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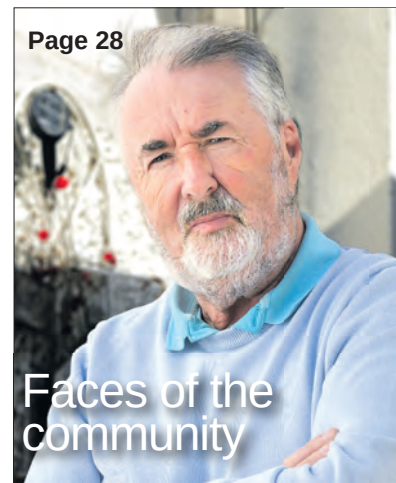
**Celebration mass to honour Sr Carmel (89)**

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Faces of the community

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# 'How in the world could I have known she was suffering'

"She told me daily how fake the world was and she didn't fit in," wrote a heartbroken mother following the tragic death of her 12-year-old daughter, reports Alessia Micalizzi. See page 6

**MOTHER DELIVERS EMOTIONAL MESSAGE AFTER JANNAH'S TRAGIC DEATH**



Devices found are believed to be related to an ongoing feud between groups

# Man found with four pipe bombs in back of van

A MAN found with four pipe bombs in the back of his van believed to be related to an ongoing feud between organised crime groups has been jailed for six and a quarter years, reports Fiona Ferguson. See page 18

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Hotelier Brian McGettigan submitted a ‘Declaration of Exemption’

# Man (26) caught transporting €299,730 worth of cannabis

A MAN who was caught transporting just under €300,000 worth of cannabis has been jailed for two years, *reports Sonya McLean*.

Thomas Barrett (26) of Brookview Drive, Brookview, Tallaght, pleaded guilty at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court to having drugs for sale or supply at Sundale Park, also Tallaght on December 29, 2020.

Garda Elaine Phelan told Fiona McGowan BL, prosecuting, that gardai on mobile patrol around 11am spotted Barrett carrying a large cardboard box.

They lost sight of him for a couple of seconds before they spotted him running off. He no longer had the box with him.

However, a new application was made to SDCC by Mr McGettigan, a director of Sienna Star Ltd, and it was declared exempt. The latest planning application included a letter from the Dept Children, which said “the above property has been offered to the Department as temporary emergency accommodation for International Protection applicants subject to grant of a planning exemption.”

“We would therefore request that this correspondence be taken as evidence of engagement with the Department regarding the proposed change of use of the property named above,” said the Dept letter.

“I can confirm that the Department is interested utilising the above property for the accommodation of International Protection applicants subject to all planning, change of use, building control, Certificate of Compliance on Completion (CCC), fire and insurance certifications being in place and subject to contract/contract denied.”

Requests for exemptions under a Section 5 Declaration have become common in the last year.

Local sites successful in securing exemptions to house international applicants, include a commercial unit in Cookstown Industrial Estate, Dolcain House in Clondalkin, and the former ABB building in Tallaght.

Facilities the Irish State say it will consider to house international applicants include schools, colleges, community centres, gyms, warehouses, light industrial buildings, play centres, hotels, and more.

The Address Collective, a family-owned Irish hotel group, is owned and managed by husband-and-wife team Brian and Ciara McGettigan.

They launched The Address hotel brand in 2020 following a €16m investment, which forged three established hotels: The North Star Hotel in Dublin 1, The Kingswood Hotel in Citywest, and the Ambassador in Cork.

Gardaí pursued Barrett and found him hiding in a nearby shed.

He was arrested for trespass. A large cardboard box was later discovered in a nearby garden and a second box in a second garden.

Barrett was arrested but nothing came out of the interview.

His fingerprints were later found on a bag in one of the boxes and he was later linked to the second box. The total drugs found were just under 15kg with a street value of €299,730.

Garret Baker SC, defending, said that his client was a teenager when he was caught with the drugs. He has since become a father and

has not come to garda attention since this offence.

Counsel said his client is “psychologically vulnerable” and struggles to deal with stress – turning to addiction to cope.

Mr Baker said his client agreed to move the drugs in order to reduce a drug debt.

Judge Martin Nolan said Barrett pleaded guilty and co-operated and accepted he didn’t own the drugs but was transporting them for reward.

He said a custodial term is inevitable in the case while accepting that Barrett was young at the time adding “young people can do stupid things”. He jailed him for two years.



## Cycle and bus lane meets standards

THE construction of a bus and cycle lane on Killinenny Road left “enough room for vehicles to pass each other,” said South Dublin County Council in response to residents’ concerns.

At the Rathfarnham area meeting on Tuesday, April 8, Councillor Sarah Barnes (FG) reported these concerns saying that “the cycle lane will leave barely enough room for two vehicles to meet.”

“With the cycle lane the road is now so narrow that the passing traffic must stop and wait until traffic turning right into Oldcourt Avenue gets a break in oncoming traffic,” she added.

“This could cause a massively disruptive build-up of traffic right the way back to Old Bawn Road and beyond.”

However, the Council said that the width allocated to the different means of transports is in line with the Department of Transport standards and that they are reviewing the Oldcourt junction, “following representations.”

In March, SDCC amended the original plan for Killinenny Road and decided to allocate a 3-metre-wide lane to be shared by buses and cycle paths, alongside two 3-metre-wide car lanes.

Speaking of a concern around emergency vehicles, SDCC said the Dublin Fire Brigade was on site during construction and reported “they had no difficulty with the design of that road.”

SDCC also debunked concerns around drivers stepping on “dangerous drainage shores” on the segment of the road headed towards the M50, as “the drainage gulleys are constructed to a standard and are not dangerous to drive on.”

“All of these will be reviewed during the construction project and upgraded if necessary.”

## Camera Club competition

PALMERSTOWN camera club monthly competition was held on Wednesday, March 26, in the Palmerstown Parish centre.

The winners in the ‘novice’ category were Annie Whitley, John O Flaherty, Maria Harrington, and Linda Ffrench.

Intermediate winners were Ciaran O Rourke, Kieran Cahill, Miriam Power, Liam O Dalaigh, Caroline Fowler and James Grandfield.

Advanced winners were Sean Brosnan, Kevin Naughton, Frank Delaney, Gerry Phelan, Aoife Tierney, Orla Brady and Garrett Hayes.

“Well done everyone, and the image of the month went to John O Flaherty,” said the club.

Palmerstown camera club is always open to new members joining. They run every Wednesday night from 8pm-10pm.

# Celebration mass honours much-loved Sr Carmel

### Sister (89) has worked in the community for the last 34 years

By Maurice Garvey  
maurice@echo.ie

A CELEBRATION Mass took place in Neilstown on Sunday to honour ‘Sister Reebok’ as Sr Carmel Earls is affectionately known.

Sr Carmel (89) is a much-loved stalwart in the Neilstown community, where she has worked for the last 34 years.

The mass at St Peter Apostle Church in Neilstown celebrated Sr Carmel’s 70 years in the profession – a diamond jubilee.

Neilstown resident Marian Reilly, said: “It was a brilliant day that turned out well. Sr Carmel’s family all came up from Wicklow. She hasn’t aged over the years, she still looks amazing. People called her Sr Reebok because she always wore runners out and about.

“Bishop Donal Roche spoke at the mass and he was great. He is originally from Drimnagh and said he missed being in a parish, being with people, and that everywhere he goes the red carpet is rolled out but there is no need for all that he said.”

Originally from Brittas Bay, Sr Carmel left home at the age of 15 to join the Franciscan order, and spent 40 years in the USA, before returning to Neilstown.

She was instrumental in helping to set up important ventures like the Carline Project, which is aimed at keeping teenagers off the streets and the Beacon of Light.

Sr Carmel is retiring at the end of this year and will be 90 in July.

After Mass, tea and a cake was served for the many people who showed up for Sr Carmel’s anniversary celebration.



STALWART: Sr Carmel with her family

## Family Carers 5k walk to help raise funds in Waterstown

FAMILY Carers Ireland is encouraging people in Dublin to Step Up and take part in a special 5k fundraising walk this Sunday, April 13th.

With the event just days away, the charity is calling on the public to show up and show their support for the hundreds of thousands of people who care for loved ones at home—many without a break, financial support, or formal recognition.

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

Every day, Ireland’s 500,000 family carers provide unwavering support to loved ones - often without recognition or adequate support. Now, it’s time for Dublin to step up for them. This nationwide event will raise vital funds and awareness to ensure that Family Carers Ireland can continue to be there for those who dedicate their lives to caring for others.

“With just days to go, we’re urging everyone in Dublin to get involved,” said Eileen Aherne, National Fundraising Manager at Family Carers Ireland. “Whether you join us at Waterstown Park or walk in your own community, your support helps shine a light on the realities faced by family carers—and shows they are not alone.”



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VACACIES: The primary health care facility in Clondalkin

# ‘Shocking’ levels of vacancies at primary health care centre

Modern state-of-the-art HSE facility only opened last year has vacancies in almost all staffing roles

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

A NEW primary health care centre in Clondalkin opened last year but has “unacceptable” levels of vacancies, according to Dublin Mid-West TD, Mark Ward (SF).

In response to a parliamentary question by Ward, the HSE confirmed vacancies in almost

all the staffing roles for the Boot Road centre, which opened in May 2024.

This includes 6.5 vacancies for occupational therapists, three vacancies for psychology, two nurses and 2.2 social worker roles.

Deputy Ward estimates vacancies ranging from 14 per cent to 87 per cent across job positions at Boot Road.

“This is a modern, state of the art facility that is really needed in Clondalkin. However, its pointless having a brand new shiny building if you haven’t got the staff to provide the services

the area needs,” said Ward.

“No position seems to be adequately staffed. A third of speech language posts in the centre are vacant. 60 per cent of psychology posts are vacant. A shocking 87 per cent of occupational posts are vacant. Our local area is crying out for occupational therapy services.”

Ward asked the Health Minister and HSE to provide an update on the level of staff recruitment and vacancies per post for the Boot Road primary care centre.

In response to Deputy Ward, the HSE said

staff members work throughout the Clondalkin Network, including in Clondalkin Primary Care Centre.

“Dublin South West Kildare Integrated Healthcare Area is working to address the impacts of staff vacancies. The HSE continue to review service needs and prioritise services for recruitment in line with the HSE’s Pay and Numbers strategy. Every effort will be made to improve access and reduce waiting lists for the local population in line with this strategy,” said the HSE.

# ‘You don’t have to be a great reader to join’ teenage book club

“YOU Don’t have to be a great reader to join,” said librarian Caoimhe Dowling as Tallaght library is about to bring back a teenage book club to the area, reports Alessia Micalizzi.

The Young Adult Book Club for ages 12 to 14 will be launched on Monday, April 14, at 5.30pm.

While the library staff aim at “retaining” young people who are already engaging with the library and might need their own outlet as they grow up, the ultimate goal is to encourage young people from the area to join.

“Reading is often perceived as mandatory and related to studying, but we want to encourage the curiosity behind it,” said Ms Dowling.

“In our meetings we won’t just discuss books. It will be a space to meet new people, have fun and we’ll have crafts too.”

According to James Duggan, who worked on the project with Ms Dowling, narrowing the age range when targeting teenagers is more effective as “a 12-year-old is very different from a 16-year-old.”

With the library hosting well-attended junior book clubs, the two librarians felt that something was needed for those who are past the junior age range.

As any other book club, members of the Tallaght library Young Adult Book Club will choose what to read together and meet monthly to discuss what they read, while meeting like-minded people.

“For the first meeting, we’re going to talk about *Girl, Missing* by Sophie McKenzie, but we don’t expect members to have read it already as this is all new,” said Ms Dowling.

The library welcomes anyone to join and hope to see the club up and running throughout the Summer so that in September many more can join with the start of the new academic year.

The first meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 14 at 5:30pm in Tallaght library at Parthalán Place, and the following meetings will take place on the second Monday of each month.

To join, walk in and ask at the library desk, call them at (01) 462 0073 or send an email to tallaghtlibrary@sdblincoco.ie.



ENGAGING: Tallaght Library is starting a teenage book club



# Mother applies to 40 schools but still can't find a class place

Boy (8) with special needs has missed two years of school due to 'oversubscription'

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

"MY SON doesn't understand why he's so alone," said a Tallaght mother who can't get a suitable school place for her child with special needs despite numerous applications.

Only this year, Aoife Sandford applied to over forty schools, "from Saggart to Inchicore, and in the whole Dublin 24, Dublin 22, and Dublin 12 areas."

Her son Rowan (8) was officially diagnosed with ASD and Global Developmental Disorder in 2022 and was recommended to attend an ASD unit within a mainstream school.

However, as he already missed two years of pre-school and nearly two whole years of school due to "oversubscription," he now needs to apply for special schools.

The lack of access to professional help and therapy sessions caused by backlog in the HSE aggravated his condition, while Aoife did her best to meet her son's needs.

"I'm trying to teach him how to read and write, but he is semi-verbal, and I don't have the skills of teachers or professional therapists.

"He hasn't had school friends, or a school atmosphere. When we walk past the primary school nearby our house, he hears the noise of the kids playing and he wants to jump in.

"He doesn't understand why he's so alone and he thinks I'm denying it to him when he's just not allowed in. It's putting a strain on our relationship too."

While he never got a school offer, Rowan has never accessed proper psychology, occupational or



speech therapy either, with the first session scheduled for 2027 when he'll be 10 years old.

The "lack of empathy" she perceived from both the HSE and the Department of Education materialised through "copy and paste responses in their e-mails" year after year.

Aoife expressed her feelings in a sixteen-stanzas poem called Uathach: mo mhac, mo dhomhain, where she highlighted everything that's wrong with the current "system."

"How exactly do you expect An Eden to bloom - In neglect?" read the poem, 'If our people are our product, and if every school day matters - How would the world even notice If our people were in tatters?'

"The sixteen stanzas represent the years I received free education from our State, which I know Rowan will never get, because it's already too late," said Aoife.

"Each stanza is four lines long, representing each official school year he has lost so far."

Aoife also believes the Irish word chosen for 'autism' itself is an indicator of the lack of "thoughtfulness" for children with the condition.

"In our old tales, Uathach's name meant 'corpse, spectre, or terrible one.' For juxtaposition, the current Māori word for autism is "takiwātanga", meaning 'in their own time and space'," she explained.

"To undo the system will probably cause even more delay. But I believe the Government need to start to take on recommendations from charities who work on the ground and have been ignored so far.

"Children with autism can be a great addition to society, they are very sweet and smart. They're not trying to hurt anyone."



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# Jannah’s loss is a ‘terrible tragedy’ for the community

## Mother makes emotional message after the tragic death of 12-year-old GAA player

“BEING your own person was the gift I will hold on to forever. You were never meant to adapt to a cruel world. You left in your innocence. She told me daily how fake the world was and she didn’t fit in,” wrote a heartbroken mother following the tragic death of her 12-year-old daughter, *reports Alessia Micalizzi*.

Jannah Shahzad, from Brookview, passed away at home on Thursday, April 3. She was a sixth-class pupil at St Thomas SNS in Jobstown and a camogie player with St Marks GAA.

Jannah’s mother Katrina Browne released an emotional statement on Wednesday, April 9.

“How in the world could I have known my child was suffering inside when all she did was smile and joke and dance and sing and play sports with me and try to make us happy.

“Before your child goes to school today, or before they sleep, ask the hard questions, ‘Do you feel suicidal?’, ‘Are you having bad thoughts?’, or even, ‘What can we do to keep today positive?’”

“We are deeply saddened. Jannah will be greatly missed by all who knew her,” wrote St Thomas SNS, while the school was closed on Tuesday, April 8, as a mark of respect for the girl and her family.

The premises were open for a few hours in the morning for parents and friends to sign a book of condolences, with St Thomas’ church also open to light a candle and say a prayer for all those affected.

St Mark’s GAA did a guard of honour for Jannah at her funeral on Tuesday in the Temple in Newlands Cross.

“She was a great team player, really enjoyed the game and was so focused during the

matches,” coach Linda McCarthy told *The Echo*.

“We were all very fond of her and everyone in the team is really, really sad. She will be missed by everyone in the club.”

Dublin Camogie paid a tribute to Jannah with a message on their Facebook page, and they decided to observe a minute of silence before all games played at the weekend.

“It is with the heaviest of hearts that we inform you of the tragic passing of one of St Marks U14’s players, Jannah Shahzad,” they wrote.

“On behalf of all in Dublin Camogie, we offer our sincere condolences on the tragic passing of Jannah. Our thoughts are with all of Jannah’s family and all her teammates in St Marks.

“Jannah will also be remembered at our national congress this weekend.”

Jannah’s death has “shocked and saddened the community, especially her classmates, friends and teachers in Jobstown,” wrote the local parish in a message shared online.

“Please keep the Shahzad family in your thoughts and prayers as they navigate this very difficult time.”

In the death notice shared on RIP.ie, Jannah is described as the “loving and devoted daughter to Katrina and Mohammad and adored sister of Kelly, Gerard, Daniyal and Ahmed.”

Jannah “will be forever loved and very sadly missed by her heartbroken family, extended family especially in Pakistan, teachers and many friends in St Thomas, the wider community of Brookview and neighbours.”

A fundraiser was set up to support the family after the sudden loss, to “allow them to grieve with less financial strain and get Jannah a headstone which she deserves.”

“This is something that no parent should ever experience, and to happen to someone so young has caused unspeakable pain,” read the fundraiser, which collected over €6,100 so far.

Following Jannah’s passing, St Thomas SNS implemented their Critical Incident Management Plan and had psychologists from the National Educational Psychological Service advise teachers and staff on how to assist pupils.

The school will be open to parents to support them and offer guidance.

As Katrina’s statement reads, Jannah “knew how loved she was, but in a moment of weakness she felt alone. I’ll try to find the memories when she was sad, and I won’t because she hid it well.”

Katrina encouraged everyone to check on other people and especially their children. “We think they are small but with pressures and social media they are forced to become adults before their time.

“But if one thing comes from my baby’s life, it’s that hard questions become normal. That we are not afraid to speak openly, that we accept that kids are facing so much pressure to be perfect by social media standards.”

Talking to Jannah one last time, she concluded, “Being your own person was the gift I will hold on to forever. You were never meant to adapt to a cruel world. You left in your innocence.”

If you have been affected by this story the following supports can be contacted: HOPE can be contacted via phone on 089 610 5476, or by messaging the HOPE Suicide Prevention Centre Tallaght Facebook page, NINA for Life, visit the NINA for Life Suicide Awareness Facebook page and Pieta provides 24/7 support via the freephone crisis helpline on 1800 247 247 or text HELP to 51444.



SHOCK: 12-year-old Jannah Shahzad sadly passed away at the weekend



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## An Post secures tenancy at Grange Castle West facility

AN POST has secured a tenancy at Grange Castle West – Mountpark’s second major logistics development located 2km away from its Baldonnell scheme, *reports Maurice Garvey*.

According to the Irish Times, the State’s postal service has agreed a deal to occupy Unit 3, a 50,000sq ft building, as part of its plans to expand and modernise its delivery operation.

The company is expected to take occupancy of the building, subject to planning permission being obtained for its construction, in early 2027.

Approximately 150 parcels and letters delivery staff will work from the new depot.

In 2023, Mountpark, the industrial and logistics property development specialist, completed the €300m Baldonnell Business Park

off the Naas Road, where Amazon, Home Store & More and United Drug are among its tenants.

That development was built in two phases, with the biggest the 660,000 sq ft Amazon fulfillment centre, the first distribution centre for the e-commerce giant in Ireland.

The new Mountpark development in Grange Castle West is a €325m logistics scheme, extending across a total area of 78 acres.

Site-wide infrastructure works are now underway, alongside the construction of Mountpark’s inventory buildings Unit 1, Unit 2 and Unit 5.

The three inventory buildings will be available from the third quarter of this year and built to high specifications, targeting BREEAM Outstanding and A1 Ber ratings.

## Students host event for Saoirse service

TUD students will host a bingo night to fundraise for Saoirse Domestic Violence Services on Thursday, April 10 at The Old Mill in Tallaght.

The ‘Blingo Bingo’ night kicking off at 7pm is a “night of fun and entertainment followed by a raffle,” explained organiser Shane Mulvany, with all the proceeds supporting victims of domestic violence.

The event will start with three rounds of regular bingo, each round allowing a prize for people who win a line, two lines or full house on their bingo cards.

There will be two rounds of ‘music bingo’, where a few seconds of different songs are played and participants mark down the songs on their cards if they have it, and a round of ‘movie bingo’ where movies are on the cards instead.

In that case, singers entertaining the event, Aishling Farrell and Maeve Newton, will be the ones singing two or three lines of famous movie

soundtracks.

Between each bingo round, there will be a 15-minute interval with the singers and Shane performing, and time for people to buy the raffle tickets.

The raffle has over twenty prizes up for grabs, including a hotel stay, Panto tickets, and gift hampers.

The event was organised by a team of Event Management students at TUD Tallaght.

“We wanted to create a fun event in our own unique way, as we found that many people would be interested in dressing up and having a night of fun, especially if all the proceeds go towards charity,” said Shane.

Entrance tickets are €10, and participants can buy a raffle line for €2 and three lines for €5.

To know more, follow @tudblingbingo on Instagram or send an e-mail to [tudblingbingo@outlook.ie](mailto:tudblingbingo@outlook.ie).



# Spiritual medium given suspended sentence for acting as wedding director

A SPIRITUAL medium has been given a nine-month suspended sentence after he acted as a director of a spiritual wedding and funeral business when he was disqualified from running a company, *reports Natasha Reid.*

Tom Colton (49) of The Park, St Wolstan's Abbey, Celbridge, Co. Kildare, had been disqualified following a theft conviction from 2014.

The former rugby player and accountant was before Dublin Circuit Criminal Court on Monday, where he had pleaded guilty to acting as a director at Grá agus Solas ULC between August 2016 and May 2018, when disqualified due to a conviction for theft. The charges came following an investigation by the Corporate Enforcement Authority (CEA).

He admitted acting in a manner or

capacity prohibited by a disqualification order, as a director and secretary of Grá agus Solas, Unit 3, The Courtyard, Kilcarbery Park, Nangor Road in Clondalkin, and being directly concerned in the formation and management of the company.

Detective Garda Gary Callanan told the court that Colton received an automatic five-year disqualification from company directorship on December 5, 2014, after being sentenced to four years in prison with 18 months suspended for the theft of €322,000.

However, he filed various papers with the Companies Registration Office using his Irish name, Tomás Mac Cultan, when Grá agus Solas was registered in 2016. The court heard that the company provided celebrant services for weddings,

funerals, and baby naming ceremonies.

Colton told gardaí that he had used his Irish name to avoid media attention following his conviction, and that he only later learned that he had been disqualified.

The court heard that, as well as the theft offence, which triggered the automatic disqualification, Colton also had a previous conviction from Dublin District Court under the Companies Act.

This involved a charge of acting as a statutory auditor when not approved to do so.

The court heard that today's was the first prosecution of acting as a director following an automatic disqualification, and that Colton was now consenting to a 10-year disqualification under the Companies Registration Act.

Under cross examination by Cathal Ó Braonáin BL, defending, D Gda Callanan agreed that there had been no mention in court on the day of his theft conviction of him being disqualified.

He accepted that he had become aware of his disqualification in 2018 and immediately resigned. This was four years prior to the investigation.

Ó Braonáin said that his client had started Grá agus Solas with his wife. It subcontracted to celebrants, with 60 celebrants currently contracted with it.

Counsel said that his client's wife had suffered a stroke in 2021, had heart surgery the following year and that her memory was not great. He handed in a letter from her, in which she spoke of how difficult it would be for her if he was incarcerated.

The court heard that the sanction

for the offence is up to five years in prison, with or without a fine of up to €50,000.

Judge Sinead Ní Chúlacháin noted that there was no system in place for people to be informed when they are automatically disqualified.

She said his guilty plea was valuable as this may well have been a complex trial, especially as it was the first prosecution of its type.

She noted testimonials that described him as a family man and a community volunteer, particularly in relation to children and sport.

She described his consent to a longer period of disqualification than would be imposed as evidence of remorse.

She imposed a nine-month sentence, but suspended it in full and disqualified him from being a company director for 10 years.

# Marathon man Mark ran 147km for his friend Eoghan

## Eoghan suffered life-changing injuries and his GoFundMe target is €150k

By **Maurice Garvey**

maurice@echo.ie

MARATHON man Mark Conlon did it again – running 147km in searing heat to raise funds for his friend Eoghan Gorman.

Mark finished fourth in the Irish National 24-hour championship and got a national championship medal. However, he was more interested in helping Eoghan move closer to his GoFundMe target of €150k, funds which are required for round the clock care.

Eoghan, from Greenpark in Clondalkin, suffered a life changing spinal injury in a mountain biking accident in the Dublin Mountains after he fell off his bike coming down a trail in October 2021.

"He is a good friend. We used to do the Corkagh parkrun together, he would finish ahead of me," said Mark.

"Eoghan represented Ireland all over the world in kickboxing. I just think he deserves to get to his target amount. I'd love to see donations come in for him at #fightwitheoghan where you can see his story."

Mark previously ran two and a half marathons in one day for Eoghan, but Saturday and Sunday in Kildare was another matter due to the hot weather and distance involved, as participants ran around the running track in Celbridge.

"I love running in the sun. That's why I travel to Italy to run 10 marathons in 10 days. The 33 marathons in 33 days in 2018 was this kind of weather, I love every minute."

Although wearing shades and sun cream, the conditions made it very challenging with sunburn and blisters in ready supply.

"I was taking salt tablets, drinking and eating plenty so I cramped up during the night but because it was for Eoghan I kept moving. I had a warm jacket on during the night and used a sterilising pin to burst blisters. In the army we never stopped until the mission was completed. I'm delighted I came fourth place. There was that many drop outs only eight off us finished. The pain will go but great memories last forever for champ Eoghan."

To support Eoghan visit [www.gofundme.com/f/fightwitheoghan](http://www.gofundme.com/f/fightwitheoghan)



“He is a good friend. We used to do the Corkagh parkrun together, he would finish ahead of me. Eoghan represented Ireland all over the world in kickboxing. I just think he deserves to get to his target amount. I'd love to see donations come in for him

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# Jail for laundering €291,790 in drug money

A 40-year-old businessman has been sentenced to four years in prison for laundering almost €300,000 in drugs money with his brother in an unoccupied apartment, *reports Natasha Reid*.

Stephen Connolly of Rath Gael, Clondalkin in Dublin was before Dublin Circuit Criminal Court on Thursday, where he had pleaded guilty to possessing €291,790, while knowing or believing it was the proceeds of crime

at Beacon South Quarter, Sandyford, on May 4, 2017.

The court heard that gardai found the money rolled and placed in separate bags during a planned search. The defendant's fingerprints were found on the cash. The court heard that the money had come from drugs and that the defendant's role was to store and count the money.

His brother, Mark Connolly, with an address at Harelawn Park, Clondalkin,

was previously jailed for two and a half years for his part in the crime.

Dominic McGinn SC, defending, submitted that his client was a family man, who had mental health issues and was on a number of medications. He said that his client was not at the directing end of the operation.

Counsel noted that, as is often an unintended consequence of criminal activity, his client's imprisonment would cause stress and strain on the innocent

members of his family. He handed in what he said was a heartfelt apology from his client.

He explained that the offence had been carried out eight years ago and that, since then, the defendant had continued to provide for his family, and employed a number of staff members in his businesses. Those jobs may be now in jeopardy as a result of him going into custody, he said.

"I'd ask the court to recognise that he

can't be defined by what happened in May 2017," said the barrister, describing him as 'a good man' outside of this. Judge Martin Nolan said that Connolly must have been trusted to hold and count the cash, describing his as a significant role.

"I note he's a bright, competent man with two businesses on the go, employing people, and has family responsibilities," he said.

He imposed a four-year sentence.

# Drugs and plants worth €490,800 recovered in cannabis grow house

72 plants were found in the houses and 20kg of cannabis in house in Lucan

A MAN who claims efforts to repay gambling debts led him into involvement in an almost half a million euro cannabis grow house operation has been jailed, *reports Fiona Ferguson*.

Aurimas Matusa (46) of Hallwell Crescent, Lucan, pleaded guilty to possession of cannabis herb, cannabis resin and cannabis plants at Foxborough Drive, Lucan, on February 28, 2025. He has no previous convictions.

Dublin Circuit Criminal Court heard that 72 plants were found in the house and Matusa claimed that 20kg cannabis to the value of over €400,000 also discovered had been from a previous crop.

Passing sentence on Friday, Judge Martin Nolan said Matusa was a mature man who made a very bad decision.

He noted Matusa had been led astray by his addiction but said people have to deal with addictions in non criminal ways.

The judge noted Matusa's early guilty plea, cooperation, lack of prior offending and good work history.



Judge Nolan set a headline sentence of six and a half to seven years. Noting the substantial mitigation he reduced this to three and a quarter years.

Garda Declan Buckley told Marc Murphy BL, prosecuting, that following on from information

obtained during the arrest of another individual for drugs offences, gardai searched the Lucan address.

Matusa arrived during the search and told gardai he had been growing the plants for eight months.

Gda Buckley said in addition to 72

cannabis plants being grown in two upstairs bedrooms equipped with heating and watering systems, gardai also recovered cannabis herb valued at €410,000 and cannabis resin valued at €23,000.

Matusa told gardai the drugs were

from a previous harvest.

The total value of drugs and plants recovered was €490,800

Matusa was arrested and questioned. He said he was growing the cannabis as he was under pressure to repay a gambling debt.

Gda Buckley agreed with Gerardine Small SC, defending, that he told gardai he was trying to work off a debt, had been threatened and this was his second crop of cannabis. He agreed there was no trappings of wealth and that Matusa caused no difficulty to the gardai.

Ms Small said Matusa came from Lithuania to Ireland in 2008 and had a very strong work history. She said he is well regarded and spoken of in positive terms by his current employer.

She said he got into difficulties with gambling and built up a considerable debt as he was not earning enough. An arrangement was put in place that he could pay the debt by this means.

She said he had co-operated with the investigation in relation to his own role and pleaded guilty at a very early stage. She said he was a single man with no dependents.

# Woman who stole almost €23k from employer receives suspended sentence

A WOMAN who stole almost €23,000 from her employer has been given a suspended sentence, *reports Eimear Dodd*.

Natalie Brennan (33) was hired as a junior finance administrator at the College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland in 2014 and was considered an exemplary employee by her employers.

However, they noticed changes in her behaviour in 2019 after she started a new relationship, Dublin Circuit Criminal Court heard.

Garda Sergeant Fionnuala Lawlor gave evidence that Brennan asked for an advance on her wages in July 2022 to pay her then-partner's debt. Her employers were concerned, but they gave her an advance of her wages, which was repaid.

Brennan later made a similar request for more money, saying she

wanted to repay her boyfriend's debt, and this was again granted.

She took leave in December 2022 and returned to work in January 2023. At this point, questions were raised about monies not adding up in the accounting system.

Gda Sgt Lawlor told Derek Cooney BL, prosecuting, that Brennan's responsibilities included making refunds on the credit card system if there was an overpayment.

34 transactions totalling €22,857 were identified on the system between September 2022 and February 2023.

Brennan was asked about it during a meeting, and said mistakes were being made and that she'd look into it.

During a second meeting, Brennan admitted she'd taken the money, she apologised and resigned.

The court heard it was identified during the investigation that the

money was going to bank and Revolut accounts in Brennan's name.

Brennan (33) of Greenfort Gardens, Clondalkin, Dublin 22 pleaded guilty to three counts of theft between September 2022 and January 2023. She has no previous convictions.

The court heard that the money has not been paid back.

Gda Sgt Lawlor agreed with Oisín Clarke, BL, defending, that Brennan was considered an exemplary employee, and her employer expressed shock, disappointment and sorrow about what had happened.

It was further accepted that her employer was concerned about her behaviour change after she started a new relationship in 2019.

The witness also agreed that Brennan's former partner has served a custodial sentence.

The garda also agreed that Brennan was cooperative during the investigation, accepted responsibility, and expressed remorse when interviewed. There is no indication that she benefitted from the money or was living an extravagant lifestyle.

Mr Clarke asked the court to take into account that gardai accept Brennan's criminal behaviour came about as she was "under pressure from another individual, who has some element of criminality attached to him".

He noted that her employer had expressed concern for her well-being before the offending occurred.

Letters from family members were handed to the court. Brennan has one child and is a carer for her mother.

Mr Clarke said his client had left that relationship and wished to repay the money but was not working due to

her caring responsibilities.

He asked the court to consider her previous good character and to give her time to save a concrete expression of remorse. He suggested that an immediate custodial sentence is not required in this case.

Judge Martin Nolan said it seemed that domestic financial pressure had driven her to steal the money.

"She wasn't too lucky in her choice of partner, who has ended up in custody," he noted.

He said that it was unlikely that she could ever pay this money back, and that her former employer could consider a civil action against her.

The judge said that there was a huge breach of trust, but he did not think it would be just to imprison her.

She became emotional as he imposed a suspended sentence of two and a half years.



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# Super player Leo's dedication and passion was second to none

Former Glenville Pitch and Putt Captain was also a member of the Shamrock Rovers team in the 1950s

By **Alessia Micalizzi**

alessia@echo.ie

LIFELONG member of Glenville Pitch and Putt Club on Kiltipper Road, Leo O'Reilly will be remembered as a "super player" whose dedication for the game was "second to none."

Leo O'Reilly (89) from Churchtown, passed away on Saturday, March 29 in St James' Hospital.

Glenville captain in 1989, in 2000 he was inducted into the Pitch and Putt Ireland 'Hall of Fame,' following glorious years as a League of Ireland footballer in the 1950s.

"We have the photograph of his induction up on our wall. Everyone was extremely sad to hear he passed," said Joyce Keane from Glenville Pitch and Putt.

"His dedication and passion for the game were second to none. He was a super player, and he contributed in every possible way to our club.

"He was a warm, friendly person."

Joyce said the club might organise an event to commemorate him, but that they will have to discuss it with Leo's wife Kay who has always played alongside him.

"You would never see one without the other," said Joyce. "She is a

member too and hopefully we'll see her back at the club soon."

Besides Glenville, Dublin Pitch and Putt and Pitch and Putt Ireland paid tribute to Leo, highlighting the interest he showed for the sport for up to "six decades."

"The game indeed has lost a stalwart," wrote DPP on their Facebook page.

Shamrock Rovers took a moment to remember Leo too, as he contributed to the team's iconic moments in the 1950s.

Leo scored a hat-trick in his debut against Cork Athletic in April 1955, and a brace in a famous 3-2 win over Chelsea at Dalymount Park.

Later on he played for Dundalk and Limerick showing the same passion he would put into pitch and putt for the rest of his life.

In 1979 he was part of the Dublin Pitch and Putt team that finished second in the Inter-County championship at Waterford Glass.

Leo will be missed by wife Catherine (Kay), children Linda, Keith and Valerie, grandchildren Holly, Taylor and Danielle, and siblings Christy, Mary and Vera.

He will be fondly remembered by all his relatives, neighbours and "a large circle of friends," his death notice read.



**SUPER PLAYER:** Leo O'Reilly sadly passed away

“We have the photograph of his induction up on our wall. Everyone was extremely sad to hear he passed

# Striking images on display at annual camera club exhibition

**Cllr Mick Duff**

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

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**Mick DUFF**  
From the Community and For the Community

THERE was a good turnout and plenty of striking images on display for the opening of the annual SatSun Ballyfermot Camera Club photographic exhibition, reports *Maurice Garvey*.

The expo launch took place in Ballyfermot Library, on Saturday, April 5, and will run until the end of the month.

The exhibition was opened by former Dublin Lord Mayor, Daithi de Roiste.

Residents are invited to view up to 80 images by members of the club.

Carmel Grahame, secretary of SatSun/Ballyfermot Photography Club, said: "All members of the club have participated in the organising of the exhibition. We will have 80 images on display, from our Novice, Intermediate and Advanced members. The exhibition has been sponsored by Ballyfermot/Inchicore Credit Union. Sponsorship allows the club to put their images on display in a professional manner that would not be possible without financial funding."

Last year, the club celebrated their 20th anniversary.

The SatSun club was founded by

a group of 20 people who attended a photographic course in the Ballyfermot Civic centre, an URBAN initiative ran by professional photographer Tim Durham in 2003.

Half of the group attended the course on Saturdays, and the other half on Sundays, but they also wanted to keep using the skills they learned on the course. So both

groups came together and the name SatSun was chosen for the combined group.

The club has gone from strength to strength and over the years has hosted the Irish Photographic Federation's National Shield Competition three times.

They also do a lot of voluntary projects with Dublin City Council covering events in the area.



**EXPO:** Joanne Byrne, Colm Reilly, Tony Naughton, Rose Kearns and Carmel Grahame



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# Two people arrested in relation to ongoing feud

Anything that disrupts the activities of this feud is welcome

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

TWO people were arrested on Tuesday night in relation to an ongoing feud in north Clondalkin.

The arrest of a male in his 20s and a female in her 20s, forms part of a garda investigation to disrupt activities of an organised crime group in the Ronanstown area.

Dublin Mid West TD Mark Ward (SF), who has been campaigning for more garda resources for over a year in relation to the feud, welcomed the arrests.

"There has been an increased garda presence in the area in the last while and it has made a

big difference," said Deputy Ward.

"Anything that disrupts the activities of this feud is welcome."

Gardaí attached to the South Dublin Serious Crime Unit made the arrests on Tuesday April 8.

According to gardai, the criminal group is involved in an ongoing feud in the Ronanstown area which has resulted in pipe bomb and arson attacks, the discharge of firearms, drug dealing and other serious incidents.

A garda spokesperson said: "A male, aged in his 20s was arrested in Dublin city centre and is currently detained under Section 4 of the Criminal Justice Act, at a garda station in West Dublin. A female, aged in her 20s was arrested in Clondalkin and is currently

detained under Section 50, Criminal Justice Act, at a Garda station in West Dublin."

The feud has led to numerous homes being burnt out due to arson attacks in Quarryvale and North Clondalkin, with a number of innocent families forced to flee their property due to houses beside them being targeted.

In February, a teenager was stabbed by intruders at a home on Greenfort Avenue and hospitalised with serious injuries.

Deputy Ward wants to see a youth programme in place, which could nip some problems in the bud.

"I'd love to see a youth diversion project in the area. An example of this is Connect 4 in Tallaght which does great work. I'd love to see something like that in Clondalkin and the wider area," said Ward.

## Echoopinion...

### Always reach out for support

ACCORDING to the HSE, a mental health crisis often means that "you no longer feel able to cope or be in control of your situation."

Whether it's the loss of a loved one, or a life situation which feels too difficult to navigate, it can happen to anyone, and it doesn't mean that you're weak, but just that you're human.

Among young people, a mental health crisis can also happen due to bullying in schools, social and peers' exclusion or family struggles.

It's important to know that while more can be done to challenge the societal stigma around seeking help, support is in place and is free to avail of 24/7 in many cases.

Besides having your GP referring you to a professional for help, you can contact the Samaritans Freephone 116 123, 24 hours a day for "confidential, non-judgmental support," or their e-mail jo@samaritans.ie.

If you are concerned that you might harm yourself or are going through suicidal thoughts, you can call Pieta on their Freephone 1800 247 247 "anytime day or night" or text HELP to their number 51444 with standard message rates applying.

Text message service 'Text About it' is a free, anonymous and 24/7 service you can access by just texting 'Hello' to 50808.

Specifically dedicated to children and young people up to 18 years old is Childline, which offers a live chat at [www.childline.ie](http://www.childline.ie) and a freephone at 1800 66 66 66.

The HSE has a mental health Information Line at 1800 111 888 and detailed information at [www.yourmentalhealth.ie](http://www.yourmentalhealth.ie).

### Gardaí investigating the smuggling of controlled drugs into prisons

PROPERTIES in Clondalkin, Ballyfermot and Tallaght were searched by gardai investigating the smuggling of controlled drugs into Wheatfield, Cloverhill and Mountjoy Prisons.

A number of miniature phones wrapped in insulation tape ready to be sent by drone to the prisons were seized during the searches according to gardai.

Controlled drugs including €17,000 cannabis, €5,000 cocaine, €3,000 tablets were also seized in the properties along with €22,000 in cash.

A statement released by gardai said: "As part of an ongoing investigation into the smuggling of controlled drugs and contraband into Wheatfield, Cloverhill and Mountjoy Prisons, Gardaí today carried out searches of properties in Clondalkin, Ballyfermot, Coolock and Tallaght, Tuesday 8th April 2025.

"Gardaí also carried out searches of a number of cells in Mountjoy Prison.

"The searches were conducted by Gardaí attached to DMR South Serious Crime Unit with assistance from the Dublin Crime Response Team and the Irish Prison Service.

"During the searches of these properties, a number of miniature phones wrapped in insulation tape ready to be sent by drone to the prisons were seized.

"Controlled drugs including €17,000 cannabis, €5,000 cocaine, €3,000 tablets were also seized.

"In addition, €22,000 in cash, a drone, a Rolex watch, mobile phones, financial documents, improvised weapons and drug paraphernalia including weighing scales and bagging equipment were also seized".

Gardaí say Investigations are ongoing.

# Vine Group's Living Passion events and masses in parish

THE Vine Group's Living passion events for 2025, 'Journey to find hope in our world' will take place in various parishes around the Deanery of Tallaght from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday.

Events and masses organised will give participants "a feeling of what it would have been like to witness Christ's week in Jerusalem."

Bishop Eamonn Walsh will open the Living passion 2025 on Palm Sunday, April 13.

On that evening at 7pm, a movie will be shown in the Church of the Incarnation in Fettercairn, 'The Son of God', with refreshments provided.

On Monday, April 14, the Tallaght Camino will go from St Mark's in Springfield to St Aengus' in Balrothery.

Participants can collect their "passports" in

churches across the deanery and the Camino can be walked, ran, cycled or driven.

On Tuesday, April 15, parishioners are welcome to join the trip to Glendalough leaving St Mark's in Springfield after the 10am Mass. A coach with limited seats is available for free.

On Wednesday, April 16, St Martin De Pores in Old Bawn will hold a Mass for healing at 7:30pm, followed by prayers around the cross in the priory's garden on Thursday, April 17 at 9:15pm.

The Living passion will end on Easter Sunday, when a Dawn Mass will be held at 5:30am in Kingswood Park and Bishop Walsh will close the events with a statement throughout the day.

The Living passion is an annual ecumenical event dedicated to those



**PASSION: John Caffery, Trish and Joe Geoghegan, bishop Eamonn Walsh and Peter Keogh**

journeying through Holy week and preparing for Easter, explained the Tallaght Vine Group, while encouraging participants to acknowledge "the ongoing situations that the world is in."

It started in 2018, when chosen witnesses arrived in Tallaght and stayed for a week leading various programmes, and "has grown steadily over the last seven years."

Information on more

events happening can be found on posters in all churches around Tallaght and on the Vine Mass Facebook and Instagram pages.

All events are free and open to everyone.

### Iraqi passport taken from car

IRAQI national looking for a lost passport which was taken from his car in The Square carpark on the morning of 23rd March 2025.

Anyone with information should contact Tallaght Garda Station on (01) 6666000



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# Parents plea for special needs schools to cater for demand

## Eight new schools are planned for Clonburris Strategic Development zone

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

PLANS for eight new schools in the Clonburris Strategic Development Zone (SDZ) are welcomed but parents are looking for a special needs school to cater for demand and reduce commute times for vulnerable kids.

The lack of school places for special needs children in the wider Clondalkin and Lucan area has long been a concern for families in the community.

Plans for new primary and secondary schools were presented to councillors at a recent briefing on the Clonburris and Adamstown SDZ's.

Cllr Eoin Ó Broin (SocDems) welcomed clarification from SDCC of where the schools will be located but believes there is a great opportunity to "co-locate" a special needs school at one of the new campuses.

"The plans include a site for a new secondary school at the junction of the Neilstown and Ninth Lock Road, and another secondary school in Seven Mills on the opposite side of the canal from Melrose, which

will be linked to there by a pedestrian bridge," said Cllr Ó Broin.

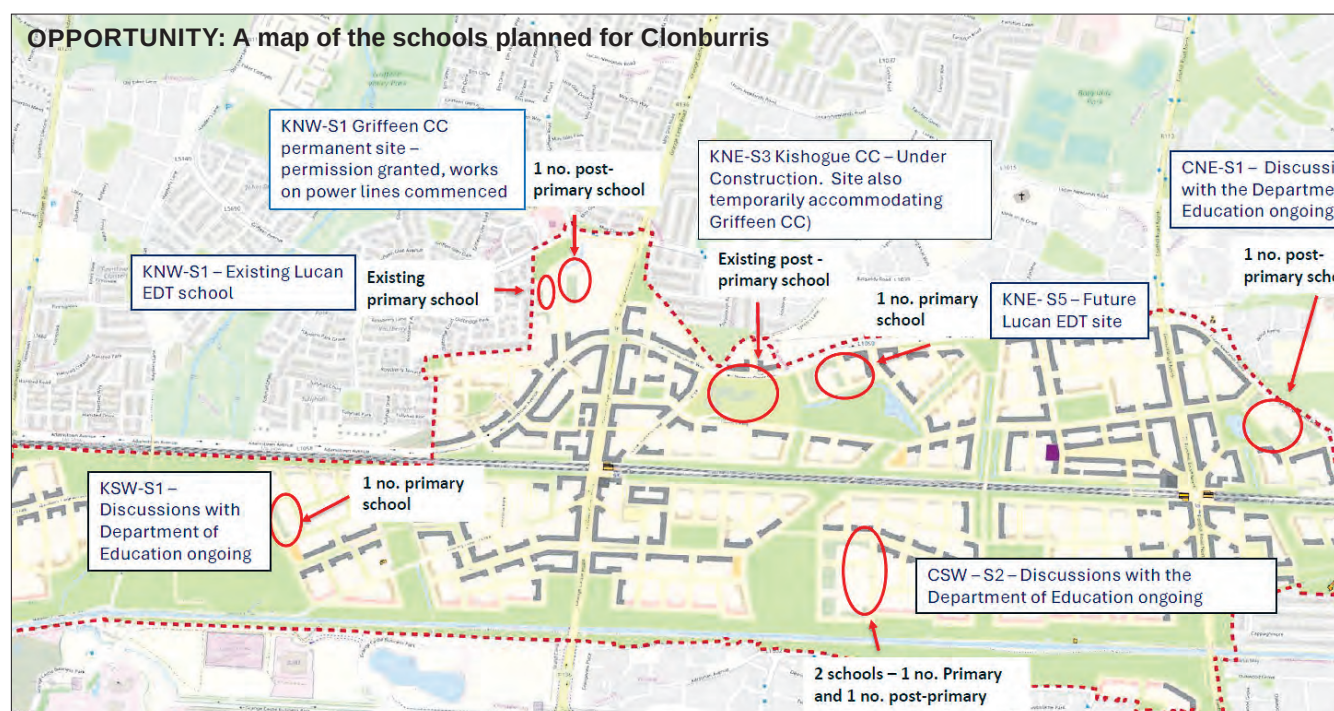
"However, consideration for a special education school should be included on one of the school sites. There is a campaign to have a special education school, located in Clondalkin spearheaded by local parent, Vanessa Murphy."

The change.org petition started by Vanessa Murphy states that her son "like many other children in Clondalkin", is "forced to leave the familiarity of our county to access the necessary special education."

"This is not only inconvenient but psychologically taxing for children who would thrive better in environments they are accustomed to. We are calling for the establishment of a special needs school in Clondalkin."

Cllr Ó Broin says South Dublin County Council are in discussions with the Department of Education regarding four school sites SDCC have assigned for the SDZ.

In the plans, two schools completed include Kishogue Community College and a primary school building



currently in use by Lucan Educate Together.

Two schools under construction include Griffen Community College and Lucan Educate Together primary school.

Four schools with greenfield sites assigned: a new secondary school beside junction of Ninth Lock and Neilstown Road, new

secondary and primary schools in Seven Mills, Bawnogue, and a new primary school opposite the Grand Canal from Grange Castle Business Park.

Last week, a parliamentary question by Dublin South Central TD Jen Cummins (SocDems) asked the Education Minister to consider including a special education

school on the campus of one of the sites in Clonburris.

In response, the Dept of Education estimate 300 new special school places are required each year for the coming years in the State.

The Dept said the National Council for Special Education (NCSE) has responsibility for provision for children with

special educational needs.

While there have been a number of new special schools established, the department's "preferred option is to increase provision in existing special schools if possible."

"Where this is not possible in a region, the department and NCSE will consider the need to establish a new special school."

# Big support for first ever walk for autism with over 200 attending

## Voluntary group of parents who advocate for children with additional needs organised event

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

THE first ever walk for autism in Ballyfermot was a resounding success with up to 200 people attending and enjoying a fantastic sun kissed morning in People's Park.

It was an event organised by NeuroVibe Tribe and D10 Autism Friendly Town – a voluntary group of parents who advocate for the children with additional needs in Ballyfermot and the wider community.

Antoinette Martin, Chair of NVT and D10 AFT said: "Delighted to say our 'same chance' walk for autism was fabulous. We had over 200 people attend. There was an activity corner, bubbles, balloons and medals for the children. There was also a lot of chat about D10 Autism Friendly Town and today shows how much support the people of D10 have for making this programme a success and

how much support there is for giving the 'same chance' to autistic children, teens and adults."

All proceeds gathered for the walk will go towards autism charity AsI Am.

Neurovibe were among the campaigners who hosted an information meeting recently at the Ballyfermot Civic Centre.

The event, which coincided with World Autism Awareness Day, calls for supports in place now, before the population drastically expands in the area due to major residential construction projects.

Cllr Hazel de Nortúin (PBP), was among those who spoke at the event, and said they plan to have a protest on May 8 at Ballyfermot roundabout.

"Parents have had enough and are now fighting back. Too many children have been let down and not by their parent or guardians but by those tasked with delivering resources for their care," said Cllr de Nortúin.





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# Street drugs can cause addiction and overdoses

Powerful findings from Tallaght students found traces of synthetic opioids

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

TRACES of synthetic opioids that could quickly cause an overdose were found in anxiolytic tablets sold across Tallaght.

The findings come from a powerful collaboration between TUD Tallaght students and the Jobstown Assisting Drug Dependency (JADD) service who provided the campus' labs with real-world street tablets brought in by service users.

According to DNA and Forensic Analysis student Sara Coogan (22) who is leading the project 'Street Drugs: What's in them?', it takes only one tablet containing synthetic opioid etonitazene to go overdose.

The tablets analysed were a surrogate of Xanax that is made of a benzodiazepine anxiolytic called alprazolam.

Some of the packages had writing in foreign languages on it, showing that they were imported and suggesting that they may contain drugs that are not legal in Ireland.

"I suppose that the big finding from this research is etonitazene," said DNA and Forensic Analysis lecturer at TUD Tallaght, Jason Gavin, who guided Sara and other students through the project.

"We found higher levels of active principles and parabens in some of the tablets and those can have side effects.

"But the etonitazene that we found in two of the tablets is more potent than heroin and can trigger severe addiction, and cause overdose."

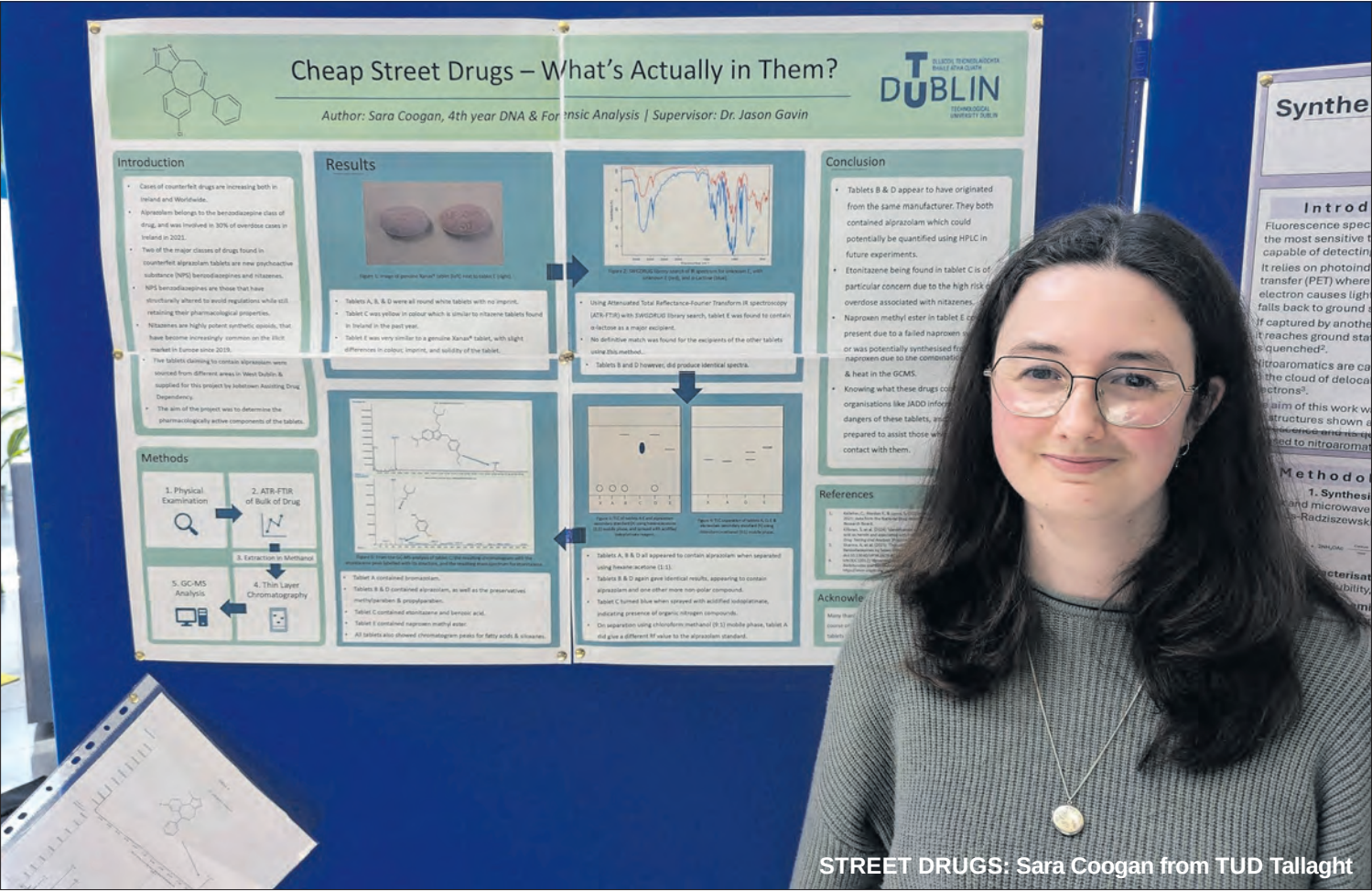
When JADD service users bring in street tablets because they're unsure of their content, JADD send them to the central HSE National Drug Treatment Centre lab, who analyse them and issue warnings accordingly.

However, the lab is experiencing backlog and that's where TUD Tallaght students came in.

"Many of our lab projects for the final year BSc DNA and Forensic Analysis are quite academic and can be 'boring' for students," explained Professor Gavin.

"Hoping to make it more interesting, I asked JADD manager Tommy Gilson if he would share some of these spare unknown tablets with me so the students could get some practice analysing real-world unknown tablets. This is a win-win situation for everyone."

"It's fantastic that the university want to work with local addiction services," added Mr Gilson.



STREET DRUGS: Sara Coogan from TUD Tallaght

“The street packages are now made very professionally, but a lot of the times they end up deteriorating users mental health instead

"They have the technologies that can help inform decisions locally and make them more specific. They can identify new trends.

"The street packages are now made very professionally, but a lot of the time they end up deteriorating users' mental health instead."

Sara, who has already been accepted to present her work at the European Academy of Forensic Science conference, said she considers this "real-world example" a big motivation for students and that the project will have a positive impact on the community besides theoretical learning.

She presented her work to JADD staff on Wednesday, April 9, at TUD Tallaght campus.



RESEARCH: Tommy Gilson (JADD), Sara Coogan (TU Dublin) and Emma Johnson (JADD)

# Man jailed for selling Romanian cigarettes and alcohol ‘to compete with other big shops’

A SHOP owner has been jailed for a year for selling Romanian cigarettes and alcohol in his store to compete with other stores, Dublin Circuit Criminal Court has heard, reports *Niamh O'Donoghue*.

Radu Budai (40) of Moy Glas Road, Lucan, Co. Dublin, pleaded guilty to revenue offences at his shop on Upper Dorset Street on March 7, 2023.

Revenue officer Marie Treacy told the court Budai owned a Romanian store and committed the offences to compete with other shops.

She told Fiona McGowan BL, prosecuting, that Revenue officers carrying out an investigation entered the shop in Upper Dorset

Street, Dublin and met with a woman working there.

The woman showed officers a Romanian identity card and said she would call the owner.

During the search officers found bottles of wine with no Irish tax stamps on them and cautioned the female and conducted an interview with her.

They also found boxes of brandy and wine as well as homemade alcohol in large plastic containers, the court was told.

Budai arrived while the search was continuing, but when he was questioned the court heard nothing of evidential value came of that interview.

Under cross-examination, Officer Treacy agreed with Simon Matthews BL, defending, that all the goods were seized.

In mitigation, Mr Matthews told the court Budai was "trying to compete with other big shops" selling the same type of produce.

Mr Matthews said Budai came to Ireland in 2007 and has a wife and two children.

He said Budai is coming to and from Romania caring for his sick father. Counsel said his client is not working in the store since the investigation.

Mr Matthews said his client struggles with health issues having had a gastric balloon surgery and he also has sleep apnea.

He said Budai was "trying to stay competitive with rival shops"

He asked the court to take account that Budai is a family man, his early plea in district court, that he has health difficulties and is of assistance to his father. Mr Matthews also said the goods were seized and it was a "stupid decision."

Judge Martin Nolan said he had no doubt Budai was a good family man but was doing this to make a profit.

Judge Nolan noted that Revenue lost €27,000 in all from the sale of cigarettes and alcohol. The judge noted Budai was co-operative but said he deserved a custodial term before jailing him for a year.



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# Man (35) laundered over a million euro in cash in exchange for food

A 35-YEAR-OLD Ukrainian man laundered more than a million euro in cash in exchange for food, a court has heard, *reports Natasha Reid.*

Oleksandr Strymbu, with an address at Beverly Downs, Knocklyon, Co. Dublin was jailed for five years by Dublin Circuit Criminal Court on Thursday.

He had pleaded guilty to handling €1,058,575, the proceeds of crime, at that address on June 13, 2024.

Detective Garda Kate Gilligan told the court that the rented house he shared was searched that day and more than €1 million in cash was found in six shopping and gift bags in his bedroom, which was a converted living room.

They were quite visible, she said.

Some of the cash was in vacuum packs and some gathered with elastic bands, and there was a cash counting machine on the coffee table. A further €25,900 in cash was found in an upstairs bedroom.

The defendant told gardai that he had been tasked with carrying out collections for his housemate, who was also his brother-in-law, and had been doing it for a few weeks.

He said that he would travel to various locations in a van, hand over Ukrainian bank notes to a person, who would put a bag in the van.

He would then leave the bags in his room for collection.

He said that he didn't know how much cash was in the bags or where the money came from.

He also said that he was not getting paid, but would get money for fuel and be taken out for food.

Under cross examination by defence counsel Oisín Clarke BL, Det Gda Gilligan agreed that Strymbu had described himself as an idiot to gardai.

"I trusted my relative. I said I didn't want anything to do with it, but said I would help him," he said. "I didn't want anything for it. Now I'm here, where's he?"

Mr Clarke said that his client's wife, two children and parents are all in Ukraine.

They had come here with him for three months but could not stay. Strymbu hasn't had any visits since going into custody in June of last

year.

Counsel handed in a 'heartfelt' letter from the defendant's wife, who spoke about their young children not seeing him for nearly a year.

Mr Clarke explained that Strymbu has a degree in PE from Ukraine, but had managed to get work in that field for only one year before moving to the UK and then here, where he worked in construction.

Strymbu was to be the breadwinner in the family and send money home from Ireland.

He now works in the prison kitchen seven days a week and attends school Monday to Friday.

Counsel said that Strymbu was well regarded by his community and handed in a reference from his priest.

Mr Clarke submitted that he would not have any visits while in custody here and pointed out that English is not his first language.

"He was holding and collecting, essentially a courier," he said of his client's role.

"He was low on the ladder in money laundering, even though the money is large."

Judge Martin Nolan noted that the gardai believed the money had come from the drugs trade.

"He was a vital cog in this criminal organisation," he said. "I would say he was at least in the middle in the hierarchy. I'd say he'd have to be trusted to handle this amount of cash."

He imposed a prison term of five years.

# Man found with four pipe bombs in back of his van

## Possession of devices believed to be related to an ongoing feud in the area between groups

A MAN found with four pipe bombs in the back of his van believed to be related to an ongoing feud between organised crime groups has been jailed for six and a quarter years, *reports Fiona Ferguson.*

Les Byrne (49) was discovered with the devices when gardai searched his van on March 24, 2024 when they noticed an "overwhelming" smell of cannabis in the vicinity.

Byrne, of Shancastle Park, Clondalkin, pleaded guilty at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court to having the four explosive devices in his possession or under his control. He has 24 previous convictions.

Passing sentence on Friday, Judge Martin Nolan said Byrne was acting under instructions from third parties, but said he was vital, noting someone has to carry and hold items.

Judge Nolan set a headline sentence of 10 years, noting these were potentially lethal weapons.

The judge said he must have been desperate as he was doing it for very little money but said he had decided as a mature man of the world to do this. He noted his guilty plea, co-operation and that he had family responsibilities.

Judge Nolan sentenced him to six and a quarter years imprisonment.

Garda Aaron Murphy told Breffni Gordon SC, prosecuting, that he and a colleague were on mobile patrol in the Clondalkin area and arrived into a retail park on Fonthill Road.

Gda Murphy said the area had a high volume of shops and pedestrians. In the car park Gda Murphy noted an overwhelming smell of cannabis and found it was coming from a van parked irregularly in the area. He confronted the driver, who was acting suspiciously and seemed nervous.

Byrne was compliant with the search of the van. The garda said the van was very messy and his eye was drawn to a clean Sainsburys bag in the back of the van. He opened the bag and discovered the four pipe bombs inside.

He was unsure what they were at first but noticed the fuses and realised the extent of what had been discovered. The area was secured and the devices made safe. They were later examined and found to be effective bombs.



The garda said the possession of the devices was believed to be related to an ongoing feud in the area between two organised crime groups (OCG) which has escalated in recent times with arson attacks, intimidation and attacks on homes.

Gda Murphy said the accused man's phone was analysed and it was found Byrne was being directed what to do by a person serving a lengthy prison sentence. It is accepted Byrne was on a "low rung" in relation to the OCGs. He was to receive €500 for his involvement.

The garda agreed with Michael Hourican SC, defending, that Byrne was being used to store the

items and that his role was to be given something to hold on to until it was taken.

The garda agreed the text messages seen by gardai between Byrne and another individual outlined that at a certain point, Byrne became aware of what he had and immediately wanted to get rid of them, using expletives towards the person who gave him the items.

The garda agreed with counsel that there was a long series of messages in which Byrne said he didn't want the items. He agreed that Byrne was operating under the influence of others.

Mr Hourican said his client had been acting

under the influence of "people of influence" who exert "soft and hard power" in the locality.

He asked the court to take into account the text messages showing that at some point he became aware of what he had and was deeply unhappy, subsequently making ongoing efforts to rid himself of the items.

He said Byrne was "at the bottom of the food chain" and was "disposable and dispensable". He accepted Byrne had a previous history but had kept his head down for a long time.

Counsel said Byrne had a work history and was a carer for his mother who was very ill.





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# ‘Swings bring us together’ as unofficial playground removed

Local authority is aware of situation and matter is currently under active investigation

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

SOUTH Dublin County Council will dismantle swings and monkey bars put up by residents who “finally saw kids socialising in person again.”

While it started with one of the residents putting up one or two swings in the estate’s green area, Balrothery Estate in Tallaght now has its own unofficial playground.

Another resident, Bruno Bosco, took on the construction of a few more swings, two nest swings and tyre swings, and monkey bars which he secured to trees.

“It was my pleasure to do this,” said Bruno, father of a 11-year-old son and a 7-year-old daughter. “The green area was never used, until those two swings put up by my neighbour became popular among kids in the estate.

“At the beginning it was something basic, improvised, but then it evolved.”

Bruno said he made sure to make all the facilities – including the tree branches – safe by buying and using the necessary materials.

He estimated that about 40 kids benefit from the playground, coming from “a mile away” too.

“I’m always around to check that there is no damage, and I see ten to fifteen kids using it at the same time.

“I even saw a lady who was enjoying her coffee on one of the swings on a quiet evening, who told me that was her moment to relax.

According to him, the facilities he built encouraged the kids of the estate to socialise outside of the house again.

“Before, we had to tell them to go out, and they said there was no one to meet outside. Now we have to call them back in. The dynamics are completely changed.

“Everybody was enthusiastic in seeing the way these kids went from being at home with their PlayStation to actually being outside as soon as they came home from

school.

“A little girl with special needs living in the estate started to leave the house again after a year, just one week before the Council’s warning.”

On Thursday, April 3, an officer from SDCC was on site and let Bruno know that they will dismantle the playground if he didn’t do it first.

“It came as a shock as I believe we achieved, without asking for any money from the Council, something really remarkable for our local community,” Bruno said.

“I am ready to work with them and not against them, and to take this as an opportunity to improve what I built and make it official.”

According to local councillor Mick Duff (IND), who was one of the main advocates for the nearby Council playground in Tymon Park, Balrothery has a generally elderly population who might not consent to an official playground in the area.

“I would be quite glad to bring a request to the Council for an official playground, but only with the consent of all residents,” he told *The Echo*.

According to Bruno, however, the playground in Tymon Park does not compare as it’s not walkable for the kids of Balrothery Estate.

“It’s completely different, the road is busy with cars and our children can’t walk there on their own.

“We would need to take the time to drive them, stay for only an hour or so because we would have to get on with dinner and stuff.

“In our playground, we see them from our windows, and they can stay as long as they want until we call them back.”

Following the Council’s warning, signs reading “Save our swings” and “The swings bring us together” were put up in the playground.

When contacted for comment, South Dublin County Council said they are “aware of the situation and the matter is currently under active investigation.”



**SAVE OUR SWINGS:** The swings installed at the unofficial playground



“I’m always around to check that there is no damage, and I see ten to fifteen kids using it at the same time. I even saw a lady who was enjoying her coffee on one of the swings on a quiet evening, who told me that was her moment to relax

## Efforts ongoing by authorities to identify people involved with anti-social behaviour

EFFORTS continue by authorities to identify individuals involved in anti-social behaviour in Lucan, reports *Maurice Garvey*.

At the recent area committee meeting, Cllr Helen Farrell (Ind) asked the council for an update on “tangible actions taken to deal with previously raised antisocial behaviour in Foxdene / Méile an Ri.”

In response, South Dublin County Council said its estate management team liaise with gardai with a view to identifying individuals involved in

anti-social behaviour at these locations.

“The individuals responsible have not been identified to date but efforts are ongoing to do so. We continue to support local residents and others to tackle anti-social behaviour. If local residents can assist with identifying individuals responsible, the estate management team can be contacted on 4149265, by sending a message to 086 060 2586 or by emailing [estmgt@sdublincoco.ie](mailto:estmgt@sdublincoco.ie). Any such reports are treated in the strictest of confidence and can be made

anonymously if so wished.”

Speaking to *The Echo*, Cllr Farrell believes the response was “hugely positive.”

While she wouldn’t divulge the exact nature of the anti-social behaviour, Cllr Farrell said the problems have been going on for a while “making everyone’s lives difficult.”

“I do think the number of agencies coming together is good. The response by SDCC and gardai and stakeholders is a positive development, plus the additional

staff by the council,” said Farrell.

The additional staff refers to the council response, which said the recruitment of new community safety officers and additional housing officer will continue to build on the cross-agency approach to “increase engagement with residents and work towards the eradication of such behaviour.”

“If those involved are found to be individuals who are tenants or occupiers of council properties, the council will take appropriate action as available to us,” said a SDCC

spokesperson.

“This action will take the form of investigation by the housing officer for the area, the issuing of verbal warnings, written warnings and ultimately if the problem persists may culminate in legal proceedings against the tenant.”

According to the report, the Balgaddy Working Group and Balgaddy Action Group last met on February 18, while gardai and estate management clinics also take place fortnightly in the Bush Community Centre.



# Citywise enhances people's knowledge and mindsets

Educational academy recognised for educational projects that bring huge 'social value'

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

**REPORT: Citywise is based in West Tallaght**



CITYWISE Fast Track Academy based in West Tallaght was recognised among alternative education projects that bring huge "social value."

According to a report published by the University of Galway, 19 projects supported by Rethink Ireland between 2017 and 2022, such as Citywise, generated €145 million in social value from an investment of €18 million.

Besides the cost-effectiveness, the evaluation of a total of 24 projects showed that the main two outcomes gained by respondents were self-confidence and maturity and independence.

"Citywise Education Fast Track Academy uses a whole-person approach," said the report, "focusing on developing social, behavioural and academic skills."

Through after-school teaching support, supervised study, mentoring, personal development, career guidance and summer programmes, the project "enhances young people's knowledge and mindsets" and "improves the number of students in West Tallaght progressing to third-level education."

The report, according to Rethink

Ireland, showed the value and life-long, positive impact that such projects have on disadvantaged students and families, including people with different strengths and

needs like neurodiversity.

"We must stop measuring success by how many get through easily and instead ask who's being left behind and how we can support them

differently," commented CEO of Rethink Ireland, Deirdre Mortell.

"This research gives us a roadmap for change. The next step is putting it into action at scale."

The report is a call for alternative education provision to be recognised and funded properly.

"These projects change lives. But while powerful, community-led solutions to educational inequality and youth mental health exist, they are not supported at the scale needed," added Ms Mortell.

The report highlighted that within alternative education projects, "educational outcomes and mental health are interlinked," meaning that a student-centred approach is used and wellbeing, which "is more than just feeling OK" is embedded as a core principle.

Focusing on students' strengths instead of their problems, and building the right attitudes and values, such as confidence, resilience, and respect, have also been acknowledged as the benefits of those projects.

These findings will inform the upcoming Out-of-School Education Provision Implementation Plan, with Rethink Ireland hoping that the projects evaluated in the report will be recognised and integrated in policymaking.

The report was carried out by a team of researchers at the UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre at the University of Galway in partnership with Rethink Ireland.

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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



## Solitary mining bees



SPECIES: This mining bee species has long orange-brown hairs on its body and its legs

THERE is just one native honeybee species in Ireland, and 21 bumblebee species. There are, however, 77 different species of solitary bees.

Honeybees and bumblebees live in colonies in nests or hives governed by a queen.

Solitary bees live separately, making their own individual nests in which they lay less than 20 eggs. They then stock this nest with big clumps of pollen mixed with nectar and they seal up the entrance.

The eggs are left to hatch and the larvae to fend for themselves, feeding on the pollen before eventually maturing into new adult insects.

There are four main groups of solitary bees, depending on how or where they make their nests. These are mining bees, mason bees, carpenter bees, and leaf-cutter bees.

Mining bee females burrow holes into light sandy soil. As she digs, the excavated soil piles up in heaps around the entrance hole, forming a little volcano-shaped pile of earth.

While mining bees are solitary in that they make their own individual nests, some species like to make their nest close to other bees of the same species. This can result in what is called an aggregation of nests, or in other words, many nests located close to one another.

Because the female needs to leave a plentiful supply of pollen to feed the offspring developing in the nest, she works hard and visits many, many, flowers before she finally seals the nest and leaves.

Honeybees and bumblebees are very efficient collectors of pollen, packing it into moist pellets (pollen baskets) on their back legs.

Some female solitary bees also carry pollen pellets on their back legs.

Others pack pollen into the hairs underneath their abdomen. These pollen pellets, however, are dry and loose, and they can often break up as the bee flies about.

This means that solitary bees have to work harder to gather enough pollen to stock their nests.

It also means, however, that solitary bees are great pollinating insects, because they drop lots of pollen as they go from flower to flower.



SHAPED: The nests of mining bees can be identified by the volcano-shaped pile of soil around the entrance



# We always say we won't let CF affect Matthew's life

## Father of 13-year-old renews his appeal

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

A TALLAGHT father renewed his appeal to take part in 65 Roses Day while he explained that living with cystic fibrosis is like “not being able to change the oil in your engine.”

Luke Kennedy, from Millbrook Lawns, saw his son Matthew (13) fighting with the condition daily since he was born, as there is no current cure.

In 2023, the approval of the Kaftrio ‘revolutionary’ drug by the Government was welcomed by the family as it made the disease less impactful on people’s bodies.

However, marking the annual event that encourages everyone to fundraise for Cystic Fibrosis Ireland, 65 Roses Day, Luke opened up about how challenging life still is for Matthew.

“It’s not as bad as it used to be, but now that he has started secondary school, missing a few days can mean he falls behind and we are considering additional classes.

“For people with Cystic Fibrosis, the main issue is the lungs. They can pick up infections very easily and what would make the rest of us sick for a few days could put Matthew in hospital for two weeks.

“He also burns more calories so he needs to eat a lot not to have weight issues, which would also be a problem if he ends up in hospital.

“He does physio and breathing exercises every day and has to take tablets in the morning and in the evening, besides carrying some with him.”

Luke explained that while many people in Ireland carry the Cystic Fibrosis gene, both parents have to carry it for the child to develop the condition.

While the Kennedys knew there might be a risk, as their late niece died from CF in 2018, they were “devastated” when they found out about Matthew.

“He was on antibiotics as soon as he was born and stayed on them up to the age of four,” said Luke.

Every winter, all the family members get a flu jab, and on the coldest and wettest days they have to make sure that Matthew stays out the least possible, dropping and collecting him from school.

“To him this is just life, as he was born with it, and we always say we won’t let CF affect his life,” said Luke.

“But it’s a daily fight, and sometimes there are things he wants to take part to but he just can’t.”

65 Roses Day, which is named after the way children would pronounce ‘Cystic Fibrosis’, will take place on Friday, April 11.

This year, Cystic Fibrosis Ireland set a fundraising target of €300,000. A recent survey they conducted showed that despite advancements, “significant challenges from accessing medication to obtaining financial products such as insurance, still exist for people living with the condition in Ireland.”

According to the charity, donations also support research, clinical teams, listening services, and advocacy efforts to empower people living with CF and their families.

For more information, visit [www.cfireland.ie](http://www.cfireland.ie).





SUPPORT: Luke and Matthew Kennedy

Appeal for cystic fibrosis 65 Roses Day



ANNUAL EVENT: Luke Kennedy saw his son Matthew fight the condition

# Sandsiwe crowned All-Ireland public speaking champion



**WOMEN'S POWER:** Sandsiwe O'Khupe, St Aidan's Community College was crowned winner of 44th National Girls' Public Speaking Competition of the 44th annual Soroptimist International Republic of Ireland Girls' Public Speaking Competition Photo by Alison Laredo

A FIFTH-year student from St Aidan's Community School was named All-Ireland champion in girls' public speaking as she discussed women's power, reports Alessia Micalizzi.

Sandsiwe O Khupe, whose family moved from Zimbabwe to Tallaght eight months ago, believes that "if you're going to be an empowered woman, it's best to do so with other women so that it has a bigger impact."

Her speech on 'Partnership and Empowerment of Women' inspired the audience and the judges at the 44th Soroptimist Ireland Girls' Public Speaking Competition in Castlebar, on Saturday April 5, and earned her the final trophy.

An additional impromptu speech on the theme of sunshine was delivered "eloquently" according to Soroptimist, and "impressed the judges again."

"A well-spoken girl since she was young" according to her mother, Sandsiwe gained more and more confidence as she topped the local and regional rounds in February.

"It just hit me and I felt really excited," she said after winning, while committing to "putting my words into actions."

"I believe in women working together to achieve one goal. When women win, everybody wins."

Sandsiwe has now been invited to speak at an

international event in Belfast along with other public speaking winners from the UK, on May 10.

"As a school, it's brilliant to have an all-Ireland champion in anything," said St Aidan's CS Principal Kevin Shortall.

"But to have an all-Ireland champion in public speaking is so special and unique, she was up against schools with a huge history of debate competitions. We are so proud of her."

Mr Shortall explained it was Sandsiwe's music teacher to first notice how well she put words together as she recited a poem she wrote, until they encouraged her to take part in public speaking competitions.

She then joined the competition organised annually by Soroptimist International Republic of Ireland (SIROI), a global volunteer movement who advocates for girls' empowerment and opportunities.

Besides a passion for women empowerment, Sandsiwe also brought a different perspective in her speeches, highlighting the role that women had in her upbringing in Zimbabwe and fighting "the stereotype of African women having no power."

Sandsiwe was congratulated by Soroptimist Ireland President Anne O'Sullivan, who said, "She is a worthy winner and a powerful voice for her generation."



**PROUD:** Sandsiwe with her mother Sibusiso, father Unode and Anne O'Sullivan National President Soroptimist International after winning the Mildred O'Brien Trophy



# Public are encouraged to nominate hospital heroes

Patients and families have opportunity to recognise a hospital staff member

TALLAGHT University Hospital (TUH) is very pleased to report that the public can now nominate a member of their staff for a special Hero Award.

The Patient Experience Award is open to a public vote and gives patients and their families the opportunity to recognise a staff member who has delivered exceptional care or gone above and beyond.

The Awards are in their seventh year and the ceremony is a popular event in the Hospital calendar for staff and their families.

This year patients and their families can vote for their Hero by email, post, or by completing a form which can be obtained from the Hospital Reception.

As well as those options, a special online link has also been set up to receive public nominations. In making a written submission they would like you to tell them why you feel a particular staff member deserves to be put forward for the Patient Experience Award. This year nominations for the awards will close on Friday, May 9, 2025.

Launching this year's Awards, John Kelly, Interim CEO of TUH, said: "Our Hero Awards are a wonderful opportunity for us all to reflect each year on the

**LAUNCH: At the launch of the 2025 TUH Heroes Sharon Larkin, Director of HR and John Kelly Interim CEO**



extraordinary quality of care provided by our staff. They are a very important event in our annual calendar and give us the chance to pause and recognise the outstanding dedication of our staff, wherever they work in direct patient care or in a support role."

Sharon Larkin, Director of HR, reflected: "Judging the annual Staff Hero Awards is always a highlight in my calendar and a great way for the Hospital to give back to our wonderful staff. The ceremony affords us the opportunity to recognise those in our midst who set such a powerful example by going the extra mile to provide an exceptional service to our patients."

Member of the public can email their nominations for the Patient Experience Award, to [TallaghtHeroes@tuh.ie](mailto:TallaghtHeroes@tuh.ie) or if they prefer they can post their entry to TUH 2024 Hero Entries, c/o The Human Resources Department, Tallaght University Hospital, Dublin D24 NROA.

Hospital staff can also nominate their colleagues in various other internal categories. Nomination forms are available from the Volunteer Coffee Shop in the Hospital's main Atrium. Once completed the forms can be handed in to reception.

# RSA looking for location in South Dublin for new driving test centre

Tallaght is the only centre in South Dublin and has over 13,000 on its waiting list

By **Maurice Garvey**  
[maurice@echo.ie](mailto:maurice@echo.ie)

THE Road Safety Authority (RSA) are looking for a location in South Dublin to open a new driving test centre.

TD Mark Ward (SF), has welcomed the news following an email he received from the RSA seeking confirmation for the development.

"Tallaght is the only centre for the whole of the South Dublin County Council area and has the highest waiting lists in the State," said the Dublin Mid West TD.

"I've been campaigning for additional driving test centres for some time now.

"Over 13,000 people are languishing on lists for a driving test in Tallaght. People waiting for a test in Tallaght are on average waiting for 27 weeks. This is not good enough.

"Sinn Féin have been calling for increased resourcing, expediting and increasing the recruitment of driving test instructors, and plugging the gaps in driving test centre locations."

Ward says long waiting times push up the costs of learning to drive and trap learner drivers in expensive insurance policies.

"For some, learning to drive now costs over €3,000. The backlog even leads to disruptions in other vital services, as students or workers who rely on their licence are waiting in limbo.

"For example, there have been delays to the recruitment of Bus Éireann and Dublin Bus drivers as well as to paramedics as they require a licence to start their course," said Deputy Ward.

The latest RSA data for Tallaght waiting times has a total of 18,272, which includes 3,308 people considered in the 'not eligible' category.

The next highest waiting list in the State is Cork (Wilton) which has over 10,800 people in total on their driver test waiting lists.

In Tallaght, of the 18,272 total, 1,397 are scheduled for a driving test, 8,328 are waiting, while 5,239 cases are listed in the 'paused' category.



TEST CENTRE: The current driving test centre in Tallaght in Broomhill

“For some, learning to drive now costs over €3,000. The backlog even leads to disruptions in other vital services, as students or workers who rely on their licence are waiting in limbo



# Council estimate Lucan House could generate €1.5m as visitor destination

SOUTH Dublin County Council estimate approximately €1.5m could be generated per annum based on the establishment of a new visitor destination at Lucan House, reports *Maurice Garvey*.

The local authority is currently progressing its Lucan House Master Plan, a process which involves public consultations, surveys, leaflet drops and marketing to gauge public opinion.

SDCC bought the property for €10m from the Italian government in 2024.

At the recent area committee meeting, Cllr Helen Farrell (Ind) asked the council to provide an estimate of the “expected boost to the local economy resulting from the anticipated opening of Lucan House and Demesne to the public.”

In response, SDCC said: “It is acknowledged that the development potential of Lucan House as a visitor destination and a public amenity will increase numbers visiting the area, with the potential to consequently increase expenditure on goods and services within the Lucan area. It is expected that this will have the effect of increasing economic activity and job numbers in South County Dublin.

“At this very preliminary stage, it is estimated that a figure of approximately €1.5m per annum can be estimated for visitor revenue based on the establishment of a new visitor destination. Additionally using an accepted multiplier of 1.5 it can be further estimated that the indirect and induced benefits of visitor expenditure within Lucan could be worth up to €2.25m per annum to the South Dublin County economy.”

SDCC said the masterplan seeks to identify viable uses to generate revenue whilst ensuring positive impacts for the wider Lucan area and revenues derived from future development of Lucan House and Demesne may be “reinvested” as part of its ongoing development and operation as a public amenity and enhanced visitor destination.

**POTENTIAL:** Lucan House was purchased by the council from the Italian government in 2024



# Championing the cause of youth work

## Dedicated young people Oisín and Patrick from Tallaght have been selected as Local Champions

THE National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI), which represents organisations working with young people nationwide, has launched its Local Champions initiative for 2025.

The campaign aims to ensure increased investment in young people and youth work locally and nationally. Oisín Ó Dubhshláine and Patrick Gouliev from Tallaght have been selected as Local Champions for Dublin South-West.

Grace McManus, NYCI campaigns manager explained: “As part of the Local Champions project, a group of passionate and dedicated young people have been selected as representatives from their communities, tasked with meeting their local politicians and championing the cause of youth work.”

The Local Champions received training and support from NYCI to effectively convey the positive impact youth work has on their lives and the lives of young people in the local area, as well as the importance of investing in youth work. NYCI is calling for an increased investment of €21 million in youth work in Budget 2026, to support services with increasing pressures, and ensure equal access to youth work for all young people nationwide.

The representatives Local Champions in Dublin-South-West are engaging with TDs Ciarán Ahern, Colm Brophy, Seán Crowe, John Lahart and Paul Murphy.

Patrick Gouliev said: “I am ready to take on this role as Local Champion and begin this journey on meeting our local politicians. Tallaght has so many opportunities in youth work, but so many people in our area don’t know where to start. I want to make sure our local representatives can invest in the visibility of youth work and the chance to make sure opportunities for us won’t burn out.”



**IMPACT:** Oisín Ó Dubhshláine



**ROLE:** Patrick Gouliev

Advertorial

# Liffey Valley Easter Emporium in partnership with Butler’s Chocolate Café is Back

THE Easter holidays are in sight which means it’s time to shell-ebrate the return of the hugely popular Easter Emporium, bouncing back to Liffey Valley Shopping Centre.

Hosted in partnership with Ireland’s premier family-owned luxury chocolatiers, Butler’s Chocolate Café, every participant at the Easter Emporium will receive a FREE Easter Egg Box to take home!

Running from 12pm – 4pm daily from April 16-19, these free workshops will give little shoppers the chance to make their own festive decorations to wow the Easter Bunny upon his arrival.

There will also be added surprises for all to enjoy including face-painting and festive Easter characters, promising a cracking good time for all.

Celebrating the popular Easter Emporium’s return, Sinead Murphy, Marketing Director at Liffey Valley Shopping Centre, said: ‘We are delighted to offer free family friendly activities to our customers this Easter mid-term at Liffey Valley.

The Easter Emporium has proven extremely popular year on year, with all shoppers able to avail of arts & crafts, face-painting, and most notably, a free chocolate gift with thanks to our partnership with Butler’s Chocolate Café.

Understanding that parents are always looking for accessible family activities during the Easter break, we are committed to offering inclusive, community-focused activities.”

With 80 stores and 20 restaurants including Butlers Chocolate Café for your coffee fix, along with a state-of-the-art cinema, Liffey Valley is the perfect destination for some Easter family fun.

Whether you’re on the hunt for seasonal essentials, seeking out the perfect outfit to celebrate the day or just looking for affordable entertainment with a tasty meal and a great movie, there’s something for the whole family.

To find out more about the FREE Liffey Valley Shopping Centre Easter Emporium, in partnership with Butlers Chocolates, visit [liffeyvalley.ie](http://liffeyvalley.ie).

**POPULAR:** Penny and Belle from Dublin celebrating the return of the Liffey Valley Easter Emporium.







ALL SMILES: Mara Brierton, Catherine Ward and Lynda O'Brien



INITIATIVE: Matteo Colombo and Luke Clerkin



AUDIENCE: Lisa Perkins and Jenny Coady in the Civic Theatre



# Magnificent display of poetic talent on show

Initiative is to encourage people in Dublin to write poetry

A MAGNIFICENT display of Tallaght related poetic talent was on show on Tuesday April 7 in the Tallaght Civic Theatre, reports Ken Doyle.

The event was part of a celebration by Dublin City Council marking twenty years of 'One Dublin One Book', an initiative encouraging people in Dublin to read a book about their city during the month of April.

The suggested book this year is an anthology of poetry and prose submitted by the great and the good of the Dublin literary community.

The book is called 'Dublin Written in our Hearts' and is available from all of the usual outlets, plus of course, your local library.

As for the evening itself, a fabulous mix of poetic styles and views were on show.

Compere for the evening was David Hynes, who kicked things off with a masterclass in alliteration which has the packed theatre giggling from the start.

First up was Sheila Ryder who continued the humorous theme, a piece about the cold of swimming in the sea being particularly fun and relatable.

Stephen James Smith followed and his tour-de-force set closer was one of the highlights of the night.

Then came a musical interlude, provided by Tallaght's own Sandii Jane Hyland, ably accompanied by the laconic and witty Gavin Doyle. Sandii's voice soared all over the Civic Theatre, sending shivers down everyone's spine.

Sandii and Gavin are old St Mark's schoolmates (all the performers were Tallaght connected), and the next poet up, also a St Mark's old boy, was the incomparable poet, actor and social commentator Emmet Kirwan.

Emmet's powerful and dynamic set had the audience absolutely enthralled.

He combined the beauty of his words with a hypnotic stage presence. He also eschewed the stage microphone.

He didn't feel the need to amplify his words, adding to the raw feel of his set.

Jan Brierton was next on, and she lowered the tone delightfully with a little ditty about growing older,





# Display of show Dublin to read a book

garnished with a little bit of traditional bad language. Assured and likeable, it's easy to see why the 'Bard of Salford', the legendary John Cooper Clarke is such a fan.

The unadvertised Leon Dunne then came on with a short and hilarious little ditty before the last poet, Colm Keegan took to the stage.

It wasn't easy to follow the quality of the proceeding acts and Colm took it in his stride and delivered a thought provoking set, which was sadly cut short.

And so the house lights went up and a theatrical of happy punters lined up to make their exits.

As I joined them, one thing was abundantly clear - Tallaght is full of talent. There are Emmet Kirwans and Sandii Jane Hylands out there waiting to be discovered. Many of tonight's artists made the point that if you have something to say, say it.

If you get the chance to see a show by any of the aforementioned poets, I would highly recommend it. 'Dublin Written in our Hearts' is out now.

# Special celebration to mark 40th anniversary of Collinstown Park CC



CELEBRATION: Students form the number 40 on the grounds of Collinstown Park Community College

SPECIAL celebrations are taking place at Collinstown Park Community College, as they mark its 40th anniversary with a reunion that brought together past students and staff for an evening of nostalgia and camaraderie, reports Maurice Garvey.

The event on April 3, welcomed alumni from both second level and further education and training programmes to reconnect with old friends and mingle with past and current staff.

It is one of many events that are planned throughout 2025 to mark the anniversary, which recently saw students captured by drone footage as they formed the shape of a giant number 40 on the front pitch of the Clondalkin campus.

Collinstown was established in 1984 and according to the school, the numbers of students attending the college has remained high throughout the four decades.

Structural developments since the building first opened in 1984 include a large sports complex, astro pitches, an Autism Spectrum Suite, a school library, the data centre in conjunction with Microsoft and an outdoor classroom.

Carolann Jones, teacher at Collinstown Park Community College, and one of the organisers of the reunion, said there is "ongoing celebrations" with different events to mark the anniversary.

"The atmosphere was filled with excitement as attendees shared memories of their time at the school, reminiscing about the days gone by," said Eithne Hogan, Further Education Teacher.

"Laughter echoed through the halls as stories were exchanged, and the sense of community was palpable. The reunion provided a wonderful opportunity for former students to catch up with their peers and teachers, creating new memories while celebrating the old.

"The evening was a testament to the lasting impact of Collinstown Park Community College on its students and staff. It was a joyous occasion that highlighted the strong bonds formed over the years and the importance of community in education. The event concluded with smiles all around, leaving everyone with a renewed sense of connection and fond memories to cherish."

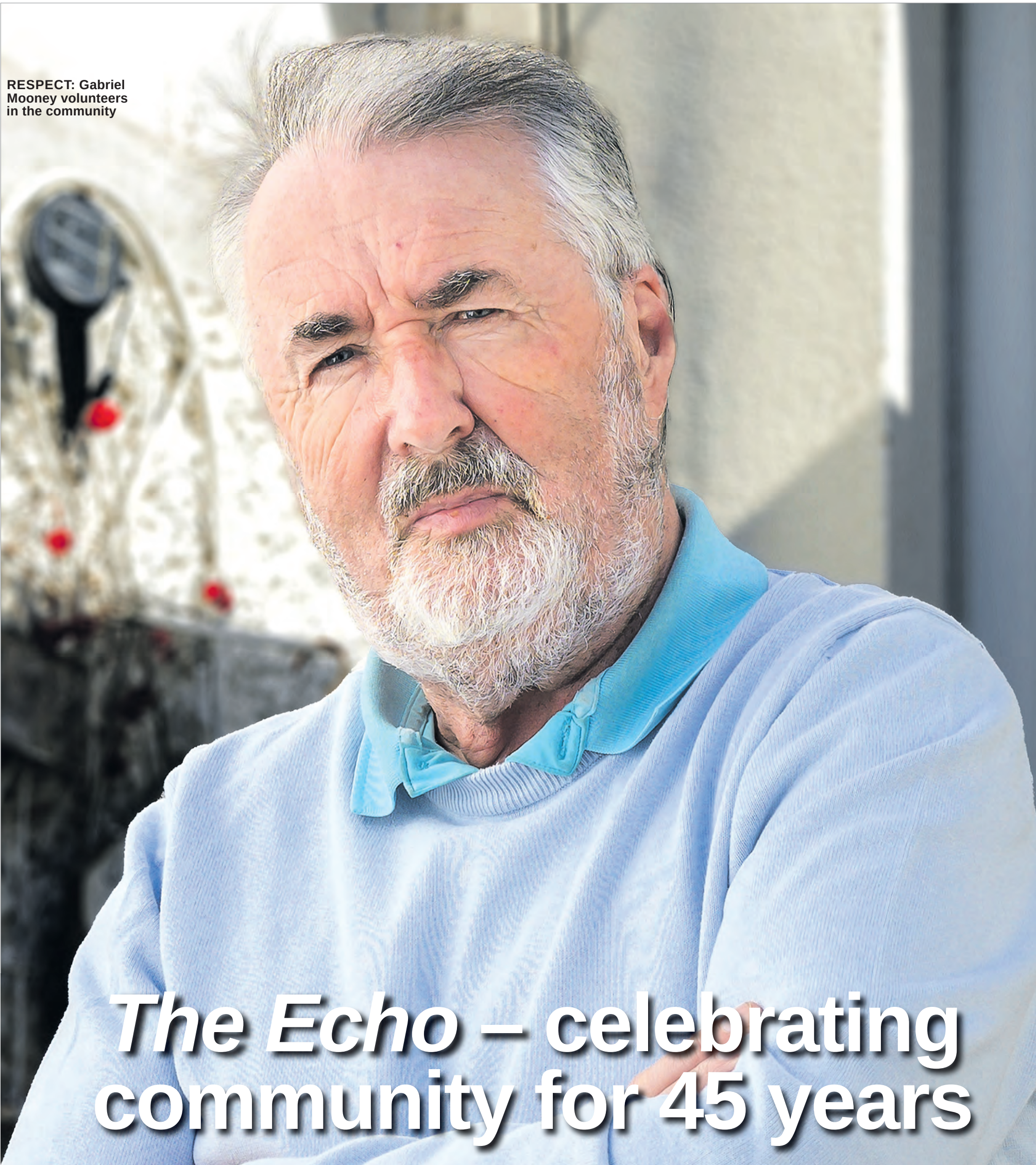


CAPTURED: Aerial shots of Collinstown Park Community College in 1984 and 2024.



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 Gabriel Mooney, a volunteer with The Simon Community.

RESPECT: Gabriel Mooney volunteers in the community



*The Echo* – celebrating  
community for 45 years



**VOLUNTEER: Gabriel 'Gaybo' Mooney**



DRIMNAGH'S own Gabriel Mooney would put one in mind of Austin Powers. I don't mean the teeth or the clothing or indeed the dancing.

What Gabriel has in common with Austin Powers is that he too, is an International Man of Mystery.

To sum Gabriel up, he's a man that does absolutely everything as a volunteer with The Simon Community but it's very difficult to get him to talk about it, he's one of those humble yet brilliant men who utterly refuses to take any credit for the great things that he does for others. Completely voluntarily by the way.

He also has an alias, Gaybo Mooney, and he tells me that if I called him Gabriel in the article, no-one would know who that was. So for the remainder of these pages, Gaybo it is.

I wonder if his middle name is 'Danger.'

Apart from that, I'm pleased to say, Gaybo is quite the loquacious raconteur when he warms up.

I ask about his early days and he tells me, "I was brought up in Walkinstown and went to Drimnagh Castle, when the castle itself hosted all the classes. In fact I think we were the last year that used the Castle and the buildings which would become the school were just being built."

Then I went to Clogher Road Tech and after that I went to work, at first to the ABC shop in Walkinstown and then to the ill-fated Fitzpatrick's Cash and Carry which was blown up in 1986. "Thank God there was nobody in there but I remember turning up in the morning to see piles of rubble where my workplace used to be."

After that Gaybo did various things in his career and I guess you could say that it was after he'd retired, that life got really busy.

Not that he'd have it any other way.

I ask Gaybo how he got involved with The Simon Community and it all comes down to a

chance encounter in Grafton Street. "It was a miserable rainy day and I was walking up Grafton Street when I bumped into some young girl collecting for the Simon Community. We got talking and she asked if I would shake a bucket for a while. I said I would and was still there four hours later. And from there I got the bug and volunteered more and more for the Simon Community. I'm still shaking that bucket and doing a lot more besides with them 28 years later!"

The Simon Community has spent over 50 years tackling homelessness and it's associated problems. Initially just in Dublin, but now they have a network of branches Country-wide.

I could delve deeper into the good work the Community does, but I'd rather illustrate it through an anecdote that Gaybo told me.

"A few years ago I came across this one girl who was really struggling with the demon drink. I sat down and had a chat with her and one of the things I said was 'Remember there's a light at the end of the tunnel.'"

"Skip forward a few years and I'm at the Simon Community's 50th anniversary celebrations. There were guest speakers on and my attention was drawn to a young neatly dressed woman. Not too long later, she ran up to me all excited and I remembered who she was. She said 'I'll never forget what you told me that night. There was a light at the end of the tunnel for me after all. Thanks Gaybo!'"

"It's always wonderful to see people turn their lives around due to the great work The Simon Community does."

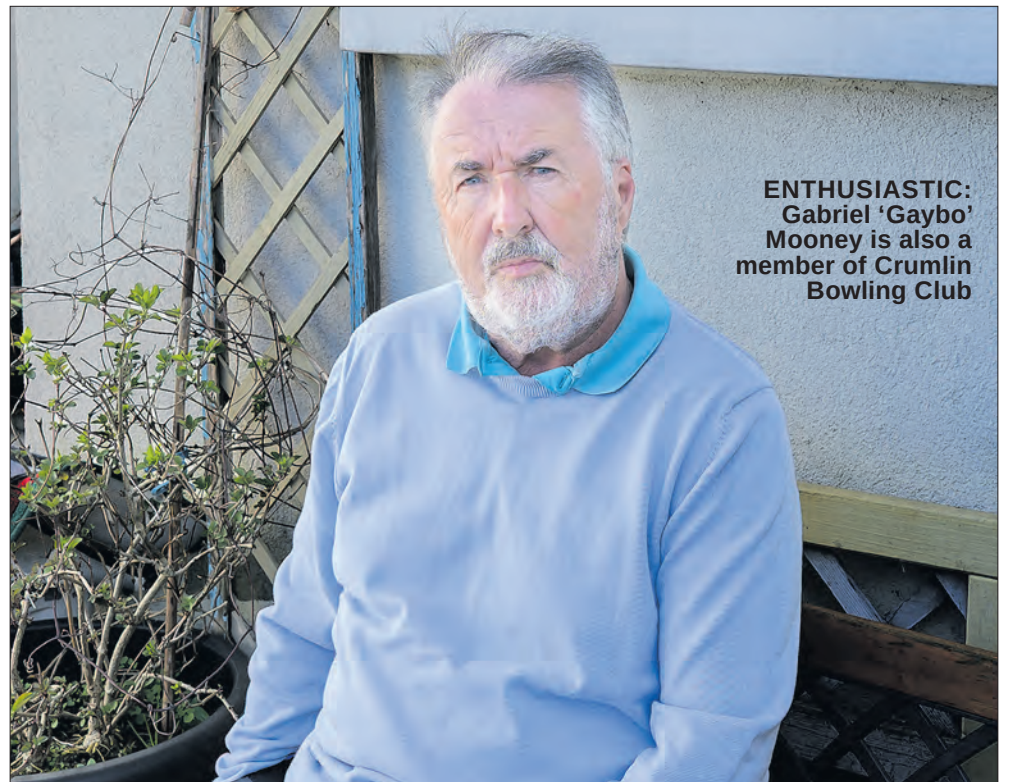
According to Gaybo, there is something of a network between charities and another charity might need a dig out with a bit of manpower. And his hand goes straight up when such a request is asked."

When he's not being a tremendous asset to his charities, Gaybo can often be found

indulging his other passion, bowls.

"I took up the game 10 years ago as a retirement hobby and now I'm heavily involved with the club, helping out whenever needed."

He's a member of



**ENTHUSIASTIC: Gabriel 'Gaybo' Mooney is also a member of Crumlin Bowling Club**

Crumlin Bowling Club and is an enthusiastic cheerleader for all they do.

"It's a very friendly club, very family-orientated and we cater for all ages. As for skill levels, we have beginners and people who've played for Ireland internationally. I'd recommend anyone to drop down to the club and see what we're all about."

Speaking of families, Gaybo makes sure he gets one point across to me, he couldn't do it without them. Not only do they constantly help by volunteering for the Simon Community themselves, but as Gaybo laughs, "They're my chauffeurs as well! No but seriously, if I ever need to be anywhere, they make sure I get there."

He's married to Maura and they have raised three great children in Drimnagh. Gaybo has even recruited both his granddaughters, Niamh and Megan to help the cause.

I ask Gaybo if he has a job title from the Simon Community and he says he does but he doesn't use it. Doesn't want to feel like he's

making himself more important than anyone else.

"They put me in a spot every year when they ask me to nominate a volunteer for the team to win a prize. I always abstain because every single one of them do great work. It's a fantastic organisation filled with great people. And whenever we achieve anything, we do it as a team. We do what we do because it's the right thing to do and I certainly don't think about personal honours."

We share a couple of stories about famous people he's met along the way. Dara O'Bhrian, Imelda May, Liam O'Maonlaí and a man he has great respect and affection for, Glen Hansard. They've all done things for the Simon Community over the years to the organisation's endless gratitude.

Sadly none of the stories he told me were fit for publication.

So that's Gaybo Mooney, truly one of the most selfless and generous people I've met.

We're lucky to have him.

**“It's a fantastic organisation filled with great people. And whenever we achieve anything, we do it as a team. We do what we do because it's the right thing to do and I certainly don't think about personal honours.”**



## Anam Cara support meeting

ANAM Cara, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, will hold its monthly Parent Support Evening on Monday, April 14, at 7.30pm in the Maldron Hotel, Whitestown Way, Tallaght.

This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or how recent their death was. You do not need to register in advance.

Anam cara also offer an online support group meeting. To find out more call 4045378 or email [info@anamcara.ie](mailto:info@anamcara.ie).

## Craft Fair event

AN OPEN call has been put out for artists and crafters to participate in this years 'People's Arts & Craft Fair' in Lucan.

The event will take place on Sunday, June 1 and the bank holiday on Monday, June 2, at Canon Despard Centre, Chapel Hill, Lucan.

The fee for the two days for artists is €60 per stand, and €60 per 6ft table, or €40 per 4ft table for crafters.

Artists and crafters can contact the event organisers at [peoplesartlucan@gmail.com](mailto:peoplesartlucan@gmail.com) for a booking form as soon as possible. There is limited space available.

## Choir looking for new singers

A LUCAN parish choir are looking for more singers to join the group.

Divine Mercy Parish Children's Choir are looking for singers from second class and up.

The choir sing upbeat and joyful songs at the 10.30am Sunday mass every second week.

Practice for the choir takes place on Thursdays, from 6pm to 6.45pm.

Anyone interested can contact Lucy at 087 7677659.



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# Approach to improve outcomes for children

## Childhood Development Initiative launch three-year Strategic Plan which will drive a lasting change for children and families

By **Alessia Micalizzi**  
[alessia@echo.ie](mailto:alessia@echo.ie)

THE Childhood Development Initiative (CDI) are set to support early intervention and school achievement for children in Tallaght as they launched their three-year Strategic Plan.

On Friday, April 4, special guest Ombudsman for Children, Dr Niall Muldoon, unveiled CDI's School Avoidance Toolkit in Tallaght and attended the launch of their Strategic Plan 2025-2028.

The Plan, explained CDI, outlines a "comprehensive approach to improving outcomes for children, families and communities," and was developed through stakeholder consultation and strong evidence from the ground.

CDI's priorities for the next three years include collaboration between different agencies, innovation and addressing service gaps, while focusing on early childhood development, school readiness, health initiatives and parental support.

The Tallaght-based organisation will offer language, literacy and socio-emotional programmes to help children transition from early years and primary school, and an ongoing Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths programme (Doodle STEAM) aimed at approximately 300 participants from early year

settings annually.

Besides the School Avoidance Toolkit providing resources to tackle school absenteeism in the area, CDI committed to ensure that 75pc of children in Dublin 24 will be registered with their Dolly Parton's Imagination Library programme to receive a book every month until their fifth birthday.

Chit Chat, CDI's group of Speech and Language Therapists, will support children's oral language development while funding will be secured for 50 children per year for maths support.

With regards to health, CDI will encourage "improved immunisation rates" in Dublin 24 by consulting on local barriers, developing informational materials, and carrying out awareness-raising initiatives.

Catriona Rodgers, Chair of CDI's Board of Trustees, said, "This Strategic Plan reflects our commitment to working together with the community to develop services that truly meet their needs. By leveraging research, partnerships, and innovation, we aim to strengthen support for children and families while influencing policy and practice on a national scale."

"We are confident that this Strategic Plan will drive real and lasting change for children and families across Ireland," added CDI's CEO Marian Quinn.



**PLAN:** Geraldine Conlon, Parent and CDI Trustee, Marian Quinn, CEO of CDI, Ciaran Ahearne, TD, Richard McKeever-Burke, Youth Advisory Group, at the launch of the Childhood Development Initiative's Strategic Plan and School Avoidance Toolkit Photo by Richard McKeever-Burke



**SUPPORT:** There was a big turn out for the CDI three-year Strategic Plan launch



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# DataSolutions join forces to form partnership with Quest Software

## Climb Chaneel Solutions further strengthen cybersecurity for Irish enterprises

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

CLIMB Channel Solutions Ireland, formerly known as DataSolutions, has announced a new partnership with software solutions company Quest Software.

Through this partnership, Climb Channel Solutions Ireland, who have a Nangor Road Business Park premises, will offer Quest's suite of security, data empowerment, and AI solutions to resellers. Quest's ever-expanding portfolio is designed to help organisations manage, format, and cleanse data, enabling the seamless adoption of AI.

Climb Channel Solutions Ireland – which was recently recognised as Quest Distributor of the Year – and Quest will also focus on threat detection, backup and disaster recovery solutions and platforms. This includes Quest Security Guardian, an Active Directory (AD) security solution that significantly reduces the attack surface for enterprises and improves identity threat

detection and response (ITDR).

Quest is one of only two vendors in Ireland providing Active Directory Recovery.

Brian Davis, VP of Sales for the UK & Ireland, Climb Channel Solutions Ireland, said: "Given its 24/7 support services, technical certifications and expanding portfolio, Quest has the ability to transform, secure and drive impact for both resellers and end users.

"Ireland offers huge potential, and we look forward not only to solidifying our partnership but addressing challenges and powering success for enterprises."

To support its partner network in Ireland, Quest will be rolling out several initiatives to help them identify and close new business opportunities.

These include technical bootcamps, roundtables and an online training library. Alongside this, Quest also offers financial incentives to partners, such as rebates and referral fees.

Olivia Donnell, Global Distribution, Quest Software, said their partnership with Climb Channel Solutions Ireland will allow them to "further strengthen cybersecurity for Irish enterprises."

**POTENTIAL:** Brian Davis, VP of Sales for the UK & Ireland, Climb Channel Solutions Ireland



“Ireland offers huge potential, and we look forward not only to solidifying our partnership but addressing challenges and powering success for enterprises

# US tariffs present uncertainty but there must be a measured response

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

US TARIFFS present uncertainty but there must be a measured response according to Chambers Ireland.

Ian Talbot, CEO of Chambers Ireland and Secretary General of ICC Ireland, has called for a focus on competitiveness and strategic trade engagement to mitigate any adverse economic impact.

"While the tariffs present immediate challenges, it is essential that Ireland and the EU respond with calm and resolve," said Talbot.

"To navigate these challenges effectively we should prioritise strategies that (a) enhance our competitiveness and (b) strengthen our trade engagement, rather than escalating tensions."

Talbot emphasised that empowering businesses to sell goods and provide services in other markets remains critical to mitigating the impact of tariffs:

"Market access must now be a key focus, which means helping businesses understand the regulatory and logistical requirements they must address to succeed in trade. We need to utilise the advantages of the single market and our access to the UK market while continuing to diversify into new international markets. Investment will be essential to ensure that businesses

have the support to enter and expand in other markets.

"With the right approach, this challenge can become a catalyst for progress. Both the Capital Markets Union and the Banking Union should be progressed to improve access to finance for small businesses, support the green and digital transitions and strengthen our economic resilience. A referendum should also be held on the Unified Patent Court at the earliest possible opportunity. Action in these areas will galvanise our competitiveness and safeguard our long-term economic stability," said Mr Talbot.

With likely challenges ahead, Talbot calls on the Irish Government to closely monitor the impacts, particularly on SMEs, and pursue an urgent focus on the delivery of "vital infrastructure."

"Delivering on what we can control has never been more vital," he said.

“Market access must now be a key focus, which means helping businesses understand a regulatory ...



**CHALLENGES:** Ian Talbot, CEO of Chambers Ireland and Secretary General of ICC Ireland



# Eight students recognised for their academic achievements

Schools located near the main Baileys production facility on Nangor Road awarded

By **Maurice Garvey**

maurice@echo.ie

UP TO eight students from schools located near the main Baileys production facility on Nangor Road, received scholarship awards in recognition of their academic achievements.

The Baileys Scholarships Awards, now in their fourth year, were presented at a reception in the Baileys plant this week.

The awards were granted to post-leaving cert students, nominated by their teachers, on the basis of their resilience in overcoming personal obstacles to advance their educational and personal development.

Four awards were made with each winner receiving a certificate and MacBook laptop in recognition of their exemplary work. In addition, a separate award was made to four students who have gone on to pursue studies in a STEM subjects.

Shauna Devlin from Clogher Road Community College was announced as the overall winner and recipient of the €2,000 bursary.

Her teachers praised Shauna's resilience, highlighting her ability to balance part-time work with school

commitments while maintaining strong relationships with peers and staff.

Beyond academics, Shauna's leadership skills shone through in her role as a Scout Leader and her involvement in the GAISCE awards, reflecting her dedication to personal development and giving back to her community.

The winners were Erica Duff, Our Lady of Mercy Secondary School, Drimnagh; Alex Phillips, Mercy Secondary School, Inchicore; Daniel Halpin, Drimnagh Castle, Drimnagh; and Shauna Devlin, Clogher Road Community College, Crumlin.

STEM student winners were Rachael Joseph, Our Lady of Mercy Secondary School, Drimnagh; Jade Doyle Fleming, Mercy Secondary School, Inchicore; Rhys Barzaga, Drimnagh Castle, Drimnagh; and Russell Pingol, Clogher Road Community College, Crumlin.

Baileys Head of Operations Robert Murphy, said: "We are incredibly proud of the we can offer local students as they progress in their education. We value the opportunity to celebrate the achievements of talented individuals in our community and wish them every success in their future endeavours."



**PRAISED:** Students from left Rachael Joseph, Our Lady of Mercy Secondary School, Drimnagh; Erica Duff, Our Lady of Mercy Secondary School, Drimnagh; Daniel Halpin, Drimnagh Castle, Drimnagh; Overall winner, Shauna Devlin, Clogher Road Community College, Crumlin; Rhys Barzaga, Drimnagh Castle, Drimnagh; Alex Phillips, Mercy Secondary School, Inchicore; and Jade Doyle Fleming, Mercy Secondary School, Inchicore

# Local business awarded Best Shop Front award

A LOCAL business located in Tallaght Village, has been awarded the prestigious "Best Shop Front" recognition under the South Dublin County Council's Shop Front Grant Scheme 2024.

The Shop Front Grant Scheme is a Council initiative designed to encourage and support businesses in South Dublin County in enhancing the appearance of their premises, contributing to the overall aesthetics of local streetscapes, and boosting local commerce.

In 2024, Byrne Malone Estate Agents Ltd at Village Square on the Old Bawn Road in Tallaght Village, stood out among numerous participants for its visually appealing shop front design.

Chair of the Tallaght Area Committee of South Dublin County Council, Cllr Mick Duff said: "I congratulate Byrne Malone Estate Agents Ltd on winning the Best Shop Front Award under the Shopfront Improvement Grant Scheme 2024.

"Their dedication to improving their business's visual presence has contributed to the overall improvement in the aesthetics of the streetscape. Well-designed shopfronts make a place more inviting, which is good for business, and good for the community.

"We look forward to seeing even more businesses follow their lead. The renovations undertaken by Byrne Malone Estate Agents serve as a perfect example of how modernising design elements can greatly enhance the character of our villages."

The new shop front, completed as part of the grant initiative, showcases a blend of modern design and traditional features, aligning with the aesthetic values that South Dublin County Council aims to promote.

The revitalisation of the shop's exterior not only enhances its kerb appeal, but also serves as an example of how small businesses can positively impact the local community.



**IMPACT:** Cllr Mick Duff, Tom Rooney (Head of Enterprise at South Dublin Local Enterprise Office), Ralph McGarry, SDCC, Zaira Yaser, SDCC and Rachel Keogh, SDCC with Peter and Sinead Byrne from Byrne Malone Estate Agents in Tallaght, winner of the SDCC Shopfront Grant

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# Matt designs digital identity through content creation

Videography and photography company based in The Edge and established in 2024

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

AS A CHILD, Matt Sheedy wanted to be a rock star when he grew up and for a glorious moment in time (2008 and 2010), he was living the dream, recording two albums as a singer with the heavy metal band 'iBURN' in the South of France.

However, like many before him in the music industry, the stars just did not align for the Tallaght man.

"I wasn't good enough as a singer, it didn't happen for me," concedes Matt with the casual air of acceptance.

"Yes, we tried to get sued by Apple but unfortunately they didn't come after us," he quipped.

Discovering he had no future in record deals and world tours, Matt spent a period in the "wilderness" and even took on a soul-destroying admin job on return to Ireland in Tipperary of all places, before ultimately forging a path in another passion – content creation.

In September 2024, Matt established Media Vibe, a digital content company based in The Edge in Tallaght, which specialises in videography and photography.

"Basically, I'm a digital content creator. I design your digital identity through content creation," explains Matt.

"Businesses who contact me are already set up but need to put the phone down and get professional for their content."

Matt has worked with a range of clients including a digital video production for Expo Casino in Tallaght, videography for South Dublin Dance Academy, and catalogued the product line for a schools sportswear company.

"As they say in the business don't work with children or animals. That was a long day and we were shooting content for each product. The kids would be getting a bit tired as the day went on, but when that happened

what we had a wad of fivers, and we would wave a fiver for them and they perked up."

Matt also hosts a podcast connected to the business in The Edge, an incubation hub which has a professional studio for productions.

To date, the podcast has had a slew of big names as guests including comedian PJ Gallagher, actor Eilish O'Carroll (Winnie from Mrs Browns Boys) and Cllr Paddy Holohan (Ind), a former MMA fighter.

The outlook wasn't as colourful when Matt was working a 9-5 in admin, however a chance phone call in 2016 by a buddy enquired if he was interested in doing some work on a music video.

"They had me at 'music'. I go and absolutely love it so much I was willing to work for free. In 2017, I quit my job and enrolled in a film and production course."

While still in Tipp, another bit of work on an RTE short 'Smother' led to more experience and an IMDB "which was nice."

Further work on short indies and a collaboration with 'Hardy Buck' Owen Colgan for a project which didn't quite get off the ground, kept the momentum going but then covid and lockdowns happened.

"It was challenging in a rural environment. By July 2020 I had already made my mind up to come back to Dublin for more opportunities."

Matt applied for a maintenance gig with Partas in Tallaght, and they supported him during his tenure to develop his own business.

"I wouldn't be doing what I'm doing now without Partas. They were brilliant, very accommodating, they gave the best advice for me to start out on my own. That's what they do. They invest in companies to help get them off the ground," said Matt.

Looking ahead, he has eyes on bigger projects but acknowledges the benefits of what he is doing.

"I'd rather fictional work on tv but Ridley Scott started out doing advertising on tv, what I am doing is an in."



**PASSION:** Matt Sheedy formed Media Vibe in 2024

## Thunders Bakery close due to difficult trading conditions

DIFFICULT trading conditions led to the closure of Thunders Bakery, a chain of eight outlets in Dublin including a popular store in the Ashleaf Shopping Centre in Crumlin, reports Maurice Garvey.

Thunders first opened in 1969 but announced on its social media that it has ceased trading after 56 years in business.

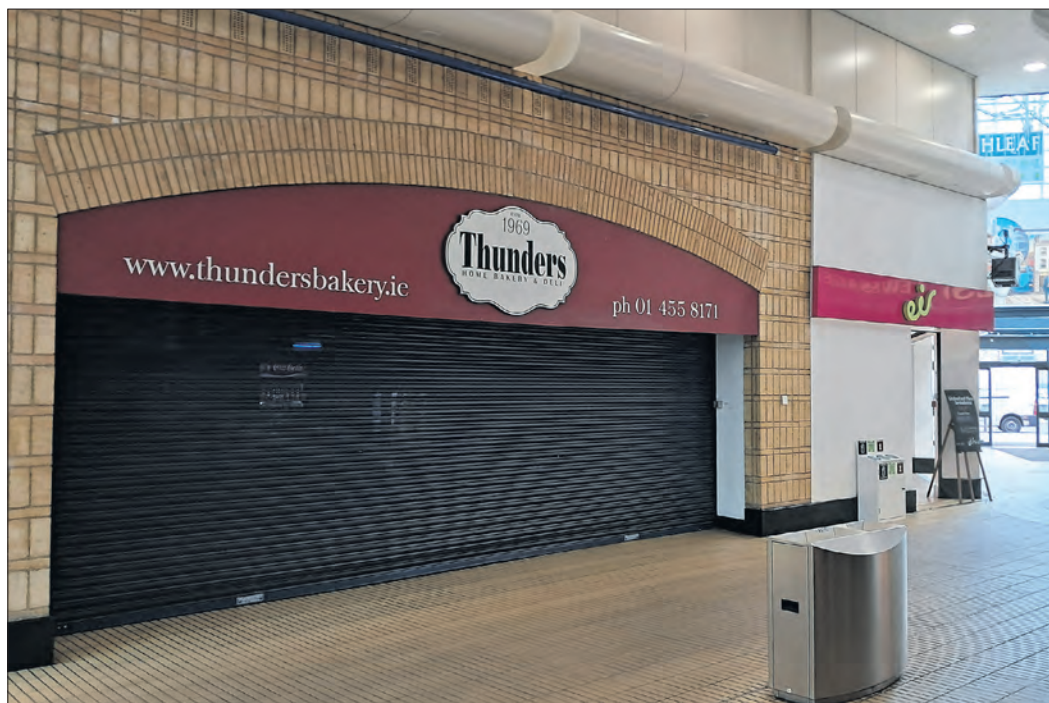
"The company has experienced difficult trading conditions in recent months and has become unsustainable," it said in the Instagram post.

"Thank you to all of our loyal team, customers and friends for your support over the years."

The bakery had eight locations across Dublin including the Ashleaf, where customers could also sit and have a coffee, Phibsborough, Drumcondra, Clontarf, Santry and Donaghmede.

The company said it will not be able to fulfill any cake orders that have been placed.

"We will be in touch directly with all customers who have a pre-order with us," it said.



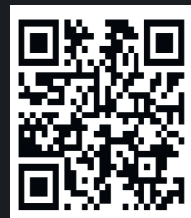
**POPULAR:** The Thunders Bakery in Ashleaf Shopping Centre ceased trading

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# Guide price of €5.25m for former Sisk headquarters



**HIGH PROFILE:** The former Sisk headquarters on the Naas Road

Wilton Works is a self-contained three-storey office block with 96 car parking spaces

By **William O'Connor**

william@echo.ie

THE former headquarters of construction company John Sisk & Sons, known as Wilton Works on the Naas Road Fox and Geese has gone on the market with a guide price of €5.25 million.

Sisk had been occupiers of the site since 1964 and have relocated to a site at Citywest Business Campus since last year.

The self-contained three-storey office building has a high-profile location fronting onto the Naas Road and has 96 on-site car parking spaces.

There is excellent re-development opportunity at the 2.4 acres site, subject to planning permission.

Wilton Works is located on a high-profile site fronting onto the Naas Road and is approximately 8km south west of Dublin City Centre.

The immediate surrounding area comprises a variety of uses including industrial, retail warehousing and offices. This location is very well serviced by local road infrastructure/public transport facilities and is approximately 300 metres east of the intersection of the M50 Motorway with the N7 Naas Road. The Luas Red Line, which runs from Citywest to the 3Arena in Dublin's docklands provides a

frequent and convenient public transport link to the City Centre with the nearest Luas stop at the Red Cow, less than a 10 minute walk.

Nearby occupiers include Irish Distillers, the Red Cow Hotel and Hino Harris.

The existing development comprises the original two-storey office building and interlinks with a modern three-storey office building constructed in 2002. The total combined floor area extends to 38,578 square feet together with 96 on-site car spaces.

The site enjoys dual vehicular access from both the Naas Road and Robinhood Road located to the rear.

## Plans for extension on new Gaelscoil campus

PLANS have been lodged for a new three-storey extension and alterations to the new Gaelscoil Campus, Gaelscoil na Camoige and Gaelscoil Chluain Dolcain development which is currently under construction, reports **William O'Connor**.

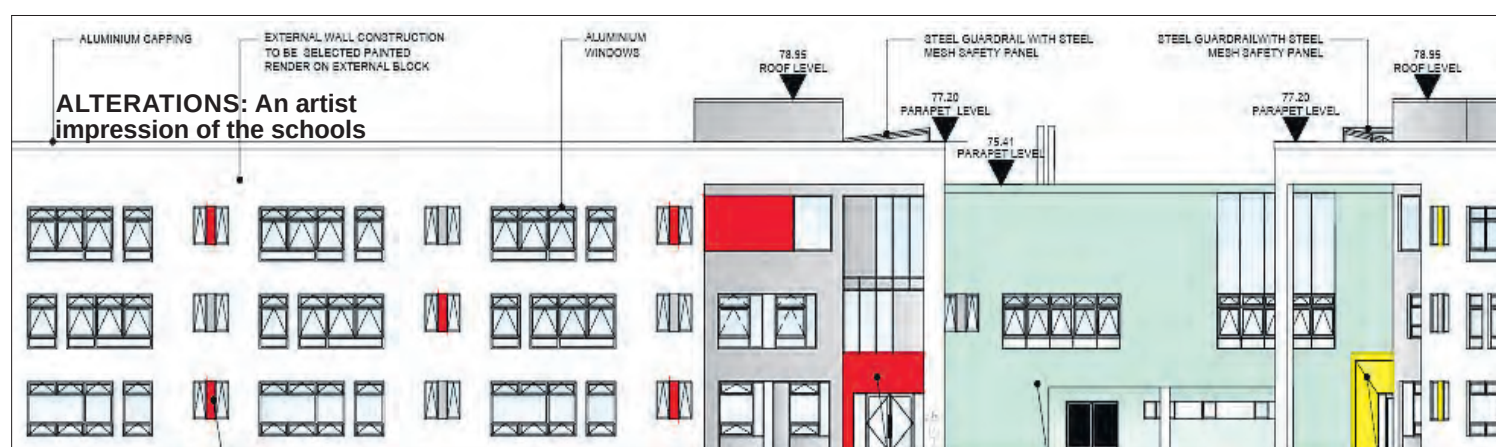
Located on the old Nangor Road, applicant Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Education & Training Board

The plans include the construction of a new three-storey extension and alterations to Gaelscoil na Camoige and Gaelscoil Chluain Dolcain, previously granted planning permission and currently under construction.

The previously granted permission includes the phased construction of two 16 classroom primary schools with a PE hall for the post primary school on a shared campus which started last August on the grounds of Colaiste Chilliain.

The new development will consist of providing two classroom suites of Special Educational Needs accommodation for each school.

Both Special Educational Needs units will be inclusive of two class base rooms, en-suite toilets, withdrawal room associated with each



class base, central activity spaces, staff toilets, pupil toilets and shower facilities, storage and office, all at ground floor level, along with the relocation of 2 no. classrooms and en-suite toilets from the ground floor of both schools ground to first and second floor of the proposed three-

storey extension.

The development will also consist of an extension at first floor level, along with minor alterations to Stair Core four to the north elevation of Gaelscoil na Camoige and an extension at second floor level along with minor

alterations to Stair Core 3 to the west elevation of Gaelscoil Chluain Dolcain. The development will also consist of the provision of new soft play external areas for both Special Educational Needs units, connections to the existing drainage layout and all ancillary site development works.



# St Mary’s Road mixed-use development declared invalid

Proposal includes ground floor supermarket and 34 one-bed apartments in Crumlin

PROPOSAL: An artists impression of proposal from vantage point of Crumlin Road



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

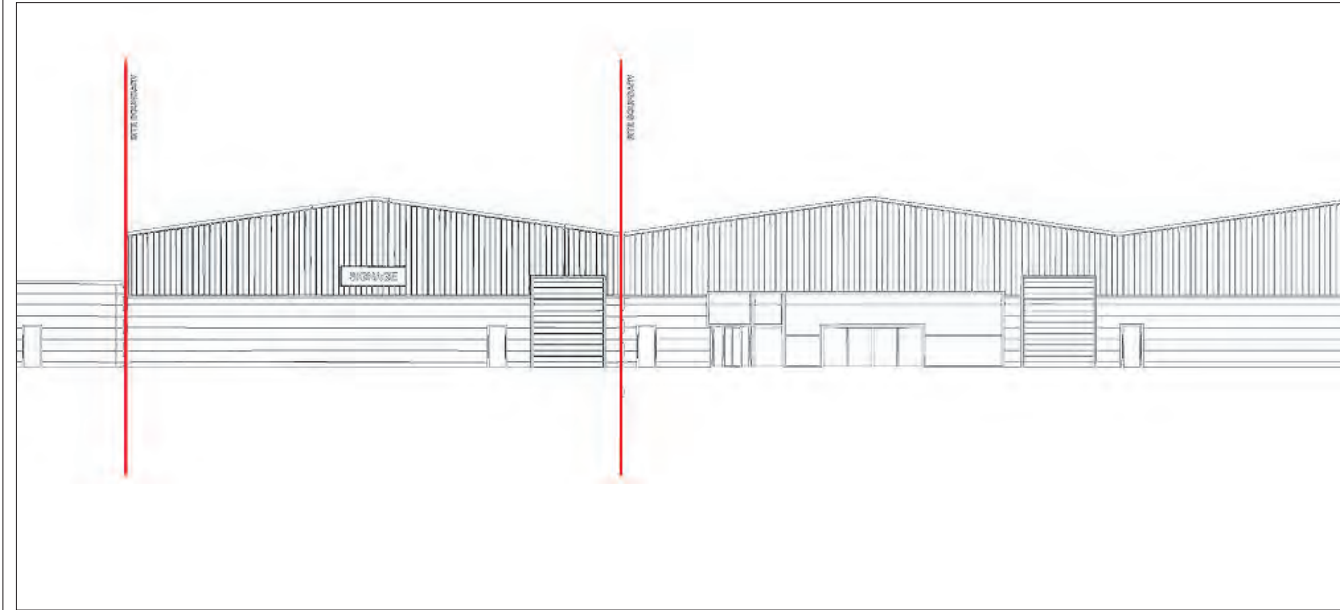
A PLANNING application for a mixed-use development in Crumlin has been declared withdrawn.

Applicant Real Estate Acquisitions and Sales Limited was seeking planning permission with Dublin City Council for a development at St Mary’s Road in Crumlin.  
The proposal was to contain plans for the demolition of the existing two-storey commercial buildings at 8 and 8A St Mary’s Road and associated commercial shed units

and structures, and the construction of a 2 – 7 storey mixed-use development.  
This new development was to comprise a supermarket at ground floor level, and 34 one-bed apartments with balconies.  
All apartment units were intended to provide housing for independent living for older residents (55 years plus).

Pedestrian access points to the proposed development in the plans was to be from St Mary’s Road and Drimmagh Road.  
The application is declared withdrawn in the weekly planning list with Dublin City Council on March 28, however there is no reason cited within the planning application as to why it was withdrawn.

## Two outdoor padel tennis court plans for Cookstown and social wine service



FACILITIES: An artist impression of the facility at Cookstown Industrial Estate

PLANNING permission has been lodged with South Dublin County Council for two outdoor padel tennis court facilities at Cookstown Industrial Estate.

The proposal, planned for Units 5 and 8 at building two and three in Cookstown Industrial Estate, will be protected by screening around both playing surface.

Applicant Paul Mc Glade is also seeking permission to operate a social wine service at the existing ancillary cafe located internally.

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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

# Adolescence gives plenty of food for thought

Dear editor;

IT'S BEEN a while since a TV Programme has got so many people talking but Stephen Graham's Netflix drama Adolescence has done just that.

As we get older we forget what its likle to be an Adolescence and how difficult it can be.

This drama certainly gives a lot of food for thought. It gives insights into the social roots of violent misogyny, male rage, masculine stereotypes and incel culture.

The show's powerful depiction of a child murderer, his family, and his friends and schoolmates is uncomfortable but compulsory viewing.

I would suggest every parent should watch Adolescence and it should be shown in schools to Adolescents.

It has and should continue to cause conversation about the many themes that it raises.

Violent misogyny, male rage and masculine stereotypes are all too imbedded in our culture.

We need to question some of the role models they are looked up to but also our own views on misogyny and masculinity.

It's time we had the uncomfortable conversations.

An incel is someone who defines themselves as unable to get a romantic or sexual partner despite desiring one.

The misogynistic culture has amassed a following online along some men who feel angry and resentful as they believe women do not find them attractive.

In a world where fake news and online hate is sadly often the norm , we really need to do more around how we express emotions , value each other and the role models we look up to.

Hate can lead to awful consequences it's time we all educated ourselves and had the conversations , yes Adolescence is a TV Drama but Adolescence gives plenty of food for thought.

Your sincerely,  
Francis Timmons,  
Clondalkin

Remarkable life of Mick O'Dwyer

LEGEND: The late Mick O'Dwyer

Dear Editor:

TRIBUTES have come pouring in from all corners of Kerry and nationally after news of the demise of Mick O'Dwyer (Micko), the county's greatest GAA legendary footballer aged 88. Kerry manager, Jack O'Connor declared: "He set the standard for all of us, and we are merely following in his footsteps." The top-scorer in Ireland for two years in succession, guided Kerry to eight All-Irelands, including four-in-a-row between 1978 and 1981, a three-in-a-row between 1984 and 1986, 11 Munster titles in 12 seasons and three National Football Leagues.

After 15 years managing Kerry from 1975 to 1990, he moved to take on the Lilywhites from 1991 to 1994. And in 1997, he ended a 42-year provincial title famine in Kildare, winning the 1998 Delaney Cup: Kildare 1-12 Meath 0-10, in Croke Park - the first Leinster title in 42 years and a first All-Ireland final since 1956.

Paying tribute to Micko while elevating the Delaney Cup, Kildare captain, Glenn Ryan declared: "The man is unbelievable, the man started this whole thing off. He gave us the energy and the will and the determination."

He moved to Laois, winning a Leinster title ending a 57-year wait for the O'Moore County."

Off the field Micko managed the Strand Hotel now renamed the Sea Lodge in Waterville with his late first wife Mary Carmel. President Michael D Higgins said Micko will be remembered as: "one of the greatest figures ever to be associated with Gaelic Games".

Taoiseach Micheál Martin avowed: "He was an iconic figure, particularly during the 1970s, a decade that had marked a new era in GAA management". Quite simply, a true legend: May Micko's gentle soul rest in peace.

Yours sincerely,  
Gerry Coughlan, Kilnamanagh

Just imagine waking up to a dead zone

Sir/Madam,

THE Israeli State, in collaboration with the United States, has now killed more people than the whole population of Clondalkin.

Just imagine waking up one morning to find a dead zone where the village is now.

Is mise le meas,  
Liam Ó Deoráin  
Cluain Dolcáin  
BÁC 22

THE **Echo**

Real Local News

Best Small Family Business of The Year 2021

# Trump declares ‘Liberation Day,’ announcing sweeping global tariffs on ‘friend and foe alike’

Dear Editor:

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP has announced sweeping global tariffs; a risky move vowed to lure manufacturing back to the United States, which could upend the global economy.

The U.S.A. will apply a universal baseline tariff of 10 per cent on imported goods from all overseas countries.

Several dozen countries that unfairly tax American-made goods will face additional tariffs with China being slapped with another 34 per cent tariff totalling 54 per cent. The EU is hit with a 20 per cent tariff, and India a 26 per cent tariff.

The 46 percent tariff on Vietnam takes effect on April 9.

The fact that Northern Ireland and UK has tariffs set at 10 per cent, lower than others, vindicates their approach to the USA. Russia is exempt.

Reciprocal tariffs do not apply to copper, pharmaceuticals, semiconductors, lumber, gold coinage, energy and certain minerals. In 2024

overall exports of medical and pharmaceutical products rose by €22.4bn or 29 per cent to €100bn.

The potential impact of Irish tariffs could muster parallels with Ireland's economic crash in 2008.

Trump accused nations the world over; “friend and foe alike” of having: “looted, pillaged, raped and plundered” the United States citing tariffs would usher in a “Golden Age of America.”

Tariffs are nothing new in America, as the US stock market plunged deeply after the

announcement.

The potential impact of Irish tariffs could have parallels with Ireland's economic crash in 2008. April the 2nd will go down in history as America's “Liberation Day.”

From what will Americans be liberated on Liberation Day? Trump is already talking about making Liberation Day a federal holiday next year.

Yours sincerely,  
Gerry Coughlan, Kilnamanagh Dublin 24



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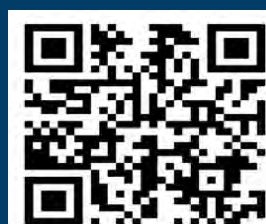
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**[evelyn@orionecareireland.ie](mailto:evelyn@orionecareireland.ie)**

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# Life & Social

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## A Rare Journey

### PLAY CELEBRATES THE LIFE OF A REMARKABLE WOMAN

By **Ryan Butler**  
news@echo.ie

'A Rare Journey' celebrates the life of a truly remarkable Irish woman, Nora Joyce, in a highly entertaining roller-coaster 75-minute play, filled with the music and song the Joyces knew, and delights in Nora's quick and often razor-sharp wit.

The play separates Nora from her famous literary alter ego, Molly Bloom, and dispels the lazy myths that have often cast Nora as an inconsequential appendage of her famous husband.

Written and performed by Paula Greevy-Lee, this one-woman show separates the funny, wise, sharp-witted, complex, and compassionate Nora from the half-truths that have dogged her since her death aged 67 in 1951.

#### What inspired you to research Brenda Maddox's biography for the stage?

I should say at the outset that my play, 'A Rare Journey—Nora Joyce's Odyssey', is not actually an adaptation of the Brenda Maddox biography of Nora! While the Maddox book is certainly the primary source of my research, my play also draws on many other sources, recollections, and accounts of Nora and her life. Brenda Maddox wrote the definitive biography on Nora Barnacle, and that was the obvious place to start my research. Up until then Nora had usually been glossed over in books that saw James Joyce as the only important one of the couple. When Nora was mentioned at all in the (mostly) male-dominated arena of Joyce studies, it was usually in a quite offhand and dismissive manner as if she didn't merit serious consideration as a complex woman with her own extraordinary story to tell. How wrong they were!

#### How long has this show been in the works?

The show took me about two years to fully research and write and many drafts to get the script down to its current length of 75 minutes. In the early stages it was easily double that and more! It could probably have been a two-hour show, so deciding what to keep in and what to edit out was a process that took a lot of time and careful redrafting. I first performed the play in Smock Alley Theatre in June 2022, and it was so well received that we were invited back to Smock in 2023. Then last year we brought Nora to the legendary Cork Arts Theatre, which was really great.

#### Is there a preference between writing or performance for you, and if so, why?

The impulse to write started with wanting to create a piece of work for myself to perform. I

had written some plays before for my Theatre-in-Education programme, Sticks & Stones, which was an anti-bullying programme for schools. But this idea was very different—to write a solo piece to perform myself, and when I started out, I wasn't sure if I would be able to do it! Then I found I was really enjoying the research into Nora's life because she was such a truly remarkable woman. I found myself really admiring her and what she achieved. Shaping that into a play was another phase of the work towards performance, and I would have to say that while I fully enjoyed writing it, I really love performing 'A Rare Journey—Nora Joyce's Odyssey' because I get to inhabit this amazing character and 'introduce' her to new audiences.

#### Have there been any highlights or challenges working on it so far?

I got no funding to make or tour this show, so that's been a real challenge. There have been many highlights, but I always enjoy our post-show chats with audience members when people have a chance to find out more about Nora, and I get to talk more about my affinity with her.

#### What would you say has been your favourite project you have ever worked on and why?

Because I created this play from scratch - researched it, wrote it, and performed it - I would have to say 'A Rare Journey' is my favourite project.

#### What is next for you after this?

I performed an excerpt from a new work-in-progress, The Debutante, at the Scene + Heard Festival in Smock Alley back in February, and I plan to get down to writing the rest of that play, which is another solo piece, as soon as Nora finishes her gallivanting! That said, there are a couple of places interested in taking Nora abroad, so that would be exciting too. And I've always had an ambition to bring her to the main cities where the Joyces lived—Trieste,

Paris and Zurich. So she might not be ready to retire just yet! And who knows what exciting new acting projects are waiting?!

#### Who would you like to thank?

Lucy Ryan, who was then running Smock Alley Theatre, gave me a platform to present Nora in 2022, after my Arts Council funding had been declined. I would like to thank most sincerely Darina Gallagher in the James Joyce Centre for all her support. Shauna Maher, who made Nora's costume and did all my make-up and hair every night—Shauna is a hugely talented designer, and I was lucky to get her. My husband, Gerard Lee, who directed the show, and I had endless hours of conversation about Nora.

**SHARP-WITTED: Paula Greevy-Lee performing 'A Rare Journey'**  
Photo by Shauna Maher



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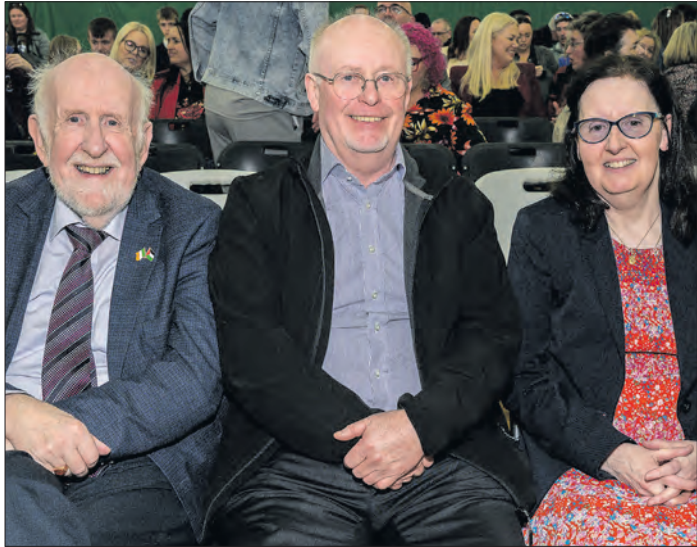
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**Olivia Shortall and Karen Scully**



**Andrew Land, Amber Brazil, Nadine Costigan and Hagan Costigan**



**Claire O'Mahony and Amanda Davis**



**Toni Quinsey, Aileen Friel and Libby Walsh (First Teachers)**



**Thomas Dunne, Cllr Jacqueline Sheehy, Jessica Rooney and Zoe Clarke**



“ I take a vitamin every day; it's called a steak.

Robert Duvall

# Food with passion

## CHÂTEAU BRIAND

by **john paul kennedy** /jpkennedy.kennedy@gmail.com



**C**hâteau briand is a classic french dish that combines tender beef with rich, flavourful ingredients to create a truly memorable meal. perfect for special occasions or a luxurious dinner at home, this recipe will guide you through each step to achieve culinary excellence. serve this with your favourite side dishes for a homecooked fine dining experience. i recently treated myself to a delicious beef tenderloin from James whelan butchers in Avoca and while expensive it was the most delicious piece of beef, i've every cooked and served at home!

### Ingredients:

500g piece beef fillet tenderloin  
2 tablespoons of beef dripping  
2 sprigs fresh thyme  
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 geTThe bAsics right



### Method:

1. preheat your oven to 180°C (350°F). season the beef tenderloin with salt and pepper, be generous with the seasoning for extra flavour plus beef loves pepper!
2. heat the beef dripping in a large ovenproof skillet over medium-high heat. Add the beef and sear on all sides until browned, about 2-3 minutes per side.
3. Add the thyme sprigs and transfer the skillet to the preheated oven. roast for 22-30 minutes, or until the beef reaches your desired level of doneness. i like mine medium with a nice bit of pink in the middle.
4. remove the beef from the oven, cover in foil and let it rest for 10 minutes before slicing.
5. slice the beef and serve with the rich gravy and your favourite side dishes for me it has to be mash, buttered cabbage and maple glazed carrots!



enjoy your chateau briand with a glass of fine red wine and savour the exquisite flavours of this classic french dish. my brother who lives in london recently came to stay with me and he is devoted beef fan. we both ooooooed and ahhhhhhed with every mouthful of this simple classic delicious dish. go on treat yourself and your loved ones. bon appétit! i hope you enjoy making and tasting this delightful recipe!

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jp on:

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# St Kilian's SNS Musical

## JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOUR DREAMCOAT

Photos by **Paddy Barrett**

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Laura, Margaret and Bríd



Enya, Grace and Cara



Aisling, Harvey and Allison



Lillie and Maeve



Myles and Ann



Some of the cast from St Kilian's SNS in Kingswood



Christopher, Richard, Annemarie, Rebekah and Irene



Senan and Aoibhinn



Lara and Ronke



# DoubleTAKE raise their voice

## WE WILL NOT SIT DOWN AND BE QUIET

By **Ryan Butler**  
news@echo.ie

"I THINK it's really, really important for groups like the advocates to be raising their voice about the issues they're experiencing," remarks SDCC Cllr Alan Edge of the work of DoubleTAKE advocates.

Originally launched in Rathfarnham's Pearse Museum in the Autumn of 2023, 'We Will Not Sit Down and Be Quiet' is an advocacy through the arts project in the form of a short film and photographic portrait installation.

It serves as a call to action and invites us to examine our own unconscious bias towards those who live with a disability and those who require support to thrive.

Established by Tallaght Community Arts in 2010, DoubleTAKE Supported Arts Studio is a professional artist's studio based at Rua Red, South Dublin County Arts Centre.

It is dedicated to enabling people living with a disability to meet and integrate with other artists. The studio is home to 80 artist members and is staffed by 4 professional Artist Mentors.

Through 'We Will Not Sit Down & Be Quiet', the DoubleTAKE Advocates, many of whom have spent their entire lives living and working within Ireland's disability care sector, are standing with power and speaking out.

They stand shoulder to shoulder to claim their human rights and respect and to request your

solidarity.

They do this for themselves, their peers, those who can't, and those who take their place.

The first leg of the 2025 tour took place on three campuses of TU Dublin throughout the month of March: Grangegorman in week 11, Blanchardstown in week 12, and Tallaght in week 13.

In each location, the installation was travelled to, constructed, and launched at an opening event and then remained in place for a week, open to the public.

Following on from that, the portraits and posters from the exhibition have been installed in Rua Red Cafe.

The DoubleTAKE advocates are proud of their work and pleased with the positive feedback from the public, the HSE, and politicians.

Cllr Edge thinks it's vital for politicians to engage with advocates and "let them speak for themselves" instead of just talking about them.

But the advocates are not stopping there, as there are already plans in motion to continue and expand the project beyond where it stands currently. Tallaght Community Arts will be announcing some major developments to that end in the near future.

'We Will Not Sit Down & Be Quiet' is available to view in Rua Red from April 1 to April 30.

Rua Red Cafe is open to the public Monday to Friday from 9.30am to 4pm and Saturday from 10am to 3pm; be sure to check it out!

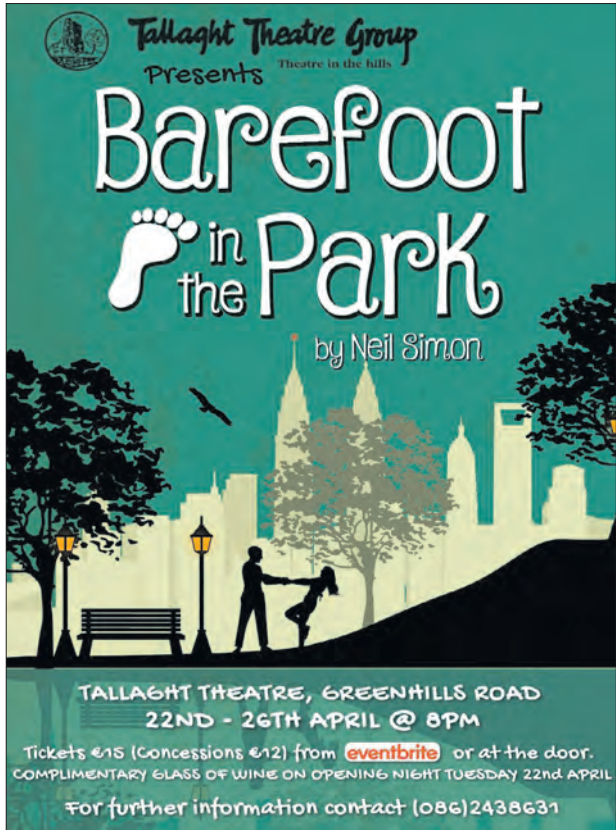


VOICE: Double Take arts project takes place in Rua Red

# Barefoot in the Park

PRESENTED BY TALLAGHT THEATRE GROUP

By **Ryan Butler**  
news@echo.ie



TALLAGHT Theatre Group use the theatre primarily for their own productions, of which they usually perform 2-3 per year.

Production has "gone very smoothly" so far, with the actress for Corie's mother being New York born and raised and the actor for Paul having past experience in New York.

The group will "see who we have" and "what we'd like to do" until October after this run of performances.

Michael would like to thank the combined effort of the entire group, including those who have worked backstage and front of house, for their help on the show.

He praises the production process as a "general team effort".

'Barefoot in the Park' performs in the Tallaght Theatre from April 22 to 26; tickets can be bought from Eventbrite or at the door.

A complimentary glass of wine will also be offered on the opening night.

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# School GAA Blitz

HOSTED BY THOMAS DAVIS GAA CLUB AT KILTIPPER ROAD

Photos by **Paddy Barrett**

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Scoil Maelruan's Senior



Gaelscoil na Giuise



St Dominic's



St Mary's



Scoil Santain



Scoil Aonghusa Senior



Natalie, Aisling and Grainne (Scoil Aonghusa)



# Delight for Muireann

## TEENAGER IS TOPS IN SENIOR SOLO DRAMA CATEGORY

By **Ryan Butler**  
news@echo.ie

"SHE'S always had an interest in dancing and theatre!" beams proud Kingswood father Joe Edgeworth.

This is regarding his daughter Muireann Cooper Edgeworth who won first place in the category of 'Senior Solo Drama Age 15-16' in Sunday's Speech and Drama Teachers of Ireland hybrid feis in the Talbot Hotel in Stillorgan.

Speech and Drama Teachers of Ireland bring children from all over the country together to celebrate the written and spoken word.

This annual feis has been celebrating children's journeys in drama for over 40 years, having moved to a hybrid model in 2022, allowing children from all over Ireland to showcase their performances.

Muireann entered the competition representing the Rathfarnham-based Aoife Burke School of Drama and performed 'Sister Mary Ignatius Explains it All for You' by Christopher Durang.

She previously attended Got2Dance Stage School in Kingswood from the ages of five to fifteen before moving on to Aoife Burke in Rathfarnham.

Muireann was chosen from 14 national finalists after auditions earlier this year.

Joe said that submitting the video and being chosen as one of 15 finalists were some of the challenges of the process, given the national talent pool.

Apart from this, she also does a bit of acting at Westside Performing Arts School, as well as dancing and participating in pantos, having recently taken part in the Christmas show 'Annie' with Rebecca Storm in the National Concert Hall.

She has also previously taken part in the Civic panto, among others.

For this achievement, Joe would like to thank Aoife Burke Drama School, as well as Got2Dance Stage School, for giving Muireann her start in the arts.

Congratulations to Muireann!



**DRAMA:**  
**Muireann**  
**Cooper**  
**Edgeworth**



**TRIBUTE:** Jack Shepherd  
performing on stage

# Sheer' class

## ED SHEERAN EXPERIENCE COMES TO THE CIVIC

By **Ryan Butler**  
news@echo.ie

"I think what you do is awesome."

This is what Ed Sheeran told tribute artist Jack Shepherd, who is coming to the Civic this month.

Jack is world-renowned for his Ed Sheeran tribute shows after playing all over the world since 2015.

The show consists of either a full live band or Jack and only his trusty loop pedal replicating the songs layer by layer, just like the man himself.

Singalongs, beats, and slow songs are sure to give

you the 'Ed Sheeran Experience'.

Featuring the ballads, the beats, the ginger hair, the loop pedal magic, and now a live band, 'Ed Sheeran Experience' is a live show consisting of all the hits.

Jack has been performing as Ed since 2014 and has even been credited by the man himself, as shown above.

Sing-alongs, slow songs, and all the hits, the 'Ed Sheeran Experience' is a show not to be missed.

The show comes to the Civic on April 19 at 7:30pm; don't miss out!

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# Celebration mass

## FOR SR CARMEL ST PETER APOSTLE CHURCH IN NEILSTOWN

Photos by **Paddy Barrett**

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Sr Carmel with her Family



Sr Carmel with Maire Duffy and daughter Maire



Sr Carmel with Ursula Mooney and Paul Kenny



Sr Carmel with John, Jason and Teresa Earls



Sr Carmel with her Brother David Earls



Sr Carmel with Rose Dempsey, Jenny Morrow, Lorna Dempsey, Mary Duffy, Amanda Duffy and Bishop Donal Roche



Sr Carmel with Sr Maria Smith and Sr Kathleen Bugler



Sr Carmel with Garda Leeann McDonagh (Ronanstown)



Sr Carmel with Rose Dempsey, Robert Earls and Noel Collins



SCAIPÉADH AN SCÉAL.

TÁ A FHÍOS AG LUCHT AN PHALÁIS INA DTÚR EABHAIR AGUS NA BOCHTÁIN I MBROCAMAS NA SRAIDE.

TÁ ÉALAITHEACH SAOR I BPRÍOMHCATHAIR NA HIMPREACHTA.

'IS AN T-AINM ATÁ AIR NÁ...

FLASH GORDON

SEO DUIT NA FÍRÍCÍ:

CHABHRAIGH CÚPLA FEAR CLIMHACHTA FLASH ÉALÚ AS AN BPÁLÁIS FÍLÍ GO BHFUIL TÁTHAR SA TÓIR AIR...

...ACH D'FHLUAIGH "NA FÍOROIDHRÍ MHING" A BHEAN, AN DTUIGEANN TÚ?

AGUS NÍL SÉ AG IMEACHT GO THÍOCFADH SÉ UIRTHI.

NÍ AMADÁN É AN SPÁSAIRE SEO. TÁ A FHÍOS AIGE NACH FEIDIR LEIS TEACHT AR NA HOIDHRÍ DÓ FEIN.

MAR SIN TAGANN SÉ GO DTÍ AN CEANTAR GARBH SEO AGUS TÓGANN SÉ RACÁN.

DAN CORABE 9-23-24

MAR TÁ A FHÍOS AIGE GO MBÉIM LE FEICEÁIL NUAIR A BHÍONN TRIOBLOID IDIR MHEIRLIGH.

BONES MALOCK.

IS FÉIDIR LIOM NA BITHIUNAIGH SEO A AIMSILÚ, AGUS TÁIM FAOI CHOMAOIN AG AN SPÁSAIRE.

TÁ AN T-ADH AIGE GO BHFUIL SÉ DATHUIL.

AN CHÉAD CHLÁR EILE: CLUICHE AN OIDHRE.

THE PHANTOM

CREATED BY LEE FALK

I'LL SEE THE DEAD PROFESSOR'S ASSISTANT, TEYDRA. NOT TOMORROW... NOT THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW... NOW.

FOLLOW ME, WALKER...

THE WOMAN IS UNACCUSTOMED TO THE SUBTERRANEAN REGIONS OF THE DOMAIN...

SHE SPENDS MUCH OF HER TIME AMONG OUR FARMING FOLK.

DOES THIS MEAN WHAT I THINK IT MEANS?

A THIRD PASSAGEWAY TO THE SURFACE? IT WOULD SEEM SO.

LET'S KEEP THINKING WE'RE ABOUT TO MEET THE DEAD PROFESSOR'S PROTEGE...

BUT BE PREPARED TO FIGHT OUR WAY OUT OF HERE, MRS. WALKER.\*

WATCH WHAT I DO... AND DO LIKEWISE.

Tony DePaul & Jeff Weigel 4-23-23

OLIVE! WIMPY! WHERE IS YA'S AT?

HUH?!

YER COMIC RUNS T'MORRAH.

IT'S SUNDAY?!

THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS

POPEYE

BY RANDY MILHOLLAND

COMIN' IN ON ME DAY OFF. HOW EMBARRASKIN'!

POPEYE!

YES, SWEE'PEA?

HOW'S MY FAVORITE FATHER?

WHATTAYA WANT?

HARDTACK INVITED US TO JOIN HIM AN' HIS UNCLE BRUTUS AT A WRESTLIN' SHOW TONIGHT.

NO!

AWW, WHY? JUST 'CUZ YA DON'T LIKE BRUTUS?

NOT AT ALL! ALTHOUGH IT'S A SOLID REASON.

'SIDE FROM TH' FACK I DON'TSK WANNA WATCH NO WRASSLIN', I GOT A DATE WIT' OLIVE.

I OWES HER A SPECIAL EV'NIN' AFTER I MADE HER MAD AT ME LASK WEEK.

YOU'RE RIGHT, SHE DESERVES A SPECIAL EVENING.

OLIVE, ARE YOU MAD AT POPEYE ENOUGH TO MAKE HIM TAKE US TO A WRESTLIN' SHOW HE DOESN'T WANNA GO TO?

I MEAN, SPITE PAIRS WELL WITH EVERYTHING.

4-6 BGM

TASQ-ART



# Peace Run

## IN ST BERNADETTE’S SCHOOL IN QUARRYVALE

Photos by **Paddy Barrett**

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At the Peace Run in St Bernadette's



Pupils from St Bernadette's



Colm Magee, Gabriella Buhaniuc and Dhavala Skott



Anna Bogdana, Gianluca and Helen Kelly



Ava and Keela



Pupils from St Bernadette's at the Peace Run



Colm Magee, Sharon McHugh, A.Dunne, Carmel Canavan, Kiara Gaffney, Diarmuid Nolan and Devashishu Torpy



“ You can either suffer the pain of discipline or the pain of regret.

Jim Rohn

# Health & Fitness

## JOINT PAIN: KEEP MOVING AND EASE THE ACHE

by Ursula Frawley / info@moveitfitness.ie



Joint pain can be a real struggle, and many of my clients tell me how hard it is to even get started when their knees, ankles, wrists, or hips are giving them trouble. But here's the good news: there are some simple yet powerful strategies that can help you fight back against joint pain and keep moving!

### 1. Get Your Joints Moving

Did you know that movement is one of the best ways to lubricate your joints? It's true! Before you even start walking, try sitting and standing a few times to get the blood flowing and ease stiffness in your knees, hips, and ankles. A simple routine of bending and straightening your knees while seated can also do wonders—just this small motion can help lubricate the joints, so when you do stand up, you'll feel less stiff and more ready to move.

### 2. Build Strength for Joint Support

Strength training is key when it comes to joint health. Your muscles, ligaments, and cartilage all work together to support

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

your joints—but you have the most control over your muscles. By strengthening the muscles around your joints, you'll give them extra support during movement, reducing strain and discomfort. The best part? You don't need fancy equipment to start. Begin with bodyweight exercises and, if possible, work with a trainer to level up your strength and muscle-building so you continue to progress!

### 3. Fuel Up with Anti-Inflammatory Foods

What you eat plays a big role in how your joints feel. Fresh fruits, vegetables, and plant-based foods are packed with anti-inflammatory properties that can help reduce swelling and pain in your joints. A colourful variety of these foods in your daily meals can make a noticeable difference, improving not just your joint health but your overall well-being too.

### 4. Don't Go It Alone

While these tips can help you manage joint pain, it's crucial to consult with your GP before jumping to conclusions or self-diagnosing. If you're still struggling, a professional can offer additional support to help you keep moving. Small, consistent movements can make a big impact—so give it a try, and you might just find the relief you've been searching for!

Remember, every little bit counts when it comes to managing joint pain. Keep moving, stay strong, and let those joints feel the love! This article is not a substitute for medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Remember, always consult with your GP before embarking on any change in diet or new health & fitness regime.



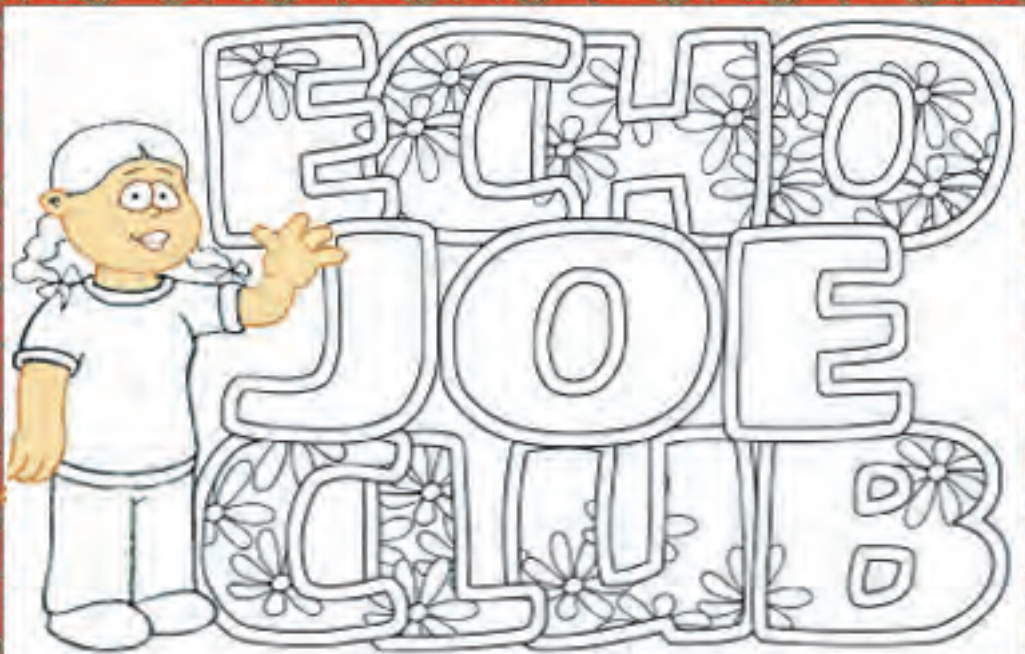
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**COMPETITION:** Colour in the Echo Joe Club Logo, take a picture of it and email it to [reception@echo.ie](mailto:reception@echo.ie) and be in with a chance to win a **PRIZE**.

A Word with Echo So...

## Spring Flowers



CLUBBERS,  
HOW MANY WORDS  
(TWO LETTERS OR MORE)  
CAN YOU MAKE FROM  
THE ABOVE WORDS?

5-20 pretty good! 21-35 excellent!  
36 and over - you do realise these  
have to be real words, don't you!

|    |    |    |
|----|----|----|
| 1  | 14 | 27 |
| 2  | 15 | 28 |
| 3  | 16 | 29 |
| 4  | 17 | 30 |
| 5  | 18 | 31 |
| 6  | 19 | 32 |
| 7  | 20 | 33 |
| 8  | 21 | 34 |
| 9  | 22 | 35 |
| 10 | 23 | 36 |
| 11 | 24 | 37 |
| 12 | 25 | 38 |
| 13 | 26 | 39 |



**Panel 1:** Sophie: I DID MY HOMEWORK, SOPHIE!  
Boy: WOW! THAT'S THE FIRST BIT OF HOMEWORK YOU'VE DONE IN AGES.

**Panel 2:** Boy: WHAT MADE YOU DO IT? WAS YOUR TEACHER GIVING OUT?  
Sophie: NO. IT'S JUST I WAS IN A HURRY LAST NIGHT...

**Panel 3:** Sophie: I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO THINK UP A GOOD EXCUSE.

"Fill in the missing numbers"

|    |   |   |   |    |
|----|---|---|---|----|
| 11 | - |   | = | 10 |
| -  |   |   | - |    |
| =  |   |   | = |    |
| 9  | - | 3 | = |    |

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | + |   | = | 9 |
| + |   |   | - |   |
| 4 |   |   |   |   |
| = |   |   | = |   |
|   | - | 2 | = |   |

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | + |   | = |   |
| + |   |   | + |   |
| 5 |   |   |   | 2 |
| = |   |   | = |   |
|   | - | 1 | = |   |

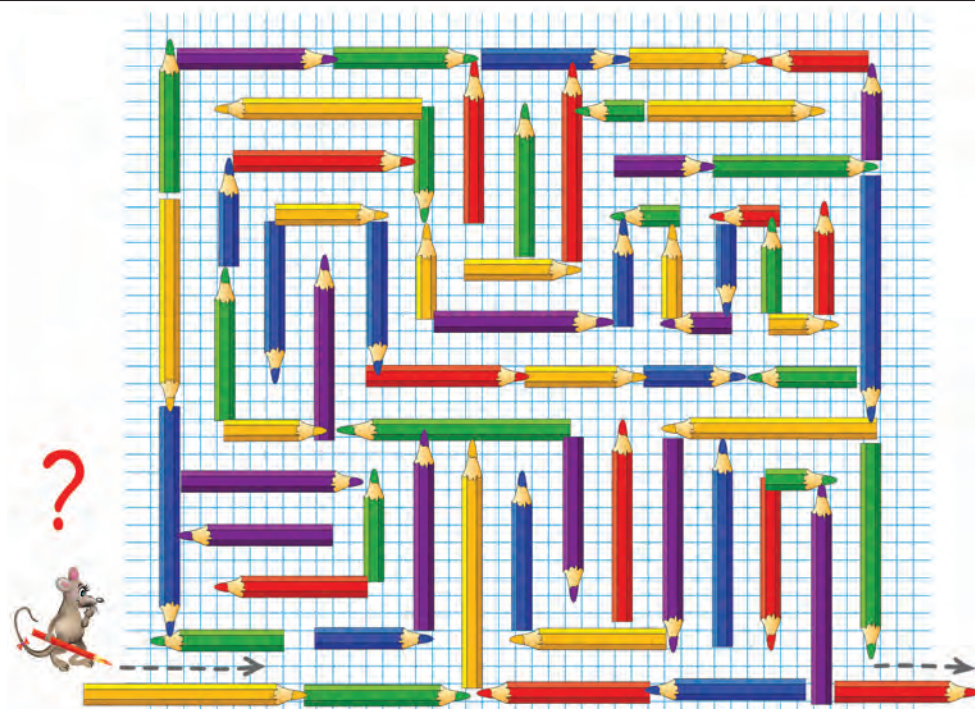
  

|    |   |   |   |   |
|----|---|---|---|---|
|    | + | 5 | = | 8 |
| +  |   |   | + |   |
|    |   |   |   | 8 |
| =  |   |   | = |   |
| 11 | + |   | = |   |

|   |   |   |   |    |
|---|---|---|---|----|
|   | + | 7 | = |    |
| + |   |   | + |    |
| 5 |   |   |   |    |
| = |   |   | = |    |
|   | + | 7 | = | 14 |

|    |   |  |   |   |
|----|---|--|---|---|
| 15 | - |  | = |   |
| -  |   |  | - |   |
| 9  |   |  |   | 9 |
| =  |   |  | = |   |
|    | - |  | = | 2 |



These 2 pages of Awesome, Amazon, Activities



# FIND 10 DIFFERENCES



# COLOURING BOOK



## LETTER LINK LOG-JAM

|     |  |     |
|-----|--|-----|
| PAC |  | ILL |
| RIN |  | APE |
| WOR |  | ELP |
| GOO |  | OLT |
| PAC |  | AME |
| DEA |  | EAP |
| LIF |  | EAM |
| PAC |  | RGO |

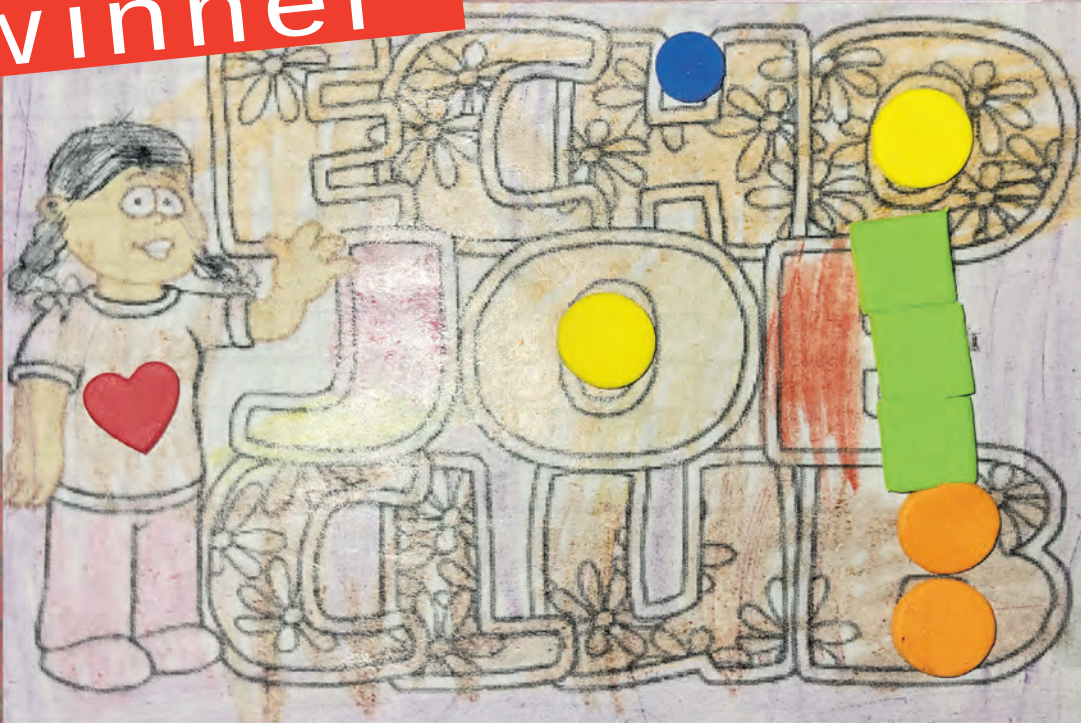
A MISSING LETTER ON EACH ROW FINISHES ONE WORD AND STARTS THE NEXT...

BUT WHAT ARE THE LETTERS?



the missing letters: K, G, K, D, T, L, T E

winner



Olivia Carolans, age 6, is this week's winner of The Echo Joe Club logo colouring competition. Olivia, your prize will be on the way to you soon.



# Young diplomats of the future in training

School project encourages children to settle 'low level' disputes among themselves through peer mediation



(L-R) Anna Nguyn and Stephanie Lawlor, who are taking part in a the mediation project at St Anne's Senior National School in Fettercairn

BUDDING diplomats at a local school are learning the art of peace and reconciliation through a radical peer mediation project, the first of its kind in this part of Ireland.

The pupils at St Anne's Senior National School in Fettercairn, Tallaght, are the first in the country to take part in the pilot project – which has been used extensively in schools in Northern Ireland for the past seven years – and which teaches youngsters to settle 'low level' disputes amongst themselves, through pupil mediation.

The project is being run in the school under the Brookfield and Fettercairn School Completion Programme, which is funded through the Department of Education. Further funding has been made available from Tallaght

by Karen Dunne

Partnership. According to school completion co-ordinator Oonagh Ryan, the aim of

**'The mediation only refers to very minor disputes and anything more serious such as bullying would of course be dealt with by teaching staff and the principal.'**

the peer mediation is to teach the children responsibility and problem solving skills and also to give them 'ownership' of their school.

She said: "The children are in their third week of training so far and so in a few weeks will be starting the actual mediation. They've been so creative and so clever in the training, some of the solutions they've come up with, I wouldn't have been able to think of myself."

Ms Ryan explains

that the way the project will work is that if for example two children have a minor dispute or argument perhaps over playground games, then two of

and Ms Ryan said over the next few years it is hoped the mediation project will be extended to cover them as well.

Ms Ryan, one of 82

She said she first heard of the project some time ago when she attended a workshop by Seamus Farrell, who introduced the project to Northern Ireland, and on hearing of its success in the North, decided to take it back to the school to see if it could work there.

Ms Ryan concluded: "St Anne's has been just great, the staff here are so forward thinking and everyone has rowed in behind this."

What do you think? Write to: The Editor, Echo House, Village Green, Tallaght, Dublin 24 or [letters@echo.ie](mailto:letters@echo.ie)

THE ECHO

## Health and future on Harney's mind

IMPROVEMENTS to the health service and possible future links with Fine Gael and the Labour Party accounted for most of Tanaiste and Minister for Health Mary Harney's speech last weekend at the Progressive Democrats' annual conference.

Speaking to party colleagues at the event in Cork, Minister Harney said society is "changing, not falling apart" and

while "it's not perfect", Ireland is "much better than before".

Party politics will "continue to be caring, imbued with public service and deeply rooted in our communities" and while acknowledging that opposition parties have "different policies on many issues" Minister Harney seemed to hint at a possible future coalition.

She said: "But I know Enda Kenny and he is car-

ing too; so are Pat Rabbitte and Trevor Sargent. This party doesn't have any time for monopolies and no-one has a monopoly on social justice."

Minister Harney said there is "good news" ahead for pensioners as "we are going to reach the €200-a-week pension" and she also said social welfare payments are going to increase "ahead of inflation".

She also vowed to tackle poverty, educational disadvantage and introduce greater competition to Ireland.

However, it was the health service that Minister Harney gave most time to, proclaiming that "patients come first" and her first port of call will be to deal with the crisis in the A&E departments nationwide.

Other "immediate ambitions" include reli-

able long-term care; faster building of cancer care units and hospitals; free GP visits for people on lower incomes; better services for people with disabilities; and cutting waiting times for operations.

She said: "We'll stay at it until the job is done, just as we are doing with tax, with jobs, with the economy, with insurance costs, with crime and the peace process."

THE ECHO

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## Shamrock Rovers

At last it appears that the mess surrounding Shamrock Rovers' site is at an end, with the council announcing that it is to construct a sports stadium there, regardless of whether the club is involved or not. According to South Dublin County Council, enough is enough and it has stepped in with proposals to have the half-finished stadium completed in under two years. This can only be good news, coming in the wake of years of delay and speculation which have dogged this project almost from the beginning. Finally the people of Tallaght will have a stadium they can be proud of, a shining example of sportsmanship for the entire county.

## Another jobs blow

News that Coca-Cola Bottlers is almost certain to pull out of Clondalkin with the loss of over a 100 jobs is another blow to a community already bruised from a series of major job losses, in such companies as SDS, and SerCom. An action plan is urgently needed for the area to deal with the jobs crisis. It is not good enough to say high-tech and bio-pharma companies are being attracted to the area, as those losing low-skill or manufacturing jobs will not secure such employment. Suitable employment for those losing their jobs needs to be found and more needs to be done to retrain employees in a manner that takes into account the reality of dependent children and mortgages.

## Let's be proud in 2005

As part of our 25th anniversary celebrations we at The Echo are highlighting aspects of life in our area which we should be very proud of and not afraid to shout about. If you or your organisation are proud of your work in your area give us a call. We will devote a two-page feature to your group.



It's time we stood up and said:  
**"We're Proud"**  
Phone our newsdesk at: 4664500  
or drop a line to: The Echo,  
Village Green, Tallaght, Dublin 24

THE ECHO Your Local Newspaper



# THE BUSINESS

COMMERCIAL NEWS FOR THE M50 CORRIDOR

technology,  
manufacturing,  
industry &  
retail

business@echo.ie

Edited by Jim Deere

The ECHO, Thursday, April 14, 2005

## Council to complete Rovers stadium

SOUTH Dublin County Council will complete the stadium project in Tallaght even if Shamrock Rovers fails to come through the examinership process.

According to a council spokesman, the local authority will be in a position to begin the public consultation process for the stadium within the next two to four weeks.

The spokesman said he expected the leases held by Mulden International and Slonepark to have been surrendered to the council during that period. While Slonepark is unlikely to receive any compensation for handing back the lease, it seems certain that Mulden will receive some form of payment, as it has invested in the stadium.

Negotiations are ongoing so no figure has been put on the likely payment; however, *The Echo* has previously reported that Mulden has invested more than €1m in the Tallaght stadium.

The spokesman said the council will seek planning permission for a stadium similar to that which received permission in 1998, which had a capacity of 6,000.

He said it will be "exactly or more or less in line with the permission agreed in 1998 and our main concern is how we can best have Shamrock Rovers playing there as soon as possible."

However, he said the council would complete the stadium independently and only begin negotiations with Rovers when the stadium has been completed.

He stressed that Rovers was the council's preferred anchor tenant. The club, he said, would be given a license to operate and manage the stadium



The half-finished Rovers stadium on the Tallaght bypass.

but what shape this would take has not been discussed.

He added: "Decisions regarding whether it would be exclusively for soccer have not been taken yet but it is unlikely that it will be exclusive and there may be cases to be made for other uses, such as community activities, but honestly we have not dealt with that yet".

The council spokesman said the local authority had targeted being back on the Tallaght site "by the end of autumn". But he conceded that this was an ambitious target and was dependent on not hitting any major difficulties in securing the return of the leases, as well as

on there being no serious objections or planning appeals during the public consultation process.

He said that once the council was on site it would take between nine and 12 months to complete the stadium.

He said the council was still working on the stadium costs.

And he added that the stadium would be built even if Rovers failed to emerge from an examinership.

On Tuesday (April 12) in the High Court, Mr Justice Peter Kelly said he would continue the appointment of accountant Neil Hughes as in-

terim examiner to Branvard, which trades as Shamrock Rovers, and fixed a full hearing of the examinership petition for Monday week (25).

The High Court heard that Branvard had debts of €2.36 million, with more than €540,000 due to the Revenue Commissioners in respect of PAYE and PRSI arrears.

Ms Aoife Goodman BL, for the Revenue Commissioners, said they were adopting a neutral position with regard to Branvard's application for the appointment of an interim examiner and were not objecting.

Commenting on this week's court proceedings, Rovers

chairman Tony Maguire said securing the examinership represented the only way "for the club to survive going forward".

The examinership process, which typically lasts between 70 and 100 days, usually results in creditor balances being reduced, while company assets are protected and new investment is attracted. And in the short term at least directors retain control. Creditors typically agree to what is owed to them reduced because they tend to get a better deal than they would if the company was wound up.

However, to secure an examinership, the court must

be satisfied that the company has a "reasonable prospect of survival" as a going concern provided the examinership process is successful.

Mr Maguire said the club's mounting debts and limited revenue streams made trading "extremely difficult". He described the examinership process as a "huge opportunity to move the club forward".

Mr Maguire added that the Tallaght stadium remained critical to the club's future plans.

He said the Morton Stadium option in Santry, which was discussed in the High Court, was being sought as a contingency. He said the fact that the club had no home ground proved to be a real problem for the High Court.

Securing permission from Fingal County Council to use Morton Stadium would, he said, create stability at the club. He said it would also allow the club to sell advertising and secure other revenue streams that come with having a stadium.

And this, he said, would add to the appeal of the club for new investors.

Tallaght, he said, remained "the ultimate goal".

He said the focus was now on restructuring the club and working with the examiner and 400 Club and other parties to ensure the club could successfully come through the process.

At a meeting in the Plaza Hotel in Tallaght on Monday (April 11), the Shamrock Rovers 400 Club agreed to financially support the club through an examinership process.

A 400 Club spokesman, John Byrne, said since it was formed two years ago, the 400 Club has contributed €300,000 to Rovers. It expects to contribute a further €60,000 to €70,000 during an examinership.

### Project Description

**Window replace  
located**

**INVIT.**

Applications are invited fr  
included on the approved te

**Details of the restricted**

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**INDER**

contractors who wish to be  
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**d qualifying criteria are**

**ip,**

## New Health Service Executive Chief

NEWS that a Crumlin Hospital consultant is in line for the top job in running the health service has been hailed as a "great day for Irish health" by a patient group.

It emerged this week that Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children consultant Prof Brendan Drumm is first in line to be appointed the Health Service Executive's (HSE) Chief Executive.

Born in Manohamilton, Co Leitrim, Prof Drumm (48) is professor of paediatrics at University College Dublin



**Prof Drumm**

and a consultant paediatric gastroenterologist at the Crumlin hospital.

He studied at University College Galway and worked at one of the

world's most prestigious hospitals, the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, and then in the Regional Hospital in Limerick.

At 34, he was appointed professor and head of the paediatrics at UCD and became the youngest ever medical professor.

Linda Dillon, chairwoman of the New Crumlin Hospital Group, which campaigns for the hospital's redevelopment, said his imminent appointment is a "great day for Irish health".

She said: "Brendan is

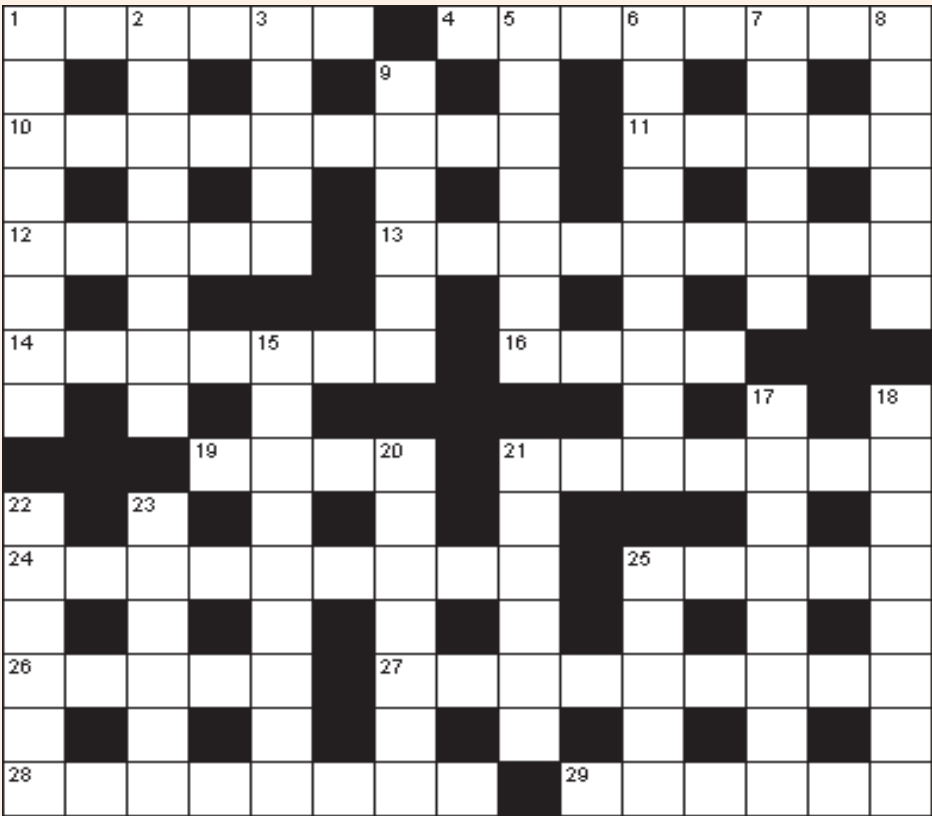
known to us very well and is very well respected by both our group and within the hospital."

General secretary of the Irish Hospital Consultants' Association Finbarr Fitzpatrick said Prof Drumm's career as a distinguished consultant paediatrician and in the academic world has given him the experience needed that will bring about the change needed in the health service.

He said: "He also has first hand experience from his time in Crumlin that capital investment is needed in the hospital services."



echocrossquiz Q1004



- ACROSS**

  - 1. A low seat or a stool (6)
  - 4. Killer (8)
  - 10. Botanical garden (9)
  - 11. Alter (5)
  - 12. A type of bear (5)
  - 13. Having no known name (9)
  - 14. Luxurious (7)
  - 16. Upchuck (4)
  - 19. Prefix meaning "After" or "Beyond" (4)
  - 21. Flaw (7)
  - 24. In an unproven manner (9)
  - 25. Group meeting (5)
  - 26. Publish (5)
  - 27. Large stuffed pasta tubes (9)
  - 28. Instructing (8)
  - 29. Potent (6)
- DOWN**

  - 1. A small measure (8)
  - 2. Extremely pleasing (8)
  - 3. Mistake (5)
  - 5. Court call (7)
  - 6. Welding gas (9)
  - 7. Steroid alcohol (6)
  - 8. Naturist (6)
  - 9. A narrow channel of the sea (6)
  - 15. Not deciduous (9)
  - 17. The words of an opera (8)
  - 18. Pounding (8)
  - 20. Mid-section (7)
  - 21. Farther along (6)
  - 22. Cosmetic treatment of one's visage (6)
  - 23. Gamma globulin (6)
  - 25. Aspect (5)

LAST  
WEEK'S  
ANSWERS  
0304



CAN YOU BEAT THIS WEEK'S CROSSQUIZ?

SUDOKU 1 SUDOKU 2

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   | 3 |   | 6 |   |   |   |   |
| 4 |   |   | 9 |   | 2 |   |   |   |
|   | 9 |   |   |   | 7 |   |   |   |
|   |   | 6 |   |   | 1 | 7 |   | 9 |
|   | 5 | 1 |   |   |   |   | 4 |   |
|   |   |   | 5 | 8 |   |   | 6 |   |
|   |   |   | 6 | 7 |   |   | 3 |   |
|   |   | 8 |   |   | 3 | 9 |   |   |
| 1 |   |   |   |   |   | 6 | 2 |   |

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   |   |   |   | 6 |   |   |   |
| 3 |   |   |   |   |   | 5 |   |   |
| 5 |   |   |   | 1 |   |   | 8 | 9 |
|   |   |   | 7 |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   | 8 |   |   |   |   | 3 |
|   |   | 9 |   |   |   | 1 | 4 | 8 |
|   |   | 7 |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   | 5 | 6 |   |   |   |   | 1 |   |
| 8 | 1 |   |   | 3 |   | 2 | 6 |   |

ANSWERS

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 8 |
| 4 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 6 |
| 5 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 2 |
| 8 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 7 |
| 3 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 1 |
| 2 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 6 |
| 9 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 5 |
| 6 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 3 |
| 1 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 4 |

SUDOKU 2

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 1 |
| 5 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 6 |
| 1 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 5 |
| 3 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 2 |
| 8 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 9 |
| 9 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 3 |
| 6 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 8 |
| 7 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 4 |
| 2 | 9 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 7 |

SUDOKU 1

Poet's Corner  
POLITICS

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.

I don't understand politics  
not sure what's left or right  
But I know its unjust  
that folks sleep out at night  
Its winter and its cold  
But for many the streets their home  
No shelter from the elements  
no heat to keep them warm  
While buildings lie empty  
Some will die outdoors this year  
While politicians lobby  
Thousands live in fear  
They say they will fix it  
What's taking them so long  
Get the finger out lads  
We can't let this go on



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family notices

**Important Notice**  
Items for publication for memorial pages must be in by 1pm Friday for next Thursday's paper

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email: reception@echo.ie

ANNIVERSARY



**McDonnell, Angela**  
6th Anniversary occurs 12th April.

*I'd give the world if I could say,  
I'm going to see my Angela today,  
To see her face, her beautiful smile,  
To sit and talk with her a while.  
To be together in the same old way,  
Would be my dearest wish today.  
Put your arms around Angela lord,  
Treat her with special care,  
You have in your possession,  
A daughter beyond compare.  
It broke our hearts to lose you Angela,  
But you did not go alone,  
Part of us went with you,  
The day god called you home.  
So dearly loved and sadly missed, your heartbroken Mam. x*

**Angela**  
*The love and friendship we've always had,  
Will never go away,  
For you are here within my heart,  
Right beside me every day.  
When I think of all our memories,  
And our laughter I recall,  
Then I picture your beautiful smile,  
It's when I miss you most of all.  
Loved and missed, Lorraine, Christy & Family. x*

**ANNIVERSARY**

**Angela**  
*We're missing you a little more,  
Each time we hear your name,  
We've cried so many tears,  
Yet our hearts are broken still,  
We miss our times together,  
Things we loved to do,  
But nothing fills the emptiness,  
Now you're no longer here,  
We've so many precious memories,  
To last our whole life through,  
Each one of them reminds us,  
Of how much we're missing you,  
And living life without you,  
Is so very hard to do.  
Miss you Angela,  
Sylvia, Noel & Family.*

*Time cannot heal the heartache,  
Or stop a silent tear,  
It won't take away the memories,  
Of one we love so dear.  
Love and missing you Angela,  
Patrick, Lisa & Family.*

*Those we love don't go away,  
They walk beside us every day,  
Unseen, unheard, but always near,  
Still loved, still missed and always dear.  
Loved and missed every day  
Angela xxxx  
David, Jen, Jack and Erin.*

**Angela**  
*April comes with sad regret,  
The day the month,  
I won't forget,  
I think about you often,  
I talk about you too,  
I have some great memories,  
As I sit and think of you.  
Sadly missed, Lorraine,  
Glenn, Leah & Jamie.*

**Angela**  
*A smile for all,  
A heart of Gold,  
One of the best,  
The world could hold,  
Always giving,  
Always kind,  
Best memories left behind.  
Sadly missed Joe, Mary & Family.*

ANNIVERSARY



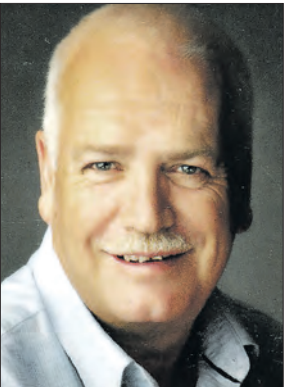
**Scanlan, Darren**  
3rd Anniversary occurs 16th April.

**Memories of you Brother**  
*It's been the hardest thing to lose you,  
You meant so much to me,  
But you are in my heart brother,  
And that's where you'll always be.  
I know that heaven called you,  
But I wish you could have stayed,  
At least the memories I have of you,  
They will never fade.  
I did not want to lose you,  
But you did not go alone,  
Because part of me went with you,  
When heaven called you home.  
So just remember one thing,  
We are not apart,  
You're with me in my memories,  
And in my broken heart.  
Forever in our hearts, Denise,  
Brian and Family.*

**In loving memory of a Brother and Uncle whose 3rd Anniversary away from home occurs 16th April.**  
*My heart still aches with sadness,  
Secret tears still flow,  
What it meant to lose you,  
No one will ever know.  
Love you always, your sister  
Carol, Joe, Joseph, Wayne,  
Keith, Caroline and Families.*

**In loving memory of Darren, loved and missed every day.**  
*Three years have passed and thoughts and great memories of times shared.  
You'll never be forgotten  
Loved always Declan,  
Suzanne, Adam and Megan.  
xx*

ANNIVERSARY



**Keane, Jim**  
13th Anniversary occurs 13th April.

*May the road rise up to meet you,  
May the wind be always at your back,  
May the sunshine warm upon your face,  
And the rain fall soft upon your fields,  
And until we meet again,  
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.  
Love always from your wife  
Joyce, daughter Jennifer and sons Peter & Seán.*

ANNIVERSARY



**Halpin, Annette**  
16th Anniversary in spirit occurs 14th April 2025.

*Words are all we have to say,  
How much we miss you love,  
But words can never show,  
The pain that lingers in our hearts.  
The gap you left cannot be filled,  
No words can heal that hurt,  
But till a better way is found,  
We'll just say we miss you.  
Always loved, always missed,  
always in our hearts. Andy & Family. xxxxx*

ANNIVERSARY



**Tully, Patrick**  
26th Anniversary occurred 7th April.

*Goodbye was not forever,  
Goodbye was not the end,  
It simply meant,  
We'll miss you,  
Until we meet again.  
Missed by your Mam, Dad,  
Sisters, Sons, Brothers-in-law, Linda, all your Nieces and Nephews and your 2 beautiful Grandchildren and all your Family and Friends.*

NOVENA

**9 Day Novena to St. Anthony.**  
*St. Anthony, I resort to thy protection and aid, as proof of my affection and faith, I offer this candle which shall burn every day. Please comfort me in my difficulties and through thy living in the house of my Saviour, intercede for me and all those I love so that we may always hold God in our hearts and be provided for in our necessities, I beseech thee, St. Anthony, to have infinite pity in regard to the favour I ask of thee (here mention your favour). Please help me to overcome all difficulties which I now leave at thy feet. 3 Our Fathers, 3 Hail Mary's, 3 Glory Be to the Father's. This novena should be said for 9 days in succession. Each day a candle should be lit and a copy of this prayer left in the Church to help another soul in distress and to increase devotion to St. Anthony. This miraculous Saint grants everything no matter how difficult and before the termination of the nine days. But even if your request is granted, the Novena must be fulfilled. Holy St. Anthony pray for us. B.B.*

**NOVENA**

**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. D.B.*

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.*

**NOVENA**

**Novena to the Sacred Heart**  
*Dear Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked for many favours. This time I ask you this very special one (mention favour). Take it dear Jesus and place it within your broken heart where your holy Father sees it. Then in His merciful eyes it will become your favour, not mine. Amen. Say prayer for 3 days. Promise publication and favour will be granted. F.O.N.*

Dear Echo customers

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# family notices

**Important Notice**  
Items for publication for memorial pages must be in by 1pm Friday for next Thursday's paper

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ANNIVERSARY



**Byrne, Eoin**  
13th Anniversary away from home occurs 15th April.

Death leaves a heartache no one can heal,  
Love leaves a memory no one can steal.  
Though his smile has gone forever,  
And his hand I cannot touch,  
I still have so many memories,  
Of the one I loved so much.  
His memory is my keepsake,  
With which I'll never part,  
God has him in his keeping,  
I have him in my heart.  
Loved and missed more than words can ever say.  
**Love always and forever your heart broken Mammy and Daddy.**

Of all the many blessings,  
However great or small,  
To have you as my brother,  
Was the greatest gift of all.  
**Love and miss you so much Eoin, Big brother Corey.**

**Eoin on your 13th Anniversary**  
We think of you always especially today,  
Your memories are precious,  
They don't fade away.  
**Miss you our smiley, love always Nanny and Roseanna Byrne.**

If there's a garden in Heaven,  
Please pull a rose for us,  
Give it to our Grandson Eoin,  
And tell him it's from us.  
Tell him that we love him,  
And when he turns to smile,  
Place a kiss upon his cheek,  
And hug him for a while.  
**Love and miss you always, Nanny and Granda McCormack.**

Twinkle twinkle little star,  
Up in heaven is where you are,  
Flying high and twinkle bright,  
Our guiding star our shining light.  
Twinkle twinkle little star,  
Eoin our perfect angel is what you are.  
**Love and miss you forever and always, Aunties and Uncles.**

No matter how life changes,  
No matter what we do,  
There's always a special place,  
In our hearts Eoin just for you.  
**Love and miss you always, your cousins Ryan, Ally & Harleigh.**

ANNIVERSARY



**Cronin, Thomas (T.C)**  
21st Anniversary occurs 11th April. In loving memory of our brother Thomas. Also remembering our dad Thomas, our mother Mary, and our niece Ashley.

**Brother**  
So many people loved you,  
That makes us feel so proud,  
You were a special kind of person,  
Who stood out in a crowd.  
On the sad day you left us,  
We were very much aware,  
The mark you left on people,  
By the congregation there.  
We didn't see you close your eyes,  
We didn't see you die,  
All we know is that you were gone,  
Without a last goodbye.  
The hardest thing in life to bear,  
Is to want your brother,  
And he's not there.  
**Sadly missed by your loving Brothers, Sister, Sisters-in-law, Brother-in-law, Nephews, Nieces and all your Relatives and Friends.**

ANNIVERSARY



**Hawkins, Stephen**  
6th Anniversary away from home occurs 13th April.

Those special memories of you,  
Will always bring a smile,  
If only I could have you back,  
For just a little while.  
Then we could sit and talk again,  
Just like we used to do,  
You always meant so very much,  
And always will do too.  
The fact that you're no longer here,  
Will always cause me pain,  
But you're forever in my heart,  
Until we meet again.  
**From your loving wife Joan, children Louise, Grace, Jeffrey and Stephen, grandchildren Dylan, Karlos, Caitlin, Jorja Rose, Jade, Hollie and Maison and Great-Grandchildren Dawson and Iveigh Rose.**

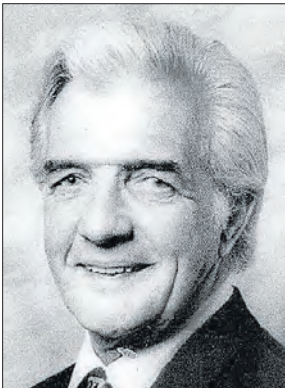
ANNIVERSARY



**Gilhooley, Anne**  
4th Anniversary away from home occurs 11th April 2025. Late of Donomore Avenue.

We lost a mam with a heart of gold,  
How much we miss her can never be told.  
She shared our troubles and helped us along,  
If we follow her footsteps we will never go wrong.  
She was a mam so very rare,  
Content in her home and always there.  
On earth she toiled,  
In heaven she rests,  
God bless you man,  
You were one of the best.  
**Loved and remembered always from all the Family. xxxxx**

ANNIVERSARY



**Moran, John (Seanie)**  
18th Anniversary away from home occurred 21st March. Also remembering his Birthday which occurs 13th April. Late of Newtown Park. Also remembering our mam, Katherine Moran, who died 15th August 2010.

**Dad**  
18 years have passed since that day,  
You closed your eyes and slipped away,  
You left so quietly and made no fuss,  
But broke the hearts of all of us.  
**Love always from your son Derek, daughters Wendy, Andrea, Sharon and Tracey, Grandchildren, Daughter-in-law and Sons-in-law.**

ANNIVERSARY



**Tracey, Vivienne**  
14th Anniversary away from home occurs 13th April. In loving memory of my beautiful wife and best friend Vivienne Tracey. Late of Jobstown, Tallaght.

In the valley of darkness I'll remain.  
**Loving you always and deeply missed by your loving husband Declan, daughter Donna, son Paul and your grandsons Ashley, Evan, Jack, Ryan, Darragh & Nathan, also Tara and Darren.**

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planning notices

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**South Dublin County Council**  
I, Denis Deegan, intend to apply for retention planning permission for development at 14 Woodstown Gardens, Ballycullen, Dublin 16, D16 KX70. The development is the retention of a single storey rear extension consisting of kitchen enlargement, planning permission also sought for attic conversion with raised gable wall at side: dormer window to rear with associated site works This application may be inspected or purchased, at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of South Dublin County Council during its public opening hours of 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 Gareth O' Leary am applying for Planning Permission for removal of chimney from roof & dwelling. Attic conversion with dormer roof window on rear slope of roof. Windows in gable wall at attic level, ground floor & window in rear facade at first floor. Ground floor rear extension with flat roof over. Ground & first floor internal alterations at 33 Willington Drive, Templeogue, Dublin 6w D6WKR22. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of South Dublin County Council during its public opening hours (9am-4pm, Mon-Fri) and a submission or observation in relation to the application can be made in writing to South Dublin County Council on payment of the prescribed fee (20 Euro) within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by South Dublin County Council of the application.

**South Dublin County Council**  
I, Jack Fox, am applying for planning permission for an increase in roof height and alterations to the size of the window for existing room in the single story annex to the front and the side of my home at 155 Templeville Drive , Templeogue, Dublin D6WAH02. 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**  
Kenneth & Fiona Kirwan are applying for permission for the construction of a dormer roof on the side of the main roof, modifying the rear extension to create parapet walls and a flat roof with roof lights, and all ancillary works necessary to facilitate the development at 45 Orlagh Park, Knocklyon, Dublin 16, D16 T8Y1. 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, Kieran Regan, intend to apply for: Planning Permission At this site: 175 Whitehall Rd W, Whitehall, Dublin 12, D12 W883 The development will consist of: Widening of front vehicular access. Garage conversion with raised roof over and new front-facing window. Single-storey flat roof extension to the rear. Addition of a new high-level window to the rear at first-floor level. 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 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 on payment of a fee of €20 within five weeks of receipt of the application. Such submissions or observations will be considered by the Planning Authority in making a decision on the application.

**South Dublin County Council**  
I, Lin Dai, intend to apply for: Planning Permission at this site: Unit 134, The Square, Tallaght, Dublin 24, D24 RKF9. The development will consist of: Change of use from betting office to beauty salon with proposed opening hours of Monday to Sunday, 9:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. 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 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., 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.

**South Dublin County Council**  
I, Santiago Sebio, intend to apply for: Planning Permission at this site: 33A Monalea Grove, Knocklyon, Dublin 24, D24AT85 The development will consist of: Removal of existing wooden fence inside the eastern boundary of the property and construction of a new 2m-high concrete block wall along eastern boundary. 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 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 five weeks of receipt of the application by the planning authority.

**South Dublin County Council**  
We Stuart & Orla Callery are applying for Planning Permission for ground floor side extension with pitched roof over at 125 Saint Maelruan's Park, Tallaght, Dublin 24 D24KXE6. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of South Dublin County Council during its public opening hours (9am-4pm, Mon-Fri) and a submission or observation in relation to the application can be made in writing to South Dublin County Council on payment of the prescribed fee (20 Euro) within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by South Dublin County Council of the application.

**Dublin City Council**  
I, Tracy McAuley, intend to apply for: Planning Permission for development at this site: 69 Kickham Rd, Inchicore, Dublin 8, D08 TP9D. The development will consist of: Attic conversion for storage, including a rear dormer and two Velux windows on the front roof slope. Single-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**  
Tallaght Community Council are applying for Permission for an original historic mural on the gable wall of John O’Learys solicitors, Main St, Tallaght, Dublin 24. This application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of South Dublin County Council during its public opening hours of 9am - 4pm, Mon-Fri, and a submission or observation may be made to South Dublin County Council in writing and on payment of the prescribed fee (€20.00) within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by South Dublin County Council of the application.

**South Dublin County Council**  
Gillian and Paul Malone are applying for permission at 85 Floraville Ave, Clondalkin, Dublin 22, D22 A438, for: Change of use of existing 20 sq/m garage to habitable space and construction of a 27.7 sq/m single storey extension to the rear of existing dwelling. This application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of South Dublin County Council during its public opening hours of 9am – 4pm, Mon-Fri, and a submission or observation may be made to South Dublin County Council in writing and on payment of the prescribed fee (€20.00) within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by South Dublin County Council of the application.



SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL - LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) ACTS 1963 - LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) REGULATIONS 1977 TO 1994

PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED WEEK ENDING MARCH 28, 2025

|                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>S25424/10</b><br><b>APPLICATION</b><br>Applicant:<br>Location:<br>Description:               | <b>27 Mar 2025</b><br><b>Additional Information</b><br>Shared Access Limited<br>Parklands Road, Killininnny, Ballycullen, Dublin 24 The grass verge on Parklands Road (ITM Grid Reference X 710393 Y: 726015)<br>18 metre DelUrban slimline street pole, integrated antenna, 1 no. 300mm diameter transmission dish, one number GPS transmitter and all ground equipment housed in a DelUrban cabinet. | <b>SECTION 254 LICENCE</b> | 16, D16 X0T4<br>Description:<br>Construction of a new two-storey detached dwelling on the corner of Woodfield, adjacent to No. 173, with provision for new vehicular access, a dropped kerb from Woodfield, and all associated site works. |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Unit 17 with a double glazed window, and of installation of two new self-illuminated signs, the first sign of approx. 2.09sqm on the West elevation 8.300m above ground and second sign of approx. 3.125sqm on the East elevation 3.260m above ground                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>SD24B/0524W</b><br><b>Information</b><br>Applicant:<br>Location:<br>Description:             | <b>25 Mar 2025</b><br><b>Retention Additional</b><br>Asfa Adnan Ali<br>22, Earlsfort Lawn, Lucan, Co. Dublin, K78 YE98<br>The development seeking retention consists of the construction of a family flat in the garden to the rear of the house and all associated site works.                                                                                                                        |                            | <b>SD25A/0067W</b><br><b>Application</b><br>Applicant:<br>Location:<br>Description:                                                                                                                                                        | <b>22 Mar 2025</b><br><b>Permission New</b><br>Lily's Childcare Limited<br>Office 1, Eden Centre, Grange Road, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16, D16 HW01<br>Permission for a new side entrance access and stairs and change of use from an existing office space to a School Age Childcare Facility at Office 1, Eden Centre, Grange Road, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16.                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>SD24A/0252W</b><br><b>Clarification of Additional Information</b><br>Applicant:<br>Location: | <b>24 Mar 2025</b><br><b>Outline Permission</b><br>John Dwan & Una Costello<br>173, Woodfield, Scholarstown Road, Dublin                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                            | <b>SD25A/0068W</b><br><b>Application</b><br>Applicant:<br>Location:<br>Description:                                                                                                                                                        | <b>24 Mar 2025</b><br><b>Permission New</b><br>Quinn Downes Ltd.<br>Units 17 & 16, Centrepont Business Park, Oak Road, Dublin 12, D12 P462<br>The proposed development will consist of an amalgamation of two existing units, including the making of internal connections between both units across the three floor levels, of replacement of the solid metal double doors at the rear of |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>SD25A/0069W</b><br><b>Application</b><br>Applicant:<br>Location:<br>Description:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>24 Mar 2025</b><br><b>Permission New</b><br>CORE Builders Providers Ltd<br>Unit B4, Oakfield Industrial Estate, Ninth Lock Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22, D22 XD28<br>Development of a ground floor extension (approx. 104 sqm GFA and 4.4m in height) and all other associated site development works above and below ground.                                                                                                                                  |
|                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>SD25A/0070W</b><br><b>Application</b><br>Applicant:<br>Location:<br>Description:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>25 Mar 2025</b><br><b>Permission New</b><br>Griffeen Valley Nursing Home<br>Griffeen Valley Nursing Home, Esker, Lucan, Co Dublin, K78V208<br>Demolition of existing detached shed (c. 6m sq.) and construction of a single storey detached laundry/ storage shed (c.24.5m sq.) to side (south east) of existing nursing home for use incidental with the nursing home and with all finishes to match existing building, including all associated site works. |

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, April 10, 2025

## Féile delight for Round Tower U15 camogie team



Round Tower captain Laoise O'Sullivan lifts the feile trophy with her team mates and (inset) Round Tower Club President Mary Dardis celebrates with the team

IT WAS a great weekend for Round Tower's U15 camogie team who claimed the Division Three feile title at the weekend.

The Clondalkin side went unbeaten in the group stages of the competition in Finglas, winning all three games to qualify for the semis.

Tower's overcame Naomh Mearnog in their first game before going on to beat Erin's Isle and Kevin's to progress to the semis.

The semis were played on Saturday evening with Tower's edging past St Maur's to set up a

final spot against Naomh Barrog in the final in Abbotsdown.

The first half of the final was evenly matched with Barrog opening the scoring before Fay Doherty replied with a point.

Doherty and Sinead Gleeson tagged on points before Barrog broke through for the first goal to leave it 1-2 to 0-4 at half time.

Tower's showed their character in the second half with Player of the Match Sinead Gleeson leading by example with a goal from a free shortly

after the restart.

This score kick started Tower's into action with Gleeson adding two points as the teams drew level.

Tower's continued to apply the pressure and further points saw them past the line to emerge 1-9 to 2-2 winners.

The Clondalkin side had plenty of heroes throughout the competition with captain Laoise O'Sullivan and Molly Nolan impressing in defence, keeper Aoife Breslin pulling off vital saves, Amelie Hurley Byrne and Saoirse

O'Connor putting in good displays throughout in midfield while Doherty, Rachel Thompson, Sarah Fagan led by example throughout the competition.

The victory is a huge boost for the camogie section in the club with this team looking forward to continuing their run in the league and championship later in the year. Mentors Liam Gleeson, Johnny Nolan, Jessie Doherty, Fergal McDonagh, Michelle, Claire Nolan and Cormac Dowling have all played a big part in the success so far for the team.

## Swimmers set for Irish Open and World C'ships trials

SWIM Ireland's 2025 Irish Open Swimming Championships and World Championships Trials start on Saturday at the Sport Ireland National Aquatic Centre with a number of local athletes involved.

The five-day event will see four hundred swimmers from over 50 clubs compete for National titles in thirty-four individual events and for places on senior National Teams, including the World Aquatics Championships (50m), World Para Swimming Championships and World University Games, as well as age-group competitions including the European Youth Olympic Festival, the European Aquatics Junior Championships and the European Aquatics Under 23 Championships.

Olympic finalist Ellen Walshe will be in action with the Templeogue Swim Club star already achieved initial qualification times for the World Aquatics Championships in

Singapore, following their appearances in Paris last Summer.

For the World Para Swimming Championships, also taking place in Singapore, four Paris Paralympians, Barry McClements, Dearbhla Brady, Deaten Registe and silver and bronze medallist Róisín Ní Riain have already achieved the qualification standard and are joined by Siomha Brady.

2025 Olympians Grace Davison and Victoria Catterson will also feature at the Championships, along with numerous strong contenders including (amongst others) John Shortt, Nathan Wiffen, Evan Bailey, Ellie McCartney, Lottie Cullen and Maria Godden. In all events bar the longer distances, each will have two or three opportunities (event specific) across the competition to secure qualification times in their respective events.

The opening day of competition will see

Ellen Walshe, who recently broke the longest standing Irish Record (200m Butterfly) swim in both the 200m Individual Medley and 200m Butterfly.

Also in action will be Elaine Zhang from Tallaght, Chloe Dawnay from Templeogue, Ava Rock from Templeogue, Andrew Mullen from Templeogue, Radu Pamfil from Tallaght, Amelie Ryan from Templeogue, Aislinn Healy from Templeogue, Molly Mayne, Templeogue, Dylan Ryan from Templeogue, Abril Allende from Templeogue, Zoe Stynes from Templeogue, Siyuan Jason Jia from Tallaght, Baltazar Allende from Tallaght, Fiona Weng from Tallaght, Holly Cassidy from Tallaght, Lucas Nian, from Tallaght, Baltazar Allende from Tallaght, Holly McInerney from Templeogue, Abigail Minto from Templeogue, Eva Walshe, Templeogue, and Aislinn Healy from Templeogue.

Speaking ahead of the Championships, Swim Ireland's National Performance Director Jon Rudd said, "With six Ireland National Teams all looking to be filled for Championship events this summer, there's a whole world of opportunity waiting for our athletes across these five days in Dublin. This is also the first opportunity for athletes to qualify for the National programme for the 2025-2026 season and it is for these reasons that we have provided athletes with three opportunities (heats, semi-finals and finals) in most events to post the times necessary to gain a green jacket this summer, with the 400m, 800m and 1500m events having heats and finals only. We wish all Irish athletes the very best luck in their final days of preparation as we head into Saturday and very much look forward to seeing the Irish record books being re-written once again in our National pool. The stage is very much set!"



## Hockey

# Loreto secure league title for second year running

LORETO finally secured their second EY Hockey league title on the bounce with a well fought away win to UCC.

Goals in the second half from Emily Kealy on 47 minutes and Yasmin Pratt on the hour proved the difference between the teams at the finish.

It was a hard-fought win for Loreto who were held scoreless in the opening half.

But Kealy's goal set the wheels in motion for a crucial victory.

"It has been another wonderful season for the girls," said Loreto manager Anne Marie Curran.

"We had some close calls along the way but its great to secure the title again this season," said Anne Marie.

The team will receive the trophy in their final game of the season this weekend against Beaufort.

The team are the current Active South Dublin Team of the Year in association with *The Echo* and South Dublin County Council.



Loreto celebrate their league title

## Athletics

## Abdel secures 10,000m qualifying time



Abdel Laadjel at the Stanford Invitational

ABDEL Laadjel secured the 10,000m qualifying time for both the NCAA and European Under 23 championships with a very fine run over the distance in the Stanford Invitational Meet at Palo Alto in California on Friday evening.

The Donore Harriers athlete came 14th of 40 starters in a new personal best time of 28.29.17.

Indeed, he knocked 27 seconds of his previous best time set in March 2024.

Running in the colours of the Oregon University Ducks track and field team, Laadjel said afterwards: "I've been struggling with hamstring tendonitis, and I could feel my hamstring the whole of the race which wasn't fun.

But I ticked the box in getting the qualifying time and now I want to focus on the championship season".

The NCAA West 1st championship 10,000m takes place at College Station in Texas on May 28 – and the European Under 23s will take place in Bergen, Norway in July.

# Three Rock go down to the wire in battle for league title

THREE Rock Rovers have taken the men's EY Hockey League title chase down to the wire after they stunned league leaders Lisnagarvey 3-2 last Saturday at Grange Road, reports *Stephen Finlator*.

Stunning goals from Ben Johnson and Ryan Spencer made the difference as the Dublin 16 side stretched out a 3-1 lead in the second half and stayed clear despite a late barrage from the Ulster side.

It means the two clubs are level on points going into the final round of regular season matches on Saturday although Garvey have a healthy advantage on goal difference which may yet prove vital.

The visitors did take an early lead via Oliver Kidd in the fourth minute. After that, the Ulster side held much of the ball in the first half but without too much penetration.

Rovers, meanwhile, were more threatening and they got back level when Olympian Johnson was picked out at the end of a flowing move at the back post. His initial shot was brilliantly saved by James Milliken but he picked up the rebound and slipped home a gorgeous shot from the narrowest of angles for 1-1.

And the lead was swapped

barely 15 seconds into the second half when Three Rock worked the ball straight down the middle, James Walker's inspired through-ball finding Johnson behind the last defender.

He shot early at full speed, lifting the ball over the stranded Milliken's left shoulder for a sublime go-ahead goal.

While that was something to behold, goal three was an individual masterpiece. Following controlled play around the back, Mark Samuel fed the ball into Spencer in the right corner. Faced with four defenders, he danced and spun his way through each tackle before picking out the stanchion of the goal with a delicious flicked finish.

Garvey fought back with Peter McKibbin - another Olympian - pulling one back with three minutes left but Rovers held on for an eighth successive home win in the league.

They now face second bottom side Annadale knowing they need a win to have a chance of snatching the title; Garvey, meanwhile, have a tester against Corinthian who are chasing the last of the playoff places.



Three Rock's Luke Madeley clears a ball.  
Photo by Adrian Boehm

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Swimming

Tallaght Sports Complex hosts swimming finals



Staff members from Tallaght Sports Complex at the finals

The Dublin Swimming Finals were held in Tallaght Sports Complex. Children from under 8 to under 16 from all over Dublin competed for a place in the All-Ireland Community Games Finals. The finals have run for over 30 years in the Sports Complex every March. "A special shout out to Eileen O'Reilly and Tom who are instrumental in the smooth running and organising of the event along with many other volunteers. Long may it last," said Glenda Smullen Murphy.

Rugby

Tallaght women go down to the champs in final game of season

TALLAGHT women took on Division Three champions Edenderry in the second round of the Paul Cusack Cup in Coolavacooose in their final match of the season, going down 13-73. Tallaght took the lead with a Grainne Leonard Flood penalty, but Edenderry hit back with three tries and converted two of them to take a 19-3 lead. The visitors responded when, after several phases, some smart passing put Chloe Conroy Kearns in for a fine team try to make it 19-8. That was as good as it got for Tallaght though as Edenderry dominated the rest of the match scoring 11 tries in all. But Tallaght at least got the last laugh when Emma Irvin intercepted a pass and ran away to score to make the final score 73-13 to Edenderry. And on the final whistle, there were Tallaght celebrations for Martina Fitzpatrick. On the occasion of her 100th cap for the club, her team-mates doused her in Champagne. It was Andy Grace's last game as Tallaght head coach as he's stepping down. "First off, congratulations to Martina on her 100th cap. She's a true club legend and the sort of person every club needs. "It's been a hard season as, very unfortunately, some people committed at the start of the season and then didn't show up for their teammates. However, I really wish to thank all the players that gave this season their best. It would've been the easier option to give up and walk away, so thanks to them for



Abbie Keeley jumps for a line-out

backing up their commitment to the team and club. Thanks to Mark and Jay for stepping in and coaching with me, it could've been a very different season without them. "I want to wish all the ladies well next season. There's still loads to come from this team and I hope they go from strength to strength. Thanks to everyone and best of luck." Player of the match: Martina Fitzpatrick

Badminton

First SSI Cup title for TU Dublin

THE TU Dublin badminton team were victorious in the Student Sport Ireland (SSI) Cup competition on Thursday. Having qualified for the semi-finals with a 4-1 quarter-final win versus RCSI, the TU Dublin City set up a semi-final with Trinity College Dublin. In the semi-finals, each tie is composed of one men's singles, one ladies' singles, one men's doubles, one ladies doubles and one mixed doubles. First matches up were both the men's and ladies' singles. Conor Bradley (TUD) faced Alex O'Connor (TCD) and Heather Tilmity (TUD) faced Christine Hepner (TCD). Both games were closely contested with Conor winning 21-16, 21-9 to get the first point for TUD. Heather battled hard but lost out 21-15, 21-13. Next up was the men's and ladies' doubles. Conor was back on court with partner Michael Belov Flanagan, with the lads storming to a convincing 2 set victory 21-10, 21-12. Soyoka Boyce teamed up with Kateryna in the women's doubles, taking a great win for the team in two sets 21-18, 21-12. This gave TUD a 3-1 lead heading into the mixed doubles. Robbie Frost played with Soyoka Boyce, showing great skill to win in two sets 21-14,

21-12. A convincing 4-1 versus last year's SSI league winners, set up a cup final versus Maynooth University who are this year's SSI league winners. The final commenced with both singles games again. This time Conor Bradley faced the inform Dharan Rajulapati. Conor won an intense first set 21-19, with all spectators on the edge of their seat. In the second set, Dharan stormed ahead to an 11-4 lead at the interval. TUD coach Kate Frost was out at the break with some insightful tactics and words of wisdom and motivation which helped spur the comeback from Conor. Slowly he edged his way back into the game, before giving himself the lead once again at 16-15. Conor played some brilliant badminton to win the second set 21-17, giving TUD a 1-0 lead in the final. The women's singles was played by Kateryna this time, who was up against Kerry Fallon. Kateryna battled hard but it wasn't to be as she lost out in 2 sets. Next up was the men's doubles. Conor was back on court with Michael for their second match of the day and in flying form, they won the match in 2 straight sets to give TUD the lead once more. Only one



The TU Dublin badminton team won the Student Sport Ireland Cup

more point required to be SSI cup champions. Up stepped Soyoka Boyce and Kateryna in the women's doubles. The girls played some amazing badminton, showing their level as they defeated the Maynooth University pair in straight sets to hand TUD their first SSI cup title. Final score TUD 3-1 Maynooth University. This was a great way to end the season for the TU Dublin Badminton club following on from their quarter final finish at the Intervarsity. The club look forward to welcoming new members next year and can't wait to have another successful season.



## Basketball

# U14 All-Ireland Club C'ship success for Eanna basketball

ÉANNA basketball club continued their record-breaking season in Gormanston over the weekend with a first time win for the club U14 team of the All-Ireland Club Championship (AICC).

Twenty five regional league winning teams from around the country descended for group stage games, to decide who would make up the Tier 1, 2 and 3 divisional play-offs on Sunday.

Eanna who are unbeaten all season, were in the highest ranked group and faced tough opposition from Limerick Celtics, Portlaoise Panthers and Letterkenny Blaze.

The Ballyroan side had played Celtics and Panthers in recent tournaments and knew they had work ahead. However, success breeds success and the boys once again rose to the occasion and won all three games to come out group winners

Eanna played Blue Demons from Cork in the quarter final and the game started uncharacteristically slowly for Eanna as they fell behind 4-6 after the first quarter.

However, the tables were turned in the second quarter and they led 21-19 at half time after some great team interplay and clutch baskets. While the game remained tight and hard fought, they extended their lead in the second half to finish 41-33 and into the semis against Bantry.

Bantry who had won their group on Saturday following an exceptional performance and win against one of the tournament favourites, Castleisland from Kerry, and so Eanna knew they were up against serious opposition.

Bantry were excellently coached and had played Eanna before, so they knew how we played. The first quarter was all Bantry and they sank 3 3-pointers in quick succession to finish the quarter 15-6 ahead leaving Eanna with work to do. Eanna responded in the second quarter with great team play to claw back the gap and prevent Bantry scoring, and finished the half just 17-19 down. The third quarter was very tight again and the teams traded scores to



go into the final quarter with a 3 point lead for Bantry. This was uncharted territory for Eanna and nerves were showing, especially among the parents who were going hoarse from the support they were giving the team.

The exertions however started to take their toll on Bantry while Eanna found a second wind in the final quarter, and Eanna found their range and slotted in basket after crunch basket to win the quarter 17-6 and take a 43-35 deserved win and a place in the Division A final.

The team went into the final determined to take the win and bring the cup home to Rathfarnham. It wasn't going to be easy though as they faced Portlaoise Panthers once again. Panthers having finished second in the group stages and had defeated Limerick Celtics in their Semi.

Once again the final started cagey and the teams traded baskets in the first quarter with

tight marking on both sides to finish the quarter with a 13-12 lead to Panthers. The trend continued in the second quarter with scores hard to come by and the margins were equally tight at half time with Eanna 2 points down at 28-26. The third quarter was the turning point and Eanna's greater strength in depth started to show and they edged the quarter 9-5 to take a 2 point lead into the final quarter. Panthers weren't going to give up easy though and they came out fighting in the final quarter determined to turn it around, but Eanna held tight and took their scores and again held Panthers to single figures, running out with a 14-9 win in the quarter and a 49-42 victory.

The Eanna boys had done it and marked a momentous occasion for the team, going unbeaten all season in Dublin with the league and cup double and now extending that winning streak all the way to the AICC championship.

## Soccer

## Old Bawn advance in Mill Cup after Ballyowen victory



Old Bawn are through to the quarter final of the UCFL MMI Cup after they beat Ballyowen Celtic Photos by John Mooney

Old Bawn booked their place in the UCFL MMI Cup quarter final after seeing off the challenge of Ballyowen Celtic, on a 4-2 scoreline in Aylesbury Park last Saturday, reports John Mooney.

The Bawn turned on the style in the second half of this tie to score three times without reply, after going in at the break trailing 2-1.

They started brightly enough and scored after 18 minutes through Leon Robinson, when he slotted home from six yards after Cillian Bates set him up.

But it was the visitors who took control after that setback and they levelled the tie on 27 minutes, through Callum McGowan with a cracking volley after a Niall Kelly centre.

Two minutes later it was almost 2-1 for the Celts, but John Lowry saw his effort from 25 yards crash off the crossbar and away to safety.

However, they did take the lead in the 35th minute when a free kick from just outside the area caused confusion in the home defence and Michael Coll bundled the ball home.

On the balance of play Ballyowen were deserved leaders, but that all changed in the second half when the home side came out and started on the front foot.

Within seven minutes of the restart they were on level terms, when Lewis Talbot found the net after Bates created the chance.

It was nicely set up now at 2-2, the game opened up and the best chance fell to Adam Scully of Ballyowen on 75 minutes, when he went one on one with keeper Conor Keating but the net minder came out on top when denying him a goal.

It was a missed chance that came back to haunt them eight minutes later, when Bates got the goal he deserved for his performance on the day to make it 3-2.

It was a setback and one that the Celts went about rectifying by chasing the game but, unfortunately for them, they were caught out in the 91st minute when Alan McCabe made it 4-2 to the Bawn to book their place in the last eight

**OLD BAWN FC:** Conor Keating, Kyle Deegan, David Slevin, Conor Lyons, Grant Perry, Callum Best, Leon Robinson, Nathan Osborne, Cian Bates, Ross Hitchings, Ryan Callery, Lewis Talbot, Alan McCabe, Billy Prout.

**BALLYOWEN CELTIC:** Eoghan O'Neill, Daragh Moore, Thomas Gough, Ian Moore, Ciaran Fortune, Conor Shortt, Aidan O'Neill, Niall Kelly, John Lowry, Michael Coll, Calum McGowan, Alan Hardiman, Gary Philpott, Adam Scully, Robert Madden, Andrew O'Donnell, Joshua Power.



Ballyowen Celtic couldn't hold on to a 2-1 lead they had at half time against Old Bawn FC

## Martial Arts

# Tallaght Martial Arts athletes impress in Scotland and Sligo



Tallaght Martial Arts in Sligo



Tallaght Martial Arts in Scotland

IT WAS a busy weekend for Tallaght Martial Arts as 12 of their athletes competed at the Scottish Open and seven competing in Sligo at Mugendo Open, bringing home a combined 42 medals—18 golds, 16 silvers, and eight bronze.

From first-time competitors to experienced fighters, the team delivered standout performances across the board.

Sean Doyle Canning kicked the day off in Sligo with a gold medal after two fights in his first ever competition in 7-9 Novice section - setting the tone for the rest of the day.

Daire Ryan hit the mats in Scotland taking a Gold and Silver in 2 tough division with Polly Jones taking a Silver in her first step up into Younger Cadet.

Georgia Clarke took to the mats next in Sligo grabbing a Gold and a Silver medal in two tough divisions. Not long after, Conor McClelland took Silver and Bronze in Advanced Point and Advanced Light Contact categories.

Chloe Kinsella stepped out in Sligo to take the Gold in her points section. While Isabel

Golding took a step up in age division to older cadet and put on a fantastic display of skill to take a Silver medal. A fantastic outing for the team with great performances by Filip Konkell who made it through to the quarter finals in Sligo.

Eoin Finn kept the medals rolling in Scotland fighting his way to the top of the Podium 3 times in an excellent display of skill. Leo Golding hot on his heels with 2 Gold Medals in Junior points divisions and a hard-fought bronze in the Junior Open Weight Grand Champion division.

The Myers brothers fought up a storm taking on multiple divisions with Max taking 4 Silver across Junior and Senior light contact and kick light divisions and a bronze in Senior light contact and Adam taking 4 silver medals across multiple disciplines from points to light contact.

Arnas Orlovas bounced between mats to fight light contact and points in advanced 13-14 sections taking home 2 Gold medals after super performances!

Dara Kelly-Clarke kept the

medal count climbing, taking home two gold medals in points and kick light and Bronze in Light Contact.

Liam Feeney fought out of his skin against tough competition in Sligo in two divisions taking a gold medal and bronze medal in Sligo.

Zara Jones took a gold medal in her Senior section a bronze in Grand Champion and a Silver in tag team event in Scotland with Stephen Jones taking the Gold in his Vets-94kg and a Bronze in Men's Grand Champion.

Veteran competitor Ann Marie O'Grady closed out the event with a Gold & Silver in the Veterans +/-65kg points division, bringing the team's total to 42 medals and capping off a fantastic day for Tallaght Martial Arts.

Next up for the team is the Munster Open and Round 2 All Ireland National Championship, where our athletes will be looking to continue their winning streak. With this level of talent and determination, Tallaght Martial Arts are definitely a team to watch.



## GAA

## Tower's seniors bounce back in league

Round Towers senior footballers bounced back in the league with a hard-fought win over St Anne's in Bohernabreena on Saturday.

Having lost to Ballyboughal in their previous encounter, the Clondalkin side have now won three out of four matches following their 1-19 to 3-12 win over Anne's.

Towers trailed by three early on but turned things around to lead by three at half-time.

The momentum swung again in the third quarter, as the hosts netted two goals to go three points ahead.

However, Towers showed great resilience, mounting a strong final push in the last 10 minutes to retake the lead.

Darren Gilligan and Jack Halpin were central to the comeback while the substitutes put in a big performance when introduced in the second half.

Next up for Round Tower is a home fixture against Ballymun on April 26.

## Mixed results in the league for senior teams

BALLYBODEN St Enda's senior footballers secured their third win in Division One at the weekend.

The Firhouse Road side turned on the style as they brushed aside the challenge St Mary's 3-20 to 0-8.

It was Mary's first defeat in the competition as Boden cruised to victory.

Elsewhere, Lucan Sarsfields went down to Cuala 4-23 to 1-14.

Sarsfields are struggling in the top flight having lost their opening four games in the competition.

Thomas Davis are also finding the going tough in the top flight having lost to St Oliver Plunkett's/Eoghan 2-14 to 2-15. This is Davis fourth defeat in Division One.

St Jude's went down to league leaders St Patrick's Donabate 0-16 to 3-8.

Jude's are having a mixed season in the league, winning two matches and losing the other two.

# Historic weekend for Jude's who claim Division One Feile



ALL SMILES: St Jude's celebrate winning the Division One final

IT WAS an historic weekend for St Jude's GAA Club as it was the first time to enter three teams in the Dublin Camogie Feile with teams competing in Division One, Division Six and Division 10 with 58 girls playing across three teams.

There was joy for their Division One side as they came out tops in the Division One final and now go forward to compete in the National Feile.

The clubs Division 10 girls were hosted by Setanta in Ballymun where they competed well drawing in two of their group matches against Na Fianna 'D' and Erin Go Bragh and losing out to overall winners Setanta.

The Division Six side were hosted by Round Towers (Lusk), winning all their group matches against Round Towers Lusk (1-0 to 0-1), Cuala (2-0 to 1-0), Ballyboden (1-0 -0-0) and advancing to semi-finals against

Lucan where they were very unlucky to lose by a goal in extra time.

The Division One side were hosted by Na Fianna, winning all their group matches against Ballyboden (1-04 to 0-02) with Katie Quigley (1-3 (1-2f)) Eva O'Mara 0-1 and Na Fianna (2-07 to 1-04) with Ella Fitzgerald (1-0) Eva O'Mara (0-1) Katie Quigley (0-6f) Izzy Cowzer (1-0) finding the range. In their last game they overcame Naomh Brid (3-02 to 1-03) with Katie Quigley (2f -02f) and Izzy Cowzer (1-0) finding the range.

The semi-final; saw Jude's overcome the challenge of Lucan 2-6 to 0-1 with Katie Quigley (2 -3(0-2f)), Sarah McDaid (0-1), Eva O'Mara (0-1) and Alex O'Shea(0-1) on target.

The final saw Jude's pitched against Na Fianna in Abbotstown.

The half time score was 0-3 to 0-1 to Na Fianna with the

Mobhi Road side winning the opening exchanges scoring two points from play and one point from a free to St Jude's one point scored by Katie Quigley from a free.

Full time score was 0-4 to 0-4 with St Jude's winning the second half battle with superb defending from Anna Kelly, Beth O'Grady, Lucy Kelly and Odette Caffery and excellent midfield play from Eva O'Mara and Katie Quigley with Katie also scoring a further two points from frees and Ella Fitzgerald scoring a lovely point from play saw the sides level.

Extra time of five minutes aside was then needed with St Jude's starting strongly with Sarah McDaid and Eva O Mara (Player of the Match) putting in very strong performances winning the ruc's and driving on their St Jude's teammates.

Katie Quigley then took a super goal chance when she

pulled on a breaking ball straight to back of the net.

The ball was no sooner pucked out by the Na Fianna keeper and down the other end of the pitch, that with a very unlucky bounce of the ball saw the sliothar in the back of St Jude's net to make it a draw match again at 1- 04 each.

St Jude's were determined not to lose this match and with a huge work rate over on the stand sideline together with the blocking and hooking by St Jude's players Saoirse Howlett and Anna Kelly stopped Na Fianna advancing up the pitch.

The referee then awarded two frees to St Jude's players Niamh Fitzgerald and Sarah McDaid which saw St Jude's free taker Katie Quigley punish, with the last free from an acute angle on the sideline 20 metres out which was the score of the match to see it finish 1-6 to 1-4.

This saw St Jude's clench the

Division 1 Feile title for the 3rd time in their club history.

It was last won by St Jude's in 2011 where Senior player Eimear O'Riordain who was on this winning team came up to club to present the girls their Feile medals on Sunday evening.

It was also won in 1994 where St Jude's captain Abi Massey's mum Sarah Massey (and one of the camogie coaches) was on that winning team.

This team have been together since the girls were three and four years of age, starting out on St. Jude's academy. Coached over the years by Fiona Guckian, Barry O'Mara, Ben Kelly, Meadhbh O'Grady, Sarah Massey and Tom Howlett and they were just unstoppable over this Feile weekend. Their team bond, togetherness and huge work rate saw them over the line. Roll on the National Feile in June!!

# Delight for St Pat's U15s

ST PATRICK'S GAA Club claimed the Féile Division 9 trophy in a well contested final against Lucan Sarsfields in Abbotstown on Sunday.

The Palmerstown side included "The Twelve Apostles" aged 12 and 13 who were playing up in age and supporting the U15 team.

Player of the Game went to the brilliant Tilly Griffin who was the team's highest scorer in the tournament.



St Patrick's GAA claimed the Division 9 trophy against Lucan Sarsfields



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