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Social housing
land lying
dormant for
10 years page 17

Jail for man
with controller
for drone flying
over prison page 17



ME OUL FLOWER

LOCAL artists proudly showcase their artwork at the Royal Hibernian Academy (RHA) as part of the CA Collective Exhibition, which officially opened on Thursday. The exhibition is hosted by Connections Arts Centre (CAC), a social enterprise championing inclusivity in the arts. See page 26

LOCAL ARTISTS CELEBRATE CREATIVITY WITHOUT BARRIERS



Men questioned in connection with activities of drug trafficking gang

Arrests made in high-risk criminal gang investigation

GARDAI arrested five men on Monday in West Dublin as part of investigations into an international organised crime group in the area, reports Maurice Garvey. See page 12

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SERVICES: Citywest Hotel

Hotel received an average €1.3 million per week for accommodation services

CITYWEST Hotel received €68.27m from the Irish State in 2024 for accommodating Ukrainians and International Protection (IP) applicants.

Latest quarterly figures published by the Department of Children indicate that Citywest received an average of €1.3m per week last year for accommodation services.

The 764-bed Citywest Hotel has been effectively closed to the public since 2020, when it was first used as a quarantine facility for the HSE during covid before transitioning to a full-time international protection facility/hub.

New figures from the Dept show that the €68.27m paid out to Citywest Hotel and convention centre owner Cape Wrath UC, which is owned by investment group Tetrarch Capital, is a 27 per cent increase on the €53.7m paid in 2023.

Meanwhile, Guestford, operator of the Red

Cow Moran hotel, received €8.56m for the final quarter last year for accommodating IP applicants.

On their website, the Red Cow Moran Hotel advises that they are “currently privately booked” and “will not be taking new guest reservations” at this time.

The Red Cow Moran hotel closed to the public in early 2022.

Overall spend on accommodation for IP applicants and Ukrainians in the Republic of Ireland last year totalled €1.84bn, equating to a daily average spend of €5m.

Jail for high speed garda chase

A MAN who led gardaí on a high speed chase which ended with him crashing the vehicle into a set of traffic lights has been jailed, *reports Sonya McLean.*

Christopher Murphy (33) later violently resisted arrest at his home while his partner Malika Amraoui (35) withdrew the officer's firearm from the holster when she was also trying to stop the garda from arresting Murphy. Murphy, of Swiftbrook Drive, Tallaght, pleaded guilty at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court to endangerment on October 21, 2021 in the west Tallaght area of Dublin.

Amraoui, formerly of the same address, pleaded guilty to assaulting a police officer on the same date. Murphy has 33 previous convictions for mostly road traffic offences, while Amraoui has two previous convictions for having no insurance.

Judge Martin Nolan said any reasonable person would have known it was a garda car following him and that Murphy drove in a dangerous way in the Tallaght area to make good his escape.

He said the sergeant was isolated at Murphy's home and it would have been a very frightening experience for him to confront the couple in this manner.

The judge said Amraoui was in “some way out of control” and that Murphy had behaved disgracefully.

He said losing the gun in the manner he did would have been a “nightmarish situation” for the sergeant before he sentenced Amraoui to three years in prison, which he suspended in full.

Judge Nolan said Murphy had endangered others in the pursuit and had behaved

disgracefully when confronted. He jailed him for three years and disqualified him from driving for five years.

The court heard that Murphy was first spotted driving a black Range Rover at speed on the Fortunestown Road in Tallaght at 1.35am. He was directed by officers, who were in an unmarked patrol car, to pull over but he refused to do so and continued to drive at speed into the Cloonmore area of Jobstown.

Murphy then drove through the various estates at speed before returning to the Fortunestown Road, where he drove the wrong way around a roundabout and drove onto the Jobstown Road at high speed on the wrong side of the road.

The pursuit came to an end when he lost control of the jeep on Fortunestown Way and crashed into a set of traffic lights, completely destroying them and causing €15,473 worth of damage.

Murphy was chased on foot and followed onto Swiftbrook Drive where he kicked in the door of a house and ran inside. The sergeant knocked on the door and shouted “armed gardai”.

Amraoui opened the door and told the sergeant that a man had run through the house and asked the officer to check the house for her

Murphy was found in the garden and the sergeant tried to put handcuffs on him but he became aggressive and violent and resisted arrest, claiming he had not done anything.

The sergeant asked Amraoui to call 999 but she refused claiming she had no phone, she also refused to confirm her address to allow the officer to call for backup.

He realised then that Murphy and Amraoui

knew each other and he became in fear for his personal safety. He tried to move Murphy out of the house and managed to get him out onto to the street.

Murphy threatened to “bite your face off” so the sergeant had to work on keeping his head away from him as he continued to try and arrest him.

At his point Amraoui was continually shouting at the sergeant and attempting to intervene before she grabbed the gun from the officer's holster. He managed to grab the gun back from her and forced her back away from him by kicking out at her.

The court heard that back-up arrived and they managed to put Murphy into a patrol car after he was pepper sprayed because he continually resisted arrest.

Both were taken in for questioning and while nothing of evidential value came out of Murphy's interview, Amraoui accepted there had been a scuffle and said she may have made accidental contact with the sergeant.

The court heard that Amraoui had written a letter for the court giving her unreserved apology for her behaviour that night. It was accepted that her actions were out of character and that she has not come to garda attention since.

Murphy also had a letter of apology and had a testimonial from his current employer. His family were in court to support him.

Murphy claimed that his life was under threat at the time and he didn't realise it was a garda that was pursuing him in the car chase. The gardaí do not accept that he didn't realise it was members of the gardaí who were following him.

Efficient public transport ‘is not going to be profitable but it needs to be done’

PROVIDING West Dublin with efficient public transport “is not going to be profitable but it needs to be done,” said a councillor as residents keep voicing their frustration over cancelled services, *reports Alessia Micalizzi.*

Following the last Clondalkin area meeting, South Dublin County Council issued a request to Go-Ahead Ireland and the NTA to address cancelled services that are “common” on the W2 and W6 routes.

The two routes were created to connect several areas in West Dublin and some commuter towns in Co Kildare without having to go through Dublin City.

W2 connects Liffey Valley to The Square in Tallaght via Clondalkin while W6 serves Maynooth, Celbridge, Newcastle, Rathcoole and Saggart to also end up at The Square.

“These are expanding areas,” said Councillor Francis Timmons (IND) who brought the motion forward. “Disruption to people’s lives is not acceptable.”

While previous SDCC motions discussed whether the Go-Ahead privatised routes needed to be handed back to the state, this motion only called for the existing issues to be addressed.

However, Clondalkin councillors agreed that profit shouldn’t be a priority in public transport. “Offering a route to somewhere like Newcastle, Rathcoole and Saggart is not going to be profitable, but it needs to be done anyway, because that’s where people live and people need to get to work,” added Councillor Darragh Adelaide (PBP) as he supported the motion.

“I’m obviously not a fan of everything being in public ownership, but I think things like bus services should be in public ownership because they should be a benefit for the public,” said Councillor Linda De Courcy (IndIre) who suggested at “looking at removing Go-Ahead if it’s not doing what it’s supposed to be doing.”

According to Cllr De Courcy’s own research, the NTA indicated they weren’t satisfied with Go-Ahead in 2022 already but renewed the contract anyway.



EXPANDING AREAS: The bus on Monastery Road in Clondalkin

Plans to repair old wall damaged by Storm Eowyn

Quote has been requested to repair a 11-meter section of wall and remove tree roots

By **Alessia Micalizzi**

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SOUTH Dublin County Council will need to appoint a contractor to repair a 11-meter section of an old wall damaged by a tree during Storm Eowyn.

On January 24, over 150 trees fell or were damaged by the storm across South Dublin, while SDCC crews responded to 222 call outs for reported incidents.

The tree that damaged the old wall on Monastery Road in Clondalkin was uprooted before sunrise and caused closure of the road for several hours.

In response to a question by Councillor Linda De Courcy

(IndIre) at the Clondalkin area meeting, SDCC said Public Realm are “currently working with Land Use, Planning and Transportation (LUPT) to arrange for the repair.”

“A quote has been requested to repair a 11-meter section of wall to include the removal of the tree roots, construction of a new section of wall, traffic management and reinstatement.

“It is hoped to appoint a contractor in the next fortnight to carry out the works in Q2.”

The Council added that prior to Storm Eowyn, they were “not aware of any concerns over the health or stability of the tree” and that its uprooting was “one example of the devastating effects of the storm.”



DAMAGED: The damaged section of the wall on Monastery Road

“It is hoped to appoint a contractor in the next fortnight to carry out the works in Q2

Tenant-in-situ scheme is a lifeline for families at risk of homelessness

THE Tenant-in-situ Scheme is a lifeline for families that are at risk of homelessness and gives certainty to landlords who wish to exit the market.

Sinn Féin TD for Dublin South West Seán Crowe said that the failure of the Government to fund the scheme this year shows a startling lack of urgency when it comes to getting the scheme back up and running.

Speaking after the Sinn Féin motion on protecting and ensuring funding for

the scheme in the Dáil, Teachta Crowe said:

“This government seems to take every opportunity it can to make the housing crisis worse.

“Since April 2023, the social housing tenant-in-situ scheme has saved around 2,500 households from being made homeless.

“Families with children, couples and single people, including pensioners, have been prevented from long stays in

emergency accommodation as councils were able to buy their private rental homes.

“Since January, this scheme has been suspended to new applications due to the failure of the outgoing government to agree funding allocations for 2025.

“The new government has shown a startling lack of urgency when it comes to getting the scheme back up and running.

“If this scheme is done away with,

this government will have put thousands of renters at serious risk of being made homeless.

“Almost 17 thousand eviction notices were issued to private rental tenants last year, with more than half of those on the grounds of landlords intending to sell the property.

“If we are not going to build social housing on public lands, then we can at least ensure that the tenant in situ scheme prevents renters being thrown

out onto the street and into emergency accommodation that the state is already spending hundreds of million on each year.

“The government must properly fund the tenant-in-situ scheme and allow local authorities maximum flexibility on how it is operated.

“This is a vital homeless prevention support that is working and should be allowed to continue as it has for the past two years.

Family are calling for urgent reform after Dylan's death

Man (23) jailed for four years and three months after hit and run death of 21-year-old

A YOUNG man who was driving at twice the speed limit when he struck a 21-year-old man, killing him instantly before fleeing the scene, has been jailed for four years and three months, reports *Claire Henry and Isabel Hayes*.

There were emotional scenes in Dublin Circuit Criminal Court on Monday as Cameron Cooper (23) was jailed for the hit and run death of 21-year-old Dylan Killalee Maher.

Cooper, of Ballyneety Road, Ballyfermot, Dublin 10, called emergency services in the wake of the fatal crash – but instead of seeking help, he falsely told gardai his car had been stolen in an attempt to avoid blame, Dublin Circuit Criminal Court heard.

He pleaded guilty to dangerous driving causing death, driving with no insurance, making a false report of a crime and failing to offer assistance to avoid criminal or civil prosecution at locations on the Naas Road and Turnpike Road on November 12, 2023.

He has no previous convictions. Passing sentence at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court on Monday, Judge Ronan Munro said it was difficult to put into words the devastation inflicted on the family of Mr Killalee Maher, an apprentice electrician.

The court was packed with his family and friends who were visibly emotional throughout. Cooper kept his head bowed in the dock as the sentence was passed down.

Mr Killalee Maher was described in court as a “deeply loved person” who brought a smile to everyone's face and who was hardworking and fun-loving. He regularly cared for his elderly grandmother.

Judge Munro said there was nothing the court could ever do to undo the “enormous tragedy inflicted on the Maher family”.

“This is not a murder case,” he said. “I know it feels like a murder case for the family. It's important to stress that whatever penalty is imposed, it can not measure the life of Dylan Maher.

The sentence I'm about to impose



DEEPLY LOVED PERSON: Dylan Killalee Maher

can never measure that.”

The judge noted the maximum sentence for dangerous driving causing death is 10 years and that Cooper was a first-time offender with no previous convictions who pleaded guilty to the offences, which meant the victim's family did not have to sit through a trial. Like Mr Killalee Maher, he was also an apprentice electrician at the time of the offence.

Judge Munro said that in his view Cooper's actions that night amounted

to a “homicide”, noting the speed he used was “unconscionable”, particularly as he knew the area and knew there was a nightclub entrance at that part of the road.

The judge noted there was empty cans of fast gas in the car and Cooper and his friends had obviously been having a good time, although there was no evidence Cooper ingested any gas himself.

He said it was clear that as well as driving at double the speed limit, there

was also inattention on the part of Cooper. “He was 100% liable,” the judge said.

He said Cooper's parents also have to live with what he has done, but while the court has heard his incarceration will be particularly hard for his brother, “Dylan Maher is gone forever” while “Cameron Cooper will someday be getting out of prison”.

Judge Munro handed down a five year, three month sentence and suspended the final year for a period

of five years on a number of conditions. He told Cooper that should he break any road traffic rules during that five-year period, he will be brought back to court and put in jail.

He also disqualified Cooper from driving for nine years.

After the sentence was handed down, Mr Killalee Maher's mother broke down, saying: “I didn't get to say goodbye to my son”.

The families left court separately upon Judge Munro's request, with a significant garda presence in court.

Speaking outside court, the late man's mother called for the maximum sentence for dangerous driving causing death to be raised to at least 14 years, in line with Northern Ireland.

“While we acknowledge the sentence handed down today and thank the court for its time, it has brought to light the inadequacy of the penalties for dangerous driving causing death in our country,” Catherine Killalee said.

“Ireland's current maximum sentence of 10 years is insufficient and fails to reflect the devastation caused by such crimes. This is not justice. Lives are not numbers, and no one should feel that the weight of their loved one's life can be trivialised by a lenient sentence.

“We are therefore calling for urgent reform. The maximum sentence for dangerous driving causing death must be increased to at least 14 years to align with practices in Northern Ireland. Our loved ones deserve better, and as a society, we must do better. Sentences need to reflect the seriousness of these crimes and offer grieving families some semblance of justice.”

She said her son was “a kind, caring and driven young man with a bright future ahead”.

“He was just six weeks away from qualifying as an electrician, a career he was deeply passionate about.” He was also a “devoted carer to his grandmother, taking on responsibilities many his age wouldn't”, she said.

29 vehicles seized targetting organised crime groups

GARDAI seized up to 29 vehicles on Thursday, March 20, as part of a major ongoing investigation into an organised crime group based in South Dublin.

A total of 29 vehicles were seized from a business in South County Dublin, as was evidence relating to drugs related money-laundering, and fraud offences.

Further freezing orders have been placed on company accounts, freezing approximately €200,000 suspected to be the proceeds of crime.

Numerous residential properties were searched in Dublin and Longford in an operation by gardai attached to Terenure Divisional Drugs Unit, supported by the Serious Crime units in Terenure, Crumlin and Sundrive Road and the Tallaght and Sundrive Road Divisional Drugs Units.

The estimated value of the vehicles seized is between €500,000 and €600,000.

Previous busts in relation to this operation include two arrests and the seizure of €3.1 million of cocaine and 353,000 in cash in February 2024, as part of investigations into a drug trafficking network based in the DMR and Eastern Region.

In October, gardai in Terenure and Sundrive arrested three men (aged in their 60s, 30s and 20s) in relation to organised criminal activity in the South Dublin and Eastern Regions.

The investigation targets persons suspected of being involved in drug trafficking, money laundering and drug related intimidation as part of a criminal organisation.

Meanwhile, in May 2024, gardai made a total of 42 searches (38 private residences,

three business premises' and a safety deposit box), the majority in the DMR South region, with a number of searches also conducted in DMR West, DMR North Central, DMR South Central, and in Kildare.

In total, €263,500 in cash was seized, in addition to a Volkswagen Golf GTI (valued at approximately €40,000), a Mercedes CLA Estate (valued at approximately €40,000), and a Citroen Dispatch (valued at approximately €5,000 and containing a specially made concealed compartment in the floor of the van for transporting drugs/cash/firearms).

Bank drafts for €40,000, deeds for three Spanish properties, two cash counting machines and a number of designer watches were also seized.

Gardai say investigations are ongoing.



SEIZED: Some of the vehicles seized by gardai

New grants available for music education

NEW grants are available for music education in Dublin Mid West schools, and local music groups and organisations should apply, said Local Fine Gael TD Emer Higgins, and Minister of State for eGovernment Digitalisation and Public Procurement.

Minister Higgins has welcomed the opening of the Non-Mainstream Music Education Bursary Scheme, announced by the Minister for Education, Helen McEntee TD, and is encouraging local music groups to apply.

“The Non-Mainstream Music Education Bursary Scheme is now open for applications to help organisations provide music education in schools,” Minister Higgins said.

“A total of €100,000 is available in grants which allow organisations with limited or no access to other forms of public funding to pay for music classes, instruments and other equipment.

“This Scheme has helped children’s choirs, concert bands, brass bands, folk orchestras, uilleann pipers and more. It is targeted at smaller organisations involved in non-mainstream music education and community music initiatives who cater for socio-economically disadvantaged groups.

Over €2.5m spent resurfacing roads

Programme covered roads in Ballyfermot, Cherry Orchard and Naas Road

By Maurice Garvey
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OVER €2.5m was spent resurfacing roads in Dublin South Central last year, including sections of Ballyfermot Road, Kylemore Road, Bluebell Avenue and Naas Road.

Dublin City Council’s road works programme in 2024 included €120,000 for Ballyfermot Road (St Lawrence’s Road to Garryowen Road), €190,000 for Kylemore Road (Ballyfermot Road to La Fanu Road), and €150,000 for Kylemore Road (Labre Park – Kylemore Park South).

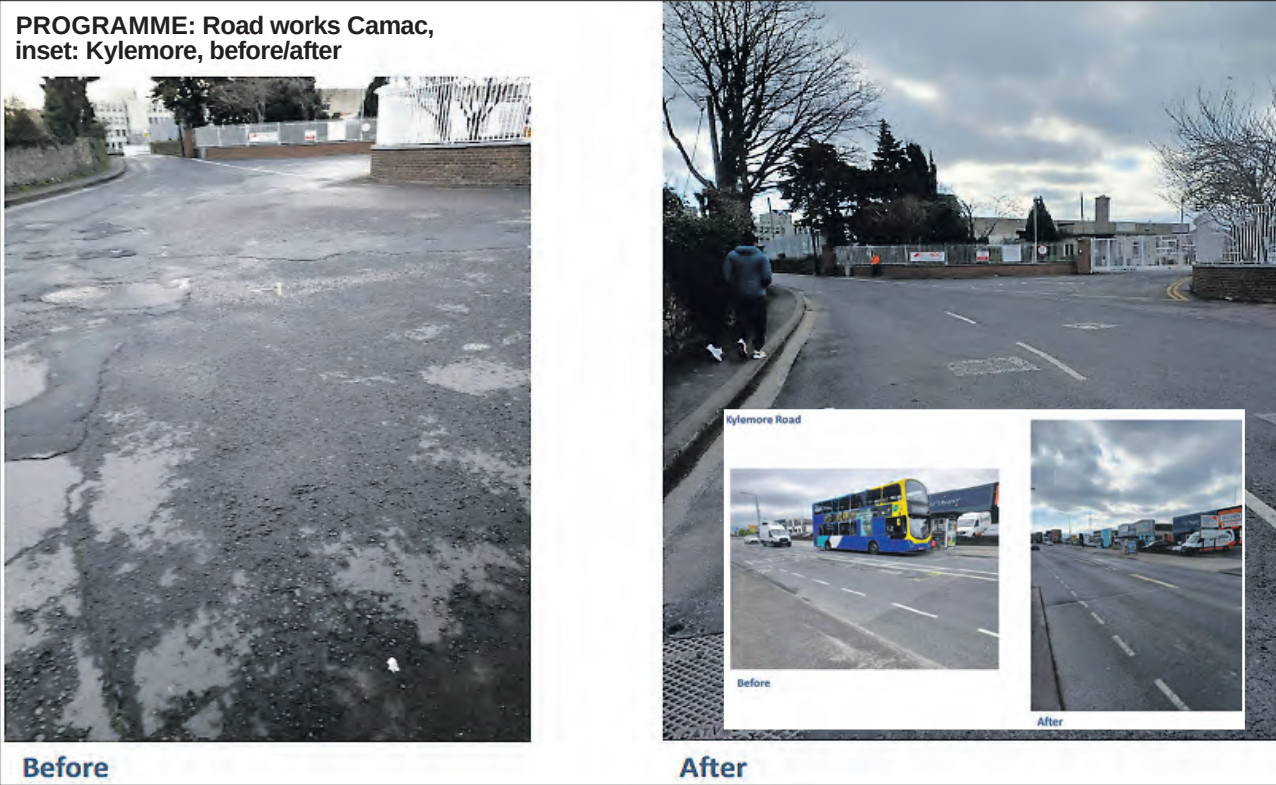
Other sections completed last year include €150,000 at Barnville Park and Cherry Orchard Court, €150,000 for St Johns Road West, Inchicore.

Naas Road works completed last year include €220,000 for an inbound section on Old Naas Road to Kylemore Road, and €180,000 for a section of Naas Road-outbound- towards Kylemore Road.

Meanwhile, road works were completed at Crumlin Road-Raphoe Road to Iveagh Gardens for €285,000, and at Walkinstown Road (roundabout to Thomas Moore Rd) €120,000.

At the South Central area meeting this week, a presentation on the road works was delivered to councillors.

Cllr Vincent Jackson (Ind) cited “a really bad surface” near the Iveagh House development at the former Canon Troy Court site called Anamore Court, which is concerning for the elderly residents in the scheme and surrounding



area, considering the scale of construction works taking place.

Cllr Daithi Doolan (SF) asked what two separate costs for Camac Park in Bluebell meant, and sought clarification on scheduled ramp works in the report – if they are new ramps and where they are located.

In response, David Coyle, senior executive engineer DCC, said the Camac Park/Bluebell Avenue works are two separate jobs, and represent a continuation of works on the road.

Mr Coyle said existing ramps have been identified for resurfacing and repair.

Road maintenance works for 2025 in the south central area include Camac Park Phase 2 (€130,000), Long Mile (€220,000), and Inchicore Terrace South (€50,000).

Lack of resources for city council’s derelict sites section is a major concern

By Maurice Garvey
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THE lack of resources for the section in Dublin City Council that handles derelict sites is a major concern, according to Cllr Hazel de Nortúin (PBP).

A derelict sites register was presented at the Dublin South Central area meeting this week, revealing many sites that have been in limbo for up to a decade.

Among them, a row of seven council-owned homes at Mulberry Cottages, Martin’s Row, Chapelizod, along with properties in areas including Cherry Orchard, Crumlin and Inchicore.

Speaking at the meeting, Cllr de Nortúin said she was “disappointed to see the level of dereliction.”

“Particularly looking at our areas Ballyfermot and Drimnagh and the row of houses in Chapelizod, so many listed along the one stretch.

“Some of the dates have gone back to 2015 to 2019 at different stages, so what exactly was the purpose of this report here today ? I know it’s identifying the houses and giving a background to it but what exactly are

we doing to move on any of these properties?”

Cllr Daragh Moriarty (Lab) acknowledged the “onerous task” of chasing owners of properties while Cllr Daithi Doolan (SF) welcomed the report but felt it a “bit damning to see a list of addresses of empty units.”

“When the site is owned by Dublin City Council how do we make sure it is turned around into housing or some benefit for the local community,” asked Cllr Doolan.

In response, Margaret Mooney, senior staff officer, DCC, said it has been a while since the derelict sites report as presented to members, and that they wanted to do it bi-annually and hope to have made some progress the next time the report is on the agenda.

In response to a question by Cllr Moriarty, Ms Mooney said there is five staff members in the section.

“We are all authorised users so we can go out and inspect. We don’t have fulltime inspectors. Staff do the admin side aswell. There is plenty of work during an investigation, photographs, reports, engagement with the owners, engaging back and forth trying to get them on board with what needs to be



done.”

Ms Mooney encouraged members to contact them about any other derelict sites that they may be aware of.

“We are not aware of every site in the city and we don’t have the capacity to go around daily. So we do

depend on people ringing in with complaints or emails, phones calls, and we are happy to act on them if we have overlooked anything,” said Ms Mooney.

Speaking to *The Echo*, Cllr de Nortúin is not very confident that the derelict sites list will improve.

“No. The reason for that being the problems with the tenant-in-situ scheme and the reduction in funding for voids, which we had to scrap to get. I don’t think there is a will from Central Government to turnaround derelict sites at the moment,” said de Nortúin.

Over 67% of hospital users were 'satisfied' with service

Only 45% would recommend attending the emergency department

By Alessia Micalizzi

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OVER 67 per cent of Tallaght University Hospital users were "satisfied" with the service according to a new study.

The Trinity College Dublin's Health Assets and Needs Assessment (HANA) report assessed health services and quality of life in Tallaght based on the answers of 274 local households and 755 residents.

According to the report, 90pc of locals feel Tallaght University Hospital is of benefit to the area, and attendances for tests and treatments "more than doubled" since the last HANA report in 2014.

Quality of care at TUH was appreciated the most by respondents (77pc), followed by the staff friendliness, respect and compassion (76pc) and good communication from the staff (58pc).

The report also showed that people would like to be involved in TUH's decision to change and improve services (41pc of respondents) and that they believe reducing waiting lists (39pc) and an increase in staff (32pc) would "significantly" improve the service.

The majority of respondents (85pc) said they had their healthcare needs met in TUH.

While 78pc would recommend TUH to a friend, only 45pc would recommend attending their Emergency Department, which saw a decrease in attendance levels since the last HANA report.

On the other hand, out-of-hours and GP not being available were listed as the primary reasons why respondents couldn't seek care through another service before attending the ED.

"This study is an important one for hospital management as it informs how



LAUNCH: People at the launch of the report (inset) Catherine Darker, Kevin Shortall and John Kelly

we develop and plan our services," said TUH following the launch of the report in Tallaght library on March 13.

Over the last decade, some initiatives based on the last report's results and recommendations were launched, such as the Reeves Day Surgery Centre to tackle waiting lists, 48 new beds for the

age-related unit and two new integrated care programmes for older persons, and a community radiology facility at Tallaght Cross.

For mental health, TUH developed a new Liaison Service with a psychiatrist and two nurses specialised to manage self-harm issues, and for patients'

feedback the Patient Community Advisory Council (PCAC) forum was created.

Commenting on this year's report, Interim CEO of TUH John Kelly said, "It is great to see the expansion of our services and community health initiatives have made a real difference."

"As part of the new Hospital Strategy which we are developing, we will be looking at the new data to help us identify what is working well and where improvements are needed."

The HANA report is supported and funded by the Adelaide Health Foundation and the HSE.

People in their 20s sitting in cars could be 'biggest crowd' of nitrous oxide users

By Alessia Micalizzi

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PEOPLE in their early twenties could be the "biggest crowd" of nitrous oxide users according to councillors.

At the Clondalkin area meeting, councillors passed a motion to request that the government legislate for nitrous oxide as an illegal substance to use as a drug and to regulate online buying for drug use.

While the legislation should include an education campaign according to the motion submitted by Councillor Francis Timmons (IND), the chamber acknowledged that users in the area might be beyond school age in many cases.

"This is not just 15- or 16-year-olds," said Cllr Timmons. "I've seen people in their twenties around Clondalkin and other places using it."

"The drugs and alcohol task forces go into schools and educate teenagers about it, and it seemed in our discussions that the message might be getting through to teenagers," added Councillor Eoin Ó Broin (SocDem). "But it's people in their early twenties who sit in cars and do it and then discard them. That could be the biggest crowd of users at the moment."

Councillor William Carey (SF) commented "It's popular among different groups because it doesn't show up when it comes to tests and checkpoints. And it's short-term with a short lifespan in the body."

He added that there have been "at least two deaths" that were related to nitrous oxide use and that a lack of regulation on the substance use will lead to "people locked away suffering in hospital wards," and "further deaths."

Nitrous oxide is legally sold in canisters for use in the cooking and drinking industry but is also known to be inhaled to get a short euphoric high.

Also known as 'laughing gas,' it can cause fatal brain damage and asphyxiation as it cuts off oxygen to the brain.

Side effects of the gas inhalation can be dizziness and disorientation, numbness in extremities, frostbite and scars.

In October 2024, new legislation was introduced to regulate the sale of nitrous oxide to commercial use only, following the seizure of €650,000 worth of canisters at Dublin Port in June.

Young people can't be criminalised for possession, but the Gardaí have now the power to seize canisters from them and all nitrous oxide products from traders without an appropriate licence.

However, dozens of dumped canisters are regularly found across South Dublin parks and parking lots where people consumed them with alcohol or sugar drinks.

Following the debate at the Clondalkin area meeting, SDCC issued a letter to An Taoiseach calling for more effective legislation.

"I'm pleading to government parties to really put this as a high priority," said Cllr Timmons.



ISSUES: Canisters of nitrous oxide are seen on roads and in housing estates each week

€250k upgrade boost to park

FOLLOWING a €250,000 investment in upgrades by South Dublin County Council, Greentrees Park in Perrystown recently reopened.

Spanning 13 acres across two green spaces known as the 'Five Acres' and the 'Eight Acres', the park now features a new footpath exercise loop, 100 mature trees, new park benches, and extensive bulb planting for seasonal colour.

Pedestrian entrances have also been improved to enhance access and connectivity, complementing existing playing pitches and the play space adjacent to the Perrystown Community Centre making the park even more welcoming and inclusive for all.

Event to raise funds for parish

A GARTH Brooks tribute act takes place on April 4 in the Spa Hotel Lucan, in aid of Divine Mercy Schools and Parish.

All funds will go towards the schools and parish.

Tickets cost €20 and are on sale on Eventbrite, and available in both schools reception areas, and the parish centre.

A raffle will be held on the night to be in with a chance to win prizes and experiences from the locality. Raffle tickets cost €2 each or three for €5.

Parents host info meeting

A VOLUNTARY group of parents who advocate for the children with additional needs in Ballyfermot and the wider community are hosting an information meeting on Tuesday, April 1, at the Ballyfermot Civic Centre at 7.30pm.

The event was organised by parents who represent various groups in the community, including NeuroVibe Tribe and D10 Autism Friendly Town, who were recognised for their work at the annual AsIAm Autism Friendly Towns Awards 2025.

Cllr Hazel de Nortúin (PBP) said the event is "more parent led" rather than organised by any one particular group.

'Just how beautiful and precious life is' - survivor

Cancer survivor is encouraging everyone to support patients and families

By Alessia Micalizzi
alessia@echo.ie

"HOW I look at life and how I look at people has changed completely," said a cancer survivor as he encouraged everyone to support cancer patients and their families this Daffodil Day.

Phelim Warren (58) of Belgard Heights, Tallaght, said receiving his prostate cancer diagnosis in September 2023 felt like a "bombshell," more so when he was told one month later that it was inoperable.

"The word cancer is difficult enough, but when followed by 'inoperable'... it was like a bombshell came through that room in Tallaght Hospital."

Phelim's diagnosis came after his annual blood tests. While he had no symptoms and "felt fine," the cancer expanded beyond the prostate and so became inoperable.

Inoperable didn't mean incurable, and "once the news sunk in," as Phelim said, "hope and positivity were very much in my mind and still are today."

His treatment began with a quarterly injection followed by hormone tablets which he will continue for two or three years.

The 39 rounds of radiotherapy he received at St Lukes Hospital in Rathgar, and completed in January 2024, made him "extremely fatigued."

"I felt like I had been hit by a train, I couldn't do anything for a month. I was told it was coming so I went with it."

"I took early retirement shortly before the diagnosis, so I didn't have to take time off. But I play music at the weekends and for that one month I didn't leave the house at all."

Fatigue is one of many side effects of radiotherapy such as hair loss, feeling sick, diarrhoea or blood in urine, which luckily "didn't happen" to Phelim.

Back to his weekend gigs and to his regular life, he now gets tired more easily but is managing his fatigue "quite well" by listening to his body when it asks for some rest.

What's completely changed is how Phelim looks "at life and people."

"Just how beautiful and

precious life is, and how people would still allow negativity and small things to affect their lives – perspective is the word I always use," he said.

"Some things that used to bother me 18 months ago are now irrelevant. If cancer has taught me anything, is that nobody is perfect, but we all can be better. I'm not glad I had it, but it made me better."

Phelim said his determination on his recovery journey came from his parents, who both had cancer at some stages of their lives and battled it the same way.

"They were an inspiration to me. I just kept telling myself 'I have to overcome it.' In that moment, you find a strength and positivity you didn't even know you had."

Supported by his wife and siblings all along the way, Phelim now encourages everyone to regularly take blood tests, and to flag them with the Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) test for all men over 40.

Marking Daffodil Day, the Irish Cancer Society's biggest call for support is on Friday, March 28, Phelim highlighted that "every small bit of euro" donated counts.

"As I set up my donation page, ICS started telling me what it was used for – staff travel to get people treatment in their homes, cancer nurses to spend the night with patients, special equipment."

"I never thought about how impactful donations could be. It's both medical and non-medical support, it's for the patient but also for the families who are with them on the journey."

"Only 5 per cent of the Irish Cancer Society income is Government-funded so we really depend on the public."

Phelim then encouraged people to "not be afraid" to reach out to loved ones or members of their community who are going through cancer.

According to the Irish Cancer Society, in 2025 alone an estimated 44,000 people will receive a cancer diagnosis in Ireland. Donations on Daffodil Day also fund groundbreaking cancer research and trials.

To learn more and donate, visit www.cancer.ie.

"I never thought about how impactful donations could be. It's both medical and non-medical support, it's for the patient but also for the families who are on the journey with them. Only 5 per cent of the Irish Cancer Society income is Government-funded so we really depend on the public



SUPPORT: Phelim Warren outside St Luke's Hospital

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‘Horrible assault’ on graveyard flower seller by man out on bail

‘Danger to society’ man (31) had 113 previous convictions at time of offence

A “DANGER to society”, who was spending €600 a week on drugs, has been jailed for a further two years for headbutting a graveyard flower seller, reports *Niamh O’Donoghue*.

Alan Melia (31) of Cherry Orchard Avenue, Ballyfermot pleaded guilty at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court to assault causing harm on December 15, 2020.

Melia, who was on bail at the time of the offence, has 113 previous convictions and is serving a seven-and-a-half-year sentence for a robbery in 2020, the court heard.

Detective Garda Jack Walsh told the court the injured party was selling flowers at Palmerstown Cemetery as he had done for 40 years without incident when two men approached him.

He told Emer Delargy BL, prosecuting, that Melia’s co-accused asked the seller for a number of bunches of flowers for six euro and he said he would rob him if he didn’t give them to him. The court heard the co-accused was unidentifiable.

Melia headbutted the injured party as he turned to leave and the force caused his glasses to break. The man also sustained a cut on his nose.

Melia’s co-accused said “you shouldn’t have wound him up.” The



injured party’s nose was not broken but he required stitches when he attended St. James’ Hospital.

Judge Orla Crowe set a headline sentence of three years and suspended the final year of it on strict conditions.

She directed the two year sentence is to run consecutive to the sentence Melia is currently serving.

“This was a horrible assault on a man who for 40 years had a flower stand outside a cemetery,” said the judge. “That is a really important and sensitive role that this man was doing in society,” she added.

The judge noted Melia and his co-accused “set upon him in broad

daylight” and went through his pockets and headbutted him after he had turned away.

Having read the victim impact statement, the judge said the assault had a “profound impact” and she had seen the photo of the blood-stained glasses and his stitches.

The judge said the most serious part was the psychological impact it had saying there was “only one victim here and that is the injured party.”

The judge said she had read a psychological report which outlined Melia had a very happy home life but spent most of his adulthood in prison.

The judge noted Melia’s remorse and

said she would like to put some structure into his life into the future.

She said she had to take account of the profound impact on the victim. She noted Melia was on bail for two incidents at the time of the offence. The injured party also had to spend €900 on new glasses, she noted.

Judge Crowe said the injured party was “utterly blameless selling flowers in broad daylight” and that the threshold for a custodial sentence had been reached.

The sentence for the robbery matter will expire in May 2026 and any other sentence would have to be consecutive, she added.

“This has to be marked with a consecutive custodial sentence” the judge said adding “he is a danger to society” if he does not get some sort of help while in custody.

She said Melia is to remain under the supervision of the Probation Services for a period of two years post-release.

Keith Spencer BL, defending, said Melia had entered a plea on his trial date. He has one child and his partner was present in court to support him.

Drug use was the reason for Melia’s offending, said Mr Spencer. He had problems with school and learning difficulties but did achieve his junior

certificate. He was diagnosed belatedly with Aspergers and ADHD but it was too late in terms of his education.

Counsel said Melia began to hang around with the wrong crowd and was spending €600 a week on heroin and medications.

He said his client was doing quite well in Mountjoy Prison but wants to get help for his drug addiction with Melia saying “I’m sick of being in here.”

Mr Spencer said at the time of the assault Melia was dysregulated and unable to manage his emotions. Melia does feel regulated when he uses the gym, counsel added.

He was tested by the psychologist who said his cognitive ability was below average and he requires therapeutic care and addiction counselling. Mr Spencer said Melia needed some community-based recovery and psychoeducational intervention as well as transitional integration.

Mr Spencer said Melia was “a young man who didn’t get the educational intervention he needed” and was hanging around with wrong crowd and was easily led. He said Melia offered an apology to the injured party and “he is attuned to the impact it has had”.

‘Small cogs’ jailed after being caught with over €2m of cannabis in industrial estate

TWO men have been jailed after they were caught with over €2 million of cannabis in a Dublin industrial estate almost two years ago, reports *Eimear Dodd*.

Jamie Stalker (37) of Liverpool Road, Huyton, Liverpool and Niall Maher (38) of Cherry Orchard Drive, Ballyfermot, Dublin 10, were both jailed on Thursday for five years, with the final 12 months suspended on strict conditions.

The men both pleaded guilty to possession of cannabis for sale or supply on May 24, 2023, at Canal Walk, Park West Industrial Estate.

Imposing sentence, Judge Elva Duffy said the amount of drugs was an aggravating factor, describing it as a “very significant haul” of cannabis.

She said the court accepted both men were “small cogs” with no proprietary interest in the drugs, adding “these things wouldn’t happen” without “small cogs”.

The judge directed the sentence should be backdated to the date both men went into custody on May 24, 2023.

An investigating garda told Diarmuid Collins BL, prosecuting, that customs intercepted a pallet containing cannabis unloaded off a flight from Toronto.

The pallet’s contents were described as bedding, but there was a smell of the drugs. A delivery address listed in the Kylemore Industrial Estate was found by gardai to be fictitious.

An undercover garda called a telephone number included in the documents and spoke to a man, later identified as Maher, who said he was at the address, and asked where they were.

A controlled delivery was arranged, and when gardai arrived, a white van pulled up beside their vehicle.

Maher waved at gardai, who then helped him

to move the pallet into the van.

A garda surveillance operation observed him drive to the Park West Industrial Estate. Maher met Stalker, who was on foot, there, and both men went to the back of the van.

At this point, gardai intervened and arrested both men. 104 kg of cannabis, valued at €2.08 million, was found.

The court was told that Stalker had travelled from the UK to meet this consignment of drugs, and a car ferry ticket was found on him.

When Stalker’s phone was analysed, evidence was found that he was acting under the direction of a third party, and his role was to count the drugs.

Maher’s role was to move the consignment of drugs from one location to another, the court heard.

Maher told gardai when interviewed that he became involved due to a drug debt and was under threat by “very dangerous people” but otherwise exercised his right to silence.

Stalker exercised his right to silence during four interviews, but said in a fifth interview he was meeting a friend’s friend and didn’t know what was in the boxes.

Stalker has no previous convictions here or in the UK. Maher has 52 previous convictions, including 44 for road traffic offences and one for simple possession of drugs dating back to 2010. All of his previous convictions were at the District Court.

The investigating garda agreed with John Fitzgerald SC, for Stalker, that his client has a background in boxing and significant mental health issues.

It was further accepted that Stalker had had difficulties with drugs, though the garda said she didn’t know when Mr Fitzgerald put it to her that

his client had a €14,000 drug debt.

Under cross-examination, the garda agreed with Keith Spencer BL, defending Maher, that his client had no proprietary interest in the drugs and got involved as he was under pressure from third parties due to a drug debt.

It was further accepted that Maher indicated to gardai he didn’t know what he was transporting but also didn’t care because he considered the risk from those threatening him to be greater.

The garda agreed that Maher told gardai he had addiction issues and appears to look better now. It was further accepted that he has no trappings of wealth.

Defence counsel outlined the men’s personal circumstances to the court and handed in documents on behalf of their clients.

Both men left school at an early age, have a work history and developed addictions to cocaine.

Counsel for both men asked the court to take into account their client’s early guilty pleas, that they were low-level cogs and their expressions of remorse.

They also asked the court to consider suspending part of any sentence imposed to incentivise their clients’ rehabilitation.

Mr Fitzgerald said Stalker was a talented amateur boxer who represented his country and had aspirations of competing in the Beijing Olympics.

However, he didn’t achieve this and gave up boxing in 2009.

Mr Fitzgerald said Stalker had longstanding mental health issues and was diagnosed with bipolar disorder in 2015.

Several reports were handed to the court in relation to Stalker’s mental health, which also outlined that he has had episodes of self-harm

and a suicide attempt.

In early 2023, Stalker suffered a psychotic episode, and Mr Fitzgerald said the reports refer to his client’s “on and off” use of cocaine and “on and off” taking off his prescribed medication around this time.

He said Stalker is doing well in custody and has set up a boxing class for fellow inmates in Cloverhill Prison, which he intends to continue in Mountjoy Prison when he is transferred following the imposition of sentence.

Counsel said his client built up a drug debt due to his use of cocaine and understands the seriousness of his actions.

Mr Spencer said Maher “succumbed” to pressure due to threats and took - what he believed at the time - to be the less dangerous course of action.

He said his client didn’t have direct knowledge about what he was transporting but was “extremely reckless” in his actions, even though he felt under duress due to “a more immediate threat to his family” that Maher “thought he could neutralise with this activity.”

Mr Spencer said Maher suffered a brain injury at 13 arising from an incident involving a run-away horse. He suffered a brain injury, had to relearn literary skills and dropped out of mainstream education early.

Counsel said Maher’s cocaine addiction led to him bringing harm to the door of people around him. His client is doing well in custody, has enhanced prisoner status and is clean of drugs.

Mr Spencer said his client’s family are supportive and will continue to do so while he remains drug-free.

He submitted that the majority of his client’s previous convictions are not relevant, and his conviction for possession of drugs is historic.

New five-year lease agreed for allotments

A NEW lease agreement has been agreed for the Cherry Orchard allotments, *reports Alessia Micalizzi*.

The initial lease agreement between Dublin City Council and Ballyfermot Chapelized Partnership goes back to 2013, however this lease expired at the end of 2023 and was up for renewal.

At the South Central area meeting this week, it was agreed that a new five-year lease for the site at Cherry Orchard Green be granted to Ballyfermot Chappleized Partnership CLG.

Cherry Orchard Community Garden have been creating a wide range vegetables at the two-acre site for a number of years now.

Some of the goods from the garden are available in local stores and cafes but they also donate a significant amount to charities and local food banks.

Located beside the Equine Centre, the garden is a colourful sight, containing a wide range of courgettes, pumpkins, salads, tomatoes, potatoes, carrots, parsnips, the list goes on.

The site also contains community allotments, and training opportunities for various groups affiliated with the partnership.

Terms of the new lease agreed for the Cherry Orchard allotments are that the subject site shall be for the purposes of the development of a community garden and allotments only and not for any other purposes.

The land shall be used between the hours of 9 am-5pm daily during the winter months and from 9am-9pm during the summer months.



Why are horses allowed in council field and back gardens

Council will ‘initatite discussions’ with gardai after horse was left to die in field

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

A COUNCILLOR called for more clarity around the response to animal cruelty after a horse was left to die in Clondalkin last month.

In his motion, Councillor Francis Timmons (IND) asked the Council to “consider liaising with the Guards to ensure they have the pounds number in all their stations on their systems” and “look at a quicker way to get cruelty to horses reported and acted on.”

He added that many times residents don’t know who is responsible if a horse is in distress or in trouble and it would be important to know who to call and what to do step by step.

According to Councillor Eoin Ó Broin, “more funding” to projects such as the Clondalkin Equine Club, the Fettercairn Youth Horse Project and Cherry Orchard Equine Centre is also needed, so that people can get into horse riding without having to own a horse if they don’t have the facilities to keep it.

These calls for action come as on February 25, charity My Lovely Horse (MLH) reported

a horse lying dead in a field in the Fonthill area.

MLH said they have identified that area as a hotspot for years, where “horses have been abused, neglected or simply left to die.”

“Why are these areas not being monitored by the authorised officers in place,” they wrote in a social media post.

“Why are horses allowed in council fields, housing estates, back gardens when the law states a horse owner must have an equine number?”

In response to Cllr Timmons’ motion, SDCC confirmed that the responsibility lies with the local authority and said they will “initiate discussions” with the Gardaí to “explore the feasibility of ensuring that the pounds number is available in all of their garda stations.”

“We are always looking at better ways to act and be quicker,” added a SDCC Senior Officer at the Clondalkin area meeting on Wednesday, March 19.

“But usually when an incident like that is reported we would act immediately. We encourage everyone to report to the Council.

“We will now follow up with all the Garda stations in the county.”



‘Satisfactory’ works can now start on geriatric day centre on convent grounds

WORKS to turn part of the Presentation Convent in Clondalkin into a geriatric day care centre “can start at any time from now on” said South Dublin County Council.

In May 2023, developer Bartra was granted permission to redevelop the staff accommodation ancillary to the adjacent nursing home in the convent into a community geriatric day care centre.

At the Clondalkin area meeting on Wednesday, March 19, Councillor Francis Timmons (IND) expressed concerns over the preservation of the convent building during redevelopment.

“The convent is a heritage site in Clondalkin and it’s of local importance. It’s very important to generations of people in Clondalkin,” he said, requesting that heritage and conservation officers oversee the works.

In response, SDCC said their conservation officer has already reviewed and deemed “satisfactory” the specialist documents submitted by the developer in relation to building conservation.

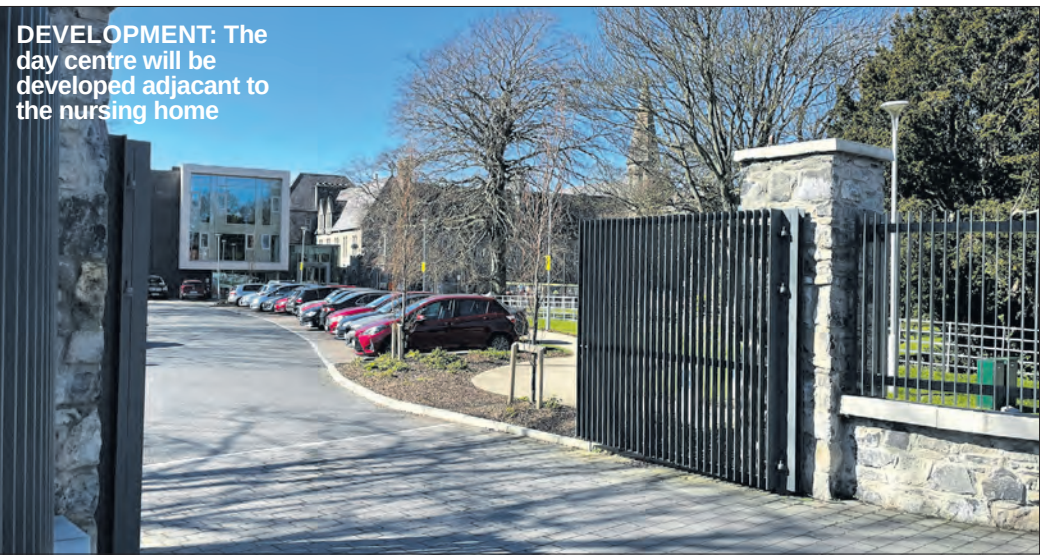
“The applicant submitted specialist documents in November 2024. These were reviewed by the SDCC Conservation Officer, and the applicant was advised in January 2025 that these details were satisfactory in terms of building conservation,” said the Council.

“A specialist conservation architect supervised them and was very happy with the details and methodology of how the works will be carried out.”

The geriatric day care centre located on New Road in Clondalkin is set to be called “Ageing Well Centre” and the developer has five years to commence the works.

Plans include internal alterations and improvements to the interior of the convent at ground, first and second floors.

External alterations are proposed to accommodate two stair cores, one to include a lift, within the courtyard space and minor alterations to existing windows and doors.



Speaker Conolly pub to be knocked for 55 apartments

Plans include a new public house and restaurant, medical centre, gym and beauty salon

By William O'Connor
william@echo.ie

PLANS to demolish the Speaker Conolly pub in Firhouse to make way for 55 residential units including commercial units and a new pub has been approved.

Developer Seabren Developments Limited whose director includes Michael Moran from the Red Cow Hotel secured planning from South Dublin County Council this week.

The proposed development will consist of the demolition of the Speaker Conolly public house including the part single part two storey public house, and ancillary stores and structures on a development site of 0.323 Hectares.

The development on Firhouse Road will consists of 55 residential units together with commercial uses all in one building ranging in height from four to six storeys and part basement.

The apartments are made up of 17 one-bed apartments, 38 two-bed apartments and a public house and restaurant, a Café, beauty salon at ground floor level.

The original plans for the apartments for the site was 85 but this was reduced by 30.

There will be a medical centre, a gym at first floor level and the existing basement will be used as a plant room.

The works include removal of the boundary wall along

Ballycullen Avenue, reconfiguration of the existing entrance, access road and public footpath and use of the existing internal access road including the vehicular link between Ballycullen Avenue and the Firhouse Shopping Centre.

The development will also consist of the provision of enhanced pedestrian infrastructure, provision of communal open space at podium level and related play areas, public open space including hard and soft landscaping, boundary treatment, street furniture, car parking along the internal access road, two visitor spaces, below podium car parking, 25 spaces, including two accessible spaces and two car share spaces, electric vehicle charging points, four spaces, bicycle parking for 104 long stay, 48 short stay spaces and 4 cargo bike spaces, ESB substation and electrical services area, piped infrastructural services and connections to existing public services, ducting; plant, waste management provision, SuDS measures including Green/Blue roofs, stormwater management, signage; public lighting, solar panels as well as telecommunications infrastructure including 18 No. antennas enclosed in 9 No. shrouds and 6 No. transmission dishes, together with all associated equipment and all ancillary site development and excavation works above and below ground



DEVELOPMENT: An artist impression of the Speaker Conolly pub development

Library welcomes 5,401 visitors and 155 new members last month

Cllr Mick Duff

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

Mick can be contacted on:
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Twitter: @CllrMickDuff

Mick DUFF

From the Community and For the Community

CLONDALKIN library welcomed 5,401 visitors and 155 new members in February while also inaugurating their third in-house book club, reports Alessia Micalizzi.

Nearly 4,000 items were issued, and more books were swapped during the 13 visits from local primary school classes. On Saturday, February 22, the

library marked Ireland Reads Day, a campaign encouraging people to read, which was one of the highlights of the month with 100 books donated the same day.

On Tuesday, February 25, a new adult book club was launched with 10 inaugural members. This is the third in-house book club for the library which supports two more local clubs borrowing books from them.

The library's popularity in February went beyond books, as 14 adults learned to crochet after a five-week course, and 214 adults and children attended Mid Term events including origami workshops, family board games, and a magic show.

As March approached, Seachtain na Gaeilge Átha Cliath was celebrated in Clondalkin library with four events including a bilingual story time and the launch of Irish classes for adults.

On March 6, historian Cathy Scufill explained the background of a hundred-year-old photograph of Patrick Pearse speaking in Dolphin's Barn and its links to the local area.



HIGHLIGHTS: Clondalkin Library had 13 visits from primary school classes



AMBITION: Sean Goulding was elected president of the Dodder Anglers Association. He is pictured at the weir at Firhouse

Sean's dream to be elected president of Dodder Anglers

Angling Group is one of the largest in Europe with over 1,300 members

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

“IT WAS a lifetime dream of mine,” said the newly elected president of the Dodder Anglers Association, who has been involved with the group since he was eight.
Sean Goulding (75) “grew up by the Dodder and the Firhouse Weir,” with fishing always

being an important part of his life.
“My father got me into it, we were so close to the river. He used to walk me along it from a very young age.”
The Dodder Anglers Association was formed in 1958, and Sean has been a member since 1964.
“All this time we tried to look after the Dodder as best as we could. I’ve always wanted to be president, it’s a really good outcome,” he said.

One of the largest in Europe, the group counts 1,300 members, 1,000 seniors and 300 juniors.
According to Sean, preserving the Dodder was “the main ambition” leading to the formation of the Association, and still is today.
“We’ve always had cases of pollution, and when building exploded in Tallaght, a pipe was going directly into the Dodder. Luckily that was solved.
“I’d say if it wasn’t for the Dodder Anglers, the river wouldn’t be as it is today. There are many other good groups doing clean ups today, but we go back to way before.
“You can find salmon in the lower Dodder, and I don’t know of any European city’s river where you could see this.”
The Anglers also take care of stocking the river by buying from Inland Fisheries Ireland with their community-raised funds, organise

local competitions and train young people who want to get into fishing.
Sean’s son has already been passed on the passion and regularly takes part in competitions all over Ireland like his dad.
As president, Sean will be called to represent the association in all formal occasions and to keep all their efforts to preserve the Dodder going.
“I am a fishing representative nationally, but the Dodder will always be my home river,” he said.
The Dodder Anglers are holding a Family Day on the Lower Dodder Road on Sunday, March 30, where they will stock the river and teach young people how to fish.
New members are always welcome, with the membership fee being €10 for adults and €5 for juniors.

“I’d say if it wasn’t for the Dodder Anglers, the river wouldn’t be as it is today. There are many good groups doing clean ups today, but we go back to way before. You can find salmon in the lower Dodder and I don’t know of any European cities river

RAMS raise nearly €1,938 for Irish Cancer Society

THE Retired Active Men’s Social (RAMS) in Rhythm of Newcastle raised €1,938 for the Irish Cancer Society marking Daffodil Day.
Their weekend performance at The Square Shopping Centre was well-received by shoppers of any age who stopped to enjoy and sing along while also contributing to the cause.
“We have known so many members’ friends, and family who have passed away due to cancer. The Irish Cancer Society is a charity which is close to our hearts,” said the RAMS.



CHARITY: Members of RAMS during the fundraiser for the Irish Cancer Society



RAIDS: Members of Europol and Gardai during one of the raids

Five arrested as part of 'high risk criminal network' in the area

Europol coordinated series of raids in Spain and Ireland

By Maurice Garvey
maurice@echo.ie

GARDAI arrested five men on Monday in West Dublin as part of investigations into an international organised crime group in the area. It forms part of an operation that has seen 12 suspected members of what has been described as an Irish "high-risk criminal network" arrested in Ireland and Spain.

Europol said that in a coordinated series of raids in both countries, authorities arrested six people in Ireland and six in Spain.

Gardai say the five males arrested in West

Dublin on Monday, March 24, continue to be detained under the provisions of Section 50 of Criminal Justice Act, at garda stations across the Dublin and eastern garda regions.

A sixth male, aged in his 50s, was subsequently arrested in the Dublin region.

According to reports, the six men are being questioned in connection with the activities of the drug trafficking gang known as 'The Family', which gardai say is one of the main suppliers of heroin and cocaine.

Gardai operations have been fully supported by Europol, the Guardia Civil (Spain) and the @ON Network, which is funded by the EU Commission, led by the Italian Antimafia

Investigation Directorate (DIA).

Officers from Europol, the Guardia Civil (Spain) and the @ON Network were supporting gardai over the past 48 hours.

Gardai has also provided support to the Guardia Civil by deploying garda officers to Spain.

Last September, gardai and Spanish police dismantled a Ghost encrypted communication platform, used by the gang to try to evade detection.

The gang are suspected of involvement in large-scale drug trafficking, mainly by transporting drugs hidden in vehicles from Spain to Ireland.

Echo opinion...

Turn yellow on Daffodil Day

EVERY Spring on the Irish Cancer Society's 'Daffodil Day,' Ireland "turns yellow" as people are called to stand against cancer and donate to support patients and research.

This year, Daffodil Day is on Friday, March 28, while the Irish Cancer Society estimates that in 2025, 44,000 people will receive a cancer diagnosis in Ireland.

It also highlighted that only 5pc of its income is Government-funded which shows how reliant patients and care are on the public's generosity.

When survivors or community groups set up fundraisers for Daffodil Day, the Irish Cancer Society inform them on where the money is going to go.

Some examples are patients accessing free support from cancer nurses, free lifts to their treatments, and funding for over 100 Irish cancer researchers in labs.

Their Society Night Nurses also allow people to die peacefully in the comfort and familiarity of their own home.

Daffodil Day encourages everyone to understand that just because cancer hasn't affected their lives, it doesn't mean that they shouldn't be involved in supporting hope and research.

A cancer diagnosis doesn't only impact the patient but their loved ones too who can get overwhelmed providing support and living in fear or losing a family member or friend.

Reach out to people who are going through this in your community and turn your Friday "yellow" thinking about them this Daffodil Day.

To learn more and donate, visit www.cancer.ie.



Social media influencer jailed for sexually exploiting child

A MOTIVATIONAL speaker, social media influencer and one-time government department adviser sexually exploited a teenage boy he met while volunteering as a Christian children's camp guide, a court has heard, reports Isabel Hayes.

Daniel Ramamoorthy (38) was found guilty by a jury of one count of sexually exploiting the child in 2017 by asking him to send him a picture of his penis over Snapchat, Dublin Circuit Criminal Court heard. The case had to be heard twice, after the jury in the first trial last year failed to reach an agreement. He was convicted following a second trial last month.

Ramamoorthy, with an address at Whitebarn Road, Rathfarnham, and also in Germany, had also been due to stand trial on a charge of possessing child sexual abuse material, known in law as child pornography.

He pleaded guilty to this charge before the trial started. He continues to maintain his innocence in relation to the sexual exploitation offence.

Ramamoorthy, who was described in court as a motivational speaker, a social media influencer and an entrepreneur, acted at one point as an adviser to the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment in the area of start-ups, defence counsel, Seoirse O Dúnlain SC, said. He is the son of a diplomat and was educated in Yale in the USA.

He was jailed today/yesterday (MON) for two years and four months by Judge Sinéad McMullen, who described the sexual exploitation offence as a serious breach of trust.

She said Ramamoorthy was acting as a mentor and a leader in the camp when he met the victim, "who should have been safe with him". She noted there was a significant age disparity between

Ramamoorthy and his victim, who was just 13 at the time.

In relation to the child sexual abuse material, Judge McMullen noted Ramamoorthy was found with three images and one video which depicted young boys engaged in sexual activity with each other and an unknown adult man.

"Child pornography, more appropriately described these days as images of child sexual abuse, is a product of child abuse," the judge said. "These are horrifying images of child abuse. If people like the accused didn't exist, there wouldn't be a market for such images."

The judge set a headline sentence of three years for the exploitation charge, which she reduced to two years and four months taking mitigation into account. She set a sentence of 18 months for the possession charge and ordered that both sentences run concurrently.

The court heard Ramamoorthy will be placed on the sex offender's register and that he will not be entitled to remain in Ireland upon his release.

At an earlier sentence hearing, Detective Inspector Sean White told Shaun Smyth BL, prosecuting, that the victim in the case first met Ramamoorthy when he was volunteering at a Christian camp, where he was described as "very friendly, charismatic and popular".

Some period of time later, the boy was at home studying for exams in May 2017, when he and Ramamoorthy got into a late night online conversation on Snapchat.

Ramamoorthy suggested to the boy that they play a game of 'truth and dare' which started innocently enough before Ramamoorthy asked the boy: "How big is your dick?" and asked the boy to send him a photo of his penis.

Ramamoorthy then sent the boy a photo of his pubic hair area and told him he was addicted to pornography. The boy was shocked and did not respond to Ramamoorthy, who then told him: "I win truth or dare."

The boy confided in his sister who told his parents and he was interviewed by specialist gardai shortly afterwards.

Gardai found it difficult to track down Ramamoorthy as he had changed addresses, but by tracking his social media presence, they discovered he was giving a live radio interview at a station in Bray.

Gardai followed him home from the station and ascertained his address before seeking a search warrant.

When his home was searched, Ramamoorthy's laptop was seized and the child abuse material was discovered on it. In relation to the sexual exploitation charge, Ramamoorthy denied the online conversation ever took place. The court heard the boy did not take a screengrab of the conversation and Snapchat messages disappear shortly after they are sent.

In a victim impact statement which was read out by counsel, the victim said he now has a lack of trust in others and is suspicious of people's motives. He said he found the two trials extremely stressful and he had to place his life on hold for a period of time as a result.

He said Ramamoorthy had tried to discredit him and say he was lying.

He said he has suffered many sleepless nights thinking about what could have happened if he had engaged further with Ramamoorthy online.

In his plea of mitigation, Mr O Dúnlain said while Ramamoorthy does not admit his guilt in

relation to the child exploitation matter, he is satisfied the trials were run fairly and he will not be appealing his conviction.

The court heard Ramamoorthy is an Indian national and, as the son of a diplomat, spent most of his life living in different countries, including the UAE, Yemen, Zimbabwe and Mexico. He studied in Yale and comes from a very religious Christian background.

He has worked in the areas of coaching, public speaking and personal development and travels around for work, the court heard. While living in Ireland, he was involved in trade relations between Ireland and India and advised the Department of Trade and Enterprise in relation to entrepreneurs and start-up companies, defence counsel said.

Ramamoorthy's elderly parents now live in the UAE and as a result of his convictions, he will not be granted a visa to visit them, the court heard.

His conviction means he will also be denied access to a number of countries where he has previously worked.

Defence counsel handed in a number of testimonials outlining Ramamoorthy's many charitable projects, including raising funds for oxygen machines during Covid, for Ukraine refugees and for victims of the Indonesian tsunami. When taking into account mitigating factors, Judge McMullen noted: "It is rare for a court to have such excellent affidavits."

She said Ramamoorthy was obviously someone who had done a lot of good, was talented and energetic. "Hopefully he can turn his talents to pro-social activities in the future," she said.

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€60,000 spent on Tallaght St Patrick's Day parade

Council granted €10k to Lucan, €8k for Clondalkin, and €3,035 for the Four Districts

By Alessia Micalizzi

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SOUTH Dublin County Council spent €60,000 to bring the St Patrick's Day Parade back to Tallaght and granted over €21,000 to groups running parades across South Dublin.

With an estimated attendance of 20,000 people, the comeback of Tallaght St Patrick's Parade after six years was a great success.

People "embraced it and took ownership of the event," according to SDCC Community Development Officer Joe Lumumba, contributing to a "brilliant" atmosphere which "made all the work worthwhile."

Thirty-eight groups took part in the parade, which included the showcase of vintage vehicles, a neurodiverse station and a wheelchair area, all proving to be extremely popular.

Speaking of how much all this cost, SDCC said "there was a provision of €60,000 in the revenue budget for 2025" for the parade which was entirely organised and funded by the Council.

As the last St Patrick's Day Parade in Tallaght was held before the pandemic, in 2019, SDCC said they had to respond to a "great demand" from the public and the local councillors.

"We will be undertaking a full review of this year's event with the hope of implementing learnings from

this year," Mr Lumumba commented last week.

As for the other parades across South Dublin County, the community groups who organised them received funding from the Council as follows: €10,000 for Lucan, €8,000 for Clondalkin, and €3,035 for the Four Districts (Rathcoole, Saggart, Newcastle and Brittas).

The Lucan parade equalled Tallaght in terms of attendance, with 20,000 people who were happy to avoid "the big cost burden" of getting to the Dublin City parade, said Councillor Caroline Brady (FG).

It also gave "a job to everyone" with plenty of volunteers being involved and local talent being showcased.

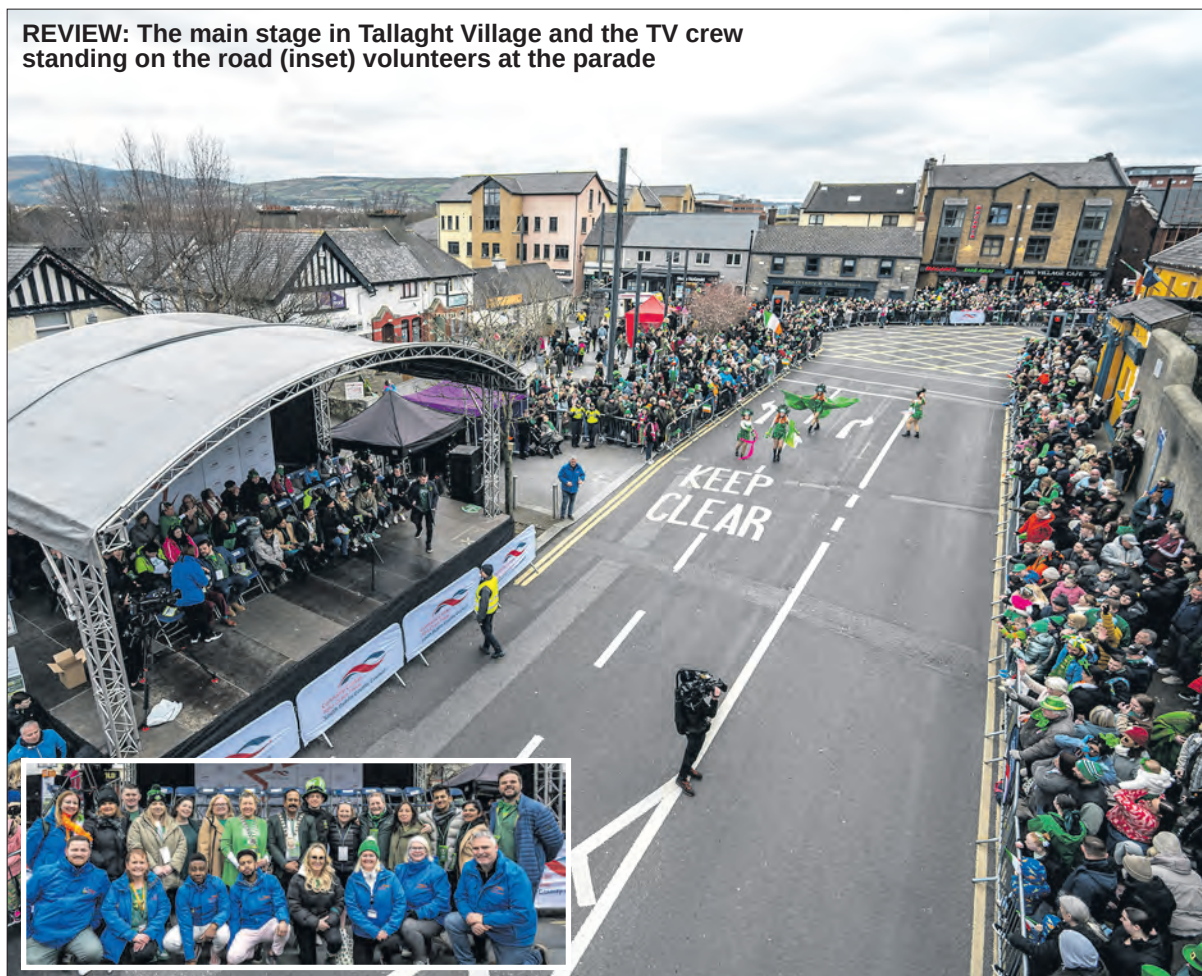
According to Councillor Francis Timmons (IND), 10,000 to 12,000 attended the Clondalkin St Patrick's Parade marking its 10th year.

Some twenty-six community groups participated with local lifelong volunteer Thyges Kavanagh being honoured as the Grand Marshal.

Four Districts parade organiser Sharon Redmond said she saw "thousands" lining the streets all the way from Rathcoole to Saggart.

The parade has come a long way since when Father O'Carroll organised the first one in 2006 having the locals march from Rathcoole Village to St Mary's GAA club.

REVIEW: The main stage in Tallaght Village and the TV crew standing on the road (inset) volunteers at the parade



Cherry Blossom festival



LAUNCH: At the launch of the Cherry Blossom Festival on Tuesday evening

THE Fourth Cherry Blossoms festival was launched in Cherry Orchard on Tuesday night.

There will be over 50 events throughout the month of April with every age group catered for.

Speaking at the launch Cllr Daithí Doolan said: "Every age group and ability is catered for. Quizzes, walks, talks, line dancing, football tournaments, theatre, park runs and much, much more."

"There really is something for everyone in the audience at the Cherry Blossoms community festival."

"It has gone from strength to strength over the 4 years, with huge buy in from Dublin City Council, community groups, agencies and of course residents themselves."

"The message is, get to Cherry Orchard and have fun. We can't wait to celebrate the very best of Cherry Orchard with everyone from this wonderful community and across Dublin."

Talks continue between union and the council

SDCC staff paused industrial action planned for this week

By Maurice Garvey

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TALKS are set to continue between South Dublin County Council and Fórsa trade union at the Workplace Relations Commission (WRC) following the suspension of planned industrial action.

Staff at SDCC, who are members of the Fórsa, paused planned industrial action which was due to begin on Monday, March 24.

The parties agreed to attend talks at the Workplace Relations Commission (WRC) on Tuesday morning.

A Fórsa spokesperson told *The Echo*: "There was a productive engagement at the WRC yesterday (Tuesday) and the parties will reconvene

at the WRC on April 14 next."

The dispute relates to the outsourcing of work by the council's legal department, specifically, the engagement of external solicitors for debt recovery of rates arrears.

Last month, union members at the council voted in favour of taking industrial action, up to and including strike action.

Fórsa claimed that "no meaningful engagement with management had taken place, despite the union's efforts to do so."

Ahead of the planned industrial action on Monday, SDCC said they "remain willing to actively engage before the Workplace Relations Commission (WRC) on the matter."

TALKS: Talks continue between South Dublin County Council and Fórsa trade union



Herbert & Lansdowne Estate Agents Acquire Redmond Property Group A New Chapter Begins

Herbert & Lansdowne Estate Agents (H&L) are pleased to announce their acquisition of Redmond Property Group/ Liam Redmond Letting in late 2024 marking a significant milestone in their growth journey. Paddy Markey, the Managing Director of Herbert and Lansdowne, expressed his excitement about the acquisition, stating, “This is a fantastic opportunity for us to build on the strong reputation of Redmond Property Group and continue offering exceptional service to clients in Dublin 24, Dublin 22 and surrounding areas.”

Tallaght native Liam Redmond, Managing Director of Redmond Property Group, has decided to retire after a long and successful career in the property market. As part of his retirement plans, Liam sought a company that shared his values of putting clients first and delivering personalized service. “After years of building trust with our clients, I wanted to ensure that their needs would continue to be met with the same level of care,” Liam explained. “I’m confident that Herbert & Lansdowne is the right choice to carry on that tradition.”

The two companies found synergy in their approach to the property market, making this acquisition a seamless fit. Both Herbert and Lansdowne and Redmond Property Group share a commitment to client satisfaction, professional integrity, and personalized service. This alignment of values made the transition a natural one.

In addition, Aoife Redmond, a key figure at Redmond Property group, has joined Herbert and Lansdowne to help ensure continuity and maintain the quality of service that clients are accustomed to. Aoife will work closely with Alan McMurray, Head of Lettings, and Niall O’Hagan, Head of Sales, at Herbert and Lansdowne. Together, Aoife, Alan, Niall and the team will focus on ensuring that all clients will continue to receive the same high standard of care throughout the transition period and beyond.



“We are excited to welcome Aoife to our team, as she brings invaluable experience and a deep understanding of her clients’ needs,” Paddy Markey said. “This acquisition is not just about expanding our business but about strengthening our team with the right people and continuing to provide excellent service.”

The acquisition is a strategic move for Herbert and Lansdowne as they continue to expand their team and grow their portfolio, and with a Tallaght office as well as their Merrion Row base it marks another step in their journey to becoming a market leader in the Dublin property market.



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Young mother (26) saved lives of six other people

Saoirse was passionate about organ donation and she left a remarkable legacy

By Seán McCárthaigh
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A YOUNG Dublin mother who died shortly after giving birth to her second child saved the lives of six other people through the donation of her organs, an inquest has heard.

Saoirse McElvaney (26) of Windmill Road, Crumlin died at St James's Hospital in Dublin on October 7, 2022 – two days after she became unresponsive while suffering a seizure at home when she was 36 weeks pregnant.

Her daughter, Isabelle, was delivered by emergency Caesarean section in St James's shortly after her mother was brought to the hospital.

The result of a postmortem showed Ms McElvaney died from brain damage linked to a ruptured aneurysm in her head.

A sitting of Dublin District Coroner's Court on Wednesday heard that Ms McElvaney, who was a member of the Tallaght Marching Band, had been rushed to St James's by ambulance on October 5, 2022 after becoming unwell at home.

Her partner, Peter Lawrence, told the hearing that Ms McElvaney woke up at around 2am and became sick.

Mr Lawrence said she had gone back to bed when he heard gurgling noises coming from her bedroom and he discovered her having some type of seizure.

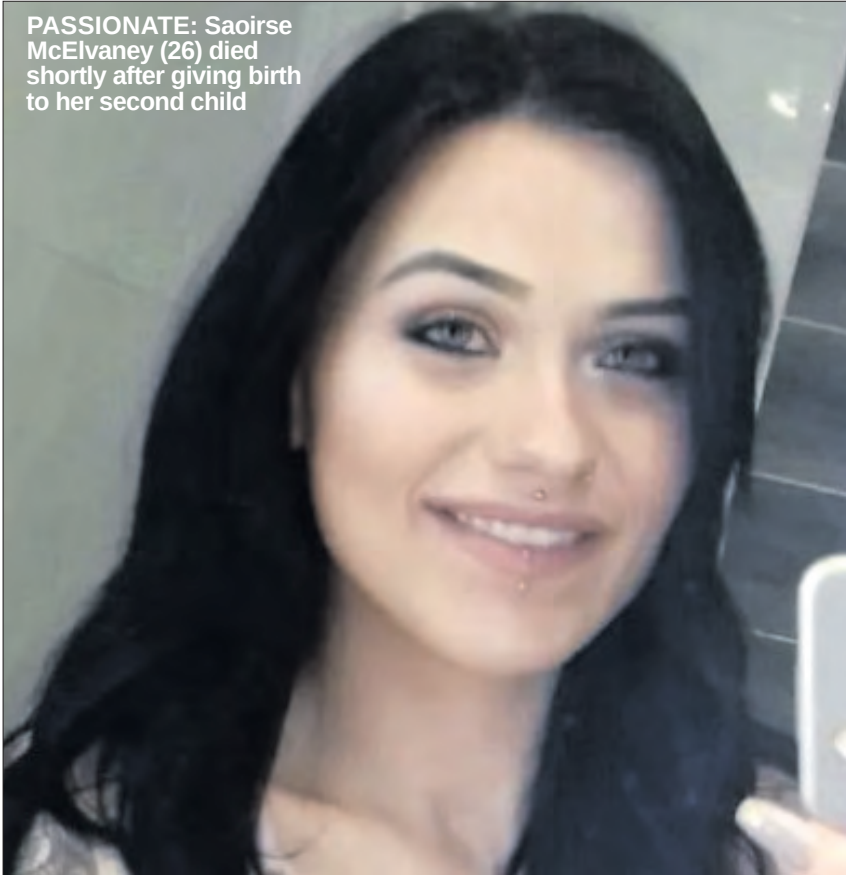
He described how an ambulance was called after his partner became unresponsive.

Mr Lawrence recalled how he was told by doctors in St James's "to say our goodbyes."

In reply to questions from the coroner, Clare Keane, Mr Lawrence said Ms McElvaney had no real medical problems apart from some morning sickness.

He said she ascribed some headaches she got during the pregnancy to just feeling sick.

Asked if he knew what caused her death, Mr Lawrence replied: "I haven't a



PASSIONATE: Saoirse McElvaney (26) died shortly after giving birth to her second child

clue."

In a written statement before his death last month, the deceased's father, Brian Scully, said he knew something was wrong when his daughter's partner had started banging on his bedroom door on October 5, 2022.

Mr Scully said she was on the bed "arching backwards" but he knew it was not due to epilepsy.

He recalled later being told that his daughter was "beyond help as her brain was pushed into her spine."

The inquest heard that a CT scan taken at St James's showed Ms McElvaney had bleeding on the brain which resulted in

the decision to perform an emergency Caesarean section to deliver her baby who was born at 8.45am.

Medical records show that Ms McElvaney had visited doctors in 2017 about headaches which were diagnosed as compatible with "migraine aura" while there was no evidence of any aneurysm or blood clotting disorder.

A few months after the birth of her first child, Cole, in 2017, she was also treated for blurred vision in her left eye for which no clear cause was established despite a series of tests.

Evidence was also heard that a perivascular space filled with fluid

discovered in her brain was regarded as benign and of no clinical significance.

The coroner noted that it was also in a different location to the site of the fatal aneurysm.

A consultant gynaecologist at St James's, Patrick Maguire, said the need to perform an emergency delivery on someone just arriving in the hospital was a "quite rare" event.

However, Dr Maguire said the birth of Ms McElvaney's daughter was uncomplicated and the baby girl was later transferred to the Rotunda Hospital for neonatal care, while Ms McElvaney was brought to the intensive care unit in St James's.

A consultant neurologist, David Bradley, gave evidence that up to 5 per cent of the population at any one time can have an aneurysm which can form in the matter of hours or a few days.

They are also more common in older people as well as smokers and individuals with high blood pressure.

Dr Bradley said there was conflicting evidence about whether pregnancy was associated with the formation of aneurysms but there was a medical basis for believing there might be some link.

The consultant said the 4mm aneurysm found in Ms McElvaney was "quite small" but problems occur when any aneurysm starts to bleed.

In reply to questions from the coroner, Dr Bradley said aneurysms generally did not cause any symptoms until they ruptured.

The inquest heard Ms McElvaney was passionate about organ donation and her heart, lungs, kidney and liver had been used to save the lives of six other patients.

"She has left a remarkable legacy," the coroner remarked.

Recording a verdict of death due to natural causes, Dr Keane offered her condolences to Ms McElvaney's partner and relatives on her death as well as that of her late father.

The coroner said it was tragic that Ms McElvaney's life "should be cut short so suddenly."

Corkagh Park cafe will be complete by end of Spring

CONSTRUCTION works of the new café in Corkagh Park "will be fully completed by the end of Spring 2025," said South Dublin County Council.

After saying last month that the café was scheduled to open to the public by March, the Council gave a further update on the project at the Clondalkin area meeting on Wednesday, March 19.

"Work continues and the roofing and glazing of the building is finished and the internal fit out is well underway," said the report while emphasizing that Green Isle Road and St John's carparks and a Fairy Tree Trail have also been completed as part of the overall upgrades to the park.

Within the €5m scheme, the café is part of the new Corkagh Park 'hub zone' along with 10 public toilets, a multi-use events space with a stage and seating areas.

"A second tender process for the operator of the facility is currently underway," added the Council.

"Once they are appointed, they will be involved in the final fit out of the coffee shop post construction.

"The dates for this will be confirmed subject to a successful tender outcome and the appointment of an operator."



'No plan' to upgrade old swimming pool

SOUTH Dublin County Council said there are "no immediate plans" to upgrade the old swimming pool in Clondalkin to make it a community space.

At the Clondalkin area meeting on Wednesday, March 19, Councillor Francis Timmons asked, "why progress has not been made despite many motions agreed by the Elected members."

As reported in *The Echo*, the Council gave the same answer in early 2024 while Cllr Timmons called for the old pool to be turned into a "multipurpose community space," speaking on behalf of local groups.

Back then, he said that he had been raising this for ten years. While he was finally assured that the council inspected the building, their view was that "the structure is good but needs a lot of work."

"The Council is aware of requests from local community groups in relation to the availability of community space in the Clondalkin Village area," said SDCC on Wednesday.

It added that the old swimming pool building is "one of the sites being examined and reviewed within the context of the formulation of the Local Area Plan."



REQUESTS: There are no plans to upgrade the old swimming pool in Clondalkin

‘Discussions are going on’ land lying dormant 10 years

Plans for 176 social housing units at Sons of Divine Providence has funding of €67m approved

By Maurice Garvey

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“THERE seems to be a blockage or a barrier somewhere along the way between here and Rome,” said an exasperated Daithí Doolan (SF) at the South Central area meeting this week.

Once again, Doolan was bringing up the proposals for a development of 176 social housing units at the Sons of Divine Providence (SDP) site in Ballyfermot – plans which were first mooted ten years ago.

In 2022, the Dept of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) approved €67m in funding for development at the 1.5 hectare site, which is bounded by Sarsfield Road and Long Meadows pitch and putt grounds in Ballyfermot.

The social housing development is a partnership between Dublin City Council and SDP.

However, there has been little in the way of confirmation for the project since then, and Cllr Doolan (SF), who has frequently asked for updates in the chamber, believes somebody in the chain of command needs to “lift the barrier and let us progress with badly needed houses.”

Speaking at the meeting, Cllr Doolan said: “I keep getting the same answers ‘discussions are going on’, it is going on for years and years and



LYING VACANT: Sons of Divine Providence

years now. Best part of ten years. Here is a huge piece of land lying dormant in Ballyfermot. The community wants the houses built, we want the houses built, the people on the housing lists certainly want the houses built.

“There seems to be a blockage or a barrier somewhere along the way between here and Rome. What can we do to speed this up? It is unacceptable that land is lying vacant like this when it is not in private hands, it’s been

leased by the Catholic Church. What is the barrier, is it the Customs House, is it with the Catholic Church or is it with the city council? For the love of all those people on the housing list when are we going to see it turned around and built on,” said Cllr Doolan.

Cllr Vincent Jackson (Ind), who is secretary of Orionecare, the leaseholders of the land, said they want to see them same thing as

everyone else.

“We only want what every other approved housing body would have, and we operate 47 houses in Ballyfermot and have done since 1989. We are not looking for anything less, we are not looking for anything more.

“Up until a year ago we were just getting the blanks, but we are getting a bit more confidence in the last few months and like yourself, I hope this

development is one of those shovel ready projects. It has the capacity to deliver 113 traditional homes and 60 old folks (units) which will effectively give DCC another 60 back. There are so many people, particularly in lower Ballyfermot, who would only be delighted to surrender a bigger house to go into a nice scheme like that. Hopefully we will get the green light in the next few months, but I agree with you, it has gone on too long.”

Jail for man found with controller for drone seen flying over Cloverhill Prison

When gardai found the drone it had a copper pipe attached containing heroin worth €587

By Eimear Dodd

news@echo.ie

A MAN found in possession of a controller for a drone attached to a copper pipe which contained over €500 of heroin seen flying over Cloverhill Prison has been jailed.

Wayne McDonnell (39) pleaded guilty to a charge of having in his possession or control a drone with intent of using that drone to fly a controlled substance, diamorphine, into Cloverhill Prison in connection with facilitating or instigating a drug trafficking offence.

McDonnell, of St Finians Avenue, Lucan, Co Dublin, was on Monday jailed for 14 months at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court.

Garda Tadhg McCarthy gave evidence that prison staff at Cloverhill observed a drone flying over the prison on February 12, 2024.

They used a tracking system to track the drone's flight path and provided this information to gardai, who then searched a wasteland near the prison, where they encountered McDonnell.

Gda McCarthy told Lisa Dempsey BL, prosecuting, that McDonnell started to walk away and refused to open his pockets when gardai indicated they wished to search him. He was arrested, and when searched at the garda station found to be in



ABHORRENT: The drone was observed flying over Cloverhill Prison

possession of two black Samsung phones, one of which was the drone controller.

When gardai searched the wasteland again, they found the drone, to which a copper pipe containing five deals of diamorphine had been attached by string.

There was a total of 4.9g of diamorphine, with a street value of €587, the court was told.

McDonnell was interviewed, but nothing of evidential value was obtained.

He has a number of previous convictions, all at the District Court, including for possession of drugs, theft and public order offences.

The court heard that the Director of Public Prosecutions directed summary disposal, but jurisdiction was refused by the District Court. McDonnell

entered an early guilty plea and has no trappings of wealth.

Gda McCarthy agreed with Oisín Clarke BL, defending, that this is McDonnell's first time before the Circuit Court and that some of his previous convictions date back many years.

It was further accepted that McDonnell has longstanding addiction issues and there is evidence that he is

not the owner of the drone.

Mr Clarke said McDonnell has addictions to heroin and alcohol, and instructs that he recently started on methadone. He submitted that McDonnell's previous convictions fit the profile of someone with addiction issues.

McDonnell has a good work history as a scaffolder with several references and an offer of work handed to the court on his behalf.

He is currently not working full-time in order to support his father, who is awaiting major surgery, Mr Clarke said.

Counsel noted that bringing drugs into a prison is “abhorrent” and “does nothing to assist anyone”.

He asked the court to take into account that while it is accepted that his client was found with the drone controller, it was not his along with the low value of the drugs.

Imposing sentence, Judge Elma Sheahan noted the aggravating factors include the seriousness of the offending.

She noted the mitigation included McDonnell's early guilty plea, his background, work history and that he is supporting his father.

The judge said deterrence was an important factor that the court had to consider and that the custodial threshold had been reached, before imposing a 14-month sentence.

court reports



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Engineer (28) jailed for his role in criminal operation's smishing scam

AN ENGINEER has been jailed for 18 months for his part in a large scale criminal operation's smishing scam on Permanent TSB customers, reports *Niamh O'Donoghue*.

Iskulu Awolumate (28) of Hazelgrove Estate Tallaght pleaded guilty at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court to handling the proceeds of crime at an unknown location on dates between March 2020 and January 2021. Most of the counts relate to Permanent TSB customers and the court heard a Slovakian company was also subject to an invoice redirection fraud.

Permanent TSB customers were targeted in the smishing in which messages were sent by SMS and bank customers were duped into allowing third parties access to their bank accounts.

The court heard 22 accounts were affected but only three injured parties could be identified.

None of the money was recovered and Permanent TSB reimbursed the customers affected.

Money from customer accounts ended up in Awolumate's account. Garda Sergeant Conor Fleming told the court.

The total value of the money that went through

Awolumate's account was €25,800. He said there was no reason to believe that money was transferred on, or that the accused was just a mule who was being paid €100 per transaction as Awolumate claimed.

Judge Elva Duffy said it was "a large scale criminal operation" using Awolumate's account "wholesale" whether or not the court found he was the beneficiary. The judge said this could not be accounted for by working. She sentenced him to two-and-a-half-years with the final year suspended.

The court heard the accused came to Ireland when he was 11 and lived in Tallaght but he had since moved to the Netherlands where he now works as an engineer.

Gardai attempted to contact him 13 times through an email address his mother had given them but he never responded and extradition proceedings were initiated, however, he eventually presented himself to Tallaght Garda Station. He had a consultation with a solicitor and told gardai he was being paid €100 per transaction.

Awolumate said he was in fear of the people making him act as a mule and believed he was

being stalked by them. He has two previous convictions for minor road traffic matters.

Now an Irish national, Awolumate came to Ireland from Nigeria when he was 11 and went to secondary school in Tallaght.

The court heard he studied transport engineering in Dublin Institute of Technology, while working part-time and with a grant to put himself through college.

He now works as an equipment engineer in the Netherlands and earns up to €53,000 a year, the court was told.

The court heard there were originally 18 counts on the indictment, most of which pertained to smishing and one for invoice redirection.

There were effectively nine injured parties but gardai were only able to identify three of those.

Defence counsel Sean Rafter BL said Awolumate was of previous good character and has been working hard doing his best. He brought €4,000 to court as a token of his remorse which could be applied to the losses in the case of Permanent TSB and the company which was subject to the redirect fraud in Slovakia.

Counsel said his client did not take

responsibility in the beginning, but has now accepted responsibility. He submitted his client was in the lowest category offending but "not in the lowest possible category."

Sgt Fleming was recalled to give evidence and Diana Staurt BL, prosecuting, asked the guard what his role was and the garda said he had investigated a lot of similar cases and he did not believe Awolumate was just a mule.

After sentence was handed down, Awolumate appeared shocked for being jailed and asked if he could address to the court. "I'm going to lose my home," said Awolumate to which Judge Duffy replied "I'm afraid you are going to lose your home."

Mr Rafter asked if he could get his affairs in order before going into custody.

Ms Stuart said there was a concern as there were no ties to the jurisdiction.

Defence counsel pointed out Awolumate's mother is living here and he himself was an Irish citizen.

After Awolumate was led by prison officers into custody, a man who had accompanied him to court handed over €4,000 in cash, which was counted out by Sgt Fleming.

Convicted criminal fired several shots into a house

Occupants of the time of the shooting included a couple, adult children and a child

A CONVICTED criminal, who fired several shots into a house where there was a child, contacted gardai to confess several months later because he was haunted by guilt, reports *Natasha Reid*

Having entered crime at a young age because he blamed gardai for the death of his brother, Ian Maloney (37) has since done 'a 360-degree turnaround' and published three books of poetry for charity.

Maloney of Cashel Road, Crumlin in Dublin was before Dublin Circuit Criminal Court on Thursday, where he had pleaded guilty to possession of a 9mm semiautomatic firearm with intent to endanger life on February 10, 2022 at an address in Crumlin.

He has 109 previous convictions.

Garda Ian Ward told the court that several rounds of 9mm-calibre ammunition were fired at the house, where the occupants at the time included a couple, their adult children and a child.

The householder was one of a number of people who contacted the gardai to say shots had been fired through a door and window. On arrival, gardai found the front door and window and a car in the driveway were damaged with bullets.

The couple had been watching TV when they noticed something happening at the window, before a bullet came through the blind. The man later saw that bullets had lodged inside the house, including in a fridge.

The defendant became a person of interest due to social media posts showing that he was in an ongoing feud with one of the occupants of the house. He was arrested and interviewed seven times over a number of days, but made no admissions.



However, he was in custody in Cloverhill Prison in December of that year, when his solicitor contacted gardai to say he wished to make a statement about the shooting.

"I was the male who fired the shots through the front door, bottom windows, top windows and cars," he told them.

"You said there was a little girl in the house," he continued. "I did not know... I have three little girls myself... I'm sorry... I regret it."

He was asked why he was telling them now.

"I think it's the right thing to do," he replied.

Garda Ward said that he had two relevant previous convictions, including for a robbery in 2008, where

€1.2 million worth of jewellery was stolen from a shop in Dundrum, after a shotgun was produced to staff. Maloney was sentenced to 12 years with the last two suspended for that crime.

He also received a four-year sentence for an assault causing harm that he carried out in 2009, and he was on bail for a number of offences, including trespassing at a garda station, when he carried out the Crumlin attack.

Gda Ward explained that the occupants of the house had declined to make a Victim impact statement.

He agreed with Michael O'Higgins SC, defending, that gardai accepted that it was 'a reckless discharge' rather than something he set out to do.

He agreed that he had seen a

psychological report, which explained that Maloney's brother had died when he was 16, and this had a significant impact on him.

Mr O'Higgins explained that the two brothers had gone camping, but that the deceased had been due in court, and he was arrested on a warrant when he returned from camping.

He was found with injuries in a laneway near Rathfarnham Garda Station a short time after being released from there, and he died in hospital. Mr Maloney blamed the gardai and himself for bringing him on the camping trip. He had a hatred of the gardai afterwards, said Mr O'Higgins.

Gda Ward agreed that it was unusual for someone with Maloney's background to ask his solicitor to

contact the gardai to tell them he had committed a crime because it was the right thing to do.

Counsel told Judge Sarah Berkeley that he was seeking a probation report for his client, which was unusual when there were such significant previous convictions.

"But it's unusual that he self-reported to the guards because it was the right thing to do," he said.

"He has completely changed his view of things and has done a 360-degree turnaround in terms of his conduct."

Mr O'Higgins handed in a number of character references, including one from a publisher, whom the defendant had approached about publishing books of his poetry for a children's charity. She had been wary of him at first, but had since published three of his books.

The barrister then read out a letter Maloney had written to the family, whose house he had targeted.

"I was reckless," he wrote. "I've been haunted by guilt. I made the statement because I couldn't live with myself."

In a letter to the court, he said that he was 'no-longer that person', and has done voluntary work here and abroad.

"I've distanced myself from my past," he said. "I'm still under pressure. My house has been attacked by people trying to provoke me."

Mr O'Higgins said that Maloney's guilt, anger, and deep-seated resentment at the gardai over the death of his brother were what had provoked him to get involved in crime. However, now he felt enormous guilt, he said.

The judge directed a probation report and remanded Maloney in custody until sentencing on May 22.

Man (50s) rushed to hospital after explosion at house

GARDAI and emergency services attended the scene of an explosion that occurred at a house in Tallaght on Wednesday morning.

A man in his 50s was rushed to Tallaght University Hospital and treated for non-life threatening injuries.

The Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) and the Garda Technical unit attended the scene on Wednesday.

Gardai confirmed the incident to *The Echo* saying: "Gardaí and emergency services are currently attending the scene of an explosion that occurred at a residence in Tallaght, Dublin 24, on Wednesday 26th March 2025.

"A man, aged in his 50s, has been removed from the scene to Tallaght Hospital to be treated for injuries believed to be serious but non-life threatening.

"The Army EOD Unit and the Garda Technical Bureau are currently examining the scene.

"No further information is available at this time."

Fr Ben was part of the community for years

Parishioners will fondly remember 'very caring' parish priest

By Alessia Micalizzi
alessia@echo.ie

PARISHIONERS will remember fondly Reverend Father Benedict Hegarty O.P. who passed away on Wednesday, March 19.

A Cork native and a member of the Dominican Order since a young age, 'Father Ben' took on different roles in Tallaght in the 1970s and 1980s.

In the 1970s he was regent of studies in St Mary's Priory, where he taught Dominican students scripture and Greek.

He had earned several degrees in Rome, Jerusalem and Dublin and his knowledge impressed many.

Father Ben Moran of St Aengus' and Castletymon, one of the students back then, said, "he was such an enthusiastic person. We all remember that time during a lecture when he said, 'I demand enthusiasm'."

Fr Ben Moran said they had become "good friends" later on, to the point they embarked in trips to the USSR and China together in the 1980s.

"One time in Russia we had bought ballet tickets on the black market, and we were stopped at the entrance by the regime police," recalled Fr Ben Moran with a smile.

Fr Ben Hegarty was also St Dominic's parish priest between 1985

and 1989.

"He combined his love of scripture and knowledge of theology with a great pastoral zeal and outreach. He loved meeting people and being with them," said Fr Ben Moran.

He was also Chaplain at Tallaght Hospital for some time, being "very caring" to the patients he met.

Back to his native region of Cork in recent years, Fr Ben Hegarty was ill and was staying in a nursing home.

He passed away surrounded by a loving family, including nieces Claire and Suzanne, nephews-in-law Paul and Denis, grandniece Emma and grandnephews David and Donagh.

"It is with great sadness that we share the sad news that Fr Ben Hegarty died," said a post on St Dominic's parish Facebook page.

"Fr Ben was a part of the St Dominic's community for many years where he shared his wisdom, his knowledge of scripture and fundamentally his deep faith in God.

"Those who were privileged to ever be in Fr Ben's company always left with a new piece of knowledge about Christ and the scriptures. He will be remembered fondly by all in St Dominic's for his care, and devotion."

The parish will hold a mass to celebrate his life and allow parishioners to share their respects on Saturday, April 5 at 6:30pm.



CARING: Fr Ben Hegarty



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‘Young people in politics is as important as gender balance’

Baker owner Adam Smyth’s co-option makes council chamber gender equal

By Alessia Micalizzi

alessia@echo.ie

“SEEING more young people in politics is as important as maintaining gender balance,” said new Fianna Fáil councillor Adam Smyth (25) who was co-opted to replace Senator Teresa Costello.

Cllr Smyth put his name forward along with former St James’ Hospital nurse Lilian Guéret, a few months after South Dublin County Council was confirmed as the only council in the country where female councillors outnumbered male colleagues.

With his co-option, SDCC will be back to a “fifty-fifty” scenario, with 20 women and 20 men.

“Of course it was a very prominent topic, but our council is still very balanced. We need to see more young people in politics, it’s as important as gender balance,” he said.

Only 25 years old, Cllr Smyth lives “at home like many others my age, so I know what it means,” and with a significant experience in youth work feels he can represent the young people of Tallaght.

“We need more support for clubs and groups,

and funding is an area many are struggling with. We need funding towards different programmes and projects but also to make sure that there is enough in place for the ones already there.”

Cllr Smyth is a baker and bakery owner, and the Vice Chair of the Board of Directors at Fettercairn Youth and Community Centre.

He ran for a seat in Tallaght South, where he grew up and lives, at the local elections in June and is now going to represent Tallaght Central.

“I always treated Tallaght as one area, I want to represent all of it as I’m also the only Fianna Fáil councillor for Tallaght.

“I have connections with Tallaght Central through some family in Springfield and was part of the scouts in Kingswood. It’s a growing area and it needs a strong representative.”

Cllr Smyth was co-opted as South Dublin councillor on Monday, March 24, in Kingswood Community Centre. His first public appearance as councillor will be at the next full Council meeting in April.

“I am honoured and grateful for this opportunity, and I will work tirelessly for the people of Tallaght. It was a long political goal of mine, and something I always wanted to do,” he commented.

“I always treated Tallaght as one area, I want to represent all of it as I’m also the only Fianna Fáil councillor for Tallaght. I have connections in Tallaght Central through some family in Springfield and was part of the scouts in Kingswood ...



CO-OPTED: Councillor Adam Smyth with Senator Teresa Costello and John Lahart, TD at the vote in Kingswood on Monday

Man (38) assisted Romanian organised crime gang to ram commercial premises

A MAN who assisted a Romanian organised crime gang who used cars to ram raid commercial premises by allowing gang members to stay at his home has been handed a suspended prison sentence, reports *Niamh O'Donoghue and Sonya McLean*.

Dublin Circuit Criminal Court previously heard that in one incident, a “dummy car” was rammed through the front window of a phone shop in Dublin city centre.

A Vodafone shop in Newbridge was also targeted earlier that night. Later that night, a car was rammed through the gates of a motor dealer on the Naas Road.

Ionut Leonard Petriu (38) of Middle Abbey Street, Dublin 1, pleaded guilty to assisting the group.

The court heard he allowed his car to be used to transport members of the criminal gang to a burglary and also allowed others to stay at his home.

There is no evidence he participated in any burglary, the court was told.

Petriu’s co-accused Ricardo Stancu (20) of North Circular Road Dublin and Daniel Murgea (31), also of North Circular Road, pleaded guilty to burglary, criminal damage and organised crime offences.

Judge Orla Crowe sentenced Stancu last December to five years in prison with the final 12 months suspended. She noted that he was a younger man who had no previous convictions and said she would suspend part of the sentence to “incentivise rehabilitation”.

Judge Crowe said a headline

sentence of eight years in prison was warranted for Murgea before she imposed a sentence of six years having taken into account his “significant history of dishonesty” – referring to Murgea’s previous convictions in both France and Italy for offences involving theft.

Judge Crowe said Petriu played a different role to Murgea and Stancu and his culpability was the lowest of the three men.

She had earlier directed the preparation of a probation report and adjourned Petriu’s case to Thursday for finalisation.

Judge Crowe said Petriu had played a “crucial” role in facilitating the activities of the organisation, but noted the “positive” probation report, which assesses him at low risk of re-offending.

She imposed a three-year prison sentence, suspended in full on strict conditions for four years.

During the previous hearing, Judge Crowe said the offences before the court were inherently serious and said the crimes were committed over two days on three unoccupied commercial premises that had been deliberately targeted in an organised way.

She said it was “A highly organised crime” and extensive damage had been caused to the properties.

Judge Crowe acknowledged that Murgea and Stancu had been described as “foot soldiers” in the operation.

Each of the accused pleaded guilty on their trial date in October this year

and further pleas were entered on Monday.

Detective Garda Tom McEvoy previously gave evidence that gardai received a call to attend the 3 Store in Henry Street after a car crashed into its front window.

A silver Mercedes described as a “dummy car” was abandoned there, and extensive damage was done to the front of the shop. The gang left with nothing because the mobile phones were kept in a safe.

The “dummy car” - a stolen Silver Mercedes—was also used to smash through the front window of the Vodafone Shop at the Whitewater Shopping Centre in Newbridge just before 2:30 a.m. on July 3, 2023.

The next day, they rammed a car into Leinster Motors in Clondalkin.

They used a Citroen C5 there to break through the gates, then stole a 5-series BMW at 12.30 am on July 4, which was later used for their next robbery as a getaway car.

At around 4am they used the “dummy car” - the stolen silver Mercedes - to ram the front window of the 3 Store on Henry Street. Gardai established the vehicle had been used at Whitewater Shopping Centre on July 3, 2023.

Four suspects were ultimately identified from CCTV using a 5-series BMW as a getaway car. Gardai established the car was stolen the same night from Leinster Motors, Clondalkin.

Stancu was not involved in the

Leinster Motors incident but was involved in the Henry Street and Whitewater Centre offences.

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

The court heard Murgea has no previous convictions in Ireland but has 13 in Italy and three in France for offences including theft, dealing in stolen goods and criminal association.

Stancu has one previous conviction. Petriu has one previous conviction which relates to “paying someone else to do a driving theory test”, the court heard.

The court heard that at the Whitewater Shopping Centre, a silver Mercedes Benz with two occupants wearing gloves approached the front of the shop.

There was extensive damage done to the shop and they broke into store with bags in hands and left with the store till. Apart from the till, no other items were taken in the course of that burglary as the phones were in a safe. €16,000 worth of damage was caused in that incident.

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

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

in damage to the Citroen.

Fergal McMorro BL, for Petriu, said his client has one previous conviction. He said the father-of-three and is working in a hotel.

He remains in gainful employment and has been promoted to a chef and was described as hard-working, diligent and focused. He came to live in Ireland in 2018 having left Romania 15 years ago.

Dean Kelly SC, for Stancu, said his client went back to Romania as a teenager before returning to Ireland. He was put in touch with people and was under pressure to take part.

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

Mr Kelly said a “curious feature” was that nothing was stolen as most of the phones were kept in a safe.

Seoirse O’Dunlaing SC, for Murgea, said his client had shown remorse. He said his client was a Romanian national who was facing a very substantial time in custody. Mr O’Dunlaing said there was evidence he was under the control of other people.

Mr O’Dunlaing said his client was working in the kitchen prison where he is on enhanced status since October 2023.

He said a letter handed into court made reference to mental health problems and he is on disability benefit in relation to his depression.

Work expected to start on 38 social housing units in Crumlin in 2027

PLANS for 38 social housing units in Crumlin, were presented to councillors this week at the Dublin South Central area meeting, *reports Maurice Garvey.*

The Dublin City Council owned site is located on the corner of Crumlin Road and Rafter's Road, Dublin 12.

The 0.32-hectare site was previously occupied by a funeral home and part of the Ard Scoil Enna School complex. A notification of initiation of

Pre-Part 8 was presented to members at the meeting, detailing the city council's intention to initiate the planning process for the development.

Part 8 permission has previously been granted to demolish all the existing structures on the site.

The proposed residential units will comprise 10 one-bed, 22 two-bed and six three-bed homes.

Play spaces are to be included in the new development and a secure shared garden for residents.

Up to 8 car parking spaces are included, along with bicycle storage for both residents and visitors.

At the meeting, Cllr Vincent Jackson (Ind) welcomed the move which will help some people on the council housing list and the appearance of the "aesthetically pleasing" looking development.

Cllr Daithi Doolan (SF) commended the council purchase of the site for housing.

"We are about to embark on a planning process

for housing because the council bought the site and I think that was a very positive move. It shows that when the city council go into the market, buy land that we can deliver housing that is of incredibly high standard, with proper consultation," said Cllr Doolan.

Work is expected to start on site in 2027 with delivery of new homes by November 2028.

The development will be energy efficient and meet currently NZEB requirements.

Drugs worth €547,000 seized by gardai



SEIZURE: The drugs seized by gardai in Clondalkin

A MAN was arrested in Clondalkin on Friday as Gardai searched a residence and found over €547,000 worth of drugs.

As part of ongoing investigations targeting the sale and supply of controlled drugs in West Dublin, local uniform members and plain clothes Gardai from DMR West got a warrant to search a residence in Clondalkin on February 21, at approximately 7:30pm.

In the search, Gardai discovered approximately €424,200 worth of cocaine and €123,000 worth of MDMA (Ecstasy) with a total estimated street value of approximately €547,200, analysis pending.

A man in his 40s was arrested at the scene for misuse of drugs and is currently detained at a Garda Station in the Dublin Metropolitan Region.

The drugs seized will be sent to Forensic Science Ireland (FSI) for analysis. Investigations are ongoing.

This seizure is part of Operation Tara, a national anti-drugs strategy launched by Garda Commissioner Drew Harris on July 2, 2021.

"The focus of Operation Tara is to disrupt, dismantle, and prosecute drug trafficking networks at all levels—international, national, and local—involved in the importation, distribution, cultivation, production, local sale, and supply of controlled drugs," said Gardai in a statement.

Grandmother honoured for 55 years on school board of management

Abb Keegan was on school board since turning of the sod in 1970

By Alessia Micalizzi

alessia@echo.ie

A school celebrated an 88-year-old parent and grandparent who has been involved in the school management since "the turning of the first sod" in 1970.

Abb Keegan was part of the Board of Management in St Damian's school, Perrystown, before they were even established in Irish schools in 1975.

On Friday, March 21, school staff and parents honoured her 55 years of service and contribution with a surprise party as she opened the school's new playground.

"Today we would like to honour one of St Damian's most treasured and respected grandparents," wrote the school.

"The lovely, homely atmosphere we have here is attributed to wonderful past parents and grandparents like Abb, who have given so much to the school.

"Abb's enthusiasm, her great wit, her love of life and laughter, not to mention her baking skills are legendary."

Once the Board of Management was established five years after the school opening, Abb volunteered as Treasurer and is with no doubt the longest-serving member in St Damian's.

Boards of Management in Irish schools are all based on voluntary capacity. People can commit to one working term of four years and some would commit for a second term, but "on occasion someone will commit to longer," explained the school at the party.

"Abb has managed the school accounts for fifty years and every cent or penny has been fully accounted for



TREASURE: Abb Keegan honoured by school, staff and friends

through all of that time. "Successive principals have been

guided by her advice and often told off for spending too much money!"

For Ms Keegan, being part of the Board has also meant baking for Christmas fairs, coffee mornings, bake sales and all other special occasions, with her Christmas cake being "the most sought-after raffle prize" every year.

"Volunteers like Abb are the lifeblood of any school, she has taken the concept of giving to the highest level," they added, as they thanked her for the difference she made to the

school community over 55 years, along with her "beloved husband Joe."

"We could never thank her enough. She is an inspiration to us all.

"She has dedicated herself to helping to create a great school for the young children in our area. It is a wonderful legacy and for it we are truly, deeply grateful."

At the celebration, unanimously deemed "craic and fun," all her family from near and abroad were in attendance as well as all the school pupils.

“Volunteers like Abb are the lifeblood of any school, she has taken the concept of giving to the highest level. We could never thank her enough. She is an inspiration to us all. She has dedicated herself to helping to create a great school ..

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



The Dandelion season begins



BRIGHT YELLOW: Honeybees visit Dandelions because its pollen and nectar is easy to collect.

WITH the recent increase in temperature and bright sunshine, Dandelions are beginning to turn lawns and grass verges bright yellow.

While their sunny-yellow pom-pom heads can often be seen popping up at any time during the year, the main flush of their flowering season generally begins around the end of March and continues into May and early June.

The appearance of Dandelions after a cold spring is greatly welcomed by honeybees, bumblebees, and hoverflies.

As these important pollinating insects begin to emerge from their winter period of dormancy, they need to quickly build up their energy for the breeding season ahead.

They can only do this by feeding well on good sources of nectar and pollen.

Dandelions are rich in pollen and nectar, and because of the shape of the flower head and its many petals, this food is easily accessed by most insects.

Also, Dandelions often occur in great numbers wherever they grow.

This abundance is a great benefit to insects. It means that they do not waste vital energy flying long distances between flowers in order to collect enough pollen and nectar.

Once the flowers have been pollinated, they close up again for about a week or two while the seeds develop and mature. When ready, they open up again to reveal the fluffy seedheads.

We can help our pollinating insects in springtime by not mowing the lawn while the Dandelions are in flower.

If we can wait until the majority of the flowers have finished flowering, insects have a much better chance of surviving until the summertime flowers are in bloom.

While some people dislike this plant, Dandelions also have nutritional and medicinal value for us too.

This was valued much more in the distant past, however, and in medieval times Dandelions were once deliberately grown in herb and medicine gardens where grass was seen as the ‘weed’ to be removed from around the cultivated Dandelions.



POLLINATING: Roadside verges become vital stopping-off places for pollinating insects



People with Down syndrome are part of the

Ross joined the DSI’s National Advisory Council 17 years ago and is doing ‘amazing work’

By Alessia Micalizzi
alessia@echo.ie

“PEOPLE with Down syndrome are part of the world too,” said the chairperson of Down syndrome Ireland’s National Advisory Council who met with Tánaiste Simon Harris this week.

Clondalkin man Ross O’Neill is one of six adults with Down syndrome who sit on DSI’s National Advisory Council, representing their opinions within the organisation and advocating for issues like employment and education, transport, and voting rights.

He joined the organisation 17 years ago and, as DSI said, he has been doing “amazing work,” campaigning for people with down syndrome and their independence which he believes is “an important part of everyone’s lives.”

“I love working with DSI and all the staff I met through the years are great. It makes me happy to do this,” Ross told *The Echo*.

“It was a privilege to meet him, and it was a really good meeting,” he said about the meeting with Simon Harris ahead of World’s Down Syndrome Day, March 21.

“It’s a way to make sure that our voice is heard and to show that people with down syndrome are part of the world too.

“There are a lot of services in place but, to be honest with you, they need to do more. We asked for more funding to support and increase SNA teachers in schools and to create employment.”

Three more adults from Dublin, Eric Nolan from Walkinstown, Sinéad Friel from Clontarf, and Orla Casey from Terenure, sit on the NAC.

“The NAC works for the common good to make sure everyone’s voice is heard. We look at transport, employment, health, mental health and Down syndrome awareness. Independence is an important part of everyone’s lives,” explained Ross.

“It is crucial that the government engages directly with our members to hear first-hand about their experiences, and the supports needed to make Ireland a better place for people with Down syndrome,” added DSI Interim CEO, Will Cronin.

Tánaiste Simon Harris praised the work of the National Advisory Council, saying, “I was delighted to welcome Down Syndrome Ireland’s National Advisory Council to Government Buildings and get an insight into the incredible work they are doing to advocate for people with Down syndrome.”

This year’s theme for World’s Down Syndrome Day is ‘Support Our Dreams,’ highlighting that everyone including people with Down syndrome has the right to support and the right to dream big.

“I would like to thank my mam, my dad and my sister for the brilliant support they gave me through my life,” said Ross.

To learn more or donate, visit www.downsyndrome.ie.



own syndrome world too



PRIVILEGE: Eric Nolan (Walkinstown), Sinéad Friel, Simon Harris, Orla Casey (Terenure) and Ross O'Neill (Clondalkin) with Tániste Simon Harris

Let's Talk About Endometriosis



CONDITION: Dr Mary Barrett explains the nature of endometriosis and the various ways it can be treated

Most common symptom of endometriosis is severe pelvic pain

IN RECENT years, awareness of endometriosis has increased, though it remains a condition that is often misunderstood.

Dr. Mary Barrett explains the nature of endometriosis and the various ways it can be treated in this month's Let's Talk About column.

Endometriosis is a chronic, inflammatory condition where tissue similar to the lining of the womb (endometrium) grows outside the uterus.

This tissue is most commonly found in the pelvis, on the ovaries, fallopian tubes, and the surface of the womb. In some cases, it can affect other organs like the bladder or bowel.

During the menstrual cycle, this tissue behaves similarly to the endometrial lining, swelling at certain times and releasing fluid at others.

This can cause pain and inflammation. This response is due to hormone fluctuations that occur naturally during the menstrual cycle.

The most common symptom of endometriosis is severe pelvic pain, often felt low down in the abdomen and typically worsening during your period. Heavy periods can be common. Some women experience pain during sex or have problems with bladder and bowel function.

For others, endometriosis can cause difficulty getting pregnant. Some women, however, may not experience symptoms at all, and their condition is only discovered during the investigation of other medical issues.

For others still, the symptoms can be so severe that they interfere with daily life, making it difficult to work, care for children, or make it to a long planned dinner with friends.

The challenge with endometriosis is that women can experience different symptoms, even though they have the same disease.

While there is no cure for endometriosis, treatment options are available to manage symptoms and improve quality of life. Medications such as painkillers, contraceptive pills, and hormonal treatments can help control pain and regulate periods. Although endometriosis may impact fertility, many women with the condition can still have successful pregnancies.

Unfortunately, there is no definitive test to predict a woman's fertility outcomes.

Women who have difficulty conceiving after trying for some time can be referred to a Fertility Hub for further evaluation and assistance.

For women who prefer not to use medications, other options are available to manage symptoms.

Many find that lifestyle changes, such as dietary changes, exercising regularly, and ensuring a good night's sleep, can improve their well-being.

Additionally, pelvic floor physiotherapy can be particularly helpful for managing certain types of pain. Often, a combination of treatments works best, as there are many factors that contribute to pelvic pain.

The long-term outlook for women with endometriosis varies.

Most women can lead normal, healthy lives with simple treatments. However, for some, the condition can result in chronic pain or infertility. In some cases, surgery may be helpful.

This can range from keyhole surgery (typically requires just a day in the hospital) to more complex procedures that require a longer recovery period. For many women, the worst symptoms are experienced during their period, and after menopause, the symptoms often improve.

It's important to remember that if you have periods so painful that they interfere with your daily activities, you should consult a GP. Periods should not stop you from living your life.

Endometriosis can affect women of all ages, but there are treatments and support available.

The more we talk about endometriosis, the greater the understanding of the condition, and the better equipped we are to help women manage it.

“The challenge for endometriosis is that women can experience different symptoms, even though they have the same disease. While there is no cure for endometriosis, treatment options are available to manage symptoms and improve quality of life

Dumping rubbish in vacant council gardens is on the rise

Calls to install CCTV monitoring signs around council estates to help ease problem

By Alessia Micalizzi

alessia@echo.ie

SOUTH Dublin County Council will continue to use “less intrusive measures” to deter illegal dumping within housing estates in spite of councillors pleading for the installation of CCTV cameras or ‘CCTV signs.’

At the Tallaght area meeting on Monday, March 24, Councillor Louise Dunne (SF) proposed that the Council installed CCTV monitoring signs around council estates as soon as a property becomes vacant, as dumping in vacant gardens is on the rise.

According to her, signs would have a deterrent effect even in the absence of actual CCTV.

“It’s something we used to do many years ago, it’s a solution I came up with while we’re trying to get guidelines on what to do in these situations,” she said, with regards to the data protection regulations hindering the installation of CCTV.

“We can’t put up CCTV signs



unless there’s CCTV, that’s not something that’s possible,” responded Environment Senior Officer Sharon Conroy.

Ms Conroy explained that with the regulations in place, it would be even harder to instal CCTV within

residential areas, and that having it wouldn’t always mean “catching the perpetrator,” as they’d be typically covered and doing it at night.

SDCC will keep implementing “less intrusive measures” such as litter wardens’ patrols and clean-ups, and

“keeping an eye on what’s happening” across the different estates while also reducing the turnaround for vacant council houses.

In the meantime, the impact on the local community is growing according to councillors.

“The children walk by it to go to school every day. When your environment is not being looked after you can become a product of your environment,” said Cllr Dunne.

“This can mean six or seven months of worry and anxiety for the people living besides a vacant property, and getting rodents,” said Councillor Paddy Holohan (IND).

“We have more protection for the people dumping than for the people living behind the people dumping.”

“There is an area where two or three times a week there’s fire burning from rubbish being dumped,” added Councillor Kay Keane (PBP).

“This is making some of the residents feel like they’re forgotten about.”

“If anyone has any information on who’s doing the dumping they can pass it over to the Environment Team or the Estate Management Team,” added SDCC Housing Senior Officer Amanda Mills.

“If it’s a member of a household with a council tenancy, that can be investigated.”

TUH Acute psychiatric unit was ‘in a state of disrepair’

Walls and floors of bare concrete and no running water after MHC inspection

By Alessia Micalizzi

alessia@echo.ie

THE Acute Psychiatric Unit in Tallaght Hospital was “in a state of disrepair,” during an unannounced inspection by the Mental Health Commission (MHC) last year.

Walls and floors of bare concrete, no running water in a sink, and sharp edges in a seclusion room were only some of the examples of non-compliance mentioned in the MHC report published on Tuesday, March 25.

With 67pc of compliance, TUH was the third-lowest scoring among 10 centres inspected nationwide, and two non-compliances out of 14 were rated “high risk” in relation to patients’ general health and the prescription and storage of medicines.

Six more non-compliances were rated as “critical,” in relation with individual care plans, therapeutic services, the state of premises, staffing, risk management and seclusion.

Speaking of the premises, the report mentioned, “Damaged flooring throughout the approved centre,”



“Graffiti on the door into Rowan ward, on wall of games room and bathroom mirror,”

“A damaged smoke detector in the seclusion room,” and “walls and floors

of the seclusion room of bare concrete without any protective padding.”

In one en-suite bathroom in the Cedar ward, a toilet was broken and there was no running water in the sink. “Multiple maintenance issues remained outstanding,” added the report.

TUH also didn’t carry out the necessary remedial works to address ligature points and fire safety risks, which had been previously identified in other assessments.

The therapeutic services and

programmes provided were not “appropriate” and didn’t meet the “assessed needs documented in individual care plans,” said the report, that also highlighted poor quality documentation and maintenance of records.

The longstanding issue with staff shortage in TUH was evident in its psychiatric unit, as the report mentioned, “The skill mix of staffing was not sufficient to meet the needs of residents due to the continued vacancy of two occupational therapist

positions.”

“The medical team had less than 50pc of staff trained in Basic Life Support, Fire Safety and Management of Aggression and Violence,” and “particularly worrying was the low levels of Mental Health Act training.”

The Unit’s level of compliance sank from 97pc in 2020 to 65pc in 2023. In 2024, the Unit was inspected between July 30 and August 2.

Tallaght University Hospital has agreed to a compliance plan following the inspection.

“Damaged flooring throughout the approved centre. Graffiti on the door into Rowan ward, on walls of games room and bathroom mirror. A damaged smoke detector in the seclusion room

Toolkit to help tackle growing challenge of school avoidance

According to Childhood Development Initiative figures are higher than average in Tallaght

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

UNDERSTANDING school absenteeism is key to fight it according to Tallaght-based Childhood Development Initiative who are launching the first online 'toolkit' for young people, parents and school staff.

Informed by the lived experience of nine schools based in Dublin 24, CDI put together a free, accessible resource called 'School Avoidance Toolkit' which explores the growing issue from different perspectives.

School avoidance takes place when a student misses school for more than 20 days without an apparent or health reason and is believed to have grown after the Covid-19 pandemic.

Bullying is the most common cause in the school setting, along with more general anxiety caused by academic demand or specific subjects, peer or staff relationship difficulties, and in some cases unavailability of transport to school.

Home environment impacting school attendance seems to be "very much the case in Tallaght" according to CDI, and it can include poverty, family history of early school leaving, family stress or dysfunction, or the child being 'parentified' and having to take care of parents.

TOOLKIT: Schools are doing their best but they need proper resources and proper guidance to support pupils and families



According to what CDI reported, school avoidance figures are higher than average in Tallaght, "with 42pc of children in DEIS primary schools and 30pc of students in post-primary missing 20 days or more in 2022/23."

"As educators, we see it every day," commented St Dominic's NS principal

Seamus Vaughan speaking to CDI. "Schools are doing their best, but we need resources and proper guidance to support the mental health of these students."

As in many other areas of childhood development, early intervention is crucial to tackle school avoidance

according to CDI.

"There would be strong indications that if school avoidance is not addressed in a timely manner it will turn into school refusal, possibly early school leaving and exit from education, with knock-on, long term outcomes for the young person linked to job

prospects and social inclusion," said Michelle Collins, CDI School Engagement and Wellbeing Coordinator.

CDI's School Avoidance Toolkit, which analyses more in-depth the impacts and the potential approaches to the problem, will be formally launched by Ombudsman for Children Dr Niall Muldoon at the CDI centre on Cookstown Lane on Friday, April 4.

"The Toolkit is a hub of cutting-edge insights and proven strategies to tackle the growing challenge of school avoidance. It also marks a key milestone in CDI's Strategic Plan 2025-2028, reinforcing its commitment to ensuring every child has access to education and the support they need to thrive," commented the organisation.

CDI's School Avoidance Toolkit is part of the organisation's wider Nova Youth Mental Health Programme.

The Tallaght schools involved in informing CDI's research were St Dominic's NS, Scoil Maelruain Senior, St Aidan's SNS, St Mark's SNS, Firhouse ETNS, Old Bawn CS, St Aidan's CS, St Mark's CS, and Firhouse ETSS.

The organisation also worked with a Youth Advisory Group formed by students of St Mark's CS.

To learn more, visit <https://www.cdi.ie/schoolavoidancetoolkit/>.

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Improving biodiversity in urban areas



INITIATIVE: Volunteers from EirGrid joined Dodder Action to take part in Stepping Stones Forest event in Dodder Valley Park

VOLUNTEERS from EirGrid, operator and developer of the national electricity grid, recently took part in an initiative to plant native woodland in west Dublin.

Volunteers from the local community, Dodder Action and other organisations came together in Dodder Valley Park, Firhouse, to take part in the latest Stepping Stone Forests event.

Preparation for the event began six months ago, when the ground in the area was covered in a layer of cardboard, before laying mulch to help suppress competing vegetation, retain moisture, and maintain a more even ground temperature.

The recent event then saw volunteers from EirGrid plant the trees, leading to the creation of a small urban woodland.

Lead Senior Ecologist with EirGrid, Robert Fennelly, said: ‘At EirGrid, nature restoration and responsible business practices are being embedded across our day-to-day operations. We were delighted to take part in this event and to contribute to the

community here in Dodder Valley Park.”

He continued: “Initiatives such as Stepping Stone Forests show how everyone can make a difference by taking steps to increase tree coverage and improve biodiversity in urban areas. This initiative is also timely in the context of the new requirement under the EU Nature Restoration Law to increase urban tree canopy coverage.”

The event was in line with one of the pillars of EirGrid’s Sustainability Strategy, ‘Being a Responsible Business’, and worked towards one of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, ‘Life on Land’.

EirGrid is currently working to transform and modernise the electricity grid in Dublin and surrounding areas, to help deliver a consistent and reliable supply of electricity to homes, schools and businesses.

The Powering Up Dublin project will see the installation over 50km of cables across Dublin, as well as upgrades to a number of electricity substations.



Five local artists o creativity without

Exhibition with diverse range of artistic voices is championing inclusivity in the arts

LOCAL artists proudly showcase their artwork at the Royal Hibernian Academy (RHA) as part of the CA Collective Exhibition, which officially opened on Thursday. The exhibition is hosted by Connections Arts Centre (CAC), a social enterprise championing inclusivity in the arts.

Now in its second year, the exhibition welcomes 10 new artists, expanding the CA Collective to 27 talented members from around the country who identify as having an intellectual disability or are from the neurodiverse community.

This year, the work of 22 of these artists is on display at the RHA, showcasing a diverse range of artistic voices. Open to the public now until April 20, the exhibition celebrates inclusivity and the transformative power of art.

South has five artists exhibiting in the programmes including David Singleton from Kilmainham, (Woman with Yellow Hat), Samuel Hilliard (Sailing Days) and Jason Grace (Teenage Years), both from Tallaght, Michael Hade from Rathfarnham, (It’s a Plane) and Rachel Coen from Palmerstown, (Me Oul Flower).

Organised by Connections Arts Centre (CAC), a social enterprise dedicated to promoting inclusivity for people with disabilities, the exhibition provides a professional platform for artists who have historically faced barriers to opportunities in the creative sector.

The CA Collective is an extension of CAC’s Connecting Artists Programme, which supports artists with disabilities through mentorship, education, and exhibitions.

This year’s showcase features diverse artistic styles and perspectives, offering visitors a unique chance to engage with artwork that challenges perceptions and celebrates creativity without barriers.

As part of the exhibition, featured artists will host discussions and live demonstrations, sharing insights into their creative process and experiences as artists. After the conversations, visitors can also sign up for a private guided tour of the RHA to view and learn about the art on display in the gallery. Join Artist Tomás Malone on Monday, March 31 from 11.30 am -12.30 pm and artist Jennifer Humphreys on Monday, April 7, from 11.30 am - 12.30pm.



CREATIVITY: Rathfarnham artist Michael Hade is pictured with his piece It’s a PLANE

SAILING DAYS: Tallaght artist Samuel Hilliard with his piece Sailing Days and (inset) Jason Grace from Tallaght with his piece Teenage Years



celebrate t barriers



SHOWCASE: Palmerstown artist Rachel Coen with her piece Me Oul Flower

Everyone has a role to play during Eco Week



BETTER FUTURE: Cllr Louise Dunne launches Eco Week with children from second and fourth class in Holy Rosary Primary School

Eco Week 2025 which is taking place this week was launched by Cllr Louise Dunne in Holy Rosary Primary School Firhouse, with teachers and pupils on Monday. Through Eco Week the council offers schools across South Dublin a range of classroom-based talks, workshops, which will educate and inform them on the environment, climate change and

biodiversity. All events held during the week are free and this year there will be over 100 workshops to schools in SDCC area. Mayor Baby Pereppadan said: "Eco Week is a very important time of year for South Dublin County Council. "The Council faces so many challenges, and we have a vital and important role to

play in particular with climate change. Faced with these challenges we all have a role to play and can make a difference no matter how small. Through Eco Week's free events, which has a variety of themes, you can learn about what your County Council is doing, how you can help and make a better future for everyone".

Support for Football for All for inclusion

THE Rathcoole FC 'Football for All' children's team have now a new supporter as Tallaght-based training provider Coach Approach sponsored new training gear for them. Coach Approach founder and director Lee Moroney, a local coach with 20-year experience in sports and children coaching, gave €500 sponsorship for the team. "I am not a coach with the team, but one of my best friends' sons plays in it. It's important to give back and support initiatives like Football for All for inclusion," he said. "The children loved their new training tops." Football for All is a programme designed by the FAI for kids with special needs aged six and upwards who want to play soccer for their local club. It gives them the opportunity to get regular soccer training and competition as they may not get it through mainstream teams. It allows them to keep fit, understand team work and develop social skills. Rathcoole FC Football for All team was created in April 2022 and always welcomes new children on Fridays, from 5.30pm to 6.30pm.



ON THE BALL: Aimee, Logan, Kate, Sam, Zack, Keelan and Darragh

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 Laura Teegan, founder of the Firhouse Craft Fair.

PASSIONATE:
Laura Teegan is
passionate about
local produce and
crafts



***The Echo* – celebrating
community for 45 years**

AWARD: Laura Teegan won a BLAS award for marmalade



THERE is currently a crafting and culinary Renaissance happening in Firhouse and our local notable this week, plays a critical role in its success.

Laura Teegan, of Teegan's Treats, more on which later, is the Founder of Firhouse Craft Fair and continues to devote her time and effort to ensure the fair grows, diversifies and develops.

Laura herself has been happily living in Firhouse for 37 years and she is extremely passionate about local produce and crafts, and we will delve deeper into this as we go along.

First, we must do the housekeeping and give Laura a gentle grilling about her life and work.

She tells me, "Well I can't claim to be Firhouse born and bred. I was brought up in Clane, Co. Kildare and I went to school there."

"Once my Leaving Cert was over, I got a place at Trinity, from where I graduated in 1988 with a Business degree. My career plans had to be put on hold however as I found myself pregnant with my daughter Nicky at 22. So everything was put on hold while my husband and I looked after our new bundle."

A lot happened in Laura's life around that time. She married her beloved John and they moved to Firhouse, little knowing how important that move would be in the future.

In 1990, Laura had her second daughter Eilís, who was duly followed by Erica and son Seán in the subsequent years.

"Amongst all of this I had accepted a position with AIB, and I was there for 29 years, eventually holding the position of Head of Estate Management. In 2019, the bank offered me a redundancy package. It suited me to take it and I fancied trying my hand at something else anyway. So I left the bank. Then life really picked up pace," she laughs.

It was during the dark days of COVID that Laura had the brainwave that would change her life.

She had been making jams, preserves, Christmas puddings and various other treats on a smaller basis for years. She decided that she would get the word out and see if she could make a nice little business out of it.

She printed up 800 flyers and distributed them by hand to her local community in Firhouse.

Before long, people were coming back for refills and thus, Teegan's Treats was born.

Laura even won a coveted BLAS award for her marmalade. She says she's "delighted to be the person who makes jam for the South Dublin area!"

"Once Teegan's Treats was going, I was delighted to meet local people who crafted or cooked. I couldn't believe how many there were. I decided to try networking through Instagram and 13 of us turned up to our first meeting in the Speaker Conolly car park."

From those humble beginnings, the group now attracts between 60 and 70 people to their monthly meetings.

Of course running a Craft Fair 6 times between April and September and twice at Christmas, takes organisation. Luckily Laura whipped out the old business degree and took the hot seat.

It's when she speaks about her fellow stall holders (22 at the last one) that Laura's enthusiasm for the project shines through.

Well I'll start with myself, Teegan's treats - jams, preserves, cordials and seasonal foods.

We also have Feebee Foran of Forager.ie - natural skin care products. She will be a big name!

There's Maureen Murray Designs - weaving, candles, soaps. Maureen also set up the Craft Corner in the local Vincent's shop, which is hugely popular, and Jackie Jackson of Jackson Jewellery and also Marion Sweetman of Margenta Jewellery. Both different and hand crafted.

We have The Pebble House Ireland - gorgeous pebble art by Jenny Coady, Tim

McGlynn of Dublin Hills Goats Cheese - the only goats cheesemaker in Dublin! Tim lives up on Old Court Hill, and Ciara's Candles - top quality scented candles.

We also have Olly's Farm - local honey. He also does beekeeping and farm experiences. Lives in Glenasmole. Great taste Award winner, among lots of other awards (McKenna's Guide, Blas, etc.)

Lisa Simpson Art, Vidya Videk, Emma Brown (Art by Emma), Anthea West Art, Rachel McDermott (Colours of Kate), artists covering all different styles.

There's Frank Brown - upcycles old wood into new things. He does a lot of good work.

There's Ian Hutchinson and Pat McCartin - woodturners. Ian makes gorgeous lighthouse and Pigeon House lamps. Also Margaret Watson (Krafty Katelyn) and Dee Kearney - handmade cards, knitted wear, candles and more.

We have a few bakers too - Eleanor Brennan, Siobhan Chinenyanga, and Aine Frawley.

So as you can see, we cover a lot of territory at the Fair

There are more, but the list is long. People can expect to find a wide range of products at the market, all locally made, and all hand crafted. We also recently introduced a Young Entrepreneurs Corner, where under age crafters can sell at the market. This is new, so we will see how it goes. I'm delighted to say there were 3 young crafters in this group last year."

"We're always trying to grow. We have an ethos of locality and sustainability. Nothing gives me greater pleasure than seeing someone making something new and usable from something old."

"I'm thrilled at how the Fair is doing but as much as anything, I enjoy the friendship of my colleagues. I've made some really great friends through this and I hope to welcome other talented local people to participate in the Fair in the coming years."

For more information on Firhouse Craft Fair, check them out on Instagram.



ROLE: Laura Teegan is the founder of Teegan's Treats

“We’re always trying to grow. We have an ethos of locality and sustainability. Nothing gives me greater pleasure than seeing someone making something new and usable from something old

Properties on Airbnb equals long term rental options

Calls to tackle short-term lets as a priority to help address rental supply crisis

By Alessia Micalizzi
alessia@echo.ie

THE number of properties on Airbnb has equalled the long-term rental options in Tallaght.

As of March 19, a scan of the short-term let platform showed that there were 31 "entire properties" offered to tourists in the Tallaght area, with prices ranging between €110 and €330 per night.

On the same day, 31 houses and apartments were listed on the rental website Daft.ie.

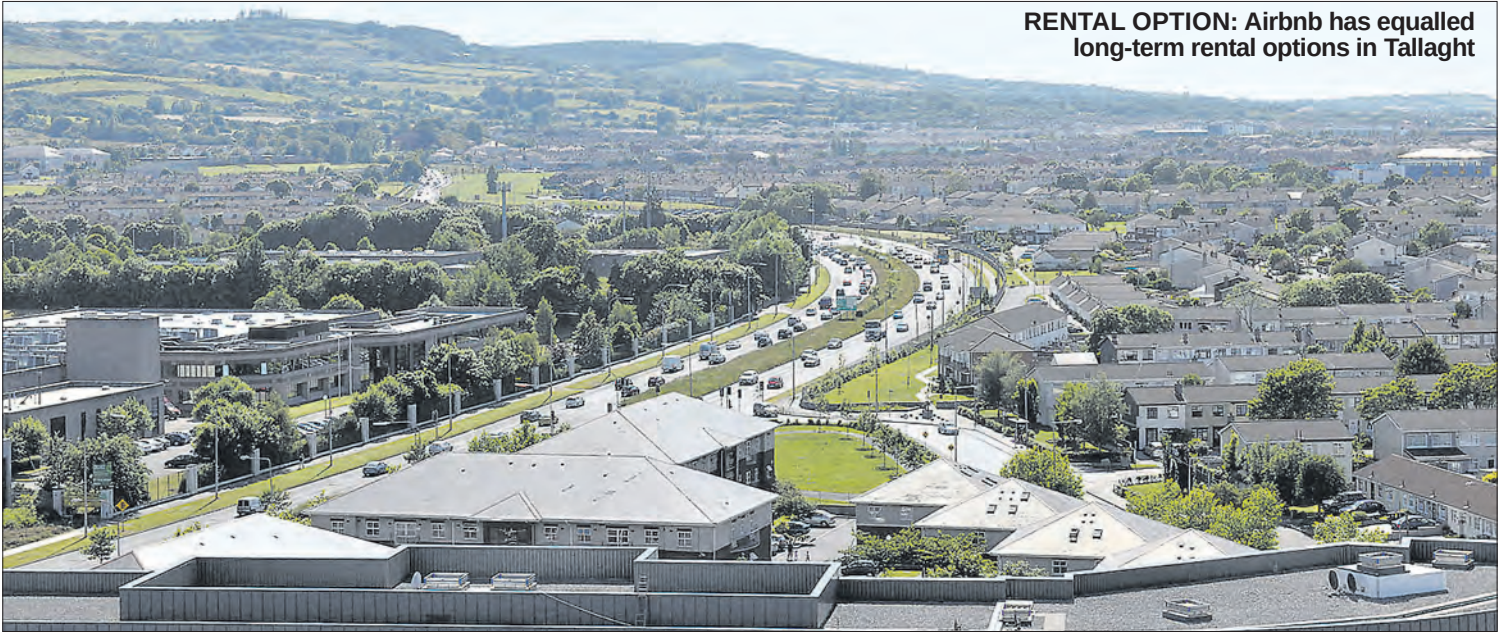
The situation is similar when considering individual rooms, with 47 rooms to rent on Airbnb and 48 on Daft.

These numbers back up the findings recently released by rental charity Threshold showing that there are nine times as many properties on Airbnb in the country as there are long-term lettings.

A three-bed house in Dublin 24 was mentioned in the report as it was advertised on Airbnb for €1,330 for a one-week stay from March 15 to March 22.

According to Threshold, the Government should tackle short-term lets as a priority in a "well-documented supply crisis in Ireland's long-term housing market," by addressing 'hosts' who operate without the required change of use planning permission.

In 2024, South Dublin County Council received only one planning application to convert a residential property to a short-term letting and granted permission to the applicant



RENTAL OPTION: Airbnb has equalled long-term rental options in Tallaght

in October.

Two 'Form 15 Notification' asking for planning exemptions were received in 2022 and 2023.

More recently, SDCC issued a planning enforcement warning letter to a Clondalkin address reported as a short-term let, and a site inspection is now due as a response wasn't received.

Yet, as of March 19, about 40 houses and 86 rooms were available between Clondalkin and Lucan on Airbnb, against the 39 homes and 106 rooms on Daft.

Twenty rooms were available for short-term let in Saggart and Rathcoole, while less than 30 rooms were listed on Daft in the same area.

In terms of profit for the host, renting a room for a few days in South Dublin costs around

€70-80 per night while a long-term house share can vary between €750 and over €1000 per month.

Under regulations introduced in 2019, short-term letting in rent pressure zones is defined as the letting of a house or apartment, or part of it, for no longer than 14 days.

Replacement legislation is under development and is expected to be in place in 2025.



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‘Every young person deserves the opportunity to build a bright future’

€1.6 million fund scheme will award cash grants and dedicated business support

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

YOUNG people from marginalised areas of South Dublin County may be able to avail of a new funding scheme, launched to tackle disparities in opportunity to access for employment.

The €1.6m Empower Tech Futures Fund is being provided by Rethink Ireland with the support of JPMorganChase, the Department of Rural and Community Development and BNY.

Organisations are encouraged to apply.

The criteria for eligibility for organisations who apply includes a focus on young people aged 18-30 who are marginalised in the labour market.

Organisations must have a strong focus on the Dublin and/or Cork regions, and support young people into internship, employment and/or apprenticeship programmes.

The three-year fund will award cash grants and provide dedicated business support to up to five projects or organisations based in Dublin and/or Cork.

The fund is designed to provide young adults with the confidence and connections to build lasting careers by



SCHEME: At the launch of the €1.6 million Empower Tech Futures Fund were Eamon Ryan, Vice President, Technology at JPMorgan Chase and Jennifer O'Loughlin, BNY Ireland Community Impact lead. Front L-R: Ishika Gundecha, Daragh Wallace, Deirdre Mortell, CEO, Rethink Ireland and Anthony Mills, Business Development Manager, Rethink Ireland

“Over the next three years, this fund will equip young adults with the necessary skills

tackling obstacles through skills training and direct work placements.

These obstacles include a lack of awareness about career opportunities, gaps in essential technical and digital skills sought by employers, and insufficient support networks to secure

and sustain meaningful employment.

"Every young person deserves the opportunity to build a brighter future, regardless of their background," said Deirdre Mortell, CEO of Rethink Ireland.

"Over the next three years, this fund

will equip young adults with the necessary skills, knowledge, and networks to thrive in the 21st-century workforce bridging the skills gap, breaking down barriers to employment, providing holistic support, building employability skills,

as well as enhancing the workforce development ecosystem," Ms Mortell said.

Eligible organisations can apply for funding by May 15, 2025.

Visit rethinkireland.ie for further details.

‘Dublin Fields’ film studio in Grange Castle features in promotion campaign

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

THE planned ‘Dublin Fields’ film studio in Grange Castle features in the promotion of the new advertising campaign for Dublin.ie.

Dublin.ie has launched a new advertising campaign to celebrate foreign direct investment in the capital.

The campaign is the first such collaboration between the four Dublin local authorities including Dublin City Council and South Dublin County Council.

In the segment for South Dublin County in the advert, the upcoming state-of-the-art film and

television production facility in Grange Castle is highlighted.

Once operational, the Lens Media studio will create over 2,000 jobs and put the region on the global media production map.

The 56-acre Grange Castle site includes 20 individual structures amounting to over 74,000 square metres of gross floor space featuring six sound stage buildings that comprise 11 internal sound stages.

The advertising campaign is part of the Dublin Regional Enterprise Plan's objective to advance a shared brand for the region.

It will also use the Dublin.ie LinkedIn page, and share video testimonials from six companies

invested in the region, Salesforce, Walkers Global LLP, Dublin Fields, MSD Biotech, Amgen, and Microsoft.

"This is the first time all four Dublin local authorities have come together to market the region on an international level," said Richard

Shakespeare, CEO of Dublin City Council.

"We're proud of the region's success as a destination for international investment.

"We hope the featured multinationals and others like them will continue to do business in Dublin for many years."



Ross Adams Hair & Beauty celebrates 21 years in Tallaght

Busy salon with eight staff are looking forward to anniversary celebrations

By Maurice Garvey

maurice@echo.ie

A TALLAGHT-based salon which will be celebrating 21 years in business, put their success down to a loyal clientele.

Ross Adams Hair & Beauty Salon is ideally located at Unit 10, Tuansgate, The Square, which provides plenty of parking and transport links for customers to utilise.

John Hogan, salon owner at Ross Adams Hair & Beauty, oversees a busy shop with eight staff, and they are looking forward to the anniversary celebrations, which officially take place in May.

"Business is quite good. We are a very busy colour shop with a lot of loyal clients. We would have a very strong colour clientele."

Ross Adams is located at retail units to the northeast of The Square, beside the car park, but many people who park there often end up walking straight into the shopping centre.

"We just need to refresh peoples' memories and remind

them that we are at The Square, Tallaght," said John.

Among the many services at the salon are Balayage, Meche, colour correction, root touch, four-week Keratin treatment, Alfaparf treatments, Spraight six-week blowdry and Olaplex treatment, and 16-week blow-dry.

"We also specialise in Boho Blowdry curl and pin, hair extension blow-drys, GHD curls Plaits and Upstyle," said John.

Ross Adams are 21 years in business on May 21 and are running a competition for a winner to receive a gift voucher worth €150.

"We also have available beauty rooms to let for therapist that specialise in lamination brows lash extensions. The salon also has a make up area, anaesthetic, and beauty therapist," said John.

"We plan to have a celebration on May 21 to mark the anniversary."

For details on the competition check this week's *Echo* or Ross Adams Hair & Beauty Salon website and Instagram/Facebook.



CELEBRATIONS: Ross Adams Hair & Beauty will celebrate 21 years in Tallaght. Pictured are Rebecca, Abbie, Mandy and Lynn

Residents can bypass long HSE waiting lists

By Maurice Garvey

maurice@echo.ie

ACCESS to healthcare for surgeries and bypassing long HSE waiting lists are among the benefits being touted by Kingsbridge private hospital in its cross-border healthcare scheme.

The Northern Ireland health group will be hosting an open day on Wednesday, April 2, at the Louis Fitzgerald Hotel in Newlands Cross.

Cllr Linda de Courcy (Ind Ire) is hosting the cross border healthcare meeting in the Louis Fitzgerald Hotel in conjunction with Kingsbridge Hospital in Belfast.

"We will be letting people know about the scheme and surgeries/treatments available.

Michael Collins TD, Leader of Independent Ireland, has been assisting people across Ireland to access vital cataract surgery in Belfast for years, dramatically reducing wait times from five years to just a month," said de Courcy.

"I will be working with Deputy Collins to expand this initiative to benefit people in

Clondalkin, Newcastle, Rathcoole, Saggart, and Brittas. Through the Cross Border Healthcare Scheme, residents can bypass long HSE waiting lists and receive treatments—including hip and knee replacements, ACL surgery, hysterectomies, and more—at Kingsbridge Private Hospital in Belfast within weeks."

On March 14, Kingsbridge announced it will provide healthcare services to Vhi members following a partnership agreement to extend Vhi cover to the ultra-modern Belfast facility.

With 1.2 million members, Vhi is the largest health insurer in the Republic of Ireland.

The Kingsbridge Private Hospital open day takes place on Wednesday, April 2, at the Louis Fitzgerald Hotel.

Meetings will take place at 10.30am, 1.30pm and 4.00pm to provide more information on the scheme.

While patients must cover the initial cost, many procedures, such as hip and knee replacements, are fully reimbursed by the HSE within 6-10 weeks.



HOSTS: Cllr Linda de Courcy with Gareth Crudden, Kingsbridge GP liason

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‘Research shows real risk to financial services firms’

ParkWest IT Company Auxillion survey highlights risk to services in terms of talent

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

OVER 60% of senior managers working in financial services in Ireland are planning to change jobs within the next two years.

According to a survey by Park West IT company Auxillion, up to 61% of senior managers in the sector are planning a move, while some 80% have interviewed for another job during the past six months.

The study – conducted by Censuswide and involving 200 respondents – revealed that a similar proportion (59%) have changed jobs in the past year.

Two thirds of these senior managers admitted they would retrain in a new career/profession if there were no barriers (e.g., financial or family commitments).

Niamh Cray, Chief People Officer, Auxillion, said: “Our research reveals a real risk to financial services firms in terms of talent. Not only are a significant proportion of senior managers contemplating leaving, but many are already actively seeking out new opportunities – indicating that it’s only a matter of time before

the impact is felt.

“Companies in this sector in Ireland need to address this, otherwise they could be facing a mass exodus and a resource crisis. Those without a blended talent strategy, consisting of in-house expertise and external resourcing services, could seriously struggle to replace and fill roles with the expertise they need.”

When it comes to how respondents plan to find these new roles, 71% have previously used recruitment agencies and that trend appears to be continuing with 70% intending to use such services to secure their next position.

However, these next positions may not be around forever with the study finding that almost a third (32%) of senior managers working in financial services do not believe their job will exist in five years’ time.

Moreover, 26% revealed they are not happy with their current workstyle – with those working remotely found to be significantly less happy than their in-office counterparts.

Whilst 78% working in the office are happy with their workstyle, just 55% of those working remotely are happy.



REAL RISK: Niamh Cray, Auxillion Chief People Officer

Microsoft celebrates milestone of planting 25,000 trees locally

MORE than 4,000 trees were planted on the grounds of St Aidan’s Community School, Tallaght, this year, as part of a biodiversity campaign by Microsoft Ireland.

The multi-national has celebrated a milestone of 25,000 trees planted across the south and west of Dublin over the last three years.

Microsoft say its part of its ongoing efforts to enhance local biodiversity and create more sustainable communities near its data centre campus in Grange Castle.

Up to 8,000 trees were planted by volunteers this year at sites across Dublin including St Aidan’s Community School, Ballyboden St Enda’s GAA Club, and TU Dublin Blanchardstown campus.

The initiative was delivered in collaboration with Trees on the Land, and brought together more than 300 volunteers from Microsoft, local community groups, schools and third level institutes.

In total, 15 different tree species were planted across the various sites including oak, birch and hazel.

On the grounds of St Aidan’s, the trees will provide a new woodlands area that can enable teachers to deliver practical lessons on nature, biodiversity and sustainability.

As part of the initiative, Microsoft also worked together with Clondalkin Tidy Towns to donate native trees to members of the local community.

Lavinia Morris, General Manager of Microsoft data centre operations for EMEA, said: “At Microsoft, we’re committed to empowering thriving and sustainable local communities where we operate, in line with our Data Centre Community Pledge. Planting 25,000 trees at various sites across south and west Dublin will help to deliver on this pledge, fostering sustainability and enhancing community wellbeing across the local community, while operating responsibly as a good neighbour.



THRIVING: Lavinia Morris, General Manager of Microsoft data centre operations for EMEA with students Amy Warner and Dylan Scannell, planting trees at St Aidan’s Community School.

“I’d like to give a special thanks to the many volunteers from Microsoft and the local community for their generous contribution to the initiative this year and look forward to seeing the positive impact of their work on the local community well into

the future.”

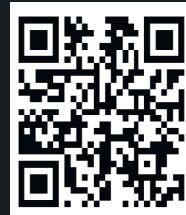
Earlier this year, the company unveiled the Microsoft Community Fund for South Dublin, which will provide €100,000 in funding for local groups near the company’s data centre campus in Clondalkin.

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A celebration of collaboration

Showcase Day brings 16 business and community together



Angelina Sheridan and Hope Hayes (Flaunta)



Kayla Walsh and Sophie Doran St Aidan's CS



Serena Grimes (Snugi Knitwear) and Eva Cashmere

AT NETWORK Ireland Dublin, our dream has always been to create an environment where collaboration isn't just encouraged—it's invigorating. And last week, we lived that dream together at Showcase Day.

Network Ireland Dublin president Caraldine Nolan was one of partnerships and communities and together Network Ireland Dublin with the Local Enterprise Office South Dublin and hosted by TU Dublin Enterprise Engagement.

"We proudly brought together 16 incredible businesses for a showcase that highlighted the vast spectrum of innovation and resilience within our community. From trademarks to handbags, every business that participated represented the passion and entrepreneurial spirit that drives our local economy forward," said Caraldine.

"However, our day was about more than just business—it was about community. We were thrilled to welcome the Inspiring the Future group, offering them a firsthand glimpse into the diverse and dynamic world of entrepreneurship. The message was clear: business isn't one-size-fits-all. It's a community where everyone has a place and a role to play.

"With that same spirit of collaboration and giving back, we also launched our first fundraiser of the year for Respond Housing. Housing security is fundamental, and through our efforts, we aim to support those who need it most.

"Network Ireland Dublin thrives because of the dedicated individuals who pour their time and energy into making these events successful".

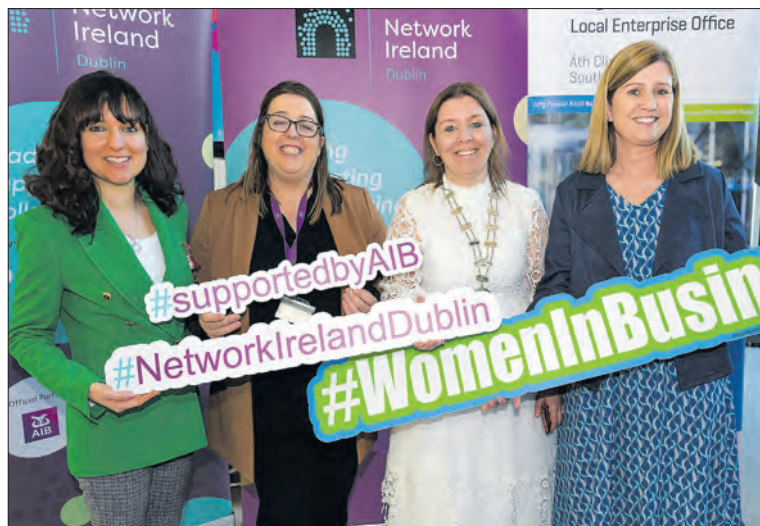
During the showcase event Enterprise Ireland's New Frontiers Programme Phase 2 in Tallaght is now open for applications, as announced by Laura Enache.

For budding entrepreneurs looking to take their business to the next level, this is a fantastic opportunity.

And another milestone worth celebrating—Tallaght Priory Market was officially announced, bringing 130 new jobs to our community.

This is an incredible boost for local employment and a testament to the growth and potential of our business ecosystem.

Finally, the moment we've all been waiting for—the Network Ireland Dublin Awards are now officially open! This is our chance to shine a light on the remarkable women in business who are making a difference.



Laura Enache (TU Dublin), Linda Bermingham (AIB Lucan), Caraldine Nolan (Network Dublin President) and Sandra Hickey (LEO)



Alison Furney (Adept Accounting Services), Samantha Forrest (Fussy Food Plates), Hazel Burkan (The Home Reset), Eimear Fahy (Keeping Your Social.ie) and Vice President (Beauty Network Ireland)



Lisa Simpson (Work IQ) and Lynette O'Hara (Orchid Media)



Jennifer McConnell (Lurig), Olga Hutchinson (The Wizard of Crochelan), Caraldine Nolan (Network President), Eimear Fahy (Vice President Deputy Network Ireland), Donna McGee (www.DonnaMcGee.ie Fine Art), Sandra Hickey (LEO), Amanda Delaney (We Can & We Will Business) and Roxanne Tattan (Speak Your Mind Maria)

WorkIQ hosts vibrant launch event for Eva Kelly's Art Scarf

LAST WEEK, WorkIQ was abuzz with excitement as they hosted a special gathering to unveil the latest creation from renowned Dublin-based illustrator, Eva Kelly. The event marked the official launch of Eva's Art Scarf, a stunning piece that beautifully blends artistic expression with wearable fashion.

Eva Kelly, a professional illustrator and member of Illustrators Ireland, is known for her unique blend of hand-drawn ink and brush, printmaking, and digital collage. Her work is deeply rooted in storytelling, community, and connection, which was evident in the launch of her latest project, "Bold Women."

"Bold Women" is an illustration project designed for International Women's Day 2025, celebrating Irish women from literature, politics, science, mythology, and activism. The scarves mark the contributions of women who have shaped the fabric of Irish identity from revolutionary times to contemporary Ireland. The background texture of the scarves is made from rubbings of old stones and carvings at the Hill of Tara, reflecting Ireland's rich history and adding a spiritual quality. Each scarf features elements of Earth, Fire, Water, and Air, symbolized by animals: Bull (Earth), Salmon (Water), Raven (Air), and Stag (Fire). These elements represent the strength, resilience, and beauty of women.

The launch event was attended by a diverse group of art enthusiasts, Eva's students, and members of the local community.

Guests were treated to an evening of creativity and inspiration, with Eva herself present to share insights into her artistic process and the inspiration behind the scarf.

Another highlight of the evening was a talk by

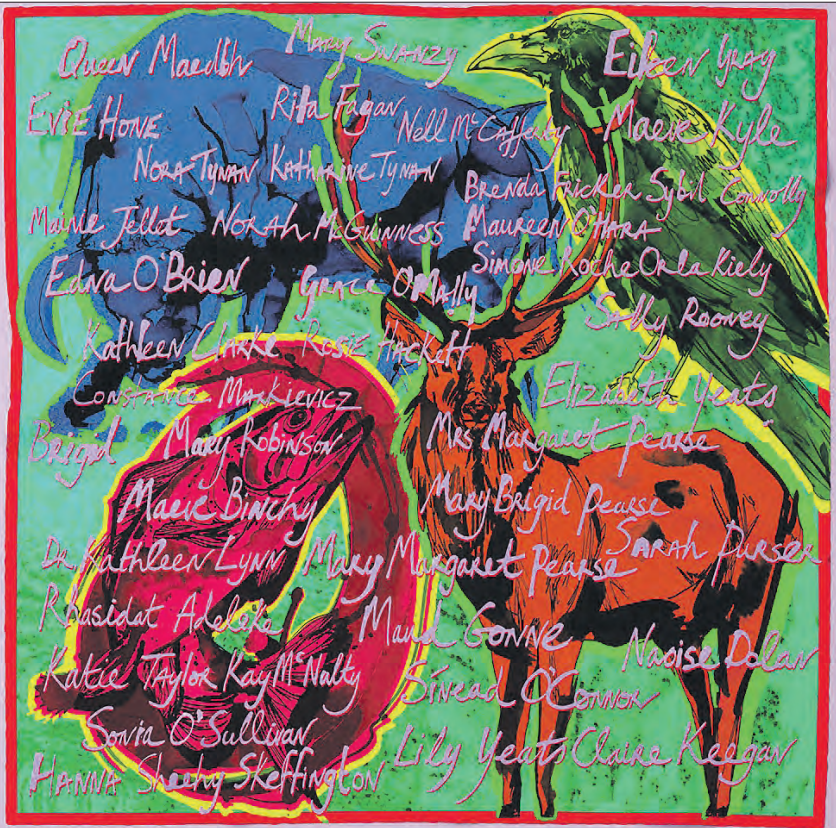
historian and author Liz Gillis, who shared fascinating stories about the Irish women featured on the scarf, adding depth and context to Eva's artwork. The collaboration with WorkIQ began with a conversation at their free business event Seed to Success, highlighting the

importance of supporting the business side of creative practices. The event was kindly sponsored by South Dublin Libraries and WorkIQ with special thanks to Cliodhna O Byrne, Deputy CEO South Dublin Chamber for opening the event.



From left to right: Sile Coleman, South Dublin Libraries, Lisa Simpson, WorkIQ, Cliodhna O Byrne, Deputy CEO South Dublin Chamber, Eva Kelly, Artist and Liz Gillis, Historian and author

Below: Limited edition silk scarf of 50 / 100% Silk twill / Size 90cm x 90cm/ Hand hemmed finish/ Printed in Spain Scarfs and prints available on www.evakellyillustration.com



Dublin and Dún Laoghaire Education and Training Board invites applications for the following permanent post:

Caretaker (full time)
Lucan Community College, Esker Drive,
Lucan, Co. Dublin, K78TF67

The Caretaker shall provide an efficient and effective range of caretaking, cleaning/maintenance and security service. He/she will be flexible with excellent interpersonal and organisational skills.

All appointments are to Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board (DDLETB) and the successful candidate will be assigned in the first instance to the school above.

Application form and job description is available from the Recruitment Section, e-mail apply@ddletb.ie
The latest date for receipt of applications is 4:00 p.m. Friday 11th April 2025. Shortlisting may take place.
Late applications will not be considered.

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info@eurocoachhire.ie**

Tá iarratais á lorg ag Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Bhaile Átha Cliath agus Dhún Laoghaire don phost buan seo a leanas:

Airíoch (lánaimseartha)
Coláiste Pobail Leamhcáin, Céide na hEiscir,
Leamhcáin, Contae Átha Cliath, K78TF67

Beidh sé/sí solúbtha le sárscileanna idirphearsánta agus eagrúcháin. Is chuig Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Bhaile Átha Cliath agus Dhún Laoghaire (BOOACDL) a dhéantar gach ceapachán agus sannfar an t-iarrthóir rathúil ar an scoil thuas ar an gcéad dul síos.

Tá foirm iarratais agus cur síos an post ar fáil ón Rannóg Earcaíochta, seol r-phost chuig iarratas@ddletb.ie Is é an dáta is déanaí chun iarratais a fháil ná 4:00 i.n. Dé hAoine 11 Aibreán 2025. Féadfar gearrliostú a dhéanamh. Ní bhreithneofar iarratais ar dhéanacha.

Is fostóir comhdheiseanna é Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Bhaile Átha Cliath agus Dhún Laoghaire

PLANS: An artist impression of the development at the old Bank of Ireland site in Tallaght Village



Plans for 38 apartments on village site

Old Bank of Ireland site in village is subject of plans for five-storey apartment block

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

PLANS have been lodged for 38 apartments on the Main Road in Tallaght Village at the site known as Bruce House. The site was once home to Bank of Ireland for close to four decades, until moving to a

new premises further up Main Road around 2010. Applicant Irish Residential Properties REIT PLC intends to apply for planning permission for development on the c.0.34 for the construction of a six-storey residential building comprising enclosed bicycle parking spaces, plant, bin stores, and an ESB substation at the ground floor level. The plans include 38 apartment units at the

ground to fifth floor levels, including four one-bedroom units, 34 two-bedroom units, with private balconies/terraces. The development will also include the provision of car and bicycle parking spaces in the existing basement level of the adjoining mixed-use Priorsgate scheme to the south and west. Vehicle and pedestrian access to the site is provided from Old Blessington Road and the

development will include the removal of the existing boundary treatment between the Priorsgate development and the subject site to facilitate a pedestrian connection between the existing and proposed residential scheme. The development will also include piped infrastructure and ducting; roof plant including lift overrun; changes in level; attenuation areas; site landscaping; communal open space including a children's play space.

Housing prices rose by an average 3.7% in first three months

HOUSING prices nationally rose by an average of 3.7% during the first three months of 2025, according to the latest Daft.ie House Price Report released by Ireland's largest property website, Daft.ie. The typical listed price nationwide in the first quarter of the year was €346,048, 11.6% higher than a year previously and 35% higher than at the onset of the covid19 pandemic. The current rate of inflation in the market is the second-highest seen in the ten years since mortgage market rules were introduced, exceeded only by the spike in prices seen in early 2017 (11.7% year-on-year then, vs

11.6% year-on-year now). The surge in inflation is being driven by Dublin and the rest of Leinster. Inflation in the capital is now running at 12.2%, the highest rate in eight years, while in the rest of Leinster, the annual increase in prices is 13.4%, also the highest since early 2017. Galway (13.2%) and Limerick cities (13.8%) are also seeing rates of inflation above the national average, while the rate seen in Waterford (11.2%) and Cork cities (9.2%) is slower. As before, the sharp increases in prices around the country are happening at a time of very tight supply. The number of second-hand homes available to buy

nationwide on March 1st stood at less than 9,300. This is down 17% year-on-year and also marks the lowest total ever recorded in a series extending back to January 2007. The three months since the start of the year mark the only three months since 2007 where there have been fewer than 10,000 second-hand homes available to buy. "This latest Daft.ie House Price Report shows that the surge in inflation is not yet over. The ultimate solution remains unchanged from that which was needed a decade ago: a lot more homes need to be built, so that the country's housing is adequate for its households.



REPORT: The map highlights the increase in house prices

436 apartments are planned for Longmile Road industrial estate

Included in the plans is the demolition of the existing commercial industrial buildings

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

PLANS have been lodged for 436 apartments at an Industrial Estate on the Longmile Road.

Applicant Watfore Limited lodged the application for the apartments which is located at Units 16-21A-B, Parkmore Industrial Estate, Longmile Road, Walkinstown.

Included in the plans is the development is the demolition of existing commercial/ industrial buildings on site and the provision of a mixed use, residential and commercial/employment development.

The proposals included over blocks ranging in height from 6 to 10 storeys and made up of 436 no. apartments, all with individual private open spaces.

The plans consisting of two studios, 180 one-beds, 158 two-beds and 96 three-beds.

The development will also include internal residential amenity spaces, community library, creche, and four commercial/employment units comprising two office/co-working units, medical centre with ancillary pharmacy and café.

Block A will be 9 to 10 storeys in height and will

provide 81 residential units while Block B will be 9 to 10 storeys in height and will provide 137 residential units.

Block C is over 8 to 10 storeys in height and will provide 85 residential units while Block D is 6 storeys in height and will provide 133 residential units.

Upgrades to the western side of the Parkmore Estate Road and along the Long Mile Road and Robinhood Road are included to provide a variety of pedestrian/ cyclist access points to the development and with vehicular access provided from the Estate Road with associated upgrades to the Estate entrance.

The development will also include 173 car parking spaces within two undercroft car parks on site and including 12 parking spaces, for the commercial units, along the Long Mile Road frontage.

There is also a revision of 1,040 cycle parking spaces and a provision of public and communal open spaces, landscaping, boundary treatments, plant areas, waste management areas, and services provision (including ESB substations), and all associated works required to enable this development including connection to the Uisce Eireann network.



APPLICATION: An artist impression of the site on Longmile Road and (inset) the site today on Longmile Road

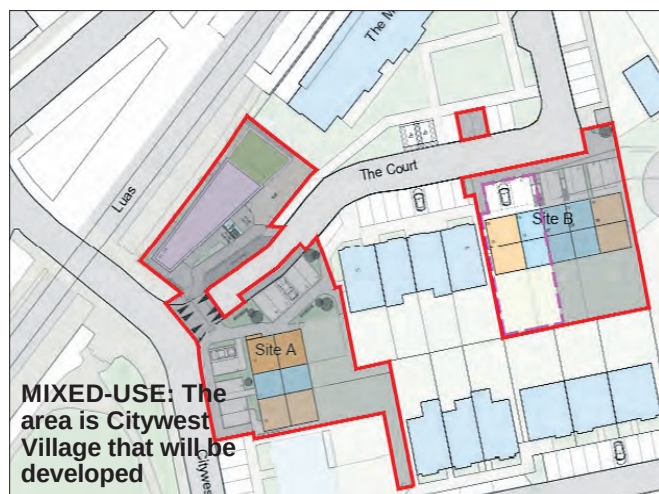
Plans are lodged for mixed-use development in Citywest Village

DEVELOPER Marshall Yards Development Company Limited have lodged an application with South Dublin County Council for sites at The Court and at the corner of The Court and Citywest Village Avenue, Citywest Village in Citywest.

The plans include for development at this site of c. 0.22 hectares at lands.

This application site consists of c. 0.13 hectares, which is principally bounded by the red line rail Luas tracks associated with the Citywest Campus Luas stop to the north/northwest, existing dwelling 19 Citywest Village Avenue to the south, The Mews, Citywest Village residential development and existing dwellings 1 The Court and 4 The Place to the east and Citywest Village Avenue (road) to the west.

The second site measures c. 0.08 hectares, is principally bounded by The Court (road) to the north, existing dwellings numbers 10, 12 and 14 The



MIXED-USE: The area is Citywest Village that will be developed

Place to the south, residential development known as Ard Mor Dale to the east and existing dwelling number 4 The Court to the west; and two existing parking spaces north of The Court road will be allocated to the proposed childcare facility.

The development will consist of the construction of a mixed-

use development comprising 12 residential units, four apartments and eight houses, coffee kiosk and childcare facility.

The apartments, coffee kiosk and childcare facility will be located in a single building arranged across three storeys. The residential units will

comprise of four, one-bedroom apartments, ranging with northeast and southwest facing balconies, four two-bedroom mid-terrace two-storey houses and four three-bedroom end terrace two-storey houses with associated rear private gardens.

The apartment building will contain residential bin and bike storage, a coffee kiosk with separate bin storage and outdoor seating area, a three-classroom childcare facility with associated office, staff, toilet and laundry facilities, an external play area and external bin and bike store serving the childcare facility, all located at ground floor level.

The development will also consist of 17 proposed car parking spaces, two existing spaces allocated to the proposed childcare facility, vehicular drop-off zone serving the childcare facility, dedicated bicycle stores in front gardens serving houses, secure visitor bicycle parking throughout, bin storage, open space.

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E letters

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

Clarity needed as couple slammed with fine for wrap around insulation

Dear Editor:

LEGISLATION has been drafted by People Before Profit-Solidarity in response to the case of a Kilnamanagh couple who paid €16,000 installing an external 'wrap around' insulation on their house, using an SEAI-approved builder - threatened with a €5,000 fine and and/or six months in prison if they fail to remove the external wall insulation.

People Before Profit has drafted the "very simple" two-page Planning And Development

(Exempted Development – External Wall Insulation) Bill, to obviate the necessity for planning permission if certain base criteria are met.

For external wall insulation, householders have to submit an Exemption Declaration Section 5 application, costing €80. A decision follows within four weeks.

The installation of solar panels on domestic properties is exempt from planning permission. There is no longer a limit to the area of solar panels installed on rooftops of homes.

Solar installations can cover the entire roof of a house.

"The idea that you would face thousands of euros in fines or potential imprisonment for simply getting external wall insulation on your house is obviously outrageous," TD Paul Murphy said.

"It proposes an exemption from planning permission for external wall insulation except in some cases, such as where it is a protected structure and it is located in an architectural conservation area."

The decision by Dublin City Council to deny permission for 265 build-to-sell apartments and 19 houses in Terenure on the basis of inadequate parking facilities is unsettling. Investigations are increasingly unearthing "systemic problems" which contrasts with the overarching goals of government policy. Planning and house insulation is a 'grey area'.

Yours sincerely,
Gerry Coughlan, Kilnamanagh.



We can build on this very successful day

Dear Editor,

TALLAGHT Community Council would like to congratulate SDCC for taking a strategic lead in bringing the Tallaght parade back for the community last week. Tallaght village was simply buzzing with excitement as thousands of the community, young and old, gathered to watch the Tallaght Athletics Club 5 km road race and then the proud groups walk down our Main Street in the St

Patrick's Day parade after a long hiatus. Tallaght Person of the Year 2024, Glenda Murphy Smullen was thrilled and honoured to be asked to start the 5 km road race, with Daniel's Voyage leading the race and signalling Tallaght's support of inclusion very clearly.

As the organisers of Tallafest for a decade and now the Tidy Towns campaign in the village, we understand the focus, energy and commitment required to make an event like this

happen. We know it takes a village, so kudos to all who supported the road closures and the months of organising it took to hold the successful afternoon events in our village.

TCC are strong advocates of breathing life into the village. Its survival depends on strong reasons for people to visit and spend time in the village.

We urge SDCC, decision makers and business leaders to build on this successful day in the village. We need to

see more balanced developments in our historic village, more community amenities located here and community events held in Tallaght village.

We know the community are already looking forward to St Patrick's Day in our village in 2026.

Yours sincerely,
Liz Kennedy,
Volunteer Chair,
Tallaght Community Council

Tributes paid to flamboyant Formula One deal maker Eddie Jordan

A eagarthóir

TRIBUTES have been paid to Drummer, Bank clerk, Kart Champion and Formula One owner Eddie Jordan, aged 76 who passed away peacefully in Cape town, after succumbing to prostate cancer.

In his early days he sold salmon from the back of a van in Dublin and his fast, facetious sales talk, he mastered there stood him in good stead throughout his motoring career.

The esteemed Eddie Jordan (EJ) was a well-respected figure who defied the odds to bring his independent Jordan team into the sport and progress to achieve notable successes including four Grand Prix wins, one for Damon Hill and giving Michael Schumacher his first seat in F1.

In the summer of 1970 during a banking strike in Dublin, EJ stayed in Guernsey as was unable to labour as a bank clerk. On return to Dublin, he won the Kart championship in 1971.

But he suffered an accident in Formula 3 in 1976 and in 1979, turned to team ownership. At Eddie Jordan Racing, he enjoyed success in Formula 3000 and F3, with Johnny Herbert winning the British F3 title in 1987.

He started a swathe of drivers, including Damon Hill, Jean Alesi, Eddie Irvine and Martin Brundle. His F1 team had 12 drivers in 1987 reaching 50, after setting his sights on F1 racing in 1991.

Germany's multiple world champion

Michael Schumacher made his debut alongside the Belgian Grand Prix. His brother Ralf raced for the team in 1997 and 1998.

An outspoken TV pundit for BBC Sport after the corporation secured rights to Formula One, EJ reported on big news stories.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam,
May he rest in peace.
Is mise Gearoid O'Cochlain, Cill na Manach

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The Shadow of a Gunman

PRODUCTION OF SEAN O'CASEY'S PLAY IS A TALE OF LOYALTY AND LOVE

By **Ryan Butler**
news@echo.ie

RATHFARNHAM Theatre Group (RTG) is a dynamic, innovative and creative local theatre group, established and running for over 30 years.

Their membership brings together people of all ages who are passionate about the value of producing quality theatrical productions for audiences in Rathfarnham and neighbouring communities.

RTG produces two shows a year in the DLR Mill Theatre Dundrum, and additional productions in a community venue in Rathfarnham, such as the Pearse Museum or Rathfarnham Castle.

They pride themselves on representing all genres of theatre and in showcasing both Irish and international playwrights.

The group will be presenting a production of Sean O'Casey's 'The Shadow of a Gunman', which is a gripping tale of loyalty, love, survival and sacrifice, and has wide appeal.

This week, *The Echo* sat down with Carmel Cullen through group PRO Deirdre Dunlevy to discuss the production, which performs in the dlr Mill Theatre in Dundrum from April 1 - 5 at 7:30pm; tickets are available from the Mill website.

What made you want to adapt this story?

I love Sean O'Casey's work. I was drawn to the play's themes and characters and the fact that O'Casey is known for creating complex and strong roles for female actors.

Shadow of a Gunman still appeals to audiences today, as it explores themes of identity and conflict which are so relevant today. The characters reflect a deep range of emotions, from despair to hope, and their struggles and aspirations can resonate with us.

Most of his characters are facing dire circumstances of poverty and political upheaval, and yet O'Casey can still infuse moments of humour and wit. His use of dark humour can lighten heavy themes, without detracting from the poverty, violence and the political and social background.

I also wanted to direct this play, as it was the only one of O'Casey's 'Dublin trilogy' that RTG had not yet performed.

How long has the idea been in the works?

We started working on the play in late December 2024, researching the background around the play and character development.

It is set in 1920 during the war of independence and based in a tenement slum. We have an intensive rehearsal schedule, and there are a lot of members involved behind the scenes too, with a lot of work needed to

produce a historical play and source authentic props and costumes, design and build sets, and create the world of Davoren, Shields, Minnie Powell and their neighbours.

Have there been any challenges or highlights working on it?

The challenge of producing any play set in the past is recreating the reality of the times through costumes, props and set design.

We want our audiences to be drawn into the tenement room and feel its raw authenticity.

Part of our rehearsals and preparations involved the cast and crew going to the tenement museum in town (Henrietta Street) to get an understanding and appreciation for what life would have been like for our characters, how their home (our set) would be and to get a feel for the conditions so that as a group we could experience life at that time in some way.

What is next for the group after this, and how would you summarise 2024 for the group?

RTG has showcased both Irish and international playwrights, and we strive to produce our plays to the highest professional level.

RTG is a local theatre group founded in 1991 with a membership of over 50 people from all ages (over 17 years) and backgrounds.

We produce two shows a year in the DLR Mill Theatre Dundrum, with additional shows in various community venues in Rathfarnham.

Who would you like to thank?

I've been so lucky to work with a talented and committed cast and crew who have made the whole process tremendously fulfilling and enjoyable.

All RTG members are amateurs, squeezing their commitment to the group into their already busy lives.

We design and paint our own sets, source our props and costumes and do our own advertising.

The whole process involves three months of hard work and commitment from cast and crew.

We are very thankful to our sponsors and friends for their continued support of local theatre, the Mill theatre for providing such a fantastic professional environment for us to perform.

And we are, of course, very thankful to our audiences, and hope that they enjoy the play and our performances as much as we enjoyed the whole process!

Our upcoming play, 'Shadow of a Gunman', will be performed in the dlr Mill Theatre from April 1 to 5; tickets are available from the Mill website.



Rathfarnham Theatre Group presents

The Shadow of a Gunman

by Sean O'Casey directed by Carmel Cullen
with kind permission of Concord Theatricals

STRONG ROLES: The Shadow of a Gunman is coming to the Mill theatre and inset: director Carmel Cullen

Tue 1 to Sat 5 April, 7.30 pm
dlr Mill Theatre, Dundrum
Tickets €20/€18
Booking 01-2969340
www.milltheatre.ie

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THE CIVIC



“ It needs only a good bottle of wine for a roast chicken to be transformed into a banquet.

Gerald Asher

Food with passion

PERFECT ROAST CHICKEN AND ROAST POTATOES

by **john paul kennedy** /jpkennedy.kennedy@gmail.com



This week, we're diving into the art of making the perfect roast chicken and roast potatoes. This classic combination is a favourite for many, and with good reason. The succulent, juicy chicken paired with crispy, golden roast potatoes is a match made in culinary Sunday roast heaven. I like to make a roast chicken at least once a month and I always use the chicken carcass to make homemade chicken stock, great for risottos and homemade soups. In this post, I'll guide you through each step to ensure your roast chicken is tender and flavourful, and your potatoes are perfectly crispy on the outside and fluffy on the inside. Whether you're cooking for a family dinner or a special occasion, this recipe is sure to impress. So, let's get started and bring some mouth-watering goodness to your table!

Ingredients:

one large organic chicken
3 tablespoons of rapeseed oil
5 springs of fresh Thyme
250g homemade stuffing (optional)
4 carrots peeled and chopped
2 parsnips peeled and chopped
sea salt & freshly ground black pepper

perfect Roast potatoes:

1 kg potatoes (Maris piper or rooster are great choices)
4 tbsp olive oil or goose fat/ duck fat
2-3 sprigs of fresh rosemary, chopped
2 tablespoons of polenta (optional/ if you have it)
salt and pepper to taste



john paul Kennedy is a self-Taught cook and an avid fan of collecting cookery books with a passion for good old-fashioned home cooking. his passion for proper family cooking stems from his two grandmothers, who were both excellent cooks, one of whom was a Trained chef. **jp** promises to bring us plenty of family-inspired recipes and tasty treats while showing us how to get the basics right

Method Roast Chicken:

1. preheat your oven to 200°C for 15 minutes and remove the chicken from the fridge and allow to come to room temperature. never put cold meat into a hot oven.
2. pat dry the chicken with kitchen paper and place into a ovenproof baking dish.
3. peel and chop the carrots and parsnips and place around the chicken.
4. drizzle everything with the oil, smearing the chicken to ensure evenly coated and it roasts lovely and golden.
5. is stuffing your chicken, loosely stuff the cavity, don't overpack it as it won't allow the air to circulate and cook the chicken evenly.
6. garnish with lots of fresh thyme and season generously with salt and pepper and pop into the oven and roast for 1 hour 45 minutes. if stuffing, allow an extra 15 minutes. once cooked cover with tinfoil and allow to rest for 15 minutes to allow the juices to flow back through the meat. This will give you a super juicy chicken.
7. serve with your favourite roast accompaniments, including my perfect roast potatoes, lashings of gravy and enjoy.

Method Roast potatoes:

1. preheat the oven: preheat your oven to 220°C (425°F).
2. prepare the potatoes: peel the potatoes and cut them into evenly sized chunks. place them in a large pot of cold, salted water.
3. parboil the potatoes: bring the pot to a boil and let the potatoes cook for about 10 minutes, or until they are just starting to soften. drain the potatoes well and let them sit in the colander for to dry out and cool completely.
4. rough up the edges: shake the colander gently to rough up the edges of the potatoes. This will help them get extra crispy in the oven.
5. heat the oil: while the potatoes are drying, pour the olive oil or goose/ duck fat into a large roasting tin and place it in the oven to heat up. The oil should be very hot before you add the potatoes. This will take about 10 minutes.
6. roast the potatoes: carefully add the potatoes to the hot oil in the roasting tin. Turn them to coat in the oil, then spread them out in a single layer. add the chopped rosemary, and season generously with salt and pepper.
7. bake: roast the potatoes in the preheated oven for about 45-50 minutes, turning them halfway through, until they are golden brown and crispy.
8. serve: remove the potatoes, roasted veg from the oven and serve immediately, along with some greens like petit pois or broccoli.

I hope you enjoy making and savouring this delightful roast chicken and roast potatoes recipe. it's a timeless dish that brings warmth and comfort to any meal. don't forget to save the chicken carcass for homemade stock—it's a fantastic way to add depth and flavour to your soups and risottos! happy cooking

Contact
jp on:

Twitter: @Jpkcooking
Email: Jpkcooking@gmail.com
Instagram: jpkennedy.kennedy

Most Entertaining Performance

AWARD SECURED BY CLONDALKIN YOUTH BAND

By **Ryan Butler**
news@echo.ie

"WE never expected to win anything in the Dublin parade, as the calibre of bands performing was outstanding," said Neal Christopher, Band Director of Clondalkin Youth Band.

CYB has once again demonstrated their exceptional talent and showmanship, securing the Most Entertaining Performance award at the 53rd International Band Championships in Limerick on March 16.

This was followed by the Judges' Discretionary Award at the Dublin St Patrick's Day Parade.

These prestigious accolades highlight the band's ability to captivate audiences with their dynamic performances and high-energy musical displays.

The Limerick International Band Championships provided bands from across the USA and Ireland an opportunity to compete at the highest level while also fostering camaraderie and fun.

Winning the Most Entertaining Performance award was a tremendous honour for the band, given the incredibly high standard of competition.

However, it came as no surprise to the enthusiastic spectators who enjoyed singing along as the band marched, played, and danced through the streets of Limerick.

The energy and passion displayed by the musicians made them a crowd favourite.

The following day, the band had the immense honour of leading the St Patrick's Day Parade in

Dublin, a momentous occasion in their history.

All performers had to be in their designated spots two hours before the parade began, providing a fantastic opportunity to interact with other bands from around the world.

Band members were able to play for one another and exchange experiences, further enriching their St Patrick's Day Festival experience.

"It was later in the day, after we had completed the Dublin parade and performed in the Clondalkin parade, that we found out we had won," continues Neal.

The Judges' Discretionary Award is a special accolade given to the group that brings something unique and exceptional to the parade.

Their ability to entertain at an exceptionally high level and engage the audience made them a standout in this year's celebration.

Adding to the excitement of the weekend, the band also revealed their new uniforms, which have been incredibly well received by fans and supporters.

Reflecting on the eventful weekend, the band extended their gratitude to all who supported them.

"Thank you to everyone who clapped, sang, and cheered with us in Limerick, Dublin, and Clondalkin. Your support means the world to us."

With two major awards under their belt and a successful unveiling of their new look, the Clondalkin Youth Band continues to establish itself as one of Ireland's most outstanding and entertaining musical ensembles.

Congratulations to all involved!



AWARD: Clondalkin Youth Band in their new uniforms

Born To Love You

TAYLOR D RELEASES LATEST SINGLE

By **Ryan Butler**
news@echo.ie

"THE inspiration for this song came from something simple — a friendship bracelet," explains Clondalkin-born indie pop-rock artist Taylor D.

Taylor is set to light up the music scene with the release of her latest single, 'Born To Love You,' on March 26.

Big news for Taylor! She's just been named Today FM's Artist to Watch in 2025—and the excitement doesn't stop there.

The station also handpicked her to open the main stage at Whelan's for the highly anticipated Dec Pierce's Block Rockin Beats event.

It's a huge recognition of her talent, and a sign of the big things ahead! Keep an eye on Taylor, because 2025 is definitely going to be her year.

In addition to this new single, get ready for an unforgettable night as Taylor takes the stage for her very

first headline show at the legendary Whelan's Dublin on April 30.

This exciting performance marks a major milestone — it will be the first time Taylor performs live with a full band backing her.

"I'm so excited — this is the start of a new era," says



Taylor.

"My sound has completely evolved from teen pop to a more mature, bold sound that I can't wait to share."

Taylor and her talented bandmates met while studying at BIMM music college in Dublin, where they're all honing their skills in commercial and modern music.

The night will also feature performances from BIMM's own rising stars, Barra Donovan and Ella Marie Cullen, as the perfect support to what promises to be a killer set.

Grab your tickets now at whelanslive.com for only €7 — "That's cheaper than a pint in most Dublin City pubs!" laughs Taylor.

Rehearsing for this gig has been Taylor's "absolute favourite" project so far.

For this gig, Taylor would like to thank one of her college lecturers, as well as her bandmates.

Don't miss this chance to be part of an exciting new chapter in Taylor's musical journey.

MOTHER'S DAY CABARET SHOW

SUNDAY MARCH 30TH

STARRING

LAURIE HARTZ

WITH GUEST

DAME STUFFY

FOLLOWED BY DJ

€60pp CARVERY MAIN COURSE
DESSERT & TEA / COFFEE

DOORS OPEN 2PM. SHOW 4PM - 8PM
TICKETS AVAILABLE ON EVENTBRITE OR CALL OUR
BOOKING OFFICE ON 01 4593650

New building opened

FOR BOWLING CLUB WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1947

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



Noeleen Kelly, Brenda Daly, Liz Maher, Phyl Kiernan, Robert Toner (President), Gay Mooney, Richard Kelly, Caroline Mullane and Noel Maher

CRUMLIN Bowling Club celebrated the official opening of their new building with a ceremonial roll up on Saturday, reports *Maurice Garvey*.

The club, established in 1947, had been using an old portacabin for changing rooms for many years.

“It did what it said on the tin but there was a bit of wear and tear,” said Gabriel Mooney, a member of the Crumlin Bowling Club executive committee.

Mooney (75) is one of approximately 170 members at the St Mary’s Road club, which is one of the strongest bowling clubs in the Republic of Ireland in the sport.

“We applied for funding in Sports Capital grants and the Lotto. Everything on the application has to be done to the highest standards but it is worth it because this new building is state-of-the art.”

The bowling season starts in earnest in the first week of April and runs until October for clubs like Crumlin who are always in the mix for trophies.

“We are lucky parking in that we have a great understanding with St Mary’s Church, who let people park on match days. Visiting teams know where to go. The church are very good to us.”

Gabriel took up the sport many years ago, and his son Alan got involved, along with other members of the family including his daughter-in-law.

“We have a good mix of members, young and older, men and women. The teams now are mixed,” said Gabriel, who also doubles up as the maintenance guy for the club.

“There is always some maintenance, or deliveries with Guinness and Heineken, electrical work we have contractors for that. I have two other fellas assisting me with that and they are a great help. Anytime I need a keg moved I just ask the young fellas.”

Captain Noeleen Kelly and President Robert Toner led the ceremonial roll ups on Crumlin’s bowling green on Saturday, as part of the celebrations for the new building.



Robert Toner (President) raises the flag



Gay Mooney, Liz Maher and Noel Maher



Robert Toner makes a ceremonial roll up



Crumlin Bowling Club’s new building



Robert Toner (President) cuts the ribbon

The Girls Trip

ZOE MILLER RELEASES HER FOURTEENTH NOVEL

By **Ryan Butler**
news@echo.ie

"THE original spark for The Girls' Trip came about from a recurring nightmare I have."

This is what Knocklyon author Zoe Miller has to say regarding her latest book.

Her fourteenth novel is a suspenseful story about buried secrets and reckless behaviour finally come to light when Kim follows a lead to her estranged sister Anna.

Little does Kim realise she's walking into danger.

'The Girls' Trip' tells the story of a group of women who meet in sun-drenched Ibiza, whose reckless behaviour has dark consequences for them just when they have the most to lose.

It was only when one of Zoe's siblings happened to mention that they too had a similar nightmare that she felt it might be something worth exploring.

Along with that, she wanted to write about how impulsive decisions made in our heedless youth can come back to haunt us.

"Should they define the rest of our lives?" she reflects.

She began work on 'The Girls' Trip' in spring 2023.

She had a first draft complete in

summer 2024, followed by substantial rewrites, then line edits and copy edits.

There were breaks in between the various stages, and she signed off on the proofs in early January 2025.

When asked what her favourite project she has ever worked on is, Zoe responds, "At the moment, 'The Girl's Trip' is closest to my heart because it's my most recent project, and a lot of love and care went into developing all the characters, even the unsavoury ones!"

Even though it's her fourteenth book, the writing of it provided "lots of challenges".

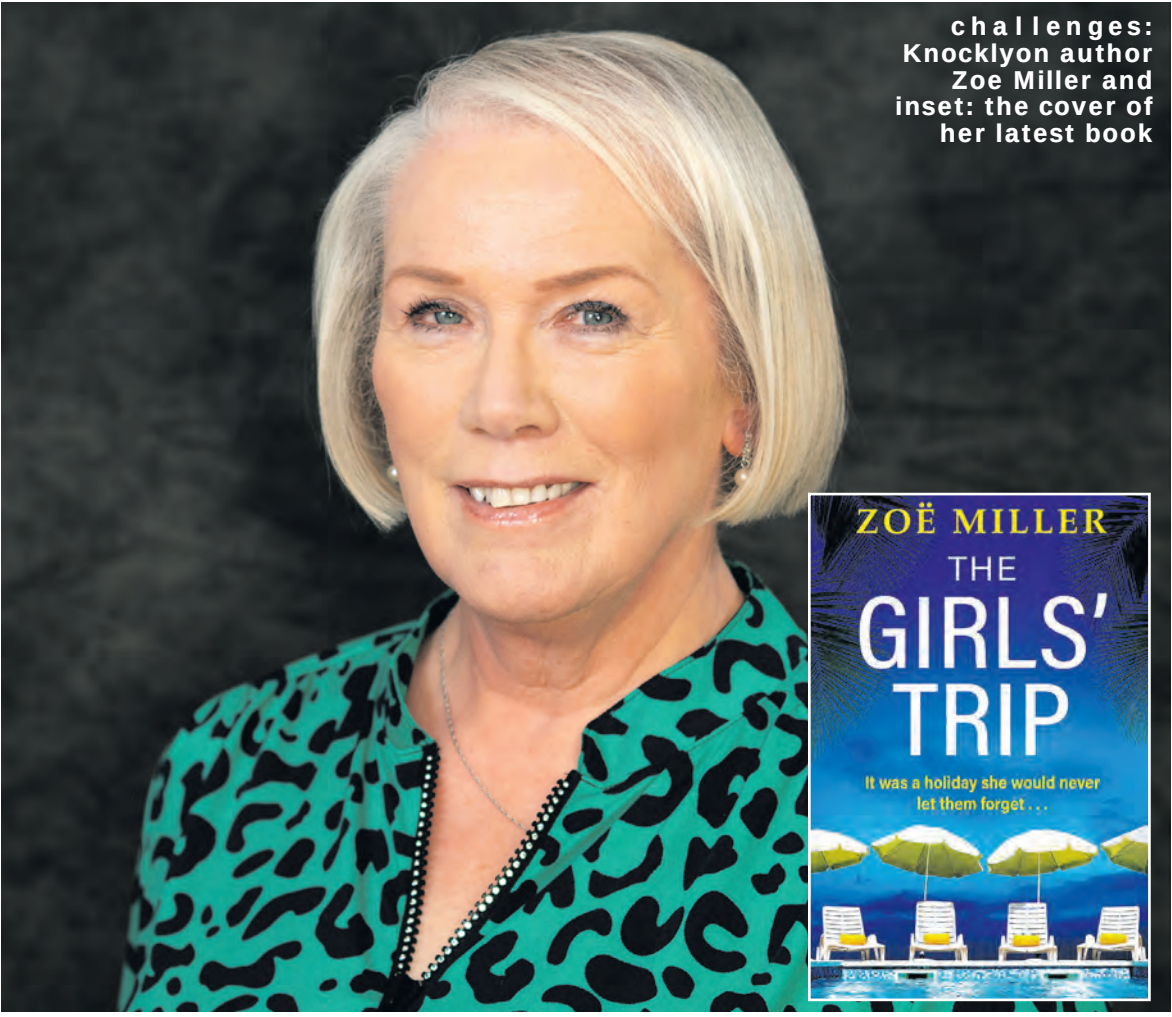
This was partly because it's a little darker than her previous novels.

Zoe chopped and changed the structure several times before finding the most gripping way of telling the story.

She is working on the next book in between promoting 'The Girls' Trip', but it's still in the early stages when anything could happen to the characters.

Zoe would like to thank her family, her editor Ciara Doorley, her line editor, her copy editor, her proofreader, her agent Sheila Crowley, her readers, and the staff at *The Echo*.

'The Girls' Trip' publishes on April 3; be sure to check it out!



challenges:
Knocklyon author
Zoe Miller and
inset: the cover of
her latest book

Love Letters

PHILIP GALVIN WRITES AND PRODUCES DEBUT SINGLE

By **Ryan Butler**
news@echo.ie

"I have always been a DJ, long before I was ever an actor," remarks Clondalkin-born Philip Galvin.

Philip has written and produced his debut single – 'Love Letters' featuring Ukrainian singer Liliia Kysil.

The song is EDM, which is the area of music he is specializing in.

Philip will be known over the

years for his acting roles on television and for his Funny Fair City Voiceover sketches on YouTube with over half a million views.

However, what many don't realise is that he has a background in radio

broadcasting.

He worked at WDAR - 96FM as a DJ from 2009 to 2015, and over the years he has been experimenting with EDM, as it is a passion of his.

He is already certified in advanced broadcasting and has a background as a DJ broadcasting live to Dublin for 5 years, so this is nothing new to him.

What makes Phillip different from other DJs is the fact that he not only produces the music; he writes the actual songs himself.

According to Phillip, 'Love Letters' is a song "about a relationship that has come to an end, but the former lover is trying to get their ex back, but it's too late as they have now moved on..."

For the future, he has already written two albums, as well as a book which he hopes to have completed by the end of this year.

Phillip would like to thank Liliia Kysil for her performance, Salman Saddique for making the lyric video and SADGrapher for creating the cover art.

He would also like to thank PulsFM Sweden for play listing his song in a country that is "renowned for some of the best songwriters in the world".

Finally, he would like to thank The Echo for showing a "continued interest" in his work over the years.

'Love Letters' will be released on YouTube on April 22; be sure to check it out!



FLASH GORDON

NUAIR A D'ORDAIGH M'ATHAIR FLASH
A CHUR CHUN BÁIS AN CHÉAD UAIR SIN,
CHEAP M'É GURB 'MÓR AN TRUA É,
TÁ AGHAIDH DHEAS AIGE".

ACH NÍ BHÁSÓFAI É. BHÍ AN T-EACHTRÁN
SEO AN CHÉAD DUINE AR MHONGÓ SÁSTA
SEASAMH IN AGHAIDH MING LE BLIANTA.

AGUS NÍ FADA GO RAIBH
MÉ AN DARA CEANN.

IS MISE AURA. RIALÁIM IMPIREACHT M'ATHAIR OILC
LE M'FHEAR CÉILE, BARIN. TÁIMID AG IARRAIDH
RUD MAITH A DHEANMAH LEI.

ACH TÁ RUDAÍ INÁR MBEALACH AN T-AM AR FHAD.

TAGANN FLASH AR AIS GO
DTI...AN BOGACH SEO.

ANSIN DÉANTAR
SMIDIRÍNÍ DE BHALLA
AN PHÁLÁIS LE
NEART NA PLÉISCE.

AGUS
ATHRAITEAR
AN COMHRÁ.

BHÍ ORM FLASH A CHU SA PHRÍOSÚN AN UAIR
DHEIREANACH. NÍ RAIBH ACH SÍOCHAIN CHONTUIREACHT
AGAINN. MEASADH GO RAIBH SÉ CIONTACH. NÍ RAIBH
AN DARA ROGHA AGAM, NACH RAIBH?

ANOIS TÁ RÁFLAÍ ÓN TUAISCEART. NÍL CLEAMHNAS IDIR
ÁR DTEAGHLAIGH NIOS MÓ, AGUS TÁ AN BHAINTEACH
FHUAR SIN FRIA AG SLOGADH A FORSAI.

INSÍONN SÉ DOM GO BHFUIL
A FHÍOS AG FRIA GUR CHUIR
MÉ DALLAMULLOS UIRTHI NA
MIONNA SIN Ó SHIN --- GO RAIBH
SÉ COMHPHAIRTEACH
MAR GHEALL ORM.

NÍL A FHÍOS AGAM
AON RUD LE RÁ...

AN CHÉAD CHLÁR EILE:
LÁMH AN IMPIRE.

DAN
SCHKADE
7-15-24

THE PHANTOM

CREATED BY
LEE FALK

THAT MUST BE HOW IT
HAPPENED...

BEFORE THE
GATES OF THE DOMAIN
EXISTED, MY ANCESTOR
WAS MYTHOLOGIZED HERE
AS A TALISMAN.

A GUARDIAN!

HE WAS
IMMORTALIZED BY
THE PRIESTLY CULT THAT
HAD CALLED INTO BEING EVERY
UNDISCOVERED SPECIES DWELLING
IN THE CHAMBER OF THE GODS.

NOW THAT WE'VE
FIGURED THAT OUT,
CAN I PERSUADE YOU
TO ALLOW ME TO
ESCORT YOU TO
THE GATE?

DEVIL WILL LEAD
YOU TO THE STONE LIONS...
YOU COULD WAIT FOR
ME THERE?

DARLING, ISN'T THAT...? PRETTY
MUCH THE SAME OFFER YOU
KEEP MAKING?

THE ONE YOU
KEEP REFUSING,
YES, THAT'S IT.

I DO TRY TO WORD IT A
LITTLE DIFFERENTLY EACH TIME.

IF YOU WON'T LEAVE, I
SUPPOSE YOU MIGHT
AS WELL GET A
LITTLE SLEEP
FOR THE BOTH
OF US.

I THINK I'LL TAKE
THE NIGHT AIR...

...HAVE A
TALK WITH
THAT HULKING
FIGURE IN
THE ALCOVE
ACROSS
THE STREET.

WE'RE GUESTS HERE! THAT'LL BE UP TO HIM,
MRS. WALKER!...

BE NICE!

Tony DePaul
& Jeff Weigel
4-9-23

*FOR THE GHOST WHO WALKS

THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS

POPEYE

BY RANDY MILKOLLAND

WHAT DO
YOU WANNA
BE WHEN YOU GET
YOUR DEGREE,
LINDEN?

DUVALL
COLLEGE
OF THE ARTS

DEBT-FREE
AND HIREABLE.

WHAT DO YOU
WANT TO BE
REALISTICALLY?

PARDON ME.
LINDEN, ISN'T IT?

WHAT DO YOU
WANT, TEMU
SMITHERS?

WHO'S
THIS?

*MARCH 24, 2024

REMEMBER KILPH?
THE GUY WHO TRIED TO
BAN FIGHTING? THIS IS
HIS BUTLER.

OH.
GROSS.

MAY I SPEAK TO
YOU. ONE HENCH
TO ANOTHER?

I'M AN INTERN.
NOT A HENCHMAN.
I'M PAID BETTER.

THAT IS HURTFUL,
BUT LIKELY TRUE.
ANYWAY, PROF. KILPH
WILL SOON BE
RELEASED FROM
PRISON.

WE KNOW SEA HAG
WON'T HELP HIM. BUT
WE WERE HOPING YOU
COULD "PROCURE"
ONE OF HER MAGIC
ITEMS TO USE
AGAINST POPEYE.

STEALING FROM
SEA HAG IS A
DEATH SENTENCE
IF I'M LUCKY.

WE WILL PAY YOU
HANDSOMELY.
ENOUGH TO COVER
STUDENT LOANS.

OH! WELL, WHEN YOU
PUT IT THAT WAY....

GOT ANY DEFECTIVE
MAGIC WEAPONS?

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT A WAND THAT
ALWAYS BACKFIRES AND TURNS THE
USER'S HANDS INTO FROG FLIPPERS?

GREAT WHEN I'M
NOT USING IT!

TASQ-ART

“ Health is like money, we never have a true idea of its value until we lose it.

Josh Billings

Health & Fitness

THE 3W’S OF HEALTH: YOUR SIMPLE GUIDE TO FITNESS SUCCESS

by Ursula Frawley / info@moveitfitness.ie



Feeling overwhelmed by the endless stream of health tips flooding your social media? From influencers to the flashy media, it's hard to know what advice to trust. But here's the good news: you don't need to complicate things. As a fitness instructor and personal trainer, I've found that when it comes to health and fitness, it can all be boiled down to three simple "W's" that will set you on the path to success.

The First W: Walking

Sometimes the simplest things are the most powerful. And when it comes to fitness, walking is by far the most underrated ticket to amazing fitness. It's free, easy, and accessible to almost everyone. Daily walks can dramatically improve your health – from boosting your heart rate to enhancing mental health & clarity. If walking were a pill, it would be flying off the shelves. So, lace up your shoes and make it a habit. Already walking? Great! Challenge yourself to pick up the pace and take your fitness to the next level.

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

The Second W: Water

It's easy to overlook, but hydration is key. Most of us walk around in a state of mild dehydration without even realising it, which can leave us feeling sluggish and tired. A steady intake of water does wonders for your energy, mood, and overall health. Start your day by filling up your water bottle and sip throughout the day. It's one of the simplest habits you can adopt that will make a huge difference.

The Final W: Weights

As we age, our muscles naturally lose strength and density – but you can fight that decline. Strength training is essential to keeping your muscles strong and your body functioning well in daily life. Aim for 2-3 weight training sessions per week, lasting no more than 30 to 40 minutes each. It's all about consistency. Not sure where to start? A personal trainer can design a program tailored to you, ensuring that your muscles stay strong for the long haul.

So, when you feel lost in the noise of conflicting advice and wonder where to start, just remember the 3W's. Walking, Water, and Weights are the foundation of your future health and fitness. Keep it simple and focus on these three powerful pillars to transform your wellness journey.

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.



COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION

PARTY PACKAGE

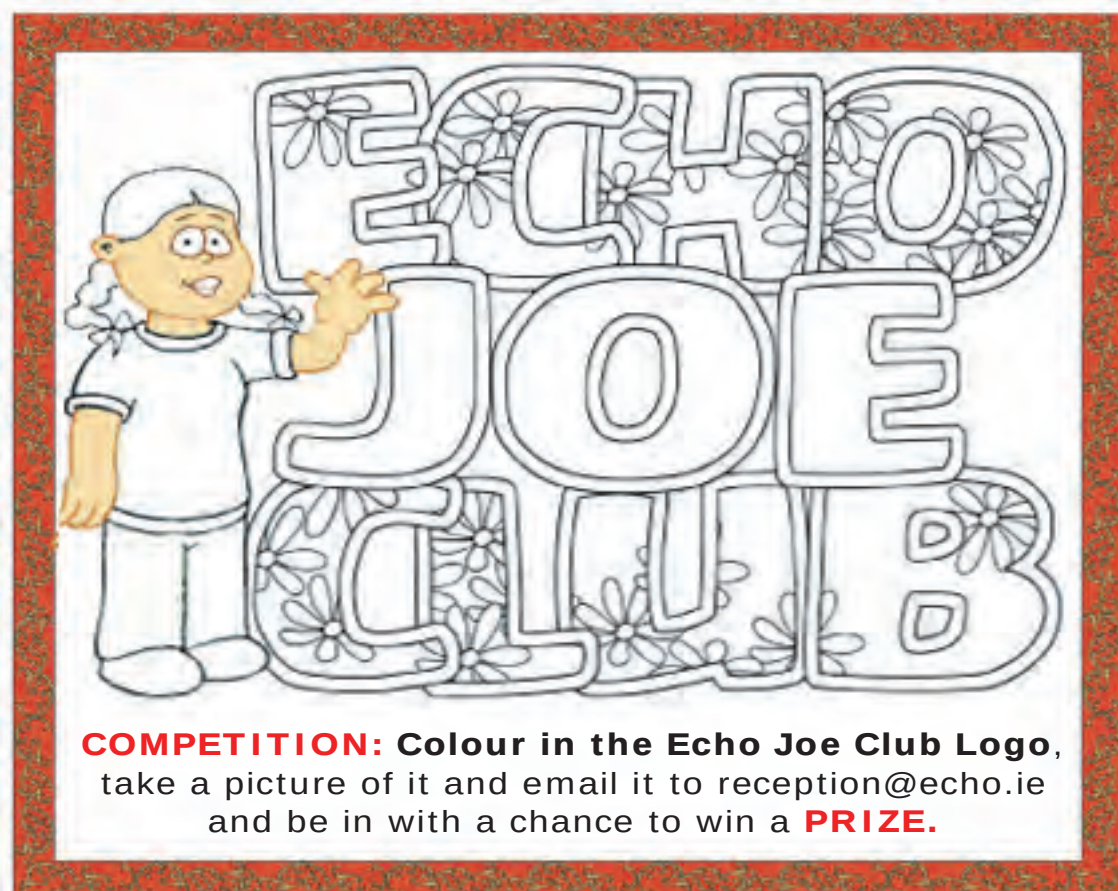
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A Word with Echo So...

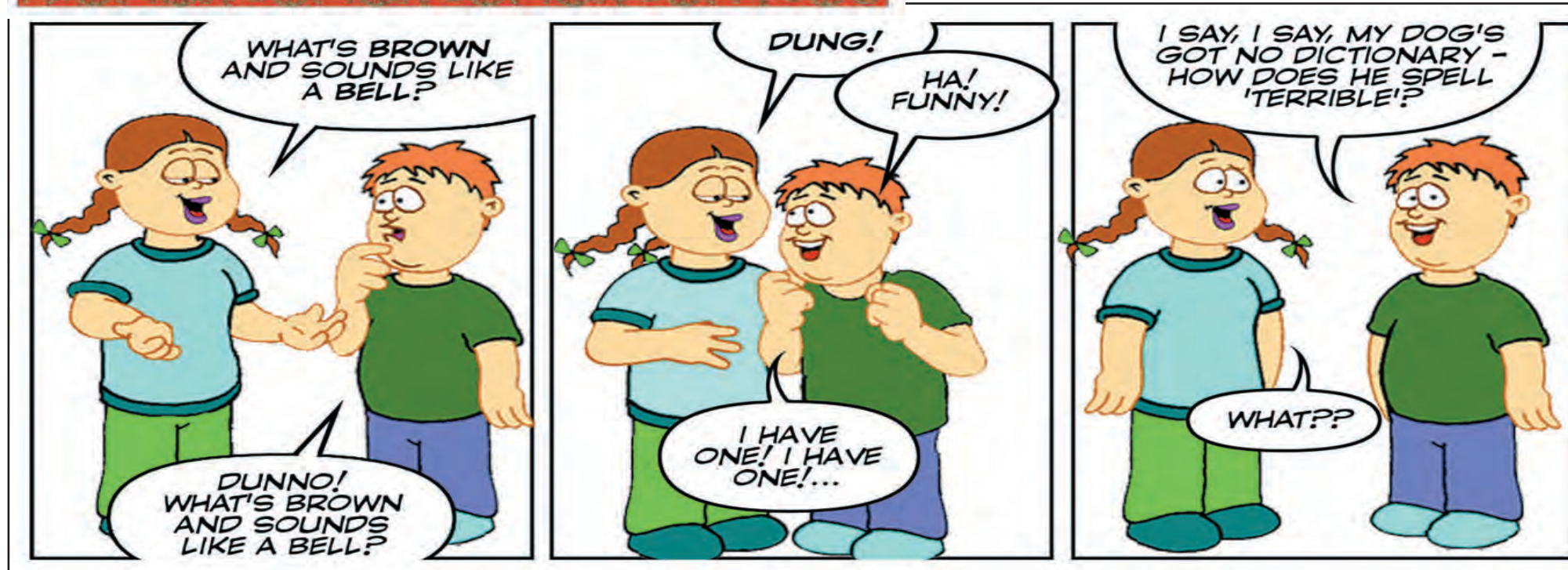
Time Travellers



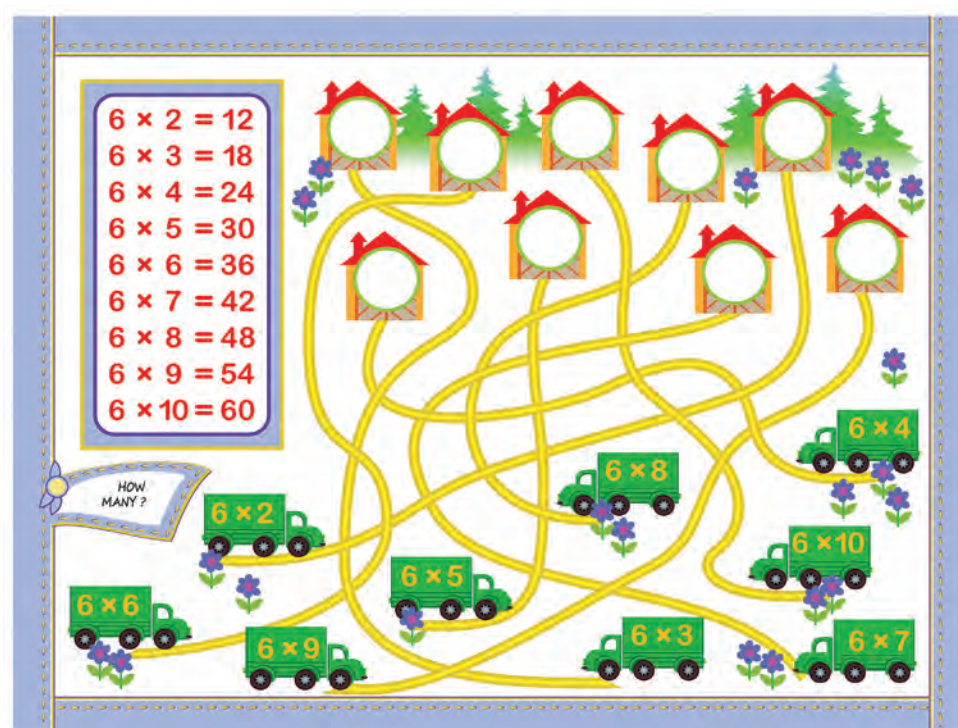
CLUBBERS,
HOW MANY WORDS
(TWO LETTERS OR MORE)
CAN YOU MAKE FROM
THE ABOVE WORDS?

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



Find the two identical pictures



These 2 pages of Awesome, Amazon, Activities

FIND 10 DIFFERENCES



COLOURING BOOK



LETTER LINK LOG-JAM

A MISSING LETTER ON EACH ROW FINISHES ONE WORD AND STARTS THE NEXT...

BUT WHAT ARE THE LETTERS?

LES		OGA
PUN		ELP
BLO		HEN
TAM		VEN
WOM		ELT
SEA		AST
FAI		UST
JAZ		EST

the missing letters: T, Y, W, E, B, M, R, Z.

winner



Oisín Walsh, age 6, is this week's winner of The Echo Joe Club logo colouring competition. Oisín, your prize will be on the way to you soon.

Captains' Drive-In

AT ROADSTONE PITCH AND PUTT CLUB

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



Members of Roadstone Pitch and Putt Club at the Captain's Drive-In



Sabrina Ritchie (Lady Captain), Monica and Paddy O'Connor (Captain)



Sabrina Ritchie, Susan Ritchie and Marion Nolan



Terry, Liam, Paddy and Tom



Ger Holland and Louise Grace

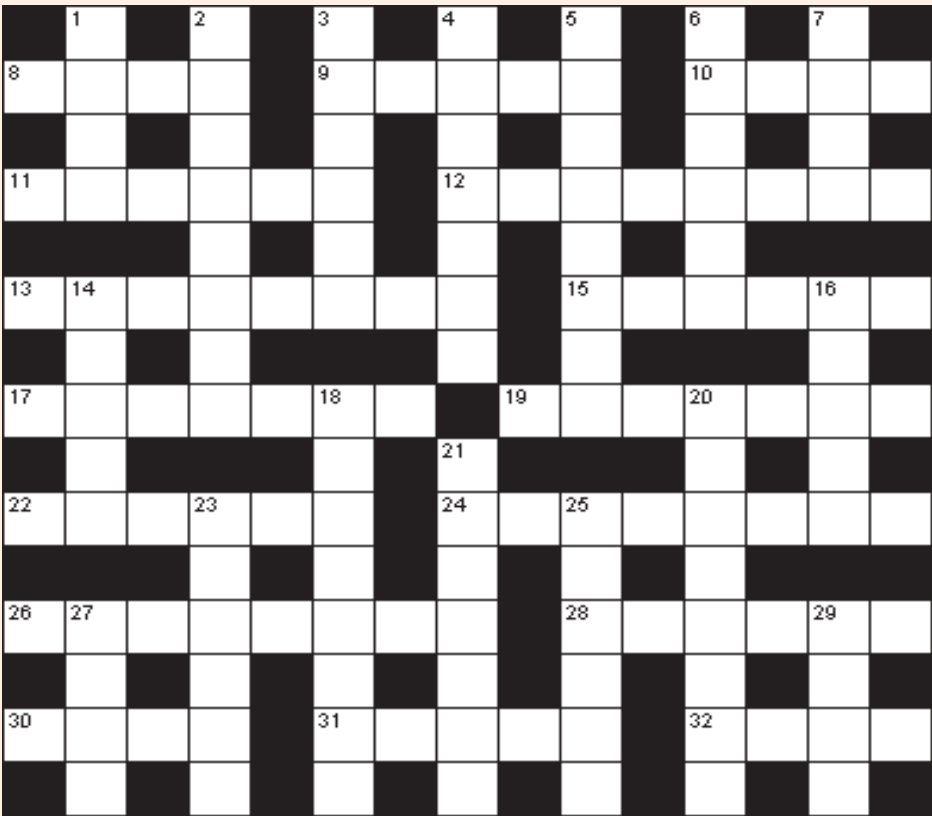


Teresa King, Dymphna Donergan, Sabrina Ritchie, Susan Ritchie, Carol Tracy, and Marion Nolan



Sabrina Rirchie, Louise Grace, Paddy O'Connor and Paddy Gaynor (Chair)

echocrossquiz Q2703



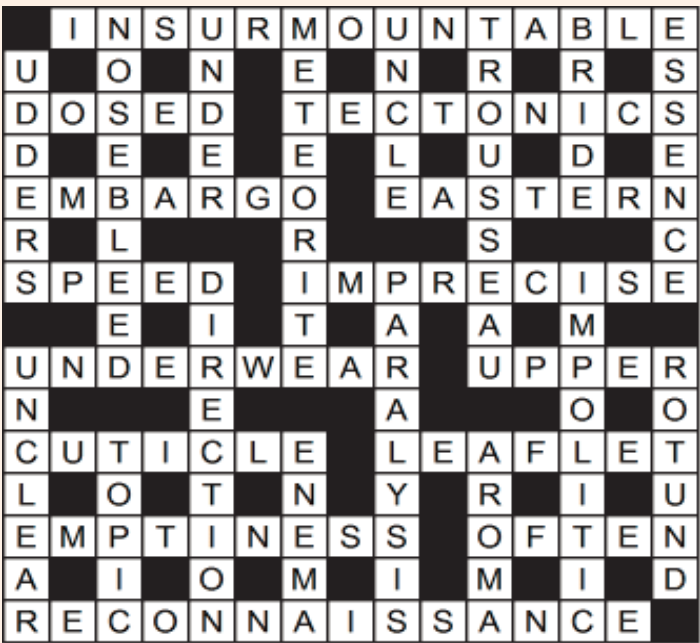
ACROSS

- 8. Leap (4)
- 9. Respect (5)
- 10. Wickedness (4)
- 11. Enter the picture (6)
- 12. Invaded (8)
- 13. Praiseworthy (8)
- 15. Undamaged (6)
- 17. Inaccurate (7)
- 19. Betrothed (7)
- 22. Marine mollusk (6)
- 24. Antonym (8)
- 26. Seppuku (8)
- 28. Resistant to (6)
- 30. "Smallest particle" (4)
- 31. Not asleep (5)
- 32. Look of lust (4)

DOWN

- 1. Swallow (4)
- 2. Supplementary material in a book (8)
- 3. Angel (6)
- 4. Pocket billiards (7)
- 5. The construction of a building (8)
- 6. It contains a British beverage (6)
- 7. Conceal (4)
- 14. Bother (5)
- 16. Part of the human torso (5)
- 18. Fair (8)
- 20. Gathering (8)
- 21. Specified (7)
- 23. Injury (6)
- 25. An introductory textbook (6)
- 27. Countertenor (4)
- 29. Require (4)

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS 2003



CAN YOU BEAT THIS WEEK'S CROSSQUIZ?

SUDOKU 1

					7		9
				6		2	
			5	2	1		
5					7		
2		9					
				4		5	6
		5					4
	9		1	8			
6	1					9	3

SUDOKU 2

6		4					1
		5			7		
9			3			6	
1	2	8		9	5		
	7		1	2	4		
				6			5
		1					7
5						4	

ANSWERS

9	8	4	1	7	2	3	6	5
7	2	6	3	5	4	1	9	8
3	5	1	8	9	6	2	4	7
8	6	5	4	2	1	9	7	3
4	6	3	5	9	7	8	2	1
1	7	2	6	3	8	9	5	4
5	4	6	2	1	3	7	8	9
9	3	8	7	4	6	5	1	2
1	2	7	9	8	5	4	3	6

SUDOKU 2

3	6	8	5	7	2	1	9	4
5	9	2	4	8	1	3	6	7
4	7	1	3	6	9	5	2	8
6	8	5	2	4	9	7	3	1
7	1	3	6	5	8	9	4	2
2	4	9	7	1	3	6	8	5
8	3	6	1	2	5	4	7	9
1	2	4	9	6	7	8	5	3
9	7	5	8	3	4	2	1	6

SUDOKU 1

Poet's Corner GRANNY

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.

Granny's chair Was beside the fire She sat there every night She would watch TV have a snooze After working since it was bright She was small and thin But strong as a horse She could put a man to shame She was there for us All our life Without her it's not the same She had no mod cons in her home She washed everything by hand	Then down on her knees She scrubbed the path The concrete shone like sand She never moaned about her lot Her family was her pride I still get a lump in my troath When I remember the day she died She raised 12 kids Numerous grandkids Who loved her to the moon and back I'll never forget my Gran If only we could have her back
---	--

Quinn out of Irish squad

ALAN QUINN has been forced to bow of the Republic of Ireland senior squad for this Saturday's World Cup qualification clash with Israel in Tel Aviv.

Indeed it was a weekend of very mixed fortunes for the Clondalkin man who hit the target for Sheffield United in their 2-1 triumph over Burnley on Saturday afternoon.

But an untimely knee injury forced him to leave the field early and resulted in his withdrawal from the Irish squad.

All the other members of the Irish panel came through the weekend uninjured and Brian Kerr will have a strong squad at his disposal for the trip.

Included in the panel are Tallaght lads Richard Dunne and Robbie Keane, together with Crumlin's Andy Reid.

Moyler damage Crumlin hopes

MOYLE Park College put a dent in Crumlin United's Leinster Senior League title hopes last Sunday by dishing them out a 3-1 defeat in Clondalkin.

Meeting for the first time this season, the two sides battled out an exciting game with Moyler Park taking the lead after just 20 minutes when Stephen Coyne managed to lob the oncoming netminder after John Hanna's long throw was flicked on by both Ben Buckley and John Cleary.

Crumlin did look to have at least carved out a share of the spoils for themselves when they registered an equaliser 18 minutes from time.

But in a dramatic finale, Moyler Park hit the front once against when Fabio Miele put the finishing touches on a superb counter by rifling the ball to the top corner from 25 yards out.

And the hosts even had time to record a third - again, it went against the run of play, centre half Niall Cumiskey breaking down a Crumlin attacking free before beating the opposing centre half and goalkeeper to nail the coffin shut on Martin Loughran's side.



HILLCREST managed to avenge their 3-1 home defeat at the hands of Greenhills earlier in the year when they edged out their rivals last weekend.

The Lucan side were eager to make up for the slip-up which helped keep them pinned among the midtable teams of the Leinster Senior League's Major 1A Saturday.

GREENHILLS 1
HILLCREST 2

However, it was not until the second half that they managed to open their account courtesy of centre half Sean Murray who met Gary Delaney's delivery in from the left with a powerful header.

Still Greenhills were not about to be muscled out of this tie so easily and player manager Robbie O'Neill moved the pacy Darren Becton into attack while he himself moved from defence to midfield.

It was a change that was to quickly reap rewards after Jimmy Doyle won possession just outside the Hillcrest box before he slipped the ball into the path of the oncoming Doyle who fired home.

Yet the resilience of the Walkinstown side was to amount to nothing as their Lucan rivals hit back with a winner when Cormac McBride outfoxed the Greenhills rearguard by beating the offside trap and steering the ball beyond the reach of goalkeeper Stephen Healy.

This was a disappointing result for the hosts who had their fair share of opportunities to register more on the day.

Coming into this match on the back of their

superb victory over Iveagh Celtic the previous week, they failed to open their account here until late in the game.

John Nestor went close after he slipped the challenge of two Hillcrest defenders only to shoot wide before Becton was denied by the crossbar just as his side-footed effort looked destined for the target.

Still they could have been trailing before the half had not Healy got a hand to Ciaran Burke's rapid turn and strike, pushing it by the post.

GREENHILLS: S Healy, S McCarthy, K Maher, R O'Neill, A Molloy, P Sullivan, D Becton, J Norton, A Dawney, J Doyle, M McKeown.
Subs: M Keogh for Sullivan and P May for McKeown.

HILLCREST: G Reidy, M Kinsella, S Murray, J Weir, B Murtagh, P Manley, J Prenderville, C McBride, G Curran, G Twohig, C Burke.
Subs: G Delaney for Prenderville and M Thompson for Twohig.



Hillcrest left Greenhills empty-handed last weekend.



Greenhills were unable to 'put another one' over their Lucan rivals.

West Park Albion salvage a point in their struggle against the drop

WEST PARK Albion could have done with more than a point from their clash with fellow LSL Senior 1A strugglers Greenhills last Sunday in Roadstone.

While the 1-1 result lifted them up from the bottom of the table ahead of St Joseph's Boys, a win would have offered more bite to their attempt to climb out of the relegation zone.

Still it could have been worse for the hosts

after Greenhills took the lead 25 minutes into the match when Ray Lee rattled the net.

Yet West Park should have been back on level terms a lot sooner after Paul Connor broke through into a one-on-one with the opposing netminder only to see his attempted chip easily saved.

Kevin Kenny saw his volley travel too high before another one was stopped and Declan

Byrne's breakthrough on goal resulted in a strike that skimmed the outside of the upright.

It was left to Robert Kinsella to serve up the equaliser, after he got his head to Nicky Hanna's free kick with 23 minutes to go.

And the home side had the opportunity to snatch the full batch at the death when Kevin Kenny's delivery was met by the head of Byrne.

But as the ball looked

to be heading for the target, it bounced into a divot and dramatically spun wide of the goalmouth.

Greenhills, will themselves be satisfied with the result especially given the fact they had only the bare 11 available for the match.

In all 15 players travelled on the day but two succumbed to niggling injuries which a further two took untimely knocks in the warm-up.

Ireland U17s set for next phase

THE REPUBLIC of Ireland U17 team will this Saturday kick off the second phase of the UEFA European Championship qualification campaign against Northern Ireland.

Taking place in England, this match will be followed up with a clash against Serbia & Montenegro two days later before their final match of this stage against the hosts on Wednesday, March 30.

Included in the squad are Crumlin United's Alan Power and Anthony Stokes, who recently made the move across the channel to play for Arsenal.

The new addition to the 'Gunners' should provide a major asset in attack for Sean McCaffrey's side.

In defence Simon Madden from Tallaght will no doubt prove a vital cog as will his former Cherry Orchard clubmate Robert Bayly in midfield.

Both Madden and Bayly made the move to Leeds United last year and have proven regulars in this international set-up.

Two changes have been made to this Irish panel from the one which beat Slovenia in a double-header in Whitehall last month, with goalkeeper Stephen Henderson returning to the squad while Crystal Palace's Luke Hickey has also received a call-up.

Eircom League fixtures

Premier Division
FRIDAY: Waterford United v Finn Harps (RSC, 7.30pm), Cork City v Bray Wanderers (Turner's Cross, 7.45pm), Derry City v Longford Town (Brandywell, 7.45pm), St Patrick's Athletic v Bohemians (Richmond Park, 7.45pm), Shamrock Rovers v Shelbourne (Dalymount Park, 7.45pm), UCD v Drogheda United (Belfield Park, 7.45pm).

First Division
THURSDAY: Dublin City v Sligo Rovers (Tolka Park, 7.45pm), Dundalk v Kilkenny City (Oriel Park, 7.45pm). **FRIDAY:** Galway United v Athlone Town (Terryland Park, 7.30pm), Limerick v Monaghan United (Hogan Park, 7.45pm). **SATURDAY:** Kildare v Cobh Ramblers (Newbridge, 7.30pm).

Local teams prepare for the FAI Cup

THE DRAW for the first round of the FAI Cup was made on Monday night.

The last 16 teams left in the FAI Intermediate Cup along with the semi-finalists of the 2004 Junior Cup were included in the draw.

Some local sides will be happy with the draw while others will know they have tough tasks ahead of them.

Cherry Orchard kick-off their campaign when they do battle with Belgrove. Both sides compete in the Leinster Senior Division and will be familiar with each others' style of play.

A team that has impressed this season, Lissadel will go head to head with Cork side Rockmount.

Moyle Park College will meet Douglas Hall while Bangor Celtic take on Wayside Celtic.

The games will be played over the weekend of April 24.

Locals find the range in Eircom League

A NUMBER of local lads opened their goal-scoring account in the Eircom League last weekend.

Clondalkin man David Maher scored twice for Kilkenny City in their 2-2 draw with Dublin City in the First Division.

Maher scored his first before the break and then added a second to put Kilkenny in the driving seat.

But City could not hold on to this lead and Dublin hit back with a brace from Michael Holt.

Elsewhere in the First Division, Andy Cousins got his career off to a great start with Kildare County.

The Tallaght man scored a penalty after only a minute of play against Sligo at the Showgrounds.

However, County failed to build on this lead and Sligo hit back with two goals.

Tallaght clinch Leinster prize

Balrothery school topple St Brendan's in decider



WINNERS - Members of Tallaght Community School celebrate their FAIS U18 Leinster Senior Cup success at Baldonnel on Tuesday.

TUESDAY WAS a day to remember for Tallaght Community School when they claimed the U18 FAIS Leinster Senior Cup title in Baldonnel.

The Tallaght boys turned on the style to overcome the challenge of St Brendan's (Bray) 3-0 and lift the crown for the second time in the school's history.

Tallaght CS3
St Brendan's0

Tallaght were full value for their victory as they controlled the game at vital stages with the goals coming on either side of half time.

The first half was evenly contested with both keepers being tested early on.

The opening goal arrived before the half time whistle from the penalty spot after the excellent Gary McCabe rounded two defenders and was eventually pulled down in the box.

McCabe picked himself up and fired the resulting spot kick to the back of the net to see his team go in with a 1-0 lead.

Again McCabe was involved in the second goal shortly after the resumption when he swung in a brilliant free kick to give the Brendan's net-minder no chance.

Tallaght were flying at this stage but they did have some nervous moments when they conceded a penalty. However, keeper Karl Coleman rose to the occasion and pulled off a

superb stop.

The 'insurance' goal arrived when McCabe swung in a free kick and Alan McCormac rose to head home.

The Tallaght boys soaked up the pressure in

the closing minutes as they cruised to a comfortable win.

It was a superb achievement for managers Seamus Whoriskey, Jimmy Wynne and Ryan McCarthy who guided

the team to the title for the first time since 1994.

Tallaght are now looking forward to their All-Ireland semi-final clash next month.

TALLAGHT CS: K Coleman, G Kavanagh, S

Nicholl, A McCormac, B Hopper, A Healy, G McCabe, S Ward, E McGill, G Humphries, K Johnston. Subs: D McLaughlin, D Costigan, M Sullivan, E McNulty, J Dever.

St Mark's CS win first hockey title in 15 years

SAINT Mark's Community School won their first hockey silverware in 15 years when they overcame

High School Rathgar 1-0 last Tuesday, writes David O'Malley.

The match, which was played at St Andrew's

College, was a very tense affair with the Tallaght side emerging victorious by the narrowest of margins.

Rathgar started the match brightly and had a few half chances to open up the scoring, but St Mark's were helped on by the huge support they brought with them.

The Tallaght boys were soon celebrating when Chris Dunne scored off a deflection which sent the ball over the keeper's head.

With the score staying the same until the break, the Mark's players were firmly in

control and went into the second half full of confidence.

Despite this, High School were by far the better side in the second half when the Tallaght lads sat back on their lead.

In the end, St Mark's hung on for the win, resulting in huge celebrations by players, coaches, teachers and all the supporters.

Although the real hero was Dunne for his goal there were also star performances by Alan McLoughlin, Stephen Callaghan and captain Robbie Fitzsimons.

Byrne and Baker on target

TALLAGHT lads Jason Byrne and Richie Baker were on target for Shelbourne in their 3-3 draw with Portadown in the Setanta Cup at Tolka Park on Tuesday night.

Starring in his first competitive outing since he returned to Shels, Baker netted the first goal when he headed home and then Byrne scored a cracker five minutes before the break.

However, Portadown came storming back in the second half and pulled back onto level terms.

Baker then put the hosts in front when he scored a second before Portadown drew level to settle for a share of the points.

Marks Celtic advance to semis

MARKS Celtic qualified for the semi-final of the Elastoplast Cup last week.

The Springfield side got the better of Rivalley 1-0 in Swords to advance to the next round.

The only goal of the game arrived mid-way through the opening half when John Paul Byrne scraped the ball to the net.

There were no real chances after this, but Darren Hogg was unlucky not to double their lead when his shot clipped the post.

Stephen Doyle, Gareth Tuite and John Paul Byrne excelled for their team.

Greenpark are in last 8 of cup

GREENPARK marched into the quarter-final of Elastoplast Cup last week.

The Greenhills side saw off Blackditch United 7-6 after a penalty shoot-out to book a place in the next round.

The opening goal of the match arrived 20 minutes into the second half when Brendan O'Reilly waltzed through the United defence to slot home.

Greenpark equalised 10 minutes before full time to force extra time.

With no goals scored in extra time, a shoot-out had to be staged with Greenpark coming up with the goods.

Elsewhere, Greenpark's Sunday side went down to Markievicz Celtic 2-0 in Premier B.

An under-strength Greenpark side conceded two goals in the space of five minutes during their first half and could find no way through in the second half as Celtic took the match spoils.

Soccer winners

The following are the winners of the recent Soccer Competition

Conor McCall, Watergate, Tallaght.

Robert Nesbitt, Ballyfermot.

Joseph Murphy, Chapelizod.

Fergal Masterson, Old Bawn.

John Kelly, Millbrook Lawns.

Winners will be notified.



St Patrick's Athletic Commercial Manager Philip Nolan and Ballyfermot lad Brendan Clarke, at the announcement of the club's new sponsor, Sandtex Exterior Paints whose logo the team will be wearing on the back of their jerseys. The club also announced that Parkwest Company Beaumark will sponsor the club's shorts for the next two seasons.



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ANNIVERSARY



Anderson, Daniel (Danny)
9th Anniversary occurred 25th March. Late of Clondalkin.

*A bouquet of beautiful memories,
Sprayed with a million tears,
Wishing that God could have spared you,
If just for a few more years.
We cannot bring the old days back,
When we were all together,
The family chain is broken now,
But memories live forever.
Gone are the days we used to share,
But in our hearts they are always there.
The gates of memory will never close,
We miss you more than anyone knows.
With tender love and deep regret,
We love you always and will never forget.
Always loved never forgotten your wife Evo and son Danny. xxxx*

Dad
*Our lives go on without you,
But nothing is the same,
We have to hide our heartache,
When someone speaks your name.
Sad are the hearts that love you,
Silent the tears that fall,
Living our lives without you,
Is the hardest part of all.
The special years will not return,
When we were all together,
But with the love within our hearts,
You will walk with us forever.
Loved and missed every day your son Brian and daughter-in-law Elizabeth. xxx*

Grandad
*Time slips by and life goes on,
But from our hearts you're never gone.
We think about you always,
We talk about you too,
We have so many memories,
But we wish we still had you.
Never forgotten always in our hearts Amy, Ciara and Brian. xxx*

Great-Grandad
*We never met you but will always love you.
From your great-granddaughters Nova, Amelia and Bowie. xxx*

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. O.McK.

ANNIVERSARY



Gibbons, Leslie
In loving memory of my loving partner Leslie Gibbons whose 18th Anniversary occurs 31st March. Also remembering his brother Alan, whose 3rd Anniversary occurred 8th March. Rest In Peace.

Hello Leslie
*I lost my life's companion,
A life linked with my own,
Day by day I yearn for you,
As I walk through life alone.
The house you left is lonely,
And I am lonely too,
Those left behind are good and kind,
But my heart aches for you.
You were someone I could talk to,
On whom I could depend,
You were more than just a partner,
You were also my best friend.
If tears were a stairway to Heaven,
And memories were a lane,
I'd climb each stair to Heaven,
And take you home again.
Missing you always, all my love Olive. xxx*

*We still miss you so much Dad,
And however hard we try,
There is always that part of us,
That cannot say goodbye.
Because we hope that you still know,
We miss you more and more,
Than any words can show.
We can't believe 18 years have passed,
Since we saw your smiling face,
You were so very special Dad,
No one can take your place.
With broken hearts we whisper low,
God bless you Dad, we love you so.
A place in our hearts,
No one can fill,
We miss you Dad and always will.
Always loved and never forgotten by your loving son Raymond, grandchildren Lacie, Layla and Myla and loving daughter Christine.*

*Always loved and never forgotten.
From the McCarthy Family and the Boyce Family.*

NOVENA

Angel Of Portugal
Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore you profoundly. I offer you the most precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges and indifference by which he is offended. And, through the infinite merits of his Most Sacred Heart, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. I beg of You the conversion of poor sinners. F.G.

ANNIVERSARY



Scannell, John
13th Anniversary away from home occurs 27th March. Late of Killinarden Estate. Also remembering my late mam Mary.

*There is no one else on earth,
So special as you were to me.
I hold you forever, my precious Dad,
In my heart and my memory.
You made me laugh every single day,
You really were the best.
And even though you are not here,
The time we had was blessed.
I wish I had just one more chance,
To see that loving smile.
To laugh with you again, my Dad,
Just for a little while.
So this is not goodbye,
And this is not goodnight.
Because you'll always be here by my side,
Holding onto me so tight.
Loved, remembered and missed by your son John.*

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. O.McK.

MOTHERS DAY REMEMBRANCE



McCarthy, Martha Olive
6th Mother's Day away from home. Happy Mother's Day to our Mam. Also remembering our brother Patrick, whose 26th Anniversary occurred 14th March and her sister Anna.

*Always smiling, happy and content,
Loved was our mother, wherever she went,
To a beautiful life, a sudden end,
She died too soon, everyone's friend.
Sadly missed by your sons David, James, Jonathan, Christopher and Owen, daughters Corrine, Noeleen, Olive, Mary and Margaret, Grandchildren, Great-Grandchildren, Sisters, Brothers, Sons-in-law and Daughters-in-law.*

ANNIVERSARY



Gaffney, Les
12th Anniversary occurs 27th March.

*Don't grieve for me,
For now, I'm free,
I'm following the path,
God laid out for me.
I took his hand,
When I heard him call,
My parting has left a void,
But fill it with memories shared,
The joy, the laughter, the love, and kisses.
Sadly missed and always in our hearts forever, your loving Sons & Daughter, Daughters-in-law, Grandchildren & Great-Grandchildren.*

NOVENA

Prayer to Our Lady of Mount Carmel
O, most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, Fruit of the Vine, splendorous of Heaven. Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this my necessity. O, Star of the Sea, help me and show herein you are my mother. O, Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succour me in my necessity. There are none that can withstand your power, O, show me here you are my mother. O, Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee. Sweet Mother, I place this cause in your hands. Amen. C.C.

NOVENA

August Queen of Heaven
Sovereign Mistress of the angels! Thou who from the beginning hast received from God the power and mission to crush the head of Satan, we humbly beseech thee to send thy holy Legions, that, under thy command and by thy power, they may pursue the evil spirits, encounter them on every side, resist their bold attacks and drive them hence into the abyss of eternal woe. Amen T.G.

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BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



Carroll, Jason (Jay)
12th Birthday away from home occurred 26th March.

Happy 51st Birthday
*I wish you were here today,
Even just for a little while,
So I could say Happy Birthday,
son,
And see your beautiful smile.
The only gifts today will be,
The gifts you left behind,
The laughter, joy and happiness,
Precious memories, the best kind.
Today I'll do my very best,
To try and find a happy place,
Struggling to hide my heavy heart,
And the tears on my face.
I'll sit quietly and look at your picture,
Thinking of you, with love,
Hoping you're doing ok,
In heaven up above.
May the angels hold you close,
And sing you a happy song,
And I'll be sending wishes to you,
Today and all year long.
"You'll never walk alone"
Sadly missed by your loving Mam and Dad. xxxxx*

Our Dear Brother & Uncle
*We are missing you every day,
Since you went away,
But we are missing you even more today,
Since it is your special day.
Happy 51st Birthday Jay,
love Kevin, Lisa, Rhyece,
Lauren, Leighton, Jayce and Donnie.*

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



Carroll, Jason (Jay)
12th Birthday away from home occurred 26th March.

Happy 51st Birthday
*You're a lovely brother, Jay,
I've adored you since I was small,
And for me,
The day you left us, Jay,
Was the saddest time of all.
But all the memories that we shared,
From when you were a boy,
Have only ever filled my heart,
With happiness and joy.
You grew up and proved to be,
A man both fair and true,
And every day throughout my life,
I will always think of you.
Family is where life begins,
And love never ends.
Sadly missed by your loving sister Jennifer and brother-in-law Pedder. xx*

Carrol, Jason (Jay)
12th Birthday away from home.
*Our hearts ache whenever this day comes,
And you're not here with us,
I'm forever grateful to you,
For our beautiful memories.
Wishing you a Happy 51st Birthday in heaven.
Love and miss you always Jay, your loving nieces and nephews Taylor, Jack, Casey, Renzo and Philly.*

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



Carroll, Jason (Jay)
12th Birthday away from home occurred 26th March.

Dad
*Your birthday brings back memories,
Of laughter and of tears,
Of all the celebrations held,
Throughout your precious years,
We will always cherish times we had,
And smile just at the thought,
We hope you know the magnitude,
Of joy your life here brought,
On holidays and birthdays,
It's so hard to be apart,
Like every day that falls between,
Your memory fills our hearts.
Happy 51st Birthday Dad,
love Libby, Cody, Jake and Glenn.*

ANNIVERSARY



Glynn, Michael (Mick the Moan)
5th Anniversary away from home occurred 26th March.

*We thought of you today,
But that is nothing new,
We thought of you yesterday,
And will tomorrow too.
We think of you in silence,
And make no outward show,
For what it meant to lose you,
Only those who love you know.
Remembering you is easy,
We do it every day,
It's the heartache of losing you,
That will never go away.
Sadly missed & fondly remembered by his loving wife Patricia, daughter Emily, sons Mark, Derek, Michael, David & Paul, Son-in-Law, Daughters-in-Law & Grandchildren.*

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



Gaff, Marion
Birthday Remembrance

*To my beautiful sister Mar,
Happy 60th Birthday.
Love and miss you loads Deb,
Trev and Family. x*

NOVENA

Novena Heart of Jesus
Dear Heart of Jesus in the past I have asked for many favours I ask you for this very special one. Take it Dear Heart of Jesus and place it within your broken heart, where your Holy Father sees it then in his merciful eyes it will become your favour and not mine. Say this prayer for 3 days promise publication and favours will be granted never known to fail. Promise to publish, many thanks for favours received and about to be received. P.M.

NOVENA

Angel Of Portugal
Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore you profoundly. I offer you the most precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges and indifference by which he is offended. And, through the infinite merits of his Most Sacred Heart, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. I beg of You the conversion of poor sinners. T.G.

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.

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.

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planning notices

All planning applications must be in before 5pm Monday

tel: 468 5350
email:reception@echo.ie

South Dublin County Council
We, Alan & Michelle McCarron intend to apply for retention permission for development at this site 37 Wellington Road, Templeogue, Dublin, 6w. The development will consist of the construction of 2 Dormer windows with a flat roof added to the rear of the property, which in turn created 2 rear bedrooms. Removal of existing chimney. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at the offices of South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Town Centre, Tallaght, Dublin 24, during its public opening hours: Monday to Friday, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM. It may also be viewed on the Council’s website: www.sdcc.ie. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to South Dublin County Council on payment of a fee of €20 within 5 weeks of receipt of the application by the Council. Such submissions or observations will be considered by the Planning Authority in making a decision on the application.

South Dublin County Council
I, Liam Tully, intend to apply for: Planning Permission at this site: 16 Aranleigh Mount, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14, D14 H1R8 The development will consist of: Attic conversion for storage, featuring two rear dormers, one front dormer, and a new gable window at attic level on the side. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at the offices of South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Town Centre, Tallaght, Dublin 24, during public opening hours (Monday to Friday, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM). It may also be viewed on the Council’s website – www.sdcc.ie. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to South Dublin County Council upon payment of a fee of €20, within five weeks of the application’s receipt by the Council. Such submissions or observations will be considered by the Planning Authority in making a decision on the application.

South Dublin County Council
I, Vincent Flanagan intend to apply for Retention Permission for widening of existing vehicular access at 12 Newbawn Park, Tallaght, Dublin 24, D24 N9YT. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at the offices of South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Town Centre, Tallaght, Dublin 24 during its public opening hours of Monday to Friday from 9:00am to 4:00pm, and may also be viewed on the Council’s website – www.sdcc.ie. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to South Dublin County Council on payment of a fee of €20 within 5 weeks of receipt of the application by South Dublin County Council and such submissions or observations will be considered by the Planning Authority in making a decision on the application. The Planning Authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions or may refuse to grant permission.

South Dublin County Council
Conor White-Gibson & Sarah Poole are applying for planning permission at 17 St Mary’s Avenue, Rathfarnham for the demolition of a single storey toilet-block annex and construction of a single storey extension to the rear, with a flat roof; including glazed patio doors. Replacement of existing glazing to front and rear of house; all associated site works and services. 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 10am-4pm, Mon-Fri, and a submission or observation may be made to South Dublin County Council in writing and on payment of the prescribed fee (€20.00) within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by South Dublin County Council of the application.

South Dublin County Council
I, Keith Palmer, intend to apply for: Planning Permission at this site: 23 Palmers Cres, Palmerstown Manor, Dublin 20, D20CP26 The development will consist of: Attic conversion for storage, including front and rear dormers. Single-storey side and rear sloped roof extension to create a covered passageway. Single-storey flat roof rear extension. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at the offices of South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Town Centre, Tallaght, Dublin 24, during its public opening hours (Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 4:00pm) and may also be viewed on the Council’s website at www.sdcc.ie. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to South Dublin County Council on payment of a fee of €20 within 5 weeks of receipt of the application by South Dublin County Council. Such submissions or observations will be considered by the Planning Authority in making a decision on the application.

South Dublin County Council
Planning permission sought for the removal of the garage structure from the side of the existing dwelling and replace with a two storey extension to the side of the dwelling and extend to the front elevation with a tiled roof over and extended new dutch type concrete tiled roof to main roof: new bay window to the front with a canopy type flat roof over and extended to front door: external finishes to match existing: internal alterations and associate site works at 3. Dodder Park Road, Rathfarnham, D.14. A894 for John & Yvonne Hickey. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at the offices of South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Town Centre, Tallaght, Dublin 24, during its public opening hours: Monday to Friday, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM. It may also be viewed on the Council’s website: www.sdcc.ie. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to South Dublin County Council on payment of a fee of €20 within 5 weeks of receipt of the application by the Council. Such submissions or observations will be considered by the Planning Authority in making a decision on the application.

South Dublin County Council
C. Ryan is applying for permission for an attic conversion for storage with a dormer roof to the rear, a roof light to the front, 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 10am-4pm, Mon-Fri, and a submission or observation may be made to South Dublin County Council in writing and on payment of the prescribed fee (€20.00) within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by South Dublin County Council of the application.

South Dublin County Council
I, Alexandra Dragoi, intend to apply for: Planning Permission At this site: 37 Marlfield Lawn, Oldbawn, Dublin 24, D24 T9X9 The development will consist of: A single-storey flat roof extension to the side and rear, incorporating three rooflights. Partial demolition and height reduction of the front boundary wall. Relocation of the side access gate to the rear garden. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at the offices of South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Town Centre, Tallaght, Dublin 24, during its public opening hours: Monday to Friday, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM. It may also be viewed on the Council’s website: www.sdcc.ie. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to South Dublin County Council on payment of a fee of €20 within 5 weeks of receipt of the application by the Council. Such submissions or observations will be considered by the Planning Authority in making a decision on the application.

Dublin City Council
I, Chloe Hanlon, intend to apply for: Planning Permission for development at this site: 52 Derry Park, Crumlin, Dublin 12, D12 K4W0. The development will consist of: Construction of a new front porch with a rooflight and replacement front door. Demolition of the existing ground-floor rear extension and construction of a new part single-storey, part two-storey flat-roof extension to the rear. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the Planning Authority during its public opening hours. 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 Planning Authority of the application.



SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL - LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) ACTS 1963 - LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) REGULATIONS 1977 TO 1994

PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED WEEK ENDING MARCH 14, 2025

SD24A/0092W Applicant: Anthony Neville Homes Limited Location: Land adjacent to Drury Mills & Drury Park, Swiftbrook, Saggart, Co. Dublin Description: Anthony Neville Homes Limited intends to apply for permission for development on lands located adjacent to Drury Mills and Drury Park, Swiftbrook, Saggart, Co. Dublin. The site is located within the curtilage of protected structures associated with the former Swiftbrook Mills (RPS refs. 314, 330 & 332) comprising chimney, storage building, millpond, tail-race, entrance gates and wall. The development will consist of a residential scheme of 73 no. units comprising a mix of 6 no. houses, 59 no. own-door duplexes and 8 no. apartments arranged in 4 blocks set around a central amenity space. The mix of units will consist of 5 no. 1-bedroom duplexes/apartments, 46 no. 2-bedroom duplexes/apartments, 16 no. 3-bedrooom duplexes and 6 no. 4-bedroom houses. The 4 no. blocks are labelled A to D on plans and consist of: ?Block A - a 3 to 4-storey terrace accommodating 18 no. duplex units with associated balconies & terraces; ?Block B - a 2-storey terrace accommodating 6 no. houses and 2 no. duplex units with associated gardens & terraces; ?Block C - a 3 to 4-storey terrace accommodating 27 no. duplex units with associated balconies & terraces; ?Block D - a 4-storey terrace accommodating 8 no. apartments and 12 no. duplex units with associated balconies & terraces. The development will include: ?New internal roads accessed from Drury Mills and Drury Park; ?84 no. car parking spaces; ?Bicycle and bin stores and substation; ?Landscaped public	14 Mar 2025 Permission Additional	and communal open spaces and boundary treatments; ?All associated site works and services.	SD24A/0191 Applicant: HPC Sales Ltd Location: Former Exertis Ireland Ltd Premises, M50 Business Park, Ballymount Road Upper, Ballymount, Dublin 12 Description: The reconfiguration of 47No existing staff car parking spaces to allow for safer movement of vehicles and temporary storage of materials elsewhere in the existing yard, including new staff vehicular and pedestrian entrances and other associated minor works which are similar to what is currently permitted as part of a more substantial development Reg Ref SD19A/0222	10 Mar 2025 Permission Additional	SD24A/0270W Applicant: Gerard Mac Cormac Location: 20, Monastery Crescent, Clondalkin, Dublin 22, D22 WE10 Description: 1) demolition of detached domestic garage to rear, 2) construction of a 2-storey detached dwelling to rear with new vehicular access and new pedestrian access, 3) modification to existing house rear garden perimeter including relocation of garden wall, 4) all related works.	14 Mar 2025 Permission Additional	SD24A/0278W Applicant: Project Management Limited T/a PM Group Location: PM Group, Kearney House, Belgard Square East, Tallaght, Dublin 24, D24 XFW2 Description: The development consists the installation of 2no. new water tanks and an associated enclosure to the north of the existing office building, the relocation of a previously granted bicycle shelter under planning reference SD21A/0123, from the east of the site to the south-west, and all associated site works at PM Group, Kearney House, Belgard Square, Dublin, D24 XFW2.	14 Mar 2025 Permission Additional	SD24A/0287W Applicant: Tara, Emma, Neena & Sunil Beeharry Location: 20 Aranleigh Court, Rathfarnham, Dublin, D14 V2R9 Description: Subdivision of the site, construction of a two storey detached dwelling house with three bedrooms and attic room (incorporating rear dormer window) to the east of the existing two storey semi-detached dwelling, to include alterations to existing boundary on Aranleigh Court to create new vehicular entrance. Proposals include for all associated site works, including hard landscaping and site development works.	13 Mar 2025 Permission Additional
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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 27, 2025

Alex Denning to make debut in Lamborghini Super Asia Series

FOLLOWING a successful test in Misano, Italy recently, Rathfarnham's Alex Denning is getting set to make his debut in the Lamborghini Super Trofeo Asia Series in Sydney, Australia with Theodore Racing next month.

The 24-year-old, who previously won an Active South Dublin monthly award, will join Charles Leung of Macau in a 620bhp Lamborghini Huracán EVO2 in the six-event series racing across three continents from April to November.

Denning arrives in the Lamborghini Super Trofeo Series on the back of two successful campaigns in the European GT4 Championship where he produced a series of eye-catching performances at the wheel of a McLaren Artura.

Alex impressed Theodore Racing Team Principal Teddy Yip Junior in a three-day test programme at Misano, Italy where the final round of the Asian Super Trofeo Series and World Finals will take place in November.

In making the announcement Teddy Yip Junior said: "Alex is an outstanding driver who has displayed all of the attributes required to align with Theodore Racing's goals this season."

"He is the consummate professional

with a great combination of commitment, strength, endurance and, most importantly of all, outright pace over one lap. "We're delighted to welcome him into the team and we look forward to a successful collaboration with Alex and Charles in our second season in the Super Trofeo Asia series."

Speaking of his signature with Theodore Racing, Alex Denning said: "This is a great opportunity for me at this moment in my career and I really can't wait to get behind the wheel of the Theodore Racing Lamborghini Huracán EVO2 in Sydney."

"My test in Misano went very well and only served to whet my appetite for racing these extraordinary cars across the season. I'd like to thank Teddy Yip Junior and all at Theodore Racing for this opportunity and I look forward to combining with Charles to produce the best possible outcome for the team throughout the year."

The Lamborghini Super Trofeo Asia Series begins with the first event of the year in Sydney Motorsport Park, Australia from April 4-6 and continues with rounds in China Japan Korea and Malaysia before concluding at the world finals in Misano, Italy in November.



Alex Denning beside the
Lamborghini Huracán
EVO2

Clondalkin U14s tops in Leinster Schools Youth League final

AFTER losing two of their first three league games before Christmas, Clondalkin got to the final the hard way, winning their last five matches and just pipping Clontarf RFC to get into the final two.

While finals day across all divisions is traditionally held at the one location, as luck would have it, Clondalkin faced off against the hosts, Greystones RFC and Clon came out 10-5 winners in the Leinster Schools Youth League Division Four Final.

Greystones had got the better of Clondalkin in Baldonnel Farm early in the season but suffered a reverse in early February when Clondalkin visited Dr Hickey Park.

Both teams knew that they'd have to be at their best to lift the cup. A great turnout of Clondalkin supporters and families, along with the hosts, made for a great atmosphere.

While Greystones had the better of the early exchanges, Clondalkin soon found their feet and took the lead through a searing break from winger Cillian Malone, although the

difficult conversion was missed.

Greystones soon had a try of their own, but luckily the conversion was also missed to leave the game evenly poised at 5-5.

Clondalkin had to absorb a lot of pressure but dominant tackles from the likes of Cormac Fogarty, Conor McLindon and Malone and multiple jackal penalties won by Tom Flynn kept the hosts at bay.

Greystones thought they had scored just before half time but heroic last ditch covering from McLindon and Flynn saw the ball held up over the line and possession returned to Clondalkin, helping to see them safely to half time still level.

The second half started much as the first had ended, with Greystones having the majority of possession but being thwarted by Clondalkin's aggressive defence.

When the Greystones out half intercepted a loose Clondalkin pass 40 metres out, he had the line at his mercy, but speed and determination from the Clondalkin defence and big hits again from Ryan Kelly, Malone, McLindon and Fogarty kept

Greystones at bay.

Clondalkin managed to move the ball down the pitch with a series of penalties.

Malone must have thought he was in again when he had the ball a few metres out but was stopped by a fantastic tackle by the Greystones fullback, leaving Malone with a dead leg that would result in his substitution a few minutes later.

As the second half went on and the pressure increased, Clondalkin kept their heads while searching for the decisive score. A penalty on the '22 was tapped quickly by out half and captain Tadhg O'Loughlin who sent centre McLindon away down the narrow side to get over to make the score 10-5.

The game was still on the line with a few minutes to go, Greystones with possession but a long way from the try line.

Replacement prop Casey Quinn strengthened the scrum with Clondalkin winning possession against the head, but a fumble led to another Greystones scrum and the referee calling 'last play'.

Remarkably, another massive Clondalkin scrum gave them possession back and the team and squad erupted when scrum half Archie McGann gleefully kicked the ball off the park to end the match.

All that was left was for O'Loughlin to lead his men up to

collect their winners' medals and the trophy.

It has been a remarkable season for the squad, who grew from 15 to 35 in number since September, and they're not finished yet – a cup quarter final against Seapoint awaits this Sunday morning.

Clondalkin celebrate their youth league final win Photo by Kevin Malone





Myles Maguire, Mick Davy and Paul Byrne



John Gately and Harry McSweeney



Tony Condren, David Morrissey and Andrew Reynolds



Declan Ward, Dermot Clancy and Paul Fagan



Mick McLoughlin and Eddie Ennis



Hugh Flanagan and Mick Loftus



Bob, Frank and Hugh



Willie Harris and Jean Harris



Roisín Ryan, Helen Miley, Alison Brophy, Mary Cusade and Margaret O'Connor



Kieran O'Brien, Damien O'Connor and Ronan Ryan



Michael Treacy and Podge Byrne



Mary Cleary, Anne O'Shea and Dympna Wilson



Damian Ryan, Hugh Flanagan, Ben Kavanagh and Noel O'Halloran



Brendan and Warren Keenan



Hugh Flanagan and Ronnie Byrne



Incoming Captain Hugh Flanagan



Incoming Lady Captain Anne O'Shea

Slade Valley Golf Club Captains Drive-In on Saturday



Denise Campbell, Margaret Kennedy and Alice Galloway



David Kennedy, Hugh Flanagan and Michael Broderick



Dominic Reilly, Anne O'Shea, Mary Cleary and Hugh Flanagan



Anne O'Shea and Hugh Flanagan



David Molloy, Billy McCarthy and Tommy Dillon



Ger McGrane, Hugh Flanagan and John Hayden



Bernard Cuffe, Hugh Flanagan and Dave English



Des Moffat, Eddie Hearn and Brendan Foy

Hockey

Glenanne men remain unbeaten in the league

TWELVE games and twelve wins - that is the story, so far, for the Glenanne Men's 3s team.

Fresh from winning Leinster Division Six with three games to spare, Glenanne Men's 3s were in Glenanne Park last Saturday to play Avoca 7s.

The first quarter was a relatively close affair with both teams playing within themselves.

Glenanne finally broke the deadlock with a great and swift passing move finished off by Ryan McGauley.

From there Glenanne took control of the game in the second and third quarter with Ben Coughlan finishing with four goals to earn himself a deserved player of the match.

At the back Glenanne gave away very little with the impressive Richie O Shea mopping up any attacks.

This game saw the return of Graham 'Sharpie' Shaw to a green shirt who showed his class with a couple of great shots which were superbly saved by the Avoca Goalkeeper.

However it was another Shaw who took the plaudits, as Dave Shaw finished off another great move to score a great team goal in the final quarter.

The team move on to their final two games in the league hoping to finish unbeaten and have a Leinster Minor cup semi-final to play in the next couple of weeks, where they hope to retain the trophy won last year.



David and Graham Shaw



Ben Coughlan (MOTM) with goalie captain Colin O'Brien

Three Rock return to winning ways

In the Men's EYHL, Three Rock Rovers men's hockey team returned to winning ways with narrow victories over Monkstown.

A goal from Three Rock's Evan Jennings in the first half was enough to secure the points and see the Leinster side go level with Lisnagarvey at the top of the table having played one more game than the Ulster side.

Elsewhere, Loreto women's team suffered their first defeat in two seasons.

Railway Union delayed the celebrations with a massive 4-0 over the current league leaders, inflicting them with their first EYHL this year.

Loreto remain two points clear at the top ahead of Railway Union.

Martial Arts

Top results for BMA Clondalkin at Dutch Open

THE annual YOKOSO DUTCH OPEN is now in its 22nd year and still going strong. Known as the 'Friendly Tournament', the YDO attracts competitors from all over the world where fighters, coaches and officials are treated in one of the most welcoming and best organised kickboxing events of its kind.

This year, the YDO 25 had just over 1000 entries from 17 countries, mainly from Europe and some from the USA.

BMA Clondalkin only fielded 4

athletes this time round as most of the fighting team is either recuperating after the successful Italian World Cup two weeks ago or prepping for the All-Ireland Kickboxing Championships next weekend.

The Clondalkin squad for this event, consisted of Robert Barrett competing in the KL -57kg & LC -57kg division, Kym Fitzgerald entered in the KL-50kg division, Matas Noreika in PF -79kg & LC -79kg and Louise Shortt taking on three divisions, PF OC -

55kg, PF OC -60kg and LC OC -55kg.

Team Captain Robert 'Ninja Barrett led by example by taking the first Gold for the team in his KL division and added a Bronze in his LC section.

Kym Fitzgerald reached the finals of her KL -50kg but was left short by two points to clinch the win which left her with a well fought out silver medal.

Matas Noreika was also short of a couple of points to progress into the

final of the LC -79kg but nonetheless finished the weekend with a deserved bronze medal.

"It was a great battle in his LC semi-final where Matas redeemed himself after a tough round in his previous PF division", says coach Robert Barrett.

Louise Shortt was once again in top form finishing the tournament with first place in the LC OC-55kg defeating a tough German opponent in a nail-biting finish and adding a runner

up medal in her PF OC -55kg division.

"Louise is peaking nicely just in time for next weekend's national championships where we hope she will take another national title!" adds coach Barrett.

"Our team did extremely well, the elite team is progressing nicely and going in the right direction, Next weekend's national championships will be a tough challenge for all, " says proud head coach Ilija Salerno.



Robert Barrett after winning the Men's KL -57kg division



Matas Noreika, Louise Shortt, Kym Fitzgerald and Robert Barrett displaying their medals

Basketball

Gilligan makes U20 Ireland basketball squad

TEMPLEOGUE'S Caoimhe Gilligan has been named in the Ireland U20 Women's squad ahead of this summer's FIBA U20 Women's EuroBasket Division B, which will take place in Miskolc, Hungary in August.

Head coach Karl Kilbride has selected Katie O'Sullivan who returns to U20 level, having played in all seven games last summer and is one of two players from Liffey Celtics, with Georgia Munnelly also getting the nod.

Ireland finished 5th in last year's tournament and are top seeds in Group B of the 2025 edition, with Great Britain and Ukraine their opponents. Head coach Karl Kilbride is hopeful his side can compete for silverware.

"Having seen the standard of players playing at National League level and in the Domino's Women's Super League throughout the country, we were really excited to begin. We were hugely impressed with the level of talent at the two trial sessions we ran. It made our job in selecting an initial group a really difficult one. It's our job now to harness that talent to create a team, and a culture that is good enough and strong enough to go compete at the highest level", Kilbride said.

Kilbride, who is in his fourth season as Ireland U20 Women's head coach, added: "We're going into the FIBA U20 Women's EuroBasket Division B as a number one seed, with a huge opportunity to be successful. With the group we've named here, we're really excited for the summer ahead."

Éanna advance to Super League semi-finals

DEFENDING Domino's Men's Super League champions Griffith College Éanna had to negotiate a severe challenge in the form of E.J. Sligo All-Stars, prevailing 79-70 in their playoff quarter-final in Rathfarnham on Saturday night.

There was some solid scoring for the hosts from the likes of Stefan Desnica (17), Tyland Crawford (16) and James Gormley (15), as they made it past a Sligo outfit, for whom Jevonnine Scott top scored on 19 points.

"I think our determination and experience showed up tonight", insisted Darren McGovern, Éanna head coach.

"It was a solid defensive performance and that's what you need in the playoffs.

"We had energy and contributions from everyone who stepped on the floor, and that's all I ask for", he said.

Éanna's semi-final opponents, Killester, themselves, weathered a tough challenge from Irish Guide Dogs Ballincollig @MTU to dig out an 82-74 victory in Clontarf.

Kason Harrell carded a game-best 22 points for the Dublin side, while Paul Dick and Isiah Dasher each weighed in with a further 16, and Baptiste Chazelas won 14 defensive boards to help see off a Ballincollig outfit that finished with five players in double figures, among them Quashawn Lane on 19.

Double delight in finals for Templeogue basketball teams

THERE was double joy for Templeogue basketball teams in the U13 and U14 DLBB finals in Oblate Hall at the weekend.

Templeogue's U13 team took to the court to compete in the first ever Shield Final run by the DLBB. Their opposition being Meteors.

These two teams had not met each other yet, as both teams were on opposite sides of the U13 Leagues.

It was an exceptionally exciting match, and Meteors displayed some lovely basketball too.

The Templeogue girls gave it their all from start to finish, showing tremendous teamwork, fight and belief throughout. Templeogue kept their composure, yielding their well-deserved win of 54-42 and taking home the Shield!

Elsewhere, Templeogue's U14 girls team won a thrilling DLBB Shield final against Kubs in Oblate Hall.

The match started at a fast pace with Pru Heffernan, Amy Allen, Melissa Morrin, Rose Ryan, and Gracie Winkleman all working hard.

Amy Allen sank the first basket and Templeogue had a 13-6 lead at the end of the first quarter.

Aisling Tighe, Ameya Waters, Aoife Shao, Coco Viotti, and Zoe Diamond continued the effort in the second quarter against a very tough Kubs team.

The third quarter saw Kubs take the lead by a single point, but gutsy play from Ava O'Flaherty and Millie Callaghan helped keep Templeogue in the game.

A very tense fourth period started with Kubs leading 29-28 and both teams stayed within two points of each other for most of the quarter.



Templeogue managed to pull away at the end with crucial free throws and layups from Pru Heffernan, Aisling Tighe, Coco Viotti, and Rose Ryan. Pru Heffernan, who captained the side, showed great grit and leadership to lead the team in scoring, with Aisling Tighe and Coco Viotti not far behind. It was a impressive team effort

with the girls digging deep and fighting hard until the final whistle winning 39-34. The team was

coached by Paul Waters and Nick Winkleman and managed by Alan Heffernan.!

Templeogue U18s march into National Cup final

TEMPLEOGUE U18 girls' basketball team made history by becoming the first Under 18 female team in the Club to win in the semi-finals of the Under 18 National Cup defeating Dublin rivals, Tolka Rovers in a pulsating game at a packed Tolka Rovers Sports Complex on Saturday night.

Templeogue raced into an early 6-0 lead, with scores from Sophie Gallagher and Grace Miley, but Tolka narrowed the gap to one point.

Templeogue finished the quarter strongly to lead by ten points with Sophie Gallagher (10 points) and Katie Behan (5) leading the way.

Tolka had a size advantage, but tenacious team defence helped Templeogue enter half time with an eight-point lead with Grace Miley leading the second quarter scoring with five points.

Both teams featured several players that will be underage next season and games between these two teams have been close in recent years and this proved no exception with Tolka mounting a comeback in the third quarter to narrow the gap to one point as the game entered the final quarter. Katie Behan (6) and Lauren Neville (4) kept the scoreboard ticking over with many scores from the free throw line.

The match featured two buzzer beating three pointers from Tolka.

However when Tolka went into the lead with six minutes left, it looked like it could be their day.

But a huge three point play from Lauren Neville following a Templeogue time out helped Templeogue regain the lead.

The gap was three points as the game entered the final minute, but a clutch three pointer from Éabha Booth helped settle the nerves.

Tolka looked to foul to stop the clock, but free throws from Éabha Booth and Katie Behan helped

complete a 66 to 57 victory.

Tolka scoring was led by the impressive Naomi Farrington, who showed her international and National League experience with a game high 21 points.

In a team performance featuring skill, heart, defence and outside shooting, Templeogue's Sophie Gallagher and Katie Behan both finished with 18 points, followed by

Lauren Neville who scored eight free throws in her 12 points. Éabha Booth (9), Grace Miley (8) and Liliya Waters (1) finished out the scoring with major contributions from Sophia Kiely and Rebecca Cleary, coached by Des Hopkins and Paul Waters and managed by Laura Waters, Templeogue will meet pre-tournament favourites, Meteors in the final in April, venue to be confirmed.



Templeogue U18 girls team made history in the club by reachnig the final

GAA

Dublin girls do enough in league

DUBLIN had to withstand a late Tyrone comeback to hold on for a narrow Lidl NFL Division 1 victory at O'Neill Park in Dungannon, winning out 1-11 to 3-4, reports Deniese O'Flaherty .

Although the Red Hands were defeated their fate in Division 1 is still in their own destiny as they travel to Kildare next weekend. A win for Tyrone would see them retain their Division 1 status.

Tyrone played against a strong wind in the opening half. They had early chances to get scores but twice kicked the ball short into the hands of Dublin goalkeeper Abby Shiels.

In the fifth minute Dublin went on the attack and Hannah Tyrrell

from Clondalkin found the net, finishing from close range.

Tyrone got their first score in the eighth minute when Niamh O'Neill kicked over a free. At the other end Caoimhe O'Connor restored her side's three point advantage.

The home side levelled matters in the 10th minute when Aoife Horisk raised the green flag with an excellent shot. Two minutes later Tyrone netminder Amelia Coyle saved from Sophie McIntyre.

Tyrone took the lead in the 13th minute when O'Neill pointed. Dublin though were level minutes later.

Paul Casey's side were dangerous in attack. Eilish O'Dowd was unlucky to see her shot come

off the upright in the 20th minute. The Dubs were back ahead by three in the 25th minute with points from Chloe Darby, Kate Sullivan (free) and Niamh Hetherton.

Both sides tried to create further scores before half-time but defences were on top as Dublin went in ahead at the break - 1-5 to 1-2.

Dublin were five ahead in the 36th minute. O'Neill kicked over another free for Tyrone in the 39th minute but Dublin replied with points from Hetherton and Sullivan (free) to extend their lead to six points after 41 minutes.

The Dubs were reduced to 14 in the 42nd minute when Tyrrell was sin-binned. With numerical

advantage Tyrone grabbed a second goal when substitute Chloe McCaffrey's high and hopeful ball ended up in the back of the net.

When Tyrrell returned she pointed for Dublin the 57th minute but that was their final score of the game as Tyrone staged a comeback.

Sorcha Gormley kicked over a point and in stoppage time McCaffrey did well to win possession before firing to the net. The deficit was just one but time was running out and they couldn't get the equaliser. Right at the end McCaffrey was sin-binned as her side just came up short.

Abby Shiels from Lucan Sarsfields played in goal for the winners.

St Mary's moving well in Division One

ST MARY'S senior footballers are flying in Division One after they secured their third win from three outings.

The Saggart side brushed aside the challenge of St Sylvester's 3-17 to 0-14 in what was an impressive display in Pairc Mhuire.

Mary's laid the foundation for their victory in the opening half when they established a 3-7 to 0-8 half time lead.

Conor Jameson tormented the Sylvester's defence in the opening half, and he helped himself to three goals and a point.

His third goal was brilliantly set up by Jacob Comiskey.

Ciaran Howard chipped in with three points in the first half, one a two-pointer while Shane Buckley and Kyle Butler both landed scores.

Sylvester's hit back with a couple of points after the break but Mary's continued to push forward with Howard kicking a two-pointer and Blaine Kelly and Conor Jameson firing over.

Shane Buckley landed five frees and two-pointer.

Mixed results for senior teams

THERE was a mixed bag of results for a number of local teams in Adult Football Division One and Two.

Lucan Sarsfields senior footballers suffered their third defeat in the league when they went down to Kilmacud Crokes 0-6 to 4-13.

Having already lost to Castleknock and St Jude's, Lucan will be anxious to secure a win when they face Cuala in the next round on Saturday week.

St Jude's senior footballers secured a 0-14 to 1-7 win over Ballymun Kickhams to bag their second win in the competition.

On Tuesday evening, Thomas Davis went down to Na Fianna 5-21 to 0-9.

In Division Two, Templeogue/Synge Street enjoyed a 4-11 to 1-17 win over Round Tower, Lusk.

Luke O'Brien and Conor Curran both netted two goals for the Templeogue side.

Alex O'Toole and Sean McCormack worked hard for the winners.

Elsewhere, in Division Three, Round Tower, Clondalkin suffered their first defeat of the season, going down to St Maur's 0-14 to 0-20.

Boden see off Plunkett's

BALLYBODEN St Enda's delivered a determined performance to overcome St Oliver Plunkett's in a hard-fought contest 0-15 to 0-12 at Martin Savage Park on Sunday morning.

Playing against a strong breeze in the first half, Boden took their scores well, with Ryan O'Dwyer and Michael O'Gara getting them off to a great start.

The team worked tirelessly in possession, showing composure in difficult conditions.

At the other end, the defensive unit stood firm, with Shane Clayton, Evin Nugent, and Cathal Flaherty putting in fine displays, repelling early Plunkett's attacks.

Boden's hard tackling was a feature of the game, as McDonald, Holland, and O'Dwyer consistently disrupted their opponents, ensuring the visitors struggled to gain any momentum.

Plunkett's came back into the game with a couple of well-struck one and two-pointers before the break, but Boden remained composed heading into the second half.

A number of goal chances went astray as Boden looked to put the game to bed, but Sweeny and Ciaran O'Reilly kept the scoreboard ticking over with a couple of well-taken points.

Boden saw the game out with disciplined play, defending strongly to deny Plunkett's any real openings in the closing stages.

Enda's have now won two games from three outings in the league.

Dubs are edged out by Galway

DUBLIN'S senior camogie team suffered a 1-16 to 0-13 defeat to Galway in Kilbeacanty in the National League at the weekend.

Despite going down to Galway, Lucan Sarsfields Aoife McKearney landed eight points, six from frees and one 45 metre free.

Galway started brightly and built up as 0-4 lead after 12 minutes.

McKearney replied with two points from frees and a point from play after good work from Aisling O'Neill. Only a point separated the teams at the break with McKearney adding two more points.

Full forward Emma Moran from Ballyboden St Enda's had Dublin's best chance of goal but she was fouled just outside the box and

awarded a free.

Galway started the second half strongly again with four points and left the Dubs playing catch up.

McKearney and St Jude's Claire Gannon sent over points as the teams drew level in the final quarter.

However it was Galway that finished strongly with seven points

to Dublin's one score which proved vital at the end.

Abby Ryan from Crumlin played at full back while Claire Gannon (St Jude's) and Kerrie Finnegan (Faughs Celtic) played in the half backs.

Ballyboden's Aine Rafter played in midfield and Aisling Gannon of St Jude's played at corner forward.



Lucan Sarsfields
Aoife McKearney
in action for Dublin
at the weekend
Photo by
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Soccer

Tallaght to host women's UEFA Nations League match

THE Ireland Women's National Team squad has been announced for their 2025 UEFA Nations League back-to-back games against Greece.

Head Coach Carla Ward will bring her squad to Heraklion for the first game on Friday, April 4 ahead of hosting the same opponent in Tallaght Stadium on Tuesday, April 8.

These will be the third and fourth games in Group 2 in League B as Ireland look to pick up maximum points following a loss away to Slovenia and a home win over Türkiye.

Former Peamount United player Tara O'Hanlon is unavailable for selection.

Included in the team in the team is former Cherry Orchard player Jessie Stapleton who plays with Sunderland and is on loan from West Ham United, as is Katie McCabe from Kilnamanagh who made her 250th appearance for her club Arsenal at the weekend.

Shamrock Rovers new signing Ruesha Littlejohn is also in the squad and has made a big impression since joining the Tallaght club as is former Hoops player Abbie Larkin who plays with Crystal Palace.

Oldbury move into second spot in league

OLDBURY FC are up to second place in the UCFL Division 3 section after a narrow, but deserved, 2-1 win over Phoenix Athletic in Albert College last Saturday, reports John Mooney.

With Draiocht Titans cruising in top spot, the Bury have to keep an eye on who are behind them as the season begins to run down and they strive for promotion.

Saturday saw them in cruise control and, really, the game should have been done and dusted by half time, but Phoenix proved to be a tough nut to crack and they had to wait until the second half to finally break them down.

They started really bright and could have been in front after 12 minutes, when Keith Flynn's free kick was headed on to a post by Shane Purcell, luckily the ball bounced kindly into keeper John Shorthall's arms.

That was followed by efforts from corners by Robert Baxendale, Daniel Masterson and Tiernan O'Hanlon, but all came to nothing as the home side chased and harried for every ball and defended corners as if their lives depended on it.

However, four minutes after the restart that all changed when Keith Foley slotted home a Baxendale centre to finally break the deadlock, it was Baxendale's first assist in

almost two seasons, but he wasn't complaining.

Nine minutes later that lead was doubled as Purcell floated over a corner from the left, that home keeper John Shorthall misjudged, and Adam Kiernan chested home.

It was well deserved and the looked like they would run away with the tie, but suddenly the home side woke up and started to make a game of it, and they really set the cat among the pigeons with five minutes remaining.

Conor Howard crossed into the area, keeper Sean Molly came but missed the flight of the ball and Matthew Baskin headed into an empty net.

All of a sudden Oldbury went from controlling the game to panicking, but the home side just couldn't make them pay.

Richard Winston and Howard both had opportunities to bring Phoenix level but they just couldn't force the ball home and, after a bit of added time, Oldbury were relieved to hear the final whistle.

OLDBURY FC: Sean Molloy, Daniel Masterson, Robert Baxendale, Caolan Collett, Adam Kiernan, Toks Aderogba, Keith Flynn, Jordan Flynn, Keith Foley, Shane Purcell, Tiernan O'Hanlon, Ross Hand, Daniel Barnwell, Niall O'Garra.



Oldbury FC's Shane Purcell is closed down by Phoenix Athletic's Robert Aungier and Blake Scully



Oldbury FC's Adam Kiernan rises high above Phoenix Athletic's Jamie Burke to head clear



Oldbury FC's Keith Flynn is stopped in his tracks by Phoenix Athletic's Juan Carlos Trigueros
Photos by John Mooney

Melia sets U21 record as Crawford pleased with win

Jim Crawford's Ireland Under-21s ended their March international matches on a high note after seeing off Hungary 3-1 on a night that St Patrick's Athletic's Mason Melia set a new Under-21s record.

The talented forward became the youngest player to score at that age grade for Ireland when he converted a 16th minute spotkick on what was his Under-21s debut.

At 17 years, 6 months and 2 days old, Melia beat the record set by Troy Parrott (17 years, 7 months and 2 days) in 2019.

It would be in the 16th minute of the game the contest would spark into action. Harry Vaughan played a ball inside to Melia who managed to pinch it ahead of Balasz Tóth in the Hungary goal and in doing so he brought down the Irish striker with the referee pointing to the spot. Melia grabbed the ball and fired past

Tóth to set a new record.

Just after the half-hour mark Hungary got their equaliser Gabor Jurek ran onto a cut back to fire in a strike that went in off the cross bar.

Ireland's efforts were rewarded in the 79th minute. Jamie Mullins' whipped free-kick was headed home by McManus to make it a goal-scoring debut for the Brentford man. Then four minutes later the night would get even better for the former Bray Wanderers defender who nodded in a Vaughan cross for his second goal of the evening to seal the win.

Speaking after the game Head Coach Jim Crawford from Tallaght said: "Hungary were very good. We watched them against Iceland and they were just ok, but they made some changes and they were very good.

"It was a tough first half, it was a baptism of fire for the group because of the physical nature of Hungary. It became a point in the game we just had to ride the storm and get the lads in at half-time. To win 3-1 was a real reflection of our second half performance because first half we were just ok.

"It was a great test for the players and where we need to get to if we're going to gain points when we get to the qualifying campaign in September. For me it shows a real togetherness of the group and an adaptability.

"The attacking set plays were excellent and for Conor McManus to score two goals was fantastic, he had a fantastic game. I thought young Mason [Melia] was outstanding for us. I was delighted with him and his overall game was excellent. It was a pleasing result."



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