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Concerns as rocks deliberately placed on Luas tracks page 2

Embarking on one of the toughest races in the world page 19

Pages 24, 25 and 42 to 47



St Patrick's Day festivities




Culture day breaks down barriers

CULTURE Day at St Mark's Community School, Tallaght, is the students' "favourite day of the year," according to teacher Rebecca Morrin, reports Alessia Micalizzi. See page 11

900 STUDENTS FROM 28 COUNTRIES CELEBRATE UNIQUE EVENT

'Major financial crisis' says school after suffering massive underfunding

School will remain open as advanced payment made

SACRED HEART school that announced closure due to continuous state underfunding will stay open following an advanced payment from the Department of Education, reports Alessia Micalizzi. See page 16

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The next edition of ***The Echo***
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March 27, 2025. **Don't miss it!**



By Maurice Garvey
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UPGRADE: works were recently completed at Talghat Stadium to modernize dressing rooms and facilities for coaches and staff to meet UEFA Category 4 standards.

The line game to benefit from the upgrade was Shamrock Rovers FAI Conference League fixture against Sligo Rovers, and the FAI Women's National team Shamrock Rovers fixture on Sunday.

Shamrock Rovers South Dublin City Council was "delighted" to announce recently completed upgrades to the dressing rooms.

The work was completed by our partners Connolly Group.

Between December and February, with work completed in time for key season fixtures at the stadium.

The investment in bringing the changing rooms to UEFA category 4 is international standard not only reduces the number of players and staff but also supports the sporting development of the club. It was further evidence this match that the professional League footballers in the country are playing in the same FAI St. Patrick's Day.

It was a great day for the Shamrock Rovers in Talghat Stadium for a win and win on Monday.

It was the first time the stadium was used in the stadium since the 1990s.

It is one of the most important upgrades in the League rugby schedule, showcasing some of the best in the country in the premier league.

UPGRADE: Talghat Stadium

SERIOUS INCIDENT: The Luas was partially derailed

“Transdev would like to extend its gratitude to the communities and individuals who have supported us in maintaining a safe and reliable Luas service.”

A spokesperson for SDCC told *The Echo*: “South Dublin County Council has no comment to issue at this time in relation to this matter.”



Parents worry about their teenagers socialising habits

Report says youth services and facilities play a key role in promoting pro-social behaviour

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

NEARLY half of Tallaght parents worry about their teenagers' socialising habits according to a report that highlighted the need for more youth services and facilities.

The Trinity College Dublin's Health Assets and Needs Assessment (HANA) on Tallaght was published on Thursday, March 13 and was based on 274 local households.

While the report found that the local population is getting older, with people aged 65 and older tripling since 2001, 29pc of respondents had teenagers in the household.

The proportion of parents worrying about their teenagers socialising decreased since the last HANA reports, but it "remained significant."

The main reasons according to people surveyed were bullying and peer pressure (38pc), challenging behaviour or attitude (27pc), safety concerns (22pc) and anti-social behaviour of others (14pc).

In terms of their own teenagers, the number of parents reporting problematic behaviour decreased by 23pc and this "presents an opportunity



to build on this positive trend," read the report, "by promoting further resilience and pro-social behaviours."

However, the report acknowledged that youth services and facilities play a

key role in promoting pro-social behaviour and highlighted the common perception that Tallaght still doesn't have enough of those.

28pc of respondents reported a "lack

of amenities, especially for teenagers," which also featured among the "top three bad things about living in Tallaght," along anti-social behaviour and crime.

"Specific concerns were raised regarding the need for more sports clubs and youth facilities," the report said.

When it came to the use of existing community facilities, only 7pc of respondents said they use youth services, although the large majority considered them to be valuable and the response around their use might be due to the demographics of the survey.

Nearly half of respondents said they use playground and teen spaces, followed by 39pc saying they use sports facilities and 27pc availing of community centres and hobby facilities respectively.

According to the report, the best assets for recreation in Tallaght remain parks and greenspaces, with 81pc of respondents saying they use parks and allotments.

To generally improve the situation, 84pc of them suggested more sports clubs, additional youth facilities, better street lighting, and improved public safety.

To promote positive adolescent development specifically, the HANA report recommended that "interventions should focus on addressing concerns about socialising, strengthening family relationships, and reinforcing positive behavioural trends among teenagers."

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Gaelscoil raise €5k for pupil Archie's life-saving treatment

A Gaelscoil was “delighted” to raise €5,000 for a pupil’s life-saving treatment as they held a concert for Seachtain na Gaeilge, reports Alessia Micalizzi.

Principal of Scoil Chaitlín Maude in Kiltalown, Tallaght, Fiona O Fiaich said the whole school community was “so upset” when they found out their first-class pupil, Archie Ennis, was diagnosed with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy in December.

“There were tears. But then we turned into action mode and started thinking how we can be of any help.”

While Archie’s muscles are being weakened by the disease, and it’s harder for him to walk and stand, he is still attending school everyday with the help of SNAs and support staff.

His story is slowly touching every community group in Tallaght and parents Una and Kenneth have raised over €600,000 on a target of €3.2 million to cover the cost of a special gene therapy treatment in the United States.

“Everybody knows about Archie and everybody is doing their bit to help. As a school community, we put our heads together with teachers, staff, and parents to see what we could do,” said Fiona.

“Being an Irish school, we decided to combine the fundraiser with Seachtain na Gaeilge.”

On Wednesday, March 12, roughly all the 300 pupils of Scoil Chaitlín Maude took part in the school’s Seachtain na Gaeilge concert that had a donations book for Archie at the entrance while two raffles were held in between performances.

“There were two separate concerts, by Junior and Senior classes, who sang traditional Irish songs and then more modern, pop songs in Irish.

“We had Irish dancers and our choir perform too. It was great craic and we were blown away with people’s generosity.”

According to Fiona, about 600 people were present, with “loads of grannies and



SUPPORT: Scoil Chaitlín Maude pupil Archie Ennis

grandads” being there.

Among the raffle prizes, some of them being donated by local businesses, were general vouchers, zoo passes, concert and comedy tickets, and beauty treatments.

“I know Archie’s parents really appreciated this. We are so proud of our community for coming out and supporting them.”

Scoil Chaitlín Maude will now “sit back and see what else they can do,” for Archie. To donate, visit <https://gofund.me/94167a51>.

PROUD: Pupils from Scoil Chaitlín Maude who took part in the concert for pupil Archie

Uisce Eireann ‘totally ill equipped’ to deal with residents concerns

Water outage spanned for five days during a ‘very unsatisfactory state of affairs’

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

UISCE Eireann are “totally ill equipped” to deal with the concerns of residents according to a councillor who witnessed a five-day water outage in Bohernabreena last month.

“The water outage spanned five days from Thursday night [February 20] to Monday Morning [February 24]. People were left without water for three full days in certain areas,” said Councillor Alan Edge (IND) at the last Firhouse area meeting.

His motion asked South Dublin County Council to report on how such outages can be minimised in future as well as how communication between Uisce Eireann, SDCC and the public is managed.

While Cllr Edge is aware of the geographical and infrastructure issues which make outages “inevitable” in the area at times, he said residents felt “gaslighted” from Uisce Eireann.

“At times they were saying that there was no problem, then that the problem was resolved or wasn’t...

“They couldn’t put me in touch with a crew on the ground. It’s a very unsatisfactory state of affairs.”

Uisce Eireann confirmed to SDCC that there was an outage on February 23 and 24 affecting Boheranbreena, Montpellier, Piperstown, Glassamucky, and surrounding areas.

“They provided and updated information on this outage

on their website and also notified all customers in the area via their text alert system, as they worked as quickly as possible to resolve the outage,” said SDCC on their behalf.

“Updates on the outage were notified throughout the weekend, and a tanker alternative water supply was provided at St Anne’s Church car park.”

“It’s right to say that a tanker of water was delivered but only after I had a very testy conversation with someone on the phone and said, ‘Look, you have a list of vulnerable residents, where is the water supply for them?’” said Cllr Edge.

The water tanker was supplied on Sunday when some residents had already experienced outage for two full days.

“I was also told that lightning had hit a pump on Friday morning, which doesn’t tally with outage starting on Thursday,” added Cllr Edge. “What are we doing to prevent that from happening?”

While all councillors agreed on the difficulty of getting in touch with Uisce Eireann in case of outages arising, Councillor Emma Murphy (FF) suggested that Uisce Eireann “access points” are established for each local authority.

In response, a Council officer encouraged everyone to contact the existing Uisce Eireann Local Reps and to bear in mind that there are “challenges” in keeping and providing the information as updated as possible, “particularly over weekends.”

Local reps can be contacted at localrepsupport@water.ie.



ISSUES: Residents were left without water

School plans proceed to tender stage

THE approval for Scoil Chrónáin's new school building in Rathcoole to proceed to tender is a key milestone in the development of a new 16-classroom primary school and two Special Educational Needs (SEN) classrooms.

Local TD Emer Higgins, and Minister of State for eGovernment Digitalisation and Public Procurement who has worked closely with the school to advance this long-awaited project, described it as a major step forward that will bring much-needed relief to families in the area.

"I know how important this new school building is for the community, and I have been working with the school to push for progress over the last number of years. This approval means we're one step closer to getting shovels in the ground and delivering the modern school facilities that students, parents, and teachers in Rathcoole and nearby towns deserve."

For those unfamiliar with the process, this approval is a crucial stage in delivering a new school building. It means that the Department of Education has now given the green light to invite construction companies to bid for the project. Once a suitable contractor is selected, the project will move into the final pre-construction phase before work begins on site.

Minister Higgins also praised the efforts of the school management, parents and community volunteers who have worked tirelessly to secure a new school building for Scoil Chrónáin and the Rathcoole Community.

Residents furious over school bus lay-by plans

People are shocked at 'lack of communications' about these changes

RESIDENTS in Tymonville, Tallaght are "furious" as works to build a bus lay-by on their estate's green space started on Friday, reports Alessia Micalizzi.

The bus stop will mainly serve Colaiste de hÍde located across the road as part of the SDCC Castletymon Road Active Travel Scheme, while the estate's green is also being used as a temporary compound by the Council completing the works.

Since materials and builders were seen on the site on Friday, March 14, Tymonville Residents Association has been "bombarded" with messages, said committee member Michelle Lambe, as people were shocked by the "lack of communication" about these changes.

"They ask us to maintain the space and we put a lot of effort in it. But we're not getting back the same co-operation from them."

"It's our only green space and our kids play there."

A group of residents gathered at the site to protest on Tuesday, March 18, disrupting entrance to the estate and stopping the progression of works. They



held signs reading "We don't want our green destroyed."

According to them, there's "nothing hindering the bus from parking in the school grounds" and with the lay-by located in the estate students would have to "cross two roads" to reach the school entrance.

They highlighted that a bus engine running for long when picking up students would bring noise and environmental pollution to the estate too.

On the green space, the Residents' Association also planted two memory trees remembering locals who

passed from Covid-19 and suicide, and a Christmas Tree.

There's been no indication so far that they will be removed according to Ms Lambe.

"It's also the estate's entrance, it's a busy road in the morning. We were told that no compound was going to be in our estate."

"The residents living in those houses will be now looking at boarding."

According to Councillor Mick Duff (IND), the green will be "fully reinstated" when SDCC completes the works on the Active Travel

Scheme.

Speaking to *The Echo*, Colaiste de hÍde principal, Conchubhair Mac Ghloinn, said "we would be happy with the bus being brought into the school. It's a big double-decker so it's not that easy but we will ask the Council to allow this."

According to Principal Mac Ghloinn, SDCC wanted to have buses pulling up on Tymonville Road as part of their Active Travel Scheme because there are no other safe lay-bys on Castletymon Road.

However, "no one had

contacted the school" in relation to the drop off location of their bus which is part of a private, parent-led initiative.

Councillor Niamh Whelan (SF) said, "I have looked back on all information provided to us from SDCC in relation to the Castletymon Active Travel Scheme and can see no reference to this green being used temporarily or permanently."

The Echo contacted South Dublin County Council for comment, but a response wasn't received at the time of print.



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Belgard Retail Park set to be put on market in coming weeks

Total current rent at the retail park which is owned by Marlet is €3.45 million per annum

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

BELGARD Retail Park in Tallaght is among a few prime sites being readied for sale in the coming weeks.

The Parks Collective, which comprises Belgard Retail Park, the M1 Retail Park in Drogheda and Poppyfield Retail Park in Clonmel, was bought by developer Pat Crean's Marlet Property Group for €78m in 2021.

According to the Irish Times, the portfolio is expected to command a guide price of about €120m when agents Cushman & Wakefield bring it to the market.

This represents €42m more than the €78m Marlet paid US investor Marathon Asset Management to secure ownership of the three schemes.

Belgard Retail Park is occupied by a range of leading retailers including B&Q, Home Store & More, Burger King, Dealz, Halfords, Starbucks, and a new EZ Living unit.

Total current rent is about €3.45m per annum or some €320k more than the €3.13m it had been generating in 2021.

The overall rent roll of the three schemes has been increased from €7m to €9m.

Since acquiring the Parks Collection, Marlet has engaged in an intensive asset management programme at all three locations.

At Belgard Retail Park, the developer built a large new unit of 2,337 sq.m, in which furniture retailer EZ Living has agreed to occupy on a long-term lease.



PORTFOLIO: The Belgard Retail Park

Six teachers will lead the way in restorative practices to address conflicts

SIX Tallaght teachers will lead the way in "restorative practices" to address conflicts in their schools, following a six-month joint training with the Malta Anti-Bullying Service (MABS).

The initiative is part of an EU funded Erasmus+ project and was delivered by the Tallaght-based Childhood Development Initiative (CDI) who believe Restorative Practices can make "a real impact on communities."

A multidisciplinary field of study, Restorative Practices examine how to improve social connections and relationships within communities, and they can be used to address conflicts, bullying or gaps across divided groups within schools.

In March 2024, CDI travelled to Malta to provide introductory training to 16 educators from MABS and Maltese teachers, who then travelled to Tallaght in June to start the training with their local counterparts.

The group undertook intensive training,

studied RP research and attended the CDI's 'Getting started with restorative practices' course.

They then earned the title of 'Restorative Practices Trainers' with a graduation ceremony in December in Malta, and they will be able to implement the same approaches to conflict resolution in their schools.

"Restorative Practices are vital for creating positive school environments and fostering respectful relationships," said CDI marking International Day of Happiness on Thursday, March 20.

"We are incredibly proud of the commitment shown by our Tallaght teachers and their Maltese colleagues. This project is a testament to the power of collaboration and the impact of quality training."

One participant said, "This was the most valuable course I have ever engaged with. The facilitation was not only excellent but also incredibly supportive, which really gave me confidence in my own practice."

In safe hands



GARDA PATROL: Garda Sophie Gummerson, Garda Aaron Melinn, Garda Sgt Emer Lamon and Garda Darragh Melinn at the St Patrick's Day parade in Tallaght on Monday. Darragh and Aaron are brothers and it was Darragh's first day on duty as a garda at the parade.

Photo by Ben Ryan

Step Up for Family Carers

FAMILY Carers Ireland is calling on communities across the county to step up and stand in solidarity with family carers by taking part in Step Up for Family Carers, a 5km fundraising walk on Sunday, April 13th.

Every day, Ireland's 500,000 family carers provide unwavering support to loved ones—often without recognition or adequate support. Now, it's time for Dublin to step up for them.

This nationwide event will raise vital funds and awareness to ensure that Family Carers Ireland can continue to be there for those who dedicate their lives to caring for others.

A walk will take place in Waterstown Park, Palmerstown along with 10 other locations nationwide. There is also the option for people to complete 5km in their own area. This is not a race or a fitness challenge - it is a moment of solidarity, support, and recognition.

Grainne Quinn, Carer Supports Manager for Family Carers Ireland in Dublin is encouraging local communities to take part: "Family carers in Dublin do vital work, often at great personal cost. This event is a chance for the people of Dublin to come together, step up, and show that we value and support them. It's not just about the walk—it's about making sure our local family carers know they are not alone, and that help is available when they need it."

Irish rugby legend Mick Galwey is urging people to take part and show their support: "Caring can be isolating, and too many family carers feel forgotten. This walk is a simple but powerful way to send a clear message: 'We see you.'"

"We support you. You are not alone." Whether you join the organised walk in Dublin or do 5km in your own area, every step makes a difference. Now is the time for Ireland to step up."

'They're still coming to take down' insulation

External wall insulation Bill launched as family still facing €5,000 fine

By Alessia Micalizzi
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DUBLIN South-West TD Paul Murphy (PBP) launched an External Wall Insulation Bill while a constituent is still facing €5,000 fine or imprisonment for insulating his home without planning permission.

If enacted, it would make the installation of external insulation exempt from planning permission requirements, similar to the exemption for solar panels, with Deputy Murphy saying it aims to "speed up the process of retrofitting homes and allow councils to focus on more important work."

The bill, to be introduced to the Dáil at first stage in the coming weeks, comes as a Kilnamanagh family who spent €16,000 on a wraparound insulation for their home six years ago are now being told by South Dublin County Council that they need to take it down.

Clive and Samantha Ryan, who spoke at the launch of the Planning And Development (Exempted Development - External Wall Insulation) Bill on Tuesday, March 18 in Dublin, have been living in stress and frustration since they received that letter in December 2024.

They could face a €5,000 fine or imprisonment for the wrap-around that covers the original red brick down to the ground.

"At no stage was I ever informed that I needed to apply for planning permission," said Mr Ryan, who has now submitted three retention applications but hasn't had significant updates yet.

"From what I know, they're still coming to take it down in June," said Mr Ryan, who is glad the issue is being brought to the Dáil.

While the Minister for Housing said a few weeks ago that whether planning permission is required for insulation is "dependent on a number of factors" and has to be evaluated on a "case by case



INSULATION BILL: Paul Murphy, TD, Cllr Jess Spear with Samantha and Clive Ryan at the launch of the bill on Tuesday

basis," Taoiseach Micheal Martin said, "I do not understand why the local authority is seeking planning permission [in this case]. We do not want people to be penalised for insulation."

"There are millions of houses in this state that must be urgently retrofitted with proper insulation to bring down heating bills and emissions. If they all have to apply for planning permission or an exemption from the council, the level of paperwork and delays you are talking about here is unreal and unworkable in a climate emergency," said Deputy Murphy.

His bill would still consider exceptions for specific cases such as the house being "a protected structure or in an architectural conservation area."

“There are millions of houses in this state that must be urgently retrofitted with proper insulation to bring down heating bills and emissions. If they all have to apply ...

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Truck driver squashed cyclist between vehicle and another car

Female cyclist backpack got caught in the wheels of truck and spun her around

By Sonya McLean
news@echo.ie

A TRUCK driver who squashed a cyclist between his vehicle and another car leaving the woman in a critical condition has been given a suspended sentence.

It was accepted by gardaí that Peter Burns (50) caused the accident by not adequately checking his mirrors before he moved on after a traffic light turned green.

The court heard that the cyclist's backpack got caught in the wheels of the truck which spun her around so that her legs got trapped under the wheels rather than her head. She was immediately taken to hospital where her condition was initially taken to be critical.

She sustained multiple fractures and crush type injuries, has since undergone at least six surgeries and her rehabilitation is ongoing.

Burns of Glenshane Crescent, Tallaght, Dublin 24, pleaded guilty at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court to careless driving causing serious injury on July 23, 2020. The incident happened just by Heuston Station in Dublin City Centre.

Judge Martin Nolan said CCTV footage, which had been shown in court, clearly demonstrated that the cyclist and the bike was there and Burns did not see her due to his own inattention. He said this led to the bike being "squashed between another vehicle and Burns' vehicle"



"He drove without regard for her and she was nearly killed," Judge Nolan said noting that the woman sustained serious injuries and many fractures which took her a long time to recover from.

"He didn't notice her. It is his responsibility to be aware of all other road users but he had not paid the appropriate attention and should have given the cyclist a wider berth," the judge continued adding that Burns was

driving a big truck that was "capable of doing a lot of harm".

Judge Nolan acknowledged that Burns had no relevant record of conviction and there were no other aggravating factors involved other than

that he had not paid appropriate attention to his mirrors.

He said Burns did not deserve to go to prison before he imposed an eight month sentence which he suspended in full. He acknowledged that Burns drives for a living and has a dependant family and as such he felt that there was no need to disqualify him from driving.

"I think he will learn from this experience," Judge Nolan said.

Sergeant Derek Dalton told Kiernan Kelly BL prosecuting that the cyclist was on her way to work and around Heuston Station when the accident happened.

He said the cyclist was pulled under the wheel of the truck and explained that her backpack caused her body to be spun around so her lower body rather than her head and upper body went under the wheels and were crushed.

A victim impact statement was handed into the court and not read out.

Sgt Dalton said the cyclist spent weeks in hospital and has since undergone at least six surgeries. She suffered nerve and muscle damage and continues to attend physiotherapy.

Sgt Dalton agreed with Keith Spencer BL, defending, that his client caused the accident by failing to observe the cyclist due to a momentary lapse in concentration.

Mr Spencer told Judge Nolan that his client had not checked his mirrors properly and was concentrating on another vehicle moving on when the traffic light went green. He acknowledged that Burns had not looked in all his mirrors.

Three years jail for man who assaulted neighbour in supermarket car park

A MAN has been jailed for three years for assaulting his neighbour in a supermarket carpark leaving him with a broken nose, a fractured eye socket and nerve damage, reports Niamh O'Donoghue.

Stephen McKeever (49) of Errigal Road, Drimnagh, pleaded guilty to one count of assault causing harm to the man in the carpark of SuperValu Walkinstown on November 22, 2023. A charge of threatening to kill or cause serious harm was taken into consideration.

McKeever, who has no previous convictions, has 10 children and 10 grandchildren, Dublin Circuit Criminal Court heard.

Detective Garda Keith Brannigan gave evidence that a warrant was obtained the following day and when gardaí arrived at McKeever's home after midnight he said he knew why they were there saying: "it's me you're here for, sorry I saw red."

CCTV from SuperValu in Walkinstown showed the injured party walking towards his car when he saw McKeever exiting his vehicle. McKeever kicked and punched the victim for up to two minutes, the court heard.

When interviewed, McKeever said he'd had a few pints. "I just saw my wife's face in my head," he said, referring to a previous incident between the injured party and McKeever's wife.

McKeever said he had been "on the beer all day yesterday".

He was shown CCTV of him getting out of his vehicle and said "so fucking sorry" and "whatever words came out of my mouth I'm not a gangster".

Photos of the injuries sustained by the victim were handed in to the court.

The injured party suffered a broken nose, fractured eye socket and three of his teeth were chipped.

He had to go to the Eye and Ear Hospital, had bruising on his body, and had to spend three days in St. James' Hospital where he had surgery.

In a victim impact statement handed into the court, the victim, who did not attend, said he was deeply affected and struggled to feel safe when out in public.

He said he was waiting to collect his daughter and granddaughter at the time of the assault. He said he suffered a broken nose, fractured eye socket, nerve damage, but the most profound impact was on his mental wellbeing.

Under cross-examination, Det Gda Brannigan agreed with Oisín Clarke BL, defending, that McKeever has been on strict bail conditions.

He further agreed McKeever was "100 per cent co-operative" in interview, entered an early guilty plea and made full admissions. It was also

agreed McKeever said it was "a moment of madness" and "he saw red". The garda agreed it was out of character for McKeever who previously had a pro-social life.

In mitigation, Mr Clarke said it was a "complete and utter moment of madness". McKeever drank 17 to 18 pints on the day before, the court was told.

Mr Clarke said his client was an almost 50-year-old man who had never come to attention of the court before. He said the assault happened following an altercation between McKeever's wife and the injured party.

Counsel said he was a man well regarded by his family.

He has 10 children and 10 grandchildren with two more on the way. References handed into court stated he "is the bedrock of the family."

A newspaper article was handed into court about McKeever's involvement in the raising of "a lot of money" for children with special needs.

"This is a man who is a strong family man," with a "charitable nature," Mr Clarke told the court.

Mr Clarke said his client had a drinking problem "that got worse over Covid". He has since regulated his drinking. McKeever has a cardiac issue and is booked for an angiogram, the court was told.

Counsel said "90 seconds or two minutes of madness that has destroyed his life".

Mr Clarke said a probation report put McKeever at moderate risk of re-offending because "of elements used in the offence itself", and this was not based on an analysis of his previous good character.

Counsel said McKeever has regulation difficulties and is still drinking but the Probation Service are willing to deal with him.

Judge Patricia Ryan said it was an aggravating factor that it was a protracted attack causing the injured party to sustain a head injury and lasting nerve damage.

In mitigation, she took account of McKeever's early plea of guilty, his previous good record and his expression of remorse.

She said he was a man with an excellent work ethic and was a family man who provides support to all members of his family.

The judge set a headline sentence of seven years but reduced it to four with the final year suspended.

The judge said McKeever is to remain under the supervision of the Probation Service for one year post-release and to keep away from the injured party for three years. The judge reiterated that he is to have no contact whatsoever with the injured party.

Kevin (23) died as a result of multiple traumatic injuries

Criminal prosecution against the death of motorist did not go ahead as accused had died

By Seán McCárthaigh
news@echo.ie

A CRIMINAL prosecution against the driver of a vehicle involved in a fatal collision with a pedestrian in Tallaght over two years ago did not go ahead due to the death of the motorist, an inquest has heard.

Kevin Sheedy (23) from Killinarden, Dublin was killed when he was hit by an SUV on the N81 Tallaght bypass on the evening of January 11, 2023 at around 7.15pm.

The fatal incident occurred while Mr Sheedy was walking near the junction of the N81 with the Old Blessington Road at Springfield in poor weather conditions with heavy rain reported at the time.

The driver and sole occupant of the SUV which struck the victim, who was understood to be a woman in her 40s, did not require hospital treatment.

Mr Sheedy was pronounced dead at the scene of the collision.

A sitting of Dublin District Coroner’s Court on Friday heard that the DPP had directed that criminal proceedings should be initiated against the driver following an examination of a file on the Garda investigation of the case.

However, Inspector Nigel McNaw told the hearing that the motorist – who was not named publicly – had died before a prosecution could be initiated.

“Unfortunately, the accused passed away in the interim between the direction being issued and being charged,” said Insp McNaw.

A solicitor for Mr Sheedy’s family, Luke



FATAL COLLISION: Kevin Sheedy died when he was hit by an SUV on the N81 Tallaght bypass in January 2023

Hanahoe, indicated he had no issue with Insp McNaw’s request for a date to be fixed for a hearing of the full inquest into the circumstances of the deceased’s death.

The coroner, Cróna Gallagher, said her office would gather all relevant information and liaise with Mr Sheedy’s family to schedule a date for the hearing.

A number of the victim’s relatives attended the brief hearing but did not address the coroner.

The results of a postmortem on Mr Sheedy’s body revealed at a preliminary opening of the case in September 2023 that he had died as a result of multiple traumatic injuries consistent with a road traffic collision.

Mr Sheedy was a graduate of theatre studies at the Inchicore College of Further Education.

A GoFundMe fundraising campaign established by friends of the deceased to help Mr Sheedy’s family with the funeral expenses raised over €13,000.

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Graffiti removal cost local authority €100,000 last year

Specialist removal is required where the surface or location is not suitable for painting

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

GRAFFITI removal cost approximately €100,000 in 2024, according to estimates by South Dublin County Council.

At the recent monthly meeting, Cllr Justin Sinnott (SocDems) asked for details on the total spend for graffiti removal by the local authority in 2024.

In response, SDCC estimated that almost €53,000 was spent on graffiti removal in 2024.

"In addition to this spend, a contract is in place since September 2024 to remove all types of graffiti as necessary including specialist graffiti. There are also wages costs associated with graffiti removal that are accounted for separate to the figure of €53,000. In total, there has been in the region of €100,000 spent on graffiti in 2024," said SDCC.

According to SDCC, the public realm section has for years, been working in partnership with the Probation Services to enhance the response to graffiti.

"The engagement with the Probation Services stems from a Community Service Graffiti Removal Project which was an initiative of the

Probation Services and forms part of community service for offenders. This partnership involves the identification of specific public areas by the public, their elected representatives or council staff of areas where graffiti has defaced property throughout the county. These areas are then inspected by local anti-litter wardens and subsequently referred to either the council's graffiti removal crew or the Probation Services depending on the specific location or type of graffiti/surface involved," said SDCC.

Following a tender process in 2024, a contractor has been engaged to remove all types of graffiti.

Specialist removal is required where the surface or location is not suitable for painting, such as graffiti on a finished concrete surface or a cut stone or brick finish.

To assist with graffiti, the council also cited the Social Credits Scheme, which supports community groups and individuals who take part in clean-ups.

There is also funding available for projects which qualify for Anti-Litter and Anti-Graffiti Awareness initiatives with applications for these to be accepted in the coming months.



“In addition to this spend, a contract is in place since September 2024 to remove all types of graffiti. There are also wages costs associated with graffiti ...

‘It’s the little kind acts that make such a difference to people’s lives’

Cllr Mick Duff

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Mick can be contacted on:
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mduff@cllrs.sdublincoco.ie

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Mick DUFF
From the Community and For the Community

A SUPPORT group for parents of neurodivergent children will be able to keep their meetings up and running thanks to the local priory offering them a room.

Sensory Safari parents meet once a month to help each other with filling forms for the HSE, applying for financial support and most importantly learning more about health devices which can make their children's lives easier, such as the 'AAC' for non-verbal communication.

Getting a room donated came as a "lifesaver," said founder Charlotte Cahill, a mother from Tallaght, as keeping up with the costs of renting

a community space was "becoming impossible."

The group is entirely self-funded and will now be able to use their funding for children's activities such as inclusive gymnastics and more practical support for the parents.

Tallaght Person of the Year 2024, Glenda Murphy Smullen put the group in touch with St Mary's Priory in Tallaght, through Pat Kenny, until the priory's Retreat Centre offered the room for the meetings free of charge.

"We would like to say a huge thank you to Pat Kenny, Father Donagh, Trisha Gaygen, Amy, Anita and all the staff in St Mary's

Priory's Retreat Centre for their kind offer," commented Glenda. "It's the little kind acts that make such a difference to people's lives."

"The new room is beautiful and we are so grateful," added Charlotte. "Getting this stress off our shoulders means we can now use our fundraising for actual support and activities for our children."

She explained that while parents should access the AAC devices publicly, the current backlog in the HSE can make them wait up to six years before they get one. Sensory Safari also fundraised to help some of the parents getting them privately.

"We hope that by doing this we keep supporting more families."

Charlotte, whose 6-year-old daughter Cyra was diagnosed with autism two years ago, is also an advocate for more special classes and school places in the Dublin 24 area and led last month's sleep out at the Department of Education.

"They have agreed to meet with us but still haven't given us any date or timeframe," she said. "We keep feeling treated like second class citizens."



Well organised women’s day discussion

DOMESTIC violence, gender pay gap, and women in politics were only a few of the many topics discussed at the NIDOE-Ireland International Women's Day virtual event.

The Irish branch of the Nigerian in Diaspora Organisation Europe celebrated women on Friday, March 7, with an online panel discussion attended by 75 people.

While the achievements of women in history were praised, the challenges they still face today and recommendations for solutions were highlighted, inspired by the national “accelerate action” theme.

Panelists included Dr Francesca La Morgia, Primary Care manager with the Department of Education, Marie Corr, Intercultural and Diversity coordinator, Barr Tina Chioma Ohaa, legal expert and community leader, and Abosede Grace Ogunsanya, doctoral scholar at Maynooth University.

On a lighter note, participants shared insights on female role models who have impacted them positively and quotes of empowerment.

“It was a well organised, well attended and a well moderated event,” commented Yemisi Ojo, NIDOE-Ireland director and moderator of the two-hour event.

While participants posed questions to the panelists, they were also encouraged to give answers to other participants’ questions, making the whole event “very interactive.”

NIDOE-Ireland Vice Chair Grace Anyanwu was the chief host of the event. Support services phone numbers and helplines were shared.

“We left thinking that International Women’s Day should be celebrated more than once a year,” added Ms Ojo.

28 countries represented at St Mark’s Culture Day

‘Favourite day of the year’ is a big hit with schools 900 students

By Alessia Micalizzi
alessia@echo.ie

CULTURE Day at St Mark’s Community School, Tallaght, is the students’ “favourite day of the year,” according to teacher Rebecca Morrin.

In its seventh year, Culture Day in St Mark’s gathered over 900 students from 28 countries on Thursday, March 13, and welcomed the Indian ambassador to Ireland Akhilesh Mishra.

Organised as a “food market,” where typical dishes from all represented countries are available, the event is then enriched by dance and music performances and a “cultural fashion show.”

“We had dancing from India, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Lithuania, Ukraine, Brazil,” said Ms Morrin who co-ordinated the event this year.

“The school choir sang Irish songs, and the Irish school band played, then we had a Ukrainian singer.”

Over 100 students were involved in the performances.

“The kids love it, and they practice so much before it. They absolutely love to share their cultures and it’s their favourite day of the year. They’re really looking forward to it.”

Besides food, each country’s “table” displays traditional clothes, information on the language, music



CULTURE DAY: Olimlia, Julia and Oliver at St Mark’s Culture Day

and traditions. The students put a “huge amount” of effort into showing what makes them most proud of their heritage.

“Although we celebrate what makes each of our cultures unique

and different, it is also a day when we can see all the things that we have in common,” wrote the school.

“Our Culture Day has successfully broken down many of the barriers between our students teaching us to

value, appreciate and respect one another.”

The presence of the Indian ambassador representing part of St Mark’s multicultural fabric made the day “extra special,” they added.



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Amendments would include the loss of eight car parking spaces

By Maurice Garvey

maurice@echo.ie

CONCERNS have been raised by businesses in Lucan Village around amendments to the Lucan Road Boardwalk project, which would include the loss of eight car parking spots across the road from the Circle K garage.

A scaled down version of a previously approved 2022 boardwalk plan was presented at a local area committee meeting in September, 2024.

South Dublin County Council announced proposed changes to the canal loop scheme – the active travel route between the Grand Canal and the Royal Canal – specifically with the layout approach into Lucan Village adjacent to Sarsfield Park.

Original plans were for a 220-metre boardwalk, but this was cut to a 90-metre boardwalk.

The plans also involve a cycle track on Lucan Road and reduction of part of Lucan Road to widen the path.

At the September meeting, SDCC said the amendment would reduce costs and the impact on trees in Sarsfield Park that will have to be removed for the construction of the boardwalk by 60 per cent.

The eight car parking spots on Lucan Road will be relocated to the far side of Sarsfield Park.

A number of businesses in Lucan Village that *The Echo* spoke to this week fear the loss of further parking spaces in the village.

“Six parking spots were taken away a number of years ago,” said Grainne Lamon, owner of Ryans Village Café, pointing to the outside of her premises on Lucan Road.

One of the bus stops here has not been used by any bus for a while and lies idle, according to locals.

“At the moment business is good but people will go elsewhere. We have been here 12 years and have a lot of elderly customers, it’s a place where they have a social connection. We worry about them if they don’t show up. It’s a real community place,” said Grainne.

Ciara O’Callaghan, who runs neighbouring premises Dramatherapy Ireland, works with a lot of neuro divergent children with high needs.

“I don’t think parents will be able to bring them here if they have to park up the road. I work with a lot of kids with autism, ADHD, social anxiety, any change of routine for them is

quite disruptive,” said Ciara.

“We have been here four years and I love Lucan Village and the community. We tell parents to come 15 minutes early for appointments but losing parking would lose that community. As it is there is less and less supports for children with high needs, where is the inclusivity?”

Marcus Finnerty, owner of Salon of Capelli, said news of the changes has led to “distressed calls” from customers.

“It will badly impact us. Many of my clients park on the road. If this happens it will cause major disruption to the business,” said Marcus.

Lucan Village Business and Services Group made submissions to the Lucan Road Boardwalk Alterations plan on the council’s online consultation portal.

Dr David Lombard, a member of the group said he was only aware of the revised plan when he received a notification email from the council “otherwise we wouldn’t have known.”

“We would like to see the boardwalk but there are other options. Bring the cycle lane into Sarsfield Park, rather than have it on the road cycling against the flow of traffic. That is the lowest cost option.”

Neither Dr Lombard or Michael Boyle, Lucan Village Pharmacy, can see the submissions they made on the council portal, despite the latter’s understanding that his submission was number 22 received.

Lombard’s submission was made three weeks ago.

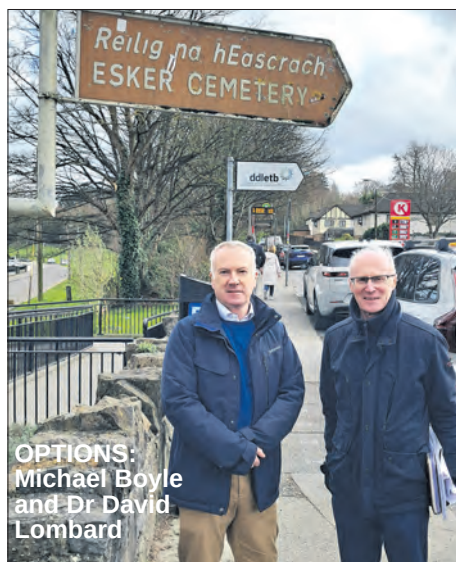
People who filled in the online council survey also found it very “misleading” in terms of the type of questions it posed.

In the space of a week, Boyle collected 850 submissions from businesses and residents, submitting them in the post just in time for the deadline last week.

“It’s a boardwalk that goes nowhere, and you can’t park the bikes,” said Boyle, who feels that lack of clear communication around the whole process “doesn’t help to build confidence” in the council plans.

Cllr Liona O’Toole (Ind) believes the scaled down version of this Boardwalk project, is due to a reduction of funding from the Budget and has asked the council for clarification.

“We went through all this in 2022 with the boardwalk Part 8, we lost that war, were bruised and moved on. Now this has opened up old wounds again – we do not need this boardwalk.



Other options are not being looked at,” O’Toole told *The Echo*.

Speaking at the area meeting in September, O’Toole wanted it noted that councillors were just asked for their input on the amendment but ultimately “don’t have a say.”

An SDCC spokesperson said: “A non-statutory consultation was held recently to gather the opinions of the public on potential amendments to the proposed boardwalk section of the Lucan Urban Greenway, close to the Lucan Road and Sarsfield Park, which received Part 8 Planning approval in November 2022.

The non-statutory consultation suggested some alterations which would enable the project to be delivered faster, at a reduced cost and which would involve a reduction in the number of trees to be removed.

In advance of the consultation, members of the Lucan Palmerstown and North Clondalkin Area Committee were briefed on two occasions and their support was sought in publicising the consultation. The consultation was also published on the SDCC portal and advertised on SDCC social media platforms.

A report will now be prepared and brought to the Area Committee. Another round of public consultation would be required if any amendments to the approved Part 8 were identified.”

Echo opinion...

Amazing community spirit at local parades

WITH an overall attendance of over 50,000 people, the four St Patrick’s Day parades in South Dublin County proved that putting effort and showing up for your community always pay off.

The long-awaited comeback of the Tallaght parade, that hadn’t been on since 2019, brought 20,000 people to the village who “embraced it and took ownership of it,” according to South Dublin County Council.

While the Council worked hard to bring the parade back, so did the 38 community groups who signed up to march, and all the attendees who “brought colour and positive attitude” and “created an amazing atmosphere.”

Organisers of the Clondalkin and Four Districts parades in Rathcoole both said they had the “largest crowd ever” this year, with Clondalkin’s Grand Marshal Thyes Kavanagh calling everyone to remember how important it is to be “a good neighbour.”

According to Councillor Francis Timmons (IND) 10,000 to 12,000 attended the Clondalkin parade, while Four Districts’ Sharon Redmond said she saw “thousands” lining the streets all the way from Rathcoole to Saggart.

The Lucan parade, with 20,000 in attendance, gave “a job to everyone,” said organiser Caroline Brady, while it showcased all types of local talent.

“Putting out barriers, setting up refreshments for volunteers, packing up after the parade and tidying up the village,” were only some of the tasks that ‘good neighbours’ took on the day in the name of the community spirit.

It was a huge success in all respects, but it wouldn’t have been possible to say so without everyone who came out on the day to celebrate and support the area they live in.



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Plans for 197 apartments at Greenhills Road site refused

ABP said plot ratio and heights proposed exceed 'clearly stated ranges' under area plan

By Maurice Garvey

maurice@echo.ie

PROPOSALS for close to 200 apartments at a site on Greenhills Road have been refused planning permission by An Bord Pleanála, who considered it would constitute overdevelopment and be contrary to local area plans.

Greenhills Living Limited, were seeking permission for a strategic housing development at lands located at the intersection of Greenhills Road and Airton Road, Tallaght.

The proposed development contained plans for 197 apartments (79 one-bed, 105 two-bed and 13 three-bed) in four blocks ranging in height from seven to eight storeys.

It also comprised the demolition of an existing substation and the construction of a childcare facility, four commercial units and associated site works.

Plans also contained provision for 78 car parking spaces and 448 bicycle parking spaces.

A HSE primary health centre and retail park are located across the road from the subject site, as is another SHD site being built for 500 apartments at the former Gallaher's site.

In making their decision for refusal, ABP said the plot ratio and heights proposed exceed "clearly stated ranges" under the Tallaght Town Centre Local Area Plan 2020-2026 and the proposed development is "considered to constitute overdevelopment of the site."

The Board said the proposed height of the development and proposed retail unit mix - which fails to comply with the target of a minimum of 30 percent of three plus bed units - would be contrary to both the Tallaght Town Centre Local Area Plan and the South Dublin County Development Plan 2022-2028.

The Board also noted that at least 50 percent of the apartments do not qualify as dual aspect.



REFUSED: An artist on the plans for the site on the Greenhills Road close to the Astro Park and former Gallaher's site

Council unable to 'identity the originator of the material'

By Alessia Micalizzi

alessia@echo.ie

SOUTH Dublin County Council weren't able to "identify the originator of the material" while investigating the rise of illegal dumping in an estate.

Last week, *The Echo* reported on a resident of Swiftbrook Close, Tallaght, who was seen burning plastic rubbish in his garden, creating concerns to neighbours.

One of the neighbours said dumping of food, alcohol, drugs and household waste has gotten worse over the past four years while authorities are not doing enough in the area.

"Issues of litter and illegal dumping at Swiftbrook Close have been reported to South Dublin County Council through our Environmental Complaints System," a spokesperson for SDCC told *The Echo* this week.

"A South Dublin County Council Litter Warden carried out inspections on March 7 and returned on March 12.

"While signs of littering and illegal dumping have been identified at this location, following a search of the material, no identifiable evidence has been uncovered by the Litter Warden to identify the originator of the material.

"Our Public Realm section have removed litter and waste from the area and will assess this area again over the coming week."

SDCC called on all householders to comply with their obligations when it comes to waste management and disposal, by respecting the SDCC Household and Commercial Waste Byelaws 2018.

The Council Waste Enforcement and Licensing Section teams will be carrying out surveys to monitor compliance in the coming weeks.



ILLEGAL: Rubbish dumped in Swiftbrook in Tallaght

Library hosts Let's talk about Endometriosis

TAKING place Wednesday, March 26, 6:30pm, Conference Room, Tallaght Library.

This talk, taking place in the Conference Room in Tallaght Library will start at 6:30 pm with leading experts in Women's Health, particularly Endometriosis.

Dr Aoife O'Neill, Consultant Obstetrician who leads the Regional Advanced Endometriosis Service at TUH will facilitate the talk and will be joined by, Dr Denise Ward, GP with a special interest in Women's Health, Ms. Paula Earley, Clinical Nurse Specialist on Endometriosis and Dr Charlie Leahy, Specialist Registrar in Obstetrics & Gynaecology

The team will tackle some of the common myths about Endometriosis, what steps women can take to manage the condition, and the role of the GP in treating the illness.

Endometriosis is a condition which sees tissue similar to the lining of the womb grow in other parts of a woman's body, generally on organs in the pelvic cavity such as the ovaries, fallopian tubes and bowel. It can be painful and impact a woman's education, personal and professional relationships, mental health and quality of life.



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New licence for local radio station

BALLYFERMOT-based local radio station Together FM, hit the ground running with their new FM licence, which was granted just in time for St Patrick's Day weekend.

Together FM were recently awarded an FM licence from Coimisiún na Meán – the Irish broadcasting and online media regulator.

This means they will begin broadcasting on 96FM every weekend from 9am to 9pm.

Therese Fagan, Chairperson, Together FM said they are "delighted" with the development and began their weekend broadcasting on Saturday, March 15.

The goal for the station was to transition from online only to FM radio broadcasting.

Saturday featured a packed schedule from 9am to 9pm with regular features such as 'Songs from the Movies', 'Community Matters' with host David Moore, 'Drivetime Revival' with Ian McDonagh, and 'Under the Covers.'

Sunday saw another busy schedule with shows that included 'Earley in the Morning' with David Earley, 'Caitlin agus Ceol' with Caitlin Corcoran and 'The Sunday Brunch' with Therese Fagan.

"We will also continue to broadcast online 24 hours a day, seven days a week on www.togetherfm.com," added Therese.

Based in Ballyfermot Civic Centre, Together FM is the local community radio station for Ballyfermot Palmerstown, Chapelizod, Bluebell, Clondalkin and Inchicore.

The station hosts a range of talk shows, as well as a range of music programmes, local news and current affairs, community events and sports coverage.

"We are looking for people to get involved in the radio station as volunteers. There are lots of roles available," said Therese.

Anyone interested can email info@togetherfm.com to find out more.

Department makes advanced payment to school

RELIEF: The Department of Education made an advanced payment to Sacred Heart school

'Relief' for parents who hope there will be no more uncertainty in the future

By Alessia Micalizzi
alessia@echo.ie

A PUBLIC school that announced closure due to continuous state underfunding will stay open following an "advance payment" from the Department of Education.

The news was met with "relief" according to parents, who now hope that "there will be no more uncertainty in the future."

On Friday, the news of Sacred Heart Junior School in Killinarden having to shut its doors to pupils as basic bills could no longer be paid was deemed "outrageous" by the local community and public representatives.

"I was very worried and alarmed, there were nervousness and uncertainty in the air as nobody knew what was going to happen," said a parent and former pupil of the

school, Lynn Byrne.

With two daughters having attended the school, Lynn has a third child who is supposed to start junior infant in Sacred Heart in September.

"The advance payment was a relief because at least kids can go to school, which is the most important," she added.

"The school have until the end of the term and the principal can get prepared for the future. But will there be funding for September 2025? We need any uncertainty to be cleared up."

The advance payment is an early payment of the Government's capitation grant which was due to the school in June 2025 but will be paid "before the end of this week," explained Fianna Fail TD for Dublin South-West John Lahart.

"The school is now actively engaging with the Financial Support Services Unit (FSSU)

to assess and address its financial position. The Department has requested further details from the school to ensure appropriate and targeted support can be provided," he added.

In a letter sent to parents on Friday, March 14, the school announced they would move to online teaching from April 1 after suffering "massive underfunding for many years due to cuts from the Department of Education" and hitting a "major financial crisis" as a result.

"The Department of Education is now making an advance payment of our funding which means we can keep the school open, which is a relief to all concerned," wrote principal Orla McLoughlin in a new letter issued to parents on Tuesday, March 18.

A parents meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 19, to discuss the situation was

consequently cancelled.

"This has been an extremely difficult and stressful time for our students, parents, and staff," went on the letter.

"We will continue to work with the Department of Education to secure a long-term funding solution for our school."

According to Lynn, the Capitation Funding provided to the school needs to be reviewed, as the school "cannot fully operate and cover running costs" on the current one.

"We're talking heating, lighting, cleaning, management. Everything that keeps the school open. Sacred Heart Junior and Senior need more."

Online teaching, which was the only solution left until last week, should be used only as a last resort according to the mother.

"During the pandemic it was extremely challenging. Kids need a school environment, and

home is not a school environment. They need routine and structure."

"I was not going to let any school in Tallaght close due to funding challenges," continued Deputy Lahart.

"The Department is maintaining direct contact with the school and the patron to ensure continued financial stability.

"This funding and financial oversight will provide much-needed stability for students and staff. Now a medium to long term plan is required and I hope that these moves will help to ease the stress, anxiety and concerns that has been caused this week."

He highlighted that over the last two Budgets, capitation rates for primary schools have increased by 22pc, and that €45 million in cost-of-living support was issued to schools in November 2024 to assist with heating and electricity bills.

RAMS receive plaque of appreciation

THE singing group for retired men RAMS in Rhythm were surprised with a plaque of appreciation from the Dublin Simon Community after contributing to their cause over the last three years.

Representative of the charity, Gay Mooney, made a presentation to the RAMS Musical Director Liam O'Donnell on March 7, in Newcastle Community Centre, where the group are based.

"We were so pleased to receive a surprise visit," said RAMS Secretary Matthew Dowling.

"The RAMS have been supporting the Dublin Simon Community by fundraising for them in various venues like the Liffey Valley Shopping Centre at Christmas and the Mill Shopping Centre in Clondalkin.

"We have raised over €5,000 for them and the tremendous work they do to

prevent homelessness. Liam works tirelessly to support many charities and community events that are fundraising for their own needs."

At the presentation, Dublin Simon Community agreed that the group will perform for the cause again next Christmas in the Liffey Valley Shopping Centre.

"Our members are so pleased to sing and perform, and with great pride, to see our charities benefit from our singing," said Matthew.

The RAMS meet every Thursday in Newcastle Community Centre at 10am to enjoy activities of pool, table tennis, socialising, eats and treats.

Their membership includes retired men from Newcastle, Rathcoole, Lucan, Clondalkin, and Tallaght.



SURPRISE: Members of RAMS receive the plaque of appreciation

Applications received for vacant property refurb grant

SOUTH Dublin County Council received a hundred applications for the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant since January 2024. While nine have been withdrawn and two have been declined, some 80 are going through the approval process and five grants have been paid. The Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant was introduced in 2022, with 44 properties benefiting from it so far according to Council data. In response to a question submitted by Councillor Niamh Whelan (SF), SDCC said the current average processing time for applications to be approved is 56 days. Since 2022, 27pc of applications received resulted in the funding being granted, while about 30 potential homes are currently listed on the county's derelict sites register. To learn more, visit the Vacant Homes webpage on www.sdcc.ie.

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‘To the Power of Three’ inspirational for youth

Youth Arts project involved 60 people between 15 to 25 from MacUilliam

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

TWENTY young people from Tallaght were encouraged to express themselves while meeting peers from all over the island through a new youth arts project. ‘To the Power of Three’ is funded by Creative Ireland’s Shared Island Creative Youth Partnerships and is locally facilitated by Tallaght Community Arts. It involves 60 people aged 15 to 25 from Mac Uilliam in Tallaght, Enniscorthy in Wexford and Derry. “It’s been really inspirational to see young people who weren’t given many opportunities or services to take on this so passionately,” said Jack Jones, Assistant Producer with Tallaght Community Arts and one of the youth co-ordinators of the project. “The aim is to talk about communalities rather than differences in the island, and to bring young people to enjoy time together and do cool things.” In February, Mac Uilliam hosted a three-day “creative residency” with participants from Derry and Wexford joining their Tallaght counterparts and exploring the area. As they all got to know each other through questions and chats, they then performed through theatre, music, and visual arts and exchanged ideas to develop original arts pieces together. According to Jack, the young people of Mac Uilliam shortly overcame the

initial hesitation and shyness to feel comfortable interacting with their peers and “facilitating” the activities too. “Getting involved in the management of things, and lead as adults for the first time, gave them confidence, as they knew they could be themselves and they would be accepted by the people around them.” As they took ownership of their creativity, the young people also created new, long lasting friendships. The next residency will take place in Enniscorthy in April, followed by a third one in Derry and a final performance “somewhere along the border.” Diversity and inclusion are a key part of the project as especially the Derry and Mac Uilliam groups are “LGBTQ+ oriented” and the Mac Uilliam one is the most “ethnically diverse,” said Jack. The Creative Places Mac Uilliam group participating in the project is led by Bronwen Barrett and Michelle Henry of Freshly Ground Theatre and coordinated by Jennifer Webster from TAC. It is further strengthened by SoFFt Productions providing support for technical and production skills and supported by the Arts Council and SDCC Arts Office too. “As To the Power of 3 unfolds, its participants will not only develop artistic skills but also build lasting connections, gaining the confidence to shape the future of arts and culture in Ireland,” commented Tallaght Community Arts.



CREATIVE: Jack Jones, Assistant producer with the Tallaght Community Arts

“It’s been really inspirational to see young people who weren’t given many opportunities or services to take on this so passionately. The aim is to talk about communalities rather than differences in the island, and to bring young people to enjoy time together and do cool things

ICA group are on the lookout for members

Group was founded in 1964 has 12 members

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

THE Bohernabreena Irish Country Women’s Association (ICA) are on the lookout for new members as they are about to celebrate 61 years in the community. Founded in March 1964, the association is currently made up of 12 members, mostly retired, who can teach any kind of old crafts while also providing a social outlet for the area. “Everyone would be very welcome and encouraged to learn, we have great teachers. One of our ladies, there’s no craft she can’t do,” said member Peggy Lynch.

Ms Lynch, with the ICA since 1987, moved to the Bohernabreena group eight years ago, while other members have been there for 25 to 30 years. “I met a lot of very good friends I wouldn’t have met if I hadn’t joined,” she said. “With my former group we wrote a history book that we presented to the European Parliament.” According to their social media, the ICA is indeed the largest women’s association in Ireland, with “more than 6,000 members” nationwide. The Bohernabreena ICA meet every second and fourth Monday of each month from 8pm to 10pm in St Anne’s GAA, where they are

provided with a room. New members are welcome to drop in on those hours and yearly membership is €60. “Learn new crafts & skills. Our teacher can help you with any unfinished crafts that you may have been unable to complete,” said the group. “Meet up with members from other guilds on Craft Days, attend a variety of functions, theatre and meal outings to name just a few of our activities. We would be delighted to see you.” They also plan to go on a weekend retreat in June in An Grianán, Co Louth, a country house that was historically used as an ICA summer school.



Comhairle Contae
Átha Cliath Theas
South Dublin County Council

**COMHAIRLE CONTAE
BHAILE ÁTHA CLIATH THEAS
CISTE BONNEAGAR POBAIL 2025**

Aithníonn Comhairle Contae Bhaile Átha Cliath Theas na hiarrachtaí atá á ndéanamh ag na heagraíochtaí pobail go léir atá ag obair le chéile ar bhonn leanúnach chun feabhsúcháin a dhéanamh agus a chur i bhfeidhm ar bhealach inbhuanaithe ionchuimsitheach chun freastal ar riachtanais a bpobal áitiúil.

Glacfar le hiarratais ar Chiste Bonneagar Pobail Chomhairle Contae Bhaile Átha Cliath Theas ón **Aoine, an 14 Márta 2025**.

Is ciste de €450,000 é an Ciste Bonneagar Pobail lena gcuirtear deis ar fáil do Ghrúpaí Pobail (lena n-áirítear Clubanna Spóirt) cur isteach ar mhaoiniú, chun cabhrú leo an costas a bhaineann le tógáil Áiseanna Pobail nó áitribh atá ann cheana féin a nuachóiriú agus/nó a shíneadh, a chlúdach, measfar iarratais ó íosmhéid de €5,000 go dtí uasmhéid de €50,000.

Is féidir iarratais a dhéanamh ar líne ag www.sdcc.ie

An spriocdháta d'fhoirmeacha iarratais ar líne atá comhlánaithe ina n-iomláine do Chlár Ciste an Bhonneagair Pobail ná: **Déardaoin 17 Aibreán ar 4i.n.**

Ní ghlacfar le hiarratais dhéanacha.

.....

**SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL
COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE FUND 2025**

South Dublin County Council is conscious of the efforts of the many community organisations that work together on an ongoing basis to deliver and implement improvements in a sustainable and inclusive way in servicing the needs of their local communities.

Applications are invited for South Dublin County Council's Community Infrastructure Fund from **Friday 14th March 2025**.

The Community Infrastructure Fund is a fund of €450,000 which offers Community Groups (including Sports Clubs) the opportunity to apply for funding, to assist with the costs of either constructing new Community Facilities or for the modernisation and/or expansion of existing premises, requests from a minimum of €5,000 up to a maximum of €50,000 will be considered.

Applications can be made online at www.sdcc.ie

The closing date for receipt of all fully completed online application forms for the Community Infrastructure Fund Programme is: **Thursday 17th April at 4pm.**

Late applications will not be accepted.

Web: www.sdcc.ie



court reports



tel: 4685350 email: news@echo.ie

Man (29) who instigated unprovoked attack had 137 previous convictions

A MAN who led five others in an unprovoked attack on another man in Dublin city centre two years ago has been jailed, *reports Eimear Dodd*.

Wayne Gilligan (29) of Rosebank Court, Clondalkin, Dublin 22 pleaded guilty to violent disorder on Euston Street on May 8, 2023.

Garda Chloe Rochford gave evidence on Tuesday that Gilligan instigated the unprovoked attack on the injured party by a group of six men at around 11.30pm.

Gilligan punched the victim several times to the head and body and caused him to fall to the ground.

He then kicked the injured party while he was on the ground.

Another male kicked and stamped on the injured party, while a third

male struck him with a bladed weapon, believed by gardai to be a machete.

Gilligan then kicked and stamped on the injured party again, while another male struck the victim as well.

CCTV footage of the incident was played to the court.

The men fled on foot after the attack and the injured party got up, later encountering gardai on South Great George's Street.

The victim was taken to hospital. Gardai observed he had sustained a number of deep cuts, including to his head and a finger.

The injured party refused to co-operate with gardai, allow access to his medical records or provide a

victim impact statement.

Gilligan was identified from CCTV.

He has 137 previous convictions including for affray, assault, endangerment and drugs offences. Gilligan is currently in custody, with an earliest release date of August 2027.

The court heard Gilligan is the only one of the six men who has been identified. There is no suggestion he used or had a weapon.

Gda Rochford agreed with defence counsel that the guilty plea was valuable, but said she couldn't give evidence about whether the victim's injuries were only caused by the weapon.

It was also accepted that while

Gilligan's involvement is brief, he still played a role in an incident which caused serious harm to the injured party.

Defence counsel outlined that his client qualified as a bricklayer and has some work history, but his addiction issues took over.

He said Gilligan's offending is linked to his addiction, which he has taken steps to address.

Gilligan is engaging with services, has enhanced prisoner status and is working as a cleaner in custody.

Counsel said Gilligan has completed an anger management course, and instructs he has been providing clean urine samples.

Counsel said his client wasn't a "lone ranger" and was one of six

involved in this "extremely violent incident".

He asked the court not to extend Gilligan's time in custody or to suspend a portion of any sentence imposed.

Judge Martin Nolan said Gilligan led the attack on the "unfortunate" injured party.

The judge noted the reasons behind the attack were unclear, adding the "court assumes there must have been a reason".

Having considered the mitigation and Gilligan's personal circumstances, Judge Nolan said he couldn't agree to the defence's request not to extend Gilligan's time in custody, imposing a sentence of four years and three months.

Court hears man responsible for laundering over €1 million

Man helped launder money that had been 'obtained under various schemes, frauds and scams'

By Sonya McLean
news@echo.ie

A MAN described as being at the midlevel tier of a criminal organisation involved in a global invoice redirect fraud and banking scams has been jailed for five years and four months.

Sodiq Jimoh (30) of Rossfield Close, Rossfield, Tallaght, Dublin 24, pleaded guilty at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court to contributing to the activities of a criminal organisation and nine charges of money laundering on dates between May 2019 and August 2020.

The court heard that Jimoh was responsible for laundering €1,000,065 from various individual people and small Irish companies. The court heard that some of the victims' money was re-imbursed and some of the cash was recovered.

Judge Martin Nolan said Jimoh was "seriously involved in crime" and had helped launder money that had been "obtained under various schemes, frauds and scams".

The judge said Jimoh was "an intelligent, competent and very busy man" otherwise he would not have been recruited to get involved in the organisation. He noted that it was his job to withdraw money from the bank accounts of various money mules and also to access the online banking of many of the victims in order to move cash. Judge Nolan accepted that Jimoh did not cause the gardai any trouble but noted that he made no relevant admissions during garda interview.

He acknowledged that Jimoh had "good strong mitigation" with family support, good testimonials and a lack of serious convictions but he added "the wrongdoing is serious" before he jailed Jimoh for five years and four months having given him credit for six weeks he has spent on remand in custody.

Detective Garda Ester Devally told



Maddie Grant BL, prosecuting, that Jimoh was caught under a garda operation called Operation Skein which was run by the Garda National Economic Crime Bureau and was a global investigation into invoice redirect fraud and compromised email scams.

Initially, the investigation focused on two Ulster Bank accounts which had suspected fraudulent activity relating to just over €387,000 and €83,000. A phone number associated with each of these accounts had been registered to Jimoh and the owners of the accounts didn't have access to them.

Gardaí became aware then of Jimoh's possible involvement in this global fraud and found further suspicious activity in accounts with Bank of Ireland and Allied Irish Bank.

They found various lodgements totalling €26,000 into various accounts linked to Jimoh over a 16 month period that did not relate to his wages or social welfare payments.

Analysis of his phone led to the

discovering of a WhatsApp conversation between him and two other people – one of whom has since been prosecuted in relation to money laundering.

The conversations illustrated that Jimoh had knowledge of various frauds that had been carried out and included screenshots of bank details – with one comment from Jimoh stating "I need a bank card for this".

Another comment "Fam, at the end of the day it is free money" had come from Jimoh.

Det Gda Devally said there was also reference to the fact that Jimoh was due to receive 30 percent of whatever was stolen for his role.

The detective said that there were times when Jimoh would take control of a bank account online after a six digit access number was sent to his phone. This would allow him to gain access so that he could move cash in and out of various accounts.

He was also captured on CCTV footage making ATM withdrawals

from various money mule accounts – people that had been recruited into the scheme so that their bank accounts could be used to launder the stolen cash.

Det Gda Devally said gardai are satisfied that Jimoh played a midlevel role in the organisation in that he controlled and managed the movement of the money.

She said he was in contact with various people who were acting as money mules but also acknowledged that there were people higher up the organisation than Jimoh.

The court heard of different frauds which involved invoice redirect fraud, compromised emails outlining a change of bank account for payment and smishing scams.

In one such compromised email, a customer was scammed after he lodged money into an account that he believed was that of his solicitor's. The solicitor was later at a loss as they re-imbursed the customer.

In another incident, a woman in her

70s had €20,000 taken from her bank account and transferred to various money mule accounts. The bank later re-imbursed this woman.

Det Gda Devally said Jimoh's home was searched on September 26, 2022 and various clothing, which had been worn by the suspect captured withdrawing cash from ATMs on CCTV, was seized.

He was arrested and questioned 15 times over the course of five days and while he was "polite and friendly" Det Gda Devally confirmed that "nothing of evidential value" was gained from the interviews.

Victim impact statements were handed into the court but not read out.

Det Gda Devally agreed with Stephen Montgomery BL, defending, that the offending took place over a short space of time and Jimoh was compliant with gardai.

She further accepted that there was "no suggestion that he would contest the case".

James Dwyer SC defending (with Mr Montgomery) said that his client came to Ireland in 2003 as a nine year old child.

He had a promising sporting career with Shamrock Rovers and played on their U19 squad but he broke his leg and that put an end to his "career in football", counsel said.

Counsel said that this offending presented itself to Jimoh after both he and his mother lost their jobs due to the Covid-19 pandemic and he was fulfilling his role "as the family's breadwinner".

"He fully acknowledges the gravity of his actions," Mr Dwyer said before he added that his client is remorseful particularly for the impact his criminal offending has on his young daughter.

He handed in a letter that Jimoh had written to the court which counsel said demonstrates that he has learned from his mistakes and has insights into his offending.

Two chinese food businesses are hit with closure orders

TWO CHINESE food businesses in Ballyfermot were hit with closure orders last month for breaches of food safety legislation, *reports Maurice Garvey*.

Lam's Chinese takeaway at 286 Ballyfermot Road, and the Far East Restaurant at 339 Ballyfermot Road, were among a number of businesses served with enforcement orders by the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) in February.

The FSAI discovered a range of issues at Lam's where an inspection was expected but the standard was still "well below acceptable levels."

Among the issues listed in the FSAI report were the level of cleanliness observed at the time of inspection "was not acceptable."

"The business has demonstrated a lack of concern regarding hygiene for an extended period of time, which cannot be tolerated. The entire kitchen and storage areas need to be cleaned from top to bottom."

Inspectors found raw and cooked food stored in containers with no distinction of its use. Colour coding of containers is commonly used to distinguish between raw and cooked storage and to prevent cross contamination.

"It is not acceptable to store open food directly into cardboard. Cardboard will absorb blood and bacteria from raw chicken and transfer paper and other bacterial contamination onto the food. Food is only to be stored in washable containers, easily identifiable as either raw or cooked storage. You are not permitted to store raw chicken wings in previously used chip boxes," said the report.

Staff at Lam's were overheard commenting how cold the kitchen was, the FSAI recommending the business should supply a warm jacket/ top that is bright in colour and washed frequently.

Inspectors also found the ventilation system not working effectively and a void in the ceiling in the back store room "still taped up for the issue with pigeons" despite a previous pest control request to fix this being disregarded.

The report says Lam's was closed for six days from February 14 to February 20.

Ken Lam has operated Lam's for 34 years.

Mr Lam and his son Jonathan were in the news two years ago following a public falling out, which saw Lam junior open his own New Lam's takeaway at 284 Ballyfermot Road - right beside his father's premises.

According to the FSAI report, the Far East Restaurant was served a closure order for reasons related to a hole in the wall at the entrance to the dry goods store, that needs to be sealed.

A couple of other holes in the premises need to be sealed and Far East was ordered to "clean the kitchen, dry goods store, wash up area once all the pest control activity has been completed. The premises as a whole requires a deep clean."

Far East was closed between February 13 to February 17.

Under the FSAI Act, a closure order is served where it is deemed that there is or there is likely to be a grave and immediate danger to public health at or in the premises, or where an Improvement Order is not complied with.

Increase in crimes committed by people on bail is a ‘shocking’ figure

AN INCREASE of crimes committed by people on bail is a "shocking" figure over the last three years, *reports Maurice Garvey*.

Figures collated on the Pulse data system indicate suspects for 22,591 crimes carried out in Dublin in 2024 were on bail release at the time.

TD Mark Ward (SF) TD believes the figures provided to his party's Justices spokesperson Matt Carthy by the Department of Justice, require urgent action by government to address current bail laws.

Pulse data to the end of February 28, 2025, show that suspects for 40,348 crimes carried out across the state in 2024 were on bail release - an increase of almost 5,000 since 2022.

"The combined figure for the past three years of suspects implicated in crime in Dublin while on bail amounted to 64,014," said Deputy Ward.

"It is clear there has been a considerable rise in the number of crimes being committed by those on bail. While many of these crimes would be considered relatively minor, some have been very serious, including those which have resulted in the loss of life.

"We need to get this right. The public will not tolerate a situation where dangerous criminals are repeatedly released on bail to commit further crimes. The government must address this issue as a matter of urgency," said Ward.

According to the garda figures, the most common offence types committed by offenders on bail in 2024 were public order/drunkenness (25%), theft from shop (23%), possession of drugs for personal use (6%) and criminal damage (5%).

Martin to embark on one of toughest races in the world

Dad will embark on 11 day 250km marathon in the Moroccan desert

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

"I WANT to inspire as many people as possible," said a 32-year-old man who will embark on an eleven day, 250km marathon in the Moroccan desert.

A HVAC engineer and father to a five-year-old boy, Fettercairn man Martin Shaw overcame his most difficult challenge when he quit cocaine nearly three years ago.

Since then, he has been taking on multiple marathons, and made it to the Everest Base Camp, to prove that "no matter how low you've been, it's possible to turn your life around."

On April 4, he will start the 'Marathon Des Sables Legendary,' one of the toughest races in the world featuring 11 days in Morocco, including 9 days in the desert, with a course of approximately 250 km spread over 6 stages. Extreme temperatures make the challenge even tougher. "It's supposed to be in the 40s [degrees] every day and go down to 3 at night. I had to get a lot of sun exposure to be prepared," said Martin.

This adventure is also conducted in self-sufficiency, where participants carry all their gear and food, except for water and the tent. "It's a lot of time on your feet, carrying everything yourself."

As for the running, Martin said he has been doing "flat out training" for the past eight months.

When he was fighting addiction, he learned to "endure stuff when you feel at rock bottom," which now helps him with every new challenge arising.

"I just tell myself that these are nowhere near as difficult as that one," he said, as he aims at reaching the peak of Mount Everest one day.

While inspiring people who are currently struggling with addiction or



mental health conditions, he will also fundraise for causes that are close to his heart and make a difference where he grew up.

Martin is looking at raising €5,000 for Connect4, a service for young people at risk in West Tallaght, and €5,000 for Suzanne House, a care centre for children with complex medical needs in Tallaght village.

"I wish I had something like that when I was that age," he said about Connect4, "I see them walking around the streets and what they do really resonates with me."

"My uncle went through the same situation some of those children are in. Places like that can really be a home away from home," he added about Suzanne House.

Talking to people who he hopes will find inspiration in his race, Martin added, "I want them to know that a better life is waiting for them and that, with determination, the right support, and the willingness to reach out for help, anything is achievable."

"I think when people don't seek help, it's because they feel alone or not understood. But it's okay to ask for support and when you ask it to the right people, everything changes."

Martin is sponsored by the St John of God Foundation who helped him with the essential kit for the Marathon Des Sables. To support Martin's cause, visit and donate at gofund.me/1ac53990.

“I think when people don’t seek help, it’s because they feel alone or not understood. But it’s okay to ask for support and when you ask it to the right people, everything changes

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



An Sabhaircín, the Primrose



ARCHING STEMS: Primrose flowers grow singly on gracefully arching stems

THE Common Primrose is one of our delightful heralds of spring. It generally flowers between March until May, but in mild winters it can start flowering as early as late January.

Its Latin name ‘Primula’ translates as ‘primus’ or ‘first’, referring to this lovely flower as being the first flower of spring.

Primroses grow in moist but well-drained soils in partial shade, and it is often spotted in springtime woodlands, hedgerows, and soil banks and ditches along roadways.

Primrose’s tongue-like leaves have a wrinkled texture, and these form a rosette of leaves close to the ground from which the flowering stems grow.

These stems produce just one flower at the top, unlike some of Primrose’s other relatives like the Cowslip or garden Polyanthus which hold bunches of short-stemmed flowers at the tip of the stem.

While the colour of the wild Common Primrose is a lovely soft lemony yellow, garden varieties also produce red, pink, or purple flowers.

The flower has a long tube behind the petals, and

this holds the female and male reproductive parts with nectar at the very bottom.

Because of the shape of this flower tube, only insects with very long tongues can access the nectar at the base.

These insects include butterflies, moths and the Ginger-backed bee.

All Primrose flowers contain both male and female parts, but the position of these in the flower tube varies.

Some flowers show male parts at the top of the tube with female parts at the bottom, while in others it is the other way around.

This may help to prevent the flowers pollinating themselves.

In the past, the Primrose was used in traditional medicine to treat gout, insomnia, headaches and coughs, while its leaves and flowers were also eaten in salads.

The appearance of Primrose in early spring was therefore welcome, for more than just the lovely sight and scent of it flowers.



EARTH BANKS: Primroses can be seen on well-drained earth banks along the side of the road.



KREATIONS: Intermediate Winner Kingswood Community School

Teens create, market their

Students make it through to the National Student Enterprise programme finals in May

LOCAL Enterprise Office South Dublin have announced that teenage entrepreneurs from the South Dublin area will represent South Dublin at this year’s Student Enterprise Programme National Finals on Thursday, May 8.

The students all took part in the County Final on March 13 which was held at the Maldron Hotel, Tallaght. An estimated 1,800 students from 22 schools from around the County, took part in this year’s programme.

The enterprise education initiative, funded by the Government of Ireland through Enterprise Ireland and delivered by the 31 Local Enterprise Offices in local authorities throughout the country, saw over 25,000 students from just under 500 secondary schools across the country take part in 2023 / 2024. The programme supports students to create, design and market their own business, all with the hope of reaching the National Finals.

In the Junior Category, the students representing South Dublin at the National Finals are Jewels Fantasy, Old Bawn Community School, Tallaght.

In the Intermediate Category, Kingswood K creations, Kingswood Community College will be representing the county at the Finals.

In the Senior Category of the competition, South Dublin will be

represented by students from Rockbrook Park School, Rathfarnham.

Other winners on the day were for Sales and Marketing: BD Grip Socks from Coláiste Pobail Fola, Citywest, the Social Media Winner was Astroflex from Rockbrook Park School, Rathfarnham, the Innovation Award Winner went to Chair Socks from Coláiste Pobail Fola, Citywest and the Best Display Winner went to Ceird Design from Sancta Maria College, Rathfarnham. The Sustainability Award went to Pawfect Bites from Lucan Community College, the Endeavour Award went to the Tuck Shop from Liebermann Spiritan School, Templeogue and the One To Watch Award went to Menton Independent Traders from Loreto High School Beaufort, Rathfarnham.

The Most Enterprising School of the Year Award went to Lucan Community School, and the Enterprising Teacher of the Year went to Darren Carey from Old Bawn Community School, Tallaght.

Speaking at the county final, Tom Rooney of Local Enterprise Office South Dublin congratulated the students, saying “We have a very successful student enterprise programme here in South Dublin County with over 1,795 students from 22 local schools taking part this year. Our national finalists are excellent



design and own business



ambassadors for the programme and we wish them the very best of luck on Thursday 8th May, and we will all hope to be there to support them. In what has been a particularly challenging couple of years for students the programme has offered them an outlet outside of the usual school demands. What our students are learning from the programme is that with the right supports and encouragement, they can take an idea from the classroom and develop it into a real-life business. The skills they learn along the way, such as business planning, market research, selling and teamwork, will help them become more entrepreneurial throughout their future careers”.

The local students will be competing against hundreds of other student entrepreneurs from all over Ireland at the Student Enterprise Programme National Finals, taking place at the Mullingar Park Hotel, Westmeath on Thursday, May 8. Since the Student Enterprise Programme began in 2003, over 350,000 students have taken part, learning key skills on how to create a business idea, start a business and grow a business. The Student Enterprise Programme also has a new range of online resources for 2023 / 2024 at www.StudentEnterprise.ie, which will feature regular blogs and houses a full range of Student Enterprise resources for students and teachers.



ENTERPRISING: School of the Year Award Lucan Community School



BEST DISPLAY AWARD: Sancta Maria College



INNOVATION AWARD: Chair Socks Colaiste Pobail Fola



SHOWCASE: Junior Winner Old Bawn Community School

Jack announces engagement to partner after dancing final

Taekwondo star shared the good news the next day after Dancing with the Stars show

By Ryan Butler

news@echo.ie

IT WAS a bittersweet weekend for Tallaght Taekwondo athlete Jack Woolley as he lost out in the 'Dancing With the Stars' final last weekend to Olympic gymnast Rhys McClenaghan and his Lucan pro partner Laura Nolan.

However, despite losing the final, there was some good news to share from Jack as he announced his engagement to his partner, David Stig, the very next day.

The competition kicked in as the couples took to the floor for their first dance of the evening, the Judges' Choice, which tasked each couple with performing a routine from a previous week.

Jack and his pro partner Alex Vladimirov threw it back to week five with their dedicated dance to Jack's friend Kellie Harrington: an American Smooth to 'Grace' by The Wolfe Tones.

Ballyfermot judge Karen Byrne said: "I feel this dance sums up your journey, and signifies such an amazing partnership that you and Alex have."

Jack and Alex got a perfect score of 40. Jack and Alex then performed Years & Years version of Lady Gaga's anthem 'The Edge of Glory', walking away with another perfect 40.

Meanwhile, Rhys reprised his Movie Week role of Spider-Man, as he and Laura danced the Charleston to the iconic theme tune.

They also got a perfect score of 40.

Finally, Rhys and Laura took to the floor for the last time and danced to 'Beautiful Things' by Benson Boone, which also got a perfect 40.

Wrapping up the final, all seven eliminated celebrities, including Clondalkin chef Kevin Dundon, returned to the dancefloor with a disco-fuelled groove to Kylie Minogue's 'Wow'.



ACTION: Jack Woolley during the show on Sunday



22% increase reported in illegal dumping in upland areas last year

THE environmental project, Pure (Protecting Uplands & Rural Environments), has recorded a 22% increase in illegal dumping in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands when compared to 2023.

In 2024 Pure removed 890 individual illegal dumping sites, with the collection of 146,580kg (146.580 tonnes) of illegally dumped waste from the remote, beautiful, and scenic, Wicklow/Dublin Uplands.

This was a 22% increase when compared to 2023 when Pure removed 120,000kg (120 tonnes).

Although the initiative has made huge progress in reducing illegal dumping in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands since the project was established in 2006, Pure encountered a number of large illegal dumping sites last year and removed 33,000kg of illegally dumped waste from the South Dublin Uplands.

Ian Davis, Pure Manager, commented: 'The Pure partnership approach, incorporating statutory and non-statutory organisations, and members of the public, has proven extremely successful in combating illegal dumping in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands. However, we were extremely busy in 2024 and in the first four months we removed 60,000kg of illegally dumped waste, which is an increase compared to previous years.'

The Pure Truck was in the South Dublin Uplands early in 2024 and on the 2nd of January it removed five illegal dumping sites and returned again on the 5th of January to collect two large dumping sites which resulted in the removal of approximately 4,000kg of waste.

Pure responded to several large-scale illegal dumping incidents with many of the sites containing mixed waste including cement blocks, timber, pallets, couches, sofas, tables, beds, mattresses, cabinets, chairs, toys, clothes, carpets, presses, fridges, T.V.s, washing machines with our Pure Truck making 293 individual collections in the South Dublin Uplands.

Ian Davis, Pure Manager, further commented, 'Although we did see an increase in dumping recorded in 2024, it is worth noting that when you compare last year to 2008, which was our busiest year, when we removed 440 tonnes (440,000kg), 2024 represents a 67% reduction in illegal dumping in Wicklow/Dublin Uplands. We have made huge progress in reducing illegal dumping, but we know that we cannot become complacent, and it is vital that we continue to monitor the situation and ensure that we remove illegal dumping quickly from the landscape – because we know that, Dumping causes Dumping.'

The Pure Truck is on the road every day, and since Pure was established in 2006, it has removed over 4,100,000kg (4,100 tonnes) of rubbish from over 15,700 illegal dumping sites in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands, with the project processing over 16,900 reports/complaints. If you were to put all the rubbish that Pure has removed from the uplands into standard household rubbish bags, they would fill over 820,000 bags.

If you lined up all these bags on the road, they would stretch all the way from Dublin Airport to Mizen Head in Cork, and back again.

Pure has been recording and mapping every location and incident of illegal dumping in the



ILLEGAL: Piperstown Road illegal dumping South Dublin

Wicklow/Dublin Uplands since 2006 and they have built up a base-line-data of all illegal dumping activity in this region, the location of dumping, type of dumping, landowner, and approximate amount of dumping, and for several years now they have been recording an annual reduction. The data collected by Pure is valuable information providing indicators into the nature and extent of illegal dumping in Wicklow/Dublin Uplands, and statistical evidence for all illegal dumping incidents in this region.

Pure utilises a multi-disciplined approach in combating illegal dumping, incorporating a

number of educational initiatives, environment/community/heritage projects – The Pure Mile, public awareness campaigns, regional/national media campaigns, enforcement and preventative measures, GPS/GIS data-base to record all illegal dumping sites, and they also have a dedicated vehicle, the Pure Truck, which removes all illegal dumping from the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands. A new Pure Truck was purchased last year from funding provided by the Department of Environment, Climate, and Communications, and Pure secured funding from the department until the end of 2026.

St Patrick's Parade Clondalkin **THANK YOU**

We would like to thank Everyone who helped make our 10th Anniversary Parade such a Success!!!. All those, who took part and made it such a fun colourful day. To all our Sponsors who helped fund everything and to everyone who came along to enjoy the show and make it the best St Patrick's day parade so far. Thank you all!!!

Thanks to all our Sponsors



Thanks to our 2025 Participants

Clondalkin motorcycle club
Classic motorcycle.
Garda
Grand Marshall - Thyres Kavanagh
St Patrick (Eddie Murphy)
St Joseph's National School Band
Gladiators Club
Newlands Taekwon-do Club
Tinseltown Stage School
Gings vintage cars
Clondalkin Tidy Towns
Thorntons
Costume Walkers
Downey Crowley School of
- Irish Dance
Aras Chronan
Cleamairí Chluain Dolcáin
St Bridget (Emma Keegan)
Tornado
American/Vintage Cars
Scoil Rince Erica
St Killians Scout Group
Kinsella vintage cars
Chinese Dragon Dancers
Funky Steps
Maguires Pet Cremation services
Party Bears
Clondalkin Pipe Band
Round Towers Gaa Club
Ld dance studio
Clondalkin Rugby
Clondalkin Youth Band
Stilt Walkers
Lh dance school
Elite Karate Academy
Emarley Music & Movement



SPIRIT: Enjoying the celebrations



ATMOSPHERE: Children laying on a high-five



FUN TIMES: Dancing on the Main Street



HARD WORK: A taekwondo-demonstration Photos by Ben Ryan



GOOD SPORTS: Members of Thomas Davis GAA Club walking in the parade

Great day for Tallaght as 20,000 attend

Amazing atmosphere as 38 groups take part in

By Alessia Micalizzi
alessia@echo.ie

TWENTY thousand people enjoyed a “great day for Tallaght” as the St Patrick’s Parade was brought back after six years.

The Garda figure, which is still unconfirmed, is not too far from South Dublin County Council’s estimate, said Community Development Officer Joe Lumumba, who praised the Tallaght community for really “embracing and taking ownership” of the event.

“It was great to see people from as young as two to as old as 90 all turning up and joining in together at the same time.

“The atmosphere was absolutely brilliant. There wasn’t one single item which was most appreciated rather than the fact that the event was put on again. I think people really appreciated not having to travel elsewhere.

“That said, the vintage vehicles were very well received.”

Thirty-eight groups took part in the parade, including the Tallaght Marching Band and the Civic

Panto, with dance schools, sports clubs, and schools.

Inclusive sections of the parade such as the neurodiverse station and the wheelchair area were a huge success, with the Council looking at increasing capacity for next year.

“We will be undertaking a full review of this year’s event with the hope of implementing learnings from this year,” said Mr Lumumba.

“The neurodiverse station was incredibly busy.”

As South Dublin County Council staff were thanked “many times” on the day for bringing the event back, they renewed their thanks to the Tallaght community.

“Everybody really got into the spirit of the day, they really embraced it. They brought colour and positive attitude, and created an amazing atmosphere which made all the hard work worthwhile,” said Mr Lumumba.

With Dublin GAA star and Thomas Davis player Cian Murphy being the Grand Marshal, the parade kicked off on the Old Blessington Road at 1:30pm.

It went up to the village along Main Street and ended on the Greenhills Road.

South Dublin County Council funded the parade, responding to a “great demand” from the general public as the last St Patrick’s Parade in Tallaght was held before the pandemic in 2019.



allaght l parade

St Patrick's Day parade



GREEN DAY: Street performers in the village

Colour, fun and sport as large crowds attend local parades



IN THE LINE OF FIRE: One of the performers at the Clondalkin parade

Photo by Paddy Barrett

LOCAL communities were all out in force to celebrate St. Patrick's Day this week, reports Ryan Butler.

"It was a day full of sport, colour, music, and fun!" exclaims Cllr Francis Timmons about the Clondalkin parade.

Many people told him it was the "biggest ever", and he estimates there were around 10,000-12,000 people attending in total.

The weather stayed great, with floats including fire, dragons, Anna and Elsa from 'Frozen', and Mickey and Minnie Mouse.

Grand Marshal Thyges Kavanagh also gave a "wonderful" speech, pointing out that his family has lived in Clondalkin since the late 1940s.

Thyges himself remarks that he spoke about how he believes it is important that one must be a "good neighbour".

Francis and Thyges would like to thank all of the Clondalkin parade's sponsors, volunteers, and committee members Darren, Lorraine, Jean, and Pat.

Meanwhile, it was another great parade for Lucan in 2025, which had over 30 entries from local groups.

The children gave demonstrations of their skills all along the route; the parade saw football, hurling, boxing, cricket, skipping, dancing, music.

There is a club for everything in Lucan, and not only did the parade have loads of colour, they had much talent.

Organiser Caroline Brady would like to

give a "big thank you" to all our volunteers; they had over 100 people volunteering on the day.

"There are lots of jobs and a job for everyone, like putting out barriers, setting up refreshments for volunteers, dressing the review stand, marshalling the parade into order, stewards along the route, packing up after the parade, and tidying up the village."

They were very thankful to South Dublin County Council the depot staff for picking up and dropping back the barriers and helping set them up along the route.

They also had Lucan Tidy Towns and Lucan Men's Shed out in full helping them steward the parade.

Lucan Red Cross provided first aid, medical, and ambulance assistance; thankfully, there were no incidents to report.

The parade had the Transition Year students from St Joseph's College volunteer for face painting and balloon modelling (they run face painting and balloon modelling workshops in the college for the TY year in February every year).

They did a great job, and the children loved their balloons and face painting. Toner Transport were "amazing as always" and provided the truck for all to use as a review stand.

This makes a huge difference to the children walking by and really makes their day to perform in front of the guests on the review stand.

It is estimated there were over 20,000 in attendance.

"A very big thank you to Lucan An Garda Síochána, without whose help and support we would not be able to put on a parade."

Finally, Caroline would like to thank their sponsors, South Dublin County Council, Kennys of Lucan, Carrols of Lucan, and many more.

Awards given out included the Grand Marshals Prize for Lucan Gospel Choir, Best Youth Entry for Lucan Special Olympics, Best Performance for Finglas Concert Band and more.

Finally, Sharon Redmond said of the turnout for the St Mary's (Four Districts) parade, "It was the largest crowd we've ever had."

There were people lining the streets all the way from Rathcoole to Saggart.

Floats participating in the parade included groups and schools from all around the area.

Sharon estimates there were "thousands" of people in attendance.

"It was an excellent day; the buzz in the village was brilliant!"

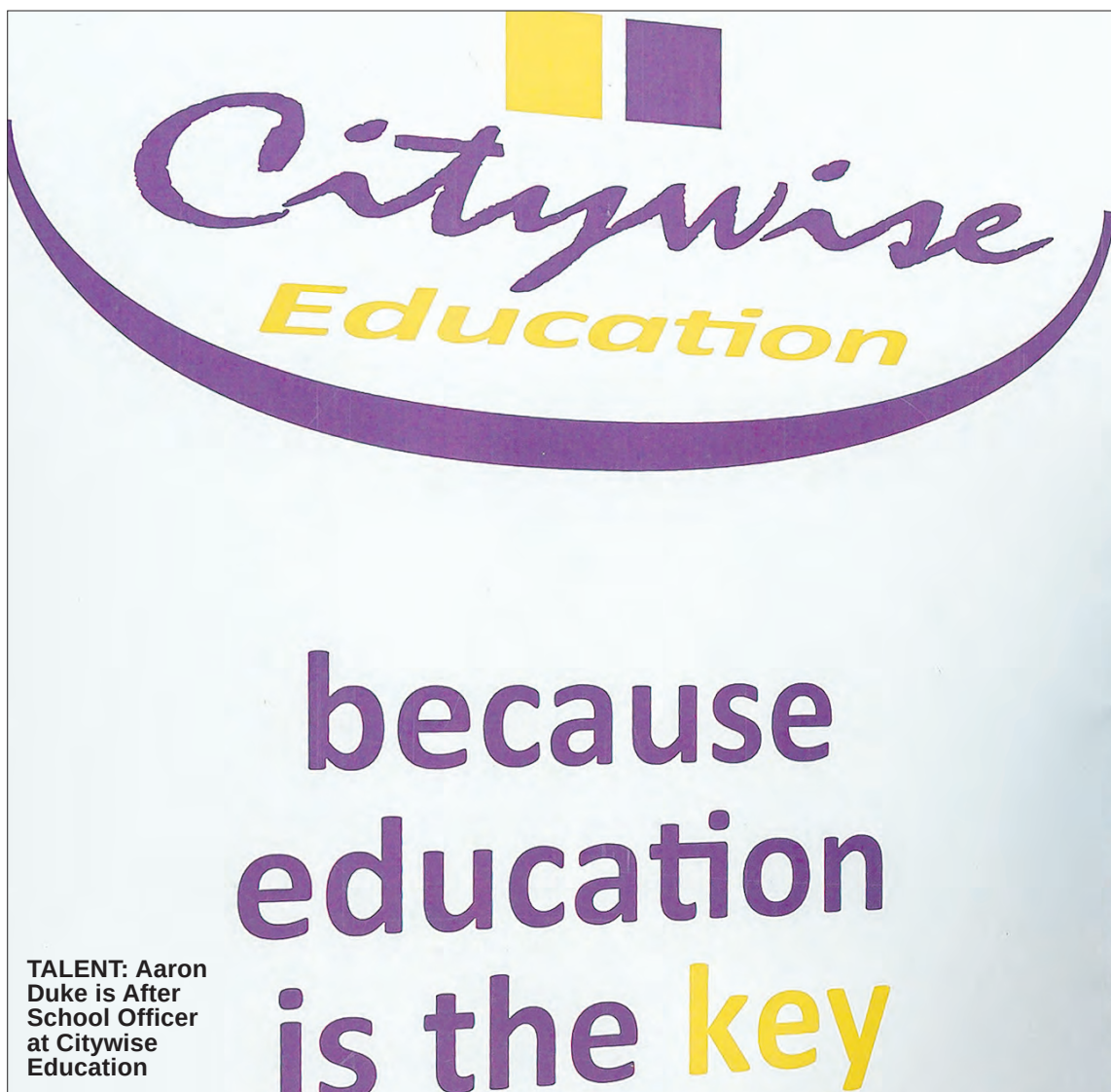
She would like to thank the SDCC, various sponsors, South Dublin Volunteers, the "excellent" committee, St Mary's GAA, the people who put up flags, Rathcoole and Saggart Tidy Towns, everyone who came to see the parade and take part in it, and the local Garda Síochána.

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 Aaron Duke After School Officer at Citywise Education

SUPPORT: Aaron Duke attended Mount Seskin Community School



The Echo – celebrating community for 45 years



TALENT: Aaron Duke is After School Officer at Citywise Education



IN THE pages of our Local Faces feature, it's always very gratifying when we get to shine a spotlight on one of our younger residents.

Our young people often get a bad rap in certain quarters and it's a pleasure to introduce Tallaght's own Aaron Duke. He would baulk at the thought of being called a role model, but he is proof that with hard work and application, all manner of things are achievable to our Gen-Z natives.

21-year-old Aaron is Jobstown born and bred and I'll hand it over to him to describe his early years.

"I grew up in Jobstown and I'm the second eldest of five boys. Everyone says 'oh your poor mother!' but she was well able to handle us believe me," he laughs.

"I'll namecheck them otherwise I'll never hear the end of it! So my Dad's Alan, Mam is Elaine and then there's my older brother Jamie, then me, then my younger brothers Adam and Josh (who are twins) and Jack is the youngest."

Aaron went to Mount Seskin School for Leaving Cert but from the age of about ten, he was supplementing his normal lessons with after-school work at a place which was to become an enormous part of his life, Citywise.

Citywise Education, located in The Durkan Centre on Fortunestown Way in Jobstown, provides young people with after-school and out-of-school educational support, often urgently needed by those growing up in difficult or hostile city environments. Citywise's educational programmes raise the sights of young people, give them an enthusiasm for learning and open up possibilities for further education.

One of the young people guided towards further education by Citywise was Aaron.

He tells me, "I had been involved in many and varied activities in Citywise and they all gave me great confidence to chase and

ultimately achieve my ambitions. The staff were great with me and my Vice Principal Ms Moloney was always around with advice and encouragement."

"Something I really found helpful was Citywise's leadership programme. I really enjoyed that and in many ways it set me up for the future."

So it was that Aaron applied for and won a place at Maynooth University.

University was a bit of a mixed experience as he tells me, "the classes were fine but it took me two hours to get there and two hours to get home on the Luas and two buses. I was exhausted but I persevered and eventually I graduated with a Diploma BA in History and Ancient Classics."

At this point it should be noted that as well as his coursework, he was trying to fit in volunteer work at Citywise. He tells me that from that day as a young kid when he first walked through the door to Citywise he never left.

So with University finished, Aaron needed to find a job. Luckily it didn't take long before Citywise utilized his talents and offered him a full time position as an After School Officer, a position he still holds.

In fact, Aaron now runs the Leadership Programme which was so special to him.

"I'm really proud of the work we do at Citywise and it's always great to see our students flourishing. We offer a great range of programmes and activities which can be invaluable to the well being of young people."

Recently, Aaron took the plunge to leave home and move in with his girlfriend Ellen. They're still in the Tallaght area though which is just as well as Aaron is a committed, passionate Shamrock Rovers fan and season-ticket holder.

He's also keen on keeping physically fit and can regularly be seen at the gym trying to

make his body as strong as his mind.

As our conversation draws to a close, Aaron makes sure to thank the people at Citywise, all the staff and all the students. He gives particular praise to Daire Hennessy, the CEO, Laura Sheerin who he describes as his mentor, and his colleague and best mate Adam

Donovan.

Aaron is a force of nature for one so young and Citywise is lucky to have such a dedicated and enthusiastic cheerleader on their staff.

For more information on the services provided by Citywise, consult their website www.citywise.ie



ACTIVITIES: Aaron Duke says Citywise offer a great range of programmes

“I’m really proud of the work we do at Citywise and it’s always great to see our students flourishing. We offer a great range of programmes and activities which can be invaluable to the well being of young people

Local history with Monica McGill

The present re-vitalisation of the Irish language is growing locally

People living abroad with no Irish connections are becoming involved with events

Trending: Irish culture

RECENTLY, interest in all things Irish seems to be increasing, both at home and abroad. This includes our native language, history, cultural events, Gaelic games, and our arts – to mention only a few.

The precise reasons for this upswing are unclear at the moment, although supporters of the Irish language are happy it exists.

This article concentrates on the present re-vitalisation of the Irish language locally. Lots more information than can be included here is available online at <https://www.rte.ie/search/query/Irish%20language%20becoming%20popular/>

Are you new here?

For those who are new, the Irish language is our first official language. English is our second one. The word “Gaeilge” or “An Gaeilge” (as expressed in Irish) refers to the Irish language itself. “As Gaeilge” means “in the Irish language”.

Furthermore, energetic supporters of the Irish language and culture have been sometimes referred to as “Gaeilgeoirs”, and this has not always been meant as a compliment.

Importance

How important is Gaeilge to many people? What does it signify? According to Pádraig Ó Duibhir of DCU, for some, Irish is essential, reminding them that it “can link us to our heritage, culture, and traditions. For them, it stirs up emotions of sympathy, fervour, passion, and attachment and may spur them to reconnect with the language and enrol in Irish language classes.”

(<https://www.rte.ie/brainstorm/2021/0310/1203090-speaking-learning-irish-seachtain-na-gaeilge/>)

Dead language

However, others have and may still regard Gaeilge as a “dead” language, of no use whatever (unless, of course, a person lives in a Gaeltacht area where Irish is spoken daily).

The dead language attitude may originate from not speaking any Irish at all at home, or suffering negative experiences while in our education system throughout the centuries and even, sometimes, more recently.

Irish language schools

Amongst some other places, Clondalkin nowadays is particularly fortunate being able to offer children an Irish-language school system from kindergarten through to Leaving Certificate level.

This work demanded the efforts of the Gaelgeoirs who established first one, and then more, schools with the Department of Education.

Now, pupils can learn their school subjects “through the medium of Irish” (as it’s termed in English), or lán-Gaeilge (in Irish).

By this means, spoken Irish is regularly heard locally and parents learn some Irish, even if only by hearing their children speak it.

Had Gaeilge, then nearly lost it

Prof. Alan Titley of UCC disagrees with the idea that Gaeilge was only ever spoken outside the Dublin region. He says before the 1800s – even in Dublin – “Irish was the principal language, or even the only language, of the area for most of its populated history. When the non-literate Viking hordes sneaked their way in ... in the



HERITAGE: Áras Chrónáin, the Irish Culture Centre in Clondalkin
Photo: © Monica McGill



late eighth century they encountered a population which at least knew that the written word existed.

For round about them were the monasteries of Tallaght and of Finglas and of Clondalkin, among others, in which knowledge was taught and learned in the only two languages about which anybody had a clue, Irish and Latin.” (See <https://www.dublincityofliterature.ie/wp-content/uploads/Irish-Language-Writing.pdf>)

Next it seems that Gaeilge nearly disappeared altogether in the 19th century, when our national school system was established. For instance, “... in 1831, Irish was banned from schools and there was ‘compulsory’ English, even for children whose

home language was Irish and did not understand English.” (See Pádraig Ó Duibhir’s online article at <https://www.rte.ie/brainstorm/2024/0820/1465654-irish-language-schools-compulsory-analysis/>)

Compulsory Irish

As an antidote to the previous “no-Gaeilge” ban, the new education system of our young State in 1922 ordered the compulsory learning of Irish in schools. It was an effort to re-plant our sense of nation and statehood.

For generations of pupils, having to “do Irish” was a deeply-resented diktat. Psychologically, it didn’t do our native language much good. Many emerged after 14 years’ studying Gaeilge with little more than

the derisory “Tá sé mahogany gaspipe” saying – a mockery of the original intentions had they but known them.

Influences

Despite its modern history, there can be little doubt that the nuances of Gaeilge influence our unique way of thinking, our sense of humour and self-expression.

This happens even when using English, even if most don’t speak Irish or are good at it.

For example, consider the works of any of our great, internationally-acclaimed authors, poets and song-writers in either Irish or English. Consider the excellent work of our present and past comedians, radio and tv presenters at home or abroad.

“The craic”

Many Irish-language phrases and words carry more nuances and meaning than can be expressed as neatly in English as they are as Gaeilge. For instance, the single Irish word “craic” encapsulates a planned or random occasion for light-hearted fun, laughter and enjoyment amongst friends, acquaintances, or people we’ve met for the first time. “Craic” is now used internationally for this purpose.

Interest abroad

Media reports indicate that even people living abroad with no Irish connections are becoming involved in events with Irish cultural roots (see <https://www.rte.ie/sport/football/2024/0618/1455322-gaa-continues-to-experience-global-growth/> and a recent RTE radio programme about Gaelic games abroad).

In 2022, Gaeilge received “full status as an official language of the EU” (<https://www.rte.ie/news/ireland/2022/0101/1269377-eu-irish-official-language/>)

For the first time in about 100 years, Gaeilge was spoken in the British Parliament at Westminster (<https://www.thejournal.ie/irish-language-prime-minister-question-westminster-sdip-6647126-Mar2025/>)

Gaeilge needs help at home

Perhaps the present fashionable interest in Gaeilge hasn’t come a moment too soon. Increased government funding has been demanded overall, better government policies, more and better teaching methods, more frequent occasions when Gaeilge beginners and improvers can practise their skills. “Gaeilge is still at risk” (see <https://www.rte.ie/news/primetime/2025/0313/1501855-revival-at-risk-irish-speakers-say-policies-must-be-stepped-up/>).

All the “top-down” funding and organising will come to nothing unless the “ground roots” dust off their cúpla focail, their few, tentative words in Irish and use them openly.

What now?

Within the octave of Seachtain na Gaeilge (“Irish week”, which is really a fortnight!), connect with a past you may have lost or never had.

There is a place for you in Gaeilge and Irish cultural events generally. No-one else can fill your place in quite the way you can. No-one cares if you make mistakes – it’s making the effort and “having the craic” that counts.

The “go-to” place

The best place to start your quest in Clondalkin is Áras Chrónáin, our local Irish Cultural Centre on Watery Lane, Clondalkin village.

Their excellent website in Irish and English has all kinds of info about enjoying, taking part in or learning a variety of skills in many forms and at all levels of experience is <https://araschronain.ie/>. Phone: 01-4574847. Some participation requires a fee payment, but not all.

Another website about learning Gaeilge itself is <https://www.dublincity.ie/library/blog/resources-help-you-learn-irish-language>.

Béir bua agus beannachtaí, a cháirde! (Take courage and blessings to you, friends!)

‘Very serious to defraud or attempt to defraud insurance companies’

A WOMAN involved in a multigenerational insurance claim fraud has been handed a suspended prison sentence, *reports Fiona Ferguson*.

Eileen Lawrence (52), her husband Patrick (54), and sons Tom (24) and John (26), who were children at the time, made personal injury claims for road traffic accidents and falls using false names on dates between 2010 and 2016. The family all have addresses at Moyglas Glade, Lucan in Dublin.

The family instructed solicitors, attended doctors and swore affidavits using the false identities in order to pursue the claims. Most of the claims were unsuccessful but a number were paid out.

The offending came to light after an insurance company hired a private investigator.

Another member of the family, grandmother Winnifred Lawrence (74) was jailed last year for three and a half years with the final 18 months suspended for making similar claims between 2012 and 2014.

She had fraudulently received €23,150 after legal expenses for her claims.

Patrick Lawrence pleaded guilty at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court to deception and attempted deception on dates between 2013 and 2018. Eileen Lawrence pleaded guilty to deception and attempted deception on dates between 2010 and 2016.

Tom Lawrence pleaded guilty to one count of attempted deception in 2016, while his brother John Lawrence pleaded guilty to deception and attempted deception on dates between 2014 and 2016.

Last Friday, Judge Martin Nolan imposed a sentence of two years on Patrick Lawrence, and one-year suspended sentences on Tom and John Lawrence.

In relation to Eileen Lawrence, Judge Nolan said there was no doubt she was involved in a

serious way in the offending and he thought she did deserve to go to prison.

He said the only thing stopping him was the effect her imprisonment would have on third parties.

The court had heard she was “the glue that holds the family together” and had a caring role for family members with additional needs.

He said he would reflect over the weekend on Eileen’s case and impose sentence on Tuesday.

Judge Nolan said on Tuesday that the Lawrence family was “very industrious in the manufacture of fraudulent claims“.

He said it is “very serious” to defraud or attempt to defraud insurance companies. He added that the court could not ignore the prospective impact on third parties, when considering the sentence to impose on Eileen Lawrence.

He imposed a three year prison sentence, suspended in full on strict conditions.

Last Friday, Judge Martin Nolan said Patrick Lawrence had his difficulties but he was satisfied that he knew right from wrong.

He acknowledged his medical and mental health issues but said this was serious wrongdoing which merited a prison sentence.

He imposed two years’ imprisonment.

He noted that Tom and John Lawrence were children at the time and there was some evidence they were used as “conduits” and under pressure to some degree to commit the crimes.

The judge said they were now getting on well and it would be unjust to imprison them.

He imposed one year suspended sentences on both men.

Detective Garda Ivor Scully of the Garda National Economic Crime Bureau told David Perry BL, prosecuting, that the family had submitted the personal injury claims under false names to disguise the fact that they had all made previous claims and not to draw attention to the

claims.

He outlined that some of the claims were paid out but the majority were not successful.

He said one insurance company engaged a private investigator to look into certain claims and the investigator took photos of the family attending medical appointments under their false names.

Gardai were alerted and the investigation unearthed correspondence from the false identities at the accused persons’ address and claim money paid into a bank account of one member of the family.

The family were arrested and interviewed in 2019.

Patrick Larence made four false claims under two false names for road traffic accidents and falls, with just one claim successfully resulting in pay out of €9,370. He has six previous convictions for theft and road traffic offences.

Eileen Lawrence made five claims under two false identities.

Only one claim was successful, with €15,000 being paid out to her in 2014.

Another claim was withdrawn after she was identified in court by gardai. Eileen Lawrence has no previous convictions.

Tom Lawrence made an unsuccessful claim for a trip and fall in 2016 under a false name. He was 16 years old at the time. He has convictions for road traffic offences and theft.

John Lawrence made four claims under false names, with one being successful and netting a pay out of €6,155 in 2015. John was also under 18 at the time of the offending. He has convictions for theft and road traffic offences.

Roderick O’Hanlon SC, defending Patrick Lawrence, said his client had a number of medical and mental health issues, which required medication and occasional hospitalisations.

He handed in medical reports and said he was vulnerable to severe deterioration in his mental

health.

He said his client regrets the offending and has not re-offended since.

He asked the court to take into account his guilty plea, which avoided a potentially difficult trial having to take place.

John Berry SC, defending Eileen Lawrence, said his client was the “glue that holds the family together” and was the primary carer for a son with additional needs.

He handed in letters from multiple agencies outlining her son’s difficulties and her caring role in relation to him.

He said she also had a caring role in relation to her husband and other family members.

Mr Berry said regarding her mother-in-law’s offending, it was possible that Eileen had seen what she was doing, thought that she could do similar and it opened a door for her into this type of crime.

He asked the court to take into account the need for stability for family members she cares for.

Hugh Hartnett SC, defending Tom Lawrence, asked the court to take into account that he was 16 years old at the time. He is now married and a father himself. Counsel handed in medical references.

The garda agreed with Mr Hartnett that his client would not have had the guile or intelligence to set up the fraud himself as he was a child at the time. He was interviewed and made admissions.

Maurice Coffey SC, for John Lawrence, submitted his client was also a minor at the time of the offending and may have been used as a “conduit.”

He said his client was “not the brains of the operation” and followed instructions.

He said his client has also married and settled down.

His daughter has some medical issues.

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

Solar panel firm Ohk Energy marks a new dawn in renewable energy

Dear Editor:

OHK Energy one of Ireland’s largest installers of solar PV, battery, EV charger and heat pump systems has endorsed its fourth acquisition since private equity firm Melior Equity Partners Limited acquired a significant stake in the energy group. In 2023, Melior Equity Partners Limited acquired a 44 per cent

stake in Ohk Energy, but its stake was diluted after it completed a bolt-on acquisition of Galway based JFW Renewables.

NRG Panel is also part of Ohk Energy Group. Since its inception in 2015, the combined group is deemed the fastest growing renewable energy services firm in Ireland.

Ohk deals completed since 2023 Melior

investment valued at €30m embracing durability and sustainability of the oak tree – an indigenous tree in Ireland; determined as one of the better trees at sequestering carbon.

'Ohk' nomenclature combines 'oak' with 'ohm' symbolising strength and stability, which furnishes cutting-edge green energy solutions to potential customers, enhancing their future for

generations to come.

Ohk furnishes an array of energy services allowing residential and commercial customers to enhance the energy efficiency of their homes and businesses, reducing costs and carbon emissions. More detail at: Ohk Energy.ie

Yours sincerely,
Gerry Coughlan, Kilnamanagh.

Conor McGregor anti-immigration rant in White House lampooned by the Taoiseach

Dear Editor:

TAOISEACH Michael Martin lampooned anti-immigration comments made by Conor McGregor as the MMA fighter visited the White House prior to a St Patrick’s Day meeting with Donald Trump.

Conor McGregor said “Ireland is on the cusp of losing its Irishness” and that an “illegal immigration racket” was “running ravage on the country”.

Dressed in a green business suit to mark Ireland’s national apostle Conor McGregor was at the White House at Donald Trump’s invitation and participated in an impromptu Q&A session with reporters.

Speaking in the White House alongside the president’s press secretary, Karoline Leavitt, he opined “There are rural towns in Ireland that have been overrun in one swoop.”

The 36-year-old former Ultimate Fighting

Championship (UFC) champion said he was “here to raise the issue and highlight it” and would be listening to Donald Trump’s policy on immigration who wants to ramp up deportations of migrants in the USA there without proper documentation.

The controversial MMA fighter, lauded Donald Trump’s as “inspiring” during his meeting in the Oval Office.

And White House press secretary Karoline

Leavitt said the US administration could not think of a “better guest to have with us on St Patrick’s Day” during a very cordial meeting with Donald Trump.

But Minister for Foreign Affairs Simon Harris said Conor McGregor does not speak on behalf of Ireland and ‘does not reflect the spirit of St Patrick’s Day’.

Yours sincerely,
Gerry Coughlan, Kilnamanagh

Concerns over 'public space could be littered with advertising' by outdoor panels

THE potential for local authority controlled outdoor advertising panels is being looked at by South Dublin County Council, who have put a tender out with a view to installing up to 25 structures in the county, *reports Maurice Garvey.*

However, concerns have been raised by councillors who don't think the public should be "burdened" by further advertising as they go about their day-to-day business.

SDCC Director Jason Frehill said the benefits of the potential scheme could be to relay important messages to the public on storm warnings, real time information on traffic and public works, while also being a potential revenue source for the local authority.

A presentation for the Outdoor Advertising Strategy at the monthly council meeting this month, cited a 2005 tender by Dublin City

Council for 120 panels which netted over €83m and planning permission for 72 advertisement panels at a value of €54.36m

SDCC Director Mr Frehill said this could help the council dictate their own controls on outdoor advertising and communicate services.

"Fantastic from a community engagement perspective," he said.

"We plan to go out to tender in March to see if organisations want to install structures in the county. Try to manage expectations, we don't know what the market will tell us.

"If we secure a partner by June, we will look at structures, design, and all going well, maybe next year we can advertise our services on these structures."

However concerns were raised by councillors, including Cllr Jess Spears (PBP) who doesn't think "public space should be

littered with advertising."

"It's pollution. People are already trying to avoid advertising. Bombarding people as they go. I think what DCC has done is disgraceful, and I don't think we should adopt that. These are not information panels, they are going to advertise burgers and gambling or whoever pays the most," said Spear.

Cllr Paddy Holohan (Ind) asked about alcohol adverts and political endorsements when it comes to election times in regard to the panels, while Cllr Joanna Tuffy (Lab) has concerns that it will potentially "deliver issues we don't know yet."

Cllr Mick Duff (Lab) also raised concerns about the ethics and asked if the council would ever consider operating their own advertising organisation.

Some saw potential benefits with Cllr

Yvonne Collins (FF) believing it would be good to relay information about public consultations, while Cllr Jaqueline Sheehy made the point that information of suicide ideation could be important in strategic locations.

Cllr Sarah Barnes (FG) fears advertising agencies will push for prominent locations, at junctions, and warns against "overwhelming public messaging."

In response, Mr Frehill said the council wanted to hear feedback from members and that the idea is "how can we communicate and get the brand of SDCC out there?"

"It won't be entire streets with advertising. Think we might get about 20-25 structures in the county," said the Director.

If a tender partner is secured by June, SDCC hope to have the panels operating by early 2026.

Calls made for a dedicated bus service in Adamstown

Residents say buses are driving by stops already full

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DESPITE plans to extend the C2 bus route in Adamstown, there have been calls for a dedicated bus service in the area, *reports Maurice Garvey.*

Following confirmation of the extension by the National Transport Authority earlier this month, Cllr Liona O'Toole (Ind) was contacted by residents highlighting problems with bus routes in Lucan, including buses passing people by because they are already full.

"Adamstown still does not have its own dedicated bus service, which is something I have campaigned for extensively from the very start," said Cllr O'Toole.

"The failure to address this has now contributed to the wider issue of inadequate bus services across Lucan."

If the new network operates as intended "without buses disappearing from schedules or bypassing stops due to being full so early in their route" it will provide strong connections, however O'Toole believes the current



system is under resourced.

"I was dropping my son to the bus stop for him to go to work in town. Four buses passed him by. It was a Saturday and the rugby was on which is great that people were using buses to go into town, but how are people supposed to get to work? My son was two hours ahead of schedule."

Many residents would like to see

the return of the 25 bus and have it start at Adamstown Train Station.

Correspondence by the NTA to senior council engineers earlier this month said that C2 is intended to serve the Shackleton and Halwell areas of Adamstown, running via Shackleton Drive and the Celbridge Link Road.

The opening of the link road is "some time away." An alternative

alignment via Aderrig Park Avenue and Adamstown Way has been identified.

Adamstown Boulevard will continue to be served by routes L51/L52. Stops on Aderrig Park Avenue and Adamstown Way were not found but this will be reconsidered when more of the development is ready, according to the NTA.

It is proposed to implement the service change once alignment and stops on Shackleton Drive are ready, subject to the works and agreement with the operator.

A spokesperson for the NTA told *The Echo*: "We would like to divert route C2 via Shackleton Drive in Adamstown, as originally planned, in order to bring buses closer to residents in that area. We are working with the landowner to determine if this is possible, from a roads perspective. There are no plans to change frequencies or add other new routes at this stage, but capacity is kept under regular review."



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Coaching people has given me confidence to try new things

Gráinne set up Fugacity in January which provides one-to-one and group coaching

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

A BACKGROUND in chemical engineering and management consulting helped to forge the right ingredients for a local entrepreneur to establish a career coaching initiative.

Gráinne McDonagh set up Fugacity Coaching in January this year, which provides one-to-one and group coaching with client teams.

Her own career journey has been quite eventful, having previously lived and worked in London and Brussels, she returned to Dublin for further education at UCD Smurfit School for a Diploma in Business and Executive Coaching.

"It was transformative. I learned how to coach but I also learned about myself and what makes me tick. The best bit was having the opportunity to coach some wonderful people as I was training. And so I eventually came back to the psychology-related career that I'd decided not to pursue in university," said Gráinne.

The name Fugacity itself is a tip to her background – an engineering term about 'escape' or as Gráinne sees it, a nice parallel with coaching to "look at the bigger picture of your career, or escaping a pattern of behaviour or moving to your ideal role or job."

Gráinne almost studied psychology at university but changed

to engineering at the last minute.

"Maybe a little bit on a whim - having talked to a lecturer in Trinity who reminded me that psychology was not an exact science. That decision shaped my career but I never stopped being interested in people and how their minds work.

"I became a chemical engineer and worked in development and then in design consulting in the biopharmaceutical industry. But something was calling to me about working in other industries so I made the leap to management consulting and spent more than a decade working on great projects with a variety of clients between the UK and Ireland, working for Capgemini and Accenture respectively."

Being coached herself a few years ago provided some unexpected personal insight and Gráinne learned that the favourite part of her week was talking to colleagues in the team about their roles, their careers and how to navigate them.

"My ideal coachee is someone who is maybe mid-career and trying to figure out what to do next - whether that's about figuring out how to find your voice in work, or find the right role in an organisation, or about achieving the right balance between work and personal life, or maybe people contemplating a bigger change.

"There's also something about the knock-on effects of figuring out what you want out of life because that clarity can improve how you feel and your outlook on life. From my own

experience of coaching it has opened up new ideas (that I didn't even know I had) and given me confidence to try new things - such as setting up my own business but also going back to my artistic side, which I try to use with my coaches," said Gráinne.

Coaching circles are facilitated by a trained coach who guides the team in how to have coaching conversations. So the team will walk away with some coaching skills. The other benefit is that it provides a space for a team to cooperate, bond and learn from each other outside of project work.

"I found Gráinne to be a fantastic business coach. I worked with her over a 6-month period, meeting on zoom and face to face once a month. Gráinne listened intently to everything I discussed about trying to find the best work life balance and how to better navigate our family run business as I pursued a second career. She offered great advice and practical tools that I implemented and continue to use to this day, giving me great clarity on my role and future in the family business, helping me with my new venture and how to juggle all the different hats I wear, which resulted in a better, more productive, work life balance. I would highly recommend Gráinne as a coach for both professional or personal challenges you are facing".

Emma Kennedy MD The Echo Newspaper

To learn more visit www.fugacitycoaching.ie

COACHING: Gráinne McDonagh from Fugacity



Upgrade refurbishments completed at stadium include modern facilities

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

UPGRADE works were recently completed at Tallaght Stadium to modernise dressing rooms and facilities for coaches and referees to meet UEFA Category 4 standards.

The first games to benefit from this upgrade were Shamrock Rovers UEFA Conference League knockout fixture against Molde, and the FAI Women's National Team Nations League fixture versus Turkey.

Stadium owners South Dublin County Council were "delighted" to announce recently completed upgrades to the dressing rooms.

"The project was completed by our partners Coneally Group

between December and February, with work completed in time for key recent fixtures at the stadium.

The investment in bringing the changing areas of the stadium up to international standard not only enhances the comfort of players and staff but also supports local sporting development and this was further in evidence this month when the prestigious Leinster Schools Senior Cup Final was played at Whitestown Way on St. Patrick's Day."

Terenure College took on Blackrock College in Tallaght Stadium for a sell out final on Monday.

It was the first time rugby returned to the stadium since 2014.

"It is one of the most highly anticipated fixtures in the Leinster rugby calendar, showcasing some of the best emerging young rugby talent in the province," said SDCC.



UPGRADE: Tallaght Stadium

Networking event is fantastic opportunity to gain knowledge

Three local entrepreneurs shared their own personal journey to enterprise success

SOUTH Dublin County Partnership in collaboration with the Local Enterprise Office hosted a well-attended networking event and showcase as part of Local Enterprise Week 2025.

The event took place at WorkIQ in the Innovation Quarter Tallaght.

Three local entrepreneurs shared their own personal journey to enterprise success; Carmel Gallagher from Artysans and Matt Sheedy from MediaVibe have each set up their own business over the past 12 months and gave useful insights and tips on their path to enterprise start up.

Olha Zhuravlova who fled the war in Ukraine in 2023 with her family, was welcomed back this year to update us on the continued success of her business Sense Catering.

The event was attended by recent enterprise startups as well as budding entrepreneurs from across the county.

In addition, there was a showcase with an exhibition of goods and services from recently

established enterprises from across our local communities.

Attendees on the day also got to receive practical tips from a range of leading industry experts in business skills areas including Marketing, e Commerce, Networking and Financial Management.

Simon Monds, CEO, South Dublin County Partnership speaking at the event highlighted that Local Enterprise Week is a fantastic opportunity for SME's and potential entrepreneurs to gain insight, knowledge and build great connections.

Simon thanked Tom Rooney and his team at the Local Enterprise Office for their invite to South Dublin County Partnership to participate in this year's events. Simon also stated that from the perspective of enterprise development, South Dublin County Partnership promotes self-employment as a real option for those who wish to re-enter the labor market or in some instances change their career direction.



SHOWCASE: Levina Lawless, South Dublin County Partnership, Jackie O'Malley, Amberley & Associates, Olha Zhuravlova, Scense Catering, Carmel Gallagher, Artisans, Edel Cummings, Zen Movement, Rosemary Kavanagh, INTREO, Matt Sheedy, Media Vibe, Edward Cranney, South Dublin County Partnership and Brid Healy, South Dublin County Partnership

‘Too many declarations with too little action’

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

BUREAUCRACY protects consumers and safeguards interests in many fields from online shopping to medicine control but sometimes you can have too much regulation, according to Peter Byrne, South Dublin Chamber chief executive.

Byrne, an Irish Employers Representative to the EU, along with his fellow EU employers' representatives, raised this point with Antonio Costa, President of the EC, who addressed the advisory group's recent meeting in Brussels.

“We made clear the EU's competitiveness is at risk and we can see first the struggles of our members to deal with these challenges including too many rules and procedures for business,” said Mr Byrne in his report to the South Dublin Chamber newsletter.

“There have been too many declarations with too little action, too many promises with

little results. We specifically asked that to enable us to get back our competitive edge that the many adopted plans of the EU like the SME test are implemented.”

According to the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) group Byrne is a member of, a clear example of over regulation can be seen in one example in the Draghi Report.

In the last five years the US published 2,000 new pieces of legislation relating to business, the EU published 13,000 that's 10,000 more pieces of legislation we need to deal with than those firms based in the US,” said Byrne.

The EESC believes EU regulation is a powerful tool that enables trade and is essential to economies, however currently 61 per cent of businesses see EU regulation as an obstacle to investment.

South Dublin Chamber encourages members to send their examples of over regulation or cumbersome paperwork that could be simplified to email majella@sdchamber.ie.



CHALLENGES: Peter Byrne, CEO of South Dublin Chamber

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Hands on demonstration on how to leverage AI tools

Chamber partner again with CeADAR with over 60 members attending event

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

SOUTH Dublin Chamber hosted an information morning with CeADAR's European Digital Innovation Hub (EDIH) for AI Programme.

The event went really well by all accounts, with over 60 attendees, with an opportunity for members to network with CeADAR's AI Data scientists.

"South Dublin Chamber were delighted to partner again with CeADAR with an AI Event – Empower your Enterprise with AI," said Clíodhna O' Byrne, Deputy CEO, South Dublin Chamber.

"Over 60 members attended for this event hosted in The Plaza Hotel. The team in CeADAR gave a hands-on demonstration of how to leverage AI tools for business impact. Information on AI services and funding was highlighted, along with case studies of how CeADAR Ireland has supported other members and SMEs using AI in their business."

The CeADAR programme provides support to SMEs and public sector organisations (PSOs) who are at the early stage of their AI transition or just curious to find out how using data can improve their business.

Based in UCD, CeADAR are funded by Enterprise Ireland, the IDA, and the EU to support enterprises and PSO's in Ireland to understand and use data analytics and AI to empower their businesses.

The Chamber event on Wednesday morning at the Maldron Hotel in Tallaght was specifically focused on how SME's or PSO's can benefit from AI.

Attendees discovered how to use AI technologies to elevate business strategies and heard from speakers about the opportunities available.

Established in 2013, CeADAR bills itself as 'Ireland's Centre for AI.'

They work with a range of organisations, including startups and academia to enable them adopt and leverage the value of AI and machine learning.



DEMONSTRATION:
Laura Plunkett, CeADAR, Peter Byrne, South Dublin Chamber, Alperen Yilmaz, CeADAR, Rami Ebeid, CeADAR, Clíodhna O' Byrne, South Dublin Chamber, Nathalie Norton, CeADAR

Lidl delighted to appoint Ryan as Chief Customer officer

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

LIDL has announced the appointment of Ivan Ryan to the role of Chief Customer Officer for Lidl Ireland and Lidl Northern Ireland. Lidl Ireland's head office is on Main Road in Tallaght.

This newly established position on Lidl's Board of Directors will see Ryan lead all customer-focused aspects of Lidl's business.

Ryan previously occupied the position of Regional Managing Director for Lidl Northern Ireland since August 2023.

Having joined Lidl in 2007, Ryan has previously worked across many areas of the business, both locally and internationally and has held senior positions within HR, operations, finance, and IT for Lidl Ireland and Northern Ireland.

CEO of Lidl Ireland and Northern Ireland, Robert Ryan has welcomed Ivan's appointment stating: "I am delighted to announce Ivan Ryan's appointment to the new role of Chief Customer Officer."

The creation of this role demonstrates Lidl's continued commitment to our customers and our desire to provide best-in-class service to everyone who enters our stores.

"Ivan brings many years of industry knowledge to this role and will work across multiple areas of our business to ensure we meet and exceed customer expectation as the destination for best value and price in the market."

The Chief Customer Officer role will encompass multiple areas of the business focussing on customer touchpoints such as marketing, customer insights, loyalty programs and overall end-to-end customer experience.



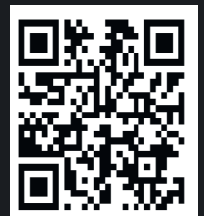
ROLE: Ivan Ryan, Chief Customer officer with Lidl

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Additional info sought on former Ulster Bank site

PLANS: An artist impression of the plans for the former Ulster Bank in Tallaght Village

Plans include demolishing former bank for mixed-use development including 22 apartments

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

ADDITIONAL information has been sought in relation to plans for the existing former Ulster Bank on Main Street in Tallaght Village.

Developer Connmurr Projects has applied for permission to demolish the old bank building and for the construction of two new buildings - a mixed-use building and a residential building.

The mixed-use building proposal includes the three-storey building accessed by Old Blessington Road on Main Street and will consist of one retail unit at the ground-floor and four apartment one-bed units.

The residential unit proposals are for a five-storey building located to the rear of the site, accessed by a side lane connected to Old Blessington Road, consisting of 22 apartment units made up of eight one-bed units, four two-bed units, and 10 three-bed units.

The vehicular and pedestrian entrance is accessed by a side lane connected to Old Blessington Road. The development will also

include associated private and communal open spaces, landscaping, bicycle storage, bin storage, retail storage, and all associated site works.

South Dublin County Council has requested additional information on Re-Design (Planning/Conservation), the proposal in its current form exceeds the maximum plot ratio allowed for 'The Village Neighbourhood' under Section 3.4 of the Tallaght Local Area Plan, 2020 (LAP).

The scale, mass and bulk of the development overall also fails to meet Key Objective VL6 of the Local Area Plan, which

seeks to "Protect and enhance setting of protected structures and qualities of the ACA". Revised plans and elevations shall be submitted.

The applicant shall submit a revised Daylight & Sunlight assessment having particular regard to the effect of the proposed development on neighbouring properties and private open spaces adjoining the application site.

The applicant shall submit a Waste Management Plan for the operational phase of the development and a revised layout showing footpath dimensions and a road safety audit.

Upgrade plans approved for McDonald's

MCDONALD'S Restaurant has been approved permission by South Dublin County Council for an upgrade of its premises at Lucan Road in Dodsborough.

Applicant McDonald's Restaurants of Ireland Ltd plans will consist of proposed external and internal modifications/upgrade works including new entrance lobby and associated works.

The plans include the improvements to drive-thru lane including relocated height restrictor, signage, canopy, ordering device and bollards; new booth

windows to replace existing; new fast-forward booth and associated bay; upgrade works to existing windows; new elevational signage; new gates and wall to existing yard to match existing, with associated works to the rear of the unit including partial removal of existing store to provide increased corridor; internal alterations to facilitate all modifications/upgrade works; additional bollards; landscaping works including outdoor furniture; boundary treatment works; and all associated works to facilitate the proposed development.



UPGRADE: McDonald's at Lucan Road was granted permission for an upgrade

People 'locked out of being able to put secure roof over their heads'

Calls are made to review the Cost Rental Scheme which still leaves out to many says councillor

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

A SINGLE person applying for a one-bedroom apartment in Airtón Plaza "would need a net disposable income of €4,000 per month," according to a councillor.

At the March Council meeting, Tallaght Councillor Niamh Whelan (SF) called on the Department of Housing to review the Cost Rental Scheme which is intended to provide secure, long term tenancies at more affordable prices, but still leaves out too many.

"I brought this motion here today due to the increase in constituents who approached me, both individuals and families, who are over the threshold for social housing but have been refused access to all the cost rentals in the area," she said.

Cost rental homes have their rents set at a minimum level of 25pc below the local market rents, as they only cover the costs of construction, maintenance, and operation of the development.

However, the scheme also rules that applicants can't be spending more than 35pc of their net income on rent, which leaves out people and especially singles on a 'middle' income as rents are still high.

A one-bed apartment in the

newest cost rental development in Tallaght central, Airtón Plaza, was €1,400 per month.

"A single person applying would need a net disposable income of €4,000 per month or a gross salary of over €65,000 a year to stand any chance of qualifying, which rails out the vast majority of workers if applying alone," said Cllr Whelan.

According to her, "10 to 50pc of applicants" are being excluded from housing schemes due to affordability. In the Cost Rental scheme, many flaws still make the price too "inflated," she added.

In Airtón Plaza, no studio apartment was provided, while two-bedroom apartments were put up for rent at €1,715 per month and three-bed apartments at €1,800 per month.

The net household income to apply must be below €66,000 per year in the Dublin region, and the household must be "the correct size for the home."

"I'm asking my Council colleagues here today to support me in calling for the new Minister to review this, as it's our constituents who are being locked out of being able to put a secure roof over their heads in their own community," concluded Cllr Whelan.

As her motion was passed, South Dublin County Council will issue a letter to the Minister for Housing.



SCHEME: A one-bed in Airtón Plaza is €1,400 per month

Investment warehouse in Crag Crescent has guide price of €950k



INVESTMENT: The warehouse in Crag Crescent in Clondalkin

A SUBSTANTIAL warehouse investment in Crag Crescent in Clondalkin has come on the market with a guide price of €950,000.

The property is arranged over ground and first floor to provide a mid-terraced, substantial warehouse unit.

Internally the property comprises ground

floor warehouse accommodation together with office accommodation and kitchenette at first floor level concrete structural mezzanine.

The warehouse element has a large electric roller shutter door to the front and the side at ground floor level. The unit is set

amongst a well-established industrial estate and benefits from ample surface car parking spaces. The unit is situated within Clondalkin Industrial Estate approximately 4.5km (10 mins) from Junction 9 (Red Cow) M50/N7 and approximately 5km (12 mins) from Junction 7 M50/N4.

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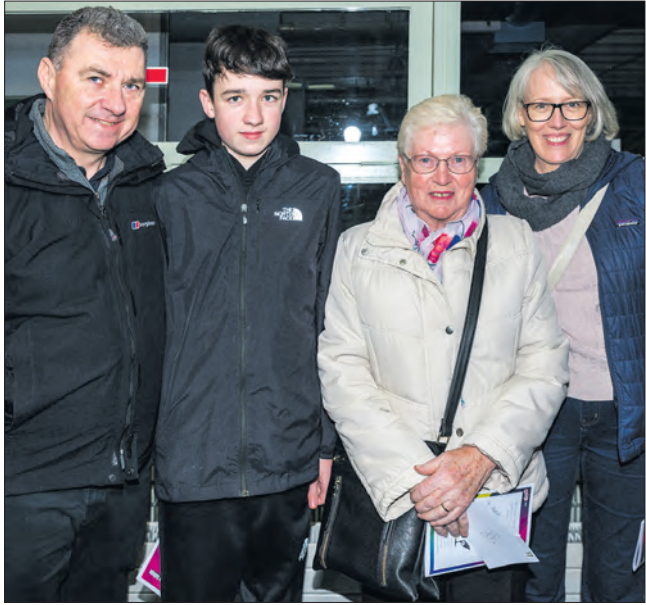
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Dublin Story Slam

COMPETITIVE STORYTELLING NIGHT RETURNS TO TALLAGHT

By **Ryan Butler**
news@echo.ie

GET ready for another open mic competitive storytelling night of the Dublin Story Slam, where members of the audience are invited to get up and share true personal stories inspired by a different theme.

Returning for the third time to Tallaght, by popular demand, an open mic competitive storytelling night where members of the audience are invited to get up and share true personal stories inspired by a different theme each night. This time the theme is 'Luck.'

Hosted by comedian Colm O'Regan, this event is a safe and supportive space to share those personal experiences, memories, and events that might be funny, sad, serious, or silly but are all about bringing people together. At the end of the night, they have a winning Story Slam Champion who is then invited to take part in their biannual Grand Slam at The Abbey Theatre. Interested in telling a story on the night? Check out civictheatre.ie for more info.

This week, we sat down with producer Julien Clancy to discuss 'Luck,' which performs in the Civic on March 20; make sure to get your tickets before it's all sold out!

What inspired the 'Dublin Story Slam'?

The Dublin Story Slam is an open mic competitive storytelling night based on an original concept and format of another amazing storytelling organisation called The Moth. In 2017, we decided to reinvent ourselves as The Dublin Story Slam and incredibly have gone on to sell out every single show since. We host open mic storytelling nights at the Sugar Club, the Pavilion Theatre, and of course our new home in the Civic Theatre in Tallaght. The winners of each night are then invited to take part in our Grand Slam storytelling competition at The Abbey Theatre. We've been going for nearly 9 years, and I think it's the fact that no two nights have ever been the same; that's what keeps us inspired after all that time.

How did you go about making the idea a reality?

We come up with different themes for each of the storytelling nights, and we then invite members of the public to come share personal true stories inspired by that theme. We have a host, a venue, a scorecard for judges, and even some pens and paper, but the rest all comes from the audience at each show. The audience is the night. Without them, we'd have no show or storytellers or stories. So while we've come up with the idea for sharing stories this way, it's the audience who definitely turns it into a reality.

Have there been any highlights or challenges involved in preparing workshops

and performances like this?

After nearly 9 years of Slams, I'm still amazed when someone genuinely believes they don't have a story worth sharing. In Ireland I think we've become convinced that storytellers are just born with that natural ability to share stories. After hearing well over a thousand stories onstage, I know that even the most nervous, inexperienced speaker can be more engaging, funny, and memorable than the most polished speaker. So it's all about being yourself onstage, even if it's not perfect or polished. I think being authentic is the most important quality of a storyteller. So helping people be their authentic selves onstage can be challenging, but it's also the most rewarding part of the experience too.

How did the idea for this particular storytelling night, 'Luck,' come about?

Obviously this being the month of St. Patrick, we were inspired by our nationwide fascination with that theme, Luck. But when you dive deeper, luck is really about something unexpected happening in your life, and the outcome is either good or bad. So Luck can be a way to explore how you see the world and have a bit of fun along the way. Also, given the state of global affairs, I think we could all do with a bit more luck in our lives, so we can't wait to hear what stories come our way!

Would there be any particular workshops or stories that stand out in your memory, and why?

We've had so many pinch me, is this real? moments onstage that it's hard to choose. I always remember hearing a story from a mother whose infant daughter had a peanut allergy, and she lived in the middle of nowhere. I always remember her description of being on the side of the busy motorway, waiting for an ambulance in the pouring rain, and it was just terrifying but also incredibly moving. At the time, my daughter was a year old, and I remember the story being so vivid and real. I was a nervous wreck and nearly crying onstage with the rest of the audience when it all turned out ok. Story Slam stories, though, aren't always as dramatic, and one of the loudest laughs we ever got was for an unassuming Kerry man, who decided to go skinny dipping on a deserted Dublin beach, only to emerge with his carefully folded clothes on the sand, having vanished. It took him a while to get some help, but it was so funny. We learned that he passed away last year, so it's little stories like that that will preserve him forever in people's minds. I like that we can live on through our stories too.

Are there any more events planned for Dublin Story Slam this year?

We are so looking forward to this month's show at The Civic. After that we are back on April 5th as part of the Five Lamps Arts Festival,



STORYTELLING:
Julien Clancy

and then we headline a show on April 9th at the Sugar Club. We're also busy planning away our Grand Slam storytelling event at The Abbey, which the winner of this month's show at the Civic will be invited to take part in. The GrandSlam is our storytelling headline event of the year, so we can't wait! More details via our mailing list, which you can join through www.thedublinstoryslam.com

Who would you like to thank for the success of the programme?

Apart from our wonderful hosts, Colm O'Regan and Sharon Mannion, our support team, and all of the venues, including Niamh & Mary at The Civic Theatre, the biggest thanks have to go to the storytellers who've enriched so many nights and so many lives with their wonderful personal true stories.

shane daniel byrne
**TROUBLE
DENIM**

SAT 22ND MARCH 8PM | COMEDY

See www.civictheatre.ie or contact Box Office (01) 462 7477 **THE CIVIC**



“Because you don't live near a bakery doesn't mean you have to go without cheesecake.

Hedy Lamarr

Food with passion

STRAWBERRY SWIRL & WHITE CHOCOLATE NO BAKE CHEESECAKE

by **john paul kennedy** /jpkennedy.kennedy@gmail.com



Decadent strawberry swirl & white chocolate no bake cheesecake – i road-tested this recipe only in the past week and served it to my family for dessert after the sunday roast. The verdict from all gathered around my table said it all, i simply had to share this recipe. rich, creamy and decadent, this dessert is a real show-stopping treat and great for serving at dinner parties or family gatherings. it can be made a day or two ahead and left in the fridge to set. This is not a gelatinous wobbly cheesecake. it is rich and smooth with a thin crumbly biscuit base and a delicious sweet strawberry swirl topping that, from the first mouthful, i promise will leave you salivating and wanting more. if you prefer you can of course substitute the strawberries with raspberries!

Ingredients:

Strawberry Sauce

320g of chopped strawberries
100g cup of castor sugar
2 tablespoons water
1 tablespoon of corn starch

Base

320g crushed digestive biscuits
115g melted butter

Filling

170g white chocolate chips
1 teaspoon of vanilla extract
180g chopped /sliced strawberries
200g icing sugar
500g cream cheese full fat (not reduced or low fat)
125ml cup of double cream

john paul kEnnEdy is a self-Taught cook and an avid fan of collecting cookery books with a passion for good old-fashioned home cooking. his passion for proper family cooking sTeMs from his Two grandMoThers, who were boTh excellent cooks, one of whoM was a Trained chef. **jp** proMises To bring us plenty of faMily-inspired recipes and TasTy Treats while showing us how To geTThe basics right

Method

1. To make the base blitz all the ingredients in a food processor and line the base of a 20cm spring-form tin with the biscuit mixture, pressing using the back of a wooden spoon to ensure its evenly spread and compact. Then place in the fridge.
2. Then make the strawberry swirl topping. place all the ingredients in a pot and, on a medium heat, cook down until you have a jam-like consistency. pop into a bowl and place into the fridge to cool.
3. Melt the white chocolate and double cream together over a low heat until combined and nice and glossy.
4. in a large bowl add the cream cheese, icing sugar and vanilla extract and mix well together. Then pour into the melted chocolate and cream and combine until you have a nice smooth consistency.
5. remove the base from the fridge and in a circular pattern line it with the chopped strawberries and pour on the chocolate/cream mixture and smooth out with a spatula.
6. place blobs of the strawberry swirl mixture on top and using a toothpick gently run through each blob to create a swirl affect – then place immediately into the fridge to set for 5 hours or overnight if you have the time.



This is a very adaptable recipe; you can use raspberries, blueberries or strawberries, whatever you prefer, but for me it has to be strawberries as they give a delicious sweet contrast to the rich creamy filling. it's the perfect no-bake dessert for showing off all kinds of berries. it's so smooth and creamy and you never have to turn on your oven. if you are stuck for time you can skip the swirl topping and use your favourite jam! This is a real stunning show-stopping dessert that's insane, delicious and indulgent. you have to give this one a try and enjoy!

Contact
jp on:

Twitter: @Jpkcooking
Email: Jpkcooking@gmail.com
Instagram: jpkennedy.kennedy

Is This Love

IS DUE FOR RELEASE BY NEOSUPERVITAL

By **Ryan Butler**
news@echo.ie

"I WANTED to make something to nod your head to, take a late-night drive to, maybe even dance along to at a house party."

Liberties-based Neosupervital (aka multi-instrumentalist and producer Tim O'Donovan) is back with the second single off his highly anticipated third album, 'Transporter'.

'I.S.T.H.I.S.L.O.V.E', which is due for release on April 4, bears all the hallmarks of the Neosupervital sound with its hypnotic electronic 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, which has been compared to Beck and Eels with a touch of Daft Punk, open for acts including The Divine Comedy

and Stewart Copeland as well as perform 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 second single off his highly anticipated new album, Tim said: "For I.S.T.H.I.S.L.O.V.E., I wanted to veer away from the verse / chorus / verse type pop song and stretch out a little with a mostly instrumental track."

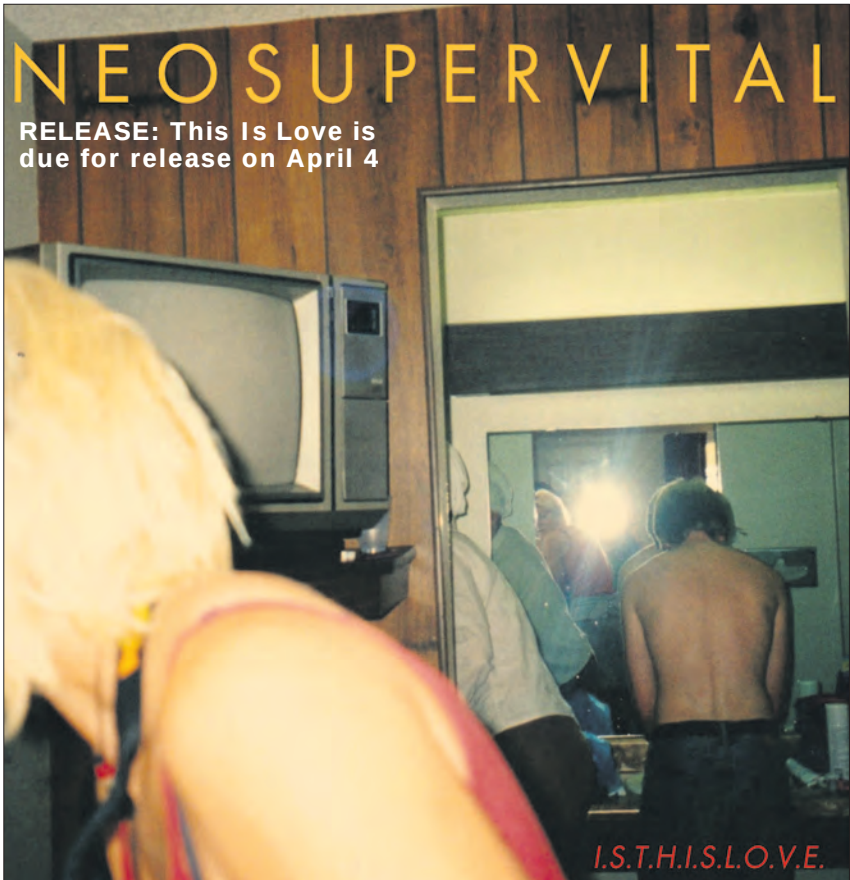
He added: "After releasing Factory Presets earlier this year, I wanted to release a completely different type of track for the second single off the upcoming album 'Transporter'.

"It's a pretty eclectic album where no two songs sound the same, but they still all hang together nicely as Neosupervital tunes."

Neosupervital will be launching his album at the Starbar in Dublin City Centre on April 12.



ELECTRIC: Tim O'Donovan



NEOSUPERVITAL
RELEASE: This Is Love is due for release on April 4

I.S.T.H.I.S.L.O.V.E.

Chocolate Full of Lies

SONG DEDICATED TO ACKO'S DAUGHTER

By **Ryan Butler**
news@echo.ie

"THIS is quite a special song to me as it is dedicated to my daughter Sita, who passed away last year," explains Tallaght-born singer-songwriter Acko Atkinson.

'Chocolate Full of Lies' is the third of twelve singles Acko is planning to release this year.

"The idea for the song came to me quite soon after but it took me ages to get it to the place I wanted," he continues.

He wrote and recorded three other versions before he settled on a final draft.

Sita was a big fan of the Beatles, so he leaned into the "Beatlesey" aspects of the song.

Noel Quaid on bass and Iain King on guitar join Acko, while his other daughter Veda and Sita's best friend Lynda Murphy, who inspired the title, provide the vocals.

The B-Side 'Emily' is a song Acko wrote about Sita's daughter Milly shortly after she was born 13 years ago.

"I thought it would be fitting to pair it with this one," he concludes.

'Chocolate Full of Lies' releases on Bandcamp and other music streaming platforms on March 21.



Singer songwriter
Acko Atkinson

MORAN
RED
COW
INN
EST. 1890

MOTHER'S DAY
CABARET SHOW

SUNDAY MARCH 30TH

STARRING
LAURIE HARTZ
WITH GUEST
DAME STUFFY

FOLLOWED BY DJ

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CARVERY MAIN COURSE
DESSERT & TEA / COFFEE

DOORS OPEN 2PM. SHOW 4PM - 8PM
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Matilda the musical

PERFORMED BY PUPILS IN ST MARY'S NS IN SAGGART

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



John Twamley, Aoife Twamley, John Twamley, Lisa Lowry and Ian Lowry



St Mary's NS pupils during the show in the Civic Theatre



Aoife, Emilie and Zoe



Sean, Deirdre and Kamila



Enjoying the show in the Civic



Juliana, Camila and Margot



The cast during the performance of Matilda



Jurgita and Andre

What Was The Question

TALLAGHT RAPPER CURTISY NOMINATED FOR RTE’S CHOICE AWARDS

By **Ryan Butler**
news@echo.ie

"IT WAS never a thought when I was making the album; I still feel weird seeing myself beside these huge Irish albums from 2024," comments Tallaght rapper Gavin Curtis ('Curtisy'). This comment is in relation to his debut album 'What Was the Question's' recent nomination for the RTE Choice Music Prize for Album of the Year, kindly brought to *The Echo's* attention by Gavin's agent Sean Price. Gavin was up for nomination alongside Fontaines D.C., Kneecap, and more. He continues, "I felt proud of myself and the gang, and I felt grateful to be recognised by something so important in the Irish music world." Gavin would consider 'Necessary Evil,' which is due to appear on his next project, to be his favourite song he has ever worked on. "This song and the creation of it mean a lot to me," he explains. 2024 was a "learning curve"

for Gavin, saying, "I started to take myself more seriously, and I think in turn so did the audience." He is excited for a "bigger and better" 2025; he and his good friend Hiki are following up 'What Was The Question' a year later with a collaborative mixtape called 'Beauty in the Beast' (out May 30). Gavin will also be heading out on his "biggest tour yet" in the UK and Ireland with his friends. He has a couple of festival spots, and he will be playing at Trinity Ball, which he is "super excited for too." Speaking of the night of the awards (March 6), Gavin states, "I didn't feel any nerves at all leading up to it until the day before, and then I was all over the place." However, the second he stepped onto the stage, "everything changed, and I was myself again." Gavin and Hikii's titular track for 'Beauty and the Beast' is out now, and Gavin's tour of the UK and Ireland kicks off in October this year, including a gig in Whelan's on October 18.



MUSIC PRIZE: Tallaght Rapper Curtisy with his award

Taylor D_MUSIC

+ Full Band

+ Support

Whelan's

30th April 2024

Tickets on [whelanslive.com](https://www.whelanslive.com)

A photograph of Taylor D_MUSIC, a woman with long dark hair and sunglasses, wearing a black leather jacket. She is standing in front of a building with a red umbrella in the background.

26 songs

TAYLOR D'S NEW SINGLE

By **Ryan Butler**
news@echo.ie

"I WROTE 26 Songs as a tribute to the idea that love is endless, and no matter how many times you try to capture it, there's always more to say," comments Clondalkin singer-songwriter Taylor D regarding her new single '26 songs'. Having released on January 31, this upbeat, pop-infused track delves into the boundless nature of love and the creative ways we express it. With infectious melodies and heartfelt lyrics, '26 Songs' tells the story of loving someone so deeply that you could write endless songs about them—and still find new ways to express that love. Inspired by the complexity and beauty of love, 26 Songs explores how a deep connection with another person can fuel both creativity and emotions. The song's lyrics paint a picture of a love so profound that no matter how many songs you write about it, the feeling never fades. She will be performing a headline show in Whelan's on April 30; book your tickets now!

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The *Echo* – Telling the whole story



Grand marshal Cian Murphy



Aaron, Ava, Olivia, Zach and Harry



Tony, Elizabeth, Pipa and Rory



Confidance Troop



Bobby, Chris and Kevin Keeley



Craig, Brody and Ava



Elaine, Evan and Sharon O Reilly



Gardai Ava and Tia



Killinarden Celtic



Tallaght Person of the Year Glenda Murphy Smullen and Nico Crowley

St Patrick's Day Festivities

LARGE CROWD ENJOY CELEBRATIONS IN TALLAGHT

Photos by **Mark Pollock**

Photos taken for *The Echo* are available to purchase. Email reception@echo.ie or call 01-4685350.
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Kalya and Steph



Katie and Taylor



Indian communities in South Dublin, participants



Marks Celtic Football Club



Denis, Mia and Sarah



Jayden and Layton



St Mark's Taekwondo School

FLASH GORDON

AN PHRÍOMHCHATHAIR MHONGO.

AG LONRÚ LE CUMA TINE CHAMPA GUR BHAILIGH AR SINSEAR THART LE CHÉILE CHUN IAD FEIN A CHOINNEÁIL TE.

AGUS IS É AN POST ATÁ AGAM NA CHUN I A CHOIMEAD AG LONRÚ.

CHUAIGH MO DHEARTHÁIR RENO GO DTÍ NA TOLLÁIN ROCHTANA CHUN IMSCRÚDÚ A DHEÁNAMH AR MHÉADÚ FUINNIMH.

AGUS CHAS SÉ...

...AR FLASH GORDON AGUS DALE ARDEN.

THUG SÉ AN BHEIRT ACU CHUIG CUMHACHTSTÁISIÚN ADAMHACH 5 I GCOMHAIR DI-IONRADANTAS.

IS LAOCHRA IAD AN BHEIRT ACU --- AGUS IS ÉALAITHIGH IAD FREISIN.

MAR CHEANNAIRE NA BHFEAR CUMHACHTA, BHÍ ORMSA, ERGON, CINNEADH A DHEÁNAMH MAIDIR LEO.

D'INIS MÉ AN SCÉAL DO BHANIMPIRE AURA AGUS RÍ BARIN--

--AGUS CHUIR MÉ I GCUMHINE DÓIBH GO MBÍMID FAOI CHOMADIN AG NA HÓIGÍ SEO.

NÍ FÉIDIR LIOM A THUAR AN ÉISTFIDH SIAD LIOM.

DAN SCHKADE 9.8.24

ANOIS, THÍOS SA CHUMHACHTSTÁISIÚN ADAMHACH, DUISIÓNN FLASH.

MAR SIN IS DOCHA GO MBEIDH A FHÍOS AGAINN ROIMH I BHFAD.

AN CHÉAD CHLÁR EILE: MISE AGUS AN BANIMPIRE.

THE PHANTOM

CREATED BY LEE FALK

HOW IS IT THE ALMOST HUMANS KNOW OF MY ANCESTOR, THE 3RD PHANTOM...

... BUT HE LEFT US NO RECORD OF THEM IN THE CHRONICLES OF SKULL CAVE?

I THINK I UNDERSTAND WHY THE 3RD PHANTOM WROTE NOTHING OF THE SAVAGE BATTLES HE HAD SURVIVED IN THE LOWER CHAMBERS...

BUT WHY SAY NOTHING AT ALL OF THIS REMARKABLE CULTURE OF THE ALMOST HUMANS?

MAYBE HE THOUGHT PHANTOMS WHO CAME TO THE DOMAIN WOULD SOON DISCOVER THE LOWER CHAMBERS ON THEIR OWN. THEY'D HAVE TO FIGHT FOR THEIR LIVES THERE-- AS HE HAD.

HE DIDN'T WANT THAT!

MAYBE...BUT I'M WONDERING IF THE 3RD PHANTOM HAD EVER MET AN ALMOST HUMAN...EVER BEEN TO THE DOMAIN.

WE SAW HIS IMAGE ON A WALL. THAT DOESN'T MEAN HE WAS EVER HERE.

THE PRIESTHOOD!

THAT'S WHAT I'M THINKING.

THEY KNEW OF YOUR ANCESTOR'S BRAVERY IN THOSE ALL-BUT-HOPELESS BATTLES IN THE LOWER CHAMBERS!

THEY WOULD HAVE WANTED TO AID THE ALMOST HUMANS... GIVE THEM EVERY ADVANTAGE IN THE STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL.

IDEAS, CIVIL ORDER, TECHNOLOGY, WEAPONS... ...AND TO GUARD THEIR GATES AGAINST SAVAGERY...? ...A HERO!

Tony DePaul & Jeff Weigel 4-2-23

THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS

POPEYE

BY RANDY MILHOLLAND

SWEE'PEA, I LOVES THAT YA WANTS T' MAKE E'RYBODY YER FRIEND...

BUT NOT ALL CRITTERS IS MEANT T'BE YER PAL!

HE'S SUCH A GOOD HUGGER, THOUGH!

THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS

THE SECRET OF GOONHALLA

POPEYE AND SWEE'PEA, JOINED BY ALICE THE GOON AND HER CHILD, ALICE JR., ARE DELIVERING A SHIPMENT OF CARROTS TO FAR-OFF GOON VALLEY. UNAWARE OF WHAT, AND WHO, AWAITS.

I NOTICED IT TOO, ALICE.

QUESTEL

THERE AINTSK A SOUL 'ROUND!

IT'S LIKE TH' WHOLE VALLEY WAS ABANDONED.

DON'TSK WORRY. WE'LL GIT T' THE BOTTOM OF THIS.

AND ME AN' JUNIOR WILL HELP!

SWEE'PEA, MYSKERIES AINTSK FER KID-FOLK.

C'MON! I'VE BEEN ON SO MANY ADVENTURES WITH YA!

LET US HELP!

YER RIGHT. IN FACT, I KNOWS TH' FIRSK PLACE YA KIN LOOK FER CLUES.

WHEN DID YOU HAVE A BRIG INSTALLED IN THE SHIP?!

NOT SOON 'NUFF, HONESKLY.

TASQ-ART



“ Exercise is king. Nutrition is queen. Put them together and you’ve got a kingdom.

Jack LaLanne

Health & Fitness

INDOOR VERSUS OUTDOOR EXERCISE: WHICH ONE WINS?

by Ursula Frawley / info@moveitfitness.ie



With spring finally here, the sunshine and fresh air are calling us to get moving! But as we step outside, we’re left wondering—what is better for our bodies: exercising outdoors or indoors? Let’s explore the benefits of both, so you can make the best choice for your fitness routine.

The Power of the Outdoors

First up: the great outdoors. For many of us in Ireland, vitamin D is in short supply, especially during those long winter months. This vital vitamin, essential for our overall health, comes from sunlight, and there is no better way to soak it up than by walking or exercising outside. The simple act of stepping into the sun can give your body that much-needed boost.

But that is not all. Exercising outdoors often means you can bring a workout buddy along, whether it’s a friend or a family member. It is a perfect chance to catch up while reaping the mental and physical benefits of being outside. Plus, there’s something incredibly refreshing about moving your body in nature. Studies have shown that the sound of birds singing can improve your mood, making a walk or jog in the park not just good for your body, but for your mind as well.

URSULA FRAWLEY IS A PERSONAL TRAINER AND OWNER OF MOVE IT FITNESS. HER ONLINE STRENGTH & FITNESS CLASSES, WHICH RUN LIVE SEVEN TIMES A WEEK, HAVE BEEN HELPING WOMEN TO FEEL STRONGER AND FITTER SINCE 2020. HER ONLINE AND IN-PERSON PROGRAMMES ARE FOCUSED ON MOTIVATING AND CHANGING A MINDSET TO ENJOYING THE FITNESS JOURNEY, WHILE FEELING EMPOWERED WITH A POSITIVE MINDSET. URSULA LIVES IN DUBLIN 24 WITH HER HUSBAND AND FOUR CHILDREN. GET MORE INFORMATION BY EMAILING HER AT INFO@MOVEITFITNESS.IE OR WWW.MOVEITFITNESS.IE



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The Indoor Advantage

Now, let’s talk about the gym and indoor workouts. One of the biggest perks? No weather worries. Whether it’s raining cats and dogs or there’s torrential rain, you can stick to your routine without skipping a beat. Plus, the structured environment of a class can make it easier to stay on track. With scheduled classes and an instructor pushing you to hit new limits, it’s easier to stay committed and motivated.

Having a class membership often means you’re more likely to show up, as your spot in that class or your personal training session is already booked. And let’s not forget that extra motivation that comes from an instructor who is there to encourage you, challenge you, and help you push past your limits!

The Best of Both Worlds

Ultimately, the best exercise routine is one that mixes both indoor and outdoor workouts. Each offers unique benefits that complement each other. So, why not take advantage of the gorgeous spring weather and hit the outdoors when you can? And when the weather isn’t as inviting, head inside for that structured, motivating indoor session.

So, what is your plan? Will you be soaking up the sunshine on a walk with a friend, or hitting the gym for a killer class? Either way, today could be the perfect day for a fantastic workout—inside or out!

This article is not a substitute for medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Remember, always consult with your GP before embarking on any change in diet or new health & fitness regime.





Lisa and Reina



Clondalkin Youth Band



Rory, Michelle, Luca and Jack



Clondalkin Rugby Club



Dad, Sonny and Sarah



Grand Marshal Thyes Kavanagh



Paul and Sean



Oliver and Ryan



Will, Amy and Yvonne



Entertaining the crowd

St Patrick's Day Festivities

COMMUNITY COME OUT IN FORCE FOR THE CLONDALKIN PARADE

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



Kieran Kelly and Susan Quinn



Sadhbh Keane and Oisín Conroy



Round Tower GAA Club



Dancing on the streets



Eve, Isobel, Ellie, Phoebe, Ben and Thomas



The Duff Family



John and Pauline



Grand Marshals Eileen Coyne and Martin Brady



Maisie, Mollie and Bella



Rory, Eddie and Emily



Paul, Josh and Shauna



Danny and Callum



Bollywood Vibes



Commercials U15



Enjoying the Four Districts parade

St Patrick's Day Festivities

FOUR DISTRICTS PARADE IN RATHCOOLE

Photos by **Paddy Barrett**

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Kellan, Evie and Una



Hollie Nolan and Lola



Abhishek, Rashmi and Anaya



Leon and Jacob



John Kearns and P.J. Brennan



St Mary's GAA Saggart



Cllr Shirley O'Hara and Sue Dorgan

Concert for Archie

HELD BY PUPILS IN SCOIL CHAITLÍN MAUDE

Photos by **Paddy Barrett**

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Rang V1



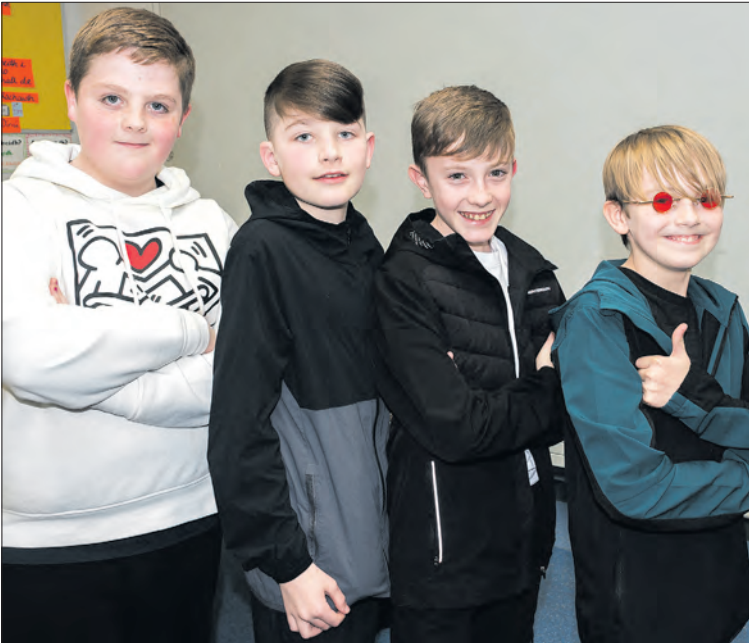
Rang a trí



Rang a cúig Múinteoir Eilís



Junior Infants



Tommy, Bobby, Zachary and Jake



Ceilidhmag and Isabelle



Holly, Emily and Chloe

Culture Day

IN ST MARK'S COMMUNITY SCHOOL IN TALLAGHT

Photos by **Paddy Barrett**

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Brazilian Table, Anna Clara, Eduardo and Brionna



Congo Table Rocky, Kevin, Aser, Abi, Leila and Obed



Emeli, Dora and Lucija



Belina, Alitza and Maria



**Brayden Davis, Stephen Kirwan
Derek Whelan and Darren Wall**



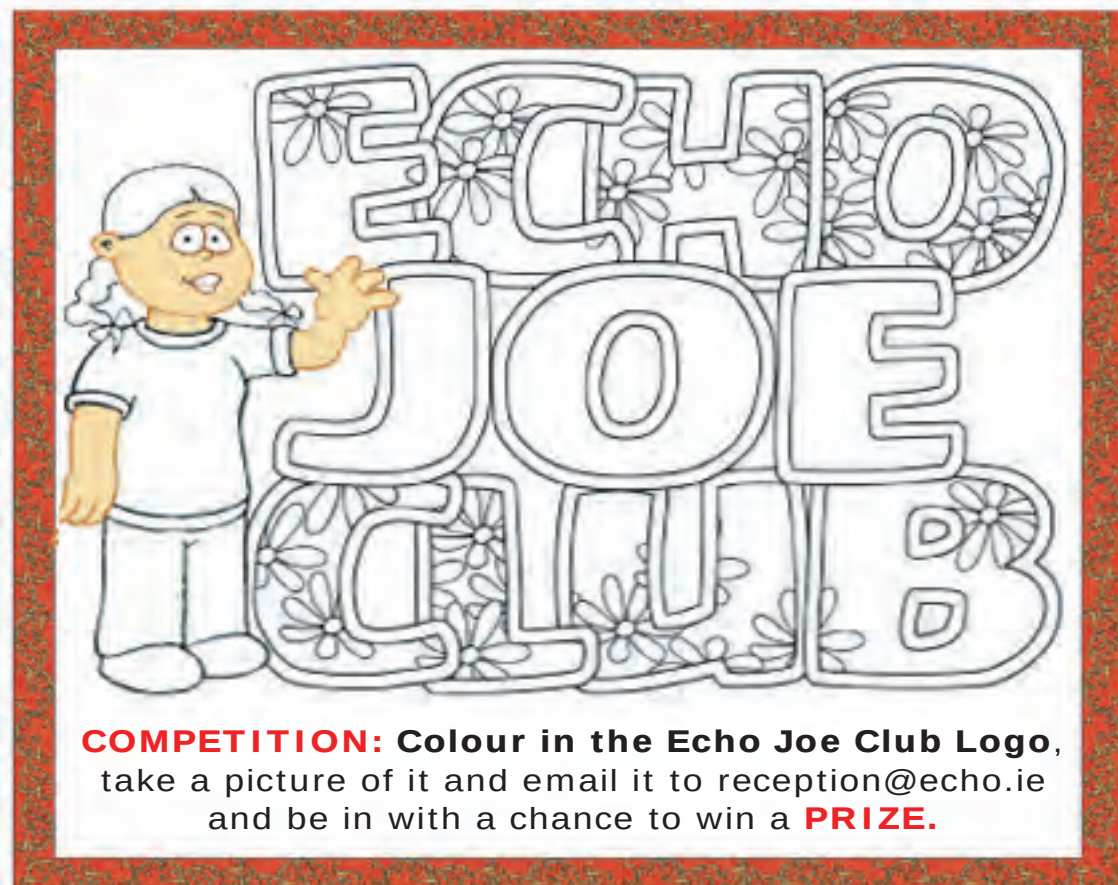
**Salma Elshamy, Maryam Zaher and Safeia
Abouads**



**Vanessa Dumitru, Nicole Bedrosyan and Daria
Andreez**



Enjoying Culture Day in St Mark's Community School



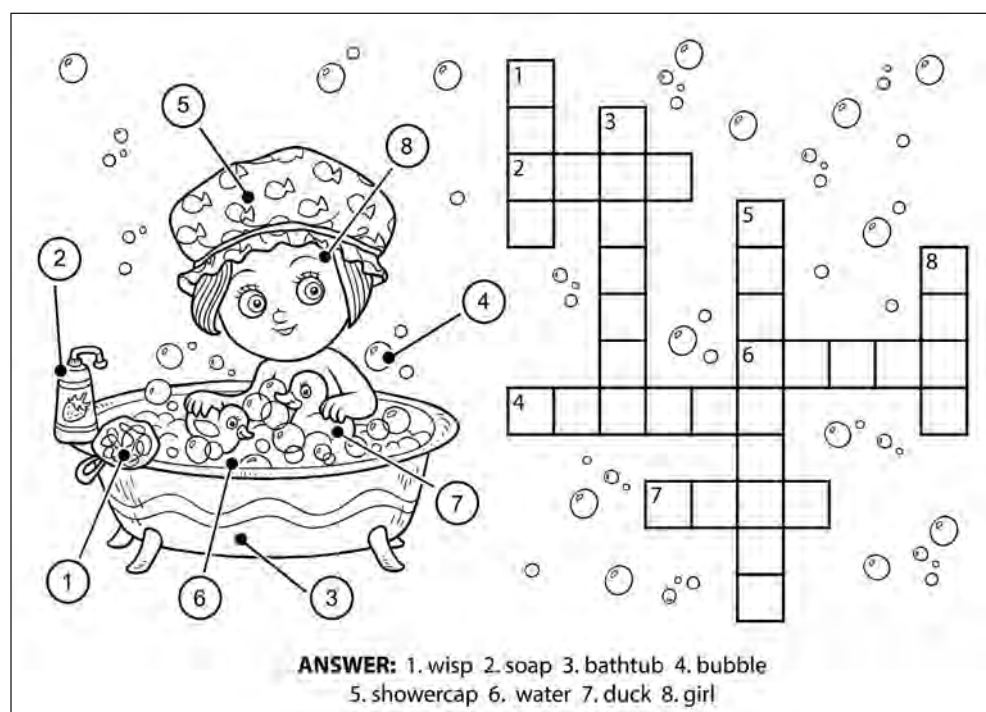
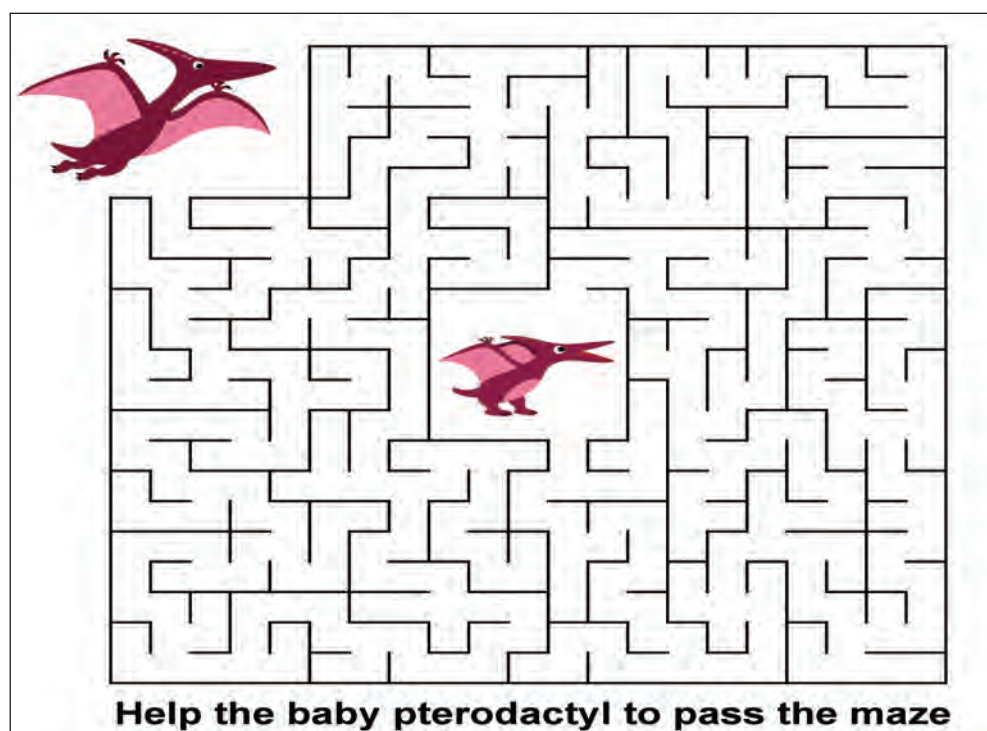
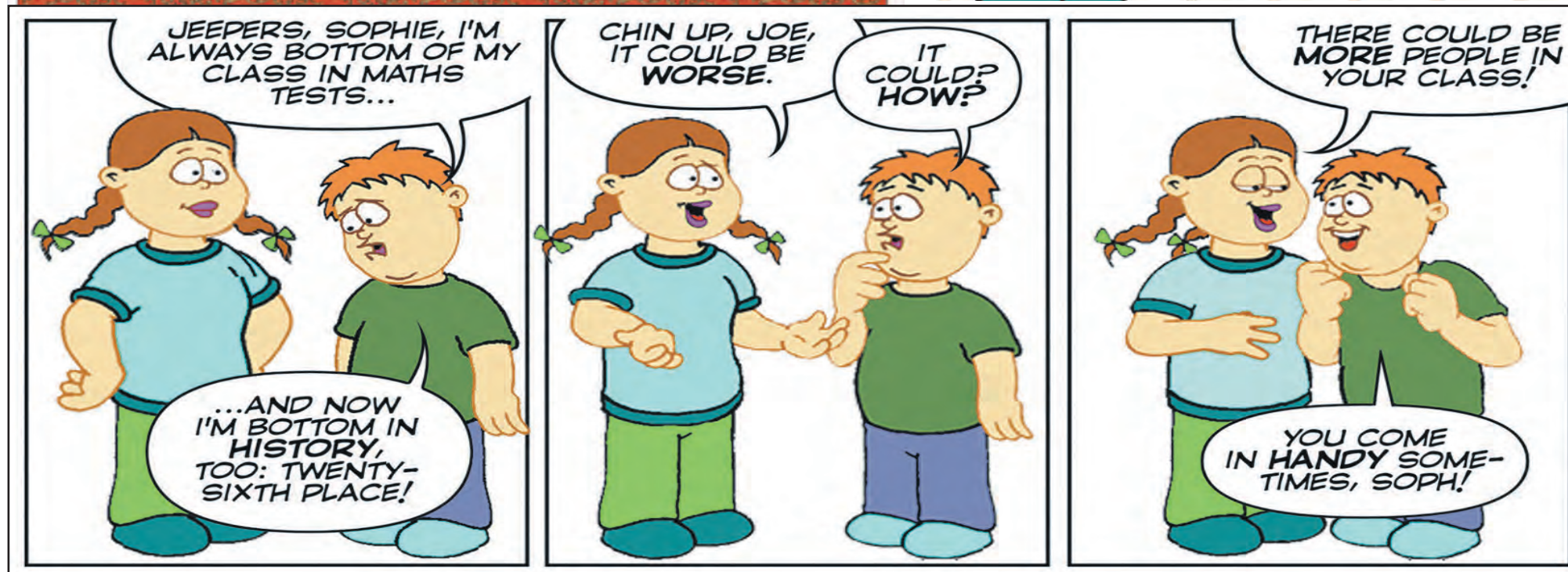
A Word with Echo So...

Spring Flowers

CLUBBERS,
HOW MANY WORDS
(TWO LETTERS OR MORE)
CAN YOU MAKE FROM
THE ABOVE WORDS?

5-20 pretty good! 21-35 excellent!
36 and over - you do realise these
have to be real words, don't you!

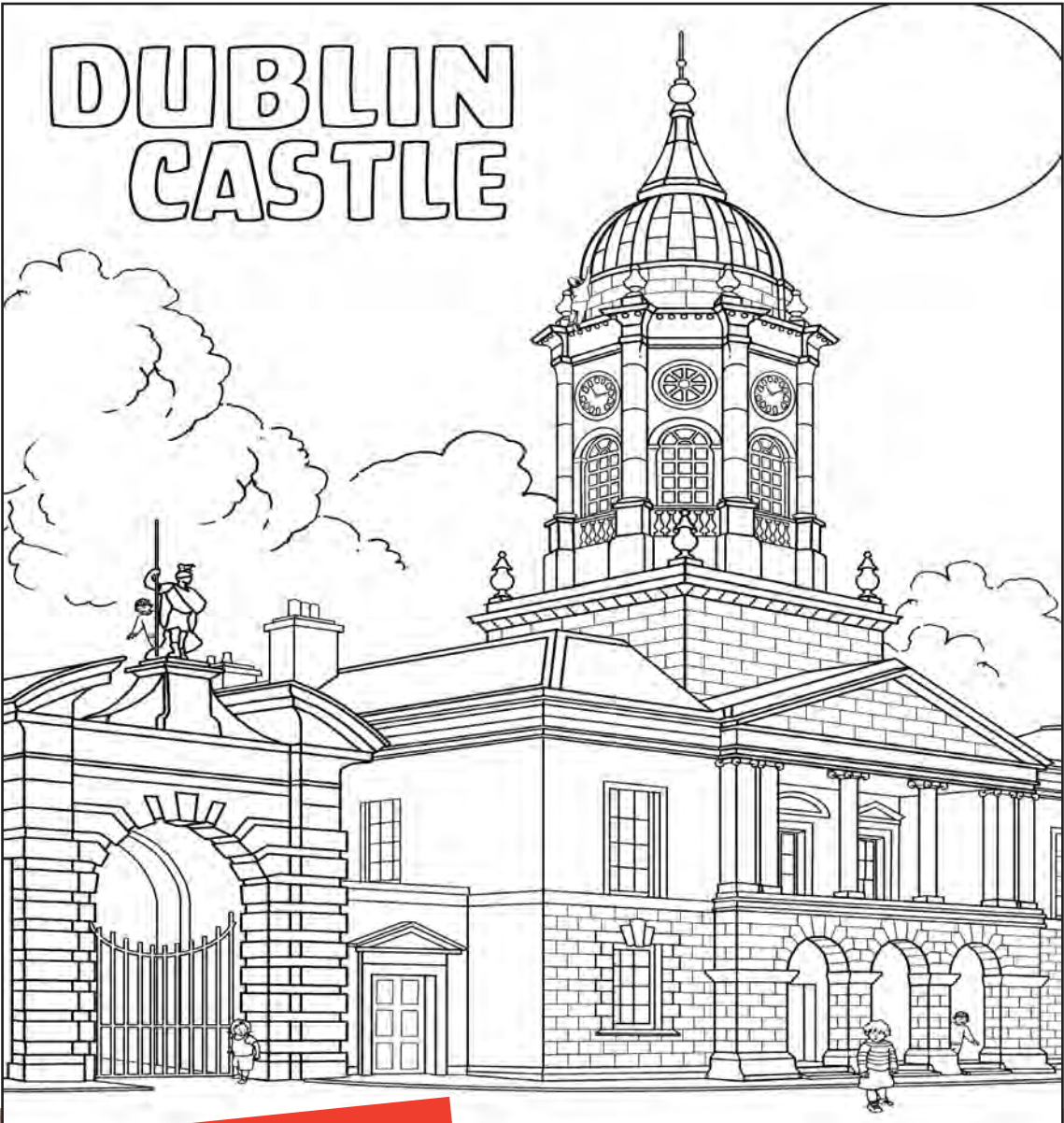
1	14	27
2	15	28
3	16	29
4	17	30
5	18	31
6	19	32
7	20	33
8	21	34
9	22	35
10	23	36
11	24	37
12	25	38
13	26	39



Spot the 10 differences



COLOURING BOOK



LETTER LINK LOG-JAM

A MISSING LETTER ON EACH ROW FINISHES ONE WORD AND STARTS THE NEXT...

BUT WHAT ARE THE LETTERS?

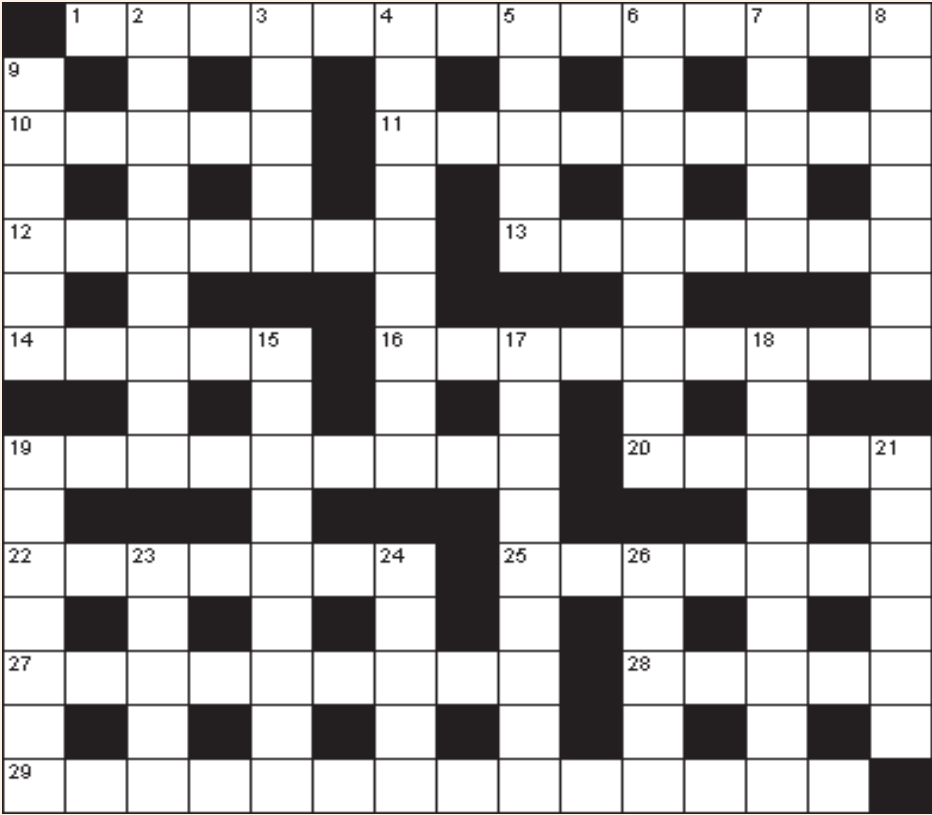
FIN		ATE
SOU		OOT
FAK		DGE
LOA		ORM
SLO		UCK
LOO		ILT
FOL		ANK
ELS		NVY

winner



Mila McCarthy, age 6, is this week’s winner of The Echo Joe Club logo colouring competition. Mila, your prize will be on the way to you soon.

echocrossquiz Q2003

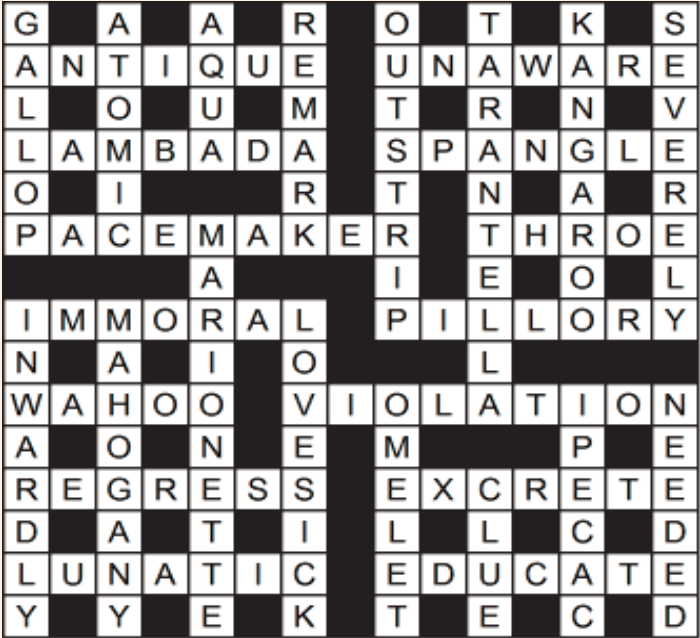


- ACROSS**

 - 1. Unconquerable (14)
 - 10. Drugged (5)
 - 11. Geomorphology (9)
 - 12. Trade stoppage (7)
 - 13. A North American time zone (7)
 - 14. Velocity (5)
 - 16. Inexact (9)
 - 19. Undergarment (9)
 - 20. Not lower (5)
 - 22. The dead skin at the base of a fingernail (7)
 - 25. Pamphlet (7)
 - 27. Hollowness (9)
 - 28. Frequently (5)
 - 29. Scouting (14)
- DOWN**

 - 2. Epistaxis (9)
 - 3. Not over (5)
 - 4. Rock from space (9)
 - 5. Parental brother (5)
 - 6. The personal outfit of a bride (9)
 - 7. Wife-to-be (5)
 - 8. Core (7)
 - 9. Mammary glands of bovids (6)
 - 15. Guidance (9)
 - 17. Loss of the ability to move (9)
 - 18. Foolish (9)
 - 19. Ambiguous (7)
 - 21. Obese (6)
 - 23. Something to talk about (5)
 - 24. Bowel cleansing (5)
 - 26. Scent (5)

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS 1303



CAN YOU BEAT THIS WEEK'S CROSSQUIZ?

SUDOKU 1 SUDOKU 2

		2					3	
			9	8		5		
	4		3				9	
5						3		7
		6		4				9
	2		8					
		9		7	1		5	
	8		2					
						2	6	

		6	1	4				
5			7		8		9	
								6
		4	3				8	
	5	2			4	9		
9	7						4	
								1
			5		2			
	6	3		1				

ANSWERS

9	2	5	7	1	8	3	6	4
4	6	7	3	5	9	8	1	
1	3	8	6	9	4	5	7	
3	4	6	1	5	2	8	7	
7	1	9	4	8	6	5	3	
5	8	2	7	3	4	1	6	
6	4	7	9	2	3	1	5	
2	9	4	8	6	7	1	3	
8	3	7	5	1	4	6	2	

4	6	2	8	9	5	7	1	3
1	7	9	3	6	5	2	8	4
3	5	8	1	7	4	9	6	2
5	4	6	9	3	8	1	2	7
9	2	1	5	4	7	6	3	8
7	8	3	6	2	1	4	9	5
6	9	7	2	5	3	8	4	1
2	5	4	8	9	6	3	7	1
8	3	4	7	1	6	2	5	9

SUDOKU 2

SUDOKU 1

Poet's Corner BRIDGE

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.

Tho many bridges
Span her.
The one I love
the best
Arched and majestic
Our city's
heaven blessed.
On moonlit
nights
Her beauty
glows
The river
reflects the

light.
Arm in arm
young couples
Walk her every
night
Dublin has
changed
In many ways
But the
Halfpennys
Still the same
A part of our
heritage
Long may it
remain

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BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



Dunne, Jason (Jay)
Birthday occurs 24th March.
Late of Cherry Orchard Drive, Ballyfermot.

Wishing you were here today,
For even just a while,
So I could say Happy Birthday Jay,
And see your loving smile.
You were very kind and thoughtful,
With a warm and loving heart,
And when other people needed help,
You always played your part.
You're thought of every single day,
Whatever time of year,
But somehow more than ever,
Now your special day is here.
No presents can be given,
And that's really very hard,
But there's a world of love inside,
This special little card.
Happy Birthday Jay.
Love and miss you every day your brother Patrick (Pato). R.I.P. xxxxx

Jay
To me you were so special,
What more is there to say,
I only wish within my heart,
That you were here today.
May the winds of heaven blow softly,
And whisper in your ear,
How much I love and miss you,
And wish that you were here.
Quietly today your memory I treasure,
Loving you always, forgetting you never.
Time slips by, life goes on,
But from my heart you will never be gone.
Happy Birthday Jay, loved and missed every day, your loving sister Sharon R.I.P. xxx

ANNIVERSARY



Connolly, David
18th Anniversary away from home occurs 25th March.
Late of Millbrook Lawns and Baltinglass.

We hear your laughter and see your face,
Your eyes lit up with dreams and joy,
We journey back to where we've been.
Our sweet and precious boy,
To the world you were just another kid,
But to us you were our future, son,
Testing the universe for where to soar.
So full of life, so full of hope,
So full of adventure and abundant fun,
How could we know, why would we know,
Just how fragile your life was, our son.
Take your wings and soar up high,
Higher than death, sorrow and pain,
Please go higher than grief and tears,
So high where only life remains.
Losing you, our dear young son,
Our precious child, our love, our joy,
No greater trial of tragedy, than losing you, our precious boy.
Love and miss you always David, from your heartbroken Mam and Dad. xxx

If there's a garden in heaven,
Please pull a rose for me,
Give it to my brother,
And tell him it's from me.
Tell him that I love him,
And when he turns to smile,
Place a kiss upon his cheek,
And hug him for a while.
Love & miss you so much David, from Jess, Harry and nephews Zach & Theo. xx

ANNIVERSARY



Cummins, Therese
8th Anniversary away from home occurs 22nd March.

Sadly our lives go on without you,
However nothing has been the same,
We have to hide our heartache,
When someone speaks your name.
Silent are the tears that fall,
Living without you is the hardest part of all.
You did so many things for us,
Your heart was so kind and true,
And when we needed someone,
We could always count on you.
The special years will not return,
When we were all together,
But the love in our hearts for you,
Will stay with us forever.
We are heartbroken without you Mam, love Janice, Jonny and Caroline, daughter-in-law Caroline, son-in-law John, grandchildren Conor, Lauren, Dylan, Shane, Ryan, Evan, Olly & Harry.

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



Comerford, Patrick
Remembering a loving Husband, Dad and Grandad.
Whose 89th Birthday occurs 20th March 2025. 2nd Birthday away from home.

Instead of a card,
We send our love,
Instead of a gift, a prayer,
To the one we thought the world of,
And miss beyond compare.
Also remembering our loving mam Eileen and their son-in-law Emmett.
Loved and missed every day, Sandra, Martina, Brenda, Sean and Sinead, John, Damien, Paul and Sharon, Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren and his dog Bobbie.

ANNIVERSARY



Hayes Jnr, David
14th Anniversary occurred 19th March. One more year away from home.

On your 14th anniversary,
I choose to honour your memory,
my son,
By embracing the love and joy,
You brought into my life.
Your spirit lives on,
Through the memories we shared,
Over the years we were together.
From your heartbroken Dad. xxxxxx

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Sport: sport@echo.ie
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Plannings 1pm on Tuesday prior to publication

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NOVENA

Prayer to Our Lady of Mount Carmel
O, most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, Fruit of the Vine, splendid 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. **V.D.**

NOVENA

Prayer to Our Lady of Mount Carmel
O, most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, Fruit of the Vine, splendid 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. **F.T.**

NOVENA

Prayer to Our Lady of Mount Carmel
O, most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, Fruit of the Vine, splendid 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. **D.E.**

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Items for publication for memorial
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ANNIVERSARY



Burke, Christopher (Christy)
7th Anniversary occurs 22nd March.

Christy
I miss you today,
I will miss you tomorrow,
Tears in my eyes,
And a heart full of sorrow.
I hold onto the memories,
Of the great times we had,
I grieve for what I lost,
But I am grateful for what I had.
Memories of times we shared,
Are the light that shines in my heart forever.
Your loving wife Lorraine.

Dad
For our Dad in heaven
They say there is a reason,
They say time will heal,
Neither time or reason,
Will change how we feel.
Gone are the days we used to share,
But in our hearts, you are always there.
The gates of memories will never close,
We miss you more than anyone knows.
Always missed Glenn, Leah, & Jamie.

Grandad
Gentle Jesus up above,
Give my grandad a great big hug x
Your granddaughter Éada.

Christy
Tenderly we treasure the past,
With memories that will always last,
The tears in my eyes I can wipe away,
The ache in my heart will always stay.
Missed beyond words pal Catherine & Family. xx

Christy
Always in our thoughts, forever in our hearts.
Karl, Anita, Dale and Daisy. x

Christy
Though absent you are very near,
Still loved, still missed, so very dear.
Margaret and Boys. x

ANNIVERSARY



Burke, Christopher (Christy)
7th Anniversary away from home.

Son
In the silence of our broken hearts,
Where no one else can see,
Your face your smile your memory,
Are kept so tenderly.
Sometimes with a smile,
Sometimes with a tear,
But always with love,
Despite the passing years.
Play his favourite music lord,
And when you see him smile,
Tell Christy how much we love him,
And miss him all the time.
Although we cannot see you Christy,
Your love has kept us strong,
So stay beside us always,
And help us carry on.
Will those who think of him today,
A little prayer to Jesus say.
Loved always and forever, your heartbroken Mam & Dad. Rest in peace.

Burke, Christy
7th Anniversary
Those we love don't go away,
They walk beside us every day,
Unseen unheard but always near,
Still loved still missed and very dear.
Loved and missed, aunty Mary and Family.

Christy
Never more than a thought away,
Loved and remembered every day.
Lorraine, Christy & Family.

NOVENA

9 Day Novena to St. Anthony.
St. Anthony, I resort to thy protection and aid, as proof of my affection and faith, I offer this candle which shall burn every day. Please comfort me in my difficulties and through thy living in the house of my Saviour, intercede for me and all those I love so that we may always hold God in our hearts and be provided for in our necessities, I beseech thee, St. Anthony, to have infinite pity in regard to the favour I ask of thee (here mention your favour). Please help me to overcome all difficulties which I now leave at thy feet. 3 Our Fathers, 3 Hail Mary's, 3 Glory Be to the Father's. This novena should be said for 9 days in succession. Each day a candle should be lit and a copy of this prayer left in the Church to help another soul in distress and to increase devotion to St. Anthony. This miraculous Saint grants everything no matter how difficult and before the termination of the nine days. But even if your request is granted, the Novena must be fulfilled. Holy St. Anthony pray for us. **B.B.**

ANNIVERSARY



Burke, Christy
7th Anniversary away from home.

Brother Christy
Your presence we miss,
Your memory we treasure,
Loving you always,
Forgetting you never.
No farewell words were spoken,
No time to say goodbye,
You were gone before we knew it,
And only God can tell our broken hearts why.
Your memory we carry forever,
We tell our girls you're the brightest star in the sky,
They look for you every night to say hi.
It's hard to believe its 7 years since you gained your wings,
Our lives changed forever.
Always loved forever missed. David, Theresa, Katie-Rose & Amy.

NOVENA

Miracle Prayer
Dear heart of Jesus I ask you this special favour (mention one) take it dear heart of Jesus and place it within your own broken heart where your father sees it. Then in his merciful eyes it will become your favour not mine. Amen. say this prayer 3 days promise publication and favour will be granted never known to fail. **M.C.**

ANNIVERSARY



Burke, Christy
7th Anniversary away from home.

In Memory of a Wonderful Brother
I hold onto our memories,
The ones that are so dear,
To try to keep you always close,
Now you are not here.
You were called, it was your time,
But it is so true,
You have left a legacy,
There was no one like you.
You were very special,
And I want to say,
I feel lost in many ways,
You are not here today.
But I will never forget you,
And I know I have been blessed,
To have you as my brother,
Because you were the best.
Loved and missed every day from Paul, Linda and Family. 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. **C.C.**

ANNIVERSARY



Anderson, Daniel
9th Anniversary away from home occurs 25th March.

Dad
Although you sleep in heaven now,
You're not that far away,
My heart is full of memories,
And you're with me every day.
You lived your life with meaning,
And with a smile upon your face,
A world that was full of happiness,
Is now an empty place.
People say that only time,
Will heal a broken heart,
But just like me and you, dad,
It has been torn apart.
I know you are at peace now,
And in a place where you are free,
Meet me at the pearly gates,
When heaven calls for me.
Sadly missed and never forgotten by your heartbroken son Alan and daughter-in-law Andrea. xx

Grandad
Tears silently fall,
That other's don't see,
For a kind loving grandad,
That meant the world to me.
You always had a smile to share,
Time to give and time to care,
Never selfish always kind,
Such happy memories,
You left behind.
Love from your grandson Kian. x

ANNIVERSARY



Gavigan, Ann
15 Years away from home.

*I still see your face before me,
Your voice I long to hear,
I miss and love you dearly,
God knows I wish you were here.
Tears fall freely from my eyes,
Like a river filled with grief,
My only comfort now is that,
From pain you've found relief.
Missing You.*
Sadly missed by her husband Joe, Daughters, Sons and extended Family. x

NOVENA

Prayer to Our Lady of Mount Carmel
O, most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, Fruit of the Vine, splendorous of Heaven. Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this my necessity. O, Star of the Sea, help me and show herein you are my mother. O, Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succour me in my necessity. There are none that can withstand your power, O, show me here you are my mother. O, Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee. Sweet Mother, I place this cause in your hands. Amen. **S.R.**

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All planning applications must be in before 5pm Monday

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1. Wayne Killeen, am applying for permission at 136 Claddagh Rd, Cherry Orchard, Dublin 10, D10 EF40, for the following: 1. Construction of a 50 sq/m garden room in the rear garden of existing dwelling. The purpose of the proposed room is to provide a shed, games room, office and toilet. 2. Widening of existing vehicle entrance and alterations to existing driveway.

The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of Dublin City Council during its public opening hours. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the planning authority on payment of the prescribed fee (€20.00) within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application, and such submissions or observations will be considered by the planning authority in making a decision on the application. The planning authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions, or may refuse to grant permission.

C. Ryan, is applying for permission for an attic conversion for storage with a dormer roof to the rear and all ancillary works necessary to facilitate the development, at 5 Bushfield Grove, Clondalkin, Dublin, D22 V663. This application may be inspected or purchased, at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of South Dublin County Council during its public opening hours of 9am-4pm, Mon-Fri, and that a submission or observation may be made to South Dublin County Council in writing and on payment of the prescribed fee (€20.00) within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by South Dublin County Council of the application.

Colm Carroll is applying for permission for a first-floor extension to the side, a single-storey extension to the rear, a games room/workshop, and all ancillary works necessary to facilitate the development, at 23 Lough Conn Road, Drumfinn, D10 RP84. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of Dublin City Council during its public opening hours. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the planning authority on payment of the prescribed fee (€20.00) within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application, and such submissions or observations will be considered by the planning authority in making a decision on the application. The planning authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions, or may refuse to grant permission.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED WEEK ENDING MARCH 7, 2025

SD25424/13	07 Mar 2025	SECTION 254 LICENCE	
APPLICATION Additional Information			
Applicant:	Shared Access Limited		
Location:	Public grass area beside, Fortunestown Way and Bawnlea Ave, Jobstown, Dublin 24		
Description:	The development will consist of a 15-meter high DelUrban		
SD24A/0113	07 Mar 2025	Permission Additional Information	
Applicant:	David Henry		
Location:	Block B, Adjacent Lands South of Units G & F, Ballymount Drive, Ballymount Industrial Estate, Dublin 12		
Description:	Construction of 6 warehouse units with associated offices, associated signage for each unit, boundary treatment, associated drainage and ancillary siteworks.		
SD24A/0216W	03 Mar 2025	Retention Additional Information	
Applicant:	Stephen Fearon		
Location:	Clonard, Raheen Brittas, Co. Dublin, D24 WK23		
Description: Permission to retain a boundary metal sheet fence as constructed on site total length 72 meters on the north, south and east boundary on site. The height of the fence on site is 3.5 meters. The fence is constructed in metal frame 80x80 mm post every 4 meters at metal sheeting pried to site.			
SD25A/0043W	03 Mar 2025	Permission New Application	
Applicant:	Certas Energy Ireland Limited		
Location:	Certa Liffey Valley Service Station, Fonthill Road, Liffey Valley, Dublin 22, D22 Y5R7		
Description:	The proposed development will consist of: 1. Automatic car wash with water recycling system & payment terminal and 2. Associated revisions to existing knee-high timber fence, landscaped area and all associated site development works including drainage infrastructure, landscaping and line marking.		
SD25A/0044W	03 Mar 2025	Permission New Application	
Applicant:	Shane Mc Intyre		
Location:	89, Kilcronan Avenue, Clondalkin, Dublin 22		
Description:	Single storey extension to rear of existing house, permission also sought for 2 storey, 2 bedroom house to side, front and rear of existing house, new house being attached to existing and all associated site works		
SD25A/0045W	03 Mar 2025	Permission New Application	
Applicant:	Cavan Developments Ltd		
Location:	Rathmill Manor, Tootenhill, Rathcoole		
Description:	Amendments to the previously granted planning permission, SD21A/0087 ABP-310688-21 - Amendments to House Nos 5 & 8 Rathmill Heights from four bed to five houses, and the amendment of House Nos 6 & 7 Rathmill Heights from three bed to four bed houses.		
SD25A/0046W	03 Mar 2025	Permission New Application	
Applicant:	Cavan Developments Ltd		
Location:	Rathmill Manor, Tootenhill, Rathcoole		
Description:	Amendments to the previously granted planning permission, SD21A/0087 ABP-310688-21, on lands at Rathmill Manor, Tootenhill, Rathcoole, Co. Dublin, lands extending from Rathmill Manor residential development to the east to lands reserved for the Western Dublin Orbital Route to the west. The Amendments will consist of the following: Amendments to House Nos 1 & 4 Rathmill Avenue from four bed to five bed houses, and the amendment of houses 2, 3, 9, 10-14 Rathmill Avenue from three bed to four bed houses. Amendments to House Nos 9 & 14 Rathmill Heights from four bed to five bed houses, and the amendment of House Nos, 10-13 Rathmill Heights from three bed to four bed houses. Amendments to House Nos 1 & 5 Rathmill Drive from four bed to five bed houses, and House Nos 2-4 Rathmill Drive from three bed to four bed houses. The Amendments to House Nos 7 & 12 Rathmill Grove from four bed to five bed houses, and amendments to House Nos 8-11 Rathmill Grove from three bed to four bed houses.		
SD25A/0047W	03 Mar 2025	Permission New Application	
Applicant:	Cavan Developments Ltd		
Location:	Rathmill Manor, Tootenhill, Rathcoole		
Description:	Amendments to the previously granted planning permission, SD21A/0087 ABP-310688-21, on lands at Rathmill Manor, Tootenhill, Rathcoole, Co. Dublin, lands extending from Rathmill Manor residential development to the east to lands reserved for the Western Dublin Orbital Route to the west. The Amendments will consist of the following:- Amendments to House Nos 1 & 4 Rathmill Heights from four bed to five bed houses, and the amendment of House Nos 2 & 3 Rathmill Heights from three bed to four bed houses.		
SD25A/0048W	04 Mar 2025	Permission New Application	
Applicant:	Camogie and Ladies Football Club		
Location:	Lands adjacent to Carmel of the Assumption Convent, Firhouse Road, Firhouse, Dublin 24		
Description:	The Installation of 6no. floodlights on 18m high columns around the previously consented Pitch One (Planning Reference SD20A/0140)		
SD25A/0049	06 Mar 2025	Retention New Application	
Applicant:	Me Group Ireland Supplies Limited		
Location:	Castletymon Shopping Centre, Tymon Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24		
Description:	Retention of existing detached single storey self - Service Laundry Kiosk as constructed along with Retention of associated signage and logos on existing Kiosk and all associated site works		
SD25A/0050	07 Mar 2025	Permission New Application	
Applicant:	Orla Cooper		
Location:	23, Delaford Lawn, Knocklyon, Dublin 16		
Description: Detached Two storey Three bedroom house with shared entrance to side.			
SD25B/0095W	02 Mar 2025	Retention New Application	
Applicant:	Teresa Le Gear Keane		
Location:	12, Hillcrest, Templeogue Road, Templeogue, Dublin, D6WKP70		
Description:	Retention permission for modification to planning permission SD12B/0141 for the following: A) Ground floor apartment known as 12A and B) First Floor apartment known as 12B as part of the original 2 storey domestic extension to side (west) of property.		
SD25B/0096	03 Mar 2025	Permission New Application	
Applicant:	Ruth & Ronan French		
Location:	8, Roselawn, Ballydowd, Lucan, Dublin, K78 W3X8		
Description:	Permission for a first floor pitched roof rear extension (12.8sq.M) over the existing ground floor plan to provide for a bathroom, bedroom extension and associated site/drainage works.		
SD25B/0097W	03 Mar 2025	Permission New Application	
Applicant:	Mary Kelly		
Location:	13, Watermill Lawn, Oldbawn, Dublin 24, D24 EK8P		
Description:	Replacement of the existing flat roof with a pitched roof over the porch, garage, shower room, and kitchen area, including a parapet wall on the north (right side) elevation Installation of glazing above the front door (east) elevation Increase in the height of the kitchen window at the rear (west) elevation Addition of a ground-floor shower room Installation of four roof lights on the north (right side) elevation Connection to existing services and all associated site works.		
SD25B/0098W	04 Mar 2025	Permission New Application	
Applicant:	Gary Barrett and Aine Duffy		
Location:	147, St John's Wood West, Clondalkin, Dublin 22, D22 KN59		
Description:	Conversion of existing attic space comprising of modification of existing roof structure, raising of existing gable c/w window, new access stairs and flat roof dormer to the rear.		
SD25B/0099W	04 Mar 2025	Permission and Retention New Application	
Applicant:	Emma and Owen Duffy		
Location:	31, Monastery Drive, Clondalkin, Dublin 22, D22 AK46		
Description:	Permission and permission for retention for an existing rear extension to the house, existing pitched roof over the rear extension and side of the house, existing window to the front elevation, and replacement and relocation of the existing main entrance door with a new entrance door and associated side panels to the front elevation.		

Contact *The Echo* to have a planning notification published Call 468 5350 or email reception@echo.ie

Echo Sport

Deputy Sports Editor: William O'Connor

Thursday, March 20, 2025

Busy times for Donore members



Donore harriers at the Tallaght 5k

TALLAGHT 5KM, incorporating the Dublin Novice Championships on St Patrick's Day included results for 37th & 3rd M50 Des Tremble (17.19) 43rd Neil Hand (17.20) 46th William Quill (17.24) 52nd Koffi Kpoglo (17.42) 63rd Sean McCarthy (18.14) 116th & 21st woman Grace Kennedy (19.28) 120th & 12th M40 Robert Dunne (19.34 PB) 162nd & 16th M45 John Dillon (20.25) 186th & 6th W40 Ariana Ball (20.55).

The men's novice team finished seventh.

The Streets of Portlaoise 5km saw 1069 finishers with 589th & 44th for M55 Anthony Ferns (38.09).

The Mullingar half-marathon saw 1,492 finishers with 588th Andrew McGirr M50 (1.48.43).

The St Patrick's Day 5KM at McCauley Park, Harmonstown saw 18th Ella Rose Barry JUV (26.04) 19th Ruth Ann Barry (26.07) 34th Alan Ryan (28.29) with 197 finishers.

Competitors at the Sandymount/Beach Run 5km and 10km last week saw 5km: 165th David Campbell MS (20.55) with 673 finishers and 10km: 186th Siobhan Walsh WS (51.12) with 714 finishers

The Skerries 10km Road Race saw 154th & 3rd W50 Julia Hackett (46.34) and 282nd & 9th W50 Nicola Dowdall (51.57).

In the Barcelona Marathon, there was 3,833rd & 438th M45 Kevin Odgers (3.16.08) 7,281st & 109th W40 Louise Kelly (3.35.17) for our members with 21,644 finishers.

Active South Dublin launches emerging talent bursary scheme

FOLLOWING South Dublin County Council's (SDCC) annual budget meeting, SDCC Councillors approved a bursary to support emerging talent in South Dublin County worth in total €65,000.

Active South Dublin has announced the launch of the Emerging Talent Bursary Scheme.

This initiative aims to provide financial assistance to promising individual athletes within the South Dublin County Council administrative area, helping them reach their full potential in national and international competition.

With a total bursary fund of €65,000 for 2025, this scheme will directly support athletes by easing the financial burden associated with training, travel, accommodation, equipment, and necessary medical expenses.

The fund is designed to ensure that emerging athletes from all seven Local Electoral Areas (LEAs) within South Dublin County have the

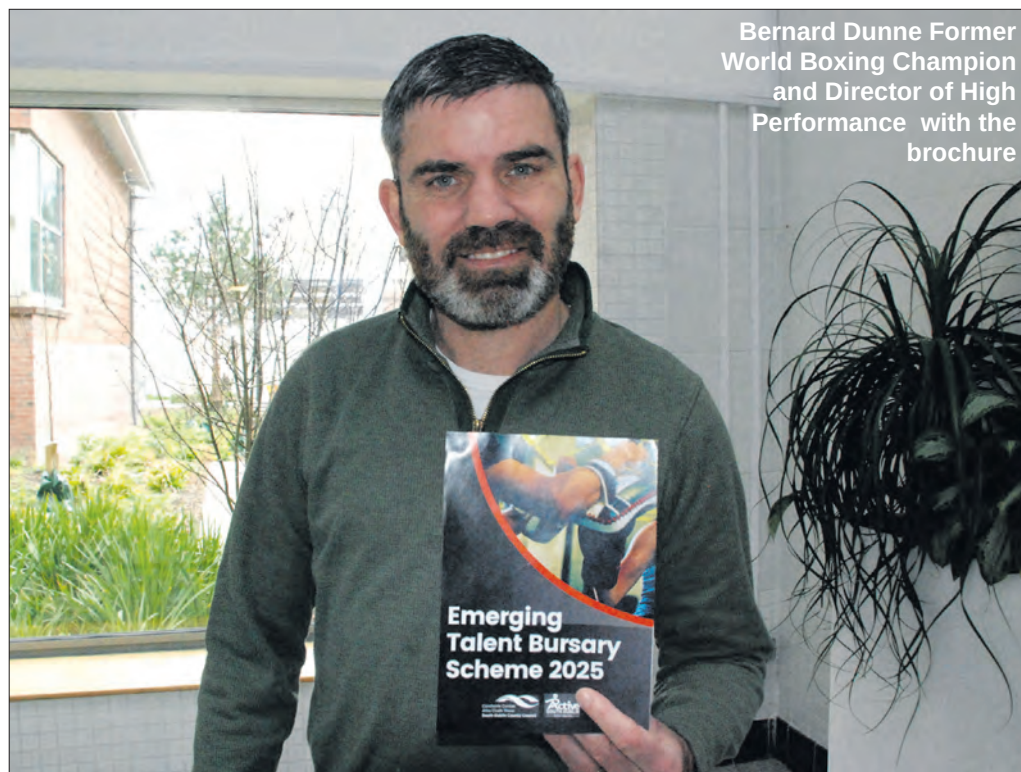
opportunity to excel in their chosen sport.

This bursary will help athletes to focus on their development and performance, allowing them to compete at the highest levels.

Additionally, it fosters local talent, enhances South Dublin's presence in national and international competitions, and strengthens the county's sporting legacy.

SDCC Mayor Baby Pereppadan added: "This bursary reflects the strong commitment of South Dublin County Council to promote and support sport in the county.

"Conscious of the difficult struggle that individual athletes face in trying to realise their sporting ability at the highest level possible - trying to focus on their sporting goals but always conscious of the financial cost involved - we want to try and smooth that pathway so that the focus is where it's needed most, on preparation and performance and success."



Bernard Dunne Former World Boxing Champion and Director of High Performance with the brochure

Tallaght annual 5k a great success

THE annual Tallaght 5K Road race that was held on St Patrick's day was indeed a great success with over 600 competitors, including 13 overseas contestants, with 10 from America.

The race was this year incorporated in the Tallaght St Patrick's Day Festival, and was supported by the Tallaght St Patrick's Day Festival Committee, Active South Dublin/SDCC, with the Irish Heart Foundation the nominated charity partner, followed a new route that started in the village opposite the premises of the main sponsor, Tallaght & District Credit Union and went through the college grounds twice, up Belgard Road and finished on the Tallaght A.C. track.

The overall winner of the race was the Clonliffe Harriers runner Ben Guiden who crossed the finish line in 15:09, with Eddie O'Connor (Brothers Pearse A.C.) finishing 2nd (15.13) and Thomas Fitzpatrick (Tallaght A.C.) in 3rd with a time of 15.39.

The first female to cross the line was Helena Butterly (Clonliffe Harriers A.C.) in a time of 16.54, with Orla Walsh

(Crusaders A.C.) taking 2nd prize in 17.22, and Faye Dervan (DCH) 3rd prize with a time of 17.27.

Fergus Collins (Blackrock A.C.) took the O/40 prize with a time of 16.39, while Rachel Murphy (Plant Based A.C.) won the FO/40 prize with a time of 17.59, Aidan Murphy (DSD) and Janice Doyle the O/45 prizes with times of 16.13 and 20.36 respectively, Lea Fulcher (Plant Based A.C.) and Catherine Brogan (Portmarnock A.C.) the O/50 prizes with respective times of 16.01 and 19.42, Seamus

Boylan (Brothers Pearse A.C.) and Lucy Darcy (Sportsworld A.C.) the O/55 prizes with times of 18.22 and 21.51 respectively, Dermot Woodgate and Fiona Byrne (the O/60 categories for Civil Service A.C. with times of 20.34 and 21.40 respectively, while Kevin O'Flynn and Una Reilly (Liffey Valley A.C.), won the O/70 categories with times of 23.45 and 26.41 respectively.

Owen Gibbons (Parnell's A.C.) won the junior men's category with a time of 16.59, and Cliodhna Murphy (DCH)

won the junior women's category in 19.39.

Clonliffe Harriers A.C. competitors combined very well to win both the men's and women's team prizes.

The race also incorporated the Dublin Novice Road race Championships with Lee Duddy (Clonliffe Harriers taking the men's title in a time of 15.46 ahead of Aidan Murphy (D.S.D. A.C.) 16.13 and Shane Heneghan (Dublin Front Runners) for 3rd with a time of 16.21, while Orla Walsh (Crusaders A.C.) won the women's title with a time

of 17.22, with Rachel Murphy (Plant Based A.C.) in 2nd with a time of 17.59, and Bonnie May McFeat (DCH A.C.) taking the bronze medal with a time of 18.51.

Clonliffe Harriers won the men's team title (42 points), DSD silver (55 points) and the Tallaght team combined well for the bronze team medals with a score of 67 points, and Liffey Valley (42 points) won the women's team title, with Sportsworld taking silver (44 points) ahead of the bronze medal winners Clonliffe Harriers on 48 points.



Tallaght AC competitors at the start line in the village

Damien Hutchinson, second from left (CEO Tallaght & District Credit Union) presented the prizes to the athletes



Kickboxing

Clubs participate in Italian kickboxing World Cup

THIS edition of the Italian Kickboxing World Cup was one of the biggest world cups to date reaching 3,700 registrations from over 40 countries spanning over four continents.

Ireland was well represented with 87 Irish competitors from 19 different Kickboxing Ireland affiliated clubs.

Local teams Tallaght Martial Arts, LJay's and BMA Clondalkin were notably present with outstanding performances from all.

BMA Clondalkin's team of Donny Caren, Sean Hawkins, Louise Shortt, Roan Fitzpatrick Derwin, Cayden Derwin and Kym Fitzgerald finished the four day event by narrowly missing out on a podium place but still finishing with a high of excitement after experiencing such high calibre competition.

Kym Fitzgerald who also acted as our senior coach for the event competed in the Ladies KL -50kg. Facing a strong Italian opponent she lost out by a couple of points by each judge via unanimous decision.

Donny Caren just recently progressed to the senior ranks after an impressive stint in the beginner and intermediate categories, and reached the second round of his KL division where he was narrowly beaten. His LC division was also a close battle versus his opponent from the Italian club EuropCenter.

Roan Fitzpatrick Derwin was next up competing in the boys OC KL & OC LC categories.

In his KL division he came up against a strong champion from Latvia but nonetheless the two round battle went all the way to the last second where it went in favour of the Latvian competitor. Roan's LC category was also a close contest, this time taking on Lithuania. Unfortunately he was outpointed this time round to a



Team BMA Clondalkin at the Italian Kickboxing World Cup

much stronger and experienced fighter.

Louise Shortt took on three categories and was outstanding in all. Even though she did not medal in any of them there is a massive improvement in her skills. "This time last year, she was clearly disappointed and slightly out of her depth! "This year, we have a much stronger, fitter and faster Louise! We are on track with a top performance at the forthcoming junior national championships at the

end of this month", coach Kym Fitzgerald says.

Sean Hawkins was always on his top game in his previous competitive Junior outings. This was his first international event stepping into the adult divisions. "Lots of work to do but it's all a learning curve", says Head Coach Ilija Salerno after Sean was also losing out in his categories.

Cayden Derwin was our only ring competitor and he took on the reigning Italian K1 national

champion with a record of 19 fights under his name. Cayden with only 1 ring fight and 1 win took the challenge to the very end and turned heads by losing the bout by only 2 points after a nail biting 3 round tactical fight from both ends! Even though it was a loss, it was one of the biggest 'wins' for Cayden as his name was talked about throughout the entire ring fighting circuit by nearly causing an upset to the clear favourite!

"Cayden has a massive career in ring fights ahead of him", adds head coach Salerno, "He gives 100% at every training session, if he's not training in the club, he is hitting the bag at home, that's dedication!"

Next up for the team is another international outing in Amsterdam and the Yokoso Dutch Open where the team of Louise Shortt, Matas Noreika and Robert Barrett will be testing their skills with some of the best on the European circuit!

Taekwondo

Nicholas clinches silver in Bucharest



Nicholas Buffini-Taaffe

Nicholas Buffini-Taaffe from South Dublin Taekwondo kicked off his ranking event medal collection with a recent podium finish in Bucharest.

Nicholas who is in his first year fighting in World Taekwondo sanctioned cadet age categories clinched a bronze medal after bouts with opponents from both Cyprus and Ukraine.

Son of SDTKD Club founders Robert Taaffe and Niamh Buffini, the 11-year-old was joined by his dad in the coaching chair in a series of events which took him from Austria to Canada, to Slovenia and onward to Romania for Bucharest.

The event ranked 'E-3' (European Grade 3) offered triple ranking points to victorious athletes which will now assist future ranking and event seeding.

After a number of quarter final finishes earlier this year and his ranking rising the valuable experience gained at the elite taekwondo events is paying dividends.

Nicholas will join his Taekwondo Ireland Squad mates for the upcoming British International Open in Manchester to secure more valuable experience.

Motorsport

Daire prepares for European Clio Cup Challenge

DAIRE Flock has started his preparation for the European Clio Cup Challenge by doing two competitive races at Nogaro in France, as it's traditionally used by Clio Cup drivers as a pre-test before the Championship starts in April.

The weekend started for the Tallaght lad with a practice and a qualifying session to determine the grid positions for the two races. With a grid full of 30 European Clio drivers and former champions for the series, Daire managed to qualify 8th and 7th respectively for race one and two.

Race one Daire got a good start that promoted him to 7th with a race long battle for 6th, with the French track being very tight and technical overtaking was going to be a challenge until with three laps remaining Daire was able to capitalize on a small mistake to take 6th.

Race two was more the same, with a

good start promoting Daire to 5th and pushing hard for 4th, when a technical issue developed that lost him time and for the rest of the race, demoting him to 8th

Daire said: "I am happy with where I came, being my first time at the track and being able to compete with European drivers was an amazing experience and looking forward to testing at Dijon and Magny Cour in the coming weeks.

With the announcement of Gorilla Design continuing its support for Daire in 2025, Rob Jones MD of Gorilla Design said "Gorilla Design are proud to be a sponsor for Daire Flock. We are thrilled to be supporting this young talent as he goes from strength to strength in his Motorsport career"

Daire is now looking forward to the European Clio Cup starting at Nogaro in France on April 19.



Daire Flock in action in Nogaro, France

Basketball

Dramatic overtime win for Éanna

On the final weekend of the Domino's Men's Super League regular season, Griffith College Éanna served up a dramatic 106-103 overtime win against Number One seeds, UCC Demons to move up to third place in the table just ahead of the playoff quarter-finals.

A three-point buzzer beater by Joshua Wilson saw Éanna force overtime, during which Neil Lynch served up the decisive score from downtown to effectively clinch victory for the Dublin side with 23 seconds left on the clock.

Sean Jenkins had a huge game for the visitors, putting up 37 points, while Mark Reynolds and Tyland Crawford combined for the same amount, as Éanna navigated their way past a huge Demons test that was built, to a large extent, on Elijah Tillman and the 35 points, 12 rebounds and six assists he served up on the day.

"I thought today's performance was great" remarked Darren McGovern, Griffith College Éanna head coach.

"We did have a big lapse with five minutes to go in the second quarter which Demons capitalised on very well.

"Sean Jenkins scored the ball really well, but we'll have to sweat on a small injury he picked up.

"The win gives us a home draw against Sligo which is a tough match-up, but hopefully we'll be ready" he said.

Elsewhere in the men's Division One, Joels Dublin Lions overcame Drogheda Wolves 85-71in Coláiste Bríde in their final game of the regular season.

Meanwhile in women's Division One, Oblate Dynamos secured the final playoff berth, despite their 64-48 reversal at the hands of Templeogue in Inchicore.

Table toppers, McEvoy's Cavan Eagles completed their regular season on a perfect 16-0 record as they surmounted a tough challenge from Abbey Seals Dublin Lions 74-68 in Coláiste Bríde.

'It's a tough night for the club' as Templeogue lose out in Super League



Templeogue's 12 year stay in the Domino's Men's Super Basketball League ended on Thursday night at the National Basketball Arena.

Mark Keenan's young side went down fighting 116-101 in an overtime loss to playoff bound Griffith College Éanna and will join Maree BC in dropping out of the top tier of Irish basketball as a result.

"It's a tough night for the club," said coach Keenan after watching his team go down despite scoring five points in the closing 30 seconds of regulation to force an extra period.

"The guys have given it their all tonight and throughout the season and I'm really proud of how they fought it out down the stretch with one of the best teams in the country."

"We've been unlucky with injuries to the likes of Ty (Tavias) Fagan and we've lost some really close games, but that's not an excuse either. We are where we are at this stage of the season. This is a very young core and they will bounce back."

Templeogue U18 basketball team march into semi-final



Templeogue U18 girls beat Tralee Magic to progress to the semi final

TEMPLEOGUE U18 girls' basketball team made the long journey to Kerry to play Tralee Magic in the quarter-finals of the Under 18 National Cup.

Tralee started the game the better of the two teams and raced into an 8-0 advantage. However, Templeogue responded and helped by three pointers from Katie Behan, Sophie Gallagher (2) and Éabha Booth, they went into the lead.

Tralee responded with scores from Mary Kate Smith and Priya O'Donovan and led 17-15 at the end of the first quarter.

This game featured several lead changes and helped by nine points from Sophie Gallagher and seven points from Grace Miley. Templeogue went into half time with a two-point lead.

The third quarter was a low scoring affair, but two consecutive three pointers from Éabha Booth helped Templeogue go into the final quarter four points ahead.

In the fourth quarter, Templeogue pulled ahead with further three pointers from Katie Behan, Éabha Booth and Grace Miley and finished up as winners on a scoreline of 63 to 53.

Tralee scoring was led by Anna O'Sullivan and Mary Kate Smith on 17 points apiece.

In a great team performance featuring 12 three pointers from the visiting team, Templeogue's Sophie Gallagher finished top scorer on 19 points, followed by Grace Miley (15), Katie Behan (12) and Éabha Booth (12). In addition, there were key scoring and defensive contributions from Lauren Neville, Lilyah Waters, Sophia Kiely and Rebecca Cleary helped by their team mates Sarah Garvey, Maria Valenzuela Sanchez and Siobhan O'Leary.

Coached by Des Hopkins and Paul Waters and managed by Laura Waters, this team has followed up on their recent Dublin Cup success and will now meet Tolka Rovers in the Semi Final on Saturday, March 22 for a place in the National Cup Final.



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Hockey

Glenanne men secure Neville Davin Cup



Glenanne men's team claimed the Neville Davin Cup with a victory over Bray

GLENANNE'S men's team had plenty to cheer about on St Patrick's Day when they claimed the Neville Davin Cup title.

The Tallaght side put together a fine display as they overcame the challenge of Bray 3-1 to come out tops.

Both teams eased their way into the game and playing with caution, resulting in a goalless first quarter.

However, Glenanne found their stride in the second quarter, putting Bray under serious pressure with attack after attack on the Bray Goal.

Their persistence paid off just before halftime when Gary Shaw scored from a short corner, giving Glenanne a 1-0 lead.

After the break, Glenanne maintained their high pressure on the Bray defence. John Stewart extended the lead to 2-0 by getting on the end of a ball passed across the circle by Riagan Dunne.

Entering the final quarter, Glenanne's management team emphasised the importance of not becoming complacent in the game.

Glenanne came out in the last quarter with the same intensity, with Gary Shaw playing the ball to Ian Walker, who calmly put the ball into the back of the net, to make it 3-0.

Bray managed to score a consolation goal to make it 3-1, but it wasn't enough to shift the game's outcome.

However, Glenanne had done enough by that stage and held out for a well-deserved victory.

The Glenanne squad is made up of a combination of emerging talent and experienced players proved too much for Bray in the end.

The teams journey in the Neville Cup competition began on Halloween night where they played a strong Pembroke side in Serpentine Avenue. They were unlucky to lose 4-2 with Garry Shaw and Riagan Dunne getting the goals for Glenanne but it wasn't enough to get the win.

This meant that Glenanne were now into the Neville Davin Cup quarter final, where they would face the highly experienced and skilful Monkstown side away in Rathdown school. Glenanne proved the dominant side in this encounter, despite Monkstown having a strong

3rd quarter, Glenanne came away with a 5-3 win, with Garry Shaw, Sean Brennan, Alan McLoughlin, Marco Gayubo Kinch, and Riagan Dunne getting the goals for Glenanne.

Glenanne now had the tough challenge of EY2 side Railway Union in the semi-final, which would be another away fixture for Glenanne. Glenanne started well, but so did Railway, with it being 1-1 at the end of the first quarter with Lukas Odendaal getting the opening goal for Glenanne. Riagan Dunne then found the top corner of the goal from a well-executed short corner with Garry Shaw assisting to put Glenanne ahead. Lukas Odendaal then got his second goal to secure the 3-1 win and a place in the final for Glenanne's Men's firsts.

Glenanne miss out in Jacqui Potter Shield Final



Glenanne women's team lost out to Trinity in a close Jacqui Potter Shield final

GLENANNE'S women's team faced well-known opponents Trinity in the Jacqui Potter Shield Final.

On the day of the final, the excitement could be felt as the team arrived at Three Rock Rovers.

After the team talk, the team knew what they had to do in what was to be one of their biggest games of the season.

Both teams started strong with Trinity putting extreme pressure and closing down play from the start. Glenanne managed the pressure in a calm and collected manner and pushed back at Trinity gaining a few scoring chances. Neither

team could convert their chances with Trinity whizzing some shots wide.

A save off the line by Hilary O'Callaghan set the tone for Glenanne's defence. The play was even throughout the first half with Flourish Olufemi-Ojo denying Trinity any chances they took. With a 0-0 half time score, it was clear that the teams were evenly matched and the game could go either way.

The 3rd quarter began and Glenanne were dominating, with multiple circle entries and 4 short corners in a row. Unfortunately Glenanne could not convert these opportunities and it was clear that Trinity had done their homework on

the Glenanne set pieces. The game became more and more tense with 4 green cards given out in total.

The Glenanne defence continued to deny Trinity of scoring chances defending multiple short corners and with Flourish making a super save when she ended up in a 1vs1 position. Trinity kept fighting and eventually converted a short corner with 8 minutes to go. Glenanne fought back and really worked to get the ball up the pitch and create opportunities such as another short corner which was not converted.

The game finished 1-0 to Trinity in what was a hard fought battle. Both teams played some

excellent hockey in what was a thrilling end to end game. It wasn't to be for Glenanne but the team will keep their heads up and keep training and playing their remaining league matches before they face Ballymoney in an away fixture in the final of the Irish Hockey Trophy.

The team reached the final of the Irish Hockey Trophy last year and missed out on gold in a shootout. This competition is something both the players and management have their eyes on winning and the feeling of losing felt yesterday will only ignite the team and spur them on even more to be successful in this competition

Soccer

Local lads in U17 and U19 squads

The squads for Ireland Men's Under-19s and Men's Under-17s have been announced ahead of a huge week of Elite Round qualification games and include a number of local players.

Tom Mohan's Under-19s team head to Germany where they will face Slovenia on Saturday, March 22 and Germany on Tuesday, March 25.

Colin O'Brien will take his Under-17s team to Poland to take on Belgium (Wednesday, March 19th), Poland (Saturday, March 22nd), and Iceland (Tuesday, March 25th).

Both Irish teams can qualify for this summer's European Championships by topping their respective groups while, for the Under-17s, a group win or finishing as best-place runners-up, will also see them qualify for the FIFA Under-17 World Cup in Qatar in November.

Shamrock Rovers Michael Noonan has been rewarded with his early season form with a first Under-19s call-up.

Also in the U19 squad is defender Cory O'Sullivan, also from Shamrock Rovers and former Hoops forward Cian Dillon who now plays with Queens Park Rangers.

The U17s squad see keeper Alex Noonan from Shamrock Rovers in the squad while defender Billy Canny from St Patrick's Athletic makes the cut.

His club mate Billy Hayes is one of the midfielders named.

Shamrock Rovers players Charles Akinrintayo and Brody Lee are in the squad along with former Kilnamanagh player Billy O'Neill who plays with Bray Wanderers.

Gary has the midas touch in junior soccer

SUCCESS in football can be a hard thing to come by and some managers/coaches go through their whole career in Junior Soccer without achieving anything, while others may win one trophy, *reports John Mooney.*

But Gary Stokes, of Lucan United's Major 1A Saturday side, is the exception and no matter what he turns his hand to seems to turn to gold, you could say he has the midas touch.

Darts, Bowling and Astro Team Football all proved to be successful, before he approached Luke Richardson, secretary of Belgard Athletic, to allow him, and his trusted side kick Conor Duffy, to form a second team for their first foray into 11-a-side soccer.

With three full seasons behind him seven trophies have been collected, and more are bound to follow by this season's end.

A very successful stint with Belgard Athletic in the United Churches Football League saw him guiding them to two league titles and two shields in the space of a couple of seasons.

Lucan saw the potential and asked if he and Conor would be interested in coming along, where they were joined on the coaching side by the club's John Markey.

In his first season they won the Major 1B title, LFA Junior Cup, Tom Carroll Cup, runner up in the Noel Ryan Cup and went out of the FAI Junior Cup in the last 16 to Pike Rovers.

While, already this term, United are in the semi-final of the FAI Junior Cup,

where they will face Fairview Rangers of Limerick at home, are the lowest ranked team ever to reach the last four of this prestigious competition and, in the process, have qualified for the FAI Cup next season.

They have a last 16 away day against Balbriggan FC in the LFA Junior Cup tomorrow night, and if Lucan can get through that it's a quarter final clash with Tallaght United.

That would be an interesting game considering Gary, Conor and a few of their players are from Tallaght.

The team look odds on to win the league title, they have ten wins on the trot, and are still in the hunt for Glenn Fullam Cup.

Like most managers/coaches there is a ritual before every game and that is both he and Conor visit Conor's father, Pat's, grave.

It was what they did before their first game with Belgard, and have continued every week for the past three and a half seasons.

And Gary freely admits that he feels Pat Duffy is the real hero behind their success, as he is sure Pat got them out of some tight spots over the years.

At the moment he is very happy with his lot in Lucan, the club and people and says "It's a great club", but, no matter what way you look at it, if he ever wants to try his hand at the senior Sunday side of the game I'm sure there would be plenty of offers on the table.



Gary and Conor visit Conor's Father's grave before every game

Griffeen move into second after Glenmalure win

A NARROW 2-1 win for Griffeen Valley FC over Glenmalure Rovers 2nds in Walkinstown Park last Saturday saw them move into second place in the UCFL Division 3B section, *reports John Mooney.*

There's still a bit to go in this Division but the Valley have the all important points in the bag, despite both Larkview and Mid Sutton Sportslink having games in hand.

Last Saturday saw them start at a frantic pace, so much so that I thought they would blow Rovers away but they failed to do so.

Inside the opening 20 minutes they had created three clear cut chances that all went close, and it looked like only a matter of time before they opened their account.

Not long after the opening whistle they created their first chance, when Eoghan O'Boyle slipped the ball to Jack Rampersaud and he shot inches over.

That was quickly followed by an effort from Robert Murray that was cleared away by a defender, with the keeper Marcel Mitrica beaten.

While on 23 minutes Ross Byrne almost caught Mitrica out with a clever free kick from outside the area, but Mitrica reacted at the last minute to turn it over the bar.

Rovers were digging in deep and on the stroke of half time shocked the visitors when they opened the scoring through Eoghan Walsh, after Griffeen failed to clear a corner.

It was a goal to give the visitors something to talk about at the break and, when they returned, they set about getting back on level terms.

On 50 minutes they did just that, when Luke Mayers was on hand to drive home from a flicked on corner.

It was just what the doctor ordered and 11 minutes later it got even better, as Rampersaud finished off some great work on the right hand side by Daniel Hui.

But they seemed to take their foot off the gas after number two and handed the initiative to Rovers, but the home side just couldn't create a clear enough chance to bag an equaliser and the Valley returned home the happier.

GLENMALURE ROVERS: Marcel Mitrica, Caylum O'Grady-Sheeran, Daniel Kelly, Aaron Redmond, Jonathon Sheridan, Paul Cullen, Callum Gurr, Eoghan Walsh, Daniel Kelch, Lee Murphy, Ethan McNevin, Paul Lynch, Aaron Matthews, Henry Lopez-Mendez, Joel Gurr, Eamonn Sweeney, Keith Comerford, Ben Walsh.

GRIFFEEN VALLEY FC: Alan McEvoy, Glenn Sammon, Luke Myers, Patrick Grattan CP, Jack Corcoran, Eoghan O'Boyle, Daniel Hui, Craig Chu, Ross Byrne, Robert Murray, Jack Rampersaud, Mark Burke, Ilya Obadau, Keith Ryan, Robert John Cherubini, Karl Slevin, Mark Steinmann, Keith Smith.



Griffeen Valley FC had a narrow win over Glenmalure Rovers to move to second in the table



Glenmalure Rovers led at half time but couldn't stop Griffeen Valley coming back in the second half to win the game

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