tends to fall apart if not fully cooled, not that it makes any difference to the taste.

This was one the favourite cakes of my late mother Olive, and I can't tell you how delicious this smells whilst baking away in the oven. Your house will be filled with delicious inviting aromas. Like a lot of my recipes this is a really quick and easy cake to make and is a great way of using up bananas that are too ripe to eat on their own, yet are perfect for this bake. Happy baking all and I hope you all enjoy making this cake!

Contact JP on:
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Email: JPKCooking@gmail.com
Instagram: jpkennedy.kennedy

Factory Presets

PRODUCED TIM RELEASES THIRD ALBUM TRANSPORTER

By **Ryan Butler**
news@echo.ie

"WE WERE working on this for about two years, messing around with the riff and the lyrics," explains Dublin 8-based multi-instrumentalist and producer Tim O'Donovan, aka Neosupervital, who is back with a brand new single off his highly anticipated third album 'Transporter'.

'Factory Presets', which released on January 3, bears all the hallmarks of the Neosupervital sound with its hypnotic synths, beats, and lyrics.

As well as fronting Neosupervital, Tim also drums for Irish band Bell X1 and was one half of synth duo Buffalo Woman.

The infectious sounds of Neosupervital have seen the act, who has been compared to Beck and Eels, open for acts including The Divine Comedy and Stewart Copeland, as well as performing at numerous Irish festivals like Electric Picnic, Body and Soul, Forbidden Fruit, and All Together Now.

Neosupervital has released two critically acclaimed albums to date, 'Neosupervital' in 2006 and 'Battery Power' in 2010.

Speaking about the new single, O'Donovan gave an insight into what it's all about: "I suppose the overall theme of the song is that you can change destructive patterns of behaviour and thinking if you put your mind to it.

"It was one of the first songs I wrote for the new album, so the lyrics were me noting that it was a new beginning and not to worry too much about the passing of time.

"They were me noting that my brain workings had changed somewhat since I last sat down to write a tune—a bit more self-awareness and a lot less ego, hopefully."

He added, "It's one of the slowest tunes I've written. I deliberately brought the pace down a notch or two on this album, and this song in particular, for a more spacious, unhurried feel."

Neosupervital is set to go on a nationwide tour in 2025, with details to be announced shortly.

While he recorded the song himself, he would like to thank Dave Geraghty for tracking the drums and his girlfriend for listening to unfinished versions and giving him feedback.

'Factory Presets' is available to listen to on all music streaming platforms; check it out!



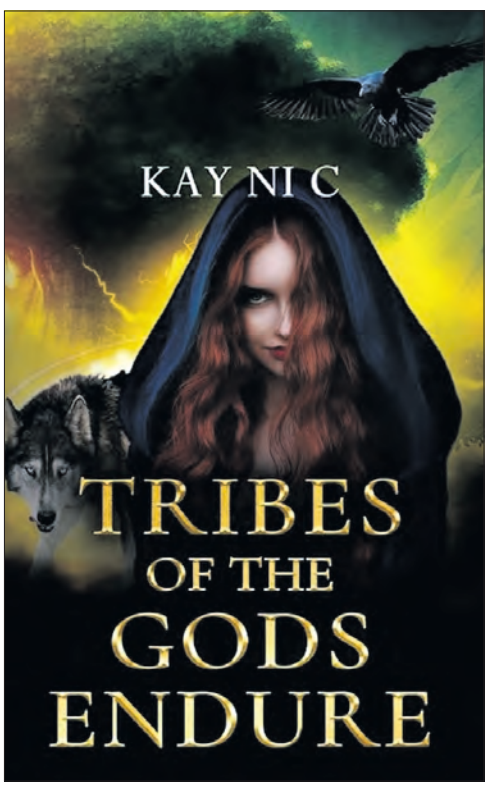
FACTORY PRESETS: Tim O'Donovan (AKA Neosupervital)

Magic and mystery

STORY CALLED TRIBES OF THE GODS ENDURE

By **Ryan Butler**
news@echo.ie

KAREN McGrath has produced a riveting story, set in the folklore and mythology of Ireland. Tallaght resident Karen is a talented storyteller. “Tribes of the Gods Endure” has



magic and mystery; love and revenge; loyalty, bravery, and intrigue; stamina and suspense.

The Formorians have landed in Ireland, and led by their goddess Carmen and her three sons, Dubh, Dian, and Dother, they’re set on revenge and determined to conquer Ireland. Tiernan’s castle has been invaded. Fergus is hacked to death. The chieftan’s daughter is missing. Can those flesh-eating Formorians be stopped? Can Fiadh be saved? Conn, Fiadh’s lover, her father Tiernan, and the four other chieftains of Ireland may need the Tuatha de Danann and the Aes Sidhe to become involved. As the story unfolds, we soon become familiar with Galdor, Goll, Eriu, Dagda, and many others. The prominence of animals is an attractive feature of this story: Con-rí and Cuan, the hounds; Gaoithe and Saol, the horses; and Morrigan, the raven. Place names mentioned include Uí Breasail, Brú na Boinne, Binn Gorm, Conn Caves, and Toreen Bog. Fierce battles rage between the bloodthirsty Formorians and the defenders of Ireland.

Suffering, death, and destruction stalk the land. Many die. The banshee cries out from the magic harp, Uaithne. Will Ireland survive? Extracts and pictures remain in the mind long after one has read this book. I look forward to Karen McGrath’s next work. “Tribes of the Gods Endure” (215 pages) is published by Pegasus Elliot Mackenzie. It can be bought online or locally (including Spar, Belfry Hall). It costs €11.

Reviewed by Charlie Ferguson, Deputy Principal, Mount Seskin Community College, Jobstown, Tallaght.





Harry Christopher and Sharon Walsh



Leonardo McTarnain, Sam Walsh and Ann Dunne



Patricia Doolan, Enda Doyle and Anne Territt



Kathleen Burke, Irene Howlett and Josephine O'Neill



Ted Keane, Tony McGrath and Carmel Shirley



Tommy Byrne and Basil Doyle



Des Keegan and Tony Beatty



Éabha and Rachel



Anne Gavin and Brona McKeon



Nollaig MacAmhlaoibh, Líle Ní Annracháin and Mary Dardis

Caife le Cairde

CRAIC AGUS CEOL IN ÁRAS CHRÓNÁIN

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***



Susan Quinn, Helen Peyton, Hazel Baker and Kieran Kelly



Kay Coy, Maria Conroy, Eileen Carey and Pat Doolan



Entertaining the gathering at Caife le Cairde

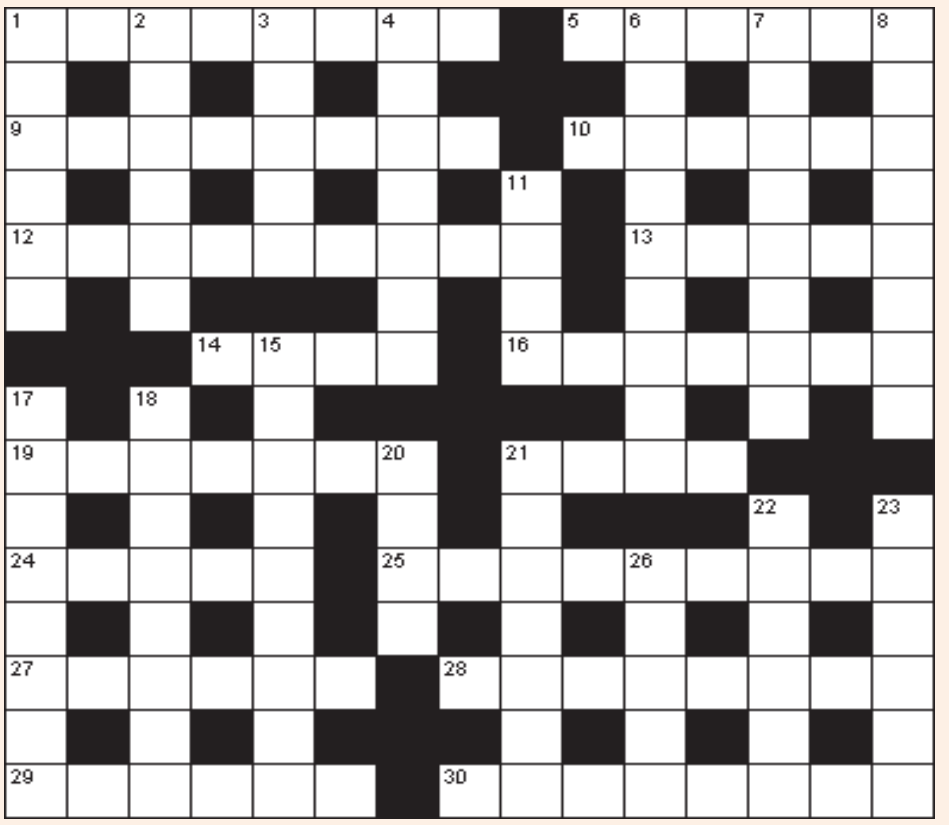


Fintan Mullaly, Susan McCarthy, Anne McCarthy O'Neill and Phil Breslin



Vaun Christopher and Kay O'Reilly

echocrossquiz Q2301



ACROSS

1. Exactness (8)
5. Egg dish (6)
9. 3 wheeled vehicle (8)
10. False (6)
12. Occurring every third year (9)
13. Armada (5)
14. A-line line (4)
16. Helps (7)
19. Deliberately vague (7)
21. At the peak of (4)
24. Welsh dog (5)
25. Imaginative (9)
27. Involving financial matters (6)
28. Disrobe (8)
29. Not a borrower (6)
30. Avidness (8)

DOWN

1. Savvy (6)
2. Judge (6)
3. A synthetic silklike fabric (5)
4. It makes bones strong (7)
6. A public declaration of intentions (9)
7. Generous gifts (8)
8. Dissertation (8)
11. Supplication (4)
15. Get rid of (9)
17. Forgiving (8)
18. Fort (8)
20. Radiate (4)
21. Move forward (7)
22. Small (6)
23. A short break (6)
26. A synthetic fabric (5)

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS 1601

	T		F		M		G		A		R		A	
L	I	I	I		I	D	L	E	S		E	N	D	S
	R		D		M		A		B		G		D	
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U	N	D	Y	I	N	G		U	S	U	A	L	L	Y
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CAN YOU BEAT THIS WEEK'S CROSSQUIZ?

SUDOKU 1

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2							8	3
9	3		7			4		
							2	1
				8				
		4			3			
		9	6	4				5
	8				5			
1		7						

SUDOKU 2

			8		6	1		9
	2							
			4				8	3
4			1	7				
					5			
3						9		
	5			1			4	2
6				4				
9			7	5		6		

ANSWERS

8	1	6	2	5	7	4	3	9
5	9	7	8	4	3	2	1	6
2	4	3	9	1	6	8	5	7
1	7	9	4	8	2	5	6	3
4	3	8	5	6	9	1	7	2
6	5	2	3	7	1	9	4	8
3	6	5	7	2	4	9	8	1
7	2	4	1	9	8	3	6	5
9	8	1	6	3	5	7	2	4

SUDOKU 2

4	3	6	2	9	8	7	5	1
9	7	2	5	1	3	6	8	4
5	1	8	7	4	6	9	2	3
8	6	9	3	5	2	4	1	7
7	4	3	6	8	1	2	9	5
1	2	5	4	7	9	3	6	8
6	5	4	1	2	7	8	3	9
3	9	7	8	6	4	1	5	2
2	8	1	9	3	5	6	4	7

SUDOKU 1

Poet's Corner

THE YEAR OF 82

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 the year of 82
The country was frozen
Stiff
The Arctic had come
To visit and had us in its grip
Buses were at a stand still
The drifts were 10 foot high.
Helicopters came
And dropped bread down from the sky.
In Tallaght the houses were buried
It was a desert of white
The kids seen snow
For the first time in their life.
Everything was closed
No school or jobs for days
Left without power
We went back to old ways
The queues were never ending
For milk and bread and such
Neighbours looked after Neighbours
We kept each other in touch
It was the first ever lockdown
The country had ever seen
Covered in a blanket of white
Not 40 shades of green

Exciting season at the Civic

LOCAL ARTIST EMMET KIRWAN KICKS THE SEASON OFF

By **Ryan Butler**
news@echo.ie

"AS THE curtain rises on 2025, we're thrilled to welcome you to another vibrant and exciting season at The Civic Theatre," states Donald Shields, Artistic Director of the Civic.

This year, they kick things off with local artist Emmet Kirwan's critically acclaimed new show, 'Accents,' promising a dynamic start to what will be an extraordinary few months. This season, they celebrate both the familiar and the new.

Beloved artists like Pat Kinevane make a welcome return, while Don Wycherley takes on the compelling role of Paddy Armstrong in a brand-new production exploring a remarkable life story. March brings 'Pucked,' a novel theatrical take on hurling that's sure to delight sports and theatre fans alike.

The Civic lineup is further enriched by two podcast events:

'Tales from the East Stand,' which dives into the world of Shamrock Rovers, and 'If I Speak,' showcasing the voice of a rising local Black podcaster, Dongo.

On the film front, they are proud to present thought-provoking screenings, including works on the Dublin-Monaghan bombings along with the world premiere of Fortune Igiebor's short film.

Celebrating new work, we are delighted to present an exclusive first reading of 'Angels of Mercy' from our theatre artists in residence, Bitter Like a Lemon.

Music takes center stage with the extraordinary Honor Heffernan performing alongside The Devil's Spine Band and a welcome return to the Ennio Morricone Experience.

While local stars comedian Enya Martin and X Factor star and now podcaster Mary Byrne light up the stage once more.

While all of this is happening, the Civic's Education and Digital programs will continue to engage students of all ages on a new voyage of discovery.

As always, they are delighted to bring together stories, voices, and experiences that resonate with our diverse audiences. "Thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm—it is your presence that brings these performances to life. We look forward to welcoming you to The Civic Theatre this season."



ACCENTS: Tallaght born Emmet Kirwan
Photo by Fruit Frame



Open-call exhibition in Rua Red

OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG ARTISTS TO SUPPORT EMERGING TALENT



THIS FEELS RIGHT: Artist Domnick Sorace with his work
Photo by Conor Keegan

By **Ryan Butler**
news@echo.ie

EACH year, Rua Red holds an annual open-call exhibition of fine and applied arts. Work is invited from artists in any discipline and at all career stages. The Open serves as a platform to support and encourage emerging and established artists. It is an opportunity to see the breadth and vibrancy of the work being created today and to find new and unexpected connections.

This year's exhibition explores the theme of borders and boundaries. A border separates one thing from another. The part or edge of a surface or area that forms its outer boundary, verge, periphery, or rim. A line, limit, or geographic feature separating one space from another.

Borders is Rua Red's annual open exhibition of fine and applied arts 2024. This open submission is an opportunity for graduates, emerging and established artists living in Ireland (including the North of Ireland) to exhibit their work in Gallery 1. The overall winner of the Rua Red Art Prize will be awarded a solo show in Gallery 2 at some point during the ensuing 12-month period.

The selection panel for this year's annual open featured Rua Red's Hugh McCarthy, Kimberly Griffith Walsh, and Órla McGovern, and invited panel member artist Paul McGrane.

McGrane won the Rua Red Art Prize in 2022 and exhibited his solo show 'I Will Follow You Into the Dark' here at Rua Red from February to April 2023.

The winner of this year's 2024 Rua Red Art Prize is Domnick Sorace with his work 'This Feels Right, Until...' and 'Self-Extended.'. The exhibition is still available to view in the Rua Red Art Gallery until January 25; don't miss out!

FLASH GORDON

IS MISE **BOK**. THROID MÉ AR SON **MING**.

D'ÉIRIGH MO SCUAD AMACH.

CHAILLEAMAR.

CAITHEADH I **BPRÍOSÚIN** MÉ AGUS BHÍ ORM TROID LE PRÍOSÚNAIGH **EILE** AR NÓS **AINMHITHE**.

ANSIN, BHUAIL MÉ LE **FLASH GORDON**.

AGUS BA É AN CHÉAD UAIR É Ó CHAILL MÉ MO FHIR...

GO RAIBH FONN ORM CHUN TROID AR **MO SHON FÉIN**.

IS **FEAR DRAGAIN** MÉ, RUGADH AND TÓGADH MÉ SNA PLUAISEANNA **KIRA** --- MAR SIN NÍ THAITIN **NA HARDA** LIOM.

ACH TÁIM ANSEO I **GCATHAIR SPÉIRE** AGUS TÁIM AG FÉACHAINT AR NA **HINNILL** ATÁ AG COIMEÁD É SAN AER.

TAGANN **ADRANE** ANIAR ADUAIDH ORM. IS BEAN... BEARRÁNACH Í. AN BHFUIL SÍ **AG MAGADH** FÚM?

CEN FÁTH NÁR LIG SÍ DOM **I M'AONAR?**

OH.

TUIGIM ANOIS.

CEART GO LEOR.

TAGANN FLASH AR AIS ÓN NEAD **NÍOS DEANAÍ** SA LÁ. TÁ PLEAN AIGE AGUS AG AN MBEIRT EILE, DALE AGUS ZARKOV, CHUN **ÉALÚ AS** AN ÁIT SEO.

TÁIM IDIR DHÁ CHOMHAIRLE FAOI SIN AR DTÚS...

...ACH ANSIN CLOISIM FAOIN **ARM AERÁIDE** SEO ATÁ VULTAN AG CUR IALLACH AR **ZARKOV** A DHÉANAMH.

DAN SCHKADE 7·14·24

IS COSÚIL GO BHFUIL SÉ AN CHÉAD CÉIM SA PHLEAN -- MIONATHRAÍONN ZARKOV AN **MEAISÍN**...

...AGUS LASMUIGH CATHAIR SPÉIRE...

...TÁ SÉ AG TÓRMACH **STOIRME**.

AN CHÉAD CHLÁR EILE: SIOLLÓGA

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THE PHANTOM

CREATED BY LEE FALK

DARLING, SHOULDN'T WE **MAKE CERTAIN** TEYDRA GETS HOME SAFE?

I'M UNDER THE IMPRESSION SHE CAN TAKE CARE OF HERSELF, AREN'T YOU?

BUT THIS...? DOMAIN?

THE **DOMAIN** OF THE **ALMOST HUMANS!!**

IF YOU WERE ALONE, YOU'D GO THERE, WOULDN'T YOU? YOU'D DOCUMENT THAT UNDISCOVERED PLACE IN THE **CHRONICLES** OF **SKULL CAVE!**

TEYDRA...

WHAT DID YOU MEAN WHEN YOU SAID I'D NEVER FIND THE DEAD MAN'S ASSISTANT IF I WENT TO GERMANY IN SEARCH OF HER?

DID YOU MEAN TO SAY SHE'S STILL HERE?

THAT'S IT, ISN'T IT!? THE HUMAN FEMALE YOU SAVED...?

SHE'S IN THE DOMAIN, ISN'T SHE?

YOU THOUGHT SHE'D **REVEAL YOU** TO THE WORLD!

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IT'S TRUE...

SHE'S WITH US.

IF SHE'S A CAPTIVE IN THIS PLACE, I CAN'T LEAVE WITHOUT HER, DIANA...

YOU SEE **AGAIN** WHY I WANTED YOU SAFE ON **EDEN!**

YES, I DO SEE-- BUT I'M **HERE** NOW, AREN'T I?

I'M GOING AS **FAR** DOWN THIS **RABBIT HOLE** AS YOU ARE!

Tony DePaul & Jeff Weigel 2-5-23

www.thephantomcomics.com

POPEYE

THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS

BY RANDY MILHOLLAND

HI, I WAS WONDERING IF YOU HAD ANY OPEN APPOINTMENTS FOR COUPLES THERAPY.

OF COURSE. WHEN IS BEST FOR YOU AND YOUR PARTNER?

OH, IT'S NOT FOR ME.

FOR WEEKS, POPEYE HAS BEEN PLAGUED BY HORROR MOVIES PORTRAYING HIM AS A "MONSKER"....

HEY, RUNT. HOW'DJA LIKE THE BIRTHDAY GIFTS I GOT YA?

WOT'RE YA ON 'BOUT, BLUTO?

DIDN'T YA KNOW? I'M THE ONE BEHIND ALL OF THOSE SCARY MOVIES ABOUT YOU!

THAT WAS YOU?! WHY?

'CUZ I COULD! AN' SOON NO ONE WILL HEAR "POPEYE" AN' NOT THINK OF A MURDEROUS SLASHER!

BLUTO, I YAM SO SORRY. I DIDN'TSK REALIZE I'D TRAUMATIZED YA SO BADLY YA'D HAFTA MAKE SCARY MOVIES 'BOUT ME T' COPE.

I AIN'T TRAUMATIZED! I JUST HATE YOU!

HOW MANY OF THESE MOVIES YA MAKIN'?

popeye.com

... TWELVE. THREE HAVE THEIR OWN CINEMATIC UNIVERSE.

I... I NEED TO GO THINK SOME STUFF OVER.

I LIKE HOW YOU FIND NEW WAYS TO KNOCK HIM DOWN.

VARIETY IS TH' SECRET SPICE T' A GOOD, LONG RELASHKUNSHIP.

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TASQ-ART

FLASH GORDON TRANSLATED BY GARY MOLONEY WITH LETTERING BY ROB JONES PAGE EDIT BY HAL LAREN **WWW.TASQART.COM**

New Sensory Room

OPENS AT BALLYFERMOT COMMUNITY CIVIC CENTRE

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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Amanda Smith and Cllr Hazel de Nortúin



Cheque Presentation to Aslam Autism Charity



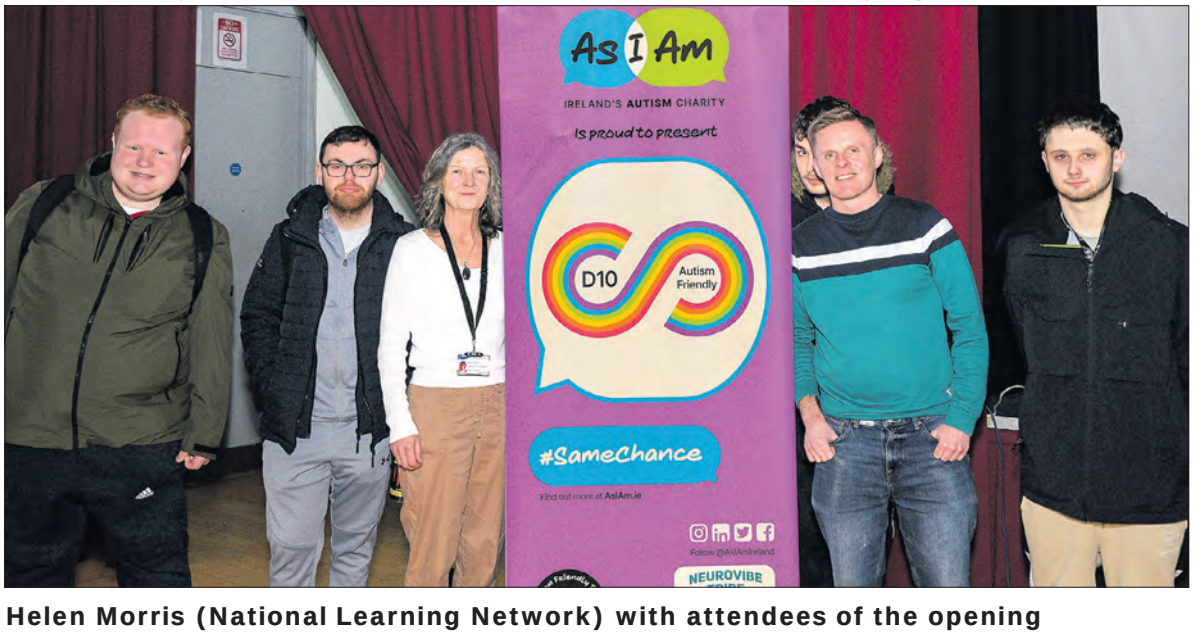
Shóna McGann, Patrice Gunnery, Keith Wren and Paula Tansey



Dolores Barr (Centre Manager)



Oonagh O'Brien (DCC), Colm Doyle (DCC) and Vicky Kearney (DCC - Community Development Team, South Central Area)



Helen Morris (National Learning Network) with attendees of the opening



Beatrice Cassery Dublin City Council Inclusion and Integration Office and Lord Mayor Emma Blain



Kayleigh Behan and Nanny Kim



Jackie, Tina, Archie and Perrie



Helen, Carter and Michael



Paddy Bergin, James Bergin and Kevin Doherty



Pat, Kayleigh, Kathleen and Lexie



Alan, Richie and Mary



Aoife, Senan and Roisín



Max Keogh and Nanny Yvonne



Mollie, Eileen and Conor O'Loughlin



Cayden with Nanny Donna and Granda Willie

Grandparents Day

AT ST KILIAN'S SENIOR SCHOOL

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Conor and Carol



Jenny McGrath and Priyah Shannon



Leighton Campbell and Louise Skelly



Jack and Nanny May



Richie, Sharon and Lillie



Hallie Mahon and Charlotte Holmes



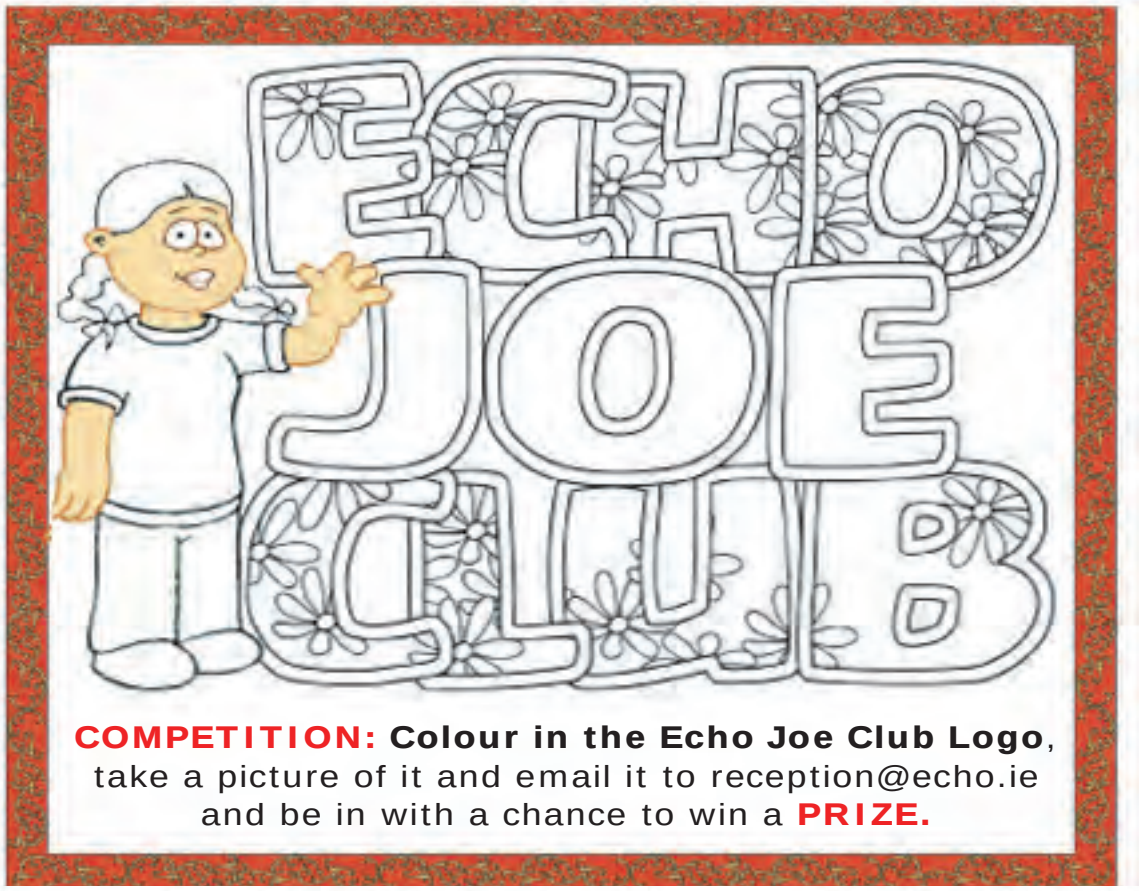
Pat, James and Carol Mockler



James and Roan with Nanny Mary



Patrick and Tyler Adamson



COMPETITION: Colour in the Echo Joe Club Logo, take a picture of it and email it to reception@echo.ie and be in with a chance to win a **PRIZE.**

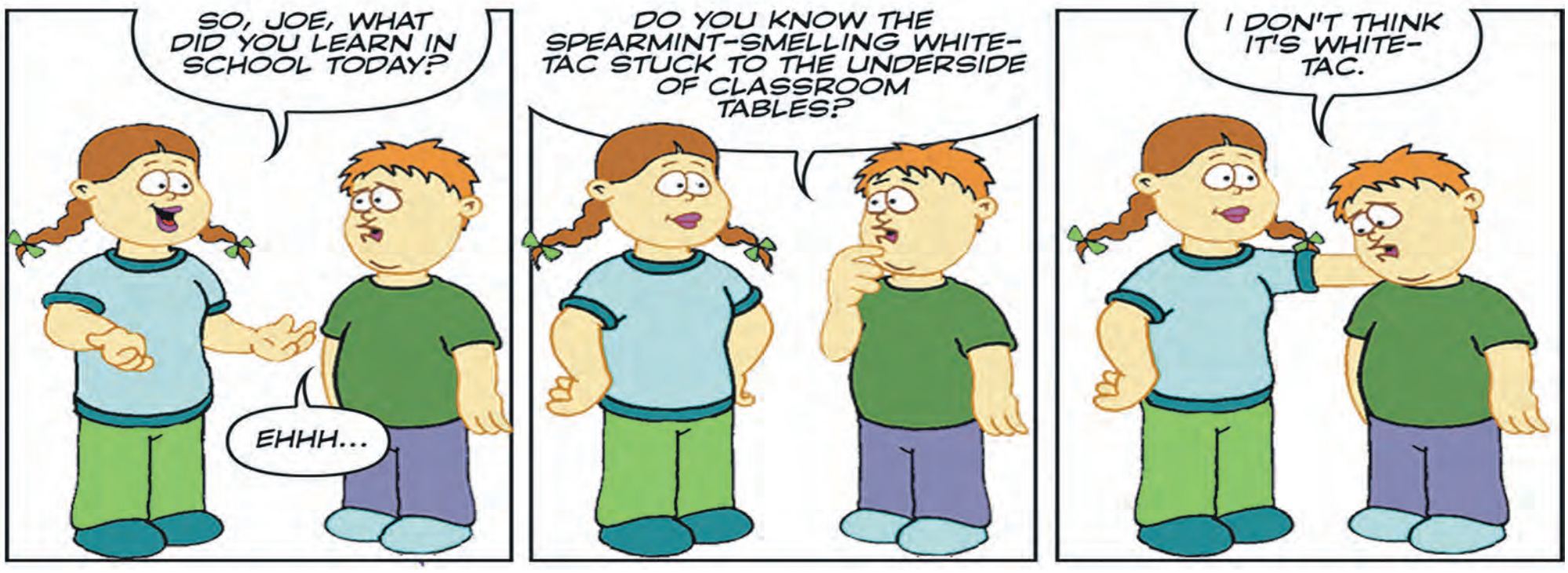
A Word with Echo So...

Stormy weather



5-20 pretty good! **21-35** excellent! **36 and over** - you do realise these have to be **real** words, don't you!

1	14	27
2	15	28
3	16	29
4	17	30
5	18	31
6	19	32
7	20	33
8	21	34
9	22	35
10	23	36
11	24	37
12	25	38
13	26	39



SQUARES

A GAME WITH/FOR SQUARES

HERE'S A GREAT LITTLE GAME FOR TWO OR MORE PLAYERS. TAKE TURNS TO CONNECT ANY TWO DOTS WITH A VERTICAL OR HORIZONTAL LINE. THE PLAYER WHO COMPLETES ANY SQUARE INITIALS IT, THEN TAKES ANOTHER TURN TO DRAW A LINE. WHEN ALL SQUARES ARE COMPLETED, THE PLAYER WITH MOST SQUARES IS THE WINNER!

Fill in the missing numbers

11	-	8	=	
-				+
=				=
	+	4	=	10

3	+		=	
+				-
				4
=				=
7	-		=	6

4	+		=	
-				+
3				2
=				=
	+		=	10

	+	5	=	6
+				-
				4
=				=
9	-		=	

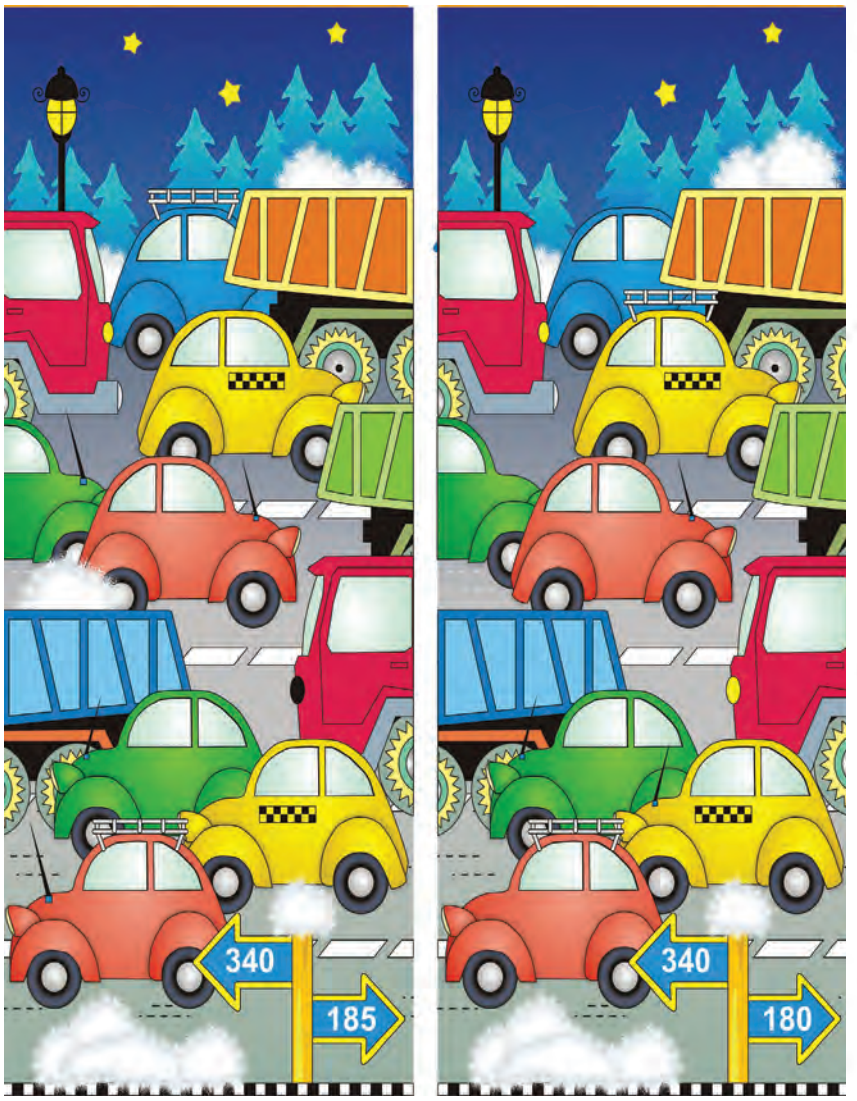
8	+		=	10
-				-
4				
=				=
	-	3	=	

7	-	4	=	
-				+
				3
=				=
	+	1	=	

These 2 pages of Awesome, Amazon, Activities

Spot the Difference Game

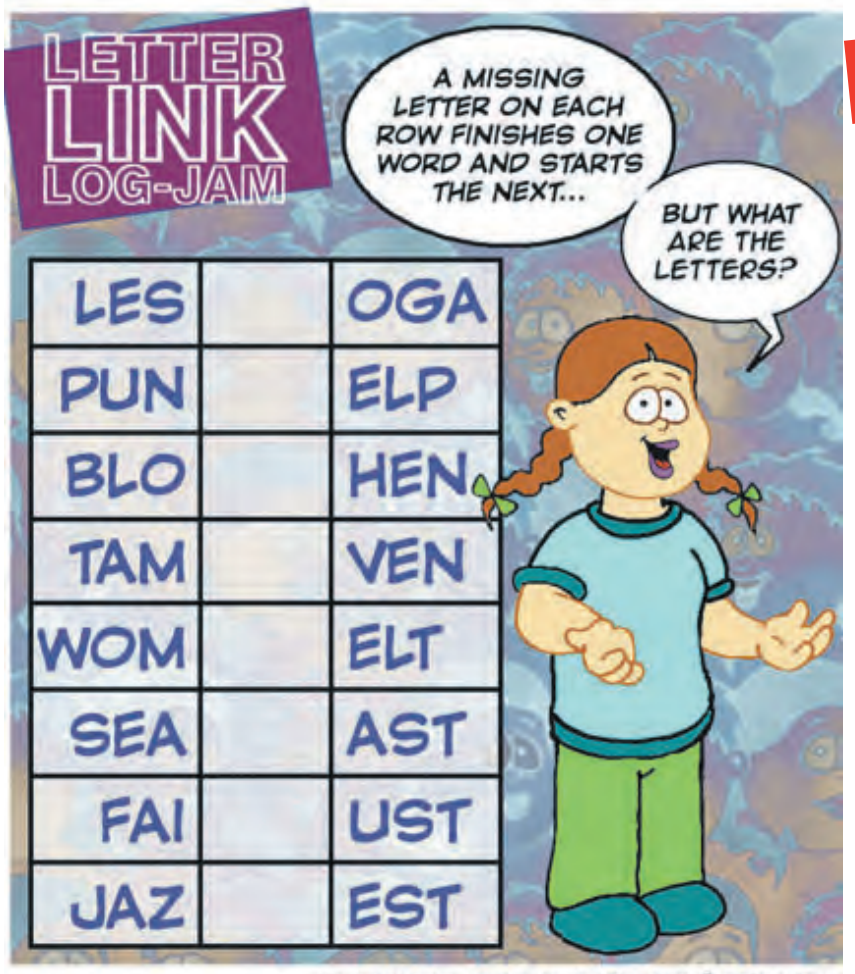
Find 10 Differences!



COLOURING BOOK

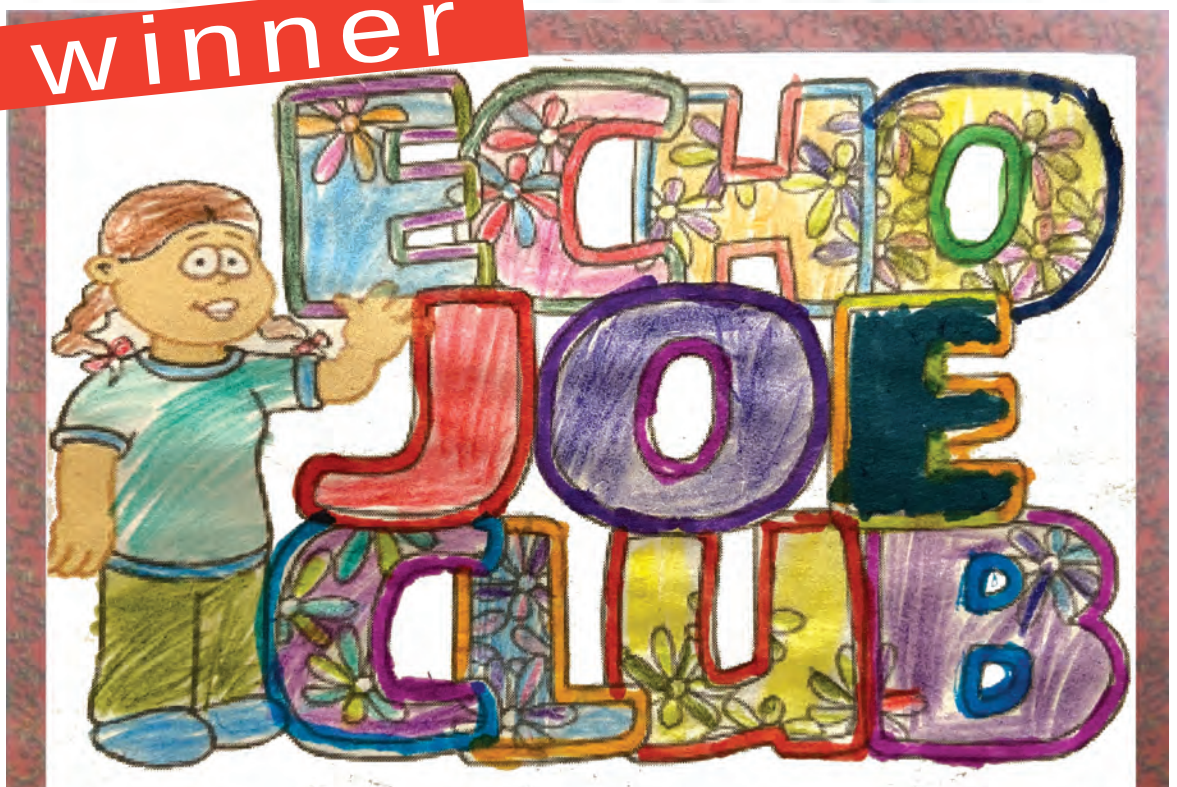


LETTER LINK LOG-JAM



the missing letters: T, Y, W, E, B, M, R, Z.

winner



Seán Joyce aged 9, is this week's winner of The Echo Joe Club logo colouring competition. Sean, your prize will be on the way to you soon.

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Gaisce Presiden for loca

Students partake in self-directed personal development programme

YOUTHS from South Dublin County achieved recognition for their personal development, during a Gaisce President's Silver Award ceremony in Trinity College on January 14.

Students from St Joseph's College, Lucan, St Colmcilles Community School, Knocklyon, Coláiste Bride, Clondalkin, Loreto High School, Rathfarnham, and Mount Sackville, Chapelizod, were among those honoured at the event.

By Maurice Garvey
maurice@echo.ie

Brú Youth Services also picked up a Gaisce Silver Award, which is open to people aged 16-25 and consists of four challenges – community involvement, personal skill, physical recreation and adventure journey.

The award is a self-directed personal development programme in which participants are supported and mentored by a more experienced person, a volunteer, a President Award Leader (PAL), to set and achieve a personal challenge over a period of time.

With the exception of adventure journey, each challenge requires a minimum participation of one hour per week for 26 weeks.

An additional 26 weeks must be completed in a challenge area of a participants choice, whilst the Silver adventure journey takes place over a minimum of three days and two nights.

Catherine Bligh, St Josephs College Transition Year Co-ordinator, said it is the first time the Silver has been completed by students who are still in the school.

She said: "We had 87 students doing the Bronze for Transition Year and 23 Fifth Year students did the Silver last year. The Silver is twice the work, we're very proud of them.

"For the adventure, students go hiking in Wicklow. There is also training to prepare for the two day hike, which is physically challenging. They set up a meetings with the Lucan Tidy Towns group for their community involvement. It's great to see them involved, it's well worth it."

Up to 104 TY students at St Joseph's College are doing the Bronze this year and the majority are expected to take up the Silver challenge next year.

The President's Silver Gaisce Award for the Leinster Region, was held in the Edmund Burke Theatre in Trinity College.

Garda Commissioner Nóirín O'Sullivan presented youths with their awards at the gala ceremony.

For more information, visit www.gaisce.org





CHALLENGE: Recipients of the Gaisce President's Award Silver Award from Saint Joseph's College, Lucan with their President's Award Leader, Catherine Bligh and Garda Commissioner Nóirín O'Sullivan.

t's Award l students



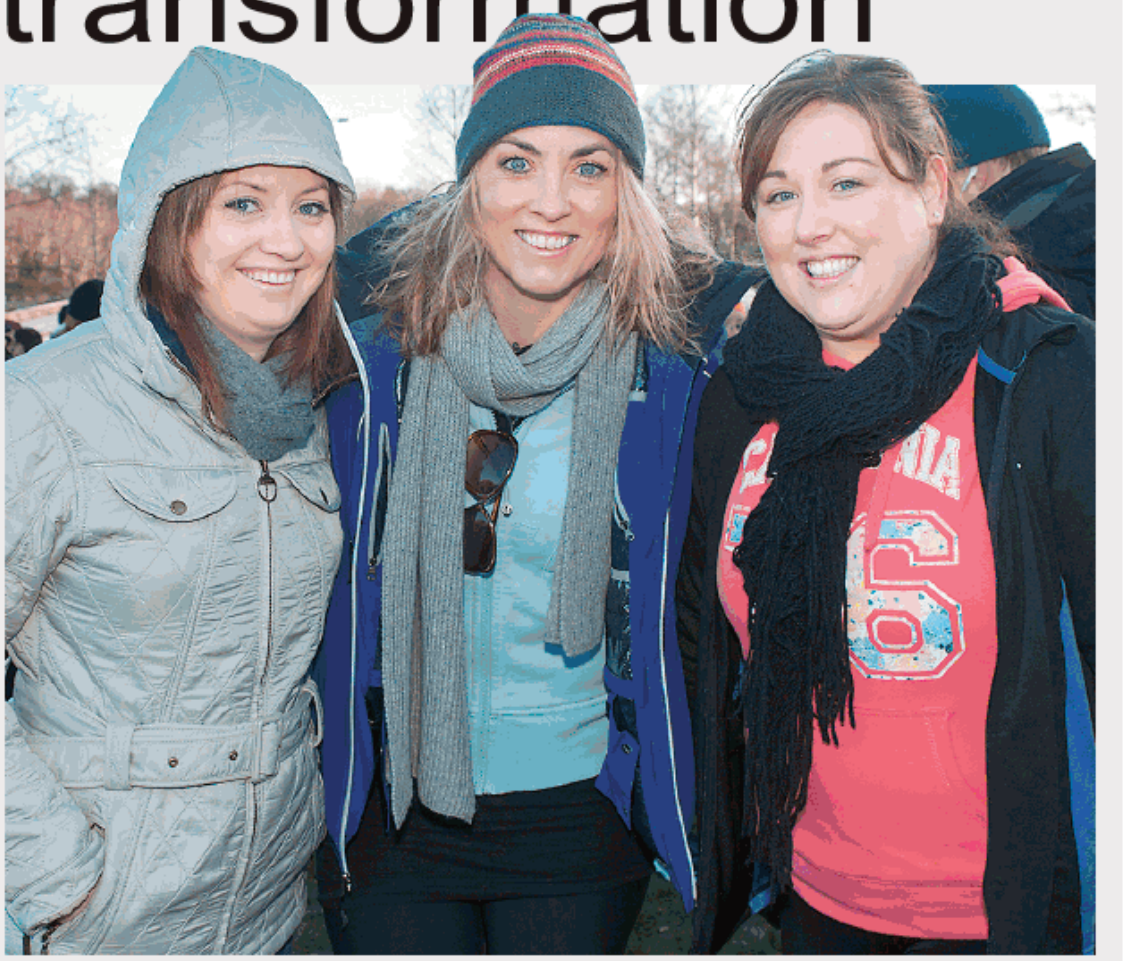
Recipients of the Gaisce President's Award Silver Award from Saint Colmcille's Community School, Knocklyon with their President's Award Leader, Gráinne Daly and Garda Commissioner Nóirín O'Sullivan



Recipients of the Gaisce President's Award Silver Award from Coláiste Bríde and Garda Commissioner Nóirín O'Sullivan

> "We had 87 students doing the Bronze for Transition Year (Saint Joseph's College, Lucan) and 23 Fifth Year students did the Silver last year. The Silver is twice the work, we're very proud of them"

Louise leads local transformation



Cllr Vicki Casserly, Kathryn Thomas and Louise Ormsby

LAST Saturday on a beautiful, clear, frosty morning, between 500 and 600 people of all ages came out to support local Operation Transformation leader Louise Ormsby from Adamstown and participate with her on a 5km walk through Waterstown Park in Palmerstown.

Also present on the day were RTE's Kathryn Thomas and John Murray as well as some faces from Faircity.

Following a good warmup provided by walk tutor and local Palmerstown resident Frank Fahey the group set off on two laps of the park.

The scene as they wound their way around made for a picture postcard image. The beauty of this hidden park was at its best, with its rural feel and the Liffey flowing alongside, and this was remarked upon by many of the new visitors to the park. At the end refreshments were provided, many pictures were taken, and all were in agreement that it was a great community event.

South Dublin County Sports Partnership co-ordinator Thos Mc Dermott, organiser of the event, would like to thank all those who played a role on the day, the residents of Palmerstown who volunteered as stewards and provided music, Kennedy Steel Ltd. for providing the staging area and Supervalu Palmerstown for water. Also great thanks must go to the Irish Sports Council, the HSE through their Get Ireland Active brand and to South Dublin County Council for supporting the event.

Meanwhile on Saturday, February 21st the RTE Operation Transformation programme will end with a 5k run in the Phoenix Park. Numbers are limited to 5,000 places but previously the event has been booked out in under 24 hours.

To facilitate people who would like to do the run but can't get a place in the Phoenix Park event, SDCSP will be organising their own free 5k run/walk event in Corkagh Park in Clondalkin.

The event will start at 11am beside the St. John's Road entrance to the park.

To register for this event see www.eventbrite.ie and search for Opportunity 2 Transform. For more information email info@sdcsp.ie or text 086 0441071. See more photos page 58



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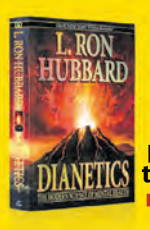
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family notices

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BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



Kiernan, Annette
4th Birthday away from home.

A million hugs and kisses sent to you up above,
Carried with care on the wings of a dove.
A prayer, a Mass, these are all I can give,
But these you will have for as long as I live.
No words can say or tears express,
The loss the love the emptiness.
Missed forever until we meet again, Mam.
Suzanne, Paul, Ashlene, Natasha, Lauren and Frankie.

As each day dawns and starts anew,
As each day ends I think of you,
And in between no matter where,
Deep in my heart you're always there.
It broke my heart to lose you ma,
But you did not go alone,
For part of me went with you ma,
The day God called you home.
I know you walk beside me,
And when my life is through,
I pray that God will take my hand,
And lead me straight to you.
Heavenly Birthday Ma. Louise, Peter, Grandkids and Great-Grandkids. I love you forever Ma. xx

Distance takes us far apart,
And darkens my today,
I have to keep remembering,
That you're just a thought away.
When the world is too confusing,
And times are hard to bare,
I pull your precious meaning,
Your bright spirit from the air.
If I sometimes drift into,
A lonely state of mind,
I gather up the memories,
Of days we left behind.
Heavenly Birthday Mam. Love Sarah, Carter & Harper-Leigh. xx

Sending a million hugs and kisses on your birthday Mam.
Love and miss you forever. Bridget and Family.

A million tear stained kisses,
I send especially to you,
Because today's your birthday,
And I'm really missing you.
From your husband Billy and daughter Annette.

ANNIVERSARY



Condon, Martin
In remembrance of our dear Son and Brother. Your 15th Anniversary away from occurred 20th January. Late of Ballyfermot.

When distance takes us far apart,
And darkens our today,
We have to keep remembering,
You're just a thought away.
When the world is too confusing,
And times are hard to bear,
We pull your precious meaning,
Your bright spirit from the air.
And though you're not beside us,
We can tap into our hearts,
And draw upon the warmth and love,
That lives though we're apart.
And with these fond reflections,
On the times when you were here,
We sense a little bit of what,
It's like to have you near.
Love Dad, Brothers and Sisters. xxx

ANNIVERSARY



Wade, Jane
9th Anniversary occurs 29th January.

Precious people are very few,
That's why there was only one of you.
Nothing on earth can ever replace,
The sound of your voice,
Or the smile on your face.
No verse or flowers,
No tears can say,
How much you are loved,
And missed each day.
You left us a memory,
We are so proud to own.
So treasure her lord,
In your garden of rest,
For when on earth,
She was simply the best.
Time may go, years will pass,
But memories will always last.
Send a whisper on a feather gently from above,
Let us know you hear us sending all our love.
Sadly missed by your loving husband Ben, Sons, Daughter, Grandkids, Great-Grandkids, Son-in-law & Daughters-in-law.
"Always in our hearts forever"

ANNIVERSARY



Condon, Derek
In remembrance of our dear Son and Brother. Your 2nd Anniversary away from home occurred 15th January. Late of Ballyfermot.

Memories are precious no one can steal,
Death is a heartache no one can heal.
Some may forget you,
Now that you're gone,
But we will remember you,
No matter how long.
No length of time can take away,
Thoughts of you from day to day.
Though absent you are always near,
Still loved still missed still very dear.
Love Dad, Brothers and Sisters. xxx

ANNIVERSARY



Berkeley, James (Jim)
15th Anniversary occurs 24th January. Late of Knockmore Crescent.

You never said I'm leaving,
You never said goodbye,
You were gone before we knew it,
And only God knew why.
A million times we needed you,
A million times we cried,
If love alone could have saved you,
You never would have died.
In life we loved you dearly,
In death we love you still,
In our hearts we hold a place,
That only you can fill.
It broke our hearts to lose you,
But you didn't go alone,
As part of us went with you,
The day God took you home.
To dearly loved ever to be forgotten. Our hearts are broken, your loving wife Valerie, Shane, Anita, James, Finola, Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren.

ANNIVERSARY



Condon, Patrick (Wacker)
In remembrance of our dear Son and Brother. Your 5th Anniversary away from home occurs 25th January. Late of Ballyfermot.

A special smile, a special face,
And in our hearts a special place.
Our memories we keep one by one,
Things you've said and songs you've sung.
They bring a smile sometimes a tear,
But always a wish that you were here.
You're not just a memory,
Or part of the past,
Your ours to remember,
As long as life lasts.
Love Dad, Brothers and Sisters. xxx

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. **C.C.**

ANNIVERSARY

Condon, Patrick (Wacker) Wacker, a loved Husband & wonderful Stepdad, on your 5th Anniversary away from home.

Those special memories of you,
Will always bring a smile,
If only we could have you back,
For just a little while.
Then we could sit and talk again,
Just like we used to do,
You always meant so very much,
And always will do too.
The fact that you're no longer here,
Will always cause us pain,
But you're forever in our hearts,
Until we meet again.
Love Carol, Edel & Eric. xxx

ANNIVERSARY

Griffin, Jackie
6th Anniversary away from home occurs 24th January.

You left us without warning,
Not even a goodbye,
And I can't seem to stop asking the question why.
I didn't see this coming,
It hit us by surprise,
And when you left for heaven,
A small part of me died.
Your smile could brighten anyone's day,
No matter what they were going through,
And every day for the rest of my life,
I'll be missing you.
A part of me will always be with you Jackie. I love you till the end, your Lynda. x

A special person,
A special face,
Someone we love,
And can never be replaced.
Love always Mikeala. x

NOVENA

Miracle Prayer
Dear heart of Jesus I ask you this special favour (mention one) take it dear heart of Jesus and place it within your own broken heart where your father sees it. Then in his merciful eyes it will become your favour not mine. Amen. say this prayer 3 days promise publication and favour will be granted never known to fail. **M.F.**

ANNIVERSARY



O Keeffe, William
10th Anniversary occurs 23rd January.
In Loving Memory Dad. Miss You So Much Dad.

Softly out of the shadows,
There came a gentle call,
You took the hand god offered you,
And quietly left us all.
And although we cannot hold you,
We will never let you go,
Because in our hearts you will live forever,
Because we loved you so.
From your loving daughters Anne & Sharon and son-in-law Michael. xx

To Our Loving Grandad In Heaven
Our time together was special,
So were the memories we made,
And although you live in Heaven now,
Those memories never fade.
We bow our heads in silence,
And remember our grandad with love,
And we know that you are up there,
Watching from above.
Every day's a struggle,
And nothing feels the same,
And our hearts break a little more,
Every time we hear your name.
You'll always be remembered,
And time may heal our hearts,
But a piece of us is missing,
Since the day we had to part.
If Heaven is for Angels,
Then we know that's where you'll be,
And we know you will be waiting,
When Heaven calls for us.
Sadly missed by his grandchildren David, Michael, Nadine, Jasmine & Clairesse and great-grandchildren Jake, Kai and Kray. x

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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
Permission sought by Gary Mc Keon for alterations to Planning Permission granted under SD23A/0164 to include extra bedroom and private living accommodation to existing dwelling. Together with all required ancillary works. Modifications to include changes to roof profile and windows to South, East and West elevations. At Glenside House, Bohernabreena. Dublin 24. The Planning Application may be inspected or purchased at the offices of South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Tallaght. Dublin 24. During its public opening hours of Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 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 5 weeks of receipt of the application by South Dublin County Council and such submissions or observations will be considered by the Planning Authority in making a decision on the application. The Planning Authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions or may refuse to grant permission.

South Dublin County Council
We, Mr and Mrs Collins intend to apply for permission for development at this site 10 Wood Dale Drive, Firhouse, Tallaght Dublin 24. The development will consist of the demolition of an existing garden shed structure to the side of the property and the construction of a single storey flat roof granny flat to the side of the property. 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 10am to 4pm, 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 within 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.

Contact *The Echo* to have a planning notification published
Call 468 5350 or email reception@echo.ie

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL - LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) ACTS 1963 - LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) REGULATIONS 1977 TO 1994

PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED WEEK ENDING JANUARY 10, 2024

PT8SD188 **08 Jan 2025** **Application Under Part 8**
Applicant: South Dublin County Council
Location: Lucan Demesne, In the townland of Lucan, Dublin
Description: Pursuant to the requirements of the above, notice is hereby given that South Dublin County Council proposes to carry out the following works at Lucan Demesne, in the townland of Lucan: The proposals are for the upgrade works for the entrance and route into Lucan Demesne: ? The construction of a timber boardwalk from the plaza to the existing river side path of approximately 120m in length and 2.5m in width which is elevated approximately 0.15mm above ground, depending on topography. ? All ancillary works.

SD24A/0193W **09 Jan 2025** **Permission Additional Information**
Applicant: Rowland and Gay Jordan
Location: 17, Greentree's Road, Dublin 12, D12 ENV6
Description: Partial demolition of the existing ground floor rear and side extensions and the partial demolition of the existing garage conversion, the extension of the garage conversion to the front with a new porch extension to the front, a new rear ground floor extension, the demolition of the existing detached garage and the construction of a two storey, three bedroom detached dwelling with a new vehicular entrance and all associated site works.

SD25B/0005W **06 Jan 2025** **Permission New Application**
Applicant: Gina Mehan
Location: 22, St. James Road, Greenhills, Dublin 12, D12 V3V8
Description: The demolition of existing single storey rear kitchen, the construction of a new single storey extension to rear of dwelling, a new single bay extension and porch to front of dwelling and the adjustment of ground levels to form a level access approach and all ancillary site works.

SD25B/0006W **07 Jan 2025** **Permission New Application**
Applicant: Elizabeth Mahon
Location: 9, Woodfarm Drive, Palmerstown, Dublin 20, D20 W928
Description: A single storey garden room and store to rear of existing 2 storey, Terraced dwelling to include all associated ancillary site development works.

SD25B/0007W **09 Jan 2025** **Permission New Application**
Applicant: Anthony and Lisa Garland
Location: 44, Bancroft Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24, D24 TWY4
Description: Single-storey, flat-roof front extension with two rooflights and a new side door at ground level.

SD25B/0008W **10 Jan 2025** **Permission New Application**
Applicant: Subin Stephen & Nancy Arnold
Location: 1 Willsbrook Drive, Lucan, Co Dublin., K78RW98
Description: Construction of an extension to the side and rear of our existing dwelling to include on the first floor a bedroom and en-suite and on the ground floor a kitchen and dining area with 2 Velux windows and a Velux in the attic with all ancillary site works.

SD25B/0009 **10 Jan 2025** **Permission New Application**
Applicant: Stephen & Sinead Murphy
Location: 8, Parklands Avenue, Ballycullen, Dublin 24, D24 X7K4
Description: Development will consist of the conversion of the existing roof space comprising of modification of existing roof structure, raising existing cable to dutch hip, new access stairs and flat roof dormer to the rear with a window facing South and a window facing East

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Thursday, January 23, 2025

Perfect day under blue sky for Glenanne

It was a perfect day for hockey under blue skies as Glenanne Mens 1sts hosted Rathgar Mens 1sts at St. Andrews.

The home side wasted no time making an impact, earning an early short corner in the first quarter. Gary Shaw, stationed at the first castle, stepped up and delivered a clinical drag flick, burying the ball in the bottom right corner to give Glenanne the lead.

The game quickly turned into a fiercely contested battle. In the second quarter, Rathgar earned their first short corner of the match. Their drag flick, aided by an unfortunate deflection off the first runner's stick, left the Glenanne defense helpless as the visitors leveled the score.

Not to be outdone, Glenanne pressed forward, and their efforts paid off. Lukas Odendaal's misplaced shot found Sean Brennan, who capitalized with a first-time strike into the net, restoring the home side's advantage.

As the game wore on, both teams pushed hard. Rathgar consistently threatened the Glenanne circle and tested their goalkeeper with shots on target, keeping the home defense on edge. Glenanne, however, remained resolute and held their lead through the final whistle.

After four quarters of high-intensity hockey, Glenanne emerged victorious, securing all three points in their first game back after the break .

History made as Abbey secures National U18 title

Killinarden boxer has now won six national titles

HISTORY was made for Sacred Heart Boxing Club at the National U18 competition over the weekend at the National Boxing Stadium.

The Killinarden Club had underage starlet Abbey Molloy and Jay Jay Rondala competing at the recent competition.

Abbey Molloy drew a semi-final against Anita O'Leary Doyle, from Sacre Coeur Boxing Club in Wexford.

After a dominant performance, Abbey took the decision on a 5-0 scoreline controlling the contest with her jab and back hand and setting up a highly anticipated national final with Ella Joy Thompson from Setanta Boxing Club in Kildare.

Both girls were no strangers to each other being good friends and having shared the ring on two occasions previously in two cracking contests this one was no different.

After three rounds of top tier boxing skills from both girls the judges awarded the decision to Abbey molloy on a 3.2 split decision winning rounds 1 and 3 on the scorecards.

"Abbey is now six times national champion, not only did she step up in weight to meet international selection criteria she is also just turned 16 been a year younger than most of her competitors and to top it all off she made history for herself and club being the first female to lift an U18 national title since the club opened its doors in 1979," said Tommy Hanrahan, Head Coach at Sacred Heart.

First up Jay Jay Rondala drew a quarter-final against John Crowley from St Martha's Boxing Club in Cork.

Having performed very well in a back and forth contest Jay Jay was pipped on a 4-1 split decision. It was great experience gained for Rondala in what was his first u18s event.



Abbey Molloy celebrates her victory in the National Boxing Staduim

Daire Flock to compete in the Renault Clio Cup Series Europe

DAIRE Flock will be competing in the 2025 European Renault Clio Cup Series.

Last year Daire entered the revised Clio Cup GB series and made an instant impression winning multiple races and ultimately narrowly missing out on the Drivers' Championship by a handful of points.

The Tallaght racer entered the Junior Saloon Car Championship in 2022 and after gathering a year of learning, he returned to the series in 2023 and reigned supreme in style to be crowned champion.

Now set to embark on his fourth year of racing, Flock and Westbourne Motorsport will once again look to make their mark, albeit this time overseas and against some of Europe's very best

Westbourne Motorsport will embark on an exciting new challenge in 2025 with confirmation that they will enter the Renault Clio Cup Series with exciting young talent Daire Flock.

Renowned as being one of the most competitive one-make categories in Europe since launching in 1991, the Renault Clio Cup Series comprises nine events and 18 races at iconic circuits such as Spa-Francorchamps, Imola, Circuit Paul Ricard and Monza.

Boasting almost two decades of Clio Cup experience on British shores, Westbourne's entry into the European Championship marks a significant moment in the West Sussex squad's illustrious history.

Daire Flock, Westbourne Motorsport Driver: "It's a brand-new challenge with learning circuits and coming across new competitors and how they drive.

"I'm setting my sights this year on being in contention for the Rookie Championship, by the end of the season I would like to achieve consistent front end results plus overall podiums.

"All this couldn't be possible without the backing from my sponsors, family and Westbourne Motorsport who are supporting me in my dream."



Daire Flock will compete in the 2025 European Renault Clio Cup Series

Athletics

Busy times for Donore



Donore Team members at the indoor national league

The Donore Harriers Master's Women who were second team in Kilcormac County Offaly with Sorcha Loughnane winning bronze w45.

The results were Master Women 3km - 4th & 3rd W45 Sorcha Loughnane (14.43); 17th & W40 Caroline McCarthy (16.40); 30th & 7th W45 Claire Mulligan (17.33) and 56th & 13th W45 Catherine McKeon (19.26).

Meanwhile in the Track and Field live NIA Donore had three young athletes competing at the Track and Field live meet in the Abbotstown indoor arena.

Liam Morris had a fine win in the senior men's 800m in 1.56.54 in a close finish with Bray Runners Bobby More.

Dylan Clarke McGuigan was 3rd in the men's senior mile in 4.40.14 in the 14-strong field Abigail Farrell ran in the fastest of the women's 60m sprint heats and clocked 8.45 Just missing out on the final

After round 1 National indoor league was postponed a fortnight ago, the league finally got underway at the NIA and the club fielded two teams mostly from our younger athletes.

They did themselves proud with a number of athletes doing two events. Zion Osawe, Caoimhe Mackey, Ciaran O'Farrell and Oisin Weiss Cummins were all in action.

Eva Crowe made her 4x200m relay debut and Amber Lynch a debut in 4kg shot Both teams did very well in the relays the final event. The women's team finished 11th and the men's team 7th Thanks all those who competed and coordinated

In the guest events later in the day Abigail Farrel was delighted with a PB of 8.91 in her signature event - the 60m hurdles



Sorcha Loughnane claimed bronze in the w45 in the Leinster masters

Basketball

Cup delight fo U18's in final



Éanna celebrate their victory over Titans in the National Basketball Arean on Saturday
Photos by ©INPHO/Bryan Keane

Éanna lift Billy Coffey Cup

Éanna lifted the U18 Men's Billy Coffey National Cup, following a 92-72 win over Titans at the National Basketball Arena on Saturday.

Adam Charles picked up the MVP, he racked up 26 points, eight rebounds, seven assists and five turnovers for the winning side.

Titans made a blistering start to this contest, captain Luke Herring drained three from the three-point line, Eoin Potito and Alban Hart also scoring from long range.

By the time Nathan Gbinigie's dunked in the last minute the Galway outfit were 29-6 up. Eanna reduced the deficit to 29-10 with some joy from the free throw line.

Eanna, who overcame a 25-point deficit in their semi-final win over Limerick Lions, got the first points of the second quarter through Charles.

Charles, who'd been kept scoreless in the first quarter, clicked into gear in the second, his basket and additional free throw saw the deficit cut to 10 points, 33-23, midway through the quarter - Charles contributing 10 of those points for the Dublin club at that stage he'd have 15 by the end of the quarter.

A long range three from Herrick made it 38-28 to Titans with three minutes to go.

But six points from Sam O'Connell, a corner three and a pair of free throws from Charles had Éanna in front, 39-38. Gbinigie responded with another dunk in the last seconds of the quarter, Titans with the slenderest of leads at the break, 40-39.

Titans opened with back-to-back scores in the third quarter, through Herrick and Stephen Owede, to move 44-39 up. Eoin Potito went on an eight-point run, including two three's, which had Titans 54-47 up four minutes in. Eanna retook the lead, 58-54, with a little over three minutes to go, helped by a nice three by Ryan Bell from the top of the arc and an Adam McCarthy layup. A three from Charles to beat the end of quarter buzzer made it 63-58 to Éanna going into the final quarter – Charles' tally now at 22 points.

Momentum appeared to be with Éanna, Charles dunk in the opening minute demonstrating this and they were ahead by eleven points, 69-58, two minutes into the fourth after another basket by O'Connell. A much-needed two point jump shot from Liam Smyth got Titans back on the scoresheet., it was 69-60 with six and a half minutes to go.

A corner three from Harry Lynch put Éanna 74-62 to the good with four and a half minutes to go – Lynch would finish with 25 points and six rebounds. Another three from Lynch with a little over two minutes to go was met with a big cheer from the Éanna fans, their advantage now 82-66. But Titans kept plugging away, Potito's layup and trailed 82-70 with a minute and a half to go, but they couldn't overhaul the deficit.

Game MVP Adam Charles said: "We looked back at what went wrong in the other (semi-final) game and we were very sure that, you know, that wouldn't happen again. And when it happened again we were all kicking ourselves, but we knew how to get back in the game. We'd done it before, we did it last week."

r Éanna's



Éanna celebrate their U18 Men's Billy Coffey National Cup final win over Titans

Soccer

Lucan advance in the FAI junior cup



Lucan United progess to the last 16 of the FAI Junior cup after beating Templeogue United on penalties after the game finished 2-2

LUCAN United's dream of lifting the FAI Junior Cup is still alive as they advanced to the last 16 of the competition, after a penalty shootout win over Templeogue United on Saturday afternoon, *reports John Mooney.*

This had the potential of being a banana skin for United and it almost proved to be, as they struggled for 75 minutes trying to break down a very dogged home side.

Templeogue put in the kind of performance that deserved to be rewarded as they led 2-1, had a player sent off 10 minutes into the second half, conceded just once to see the teams draw level, but just fell short in the shootout.

Then again Lucan have a habit of digging themselves out of a hole as they showed when they played Glasnevin in the LFA Junior Cup, and were staring down the barrel of defeat before two late goals saved them.

Apart from the scorers from the spot, Leo Mayers, Ollie Kendrick, David Mooney and Dylan Boxwell, keeper Mark O'Leary saved the first spot kick to set them on their way, and that was after he was basically a spectator for such a long time.

This was a really open game prior to the sending off and it was Kendrick who opened the scoring for Lucan, after just nine minutes, when he slotted home a penalty kick after the referee spotted a handball in the area.

But they gave up that lead minutes later when Daniel Stewart headed home a corner kick from Adam O'Hare, despite a defender on the line attempting to block it.

The score should have been added to but neither could register a goal until four minutes before the break, when Stewart headed home his second of the afternoon when connecting with a Darragh Moore free kick.

It gave the Lucan management something to think about at the break, and when the home side were reduced to 10 players it looked like the tide would turn in their favour.

But Templeogue battened down the hatches and restricted Lucan to long range efforts, which their keeper Jamie Austin comfortably dealt with.

However with time running out the visitors did what they do best and dug themselves out of a hole with a second Kendrick goal to level the tie, and with no goals in extra time it went to a shootout where they prevailed.

TEMPLEOGUE UNITED. J. Austin, P. Smith. R. Orr, D. Steward, A. Trofim, Z. Kearney, C.McElligott, S. McDonald, D. Moore, A. O'Hare, L. Tormey, M. Fabian, C. O'Rourke, L. Mullins.

LUCAN UNITED: M. O'Leary, M. Tuite, C. Harte, O. Kendrick, L. Mayers, J. Hanley, T. McAleese, T. Kane, D. Boxwell, M. Cawley, M. Jesus, J. Dunne, M. Moody, B. O'Halloran, D. Mooney, C.Donnelly, P. Tuite.



Templeogue United lost out on penalties despite playing the some of the game with only ten men Photos by John Mooney

Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas
South Dublin County Council

THE PLAZA HOTEL

Active SOUTH DUBLIN
AMATEUR SPORTS AWARDS 2024
In association with: Echo.ie Trusted Local News



Ellen Walshe is the Active South Dublin Sport Star of the Month for December after breaking eight Irish titles at the World Aquatics Championships in Budapest

December Sports Star of the Month is
Ellen Walshe

ELLEN Walshe had an incredible run of results at the World Aquatics Championships (SC) in Budapest with eight Irish records.

The Templeogue Swim Club member secured Irish Records in the 50m and 100m Butterfly and 100m and 200m IM, and top 10 placings in the 200m IM (5th), 400m IM (5th), 100m Butterfly (6th) and 100m IM (9th) after an impressive week of racing.

Ellen swam a finals double, placing sixth in the 100m Butterfly in 55.68, just outside her new Irish Record of 55.50 from the semi-final, an hour later she was back for the 400m IM where she touched fifth in 4:29.86.

Ellen Walshe ended her World Championships with fifth and sixth place Finals finishes.

Speaking after the event Ellen said 'I'm happy enough, I knew it would be tough with a lot of fatigue in my legs, but happy to come away with fifth and sixth in each of the events.'

Asked about her impressive week she added: 'I can't really remember right now! I'm definitely feeling it but yeah, I've had a great week, and I couldn't have probably asked for more, it's a pity there wasn't a bit more in the 400 (IM) but considering the week that I've had, I can't really expect much more.'

December Team of the Month
Lucan Sarsfields U21 hurlers

LUCAN Sarsfields U21 hurlers had plenty to shout about last month when they claimed the championship crown.

The 12th Lock side went all the way in the competition when they overcame the challenge of Faughs 3-10 to 1-8 in O'Toole Park.

Played in stormy conditions, Lucan had the edge in this contest with Darragh Meehan and Oisin Walsh among the scorers.

The game could have gone either way but Lucan held out to win the title they last won in 2019.

"It's a great way to finish out the season," remarked Lucan Sarsfields U21 mentor Johnny McCaffrey.

"The lads worked hard during the year and it has all paid off. It was a tough game against Faughs in the final and we got crucial scores on the day,".

Some of these players will be pushing to play at senior level at the club who are managed by former Kilkenny hurling star Charlie Carter.



Marcus Blake, Front Of House Manager, presents the Active South Dublin Team of the Month award to Lucan Sarsfields U21 player Shane Coffey along with mentor Johnny McCaffrey and Thos McDermott, Head of the Active South Dublin and William O'Connor, news editor *The Echo.*

Soccer

Jake commits himself to St Pat's

St Patrick's Athletic boosted their squad by signing Jake Mulraney on a multi-year contract extension.

The 28-year-old joined the club ahead of the 2023 campaign, and quickly became a fan favourite.

The Drimnagh lad has made 77 appearances, scoring 15 times, including our 2023 and 2024 Goals of the Season, as well as assisting two of our goals in the 2023 FAI Cup Final win against Bohemians.

The 2024 Senior Player of the Year had a year left to run on his contract, but has committed his long-term future by penning a new deal.

Speaking this week Jake told the club website: "I'm delighted to be it done and to put pen to paper and sign.

It's been in the works for a little bit. I know there was speculation and stuff but I didn't want to be anywhere else.

Since The Gaffer (Stephen Kenny) has come in, I feel like we've gone up the gears.

He's made little tweaks and stuff like that, I feel like it's going in the right direction so I just wanted to be part of it.

You can feel that there is a better belief among the group, we are ambitious to do well and we play the type of football that I like, which is another reason why I signed back.

The speed in our attack, the counter attacking football we can play, getting wide players on the ball and trying to make things happen and I'm glad to be part of it."

Belgard too strong as they progress in the Junior Shield

FATIMA Rangers bowed out of the LFA Junior Shield on Saturday when they went down 5-0 to a very good Belgard Athletic in Sean Walsh Park, *reports John Mooney.*

It was tough on Rangers who had prepared well for this encounter, but fell short when they just couldn't find the net.

Two goals in the opening 13 minutes had the home side in control and, no matter how hard they tried, the visitors just couldn't put the finishing touches to anything they created.

Belgard got off to a flyer when they opened the scoring after only four minutes, with a neat header from Gareth Edwards after Jack Darcy crossed.



Fatima Rangers Dylan Madden attempts to stop Belgard Athletic's Eoin Walsh in his tracks



Belgard Athletic were too strong for Fatima Rangers as they beat them 5-0 to progress in the LFA Junior Shield Photos by John Mooney

That was doubled on 13 minutes and it was a disaster for Fatima's Luke Johnson, after he played the ball across his 18 yard line only for the ever dangerous Jamie Dawson to pounce and smash home.

There were chances for the home side to increase their lead but, really, it was at the other end that the visitors were more wasteful as twice before the break they should have at least registered one goal, but failed to do so.

Five minutes after the restart Dawson made it 3-0 when he latched onto a Craig McEnroe centre, and minutes later it all went pear shaped for Fatima when they had a player sent off.

In fairness I thought they did well with 10 players on the field, but they were never going to stop Belgard adding to their tally.

Dawson was really enjoying himself, and was running the show, and it was from his free kick that they added a fourth as Michael Dunne headed home.

While five minutes before full time they added their fifth, when Dawson sent in a corner from the left that Dunne rose high at the back post and powerfully headed home to seal a great result for Belgard, who could go far in this competition.

BELGARD ATHLETIC: Jack Darcy, Micheal Dunne, Ken Bruce, Eoin Walsh, Jamie Dawson, Craig McEnroe, Gareth Edwards, Angelo Ferreria, Jay O'Connor, Sean Stafford, James Murphy.

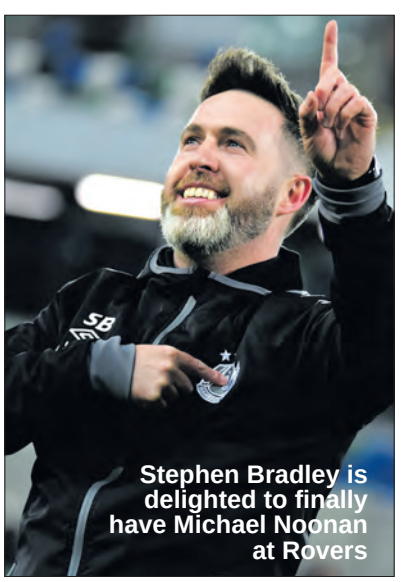
FATIMA RANGERS: Ryan McKenna, Evan Owens, Luke Johnston, Aidan May, James Cramp, Kian Knowles, Gerry Burke, Nathan Doyle, Dylan Madden, Lee Mcgugan, Jack McCormack.

Noonan signing a big boost for Rovers

The latest addition to the 2025 Men's First Team squad is striker, Michael Noonan, who joins from St Patrick's Athletic.

Michael will be added to the UEFA Conference League squad for the Molde games in the Conference League in February.

Speaking about signing the highly rated 16 year old, Head Coach, Stephen Bradley said: "I've watched Michael's game and progress since he was virtually a baby, really. I saw him play numerous times in Roadstone and followed his career since then. I tried to get Michael in last year, but it didn't happen. When I knew he wanted to come to Rovers this time around, it was a no-brainer for us as a club.



Stephen Bradley is delighted to finally have Michael Noonan at Rovers

"Michael is one of the best young players in the country and, as well as producing our own, we got to recruit the best as well so Michael falls into that category. He's a player I've watched for some time and he has real ability and a great attitude, so I'm delighted to get him in."

Michael spoke to the club website on his feelings on signing for the first team of the club he has supported all his life: "It's an incredible feeling, personally and for my family. I grew up going to Rovers matches with my Dad and my Grandad, so I always wanted to play in Tallaght Stadium. So, now that I'm getting the chance to play there for Rovers is an incredible feeling."

"My grandad in particular is a huge Rovers fan. My Dad is too, but Grandad attends all Rovers home games and also games away in Europe. I did mascot once or twice. I was only about four or five so I can't actually remember who walked me out!".

Midfielder Matt Healy has already signed for Rovers as has Ed McGinty who joins from Oxford United, having spent 2024 on loan to Sligo Rovers.



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