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€1.3 million investment in Castletymon retail store page 33

Tallaght house on rental market at €7,200 per month page 5



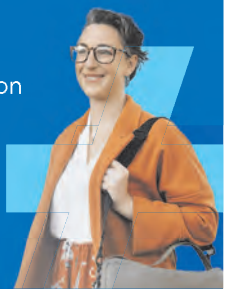


Man (41) had €215,000 in bundles of €10,000 discovered in storage area under stairs

Found with €230k at home and Rolex watches

A MAN found in possession of over €230,000 in cash and five Rolex watches has been jailed for three years, *reports Eimear Dodd.* See page 18

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Next Edition

The next edition of ***The Echo*** in the shops from Thursday, June 5, 2025. **Don't miss it!**

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Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas
South Dublin County Council

ROADS ACT 1993, SECTION 75
PROPOSED TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF BOHERNABREENA ROAD (HILL), CO. DUBLIN

To facilitate Bohernabreena Classic Car Show Committee to hold a community event, South Dublin County Council propose to temporarily close the following road:

Road Name: Bohernabreena Road (Hill), from St Anne's Church to the top of Bohernabreena Hill.

Date of Closure: Sunday 22nd June 2025.

Time of Closure: 11:00am to 4:00pm.

Detour Route 1: Opposite side of Glenasmole Valley.

Detour Distance: 10km.

Detour Route 2: via Hellfire Road, Kilakee.

Detour Distance: 11 km.

- Local Access to be maintained at all times.
- 24 hr Emergency Access to be maintained.

Any person interested may lodge an observation/submission in writing to the Senior Executive Officer, Land Use, Planning and Transportation, South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Tallaght, Dublin 24 or by email to seoroads@sdublincoco.ie no later than **5.00 p.m. on Monday 2nd June 2025.**

Web: www.sdcc.ie

Speaker Conolly pub apartment plans approved



PERMISSION: An artist impression of the development at the Speaker Conolly Pub site

55 apartments and five commercial units will be constructed

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

PERMISSION has been granted by An Bord Pleanála with a number of conditions for an apartment development at the Speaker Conolly pub site in Firhouse.

Developer Seabren Developments Limited, whose director Michael Moran who's family owns the Red Cow Hotel, secured planning permission from South Dublin County Council in March.

A third-party appeal against planning was lodged in early April by resident Sean McCarthy. This week, An Bord Pleanála granted permission for the development of 55 apartments and five commercial units at the site.

The historical Firhouse pub will be demolished along with its ancillary stores and structures, on a development site of 0.32 hectares.

The 55 apartments and the commercial units will be developed all in one building ranging in height from 4 to 6 storeys and part basement.

There will be 17 one-bed apartments, 38 two-bed apartments, a pub and restaurant, a café, and a beauty salon at ground floor level, and a medical centre and gym at the first floor.

The works include removal of the boundary wall along Ballycullen Avenue, reconfiguration of the existing entrance, access road and public footpath and use of the existing internal access road including the vehicular link between Ballycullen Avenue and the Firhouse Shopping Centre.

The development will also consist of the provision of enhanced pedestrian infrastructure, provision of circa 297 sq/m communal open space at podium level and related play areas, hard and soft landscaping, street furniture.

Twenty-five parking spaces will be provided including two accessible spaces and two car share spaces, car parking along the internal access road, electric vehicle charging points, and 104 bicycle parking spaces.

Infrastructural services and connections to existing public services will be provided, such as ducting, waste management, SuDS measures including Green/Blue roofs, stormwater management, signage, public lighting, solar panels as well as antennas,

Medical equipment donated from local charity destroyed in Ukraine

A RUSSIAN bombardment on Ukraine has destroyed essential medical equipment donated from a South Dublin based charity, *reports Alessia Micalizzi.*

The aid was believed to be worth thousands of euros as it included medicines, crutches, wheelchairs and electric wheelchairs, specialized nutrition, medical clothing, fire extinguishers, and hospital beds.

The volunteers of Ukrainian Action in Ireland (UAI), a Lucan-based organisation set up in response to the war and humanitarian crisis affecting Ukraine, had "carefully" collected all the material and sent it over to Kyiv a month ago, they explained online.

The Echo understands the organisation also avail of a warehouse in Tallaght.

The warehouse where their partners in Kyiv, Gurtom, stored the received material was directly hit by Russian drones and "completely destroyed," on the night of Saturday, May 25.

Responding to the tragedy, UAI promptly launched a fundraiser called "Hope Beyond Ashes" to make up for the loss and send two new trucks of medical aid, each delivery costing €3,000.

Their iDonate page raised €1,807 so far on a target of €6,000.

"We call on everyone to support a new shipment of humanitarian aid. We need funds to cover the transportation costs of the next aid trucks," read the page.

"Ukrainian hospitals are overwhelmed with the wounded, and their needs are growing with each attack.

"Our help is needed urgently. Every donation is a chance to help those fighting for survival."

Donations can be made until September 30 at www.idonate.ie/fundraiser/HopeBeyondAshes.



DESTROYED: The warehouse in Kyiv containing medical equipment donated from Ireland, in flames

County accommodates highest number of IPAS applicants

Nearly 12% of international protection applicants living in Direct Provision locally

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

SOUTH Dublin accommodates the highest number of International Protection Applicants in the country according to a Government report.

The weekly statistics provided by the Department of Children showed this week that 3881 International Protection Applicants reside in South Dublin County, representing nearly 12pc of all IPAs living in Direct Provision nationwide.

Dublin City came as a close second with 3403, followed by Fingal with 2366. Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown had fewer IP residents than Donegal, and all the other counties had less than 2,000 residents.

According to the report, the majority of people currently living within the DP system are from Nigeria, Georgia, Algeria, Jordan and Somalia.

As they wait for a decision on their International Protection application, they live across the 272 'Emergency Accommodation' centres and 50 'IPAS Accommodation' centres in the country, with some living in the National Reception Centre and 663 people stuck in tented accommodation.

338 are staying at the Citywest Transit Hub, said the report, while 1700 Ukrainian refugees and 400 IPAs are staying in the hotel buildings as reported by *The Echo* last week.

The past week, 49pc of all arrivals were single males, while 30pc were children. Overall, according to the report, arrivals at this time of the year in 2024 were higher, with a peak of over 600 arrivals in a week in May, while no week in 2025 has recorded more than 300.

The current total number of IPAs living in Ireland is 32,704.

While residents ask for clearer communication about new accommodation centres being set up in their communities, the Department of Justice has confirmed that they haven't received any offer of international protection accommodation for Hillary House on Mayberry Road, Tallaght, and for an industrial unit on 50 Fourth Avenue in Cookstown.

The Echo also confirmed last week that the former ABB building in Belgard Square is no longer being considered as an IPAS facility and is back on the real estate market.



REPORT: Citywest Hotel is housing 1700 Ukranian refugees and 400 IPAs

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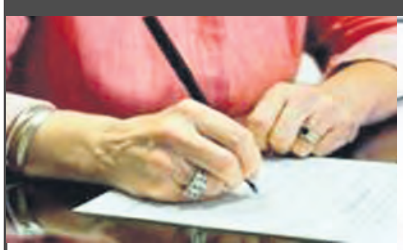
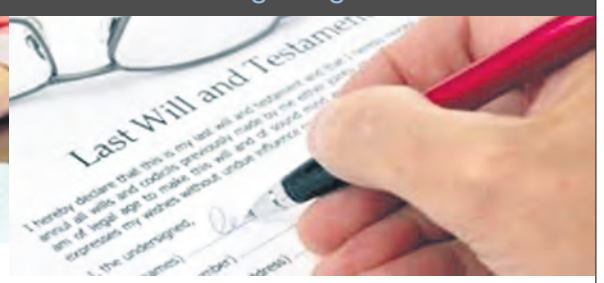
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Over 300 people and 45 agencies attend Fettercairn's Health Fair Day

OVER 300 people attended the Health Fair Day in Fettercairn Community Centre, where 45 agencies provided precious information on local health and wellbeing support, *reports Alessia Micalizzi.*

The centre turned into a vibrant hub of activity on Wednesday, May 21, with representatives of Pharmacy Hub, Alzheimer's Society Ireland, Tallaght University Hospital and the HSE offering resources and assistance, the Irish Heart Foundation providing health checks, and much more.

Other services present included supports around mental health, suicide bereavement, domestic violence, local employment, and broader health and wellbeing initiatives.

The event was organised by Samantha Griffin, co-ordinator of the Tallaght Health Project, with the support of Alan McDonnell of Sláintecare Healthy Communities.

Ms Griffin said she was "blown away" by the turnout and glad that people could rediscover the services available in their area.

"From the moment doors opened, attendees streamed into the centre, eager to explore the wide range of services. The variety and quality of what we offered made a strong impression.

"Many said to us or the agencies, 'I never knew we had this,' or 'I never knew this service existed.' Some of those organisations felt forgotten and they thanked us for the opportunity.

"It was an incredibly busy and positive day, and it showed the strength and spirit of our community when we come together to support one another."

Ms Griffin also extended her heartfelt thanks to the volunteers who supported the event on the day, as well as Anna Mostek from the Health Project team for her "invaluable" help.

The catering was made possible by Tallaght West Credit Union and the Tallaght Drugs and Alcohol Task Force.

"With such a successful turnout and strong community engagement, planning is already underway to bring the Health Fair Day back in 2026—bigger and better than ever," she said.

"A sincere thank you goes out to all the agencies, volunteers, staff, attendees, and supporters who helped make the day such a resounding success."



HEALTH DAY: Rita, Alan, Michelle, Mary and Jasmine

James Joyce seat of learning will inspire future students

Former Taoiseach Bertie Ahern was special guest in St Mark's during celebration

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

FORMER Taoiseach Bertie Ahern was the special guest at a Tallaght school as they unveiled their 'James Joyce Seat of Learning.'

An art installation by philanthropist Brendan Kilty, the Seat was commissioned for St Mark's Community School by past pupil and entrepreneur Sharon Keegan who had worked with Mr Kilty.

The artwork in St Mark's is one of many Mr Kilty established internationally to celebrate Joyce's work and Irish culture, using the bricks he rescued when Joyce's home was demolished in 1998.

On Wednesday, the artwork was unveiled celebrating the meeting between "the creative journey of students" and "the rich legacy of Joyce's work."

Principal Ian Boran opened the celebration, followed by former Taoiseach Bertie Ahern who spoke of the importance of planting the seed of creativity and a love of culture in young people.

Students Katie Murphy and Riann Byrne unveiled it with Taoiseach Ahern and Mr Kilty as they were part of the team who designed and created the Seat.

Over the past few months, students in the school have explored Joyce's life and work and have been inspired to produce drama, music and artwork of their own, explained the school staff.

Many of them performed at the unveiling alongside guest artists who sang and recited poetry and excerpts from Joyce's work.

Transition Year students enacted scenes from Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man, followed by sixth-year student and violin soloist Sorina Fabian playing Habanera from Carmen and accompanied by a ballroom routine.


INSPIRE: Past pupil Sharon Keegan, Former Taoiseach Bertie Ahern, student Katie Murphy, Brendan Kilty and student Rian Byrne

Student Tommy Wall sang The Lass of Aughrim and Ava Walsh performed a monologue from Evelyn. The five winners of the school's poetry competition Poetry Aloud recited their poems.

The seat features quotes from Joyce's work and a river motif running across it representing the author's famous 'stream of consciousness.'

According to the school, St Mark's tradition in particular is encapsulated in the quote 'They lived and laughed and loved and left' from Joyce's novel Finnegans Wake.

St Mark's are hopeful that the Seat will "inspire the students and teachers for generations to come."

Seven-bed house put up for rent at €7,200 per month

‘Location is ideal’ and includes parking to the front and maintenance free gardens

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

A SEVEN-BED, four-bath house in Tallaght was put up for rent at €7,200 per month.

“HWP are delighted to offer this purpose-built shared accommodation next to the Kingswood Luas stop and in close proximity to the M50 and N81,” read the listing shared online.

The house is located at 11 The Crescent, Kingswood Heights.

A large foyer, living room, kitchen and dining room are on the ground floor with three bathrooms.

Six bedrooms and a larger bathroom are located at the first floor, with some of them fit for single beds only as shown in the listing photographs.

The property that has a C3 Energy Rating has been “newly renovated,” according to the agent, and is available for long term leases only, between 3 and 5 years.

It includes a utility room, parking to the front and “maintenance free” gardens.

An existing extension at the back can possibly be turned into the seventh bedroom listed in the ad.

“The location is ideal as Kingswood has its own primary and secondary schools, church, community centre, local shops and public house,” read the listing.

“There is ease of access to all main road networks and it is well served by public transport links with the Luas and the 56A bus stop located nearby making the city centre easily accessible.”

As *The Echo* reported earlier this year, letting prices calculated on a rate of €1,000 per month per bedroom have become as common in Tallaght as they are in Dublin City.

In the meantime, a lack of supply continues to arise as an issue for first-time buyers, as many were queuing at a newly built development in Clondalkin at the weekend.

Hundreds of people queued to secure one of 40 homes at Seven Mills on sale from 8am on Saturday, May 24. According to national reports, they were all sold by 10am, leaving many disheartened about the situation.

Some people had arrived overnight to be the first in line by the morning, while others lost the opportunity of a home because they were a few minutes late.



LEASE: The seven-bed house in Kingswood up for rent at €7,200 per month

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35 bags of rubbish collected as community urged to 'own it'

Scrambler bikes are a big problem and people are scared to go into the park

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



TRANSFORMED: Volunteers durting the clean-up in Killinarden and (inset) Fr Fintan O'Driscoll - Caragh Coote

VOLUNTEERS from across the county joined forces to clean up Killinarden Park in Tallaght and encourage the local community to "own it."

The park that was recently upgraded by South Dublin County Council looked "remarkably clean" at first sight, said the volunteers, but still has "a couple of black spots to revisit."

A total of 35 bags of rubbish was removed as well as bikes, buggies, scooters, a tv and a "large amount" of metal and glass.

The clean-up on Wednesday was mainly organised by the Dodder Action group marking Biodiversity Week, and they were joined by Friends of the Camac, Tallaght Litter Mugs, South Dublin Community Volunteers and South Dublin Partnership, Croi Ro Naofa GAA, pupils from Killinarden Sacred Heart SNS, residents living around the park and Independent councillor Alan Edge.

Forty-two people took part in it extending the clean-up to the Whitestown Stream too and making Dodder Action "delighted" with the response to their call.

"The park was utterly transformed by the upgrades. Its maintenance can be improved, but we certainly got the sense that more local people are using it and with a more upbeat attitude," said John Kiberd from Litter Mugs.

"We as groups come from outside of the area, but we wanted to encourage local involvement and ownership of the new amenity, and have the local community say, 'This is our park."

According to John, events such as Park Ranger walks, youth activities, and school programmes that were organised after the upgrades have brought "thousands into the parks," and had reports of antisocial behaviour and dumping decline.

Dodder Action's Caragh Coote, described by John as the "main driving force of the event," said she was delighted by "such a wide variety of people who showed up," and by how the clean-up force spread widely across the park.

The event received appreciation from park users walking by, said Caragh, but they also have brought up issues that still concern them.

"The main path is now very well lit, and many use it to walk to work, but the ancillary paths are not, especially towards the Killinarden Heights direction," said Caragh.

"Scrambler bikes are a big problem that still make people scared to go into the park."

Nonetheless, the success of the event showed that more community engagement with the park is well-needed and Dodder Action will "definitely look at it again."

"The more we do it, the more we will attract and engage locals," concluded Caragh.





Ashlee is tops at national generation apprenticeship

A BALLYROAN student has won a prestigious national competition, showcasing the innovation and green skills of the nation's next generation of talent.

Sancta Maria College's Ashlee McGuinness is an award winner in the Generation Apprenticeship Second Level competition for her podcast entry.

Organised by the National Apprenticeship Office, the competition challenged students to learn about the exciting choice of national apprenticeship opportunities now available and how future careers can champion green values and a sustainable future for all.

Ashlee claimed first prize in the podcast category by showing how the electrical industry can walk the walk on sustainability by repurposing materials.

"The competition was more than just a creative challenge for me, it was a chance to promote green values, think about how we can reuse resources and inspire others to make eco-friendly choices," she said.

"I am proud to contribute to a project that highlights the importance of sustainability and innovative thinking for a better future. The competition was great fun and allowed me to use my imagination and creativity."

Competition judge Edmond Connolly, South East Regional Skills Forum Manager, said: "The power of students to shape and influence the future was clear, and we were so impressed by the entries submitted by these talented and driven students.

"The competition provided invaluable insights around some of the challenging questions facing our planet today and how future career choices can offer solutions.



AWARD: Ashlee McGuinness, Sancta Maria College with parents Ruth and Christopher McGuinness with her prestigious award

Annual Blessing of the Graves

THE annual Blessing of the Graves Mass at Bohernabreena Cemetery will take place on Sunday, June 15 at 3pm. The parish invites attendees to have their cars parked by 2pm.

Cruinniú na nÓg events

NORTH Clondalkin Library will host three events for National Cruinniú na nÓg on Saturday, June 7.

The day will start at 11:30am with 'African Drumming' with Thomas Annang, an event for kids aged 4+ and with 20 available places.

At 2pm, an interactive circus skills workshop will start, with activities for kids aged 5 to 12 including rope walking, clown acting, acrobatics and dancing. The workshop has 20 available places.

At 3pm it will be time for a copper craft session for kids aged 12+, with 12 available places.

Bookings are open on southdublin.spydus.ie. North Clondalkin Library are "delighted" to take part in Cruinniú na nÓg, "a day of free creativity for young people up to the age of 18 celebrated nationally."

Spiritan Congregation appointed to parishes

Fr Bill O'Shaughnessy says leaving Tallaght for Lucan 'will be tough'

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

A TEAM from the Spiritan Congregation will be appointed to care for the Tallaght parishes of Springfield, Brookfield and Jobstown in early July.

The current priest for the three parishes, Father William (Bill) O'Shaughnessy, has been appointed as new parish priest for Lucan and Esker-Dodsboro/Adamstown, taking effect on July 5.

"Leaving Tallaght will be tough, as I've been here eight years and got to know the high and low points of people's lives," Fr Bill said.

"That forges friendships, and I've met a lot of friends. It had its challenges, but there's many things I'm going to miss."

Fr Bill, a diocesan priest from South Kildare, is now "looking forward" to his next chapter in Lucan.

When asked if he has any connection or familiarity to the area, he said he usually approaches new appointments "without any preconceived notions," and prefers to get to know things personally.

The announcement made by Dublin Archbishop Dermot Farrell this week was reported to parishioners in Tallaght through an online post, saying that the archbishop "entrusted" a different religious order to take over.

The Congregation of the Holy Spirit is a religious congregation for men, whose members are known as Holy Ghost Fathers or 'Spiritans.'

According to Fr Bill, the choice of that specific order over diocesan priests is due to a lack of 'personnel' available to take on larger parishes like the one he's leaving.

"In Tallaght, in a range of 6km, there's about 13 churches. That's about 75 masses a week and the situation within the number of diocesan priests is changing," he said.

While "change can be very scary," for parishioners, said Fr Bill, it can also bring in a fresh, new opportunity.

"But it's the people you work with that makes the difference. In Tallaght, I've been blessed to work with an extraordinary talented parish team, and I'm sure they will still be the backbone of it."

On the online post shared online, the Parish team said, "We ask all who have supported our parish team so faithfully to extend the same warm welcome to our new colleagues. Together, let us build hope throughout our diocese."



APPOINTMENT: Fr Bill O'Shaughnessy



court reports



tel: 4685350 email: news@echo.ie

Criminal with history of violence beat his partner and intimidated her

A CRIMINAL with a history of violence assaulted his girlfriend over a prolonged period and held a blade to her throat before sending her threats from prison to drop the charges, a court has heard, *reports Isabel Hayes.*

Patrick Byrne (28), formerly of Cooleven Close, Cloverhill Road, Dublin, has 44 convictions and was jailed for 2 years, 9 months last November after he assaulted a man in the city centre with a bike saddle in an unprovoked assault.

He has four previous convictions for assault causing harm along with convictions for theft, domestic violence, drugs and threat to kill offences, Garda Natasha Martin told Dublin Circuit Criminal Court on Monday.

The court heard that Byrne assaulted his then partner several times in the course of a two-day period in February 2024, whipping her with a broom handle, holding a Stanley blade to her throat and threatening to slit her throat, kicking and hitting her, smashing up the house and upending a wardrobe, causing a television to fall on her.

He repeatedly told the woman he would kill her, screamed abuse at her, spat in her face and closed the blinds in the house so no-one could see in.

The woman could not escape as Byrne had both sets of house keys and had locked the door. She eventually managed to escape when he fell asleep and she was able to get the keys.

She ran to a neighbour's house, where an ambulance and gardaí were called. Byrne was arrested at a later date.

He pleaded guilty to one count of assault causing harm, one count of production of a broom handle in the course of a dispute and one count of making a threat to kill at an address in Clondalkin. A number of other counts were taken into consideration. The offences occurred on dates between February 11 and 12, 2024.

While in custody, Byrne started texting and phoning the woman from two different phone numbers.

The court heard the texts started out in a loving nature, with talks of reconciliation, but then turned threatening after Byrne found out the woman had started a new relationship.

He urged the woman to drop the charges against him, calling her a “snake” and a “dirty rat”. “You drop them charges or you're going to have a dirty scar for the rest of your life,” he texted her.

Byrne pleaded guilty to one count of threatening a witness in criminal proceedings on dates between April 11 and May 20, 2024. The woman reported Byrne to gardaí in July 2024. There was no victim impact statement before the court.

Judge Pauline Codd observed that Byrne appeared to be “amused” by the text messages as they were read out in court, to which he replied: “No” from the dock.

Mark Lynam SC, defending, said Byrne started taking drugs from a young age and his life spiralled when he was a teenager after he discovered his biological father was a different person to the man he considered his father.

Mr Lynam said Byrne and the complainant were in a relationship for about two years and it was “toxic”, “chaotic” and “volatile” with both of them abusing drugs and alcohol. Byrne is remorseful and upset about his actions, defence counsel said.

Byrne has a history of violence and is aware he “needs to get a handle on his behaviour”, Mr Lynam said. He asked the court to order a probation report to get a greater insight into how Byrne can make progress upon his eventual release from custody.

Judge Codd said Byrne “clearly has horrendous anger issues”, noting the level of violence he acted out on the woman.

She ordered urine analysis, a governor's report and a probation report and adjourned the matter for sentence on October 20.

Learner driver lost control of car and smashed head-on into vehicle

Man (22) with seven previous convictions placed under supervision of Probation Services

By **Isabel Hayes**
news@echo.ie



A LEARNER driver who lost control of his car and smashed head-on into another vehicle, injuring three passengers, has been placed under the supervision of the Probation Services ahead of sentencing.

John Stokes (22) was originally charged with dangerous driving in relation to the collision that occurred at Lower Lucan Road, Dublin on May 2, 2021.

He pleaded guilty to one count of careless driving causing serious bodily harm to a woman in relation to the incident, which was accepted by the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) on a full facts basis, Dublin Circuit Criminal Court heard.

It is an offence that carries a maximum sentence of two years' imprisonment and/or a fine of up to €10,000. Stokes, of Canonbrook Park, Lucan, has seven previous convictions, including theft, assault causing harm and public order offences. He was on bail at the time of this offence.

After pleading guilty in 2022, Stokes failed to appear for his sentence hearing, and a warrant was eventually issued for his arrest. The court heard that he had been living in the UK before he presented himself to gardai by appointment and was granted bail.

Garda Gary McCallon told Aideen Collard BL, prosecuting, that around 10.30pm on the evening in question, a couple and their adult daughter were in a car travelling along Lower Lucan Road when they saw the car driven by Stokes coming around a bend towards them at speed. One of them shouted: “Watch out for him”, the court heard.

Their car activated its collision prevention system and braked before Stokes' car collided head-on with them, the court heard. Stokes got out of the car and apologised to the injured people, telling them he “lost control”.

The driver of the car, a man in his late 40s, managed to get out, but his partner, also in her 40s, was trapped in the front passenger seat and had to be cut out by Dublin Fire Brigade officers. This woman's 21-year-old daughter was in the back of the car, with blood streaming from her head. All three were taken to hospital.

The woman who had to be cut out of the car was the most seriously injured, with fractures to her spine and ribs. She was in a brace for 12 weeks and spent a number of days in hospital. Her partner spent one night in hospital with soft tissue injuries, while the daughter had to be treated for a head wound and other injuries.

Prosecuting counsel said the speed limit on the road was 60km/h and that although the injured parties reporting Stokes was driving at speed, there was no independent evidence of this such as dashcam or CCTV footage.

“There is no evidence he was in excess of the speed limit,” Ms Collard said. “The evidence is that he was driving too fast for that part of the road.”

The court heard that Stokes was a learner driver and was accompanied in the car by a fully licensed passenger.

The car was insured, and he was not under the influence of any intoxicants. His insurance company has since made a payout to the injured parties.

A number of victim impact statements were read out in court, but the victims chose not to attend the sentence hearing, the court heard. The statements outlined how they struggled with pain, mental health issues and anxiety in the wake of the collision.

The woman whose spine was fractured outlined how she had to change jobs as a result of her injuries and how she struggled to pay rent for a period of time.

Keith Spencer BL, defending, said his client was just 18 at the time of the offence. He left school after his junior cert and has a history of depression and mental health issues. He has a history of cannabis use which he has successfully dealt with, the court heard.

There is a history of mental illness in his extended family, and he has had a number of bereavements in recent years. He has a long term partner and they have a 10-month-old baby to whom he is a committed father, defence counsel said.

Judge Elma Sheahan noted that while Stokes entered an early guilty plea, he then failed to make himself available for sentencing. She said the court took a serious view of the fact he was on bail for another offence at the time of this offending.

The judge ordered that Stokes be placed under the Probation Services for a six month period before his sentence is finalised. She ordered a probation report, a GP report and a counselling report to be before the court on November 24.

She placed Stokes under a good behaviour bond for six months.

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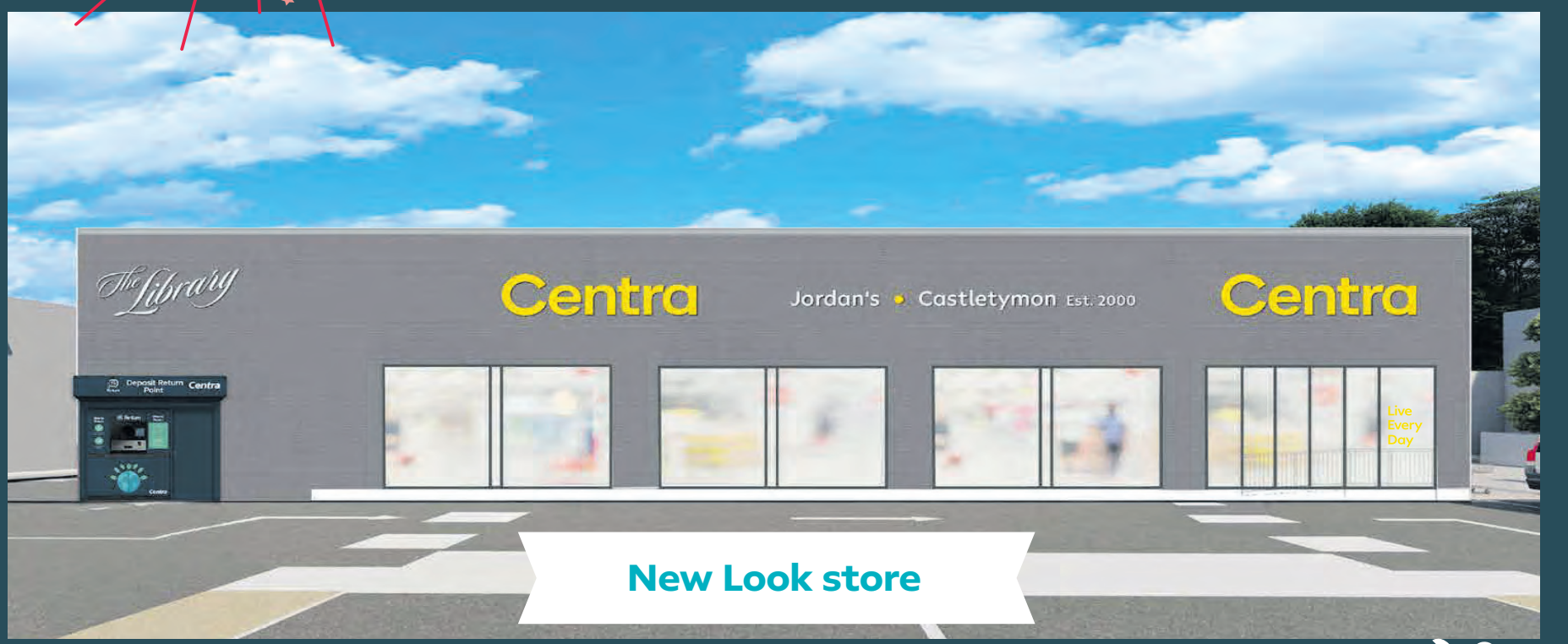
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Centra

Future of arts festival remains uncertain following meeting

This is the first time in eight-year history of festival that insurance has become an issue

By **Ellen Gough**
ellen@echo.ie

THE future of a major arts festival in Ballyfermot is still uncertain after an emergency meeting with council officials this week.

The Ballyfermot Cherry Orchard Arts Festival is a festival of art, culture and fun-filled activities that takes place each July.

It brings together many community groups including youth services, community associations, Coiste Gaeilge, the Ballyfermot Heritage Group to organise cultural and arts events to celebrate the history and people of the area.

However, this year's plans have been upset by a requirement from Dublin City Council, who are the lead agency in organizing the festival, for public liability insurance.

This is the first time in the festival's eight-year history that insurance has been brought up by the council, according to the chairman of the Ballyfermot Cherry Orchard Festival Committee, Gerry Mc Carthy.

"All the organisations that do stuff for the festivals, they all have their own insurance, but in terms of the festival itself, we never have." he explained.

The issue of insurance was only raised by DCC at a meeting with the festival committee on April 29, according to Gerry.

"We were only issued insurance requirements from DCC in writing on May 22.

"The festival committee set about trying to obtain quotes for our events which proved very difficult as a number of insurance companies would not give us a quote."

The festival committee have secured a quote for €2,900 for the insurance, which DCC said they would cover as the lead agency.

However, it remains uncertain whether this will have to be covered out of the existing budget of €10,000 allocated for the festival, or whether the money will be found elsewhere to pay for this additional cost.

The insurance policy also sets out limitations on what activities can be organised, particularly for the Family Days.

"We have had no discussions with regards to budgets for the festival despite us putting it in writing early April. It's not possible for the Festival Committee to run the events throughout the community for €10,000 given the increase in costs," Gerry said.

The steering group of the Ballyfermot Cherry Orchard Festival held "an emergency urgent meeting" on Tuesday evening, May 27, at the Ballyfermot Civic Centre.

According to Gerry, there was a "strong turnout" to 30 people from groups involved in the festival were in attendance, along with three officials from the council's Community Department.

"It was very strong turnout of all the organisations have been doing this for years, a lot of experienced people who know their stuff," he said.

However not much appears to have been decided at Tuesday's meeting, with further meetings set to take place between the festival committee and senior council officials this Thursday and Friday.

Much uncertainty still remains over the budget, he continued, because "we definitely don't have enough money to do it. And the other thing is the big implication around the changes in the insurance".

"Unfortunately, the Festival committee should be spending the last month finalising events and indeed putting on more events and encouraging all community organisations to get involved in the festival.

"They were fairly positive in the end on Tuesday night that it'll be sorted," Gerry noted. "But it has to be sorted, it can't drag on."



FUN TIMES: Members of the community enjoying the festival last year

> **"We have had no discussions with regards to budgets for the festival despite us putting it in writing early April. It's not possible for the Festival Committee to run the events throughout the community for €10,000 ....**

Scrambler bikes are causing damage to green space will be monitored by council

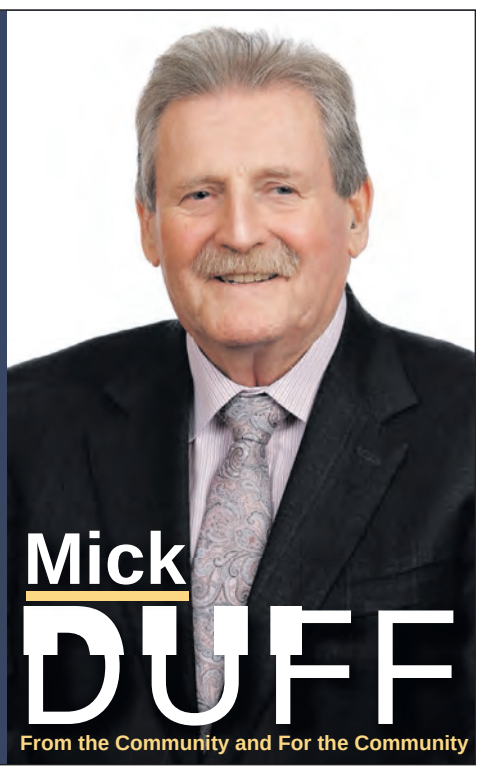
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SOUTH Dublin County Council are monitoring the use of scrambler bikes between Glenshane and Rossfield estates in Tallaght as it's "causing damage" to the local green space according to a councillor, *reports Alessia Micalizzi.*

At the Tallaght area meeting on Monday, May 26, Councillor Kay Keane (PBP) asked the Council if there are plans for "traffic calming measures" in the area.

"The Council is aware of, and continues to monitor and address, the ongoing issue of illegal scrambler bike use in specific areas across the county, including Glenshane," said SDCC.

"The Estate Management and Public Realm teams are working closely with An Garda Síochána to identify locations of concern and apprehend those responsible. Where individuals involved in anti-social behaviour are identified as social housing tenants, appropriate action will be taken."

While the 2023 Road Traffic legislation has strengthened Garda powers in this matter, they are still required to establish that a scrambler bike has been used in the commission of an offence before it can be seized.

This relies on relevant information being provided by other parties, which then requires further investigation before action can be taken.

The Gardaí appealed for continued assistance from the public as they seized approximately 59 scramblers and high-powered e-bikes in the area since the start of the year.



ISSUES: Scrambler bikes are causing damage to green spaces

SUMMER MARKETS

Tymon Park North

AFRICA DAY
24.05.2025

CULTURAL FOOD DAY
24.08.2025

CIRCUS SPECTACULAR
27.07.2025

MAGICAL PRINCESS AND SUPERHERO DAY
22.06.2025

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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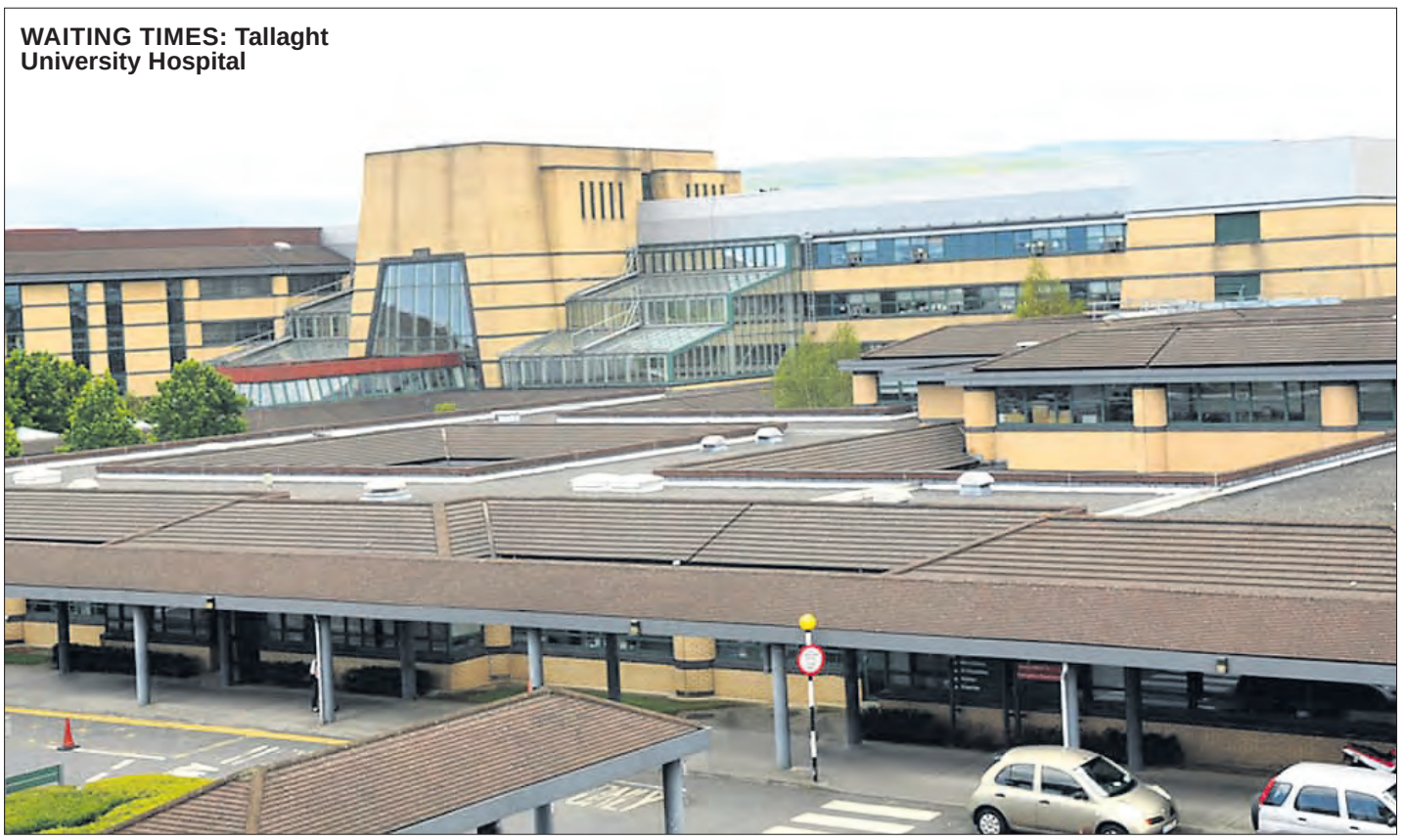
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MAGICAL PRINCESS AND SUPERHERO DAY
22/06/2025 (SUNDAY)
CIRCUS SPECTACULAR
27/07/2025 (SUNDAY)
CULTURAL FOOD DAY
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Waiting times for Tallaght Hospital ED highest in the state



WAITING TIMES: Tallaght University Hospital

Patients are waiting to be seen on average over 12 hours

By **Ellen Gough**
ellen@echo.ie

WAITING times for Tallaght University Hospital ED are the highest in the state, according to data released by the Department of Health.

Patients presenting to the emergency department at Tallaght are waiting to be seen for an average of over 12 hours.

"No one turning up to A&E should be waiting half a day to be seen," said Mark Ward, Sinn Fein TD for Dublin Mid-West and the party spokesperson on Dublin.

"Tallaght is my local hospital and it's scandalous that people are waiting over 12 hours."

The data was released in response to a parliamentary question from Deputy Ward's party colleague, Kerry TD Pa Daly, who requested "a breakdown of average accident and emergency waiting list times, broken down by hospital, in each of the years 2015 to date".

> **"We have a GP shortage in the area, with people left with no place but to turn to other than their local hospital**

The data for 2025, provided from up until April of this year, shows the average wait time for patients at Tallaght ED is 12.6 hours.

This is almost twice as high as the average wait time across all hospitals in the HSE Dublin and Midlands Area, which is 7.4 hours.

The next highest wait times at a Dublin hospital in the area are 8.4 hours at St James's Hospital ED.

"Looking at the figures released in the PQ response waiting times are getting worse Tallaght, under the various Ministers for Health," Deputy Ward continued.

"We have a GP shortage in the area, with people left with no place to turn to other than their local hospital."

Figures from the Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisations (INMO) Trolley Watch show that 419 patients were waiting on trolleys at Tallaght University Hospital ED for the month of May (up until Wednesday, May 28).

While this is the second highest in the Dublin area after St Vincent's Hospital with 436 patients, it's only 6th highest in the country overall, and far behind the numbers at University Hospital Limerick, who saw 1,872 patients left on trolleys in the same period.

"We only have our local Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael TDs to thank for this failure, their support for successive governments have enabled this disaster to become the norm," Deputy Ward said.

"The people of Dublin Mid-West and South Dublin deserve better than 12 hours waiting in accident and emergency, they have been waiting too long for a change, and Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael have not been able to deliver this."

Four people arrested in relation to fatal shooting

GARDAI arrested two men and two women in relation to a fatal shooting incident in Drimnagh last year.

All four have been released without charge and files will be prepared for the Director of Public Prosecutions.

The shooting incident occurred on Knocknarea Road on Monday, May 6, 2024.

A statement released by gardai said: "Gardaí are continuing to investigate all the circumstances surrounding the fatal shooting incident that occurred in the early hours of Monday 6th May 2024, on Knocknarea Road, Drimnagh, Dublin 12.

"Gardaí arrested two men, aged in their 20s and 40s, and two women, both aged in their 20s, in relation to this investigation in recent weeks. All four have been released without charge and files will be prepared for the Director of Public Prosecutions".

Gardai say investigations are ongoing.

Echoopinion...

Drive carefully on roads this weekend

ALL drivers are required to be particularly cautious on the road during the upcoming June Bank Holiday.

As on every Bank Holiday Weekend, the road traffic is expected to increase as people drive to their loved ones' homes to celebrate the time off together.

The Road Safety Authority re-launched their campaign 'Stop, Sip, Sleep' for the weekend, inviting anyone to be aware of tiredness on the road and choose to stop for a break and a coffee when they need to.

Caution is essential off the road too. Drivers who plan to get behind the wheel again after celebrations should stay away from alcohol and drugs or make other arrangements such as staying the night, booking a taxi or a lift home with someone who hasn't used any substances.

In another campaign, the RSA aired an interview with a real Garda recalling what is like to tell a family that their loved one has been killed in a traffic collision.

None of us would want to get that call or face other consequences of drug driving such as losing our job, the possibility to travel or drive to do our daily errands and most importantly disappoint our loved ones.

Last year, over 7000 people were arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, a number which only drivers themselves can reduce.

Everyone is encouraged to remember that while celebrating is fun, driving irresponsibly or under the effect of substances will have fatal consequences and could take away our or someone else's loved ones.

Pressure on teens to drink alcohol

A RECENT, Europe-wide study of teenage drinking habits showed that a quarter of Irish teenagers try their first drink at 13 or younger.

The 2020 report the EU Drugs Agency, known as the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), also revealed 20% of Irish teenagers had consumed some illegal drug in their lifetime, compared to the European average of 17%.

Boredom, peer pressure and teenage rebellion are often blamed by adults for teenage drinking. It's something all teenagers do, some parents even permit it to happen "home where they can see it". But what happens when it turns into a serious substance abuse issue?

According to the Clondalkin Youth Drug and Alcohol Project, who held their official launch last week, the youngest person on their books is a 12-year-old being treated for using nitrous oxide (they also have 13-year-old being treated for the same). Many of the young people seen by the project, which offers alcohol and substance misuse treatment for 12 to 21-year-olds, also engage in 'poly-drug' use from a young age, with 96% of patients reporting they use cannabis, either as their main drug of choice or along with something like alcohol, solvents or harder drugs like cocaine.

Ultimately there's a myriad of reasons why any young person would turn to drinking or substance abuse, particularly as a means of escape from issues in their life, be it school, family or abuse. Prevention is probably impossible. What needs to come after the fact is support without judgement or stigma, so that young people who are trying to turn their lives around after abuse are afforded every chance to get better.

Man rushed to hospital following serious assault

A MAN in his 30s was rushed to Tallaght University Hospital following a serious assault at a retail centre in Clondalkin village on Thursday.

Gardaí responded to a report of the assault on the Ninth Lock Road at approximately 11.45am.

According to their statement, the man was brought to TUH for treatment of injuries that are believed to be non-life-threatening. Investigations are ongoing and gardaí are appealing for witnesses to make contact.

Anyone who may have been travelling in the area of Ninth Lock Road, Clondalkin, between 11.30am and 12 noon, Thursday, May 22 is asked to come forward.

They are also appealing to anyone with camera footage, including motorists with dashcam footage from the area at this time, to make this available to investigating Gardaí.

Anyone with any information is asked to contact Clondalkin Garda Station on (01) 666 7600, the Garda Confidential Line 1800 666 111 or any Garda station.

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St Aidan's CS is a 'shining example of modern Ireland'

Multicultural school with nearly 600 students celebrates 40th anniversary

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



CELEBRATION: Peter McNamara, Eliza Connolly, Sandra Sullivan, Jose Ukachukwu, Sr. Barbara , Anne-Marie Macken, Sr Kathleen, Kevin Shortall, St Aidan's CS Principal at the celebration. See more photos on page 46

ST AIDAN'S Community School in Brookfield, Tallaght, celebrated its 40th anniversary as a "shining example of modern Ireland," said principal Kevin Shortall.

After 40 years, the lines between the local community and this now multicultural school with nearly 600 students are "blurred," said the principal, as the two entities rely on one another.

On Wednesday, a formal celebration took place in the school with over 500 students, parents and staff.

The event was attended by the school's first Board of Management, South Dublin Mayor Baby Pereppadan and Minister of State at the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment and Equality and at the Department of Social Protection Emer Higgins.

"Minister McEntee couldn't attend, but Minister Higgins accepted our gift on her behalf," explained Mr Shortall.

The students' gift for the Minister and for the other supporters of the school, such as Loreto Education Trust and DDLTB, was nothing less than their own dreams, with a 'Jar of hopes and dreams' put together by the 500 attending students for the event.

"The event was very student-led, they did everything. They prepared the gifts and artwork, they welcomed our guests and our fifth-year student Sandsiwe O'Khupe held the keynote speech."

Sandsiwe, who recently topped a national public speaking competition on behalf of St Aidan's, said, "Whether you were here in 1984 or just joined us last week, you are part of something sacred.

"Forty years, four decades of shaping minds, and creating a culture where nobody is left behind. That's not just a milestone, that's a masterpiece.

"What makes this school special isn't the bricks and paint, it's the students from all over Ireland and the world coming together."

Sandsiwe, who arrived in Ireland last year from Zimbabwe, said she likes how St Aidan's celebrate everyone's small achievements and "besides Shakespeare and Irish," it teaches students kindness and empathy.

"The moment I entered St Aidan's, something shifted. I felt welcomed, embraced. You didn't ask me to change who I was. You gave me the space to become what I was meant to be even more."

According to her, the school brings to life an African proverb she grew up with, that says we are not whole without each other.

"Everyone here can feel seen and loved. That is St Aidan's."

A celebratory mural was also unveiled, the picture of a tree where every leaf is a thumbprint of students, staff, parents and everyone who is a part of the St Aidan's community.

When asked what the school achieved over these four decades, Mr Shortall said, "Our school is a shining example of modern Ireland, that integrated people from all over the country and the world.

"It's a diverse, happy place, and our numbers and results are constantly going up.

"In these 40 years we continued to improve, and we provided a great example of what it means to be a community school."

Looking at the next decades, Mr Shortall said the school building extension and the creation of a campus with sports and recreation facilities will help the school grow and improve even more.

"Thanks to Michelle Murphy, arts teacher who coordinated the celebration," he added.

Speaking at the event, Minister Higgins said, "Coming in here today has been absolutely amazing. The community spirit in this room, the energy and positivity are just unbelievable.

"It's great to see such talent from a music perspective, a sports perspective and so many people working so hard for this school."

Honoring the celebration's tagline, 'If you can dream it, you can do it,' Minister Higgins said it's the most "empowering and magnificent motto you can possibly have."

Our Lady Queen of Apostles named finalists in the Our World Awards

PUPILS from Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Clonburris have been named finalists in the 2025 Our World Awards.

The Clondalkin school will join 12 other national finalists from across Ireland at a ceremony to be held at Dublin Castle on Friday 30th May.

The school is just one of just 15 schools in Ireland to be in the running for one of nine prestigious Our World Awards comprising the Global Goals, Irish Aid Programme, Rising Star, Creative Star, STEM, School and Community Impact, Global Citizenship Education, an Iontráil Ghaeilge is Fearr and Outstanding School Engagement Awards, as well as the coveted School of the Year Award.

Fourth class pupils at Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Clonburris have been busy exploring the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and learning about the important global work carried out by Irish Aid.

As part of their project for the Our World Awards, the class created vibrant and informative posters highlighting what they had learned. Each poster reflected a different aspect of the Global Goals, such as climate action, quality education, and gender equality.

The pupils also recorded audio clips to explain their understanding, allowing others to "listen to what we learned" and bringing their voices directly into the learning experience.

Their creative and thoughtful work is a wonderful example of how primary pupils can engage with big global issues in age-appropriate and meaningful ways.

Congratulating the three Dublin schools on making it to the national final, Minister of State for International Development and Diaspora, Neale Richmond TD said: "I am really looking forward to meeting the pupils from Balbriggan Educate Together National School, St. Fergal's Boys National School, and Our Lady Queen of Apostles and their teachers at the national final on May 30. I know that there is a great sense of excitement around the event in Dublin Castle.

"I am also looking forward to personally thanking our primary school teachers for their continued commitment, not just to participating in the Our World Awards, but also for nurturing an ethos of global citizenship amongst our young people. It is important that as global citizens we all play an individual and collective part in making the world a better place.

"Each of the projects submitted by the 15 finalists demonstrate an impressive level of insight and understanding of what are complex global issues that have a devastating impact on the most vulnerable in our world."

Now in their 20th year, the Our World Awards are the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's flagship programme with primary schools which, over its lifetime, has seen thousands of young people become inspired to engage with global issues and take action for a fairer, more sustainable world.

The 2025 Our World Awards National Final is taking place at the Printworks, Dublin Castle on Friday, May 30.

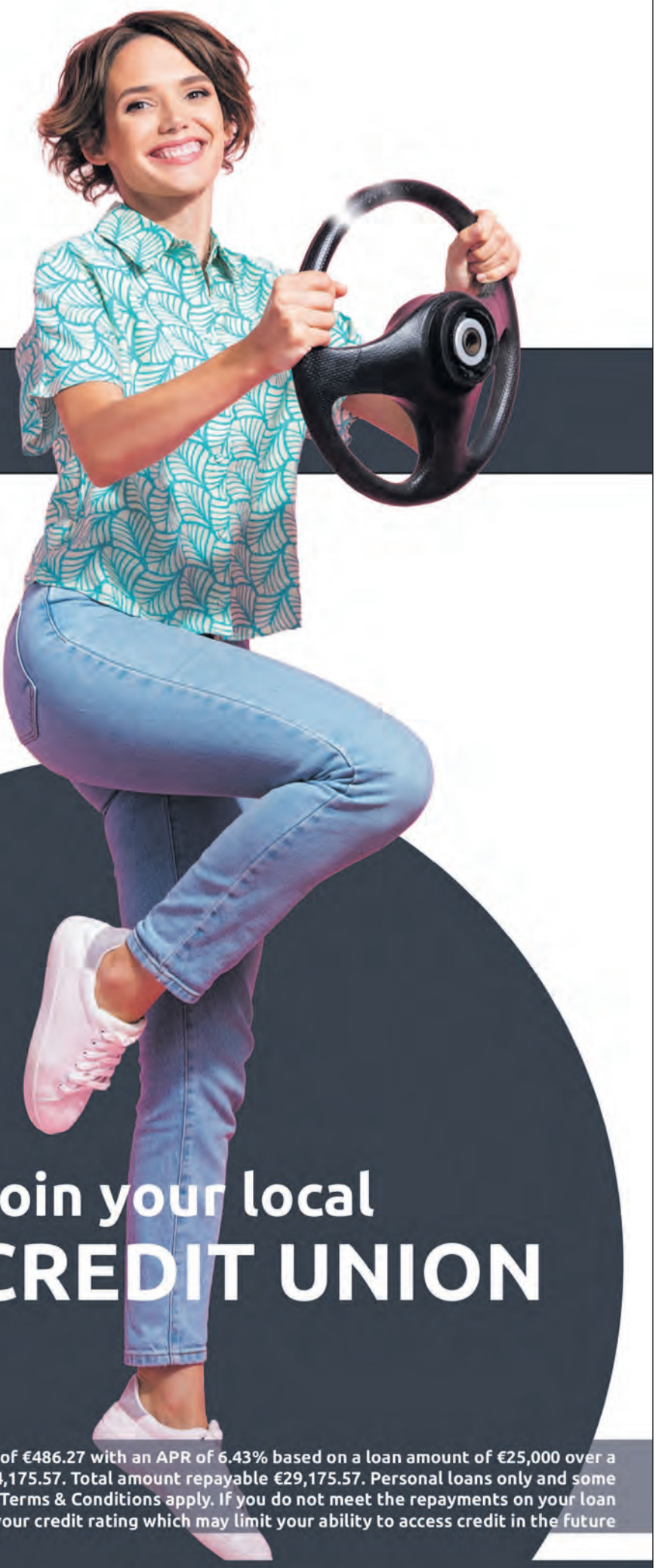
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Secondary schools should ban e-scooters from grounds

Calls for ban on electric scooters for the safety of students and teachers

By **Ellen Gough**
ellen@echo.ie



NUISANCE: There have been calls made to ban electric scooters from secondary school grounds

THERE have been calls for South Dublin secondary schools to ban the use of electric scooters on school grounds "for the safety of students, teachers and members of the public".

A motion was passed at the monthly meeting of the Clondalkin, Newcastle, Rathcoole, Saggart and Brittas Area Committee on Wednesday, May 22, asking for a letter calling for such a ban to be sent to "principals of all secondary schools" within the area.

The use of e-scooters for children under the age of 16 has been banned in public spaces under the Road Traffic (Electric Scooters) Regulations signed by former Transport Minister Eamon Ryan last May.

Cllr Linda de Courcy (II) brought the motion before the council, saying she hoped such a ban would "naturally reduce the number of scooters on the road without having to resort to any draconian measures".

"There's nothing about them that are safe.

"If a child can't bring it to school, then the parents probably aren't going to buy it for them," she added.

Supporting the motion, Cllr Eoin Ó Broin (SD) said he would hesitate to call for a ban but acknowledged that e-scooters "are an absolute nuisance when they're on footpaths".

"More is needed to get them off footpaths, but I would hesitate to say that a school should ban them if they're used correctly,"

Cllr de Courcy's original motion was amended during the meeting to insert the word "electric", to clarify it was not referring to more traditional 'push' scooters used by younger children.

After the clarification was added, Cllr Willam Carey (SF) queried whether sending a letter from the council to principals could be seen as "overstepping the mark" on this issue, as he understood that generally the use of scooters and bicycles was already prohibited on school grounds.

While agreeing with Cllr Carey, Cllr Francis Timmons (Ind) said he was also happy to support the motion, which was then agreed by councillors.

No timeframe was given for when the letter calling for the ban would be written or sent to schools in the area.

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme.

Go Purple Day for domestic abuse awareness

THE national day for domestic abuse awareness organised by An Garda Siochana, 'Go Purple Day,' will take place on Friday, May 30.

The Gardaí encourage anyone to be part of it by baking purple, sewing purple or wearing purple, and to hold tea or coffee mornings across communities.

In Adamstown Youth and Community Centre, the Lucan Community Policing Unit will attend a Community Coffee Morning organised with the Sister Sheds, starting at 10am.

"Go Purple Day aims to increase awareness of domestic abuse and the supports available to those experiencing it," said An Garda Siochana in an online post shared ahead of the day.

"Above all, we are asking that you speak to one another about this issue. Without realising, you might just give someone the crucial support they've needed to begin to share some of the fear they deal with alone."

Anyone who is a victim of domestic abuse or knows someone who is going through it is welcome to speak with the Gardaí at any Garda Station. In an emergency or immediate danger 999 or 112 can be called.

Vine Group host Summer Time Special fundraiser

ON SUNDAY, the Vine Group will kick off their fundraising for their Help Us Help Others 2025 campaign.

The group will be starting off with a Summer Time Special themed concert full of fun, food, prizes and entertainment for all to enjoy. The concert will take place in the Church of the Incarnation Fettercairn beside Saint Anne's school on Sunday June 1 at 6pm.

The concert has been put together and arranged by Michael Finglas and members from Glen Abbey Market and is guaranteed to be full of summer fun.

Michael has previously arranged and produced two previous Christmas concerts for the Vine Groups Help Us Help Others campaign and they are always fantastic successes.

Doors open at 5pm on Sunday with concert beginning at 6pm.

Tickets cost €5 each and can be purchased after 9.30am Sunday mass in the Church of the Incarnation Fettercairn or contact John on 0872620993 or Springfield parish office you can also pay at the door.

Tea Coffee and other drinks together with sandwiches cakes biscuits and sweets are also included in the price of the ticket.

There are free draws taking place throughout the evening but there will also be tickets for sale for a raffle at the end of the night.

All funds raised will go towards The Vine Group's Help Us To Help Others Fund which will be distributed from 10 conferences of SVP throughout the Tallaght area to over 40 families who need a little extra help coming up to Christmas.

Donations are also made to local schools to help children who can't afford tours outings and so on.

The Concert will comprise Michael Finglas together with a selection of performers, friends and various artists from the Tallaght area. The special guest star is Little Elvis.

There will be plenty for all to enjoy with entertainment prizes and photo opportunities with various characters.

All money raised goes to help those in need the more we raise the more we can help.

For more information on The Vine Group check out our Facebook page,our Instagram or email vinemass@gmail.com.



ON SONG: Michael Finglas and friend promoting the event

SDCC Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas South Dublin County Council

Visit: sdcc.ie to discover more



Canal Bank is a vibrant new community which includes 60 affordable purchase homes in the heart of Clonburris, Dublin 22. Thoughtfully designed with families in mind, it will offer green open spaces, a children's playground and plenty of room to relax, play and connect.

Just a 5-minute walk from Clondalkin Fonthill train station, Canal Bank offers unbeatable connectivity. Dublin City Centre is only 12 minutes away by train and you'll enjoy easy access via bus, cycleway, greenway, the M50 and the Red LUAS line at the Red Cow – just a 10-minute drive away with Park & Ride.

Part of the Clonburris Strategic Development Zone, Canal Bank is central to a bold new vision for South Dublin. Backed by the Irish Government and South Dublin County Council (SDCC), this growing neighbourhood will feature homes, new schools and creches – creating a thriving, family-friendly community.

A total of 60 new homes are being offered for sale by SDCC under an Affordable Dwelling Purchase Agreement (ADPA). These homes are, subject to exceptions, being made available for first-time buyers only. These include:

Number of Homes	Property Type
8	One-bedroom homes
20	Two-bedroom homes
22	Three-bedroom homes
10	Four-bedroom homes

Property Type	House Names	Number of Homes	Market Value	Minimum Purchase Price	Approximate % Reduction from Market Value	Typical Gross Household Income Limit*
1 bed triplex (1st floor)	The Bramble I / III	4	€285,000	€199,500	30%	€60,919
1 bed triplex (2nd floor)	The Bramble II / IV	4	€295,000	€215,000	27.12%	€63,056
2 bed triplex (ground floor)	The Apple I / II	4	€340,000	€270,000	20.59%	€72,675
2 bed apartment (ground floor)	The Laurel I / II / III / IV	14	€370,000	€295,000	20.27%	€79,088
2 bed house (end-terrace)	The Hazel	1	€400,000	€310,000	22.50%	€85,500
2 bed house (end-terrace)	The Rowan	1	€410,000	€320,000	21.95%	€87,638
3 bed duplex	The Willow I / II / III / IV	14	€420,000	€335,000	20.24%	€89,775
3 bed house (mid-terrace)	The Ash I	3	€440,000	€345,000	21.59%	€94,050
3 bed house (end-terrace)	The Ash II / III	4	€450,000	€350,000	22.22%	€96,188
3 bed house (end-terrace)	The Beech	1	€450,000	€350,000	22.22%	€96,188
4 bed house (mid-terrace)	The Oak	1	€465,000	€355,000	23.66%	€99,394
4 bed house (mid-terrace)	The Pine I	4	€480,000	€370,000	22.92%	€102,600
4 bed house (end-terrace)	The Pine II	5	€490,000	€375,000	23.47%	€104,738

The homes will be sold to eligible applicants who can demonstrate that they have the purchasing capacity between the minimum and maximum purchase prices. Your purchasing capacity is calculated as the combined total of:

- Maximum mortgage capacity, i.e. 4 times gross household income
- \+ A minimum deposit of 10% of the affordable purchase price (which can include support from the Help to Buy scheme)
- \+ Relevant savings, i.e., any savings in excess of the combined sum of the required deposit amount plus €30,000

Buyers will enter into an ADPA with SDCC. Under this scheme, SDCC will take an equity share in the home—equal to the difference between the market value and the price you pay, expressed as a percentage of the market value. Applicants must require a minimum of 5% equity to be eligible to purchase.

The council may not seek realisation of its affordable dwelling equity for a 40-year period (other than for breach of the agreement). However, the purchaser may choose to redeem or buy out the affordable dwelling equity at any time by means of one or a series of payments to the council.

Eligible applicants will be prioritised based on SDCC's Scheme of Priority.

At least 30% of the homes are reserved for those who currently live - or have previously lived - for five years or more in the SDCC area.

* Income assessments and exceptions apply. Households with lower incomes may still qualify.

The portal will open for online applications at 12pm on Thursday, 12th June 2025.

Further information on this scheme, the Scheme of Priority, details of how to make an application and the required documentation, are available on www.sdcc.ie/en/services/housing/affordable-homes/

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Chef stole €25k worth of diesel with cloned fuel card

A CHEF who stole an estimated €25,000 worth of diesel using cloned fuel cards belonging to a trucking logistics company was caught growing cannabis plants when gardaí searched his home, *reports Isabel Hayes.*

Vladislovas Jurevicius was growing juvenile cannabis plants with an estimated value of €28,000 when gardaí searched his home at Greenfield Heights, Rathwire, Co Westmeath on February 10, 2024, Dublin Circuit Criminal Court heard.

Jurevicius (39) was arrested after the managing director of the trucking logistics company staged a surveillance of an Applegreen service station in Ballymount, saw Jurevicius trying to use one of his company's cloned fuel cards and alerted gardaí.

Jurevicius pleaded guilty to one count of possession of a card with intent to commit theft and five sample counts of stealing diesel at Applegreen service station, Ballymount Avenue, Dublin on dates between August 2023 and February 2024.

He also pleaded guilty to one count of cultivating cannabis plants at his home address on February 10, 2024. He has no previous convictions.

Detective Garda Stephen Neilan told Aoife McNickle BL, prosecuting, that the diesel thefts came to light in late 2023 when the company in question applied to Revenue for a fuel rebate.

Revenue informed the company that one truck in the company had used more fuel than the company had submitted.

An internal investigation found that one of the company's Applegreen fuel cards had been cloned and used to buy diesel that was not for company vehicles on dates between August and November 2023.

The company cancelled all its fuel cards and issued all employees with fresh cards, but a second card was cloned and more diesel was purchased on dates between January and February 2024.

Det Gda Neilan said a total of 32 transactions were made with the first card and 12 transactions were made with the second card, with the company at a loss of an estimated €25,000.

The company remains at a loss as to how the fuel cards were cloned and this has caused much concern within the business, the court heard.

An Applegreen service station in Ballymount was identified as being a location where the cloned cards had been used, and the managing director of the trucking logistics company staged his own stake-out of the station from 6am to 3pm on February 9, 2024.

He noticed Jurevicius arrive and attempt to use a fuel card which did not appear to work and he alerted gardaí. Jurevicius was stopped and his van was searched a short time later. The second cloned fuel card was found and his van was found to contain two empty 200 litre fuel barrels.

When his home was searched, the 35 cannabis plants were found. Photographs of other fuel cards were also found on Jurevicius's phone, including photos of the two fuel cards that had been used in this theft.

A victim impact statement from the affected company was handed into court but not read aloud.

The court heard the company is at a significant loss as a result of the theft.

Det Gda Neilan agreed with Darren Lalor BL, defending Jurevicius, that his client was "essentially a cog" in an operation that was being run by others. Jurevicius had no obvious trappings of wealth, the court heard.

The court heard Jurevicius claimed he was not looking after the cannabis plants and had agreed for his house to be used to cultivate them, however Det Gda Neilan said he was the sole occupant of the house.

Mr Lalor told the court that Jurevicius was being directed by others in relation to the operation and that he was doing so to pay off debts he had accrued.

He is originally from Lithuania but has been living in Ireland for 19 years.

He works as a chef and a reference was handed into court from his employer describing him as a valuable member of staff. He has a wife and two children who live in Lithuania.

Jurevicius had a sum of €5000 in court to give to the injured party as a token of his remorse and, if allowed, was hoping to save more money to give over, the court heard.

Judge Elva Duffy said it was a "matter of huge concern" that it is still unknown how the fuel cards were cloned.

She ordered a probation report and adjourned the matter to October 6 to allow Jurevicius to save more money for the injured party.

Man found with €230k in cash and five Rolex watches is jailed

The watches were sent to UK for expert analysis and had a combined value of £89,000 Sterling

By **Eimear Dodd**
news@echo.ie



A MAN found in possession of over €230,000 in cash and five Rolex watches has been jailed for three years.

Dublin Circuit Criminal Court heard that gardai searched the home address of Karl Finnegan (41) on September 16 last.

During the search, they found €15,050 in cash and three Rolex in a wardrobe in an upstairs bedroom. Two more Rolex watches and €215,000 in bundles of €10,000 were discovered in a storage area under the stairs.

The five Rolex watches were sent to the UK for expert analysis, and have a combined value of around £89,000 Sterling.

Two of the watches have approximate values of £37,800 and £26,000 Sterling respectively, while no valuation could be obtained for another watch as it had an invalid serial number.

Finnegan of Mac Uilliam Heights, Tallaght, Dublin 24 pleaded guilty to the possession of the proceeds of crime at his home address on September 16 last. He has been in custody since his arrest and has three previous convictions for minor road traffic offences.

Garda Joseph Melvin told Caroline Latham BL, prosecuting, that Finnegan was present when gardai arrived to execute the search warrant.

When shown the money found upstairs, Finnegan told gardai under caution that this was from his work and savings.

Ms Latham told the court that the prosecution case is that the cash found upstairs is also the proceeds of crime.

The court heard that the total amount of cash found in the house was €230,860.

Following his arrest, Finnegan was interviewed six times.

In a prepared statement, Finnegan said he was aware of the cash and had acted recklessly by agreeing to hold the items.

He outlined that he had had a heroin addiction, but got clean in his late 20s. Finnegan said he later relapsed into cannabis and cocaine use, and built up a €20,000 drugs debt. He told gardai he was under pressure and under threat.

Finnegan said the cash upstairs was his and that he bought two of the lower value watches found upstairs, intending to sell them on. The court was told gardai were unable to confirm this.

Evidence was also heard that the Garda National Economic Crime Bureau examined Finnegan's finances and found no trappings of wealth.

Gda Melvin said gardai believe Finnegan was aware of the value of what he was holding and suspected it was the proceeds of crime. He added that Finnegan would have played a "major role" in assisting individuals involved in organised crime.

Imposing sentence on Wednesday, Judge Elma Sheahan said Finnegan was an "important cog" , noting that those who obtain money from criminal activity are "in serious need of somewhere to store" it.

She said the amount of cash found and the seriousness of the offending were aggravating factors.

Having considered the mitigation, Judge Sheahan imposed a four-year prison sentence backdated to when he went into custody last September. The judge suspended the final 12 months of the sentence to encourage Finnegan's further rehabilitation.

She directed Finnegan to place himself under the supervision of the Probation Service for 12 months post-release, to remain drug-free, to take part in random drug-testing and to engage with any drug treatment programme, as appropriate.

Gda Melvin agreed with Pieter Le Vert BL, defending, that his client was co-operative and made admissions, both during the search and when interviewed, but did not give any names.

It was further accepted that Finnegan was apologetic, told gardai he was scared and concerned for his family.

It was also agreed that the three watches found upstairs were second-hand and have a lower value than the other two. Gda Melvin added that gardai believe these items and the cash upstairs are part of the proceeds of crime.

The garda also agreed that Finnegan told them his car had been burnt out several months prior to this incident and that he had no trappings of wealth.

Gda Melvin confirmed he was aware of Finnegan's family background and that he is a carer for one of his sons.

Mr Le Vert outlined his client's background and family circumstances. Finnegan has a long work history, but more recently has been a carer for one of his sons.

Testimonials, a letter from Finnegan and other documents were handed to the court. Finnegan has five children.

Counsel said his client developed a drug addiction in his teens, but got clean in his late 20s before later relapsing.

He said Finnegan fell into debt and his car was burnt out in a "specific warning" and that Finnegan was "told next time it would be the house".

Counsel said his client is remorseful and feels guilty about the effect of his conviction on his family.

Mr Le Vert noted that after Finnegan told his family what had happened, they were able to obtain the money to pay off his drugs debt. Counsel said his client is aware things could have been different, if he'd gone to his family in the first place.

Finnegan has been in custody since his arrest, is an enhanced prisoner and on a waiting list to see the drugs counsellor. He had also engaged with addiction services in the weeks before his arrest.

Mr Le Vert said his client is aware that his explanation for the €15,000 cash and three watches found upstairs cannot be confirmed by gardai and accepts the reality of his situation.

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Six years of long delays building swimming pool could reach €20m

SIX years of delays and setbacks to the project to bring a pool and leisure centre to Lucan have left the local community feeling "jaded", *reports Ellen Gough.*

The final cost for the long-delayed Lucan Leisure Campus could reach almost €20 million, with no end date in sight yet.

In their original costing, South Dublin County Council (SDCC) estimated "an original contract sum" of €13.5 million.

In an update, SDCC said that the project cost, "when adjusted for construction price index inflation", is now €19.3 million.

The update, shared with The Echo, highlighted "covid and inflation" as significant impacts to the project.

"These, along with design team and consultant fees, project scope changes to accommodate subsequent design variations, more efficient facility management, and direct payments by the council to some sub-contractors due to recent enhanced project management, account for additional project costs of €4.7m to date," it read.

Earlier this year, SDCC acknowledged that the construction process had become "challenging", primarily due to contractor resources and sub-contractor availability.

"The delays to delivery of the project are regrettable and largely due to unforeseen challenges for the contractor, and the council reserves the right to apply liquidated damages in accordance with the provisions of the contract to mitigate the contractor's failure to complete the project within the contract timeframe," the update continued.

"We look forward to imminent handover of the gym and fitness studios as well as completion of the pool side later this summer for what will be a wonderful amenity for residents of Lucan and beyond."

Cllr Helen Farrell (Ind) said many of her Lucan constituents are incredibly frustrated with the slow progress of the swimming pool project.

"The whole community is beyond frustrated, they're just jaded by the constant lack of meaningful progress," she said.

Figures obtained by the Irish Independent under a Freedom of Information request show that costs so far were €17.87m, including €15.7m in payments to the main contractor.

Irish Water and ESB Networks were paid fees of €33,919 and just over €20,000 respectively, with a further €702,000 paid to an architectural firm.

Councillors on the Lucan/Palmerstown/North Clondalkin Area Committee have brought a total of four motions, demanding updates on the Lucan Leisure Campus project, to the monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 27.

Cllr Farrell expressed her understanding around issues faced by the council during the construction process but also said that the feeling among her constituents is "it's never gonna open".

"I do believe SDCC is doing its absolute utmost at this point to try and push for completion of this project for the community, but the situation is causing absolute frustration and real anger, as to how a contract could have gone so absolutely wrong," she added.

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme

Scan the QR Code to watch the video



DELAYS: The swimming pool in Lucan could cost the council €20 million

Campaign aims to 'showcase everything good' about area

Big turn out for launch of initative which hopes to change the perception around Jobstown

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

A NEW social media campaign aims at changing the perception around Jobstown and "showcase everything good" about it.

TikTok channel @OneJobstown went live on Sunday, May 18, and was officially launched by the Jobstown Connecting for Life Group on Thursday, May 22 counting over 700 followers.

The initiative mainly involves the area's young people who were called to contribute to the campaign creation and recorded the first videos responding to questions such as 'What's your favourite thing about Jobstown' or 'Who inspires you from the area.'

They are creators and targets at the same time, as the campaign emphasises that most of the time the area's 'bad name' primarily affects young people self-esteem and self-perception.

"The evidence shows us identifying with a certain social or geographical background such as Jobstown can shape a young person's perception of their own life choices and goals," said Connecting for Life.

"The aim of @OneJobstown is to identify enablers within the community to improve how young people feel about themselves and the area they live in to promote positive mental health in their lives and within their community."

The name itself 'One Jobstown' wants to pass on the idea that individuals can benefit from a supportive, close-knit community coming together as one.

Examples of this are shown in the first eight videos posted on the page, where young people and community workers shed light on the Connect4 Friday's Football, the boxing and athletics clubs, the green spaces and parks and the solidarity of their neighbours.

"I do running, Rhasidat Adeleke is the fastest woman in Ireland…and she's from Jobstown," said a boy filmed in the athletics club.

"Football gets your mind off things," said a peer talking about the Friday's Football, while another added, "They invite everyone to play, there's no bullying."



CAMPAIGN: Katie Timmons, David Osungboun, Kevin Dickson, Lacey Reade (West Tallaght Foróige)

"Everyone should come down here, because everyone is accepted."

At the Thursday's launch in Jobstown Community Centre there was "great turnout from stakeholders and community members," said Connecting for Life.

"There has been excellent interest in the initiative, with young people now taking over creating videos and there is great interest to do so.

"In five days, we got 700 followers – 96pc from Dublin, over 4000 positive comments and likes, and a reach of 100,000."

In the meantime, One Jobstown promotional signs have been put up in the local park and schools, community centre and clubs, to invite more people to give their contribution.

In the campaign creation process, nearly half of the participants who chose its name and logo were aged between 12 and 20.

86pc of these teens use TikTok as their main social network, which made it the selected platform for the campaign, and the average age of the account's viewers is now 15.

In the next 30 days, the aim is to have 25 videos posted, 2,000 new followers and 10,000 interactions between likes, comments and shares.

"It has been a pleasure to work with the young people of Jobstown," said Connecting for Life. "Well done all."

To keep learning more about the area, follow @onejobstown on TikTok.



FRIDAY FOOTBALL: Rob Whiteley, David Bissett,Thea Donnigan from Connect 4 and Grace Hill

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cruinniu.gov.ie

Relay for Life 24-hour lap in Corkagh

THE annual Relay for Life 24-hour lap in Corkagh Park will take place between this Saturday, May 31, and Sunday, June 1.

The global event celebrates cancer survivors and involves whoever wants to remember the loved ones they lost and support the fight against cancer.

While spending 24 hours together in the local park, participants will raise awareness on cancer and funds for the Irish Cancer Society.

"The excitement is building. Our dedicated teams have already raised over €20,000 and we're just getting started," said South Dublin branch founder Caroline Corcoran.

Following the opening ceremony at 1pm at the Camac Valley entrance of Corkagh Park, the Survivors Lap will be held for "those who have triumphed over cancer or going through treatment."

Food vendors, entertainment, and team tents bustling with fundraising activities such as raffles, arts and crafts, and bingo will be available.

At 10pm there will be a "poignant" Candle of Hope Ceremony. Participants are invited to purchase and decorate a candle bag for just €5 and be part of the emotional tribute with special guests Dublin Gospel Choir.

At 1pm on the following Sunday, there will be a last lap and the closing ceremony.

People are welcome to participate on their own or with a team. "Cancer never sleeps, and for 24 hours, neither do we," said Relay for Life South County Dublin.

For more information, visit www.relayforlife.ie/event/south-county-dublin.

Over 90% of young people referred for using cannabis

Drug task force worked with 54 families last year and with children as young as 12 and 13

By **Ellen Gough**
ellen@echo.ie



PROJECT: Mark Ward, TD, Cllr William Carey, Elaine O'Donnell and Noreen Byrne

OVER 90% of young people being treated for drug and alcohol misuse in Clondalkin are being referred for using cannabis.

That's according to data recorded by the Clondalkin Youth Drug and Alcohol Project (YDAP), which works with young people aged 12-21 with substance misuse issues from across the area.

"About 80% of the clients that we work with are referred for cannabis, that's their main drug of use," project coordinator Jimmy Noonan told *The Echo*.

"But there's about 96% of our clients that smoke cannabis. They may be referred for another drug, but then when we do an assessment with them, we find that there's what's called poly drug use," he continued.

Clondalkin YDAP may have only held their official launch party on Thursday, May 22, but the project has been steadily working with young people and their families for almost five years now.

It works with young people to reduce harm and alleviate problems related to drug and alcohol misuse, focusing on one-to-one sessions and involving family members for a wraparound service.

Young people can be referred through their schools, by family or by a Junior Liaison Officer from An Garda Síochana.

After being referred, a case worker completes a comprehensive assessment of the young person's life, including education, family, peer group, and mental health.

"We set up a care plan then to address the needs that may come up, whatever that need is, if it's their school, or something to do with their family, but also looking at their substance misuse and reducing their drug use. It's all done one to one."

Clondalkin YDAP initially began as a pilot scheme in March 2020, however "we all know what happened in March 2020," Jimmy said with a wry laugh.

This pilot scheme was initially set up to operate out of a youth service, with two substance misuse workers, he explained.

"But then with COVID, staff were reassigned to other projects and then with social distancing, and with people not travelling, it was a really stop and start project."

After a review in late 2021, the pilot project was then moved under the umbrella of the Clondalkin Drug and Alcohol Task Force.

Covid restrictions forced the project to pivot to a more outreach-based model of engagement, with workers now meeting young people at their schools or a local community centre.

This has proven to be extremely beneficial to the project, as it's helped reduce the stigma for young people accessing the service.

"We always aim to be close to where they live, they could be going in somewhere for any service, and it's not necessarily that they're coming to a drug and alcohol project," Jimmy explained.

"We have a very good relationship with schools in the area, we do some of our intervention and one to one work with the student when they're in school," he continued.

"We take them out of class and see them in one of the counsellor or pastoral rooms in school, so it minimises the amount of time that they miss."

Along with their outreach work, coordinator Jimmy and the two project workers that make up the entire staff of Clondalkin YDAP are based in a premises in the Ace Enterprise Park in Bawnogue.

They worked with 54 families and young people last year and currently has about 30 young people availing of treatment with them for alcohol and drug misuse, aged as young as 12.

"We have a 12-year-old on the books, and a 13-year-old, and both of them would have started experimenting and using nitrous oxide, before moving onto solvent use," Jimmy said, adding that the majority are being treated for use of multiple substances.

"There's a lot of poly drug use, most that are in the project and have come through the project would have used more than one substance at some point in their life."

Once a young person is referred to Clondalkin YDAP, there's no set time frame for treatment.

"Generally, the shortest we'll be with them will be at least eight weeks," Jimmy said.

"In some cases, we're working with young people for two years, so it depends on when they're ready.

"Any young person that wants to see us on a voluntary basis, we will continue to see them, unless we feel that they've got enough from the service, and we can refer them onto other services."

If you are concerned about your child, or any young person that you know or work with, you can contact Clondalkin Youth Drug & Alcohol Project at ydap@cdatf.ie or on 0894047798.



SCHEME: Jimmy Norman, Eddie Mullins, Trevor Bissett



LAUNCH: Cllr William Carey, Anthony McCreery, Elaine O'Donnell, Jimmy Norman, Cllr Niamh Fennell, Cllr Linda de Courcy

TALLAGHT & DISTRICT AND FIRHOUSE CREDIT UNIONS MERGE.

United by Cooperative Spirit: Tallaght & District and Firhouse Credit Unions Merge

Tallaght and District Credit Union and Firhouse Credit Union have completed a Transfer of Engagements that will see Firhouse officially become part of the Tallaght and District family. This union brings together two member-owned co-operatives built on the same credit-union ethos: people helping people, democratic control, and a commitment to social wellbeing over profit.



Tallaght & District Credit Union.

With branches now in both Tallaght and Firhouse, members will enjoy greater convenience while retaining everything that makes a credit union special. A stronger combined balance sheet means more competitive loans and savings, enhanced digital services, and the capacity to reinvest even more in financial education, community grants, and member benefits.



Damien Hutchinson, CEO of Tallaght and District Credit Union

Why This Matters: Damien Hutchinson, CEO of Tallaght and District Credit Union, notes:

"This is more than a structural change – it's a celebration of the credit-union philosophy that unites us. By joining forces we widen the circle of mutual support, giving every member a louder voice and broader services while keeping the same personal touch and volunteer-led spirit you expect from your credit union."



Tom Maguire, Chair of Tallaght & District Credit Union.

Tom Maguire, Chair of Tallaght and District Credit Union, adds:

""Credit unions thrive when members stand shoulder to shoulder. By pooling our resources and expertise we're safeguarding the future of cooperative finance in Tallaght and Firhouse, ensuring that generations to come will have a democratic, not-for-profit financial partner they can genuinely call their own".

The Credit Union is a member-owned financial cooperative that has been serving the community with dedication and integrity for over 55 years. Known for its commitment to providing personalised financial services, the credit union offers members a range of products including savings accounts, loans, and financial advice tailored to suit their needs.

With a strong emphasis on community support, Tallaght and District Credit Union actively participates in local events and initiatives, helping to foster a sense of unity and financial well-being within the locality.

The credit union's focus on member satisfaction and financial education ensures that it remains a trusted and valuable resource for the residents of both Tallaght and Firhouse.

This strategy is key especially at a time when profit-driven institutions dominate the landscape, this merger reaffirms the distinctive values that set credit unions apart: one member, one vote;

For long-standing and new members alike, the message is clear: together, we are stronger, more resilient, and better equipped to serve our members today and for years to come.

#supportlocal



www.tallaghtdistrictcu.ie

TALLAGHT & DISTRICT CREDIT UNION ARE REGULATED BY THE CENTRAL BANK OF IRELAND

Green Eye

Nature on our doorsteps



Rosaleen Dwyer is the County Heritage Officer at South Dublin County Council – every week she gives us an insight into the natural heritage around us and the beautiful biodiversity of the plants and creatures

Goatsbeard in the meadows



GOATIE: Goatsbeard's lemon-yellow flowers and 'goatie' seedheads can be seen now in our park meadows

THE recent warm weather has encouraged great growth in the wildflower meadows in our parks.

Carpets of low-growing Birds-foot trefoil have brought a bright yellow colour to large patches of grass, while Red Clover adds splashes of red to the mix. Tall Dog Daisies are also just coming into flower, reaching high above these shorter plants.

One of the less-well known flowering plants in bloom in the meadows at the moment is Goatsbeard.

This is a member of the Aster (daisy) family of plants, and this large group also includes the Dandelions, the Hawkweeds and the Hawksbeards.

While Goatsbeard's flowers have the same general shape and size as Dandelions, the colour of Goatsbeard's flowers is more of a brighter lemon-yellow.

Their flowerheads are also flatter in shape, unlike the pop-pom heads of Dandelion. Goatsbeard's leaves are also different, being long and narrow more like a grass.

Goatsbeard produces seedheads like the fluffy 'clocks' of Dandelion, but Goatsbeard's are much larger and more robust.

They have fewer seeds in each seedhead, and the hairs of the individual parachutes which carry these seeds into the wind are also longer. These parachutes dark cream or light brown, unlike Dandelion's white parachutes.

Goatsbeard's unusual name arises from the appearance of its developing seedheads.

When the flower has been pollinated and closes up to allow its seeds to develop, the shape of the developing seedhead with its tufts of protruding hairs looks like the tufts of hair on the chin of a goat.

Goatsbeard's flowers only open in sunshine in the first half of the day, and they are usually tightly closed again by late morning.

This pattern of flowering gave rise to its other name in Britain of 'Jack-go-to-bed-at-noon'.

Goatsbeard is not a very common plant across Ireland. Its frequent appearance in our park meadows is a direct result of managing these meadows by only cutting them once a year, after the flowers have released their seeds for the next generation.



CLOCKS: Goatsbeard's seedheads are larger and more robust than Dandelion's fluffy 'clocks'



CONCERNS: Residents have raised concerns over the level of anti-social behaviour in Tallaght Village

Voluntary group has dedicated 1,000

By **Alessia Micalizzi**
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CONCERNS over drug dealing and anti-social behaviour in Tallaght village keep being "ignored" by public representatives according to Tallaght Community Council.

At their Annual General Meeting on Saturday, May 24, the voluntary group that last year dedicated about 1,200 hours to Tidy Towns alone said that having no response from authorities "is not acceptable."

"We have 11 councillors in Tallaght, two are attending today and the other nine haven't even responded," said TCC Voluntary Vice Chair, Tara de Buitlear, approaching the end of the meeting.

"We also have five TDs and two senators, only one is here, while another sent apologies."

The group recently contacted Government representatives, SDCC, and An Garda Siochana calling for a "multi-agency response" to behaviours coming from "individual with highly complex needs," that are negatively affecting the village.

According to them, drug dealing, loitering, alcohol consumption and other criminal activities around business premises have been happening in the area for many years in spite of "many frustrating years" of reporting to relevant bodies.

"To date, we haven't heard any response from those authorities that propose a specific action," said TCC Voluntary Chair Liz Kennedy at the meeting.

"It really upsets me. In every other town in the country, the village area is properly policed. In Tallaght village, we have one community garda from the Tymon North station.

"We feel completely ignored. And it's a bittersweet feeling, because we try really hard to make things better for the area."

In 2024, TCC disability and inclusion officer Sinead Tighe, supported by the whole group, worked hard to make the village more accessible. There were victories reported at the AGM such as bins removed, parking spaces and paths protected from mobility barriers.

During the local elections in June 2024, the group had their requests put together for all candidates, while also campaigning for 'poster-free' areas.

"Some of those requests were listened to, some are still 'in progress'," said Ms Kennedy at the meeting.

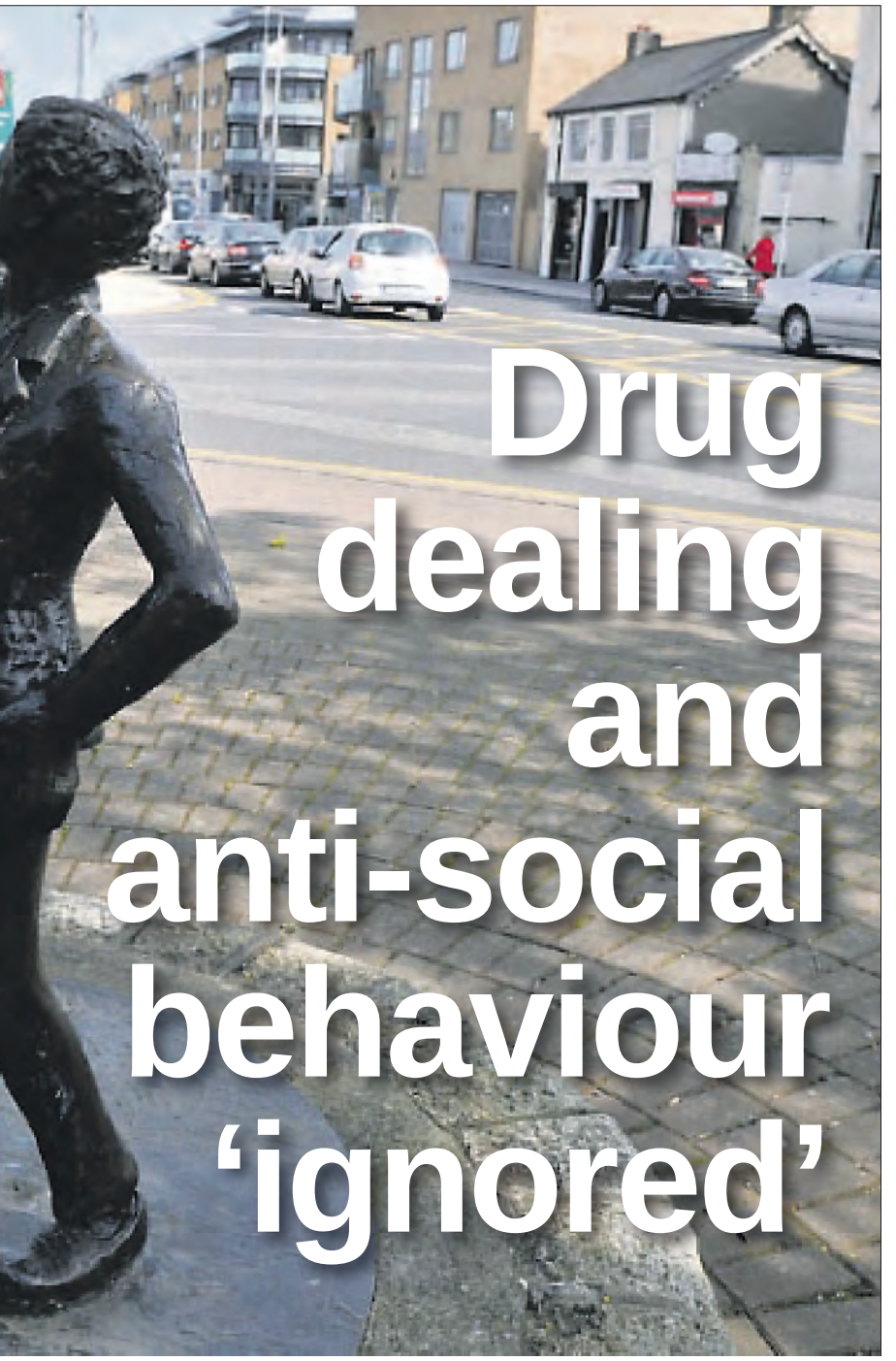
The group improved their Tidy Town scores with 86 projects throughout the year and celebrated Tallaght heritage with a new mural picturing the old tram between Main Street and Blessington coming soon.

In November, their flagship annual event Tallaght Person of the Year at the Maldron Hotel had over 300 attendees and a reach of 827,000 people online.

"At its 41st year, it has become more and more essential to keep our community connected and nurture gratitude for our family, friends and neighbours," said Ms Kennedy.

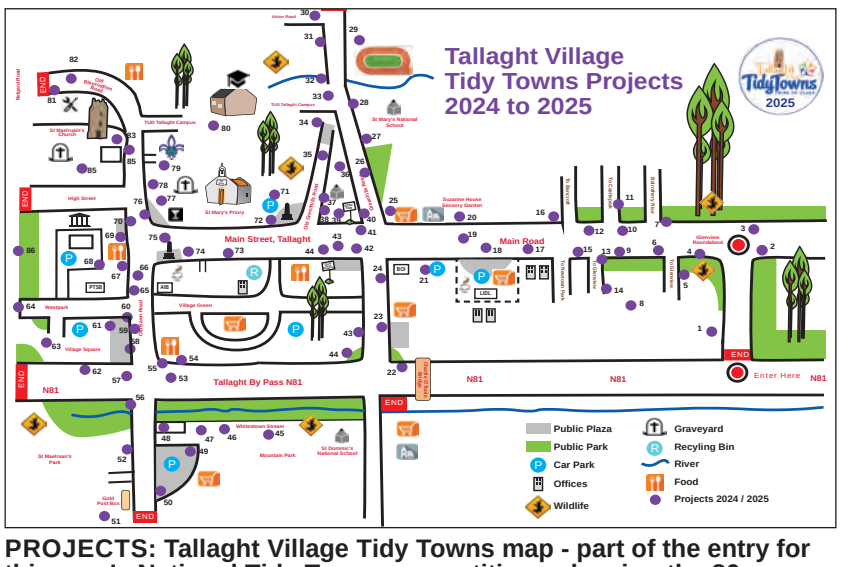
"We thank Glenda [Murphy Smullen, TPOTY 2024] for the energy she is bringing to the office this year.

"This year the ceremony will be on



Drug dealing and anti-social behaviour 'ignored'

hours per year to organise activities



PROJECTS: Tallaght Village Tidy Towns map - part of the entry for this year's National Tidy Towns competition - showing the 86 projects the group is working on in 2024/2025

November 29 at The Plaza Hotel."

As much as the group focuses on highlighting the positives, they renewed their commitment to address anything that prevents Tallaght to thrive as it could.

"The Esso site in the summer was a hotbed of illegal activity. There was squatting, waste dumping and drug dealing," said TCC.

"We spent weeks reporting it and it was finally cleared. But we urge SDCC to push for purchasing the site and developing it into a community amenity."

The group also had their say in planning, monitoring the development of apartment units in the village area, the re-use of vacant sites and challenging the "over concentration of alcohol outlets."

Nico Crowley, TPOTY 2023 and now part of TCC, also highlighted the ongoing abuse of fast gas cannisters in the village.

Senator Teresa Costello (FF) and Councillors Niamh Whelan (SF) and Adam Smyth (FF) attending the meeting renewed their commitment to address the issues around drug dealing and abuse in the village.

Registration to join TCC as a committee member are now open until Saturday, June 7. People with "any skills and areas of interests" are welcome to contact tallaghtperson@gmail.com.

Jackie Mullen to host exhibition on Daniel O'Connell

POSTAL historian John 'Jackie' Mullen will hold an exhibition on Daniel O'Connell in Tallaght Library sharing his collection of stamps, letters and other rarities, *reports Alessia Micalizzi.*

Based on his admiration for 'The Liberator' who fought for the freedom of Irish Catholics in the 19th century, Jackie has been putting together material about him "for many years."

The exhibition, to be held on Tuesday, June 3, at 6:30pm, will mark the 250th anniversary of O'Connell's birth in 1775.

Central to the postal history exhibition will be letters signed by The Liberator, with rarities such as a first day issue of a Mulready cover – an envelope designed by Irish artist William Mulready – signed by Daniel O'Connell, along with other covers signed by Daniel and his sons.

The exhibition will also include Daniel O Connell's membership cards from the Loyal National Repeal Association and a rare poster of the Repeal Association rules which were composed by Thomas Davis.

Jackie will pass on his knowledge about The Liberator to the audience through each of these collection items.

"Daniel O'Connell was a great man. A lawyer, then a member of the parliament and then jailed for sedition under the British rule.

"He founded the Glasnevin cemetery and the Bank of Ireland. He was so many things."

In 1828, O'Connell was elected to be a MP but couldn't initially take his seat due to his faith.

As the Irish set for rebellion to this rule, the British granted him what was called 'Catholic Emancipation' to avoid riots.

That's when he became known as The Liberator, but his fight went on until his death in 1847 on the way to Rome.

He was known to organise meetings to discuss Repeal of the Union out in the open that attracted thousands of people and asked the British Parliament to help victims of the famine in his last speech.



EXHIBITION: John Mullen

"He is also the only man in Ireland to have a church named after him," said Jackie referring to Daniel O'Connell Memorial Church in The Liberator's native town Cahersiveen, Co Kerry.

The crypt where he is buried can be visited in Glasnevin.

The John Mullen Collection exhibition at Tallaght Library is open to all on Tuesday, June 3.

Scoil Aoife host Chess tournament

SCOIL Aoife Chess hosted their second Invitational tournament on Friday which proved a big success.

This year the tournament included 104 children from a number of Dublin schools including Citywest & Saggart CNS, St Damian's NS in Perrystown, St Kevin's BNS in Kilnamanagh and Gaelscoil Inse Chór.

The younger children, third and fourth class, played in the Buds section and the older children, 5th and 6th class played in the Masters section.

Over the course of the day, the children played a total of 324 games of chess, each lasting 20 minutes. The tournament was a testament to the children's dedication, focus and enthusiasm for chess.

Chess has exploded in popularity amongst children in recent years and after-school chess clubs run by teachers are popping up each year all over Dublin.

Voluntary organisations like Ficheall (Irish primary teachers promoting chess) are busy promoting the game and organising regional tournaments across the country.

Their teacher training course, Chess for Social and Cognitive Skills Summer Course will be running in 31 venues throughout Ireland this July and August. Scoil Aoife will be hosting this course for the Dublin West region.

From social benefits, such as developing mental resilience and confidence, to cognitive benefits, such as improving memory and concentration, Irish teachers are to the forefront of promoting chess as a positive tool in children's learning and development.

See photos on page 42



SUCCESS: Sophie, Timmy and Seth

CCTV 'may be an option' to tackle illegal dumping black spot

CCTV can only be deployed to tackle illegal dumping when "less intrusive measures fail", *reports Ellen Gough.*

South Dublin County Council have stated that they must demonstrate "that less intrusive measures have been considered" before installing CCTV to combat dumping at a litter 'black spot' on the Bawnogue Road.

This was in response to a motion brought by Social Democrat councillor Eoin Ó Broin to the May meeting of the Clondalkin, Newcastle, Rathcoole, Saggart and Brittas Area Committee on Wednesday, May 21, requesting they "use all methods at its disposal to address this dumping black spot" on the Bawnogue Road at Lindisfarne, Clondalkin. In their reply to Cllr Ó Broin's motion, the council's Senior Executive Officer for Environment, Public Realm and Water, Sharon Conroy, said they were "aware of a number of recent occurrences of illegal dumping" at the spot opposite the Ashwood estate.

Since November 2024 the council has responded to 15 complaints of illegal dumping within the wider Bawnogue area, with just two of these incidents resulting in fines.

"What the litter warden is finding is that as quick as they're removed, there's more bags back. It's one of those areas that they almost see now that the council are going to remove it, so we'll keep putting it there," Ms Conroy told councillors at the meeting.

Her reply noted that it is mainly bags of green waste and domestic waste have been dumped at the Bawnogue Road spot, and that "residents have engaged with the litter warden and have requested the installation of CCTV for this location".

However, "CCTV can only be deployed for specific operational tasks in specific designated locations and not used for general patrol/ surveillance", and that to justify the necessity installing CCTV "for environmental enforcement issues at a specific location", SDCC "must demonstrate, in accordance with the codes of practice, that less intrusive measures" have been considered.

Ms Conroy outlined the "non-exhaustive" list of measures, which include erecting anti-dumping signs, public lighting, increased inspections and potentially fencing off the area.

"Once we get through that list, and it won't take long for this particular location, then CCTV may be an option," she said, adding that SDCC have already increased litter patrols in the area. *Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme*

Council engaged 'extensively' to try buy Corkagh Mill House

The Echo understands from the selling agent the15-acre estate is for sale for €2.75m

By **Ellen Gough**
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COUNCILLORS have expressed their disappointment that an estate adjoining Corkagh Park was not purchased by South Dublin County Council. Corkagh Mill House and Farm is a 15-acre site that was once part of the same demesne as Corkagh Park before the council purchased the Clondalkin park in the 80s.

It is listed for sale by estate agents DNG for €2,750,000. The site encompasses a Georgian house, Corkagh Mill House, and six other residences scattered across the property.

At the Clondalkin Area Committee meeting last Wednesday afternoon, independent councillor Francis Timmons brought a motion requesting SDCC "look at the purchase of Corkagh Estate".

Fine Gael's Cllr Shirley O'Hara brought a similar motion to call on SDCC "to purchase the Corkagh Estate and transform it into a public amenity".

In their response to Cllr Timmon's motion, the council said they "had considered the purchase of this property but ultimately decided not to proceed".

Speaking during Wednesday's meeting, Cllr Timmons called the council's decision not to purchase the property "disappointing" and "a pity".

"I think we all agree that it's a beautiful amenity, I think it could have been a huge area for tourism.



ESTATE: The 15-acre Corkagh Mill House and Farm

"I think the public would like some confirmation about what efforts the council made and the reason for not purchasing it," he continued, a question echoed by his fellow councillors.

According to the Senior Executive Officer for Economic Development, Laura Leonard, SDCC engaged "extensively" with the owners of the property with a view to purchasing it, "to the point where we had our valuers engaged on this".

Ms Leonard highlighted issues with residential property boundaries within the site as the cause of "some issues and some concerns for us".

"There were some additional issues around rights of way and such matters, that come up with the level of due diligence that we as a local authority must undertake if we're considering an acquisition," she continued.

"I'm happy to say we did engage with the sale of this property, but it did come to a point where we decided not to proceed."

The reply from SDCC said they "understood that the property is now sale agreed", however *The Echo* received confirmation from selling agent DNG this week that Corkagh Mill House and Farm is still on the market. *Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme*

Funding and greater support is called for 'flagship celebration

CALLS for greater support and funding for Clondalkin's yearly St Brigid's festival so it can become Dublin's "flagship celebration" of the saint, *reports Ellen Gough.*

Independent councillor Francis Timmons, who also serves on the festival committee, brought a motion to the May meeting of the Clondalkin Area Committee asking the council to "commit to supporting and funding the Féile Bríde in Clondalkin so that it can become the flagship celebration of Brigid in our county".

The La Fhéile Bríde Festival Clondalkin takes place each year around February 1 – St Brigid's Day – with workshops, talks, high profile speakers, performers and artists.

The 2025 festival took place across five days from Thursday, February 1 to Monday, February 5, and included a mummers parade and a pilgrimage walk from the city centre to the St Brigid's well in Clondalkin.

Cllr Timmons thanked South Dublin County Council for their existing funding and support but said that the festival committee "would like to do more".

"That's the bottom line, and to do that we're going to need more funds. I do get that the maximum amount allowed for festivals at the minute is €10,000," he said said while discussing the motion at the meeting on Wednesday.

"Secondly we'd like somebody from the council to be on the committee."

In reply to Cllr Timmons motion, SDCC's senior executive officer for community, Edel Clancy said that the council were "happy to liaise and support the festival within our parameters", but any additional funding would have to allocated through the yearly budget.

"There is currently no ring-fenced budget [for festivals], that is something that would have to be agreed at budget in November which would probably be too late for the 2026 festival," she explained.

County Promotions will continue to circulate any information regarding available grants, she said, and "are available to help with submitting for any of these grants".

She also said that there would be "absolutely no problem getting a council staff member" onto the festival committee. *Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme*

Depot to undergo 'review of operations' due to complaints

'Unacceptable' machinery noise levels late at night close to nearby houses

By **Ellen Gough**
ellen@echo.ie

A COUNCIL depot will undergo a "review of operations" after repeated complaints from local residents of "unacceptable" machinery noise levels late at night.

Sinn Fein councillor William Carey brought a motion to the May meeting of the Clondalkin Area Committee, asking South Dublin County Council to "take action to ensure that noise levels from heavy machinery at Deansrath maintenance yard should be reduced and such works can only be carried out during a normal and acceptable timeframe and that materials such as sand, gravel and other aggregates shall be moved to alternative locations furthest from houses adjacent to the yard".

Residents living alongside the Deansrath depot have complained of the noise from heavy machinery being operated early on Sunday mornings, late at night, and even on St Stephen's morning, according to Cllr Carey, who has raised this issue at previous meetings already.

The council's Public Realm Works team operate out of the depot, along with Uisce Éireann's drinking water and wastewater operations, which is a 24/7 service that also responds to emergency situations.

Cllr Carey said he understood the "nature of emergency works" but that "some kind of acknowledgement must be made for residents living literally on the other side of the wall from where the materials are stored, in particular homes in Westbourne Close.

In their reply, SDCC said that a "reorganisation project for Deansrath Depot has commenced and will include examination and review of operations" of the works being carried out there.

"All staff in Deansrath Depot have been instructed to make every effort to minimize disturbance to residents who live in the vicinity of the Depot," Park superintendent David Fennell said in the reply.

Public realm works staff who must mobilise machinery early in the morning are instructed to leave their vehicles "ready to go first thing on Saturday mornings and that the movement of vehicles and machinery in a manner that causes noise such as reversing should be avoided."

"However, Water & Waste Water Operations are a 24/7 service and they have to attend to emergencies after hours from time to time, usually to repair burst water mains which can occur at any time," he added.

Materials stored near residential homes cannot be moved until after the design process for the depot upgrade commences later this year, Mr Fennell continued.

"An examination of how these areas are currently being used will be carried out now to identify any measures that could be implemented to minimise disturbance to the neighbouring houses.

"We're a little bit constrained in what we can actually do in this area," he added.

Thanking Mr Fennell for the "candor and honesty" of his reply, Cllr Carey said that the situation had gotten "so out of control" that residents were planning to picket the depot gate.

He urged council staff to meet with the residents of Westbourne Close and the area immediately surrounding the depot.

Mr Fennell said he would take Cllr Carey's request "back to management for consideration". *Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme.*

> **"All staff in Deansrath Depot have been instructed to make every effort to minimize disturbance to residents who live in the vicinity of the Depot**



NOISE LEVELS: The Council depot in Deansrath will undergo a review of operations

Getting out and getting active



ACTIVE: Some of the young people receiving awards

ALMOST 300 young Dubliners were rewarded for getting out and getting active in new and creative ways at a ceremony in Collinstown, *reports Ellen Gough.*

The awards ceremony took place Wednesday, May 14, at Collinstown Sports Complex for 270 young people involved in the Active Youth Challenge (AYC).

AYC is an annual programme hosted by Dublin and Dun Laoghaire ETB Youth and Sports Section, which encourages young people (aged 10-24) to be physically active for an hour each week for a period of twelve weeks.

The programme commences each year in February and culminates in May with a public recognition event. This programme is open to all youth and voluntary groups throughout county Dublin.

The recognition event this month saw 270 young people from 41 groups awarded medals, certificates and trophies, who, between them, had collectively accumulated around 460 hours of activity in total.

Clondalkin-based group Library Legacy Leaders took home the special award for Overall Excellence.

The group are based in North Clondalkin Library, who took to social media to share how proud they are of the win.

"Huge congratulations to our incredible NCL Youth Group – Library Legacy Leaders, who took home the Overall Excellence Award at the DDLETB Active Youth Challenge 2025!" the library shared on Facebook.

"Over 12 weeks, our brilliant group got moving every Monday evening with Andre Roode – trying everything from cycling and soccer to wall-climbing, yoga, and orienteering, all while having fun and building new skills.

"Massive well done to everyone involved – you've made the library proud!"

Other winners on the night included two Tallaght groups: the Fettercairn Firecrackers for Most Unique Name, and Brookfield Busy Bees for Most Unique Activity – alpaca walking.

The AYC started in 2010 and is coordinated by DDLETB youth sports officer Darren Bruton. The individual groups are led by youth officers or designated group leaders.

Groups are encouraged to design and select activities of their choice, and the more creative and as novel the better.

The uniqueness of their individual group programmes is reflected in their project submissions, which are forwarded for independent adjudication.

Enterprise project that helps young people dismantle negative beliefs



TECHNOVATION: Oreoluwa Alfred with Teen-Turn Research & Activities Assistant Osas Samuel at the Technovation Ireland Regional Pitch Event at AMD. Photo by Robbie Reynolds

OREOLUWA Alfred, a 5th year student from Colaiste Bride Clondalkin was awarded 3rd place with a prize from Workday at the Teen-Turn Technovation Regional Pitching Event for her remarkable app enterprise project, "Syche" that helps young people dismantle negative beliefs.

Following this achievement, Oreoluwa enters into the global Technovation semi-finalist round taking place this summer. Her app was one of 65 app enterprise projects pitching at the regional round event in Dublin this May hosted by AMD.

When asked about how the idea for the app came about, Oreoluwa says "I was scrolling through TikTok and came across a user talking about how negative, repetitive thoughts are often the root cause of most mental health issues. So, it led me to want to create an app that targets our human Psyche in a positive way".

Using mindful breathing as well as other tools, "Syche" is a well-being app tailored to the youth designed to slowly dismantle negative self-beliefs. For example, before pitching to judges at the event, Oreoluwa used her app to calm her nerves.

She continues by saying that her generation struggles with the repetition of negative thoughts and that this leads to neuroplasticity in the brain in which such negative thoughts create neural pathways that influence how young people view their reality. "My generation struggles with this, especially in our digital age where teens are constantly comparing themselves to others online."

Oreoluwa created this app while participating in the 12-week Technovation programme supported by Teen-Turn afterschool programme. Teen girls are challenged to create social enterprises that give back to their community via their apps. Participants like Oreoluwa attended weekly sessions in which company mentors assisted them with their projects. "I am most proud of the fact that I made a whole app! Two months ago, I would have had absolutely no idea how to code an app or even design it. I'm proud of the skills I gained in coding and how I have created something I can use myself and give to my generation." She continues, "I really enjoyed participating in the sessions when I could, if I was confused about something I could ask and receive helpful advice."

In-person sessions are also provided by Teen-Turn in which participants are given the chance to work on their projects at local university campuses. "I was able to participate in one of the Super Sessions in TU Dublin, it gave me ample time to organize and plan out my business plan outside of the sessions and also to get help from my mentors in real time." Through this, young girls get a glimpse into university life while also gaining crucial skills such as project management and research that will benefit them in their future career journeys.

Reflecting on her experience, Oreoluwa expressed that she developed an interest in technology and in further exploring her career options, has applied for the Teen-Turn summer internships programme ("TeenTurnships") as well as the Revision Club (free grinds) programme. Looking ahead, she says "I had never thought about making an app before but after Technovation, I think I would like to put my app on the Appstore and Google play since I already have a business plan and marketing plans, I plan to incorporate more features and to consult mental health professionals."

"And while Syche started off as a Technovation project it has become something I want to share with the world – a gift if you will – for my generation."



Brookfield Girls: Faith Matthews, Carly Harding Shallow, Caitlinn King, Jessie Ireland and Khloe Kelly

Foróige Spirit A make positive di

Fifteen projects were showcased in the

WHITECHURCH Slay Sisters are the winners of the 'Dublin South Foróige Community Spirit Awards 2025'.

The Slay Sisters project focused on raising awareness on the dangers of vaping and placed vape waste disposal boxes around their community.

The runners-up award went to Brookfield's Casey Girls who were last year's winners, this year the girls renovated a memorial garden in their community.

The garden renovation saw all generations from the community come out and get involved.

The Five Amigos scooped the One to Watch award with their fundraising project for Tallaght Hospital's Maguire Ward, raising over €200 with a delicious bake sale.

The Brookfield Girls won the Most Creative award for their 'Be Kind To Your Mind' Graffiti Mural which is on display in St Aidan's Secondary School. The project's focus was to recognise loss while encouraging young people to look after their mental health and friendships.

The final award went to Nathan Molloy from Brookfield. Nathan drew over 60 individual pictures for each bed in Tallaght Hospitals Children's Ward.

Nathan wanted to give back to his community by making others feel good. Nathan's community action won him the Heart of Gold award.



THE CASEY GIRLS: Ellen Casey, Helen Casey and Lully Casey

The Community Spirit Awards celebrate Foróige's Youth Citizenship Programme which supports and encourages young people to be active citizens to facilitate change and make a positive difference in their local communities and across the world.

This year the Community Spirit Awards took to the red carpet with a true Oscar Awards vibe where the young people were the celebrity guests.

Fifteen projects were showcased in the form of a short film on the big screen at Movies@Tallaght in the Square which featured the young people in action undertaking their projects.

The atmosphere was electric as each project's short video was shown tackling important issues including the environment, community,



wards ifference

form of a short film

mental health and fundraising.

The judging panel who had the hard task of reviewing all the projects videos and deciding on the winners included Gavin Chandler (Youth Officer with Dublin and Dún Laoghaire Education and Training Board), Eileen Meier (Community Representative), Derek Doyle (Juvenile Liaison Officer), James Roache (Operation Manager from The Square Tallaght) and Eileen O'Neill (Túsla Meitheal Child and Family Support Network Co-ordinator).

Mayor of South Dublin County Council Cllr. Baby Perappadan was the Guest of Honour at the event. In congratulating all the young people Mayor Perappadan said "The Foróige Community Spirit Awards and Citizenship Programme is a good news story.

"It gives us all the opportunity to show pride in our young people, to be proud of their talents and achievements. You are all great role models for other young people out there and I encourage you all to continue to make a difference as your communities need you".

Andy Leeson, Area Manager, Foróige South Dublin said, "Foróige is working to promote citizenship and community spirit amongst young people. Young people have a great capacity to have a positive impact on their community and the wider world.

"Active citizenship is about identifying issues that could be addressed and taking action to make things better. Projects addressed social, health and environmental issues, sought to build bridges between generations and acknowledge the history and experiences of our communities. All of the groups who participated should be very proud of what they have achieved."

Foróige's work with young people includes youth clubs & projects, one-to-one support and mentoring, outreach in community spaces as well as group work, school holiday programmes, drop-in services, family support, early intervention, harder-to-reach and events for young people.

Rhasidat and the Team of One made a real difference



RECOGNITION: The Lord Mayor of Dublin, Emma Blain presenting Lord Mayor's Award to Rhasidat Adeleke's mother Ade

THE Lord Mayor of Dublin, Emma Blain presented seven Lord Mayor's Awards at the Mansion House this week.

Since 1989, this annual award ceremony is an opportunity for the Lord Mayor to highlight and acknowledge, in a special way, achievements of both individuals and groups.

The recipients of the Lord Mayor's Awards for 2025 included Tallaght Athletics Club star Rhasidat Adeleke and Team Power of One.

Rhasidat Adeleke received the award in recognition of her achievements in athletics and her role in inspiring a new generation of young female athletes.

Team Power of One received the award in recognition of their achievement in the World's Toughest Row and for raising awareness and funds for Heart Children Ireland and Children's Heart Centre – CHI Crumlin in memory of Saoirse O'Driscoll from Lucan.

"These awards are a chance for me to say thank you, on behalf of all the citizens of Dublin, to some people who have made a real difference to the social fabric of life in our city," said the Lord Mayor.

"Some of the award recipients will be well known to many of us, others not so. However, they are all very worthy of this award and I am delighted to be able to honour them in this way."

Others recognised were Brendan Gleeson, Bryan Murray and Úna Crawford O'Brien, Brendan Gleeson, Johnny Sexton, Allen and Jay Bobinac and Isobel Henderson (Posthumous).



ACHIEVEMENT: Members of Team of One receiving the Lord Mayor's Award

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 'Guru' Liam McDonald, master and teacher at Urban Silat.



KNOWLEDGE: Liam McDonald is master of Urban Silat

The Echo – celebrating community for 45 years



OCCASION: Liam McDonald celebrated 40 years as a Silat Master and teacher

UPON meeting Firhouse resident Liam McDonald, one thinks 'what a nice guy. A humble, soft-spoken gentleman.'

He very much is all of those things, but he also is 'Guru' Liam McDonald, master of Urban Silat, a martial art which focuses upon self defense. This means Liam, for all his humility and low-key charm, could tie an assailant into a knot and slam dunk them into the nearest dustbin.

Upon the occasion of a huge surprise party organised by his students to celebrate 40 years as a Silat Master and teacher, we caught up with Liam to discuss his life and work.

"I've been living in Firhouse since 1998 so I'm well assimilated down here now, but I'm originally from a small village called Kilrea in County Derry," he tells me.

"Back then, our family had a milk delivery business and in some ways I always knew I'd join it when I finished my education. Unfortunately, those plans were brought forward when I was fifteen because my Dad had a heart attack and couldn't work."

So it was that barely out of adolescence, the young Liam left school to save the family business. "Luckily, my Dad ended up recovering enough to come back to work but by then I was a milkman," he adds.

Although Liam had spent an idyllic childhood in rural Kilrea, he became extremely interested in a life in martial arts through a source that many readers of a certain age will identify with.

"I absolutely loved Bruce Lee when I was a kid and through watching all of his movies I decided I wanted to be just like him. When I was eleven a karate club opened in the village and I joined straight away."

Through the club, Liam learned all of the basics but as time went on attendances went down and the club's future was in doubt. Liam was still hungry to learn so he organised a fundraising disco in the village to bring Silat Master, Professor Jak Othman to teach in Kilrea.

"I'll never forget the day he arrived, it was like taking delivery of Bruce Lee himself," he laughs.

"He immediately settled with us and got on great with my family. In practical terms, Jak opened my eyes to a new world of techniques and philosophies and I was hooked instantly."

Jak Othman was the originator of Silat as we know it and, though he sadly passed away last year, his legacy lives on, not least through Liam.

"Meeting Jak changed my whole life," he says. "From then on, we organised fundraisers as much as possible to bring him back from Malaysia. He gave us so much and he became a lifelong friend and teacher."

Liam moved up through the ranks of Silat and to achieve Masters Degrees in both Malaysian and Indonesian Silat and also gained qualifications in Kali, the Phillippino version of Silat, having done a lot of weapons training. He is a true master and is keen to pass on his skills to as many of our young people as possible.

"I've really always wanted to be a teacher and I really love meeting new people and training with them. I work with people of all abilities and it's a real buzz watching them improve their skills over time."

"We're now based in Firhouse Community Centre and Adamstown Community Centre and we're lucky enough to have some of the world's greatest Silat practitioners come to visit and train the students regularly. I'm lucky enough to have made a huge number of friends through Silat and I have a large network of colleagues locally and internationally to call upon to share their skills and knowledge with our students."

Liam is also Manager of the Irish Silat team that won 27 medals at the European Championships. These included some very sweet victories over a somewhat cocky and patronizing British team. Indeed, as time goes on, Liam hopes to work more on the sporting side of Silat.

Being the humble guy he is, Liam is fulsome in his thanks to all of the students and teachers at his club. Dan, Aiveen, Paul, Owen, Ryan, Ella & Ben get special mentions (and particular thanks to Owen for nominating Liam).

We can claim Guru Liam as one of our own now, as he's happily married to Margaret with his son Thomas moving in a similar direction to his Dad, planning to go to UCD to study sports and fitness. "He loves to teach and help people," Liam states proudly.

Liam also expressed his gratitude to his illustrious coaches and teachers for their help along the way. Jak, of course but also Felix Valencia and William Sanders.

And we at *The Echo* thank Liam, for all of his great work within our community. He's a gentleman, a scholar and a true force for good.

"In Silat, we talk about the 'Vision of the Thread' and this ties into the philosophical and spiritual aspects of the art. I'll never get to the bottom of it but I'll keep trying to live my life by its principles."

For more information on Liam's classes and Silat itself, consult http://guruliam.com and Guru Liam on Facebook and Instagram.

"I absolutely loved Bruce Lee when I was a kid and through watching all of his movies I decided I wanted to be just like him. When I was eleven a karate Club opened ....



TRUE MASTER: Liam is also manager of the Irish Silat team that won 27 medals at the European Championships

Review of traffic solutions underway to ensure safety of pupils attending school

A REVIEW of traffic solutions is underway to ensure the safety of pupils attending a Rathcoole school, *reports Ellen Gough.*

Fine Gael councillor Shirley O'Hara submitted a motion to the Clondalkin, Newcastle, Rathcoole, Saggart and Brittas Area Committee meeting last Wednesday calling for "a temporary assignment of a second traffic warden at Scoil Chrónain, Rathcoole".

"This measure is considered necessary to ensure the safety of students during school hours," Cllr O'Hara's motion continued.

In their reply, South Dublin County Council said that school wardens are allocated at public roads, "where school children cross, and are not per se allocated to specific schools".

A school warden is already assigned to the section of road at the front of Scoil Chrónain.

"In consultation with the Principal of Scoil Chrónain, an inspection was recently undertaken by the Road Safety Office/Traffic Management office," the reply from the council continued.

The traffic team are now reviewing solutions that can be provided at the back of the school, between the two school buildings, "as it is understood that construction of a new school building is due to commence shortly by the Department of Education".

"A further update will be provided in due course".

SDCC also noted in their reply that they are finding it "difficult to recruit and maintain sufficient school warden numbers" across the county, and that the problem is "replicated across the country".

"As a result, going forward it is becoming necessary for all stakeholders to consider alternative options to ensure that primary school children cross public roads safely to get to school." *Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme*



SAFETY: An inspection was undertaken an Scoil Chrónain by the councils road safety office

Calls for mobile staircase for tourist access to Round Tower

Mixed reaction to allow public access as 'some things are just best left alone'

By **Ellen Gough**
ellen@echo.ie

THERE is considerable opposition to calls for a mobile staircase to allow public access into the Clondalkin Round Tower, due to fears of "overuse".

Social Democrat councillor Eoin Ó Broin brought a motion to the May meeting of the Clondalkin Area Committee, calling on South Dublin County Council to ask the OPW to "supply a mobile staircase that would allow tourist access to the Round Tower on a regular basis, and can be stored nearby".

Speaking at the meeting on Wednesday, May 21, Cllr Ó Broin said his motives were slightly "selfish", as he and "vast numbers of people in Clondalkin have never been inside" the historic structure at Brú Chrónáin.

He highlighted that the interior of the tower, once part of a 7th-century monastic site, had been accessible in the past via temporary scaffolding around the tower.

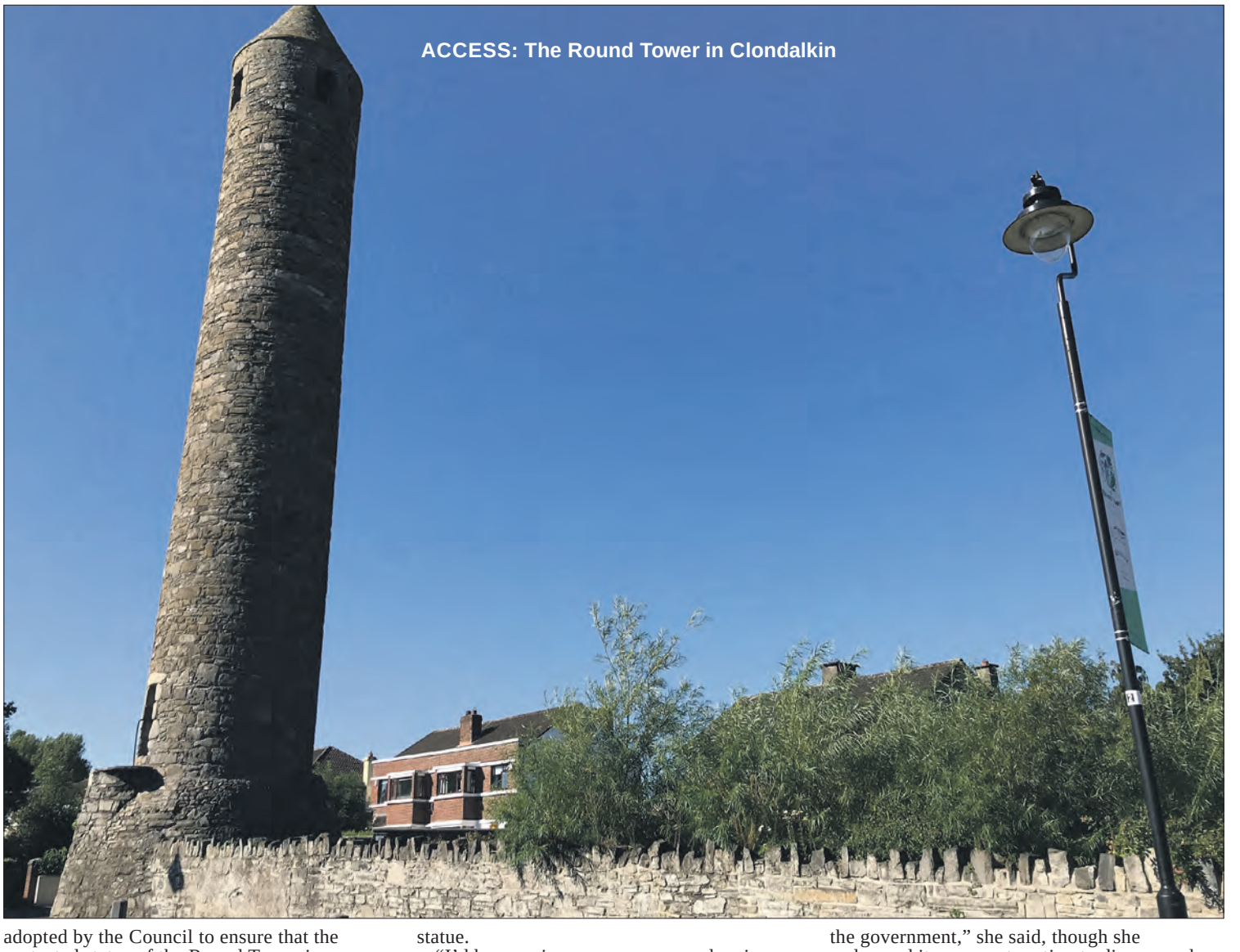
"There are steps cut into the outside which many young fellas and young ones climb but apparently that is not safe, there needs to be a structure put in place according to the rules of the OPW," Cllr Ó Broin continued.

He suggested a mobile staircase that could be stored in another part of the site, so as not to detract from the tower. In their reply, SDCC said that this was a matter for the OPW and that they have "no role in the management and maintenance of this structure".

"It should be noted that the Round Tower is a protected structure and national monument, with the views to and from the tower integral to its protected status," the reply from the county council promotions unit continued.

"There are no plans to erect any structures within these grounds to store mobile devices and the Council would have serious concerns with regard to same from an architectural conservation perspective, with the approach adopted by the Council to ensure that the protected status of the Round Tower is maintained at all times."

> **"I have visions of the issues around Molly Malone pertaining to our round tower with overuse**



ACCESS: The Round Tower in Clondalkin

Sinn Fein's Cllr William Carey opposed the motion due to fears of "overuse" at the site.

"I have visions of the issues around Molly Malone pertaining to our round tower with overuse," he said, referencing the ongoing issue of tourists fondling and damaging the iconic statue.

"I'd have serious concerns around major tourist access into the round tower, as much as I would love to climb up there myself.

"Some things are just best left alone," he added, a sentiment echoed by Cllr Linda de Courcy (II).

"I don't know if it would be a wise source of spending considering all the other overruns in the government," she said, though she welcomed it as a great motion to discuss and also professed a desire to climb the iconic tower.

Cllr Ó Broin was happy for his motion to be noted, rather than passed, due to the opposition from his fellow councillors, and accepted the response from SDCC. *Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme*

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INVESTMENT: Alan Jordan at the new store in Castletymon which was the old library and (inset) Alan Jordan with his family in the store

€1.3m investment in new store

New 'more comfortable retail experience' will also employ 35 people at the store

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

THE Jordan Group owned and operated by Tallaght native Alan Jordan will open a new Centra store in Castletymon on Thursday while celebrating 25 years of business.

A €1.3 million investment, the shop will add to the two Centra and one SuperValu stores owned by the local family business in Tallaght.

With a retail space of 4000 square feet, it will offer "a more comfortable retail experience," to local costumers, according to Mr Jordan.

The new shop will employ 35 people as it opens, but "a couple of hundred people" have been employed in the construction process since January, he highlighted.

While Castletymon already had a Centra, the owners wanted to relocate the store to larger premises to expand their offer to customers.

The new shop is located just besides the old one, in Castletymon Shopping Centre, and has been called 'The Library.'

"We just moved next door, but extra space gave us the chance to provide more variety," said Mr Jordan proudly.

"It's an outstanding, fit-for-purpose convenience store on the doorstep."

The new Centra will have an extended range of ready meals and fresh food – or 'food for now and food for later' as Mr Jordan called it.

It will offer Deli food to be served and eaten 'on the go,' a new bakery range, Frank and Honest coffee and Moo'd ice cream. Off-licence products will also be available.

A family fun day has been organised for Saturday, May 31 for the store official opening, starting at 10.30am with Councillor Mick Duff (IND) cutting the ribbon.

Special offers, giveaways and prizes will be available for attending customers.

"Born and bred" in Tallaght, Mr Jordan manages the Jordan Group franchise that operates a total of nine Centra and SuperValu stores in Dublin and Kildare, employing 260 people.

"We are proud to be part of the local community and look forward to welcoming everyone on Thursday," said the team.

Kelland Homes lodge proposals for 233 dwellings in Clonburris

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

PROPERTY developer Kelland Homes has lodged an application for 233 dwellings at a site in Clonburris in Dublin 22.

The plans lodged include the construction of 233 dwellings which are comprised of: 78 two and three bed, two storey, detached, semi-detached and terraced houses.

Included also is 56 two and three bed duplex units in eight three-storey buildings and 99 one, two and 3 bed apartments in two 3-5 and 4-6 storey buildings.

Access to the development will be from two new vehicular accesses from the Ninth Lock Road to the east and via the permitted road network the Clonburris Northern Link Street which provides access from the Ninth Lock Road to the east and the R113, Fonthill Road to the west.

The proposed development will connect into the permitted infrastructural works as approved under the Clonburris Strategic Development Zone Planning Scheme.

The proposed development also provides for all associated site development works and infrastructure to facilitate the development, above and below ground, public and communal open spaces, hard and soft landscaping and boundary treatments, 192 surface car parking, 351 bicycle parking, bin and bicycle storage and public lighting.



APPLICATION: An artist impression of the site in Clonburris when its built

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Naked Bakes talents inspires the counties innovative spirit

Food manufacturing company represented the area at National Enterprise Awards

LOCAl Enterprise Office South Dublin congratulated Aisling Tuck, founder of Naked Bakes, who recently represented the region at the National Enterprise Awards.

The awards ceremony took place on Thursday in the Round Room at the Mansion House, Dublin, and recognised the most outstanding small businesses from across the country.

Founded in 2017, Naked Bakes is a Tallaght-based food manufacturing company that has established itself as a leader in the production of vegan treats. The company's mission — to make plant-based indulgence both mainstream and globally accessible — continues to drive its growth and success.

Peter Connolly, Senior Enterprise Development Officer said, "We are exceptionally proud of Aisling and the Naked Bakes team for their achievements to date and for the inspiration they continue to provide to emerging entrepreneurs both locally and nationally.

Their participation in the National Enterprise Awards underscores the calibre of entrepreneurial talent in South Dublin and reflects the innovative spirit that defines the region's small business community".

Naked Bakes' continued expansion is a testament to their vision, resilience and commitment to sustainability, and we look forward to supporting their future endeavours.

The overall winner at the National Enterprise Awards was SPRYT a virtual assistant that can liaise directly with patients on appointments via simple SMS communications to ensure appointment completion and can effectively reallocate appointments in real-time to eliminate no shows and doctor and consultant wastage.

Announcing the award winners at the Mansion House, Minister Dillon said, "The National Enterprise Awards are a celebration of the innovation, resilience, and ambition that define Ireland's business community. Each year, the calibre of finalists continues to rise, reflecting the extraordinary talent and determination of entrepreneurs across the country. These businesses are not only creating jobs—they are shaping the future of our local economies and communities.

"Tonight's winners represent the very best of what Irish enterprise has to offer, and we remain committed to supporting them as they grow, compete, and thrive on both a national and global stage. These businesses are at the core of every town, village and community and are vital to our economy. We will ensure businesses continue to get the support they need to grow, prosper, and remain competitive," Minister Dillon continued.



ACHIEVEMENT: Jason Frehill, Director of Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development SDCC, Sandra Hickey, LEO South Dublin, Aisling, Naked Bakes Peter Connolly, LEO South Dublin and Anne Woods, LEO South Dublin

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Treats by Sylvia takes first place at 'HACK for IMPACT'

PAYPAL announced the outcome of its 'HACK for IMPACT' initiative hosted in Dunboyne Castle.

The hackathon for startups saw PayPal support local entrepreneurship and collaborate with 10 local startups over a 24-hour period.

Treats by Sylvia, an awarding winning mini-cheesecake business founded during the COVID 19 pandemic took first place, enabled by its e-commerce website.

Sylvia Kennedy is founder of 'Treats by Sylvia' and is from Ballyfermot.

With the help of InnerCity Enterprise, the startups talked through their business plans and challenges, with ideas proposed by more than 30 PayPal mentors from teams across Ireland and Europe.

The digital solutions workshopped during the event included website design, app creation and marketing strategies.

Speaking about the hackathon, Paul Ryan, Global Head of Risk Specialised Servicing and Ireland Site Lead, PayPal, said: "This hackathon is all about having an impact. As well as having an impact for the startups involved, in turn, they can have an impact on the wider community. From digital payments to online booking systems, this event shows the vital role that technology plays in how organisations originate and operate – and, perhaps more importantly, innovate. Through collaboration and expertise, PayPal takes pride in turning such great ideas into real outcomes."



IMPACT: Sylvia Kennedy, owner of Treats by Sylvia (middle), alongside PayPal mentors Jelena Silkena and Marta Alvargonzalez

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Rosie & Jim new expansion will triple production capacity

Family business formed in 1997 has gone from strength to strength

ROSIE & Jim, the award-winning breaded chicken brand, has broken ground on a major, multi-million Euro expansion project at its factory in Dublin 12, to create an innovative new facility which will increase the footprint by 70%, tripling production capacity and allowing the company to meet growing demand in both its domestic and export markets.

The family business, founded by Jimmy and Rosie McLoughlin in 1997, has gone from strength to strength, building a solid network of foodservice and retail clients in Ireland, aided in no small part by the 'game-changing' decision to move to gluten free products in 2015, as well as the brand's unwavering commitment to superior taste and premium quality.

In recent years Rosie & Jim, which employs 70 people here in Ireland, has enjoyed significant growth in the UK, through a relationship with market leaders such as Costco Wholesale, and in Germany with leading retailer Kaufland.

Increased consumer demand for high-quality, clean-label products in the Irish and export markets has created a clear opportunity for growth, leading to the company's decision to invest in production capacity and to also further develop the sales and marketing function, with additional in-field sales teams in the brand's export markets.

Speaking about the investment, Managing Director at Rosie & Jim, Jimmy McLoughlin commented: "Rosie and I started this business 27 years ago, when I was just 27 years-old, we've learned a huge amount in that time and are delighted to be looking to the future with such optimism and a clear strategy for growth.

"The Irish market continues to be hugely important to us, not least of which is our relationship with butcher shops nationwide serviced through our network of regional distributors, which has been the backbone of our business since the beginning.

"Foodservice in Ireland is also a significant growth area, as the key players see the benefits our brand has to offer, including reduced Food Miles when compared to breaded chicken imports from South-East Asia, Brazil and China, which are commonplace in foodservice. "

Manufacturing and production efficiencies have been central to Rosie & Jim's impressive growth trajectory. Recognised and supported by Enterprise Ireland since 2015 when they funded the first factory expansion, Rosie & Jim have also fully embraced the principles of Lean manufacturing, which has been transformative in terms of operational efficiencies.

Upon completion by 2027, the new factory will feature the most innovative production processes, warehousing, sustainable refrigeration systems, and solar energy generation and will take the workforce to over 100-strong.

Rosie & Jim also recently added to its impressive awards cabinet at the prestigious FreeFrom Food Awards, scooping the '2024 FreeFrom Champion' and 3 Gold Medals and 1 Silver Medal. The brand was also recognised last month at the Family Business Awards, were Sean McLoughlin, Operations Manager at Rosie & Jim, received silver in the Rising Star Award.



INVESTMENT: Rosie and Jimmy McLoughlin

Calls to waive charges on business outdoor furniture

CALLS to waive planning charges for South Dublin businesses to place outdoor furniture outside their premises were rejected at a council meeting earlier this month, *reports Ellen Gough.*

A motion was brought to the Dublin City Council (DCC) South Central Area Committee meeting on Wednesday, May 21, calling for the fees to be waived to due to a "substantial drop in footfall".

This comes as the government announced a fresh extension to Covid-era regulations to waive fees for the outdoor furniture itself on May 9.

The motion from independent councillor Vincent Jackson called for DCC to waive the planning fees associated with putting furniture outside businesses "along the main shopping strip in Ballyfermot and indeed other areas who are suffering from a substantial drop in footfall".

"Allowing the public footpath to be used to extend food business outside would attract additional footfall," he said in his motion.

"Our charges prevent the possible usages when margins are so tight."

The Street Furniture Licence Fee is €200 per square metre for an area of up four m².

For areas like Ballyfermot, it costs another €200 per square metre for additional area above four m².



LICENSE FEES: Calls have been made to waive planning charges outside their premises

For example, a six m² space outside a premises in Ballyfermot would incur a planning fee of €1,300 upon approval, plus a planning application charge of €100.

The annual fee of €125 per table was temporarily waived during the pandemic when indoor dining was not permitted, and this has been extended each year since.

Housing and local government minister James Browne announced earlier this month that his department were working to ensure the extension for this year was passed by the Oireachtas before summer, calling it "a cost-saving measure for local businesses".

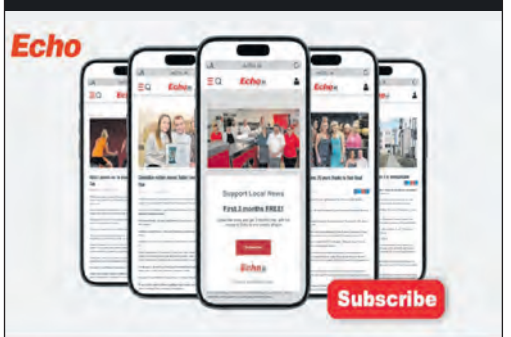
In their reply to Cllr Jackson's motion, DCC said there are "currently no plans to waive or review the Street Furniture Licence fees".

"The Street Furniture Unit will engage with all businesses and work with them and assist them in the application process/procedures for Street Furniture Licensing."

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Plans for 588 apartments lodged for former Chadwicks site



DEVELOPMENT: An artist impression of the development at the former Chadwicks Builders Merchant in Greenhills Industrial Estate

Development in Greenhills Industrial Estate is over four blocks ranging from 5 to 12 storeys

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

PLANS have been lodged for the former Chadwicks Builders Merchant site in Greenhills Industrial Estate in Walkinstown.

Applicant Steeplefield Limited lodged the Large Residential Development for 588 residential apartments at the site on the Greenhills Road

The plans include demolition of the former Chadwicks Builders Merchant development comprising one two-storey office building and nine storage and warehouse buildings.

The proposal includes the construction of a mixed-use residential and commercial development comprising 588 residential apartment units (made up of 291 one-beds, 238 two-beds and 59 three-beds), one indoor space childcare facility and six commercial/retail units in four blocks ranging in height from 5 to 12 storeys.

The first bock comprises of 170 apartments made up of 103 one bed-units, 59 two bed-units and eight three bed units) measuring eight storeys in height.

The second block will have 197 apartments with 89 one bed-units, 92 two bed-units and 16 three bed-units measuring 10 storeys in height.

The third block will have 81 apartments made up of 44 one-bed units, 16 two-bed units and 21 three-bed units) measuring 12-storeys in height.

The fourth comprises of 140 apartments made up of 55 one-bed-units, 71 two-bed-units and 14 three bed-units measuring eight-storeys in height.

All apartments will be provided with private balconies/terraces.

There is a provision of indoor communal residential amenity at ground and first floors, he construction of one childcare facility with dedicated outdoor play area, the construction of six commercial units at ground floor level and one commercial unit at first floor level.

Plans include the construction of four vehicular entrances; a primary entrance via vehicular ramp from the north (access from Greenhills Road) and three secondary entrances from the south for access, emergency access and services (access from the existing road to the south of the site) with additional pedestrian accesses proposed along Greenhills Road.

There is a provision of 270 car parking spaces comprising 240 no. standard spaces, including six car club spaces, and 13 mobility spaces, and eight motorbike spaces located at surface level and within undercroft car parks, 17 commercial/ unloading/ drop-off parking spaces at ground level.

There is also a provision of 1,269 bicycle parking spaces comprising 952 residents' bicycle spaces, 10 cargo/accessible bicycle spaces in 14 bicycle storerooms in surface and undercroft parking areas and 307 visitors' bicycle spaces located externally at ground floor level throughout the development.

There is a provision of outdoor communal amenity space comprising landscaped courtyards that include play areas, seating areas, grass areas, planting and scented gardens located on podiums at first floor level; provision of communal amenity roof gardens with seating area and planting and inclusion of centrally located public open space comprising grassed areas, planting, seating areas, play areas, water feature, flexible use space and incidental open space/public realm.

There is a provision of toucan crossing and all associated road markings and signage from the subject site to a new footpath on northern side of Greenhills Road and development also includes landscaping and infrastructural works, foul and surface water drainage, bin storage, ESB substations, plant rooms, pv panels, boundary treatments, internal roads, cycle paths and footpaths.

Plans for 18 antennas on building rooftop



ROOFTOP: The building planned for the 18 telecommunication antennas

PLANS have been lodged for the installation of 18 telecommunication antennas, together with nine dishes and three equipment cabinets and all associated equipment on a building's rooftop plantroom, *reports William O'Connor.*

Applicant Independent Site Management Limited lodged the application at a site at Block E Station View, Gollierstown, Lucan.

The development will provide high speed wireless data and broadband services for all three of Irelands mobile operators, namely Eircom (t/a eir), Three Ireland and Vodafone Ireland. This application relates to part of the lands within Adamstown Strategic Development Zone.

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Appeal is lodged against plans for residential scheme

Concerns over height and impact of view for scheme that includes 73 units in Saggart

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

AN APPEAL has been lodged with An Bord Pleanala in relation for plans for houses and apartments at a site in Saggart.

Developer Anthony Neville Homes Limited applied for permission for development on lands located adjacent to Drury Mills and Drury Park, Swiftbrook.

The plans included a residential scheme of 73 units comprising a mix of six houses, 59 own-door duplexes and eight apartments arranged in four blocks set around a central amenity space.

The mix of units will consist of five one-bedroom duplexes/apartments, 46 two-bedroom duplexes/apartments, 16 three-bedroom duplexes and six four-bedroom houses.

The four blocks are three to four-storey terrace accommodating 18 duplex units with associated balconies & terraces. The second block is two-storey terrace accommodating six houses and two duplex units with associated gardens and terraces.

The third block is made up of a three to four-storey terrace accommodating 27 duplex units with associated balconies and terraces while the fourth block is a four-storey terrace accommodating eight apartments and 12 duplex units with associated balconies and terraces.

The development will include new internal roads accessed from Drury Mills and Drury Park; 84 car parking spaces; bicycle and bin stores and substation; Landscaped public and communal open spaces and boundary treatments.

The site is located within the curtilage of protected structures associated with the former Swiftbrook comprising chimney, storage building, millpond, tail-race, entrance gates and wall.

A third party submission has been lodged by Alan and Fiona Breathnach who have raised concerns over the height and form of the development, impact of view, noise and privacy, visual impact, parking, play space for children.

The applicant has also lodged an appeal against the condition to appeal the omission of the entire third block from the proposed development and the reduction in the height of the first block.



DEVELOPMENT: An artist impression of the plans adjacent to Drury Mills and Drury Park on Saggart

10 acre development in excess of €6.5 million

A UNIQUE development opportunity has just come to the market in South Dublin for just over €6.5million, *reports Ellen Gough.*

This 10.92 acre site just off Tay Lane in Rathcoole presents an excellent developer or owner occupier opportunity with the benefit of full planning permission for six industrial units.

This is a prime industrial site with excellent connectivity to the capital and other major hubs such as Naas, Limerick and Cork thanks to its location just 2.3km north of the N7/Rathcoole Junction.

This also allows for excellent access to both Dublin Port (approx. 34km) and Dublin Airport (approx. 28km).

This is a unique opportunity to acquire a significant portion of land which already benefits from full planning permission for a total of six industrial units extending to 170,776 sq. ft.

Under the South Dublin County Council Development Plan 2022 – 2028, the site is zoned "Enterprise & Employment", which provides for "enterprise and employment related uses".

Price in excess is €6,550,000.



UNIQUE: The 10 acre site in Rathcoole marked in red

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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

Bank of Ireland pensioners upped the ante at the AGMs dual listed entity

Dear Editor:

NEWLY APPOINTED INDIAN NATIONAL and Bank of Ireland (BOI) governor, Akshaya Bhargava faced a barrage of questions pertaining to the rules of the Bank Staff Pension Fund (BSPF) as dozens of former staffers, staged a protest in front of the five-star Intercontinental Hotel in Ballsbridge where an afternoon tea, costs €62.

Objectors called for the scrapping of the 4 per cent cap and the clawback of the first 1 per cent increase; as new retirees are denied an increase for the first three years.

The Bank supports trustees' action in setting up an Escrow account valued at €107m; described by one aggrieved shareholder as: 'putting the cart before the horse'.

The Bank made €1.2m contribution to top up its pension fund. Mark Spain said: "Money available in the escrow account can be drawn down in the event of an actuarial deficit". "The BOI pension is expected to pay out for the next 60 years and meet its obligation, now and in the future. Now is not the time to make any changes.

This is the right thing to do" Mr Bhargava told disgruntled pensioners.

The BOI Governor fielded a myriad of questions from former employees about BOI defined benefit pension and the so-called 'odd-lot offers' which has 2,500 shareholders with 100 or fewer shares.

One shareholder requested the Bank to 'cop-on' regarding small shareholders.

BOI is considering buying out these legacy shareholders. Responding, CEO, Myles O'Grady said: "We are actively looking at a mechanism by which smaller shareholders can sell their shares. That's a commitment we are making today." He continued: "We are aware of the issue, but to be frank, we didn't think it was as acute an issue as other banks."

Sincerely yours,
Gerry Coughlan, Kilnamanagh.



Dear Editor

I REALISE more as every day passes how incredibly lucky I am.

When I look around the world and see so much war and famine, but in particular the images coming back from Gaza of the mass murder of so many women and children in particular has left me numb.

Palestine is being obliterated by Israel as the world watches they are now bombing uninhabitable areas as the UN have said.

It's beyond shocking, its inhumane.

I have been thinking of how we can show our solidarity and despair and strongly feel that the Occupied Territories Bill must be enacted.

There has been enough debate and enough talk.

This so called war is really a Genocide and ethnic cleansing.

It would show a strong symbol of solidarity that would be seen and heard loud and clear right across Europe.

Outrage is not enough we need to do something as Palestine disappears and its people murdered as we watch on.

Your sincerely,
Cllr Francis Timmons
Clondalkin

Riverdance profits and revenue fall but the show must go on

Dear Editor:

THIRTY- YEARS have elapsed since Riverdance made its debut at the Eurovision as the original seven -minute performance at the Interval Act of the Eurovision Song Contest 1994 held in the Point Theatre, now dubbed the 3Arena.

Riverdance show based on the rousing, foot-stomping dance style which took the audience by surprise was broadcast to an estimated 300 million viewers is currently celebrating its 30th anniversary as a global entertainment touring phenomenon.

Accounts filed, by Abhann Productions Ltd reveal post tax profits plummeted from €1.9m in 2023 to €247,065 in the 12 months to 30th June last.

Post-tax profits fell as the firm behind Riverdance last year fell by 87 per cent to €247,065.

The drop in profits is largely due to 'Riverdance' not performing in the United States in 2024. The decline in post-tax profits followed revenues declined by €9m or 54 per cent from €16.7m or €7.7m.

Riverdance co-founder, John McColgan said: "The main reason for the difference between the two years is because Riverdance did not tour the USA in the year ended 30 June 2024."

Reported profits in 2024, 2023 and 2022 follow substantial losses of €1.097m in 2021 and €747,465 in 2020 impacted by Covid -19 halting dance performances between March 2020 to September 2021. 'Riverdance' cash funds dropped from €5.34m to €4.17m with accumulated profits for 30 June 2024 listed at €4.18m.

Cumulative payments to directors dropped by 31 per cent from €1.8m to €1.24m. Co-founder, Moya Doherty is listed as Board director alongside John McColgan and David Orr.

Yours sincerely,
Gerry Coughlan, Kilnamanagh.

‘Organ donation is crucial for humanity to keep going’

Kingswood man who had lung transplant after losing 40kg in six months

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

“ORGAN donation is crucial for humanity to keep going,” said a Kingswood man who undertook a lung transplant after losing 40kg in six months.

When Mohammed Abdullah was diagnosed with a breathing condition potentially caused by high sensitivity to organic dust, the Covid-19 pandemic was just around the corner.

His doctor at Dublin’s Mater Hospital decided to put him on the lung transplant list in 2021 following a year of unsuccessful medical treatment and increasing breathing issues.

“Initially I was sceptical. I was 135kg and was told I had to lose weight and improve my overall health for the operation,” said Mohammed.

“Then I convinced myself it was the right thing to do and got determined. I lost 40kg in six months.”

With the transplant being delayed due to the pandemic, his condition worsened, and he started relying on an oxygen machine brought to his house from the hospital.

“The maximum you can get at home is 50 litres. At some point I started needing more than that, even if I was just sitting.”

By 2023, Mohammed was told his transplant couldn’t wait any longer and the medical team at the Mater decided to go with one new lung only, as they couldn’t find a suitable pair of lungs following the damages of the pandemic.

He received his new lung two years ago, on May 19, 2023.

“Of course, it came with difficulties after,” he explained. “I had to do physiotherapy regularly and follow specific procedures when eating. I couldn’t go into crowded places as my immune system was very vulnerable.”

With determination on his side, Mohammed accepted his new life and went fully back to ‘normal’ last year.

A former interior designer and architect, he doesn’t have the energy to work on the field anymore, but he is engaging with new career opportunities that are manageable from an office desk.

“I’m not complaining because after six years where I couldn’t sit with my family and enjoy my time with them, or travel with them, I can finally do it again. I can finally be a ‘real’ father again.”

Originally from Egypt, Mohammed has lived in Kingswood, Tallaght, with his wife and kids for over 20 years.

When asked about organ donation, he said his experience had him challenge a traditional Muslim belief that doesn’t consider it a “pure” procedure.

“I believe that when you are not in the situation, you can have your own opinions. But after what happened, I am a hundred percent sure that organ donation is crucial for humanity to keep going.

“Our own purpose as humans is to help one another, as every religion encourages to. So if you’re sticking to that opinion when it comes to organ donation, you are going against that principle.”

According to Mohammed, more people across the Muslim community look now more favourably at organ donation.

“People are changing and looking at the future thinking, what if it’s my son, or daughter, or myself who need it. It’s getting through to their hearts.”

The Mater Misericordiae University Hospital in Dublin celebrated the 20th anniversary of Ireland’s first ever lung transplant on Friday, May 16, 2025.

In the two decades, 379 lung transplants have been performed at the Mater’s National Centre for Heart and Lung Transplants.

Marking the date, the hospital is encouraging the public to consider the life-saving impact of organ donation, highlighting how a lung transplant is the “only hope” for “thousands” affected by debilitating breathing conditions.



DETERMINATION: Mohammed Abdullah who lives in Kingswood received his new lung two years ago

Pedestrian opening would save residents two kilometres

‘Formal passage’ would allow quicker access to schools and major transport links

By **Ellen Gough**
ellen@echo.ie

A PROPOSED pedestrian opening between a major road and a Deansrath housing estate would save residents from over two kilometres of a walk to schools and major transport links.

Calls were made at the Clondalkin Area Committee meeting on Wednesday for a new accessible pedestrian opening to the R136 Outer Ring Road from the Grange View Road, at the “location of the current informal off-road path which begins at the junction of Grange View Road and Grange View Wood.

This would “support Active Travel between the Grange View Estate in Deansrath, Clondalkin and Kishogue Railway Station, Grange Castle Business Park, the Grand Canal Greenway, Kishogue Community College and bus stops of the W4 bus route”, according to the motion brought by Social Democrat councillor Eoin Ó Broin.

According to Cllr Ó Broin, a gap existed around “20 years ago” in the wall between Grange View and the Outer Ring Road, but this has long since been closed up.

There is an “informal muck path” that residents of the Grange View estates use for access to the Outer Ring Road, but Cllr Ó Broin raised the issue of this being unlit and unpaved.



ACCESS: The area proposed for the pedestrian opening

He called for “a formal passage to the R136 to be created which is accessible and lit”.

Other councillors supported the motion, but called for a public consultation to ensure that such a scheme opening up the estate would have the full support of local residents, particularly those living directly across from where the proposed opening would be located.

In their reply to the motion from Cllr Ó Broin, South Dublin County Council said that reaching consensus “on these measures is often problematic”.

“Proposed permeability links would need the support of the adjacent residential communities and business owners. Public consultation on proposed permeability routes would need to be agreed through the planning process, either through the Part 8 or section 38 planning processes,” the written reply from the council said.

Addressing councillors during the meeting, senior engineer John Hegarty highlighted the high costs associated with a Part 8 consultation and suggested a more informal consultation through a local residents’ association if possible.

Speaking to councillors on behalf of the Active Travel department, assistant senior engineer Michael McAdam said that if there are opportunities for Active Travel “to put permeability links along Cycle South Dublin routes, we do that”.

In reply to a question raised by Fianna Fail’s Cllr Trevor Gilligan, he added that the proposed pedestrian access point would shorten the distance for Grange View residents to the Outer Ring Road by 2.75 kilometres, “which is exactly what this policy aims for”.

He echoed Mr Hegarty’s sentiments around the cost of a public consultation.

However, Mr Hegarty indicated to Cllr Ó Broin that his department could examine options for where a pedestrian access opening “would most likely be” along the route and then pass these along to local representatives to use as part of any “informal” consultation process.

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Public Notices

SDCC
Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas South Dublin County Council

ROADS ACT 1993, SECTION 75

TEMPORARY CLOSURE, COOLDRINAGH CROSS (R835), CO. DUBLIN

To facilitate Circet Networks Ireland to install a ducting network by means of trenching, South Dublin County Council has made an order to temporarily close the following road:

Road Name: Cooldrinagh Cross (R835)

From: Monday 14th July 2025

To: Friday 8th August 2025

Time of Closure: 7:00AM to 7:00PM

Detour Route:
- Travel south on the R-835-17 to the junction with the L1030.
- Turn east along Shackleton Drive to the junction with the new link road.
- Turn north to the junction with the R403.
- Turn northwest to the junction with the L-5001-2.
- Turn east onto the L-5001-2.

Web: www.sdcc.ie

SDCC
Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas South Dublin County Council

ACHT NA mBÓITHRE, 1993, ALT 75

DÚNADH SEALADACH BEARTAITHE AR LÁNA TANDY, CO. BHAILE ÁTHA CLIATH

Tá sé beartaithe ag Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas an bóthar seo a leanas a dhúnadh go sealadach, chun B&C Contractors Monaghan Ltd. a éascú leis hoibreacha riachtanacha a bhaineann le tógáil na n-aonad tithíochta in aice láimhe a chur i gcrích:

Ainm an Bhóthair: Lána Tandy, Co. Bhaile Átha Cliath (80 Méadar de bhóthar ó Acomhal Pháirc Bhaile Adaim)

Ó: Dé Luain an 16 Meitheamh 2025

Go dtí: Dé Céadaoin an 17 Nollaig 2025

Am an Dúnta: 24 uair an chloig

Malairt Slí: trí Bhóthar Pháirc Bhaile Adaim atá comhthreomhar le hacomhal Lána Tandy atá ann cheana. Cuirfear an chomharthaíocht chuí in airde ó thuaidh ó Lána Tandy ag Acomhal L1030.

- Rochtain Áitiúil le coimeád i gcónaí.
- Rochtain Éigeandála 24 uair an chloig le coimeád.

Féadfaidh duine ar bith ar spéis léis nó léi barúil/aighneacht i scríbhinn a thabhairt í a chur faoi bhráid an Oifigigh Feidhmiúcháin Shinsearaigh, Talamhúsáid, Pleanáil agus Iompar, Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas, Halla an Chontae, Tamhlacht, Baile Átha Cliath 24 nó ríomhphost a chur chuig seoroads@sdublincoco.ie tráth nach déanaí ná **5.00i.n. Dé Luain 2 Meitheamh 2025.**

ROADS ACT 1993, SECTION 75

PROPOSED TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF TANDY'S LANE, CO. DUBLIN

To facilitate B&C Contractors Monaghan Ltd. to carry out necessary works associated with the construction of neighbouring housing units, South Dublin County Council propose to temporarily close the following road:

Road Name: Tandy's Lane, Co. Dublin (80 Metres of road from Adamstown Park Junction)

From: Monday 16th June 2025

To: Wednesday 17th December 2025

Time of Closure: 24 hrs

Detour Route: via Adamstown Park Road which is parallel to existing Tandy's Lane junction. Appropriate signage will be erected to the North of Tandy's Lane at the Junction of L1030.

- Local Access to be maintained at all times.
- 24 hr Emergency Access to be maintained.

Any person interested may lodge an observation/submission in writing to the Senior Executive Officer, Land Use, Planning and Transportation, South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Tallaght, Dublin 24 or by email to seoroads@sdublincoco.ie no later than **5.00 p.m. on Monday 2nd June 2025.**

Web: www.sdcc.ie

Life & Social

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Very special show for Colm Gavin

SEÓ BEO FESTIVAL IN ÁRAS CHRÓNÁIN JUNE 28

By **Ryan Butler**
news@echo.ie

CLONDALKIN singer-songwriter Colm Gavin is currently on tour around the UK and Ireland, a string of shows that will stretch right out until the end of the year.

He recently announced a "very special" hometown summer show at Seó Beo Festival in Áras Chrónáin on June 28. This will be his only hometown show on this tour.

Other dates include:

June 6: Finn's Folk Club Tipperary
June 8: Galway Folk Festival
June 18: Whelans Dublin
June 28: Seó Beo Festival
August 19: Oh Yeah Centre, Belfast
August 30 & 31: Songfest Warwickshire, UK

Fresh off the heels of a short run of shows in the US in late March, he's come back to Ireland to demonstrate his vocal and songwriting prowess.

He has been highly active over the past year since his album 'Diggin the Idleflower' was released, with two of its songs being shortlisted by RTE Radio 1 for the Folk Awards.

He previously performed at two sold-out benefit concerts in Joanne Trattoria on west 68th street, a venue owned and operated by Lady Gaga's father, Joe Germanotta, and the extended Germanotta family.

He was previously back in his hometown of Clondalkin for the 11th annual Ciaran Carr Christmas Busk in December and again in March for the St Patrick's Day celebrations.

This week, we sat down with Colm to discuss a busy year for him, as well as this latest tour, coming to Aras Chronain on June 28.

Lovely to meet you again, Colm! It's been a busy year for you so far, hasn't it?

Great to be chatting with you, Ryan. It's all gone by in the blink of an eye. I finished a short run of shows in the United States in late March, and since that point I've been on tour right the way across Ireland, from Ballydehob to Newtownards and Ennistymon to Borrisoleigh. Crisscrossing and navigating the roads of Ireland, and it's been such a beautiful journey so far.

How have you been doing over the past year? How did the performances at Christmas and St Patrick's Day go?

Christmas just gone, we had the 11th annual Ciarán Carr Christmas Busk with an absolutely stellar lineup: Kiera Dignam, Shobsy, Leslie Dowdall (In Tua Nua), and George Murphy – just an absolute who's who of Irish performers! The people turned out in their droves; it was spellbinding. St. Patrick's Day fell for me right between shows; I had performed in Cork the night before and was flying out to New York the following day, so that all zipped by in a blur

It's crazy to think that 'Diggin the Idleflower' launched a full year ago! It must feel like no time at all for you?

Honestly, the entire process, from creating to releasing the album, felt so organic, and I put that down to the careful handling of Aidan Duffy, who produced the entire record. He was the ultimate facilitator, softening the edges where necessary and always putting the music first; a maestro like that doesn't need guidance; he's always in control. RTÉ Radio 1 shortlisted two of the songs from the record for the Folk Awards, which was an almighty honour. I'm still very much touring the record and enjoying watching the songs unfold and mature.

You performed at Aras Chronain last year with Madelyn Monaghan and Caitriona Sherlock; was there anything to take away from that that made you want to use it as the venue for this next performance?

Madelyn & Caitríona are both fastidious musicians; it was such a joy and a rarity to have them both in the same room for a performance like that and an even greater pleasure to perform alongside them. I've been quite involved with the curation of events in Áras Chrónáin since 2018. I'm one of the facilities "Artists in residence" and conduct a number of weekly co-writing sessions there with artists from all over the country: Kiera Dignam, Sinéad Black, Kylabelle, Leah Barniville, and Megan Burke, all of whom are a great pleasure to work with and exceptional performers in their own right. Writing for and with other artists is an endeavour that I've grown to cherish. Watching self-penned songs have lives all of their own outside the performing realm I occupy is like passing a bouquet in a banquet window; it's a pride thing.

Did you ever think that one day that little boy from Clondalkin would be selling out concerts in New York City from a venue owned and operated by Lady GaGa's father?

At 15 I used to walk home from Summertime evening lessons in the Clondalkin school of music, when the peach and cherry blossoms would be in full bloom, dreaming up a life of touring, travelling, recording and releasing music. I'm not fond of self-congratulating or back-patting, but it's been a long climb since those halcyon days, and while this line of work is deeply rewarding, it's tentative even in its most tangible states. I'm a coyote on a pogo stick, a monkey tucking into a mango; I couldn't do anything else except what I'm doing right now.

You have a busy few months ahead; tell us more?>

By the close of 2025 I'll have performed in every county in Ireland. I've got a number of headline shows and festivals in the UK (Birmingham, London, and Warwickshire). I'm also doing a theatre tour around the USA in September, playing shows in Washington DC, Baltimore, Rhode Island, Cambridge, Boston & NYC. Kenan Flannery & I have been touring all across Ireland, and we're making arrangements to bring that tour across Europe, which is looking like that'll take place in November. I also have one local show this summer, the Seó Beo Festival in Áras Chrónáin on June 28th. I'll be doing a co-headline show with Leslie Dowdall; I'm really looking forward to that



HOMETOWN: Colm Gavin will perform his only hometown summer show in Áras Chrónáin on June 28

Who would you like to thank for helping to organise this tour?

This whole game is a series of moving parts; I'm bound to forget someone or upset someone else. Kenan Flannery is a stoic colossus and very sincerely has only love in his heart for people. I've learnt a lot from touring with him; I'm still learning. As life unfolds, I hope that continues, refining, improving, or at the very least trying, to make something of myself. I said to one of your colleagues some years ago, the roads my keeper, there's no exit plan, no retirement bundle; it brings me nothing but joy. I'll be doing this forever.



Chess tournament

SCHOOLS PARTICIPATE IN EVENT AT SCOIL AOIFE IN CITYWEST

Photos by **Paddy Barrett**

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Jack, Adam and Minna



Sophie, Timmy and Seth



Jenepha, Zaki and Cathal,



Shay, Harry, Alex and Leah



Jack H and Jack G



Aoife, Carley and Fiadh



Cián, Kayden, Billy and Inesh,

Luke Devlin's literary debut explores the quiet collapse of a man who listens for a living

By **Ryan Butler**
news@echo.ie

"The novel has specific themes that relate to the many men I have met in my professional capacity," explains Aylesbury-born author Luke Devlin.

In his literary debut, Luke delivers a haunting and introspective novel about identity, repression, and the toll of unspoken trauma.

'The Anatomy of a Silent Scream' introduces readers to Paddy Flint, a respected therapist who understands how men work—until his life begins to unravel.

Luke's main preparation for writing was to have a "vague sense" of what he wanted to achieve each day.

Regarding future books, he explains that he is currently working on one that will bring "light and focus" to the many 'invisible men' who have endured "cruel and ongoing" abuses in religious state-run schools.

He loves the "flow" of writing that comes from when a new idea for the story comes to him.

The idea came to him during lockdown; he started writing it last summer and finished it just before summer.

Luke would like to thank his family and friends for offering to read his drafts and provide feedback, and his brother Dan for helping to design the book cover and tidy up the manuscript.

Written with lyrical intensity and psychological precision, 'The Anatomy of a Silent Scream' is a meditation on masculinity, vulnerability, and the limits of control.

Early readers are calling it "stark", "unflinching", and "quietly devastating".

For readers of Sebastian Barry, John Boyne, or Douglas Stuart—this is a novel about what happens when the silence finally breaks.

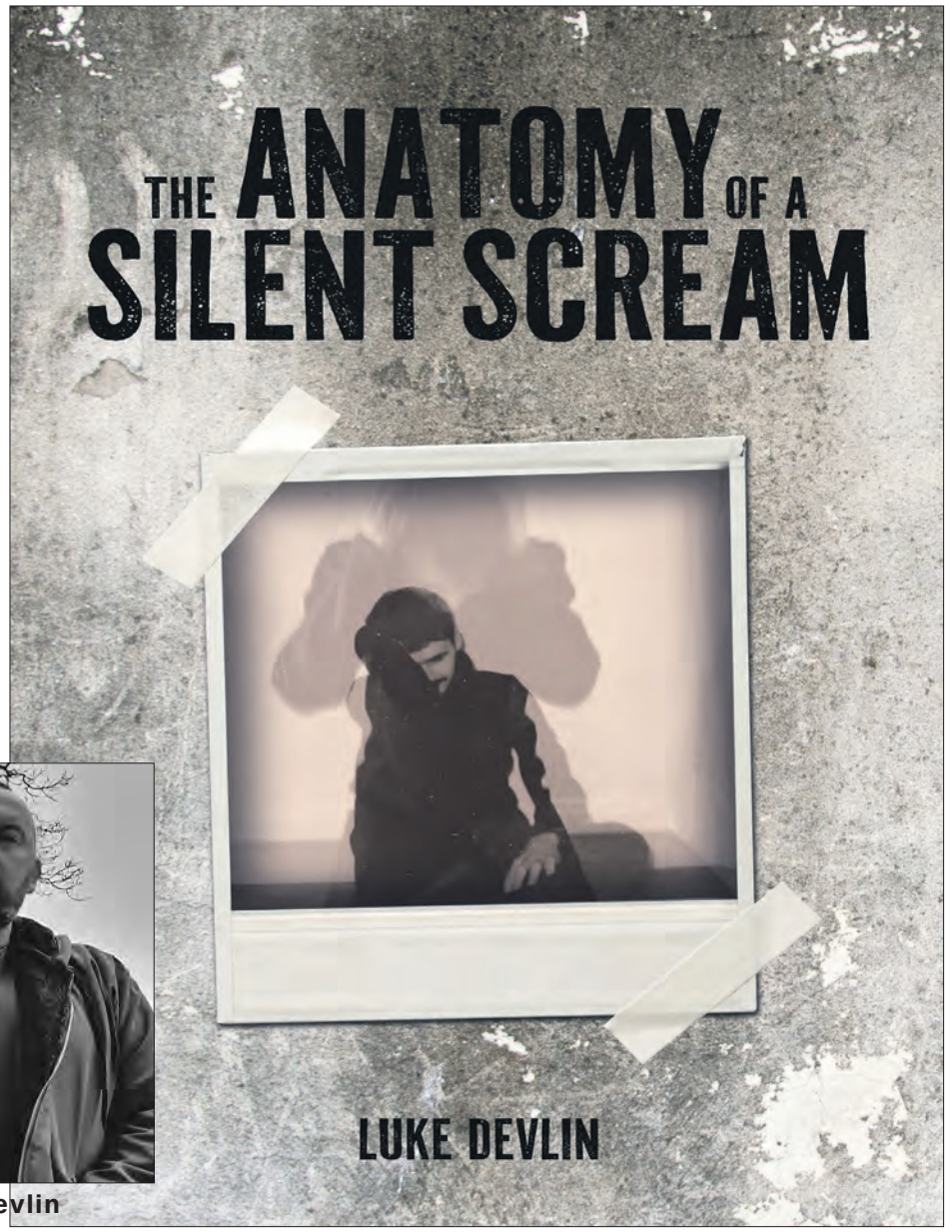
The novel is now available in paperback through Amazon.

Luke is being supported by Tallaght Community Arts, who will co-host a launch event in mid-June for the book.

Be sure to keep an eye out and purchase if you can!



Author Luke Devlin



Children will work with visual artist Seiko on a giant outdoor sculpture at Rua Red

By **Ryan Butler**
news@echo.ie



"THIS monster has seen a lot of things with its many eyes: sadness, happiness, chaos, calm..."

Visual artist Seiko Hayase will work with the community of Tallaght, delivering a series of workshops that engage children ages 9 to 12.

This will be done in the co-production of a large-scale outdoor sculpture that will be installed on the outside wall of Rua Red and launched on Cruinniu na nÓg. In a series of workshops led by the artist, the children will explore the idea of big emotions and work together to create a giant sculptural installation that will be suspended from the roof of Rua Red.

The sculptural piece will be made by the children and Seiko.

Seiko frequently works with materials that are lightweight everyday materials and recyclable, such as paper, bamboo, and garden netting.

Her work is playful, vibrant, and fun, and children can easily relate to her approach.

Seiko will develop this project with local school, St Dominic's National School.

Seiko will hold a drop-in workshop for all visitors on June 7 from 12pm to 4pm.



Health Fair Day

IN FETTERCAIRN COMMUNITY CENTRE

Photos by **Paddy Barrett**

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Rita, Alan, Michelle, Mary and Jasmine



Joshua Kenna, Cllr Adam Smyth, Jacqueline Sheehy, TDATF, Dan O'Toole and Nathan Morgan



Sue Byrne and Madeline Usher



Christopher and Samantha



Laura and Sophie



Thomas, Bernie and baby Molly



Caroline Fox (Integrated Care for Older Persons), Niamh McDonagh (ICPOP)



Darlene Dunne, Clodagh Byrne and Rhianna Forde, South Dublin County Partnership



Janet Doyle and Imelda Hanratty

Keep up Hope

STORIES BY CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH A PARENT IN PRISON

By **Ryan Butler**
news@echo.ie

"I was pleased to launch this important book," comments Tallaght senator Lynn Ruane.

Prepare to be moved by tears of joy and compassion at the raw honesty and resilience found within the pages of 'Keep up Hope: Stories and Artwork by Children and Young People with a Parent in Prison'.

This is a groundbreaking new book launched on May 15 by a group of young artists and authors from Bedford Row in Limerick.

This remarkable project, developed out of a collaboration between Kids' Own Publishing Partnership and Irish Penal Reform Trust, is supported by Community Foundation Ireland's Toy Show Appeal.

It offers a glimpse into the lives of children and young people navigating the complexities of having a parent in prison – voices and stories which are often unheard and unrecognised.

Through their own words and drawings, the children and young people share their experiences of parental imprisonment, highlighting the pain of separation and the challenges of simply keeping in contact.

The book vividly captures the complexities of their emotions from the anxiety often caused by prison security procedures and having to communicate through a screen.

It also captures the simple pleasure of sharing a bag of sweets during a visit and the sheer joy when a parent is released.

The book also indicates an acute recognition by the children of their parent at home's efforts to maintain a level of normality in family life.

Long-time advocate for criminal justice reform, Senator Lynn Ruane, launched the book alongside the children on May 15.

At the launch, she said, "This book is more than just a collection of stories; it is a testament to the strength and adaptability of children as well as the power of their positivity and humour."

Senator Ruane has since expanded on this statement with us, commenting, "In this beautiful yet often heart-breaking book, we hear directly from the kids living this experience."

"They share themselves, their hopes and needs so beautifully, and it was clear at the launch of this book why they must listen."

She has supported the Irish Penal Reform Trust for many years, worked with its representatives on various justice issues, and admires the Bedford Row Family Project in Limerick.

She remarks that many young people in Limerick face similar challenges due to inequality, intergenerational poverty, and under-resourcing.

As a result, our communities are "over-represented" in the prison system, leading to numerous families dealing with having a parent in prison.

Senator Ruane also surmises that this situation affects families emotionally and financially but also strains the parent-child bond.



LAUNCH: Louise Holian, Interim Creative Director, Kids Own Publishing Partnership; Senator Lynn Ruane; Saoirse Brady, Director, Irish Penal Reform Trust and Ashling Tobin, Children and Families Coordinator, Irish Penal Reform Trust

"It is challenging for love and care to thrive in often harsh visiting conditions, such as screens, counters, and limited physical contact."

She concludes by remarking that children have a right to parental relationships, and "our systems must ensure this right is respected, valued, and supported to promote their well-being."

She cites sharing this launch and a room with these young authors, especially on an issue so close to her heart, as an "honour".

'Keep up Hope' is an important resource for parents, families, teachers, social workers and anyone seeking to understand and support children with a parent in prison.

It is also a great resource for people working across the criminal justice system who may come into contact with children experiencing these profound challenges.

Annual collaboration sessions a unique and creative event

By **Ryan Butler**
news@echo.ie

"KEITH McLoughlin's annual collaboration sessions are a unique and creative event that I always look forward to."

This is what Rohan Healy of Beardfire Studios has to say regarding Terenure singer-songwriter Keith McLoughlin.

Keith is a busy man, writing lyrics and melodies and collaborating with other singer-songwriters to create songs.

Apart from that, he also presents radio on Dublin South FM and does PR for artists, helping them get their music played on other radio stations, hosting a music night, The Brady's Sessions, and a music meet-up group, The Songwriter Club.



Keith has been writing songs for many years, including co-writing with the likes of Chris Short, James Daly, Gillian Tuite and Grace Day, who wrote with Keith on his debut singing release, 'Big Joe', and follow-up, 'My Little Red Eye'.

Keith has released songs he has co-written with these artists.

This includes getting performers Denise Brennan on 'Raise A Glass To New Year' and 'See You Again', Annette Joy on 'Irish Rail', and Sabina Vostner on 'I Hope You're Ok'.

He has also performed at gigs in which he organised a Collaboration Concert in The Cobblestone with his friends, along with appearances at The Brady's Sessions, Darkey Kelly's Singer/Songwriter Night and Lily's Open Mic.

Keith will be releasing a new song on Friday, June 6, called 'Jim's Song'.

"Gillian Tuite helped me write the song while the lads in Beardfire Studio did the recording."

The song is about a friend of Keith's, Jim Barron, who passed away in December 2023.

He will be performing some of his songs in the Cobblestone on Friday, July 4, with Rohan Healy, Al Quiff, Grace Day, Jim Loughran, Annette Joy, and James Daly for their annual Collaboration Concert.

Be sure to check out Keith's music at www.keithmcloughlinmusic.com.

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40th celebrations

IN ST AIDAN'S COMMUNITY SCHOOL IN BROOKFIELD

Photos by **Paddy Barrett**

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Mayor Baby Pereppadan with St Aidan's CS students



Peter McNamara, Eliza Connolly, Sandra Sullivan, Jose Ukachukwu, Sr Barbara, Anne-Marie Macken, Sr Kathleen and Kevin Shortall (Principal)



Rachael O'Connor, Sr Barbara Murphy and Peter McNamara



Darren, Elizabeth and Lorcan Harris. Elizabeth is Daughter of first Principal Michael Meade



John Hogan and Chris Delaney (Caretaker)



Nicola Spokes (DDLETB) and Chinaka Opara



Jose Ukachukwu, presenting his painting to Sr Liz and Sr Barbara



Minister Emer Higgins with Ashlinn Tuffy and Khloe Kelly

> "There is no better way to bring people together than with desserts
>
> *Gail Simmons*

Food with passion



STRAWBERRIES & CREAM TIRAMISU

by **john paul kennedy** /jpkennedy.kennedy@gmail.com

I promised to bring you this recipe a few weeks back but found it difficult to source lady fingers! I eventually managed to source some and whipped up this delicious Summer themed dessert for my family over the weekend. I love traditional Tiramisu, but some people are not a fan of coffee so this version is the perfect alternative, that's light, fresh, and so easy to make. a great get ahead dessert for feeding a crowd and perfect for this time of year especially with wimbledon only around the corner. This is my last recipe before I take my summer break, don't worry I will be back in September, but what a show stopping dessert recipe to finish up on! not only does the Tiramisu taste delicious it's so colourful and inviting, but strawberries for me are also the quintessential summer fruit and are at the very best at this time of year.

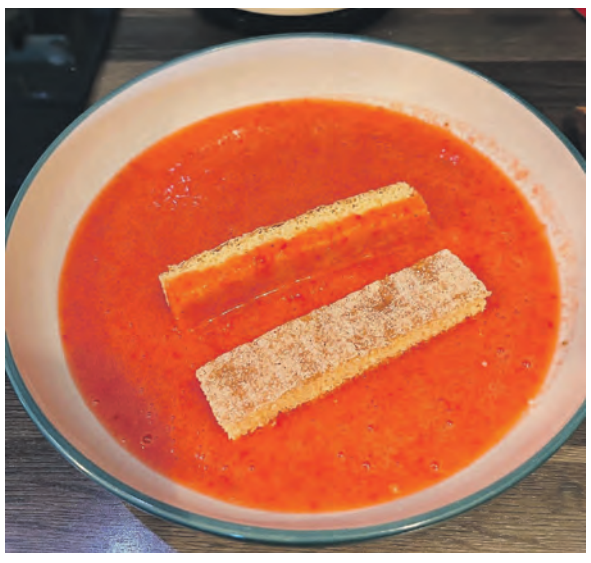
Ingredients: (Serves 2-4 people depending how hungry you are)

500g of fresh strawberries (two punnets) keep some back for decorating.
500ml double cream
2 packets of lady fingers (you won't need all of them depending on the dish you are using)
250g Mascarpone
1 teaspoon of vanilla extract
60g castor sugar
1 tablespoon of cornflour
1.5 tablespoons of butter
Juice of one lemon

Strawberry Curd:
250g chopped strawberries.
30g castor sugar
Juice of half a lemon
1 tablespoon of cornflour
1.5 tablespoon butter

Strawberry coulis:
250g strawberries
30g castor sugar
Juice of half a lemon
Mascarpone cream
500ml double cream
250g mascarpone cream
Teaspoon of vanilla extract











Method:

1. Place all the curd ingredients in a processor and blitz until smooth. Then pass through a sieve over a pot on a medium heat to remove all the seeds. bring to a simmer until nice and smooth and thick. remove from the heat, add the butter and allow to cool.
2. To make the strawberry coulis, place all the ingredients into the processor and blitz, then pour into a large bowl. This will be used to dip the lady fingers in
3. whip up the mascarpone cream until thickened.
4. Then to build the Tiramisu, soak each lady finger in strawberry coulis one at a time, don't over soak them, and place in a layer into your serving dish. Pop on some chopped strawberries, then place a layer of mascarpone cream on top, repeat this again and then on final layer spread over the strawberry curd and place into the fridge to set for at least 4 hours or overnight if you have time.
5. decorate on top with some fresh strawberries, serve and enjoy!

Strawberries and cream are the perfect accompaniment and especially in Summer. I served this for dessert after Sunday lunch and it went down a storm. I went back for seconds, it's so fresh, light, and delicious and no doubt a new dessert recipe I will return to repeatedly throughout the summer months. It's time for a mid summer break from my recipes but I will be back in September. Thank you everyone for your support and kind words. I love to hear from people who have tried my recipes and I hope they inspire all budding cooks to get into the kitchen and give them a bash! Happy cooking and have a great summer everyone 😊 JP.

john paul kEnnEdy IS a Self-TaugHT cook and an avId fan of collecTIng cookery bookS wITH a PaSSIon for good old-faSHIoned HoMe cookIng. HIS PaSSIon for ProPer faMIly cookIng STeMS froM HIS Two grandMoTHerS, wHo were boTH excellenT cookS, one of wHoM waS a TraIned cHef. **jp** ProMISeS To brIng uS PlenTy of faMIly-InSPIred recIPeS and TaSTy TreaTS wHIle SHowIng uS How To geT THe baSIcS rIgHT

Contact jp on:
Twitter: @JPkcooking
Email: JPkcooking@gmail.com
Instagram: jpkennedy.kennedy

One-Act plays

HOSTED BY HAROLDS CROSS TALLAGHT MUSICAL SOCIETY

Photos by **Paddy Barrett**

Photos taken for *The Echo* are available to purchase. Email **reception@echo.ie** or call 01-4685350.
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Cast at the One-Act plays in Tallaght Theatre



Hannah, Georgia, Kim, Robyn, Alison, Niamh and Rachel



Keith Kennedy, Niamh McGowan, Mary Galligan and Paul Laycock



Eimear and Irene



Michael and Bebe Nolan



Liz Finegan, Paul Fay and Ilona Blunden



Barbara Gallivan and Cathy Medbury



Niamh Barker and Alan Duffy

"Sleep is the best meditation

Dalai Lama

Health & Fitness

WHY DO I KEEP GETTING SICK?

Here's how to break the cycle before the holidays



by **Ursula Frawley** / info@moveitfitness.ie

As summer approaches, most of us expect to wave goodbye to the coughs and colds that linger through winter. But for some, it feels like the bugs just don't budge!

Sound familiar? Maybe you go from one cold to the next, battle a stubborn cough that just won't quit, or pick up every little virus going around. And with your long-awaited two-week holiday just around the corner, getting sick is the last thing you want!

I often get asked, 'Ursula, are you ever sick?' Honestly? Very rarely. And no, I'm not superhuman. I just try my utmost to give my immune system what it needs to stay strong and resilient.

This week, I'm sharing some simple but powerful strategies that can help you stay healthy and energetic - and not just this summer, but all year around.

1. Prioritise Sleep (Seriously!)

It's not just about how long you sleep, but also how well. Quality rest allows your body to recover, repair, and recharge - exactly what your immune system needs.

Struggling with sleep, especially during menopause? I recommend chatting to your GP and see if you can get some support.



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UrSUla FrawlEY IS A PERSonAl TRAInER And oWnER oF MoVE IT FITnESS. HER onlInE STREnGTH & FITnESS cIASSES, 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

Here's what I do: A good night's sleep actually starts first thing in the morning! Step outside into natural sunlight within 30 minutes of waking up - it helps regulate your body clock and boosts immune health. Just grab your cuppa and head out to the garden in your pajamas!

2. Eat for Immunity

A strong immune system starts with what you put on your plate. Aim for 80% of your meals to come from whole, colourful foods - fruits, vegetables, grains, lean proteins, and healthy fats.

And yes, there's still room for treats! It's all about balance, not perfection.

3. Get Moving - Every Day

You knew this was coming from me! Regular exercise like walking, dancing, strength training or cycling doesn't just make you feel good - it helps flush out toxins and strengthens your immune response.

Extra resilience will come from getting your workout outside - sunshine and fresh air do wonders for your body and mind.

4. Your immune system does NOT like these

Smoking & excessive alcohol - these are all major culprits when it comes to weakening your immune system. Even small changes can make a big difference over time.

5. Keep Your Stress in Check

Easier said than done, I know. Stress really takes a toll on your body's defense system. Try incorporating calming practices like breathwork, journaling, stretching, or even just a daily walk without your phone. For me, stress is the hardest to keep in check. I keep on top of this as much as possible by meeting up regularly with friends and family and getting out walking when I feel the stress coming on!

We all know how miserable it feels to be run-down and unwell. By building these daily habits now, you'll not only feel stronger and healthier - but you'll be also ready to fully enjoy that holiday you've been waiting for.

Here's to a happy, healthy summer - with no sick days in sight!

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.



UGH. ALL THESE **LIONS**. HARD TO KEEP THEM **STRAIGHT**.

KING JUGRID.

QUEEN DOVANA.

PRINCE THUN.

DOVA (THUN'S HALF-LION SQUEEZE)

AND THEN... THERE'S THE TWO **ALIENS**.

DALE ARDEN...

AND **FLASH GORDON**

THE LION MEN CONVERT THEIR VEHICLE FLEET FROM **CAMP** TO **CARAVAN**. THEIR **GYROSHIPS** FLY **ESCORT**.

AS A **SPECTACLE**, IT'S ALMOST **IMPRESSIVE**...

...IF IT WEREN'T SO **BRIGHT** AND **DRY** AND **AWFUL** UP HERE.

I'M **VELLE**, SHARK CITY AMBASSADOR, HERE TO ENSURE THE **LIONS** GET TO OUR **SUMMIT**.

THEY'RE PRACTICALLY TREATING THIS AS A **HOLIDAY**.

EVEN THE ALIENS ARE MAKING A **ROMANTIC INTERMISSION** OF IT ALL.

UNTIL ONE MORNING, AS PRINCE **THUN** TEACHES THE ALIEN **FLASH** SOME LION **FIGHTING ART**...

...A RADIO TECH SWEEPS UP ON AN **AIRCYCLE**.

DAN SCHKADE 11-17-24

THE'VE LOST CONTACT WITH ONE OF THE **GYROSHIPS**...ITS PILOTS' FATES **UNKNOWN**.

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A SEARCH PARTY IS DISPATCHED-- **THUN, FLASH** AND THE "GREAT HUNTRESS" **DOVANA**.

LOOK AT THEM SOAR OFF.

IT'S ALMOST **IMPRESSIVE**.

NEXT: SMOKE TRACKS

THE **PHANTOM**

CREATED BY **LEE FALK**

MINA LEARNED OF EDEN HERE IN THE FAMILY LIBRARY.

I CAN'T HAVE HER OR ANYONE ELSE LEARNING THAT LESSON HERE AGAIN.

SEPTEMBER 12, 2005, ED.

YOU'RE FIRM, THEN, IN YOUR DECISION, MINA? YOU MEAN TO STAY HERE AMONG THE *ALMOST HUMANS*?

I AM! THANKS TO YOU BOTH, I'M HERE NOW AS THE *SCIENTIST* I'VE ALWAYS BEEN. NOT A WOMAN HIDING FROM A WORLD THAT THINKS HER MAD.

MY FINDINGS CAN NEVER BE PUBLISHED, OF COURSE. IT WOULD BE A CRIME TO LEAD THE OUTSIDE WORLD TO THE GATES OF THE DOMAIN.

THE CHAMPION OF OLD WOULD BE HAPPY TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT.

MEANWHILE... YOU BELIEVE THIS *PHANTOM*... IS THE SAME FORMIDABLE HUMAN KNOWN TO OUR ANCESTORS?

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IF HE ISN'T, I FIND HIM *NO LESS EXTRA-ORDINARY* FOR IT!

Tony DePaul & Jeff Weigel 6-11-23

I WISH TO FORGE AN UNDERSTANDING WITH THIS MAN BEFORE HE LEAVES THE DOMAIN OF THE ALMOST HUMANS...

A PLEDGE THAT, WHATEVER HE IS, WE ARE FOREVER *ALLIED* WITH HIM!-- AND HE WITH US.

www.thephantomcomics.com

THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS **POPEYE**

BY RANDY MILHOLLAND

WOT'RE YA DOIN' HERE, BLUTO?

I'M HERE T' SUPPORT MY LI'L BROTHER.

YOU REALLY CAME TO SUP—

YOU'RE BAD AT THIS AND YOU SHOULD GIVE UP!

HONESTY IS THE BEST SUPPORT.

THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS "BUMMER SLAM" PART 6

POPEYE AND BLUTO DECIDE TO CHECK ON BRUTUS, WHO HAS BEEN TRAINING WITH BATTLING MSGNAT TO BECOME A WRESTLER SO HE MIGHT HELP HIS NEPHEW'S FAVORITE WRESTLER SAVE HIS STALLING CAREER.

SO, IS BRUTUS READY FER HIS FIRST MATCH?

HE'S BARELY READY T' LACE UP HIS BOOTS!

HE'S CLUMSY. HE APOLOGIZES WHEN HE PUTS FOLKS IN HEADLOCKS. HE'S JUST AWFUL.

TAKE THIS T' CLOBBER YER OPPONENTS. RESPECTFULLY, CHEATIN' IS YER ONLY OPTION.

YOUR RESPECT SURE SOUNDS DISRESPECTFUL.

popeye.com

DON'TSK MIND MSGNAT, BRUTUS. I'LL GETCHA RING-READY WITH EX'RCISE AN' SPINACH!

YOU'RE NOT GIVIN' MY BABY BROTHER SPINACH, RUNT!

WOT'S WRONG? SCARED BRUTUS WILL BE STRONGER THAN YA?

I AIN'T SCARED OF NOTHIN'!

CLANG!

DID HE JUSK KNOCK HIMSELF OUT WIT' THAT CHAIR?

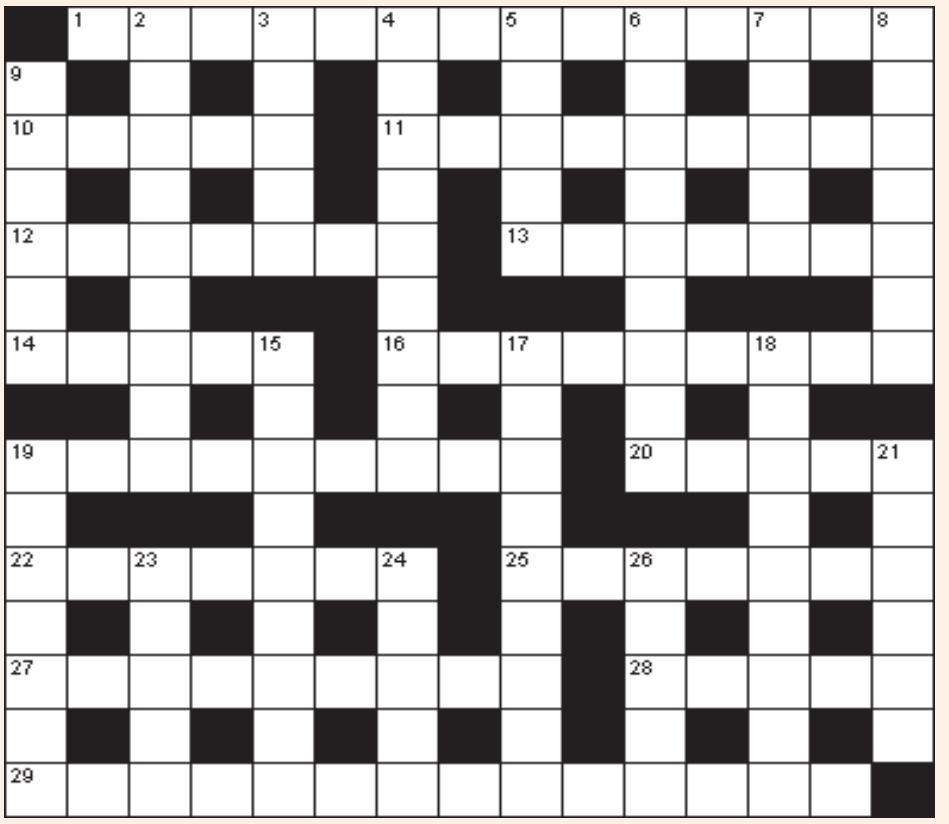
IF YER STILL LOOKIN' FER A RING NAME FER HIM, MAY I SUGGEST "WEAPONIZED INCOMPETENCE"?

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TASQ-ART

WWW.TASQART.COM

echocrossquiz Q2905



ACROSS

1. Authentic (14)
10. Choral work (5)
11. A husband who cheats (9)
12. Relate (7)
13. Unpredictable (7)
14. Stalks (5)
16. An explanation of the fundamental reasons (9)
19. The Pilgrim ship (9)
20. Old photo color (5)
22. Danica Patrick drives one (7)
25. Stir up (7)
27. Indistinguishable (9)
28. Drugged (5)
29. Unconquerable (14)

DOWN

2. Infamy (9)
3. Far beyond the norm (5)
4. It frightens birds (9)
5. Become accustomed (to) (5)
6. Disreputable (9)
7. A cap with no brim or bill (5)
8. Otalgia (7)
9. Recompense (6)
15. A British lawyer (9)
17. Waterproofed canvas (9)
18. Assessment (9)
19. Cocktail (7)
21. Order of business (6)
23. Pepperwort (5)
24. Odd-numbered page (5)
26. Large Asian country (5)

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS 2205

G		A		A		R		O		T		K	S
A	N	T	I	Q	U	E		U	N	A	W	A	R	E
L		O		U		M		T		R		N	V
L	A	M	B	A	D	A		S	P	A	N	G	L	E
O		I				R		T		N		A	R
P	A	C	E	M	A	K	E	R		T	H	R	O	E
				A				I		E		O	L
I	M	M	O	R	A	L		P	I	L	L	O	R	Y
N		A		I		O				L			
W	A	H	O	O		V	I	O	L	A	T	I	O	N
A		O		N		E		M				P		E
R	E	G	R	E	S	S		E	X	C	R	E	T	E
D		A		T		I		L		L		C		D
L	U	N	A	T	I	C		E	D	U	C	A	T	E
Y		Y		E		K		T		E		C		D

CAN YOU BEAT THIS WEEK'S CROSSQUIZ?

SUDOKU 1

9					7			
							5	6
	6		5			3		4
		3			9			
	2				4	9	6	
	4		9		2			5
		5	8		3			
8				4		2	7	

SUDOKU 2

			2		3		8	
					5		2	
		7		8				3
9		4						
8			6			9		
6								1
5	4		9					
		8	5			6		
			1		7			2

ANSWERS

3	6	9	1	4	7	8	5	2
7	1	8	5	3	2	6	9	4
5	4	2	9	6	8	1	3	7
6	2	5	8	7	9	3	4	1
8	3	1	6	2	4	9	7	5
9	7	4	3	5	1	2	6	8
2	9	7	4	8	6	5	1	3
1	8	3	7	9	5	4	2	6
4	5	6	2	1	3	7	8	9

SUDOKU 2

8	3	1	6	4	5	2	7	9
2	9	5	8	7	3	6	4	1
6	4	7	9	1	2	8	3	5
5	2	8	1	3	4	9	6	7
4	1	3	7	6	9	5	8	2
7	6	9	5	2	8	3	1	4
3	8	4	2	9	1	7	5	6
9	5	6	4	8	7	1	2	3
1	7	2	3	5	6	4	9	8

SUDOKU 1

Poet's Corner

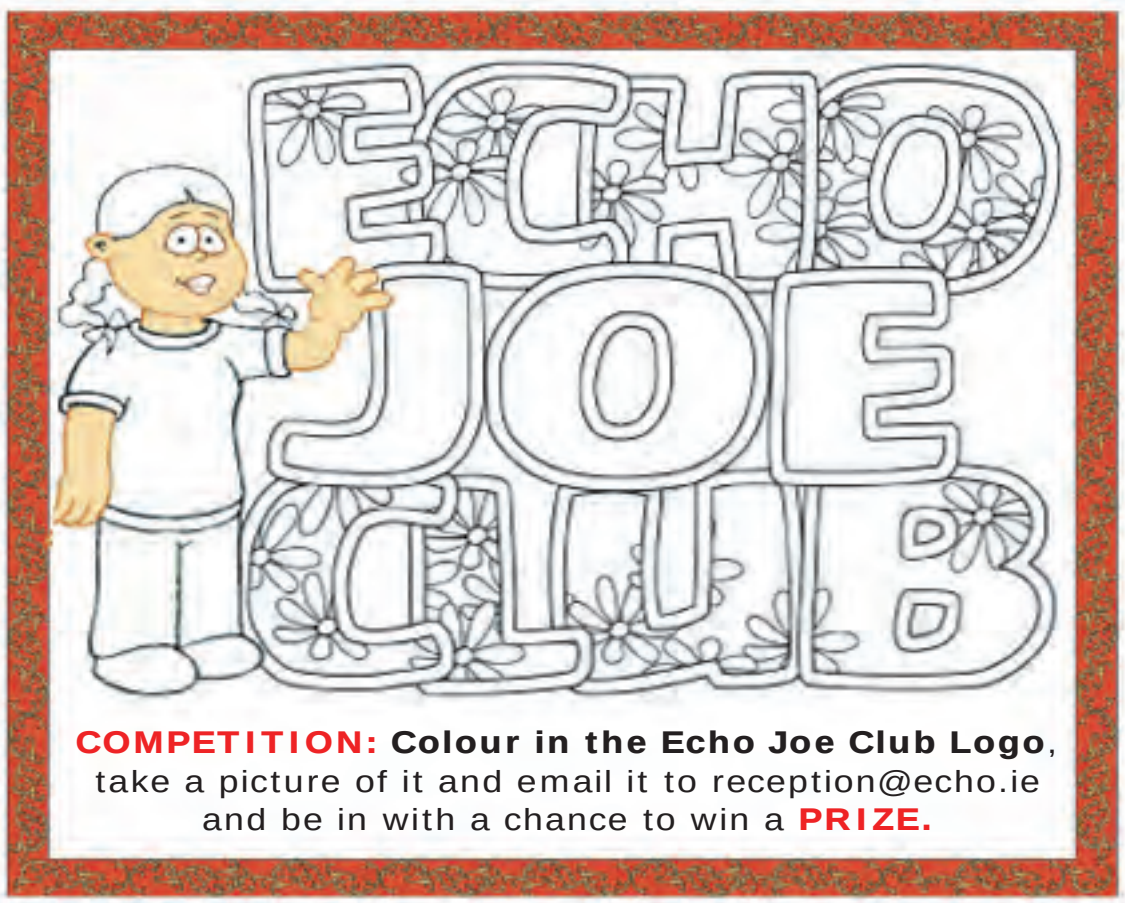
JOE

by **Gerard O'Keefe**

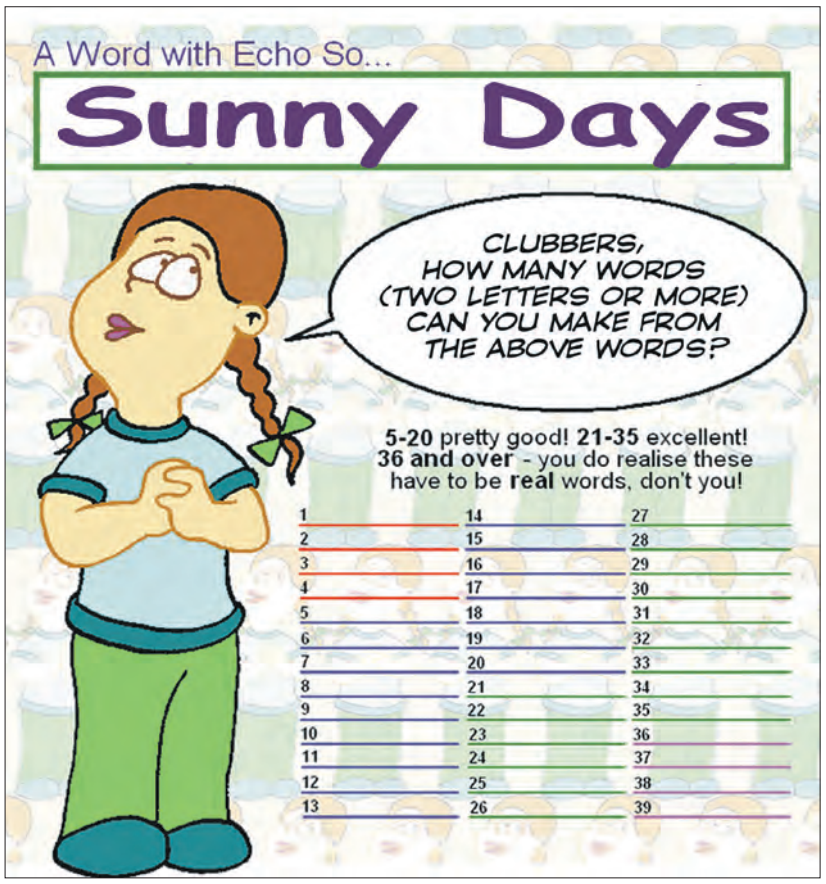


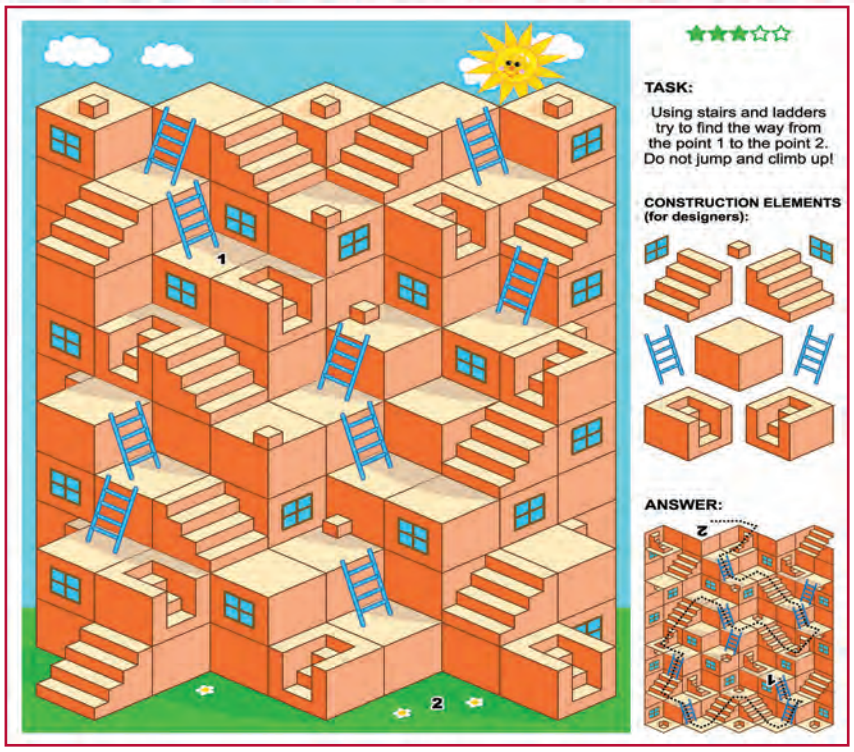
I moved to Tallaght 35 years ago and quickly came to love it. I've been writing poetry for almost 50 years. I'm now retired and I have five grandchildren – they mean the world to me.

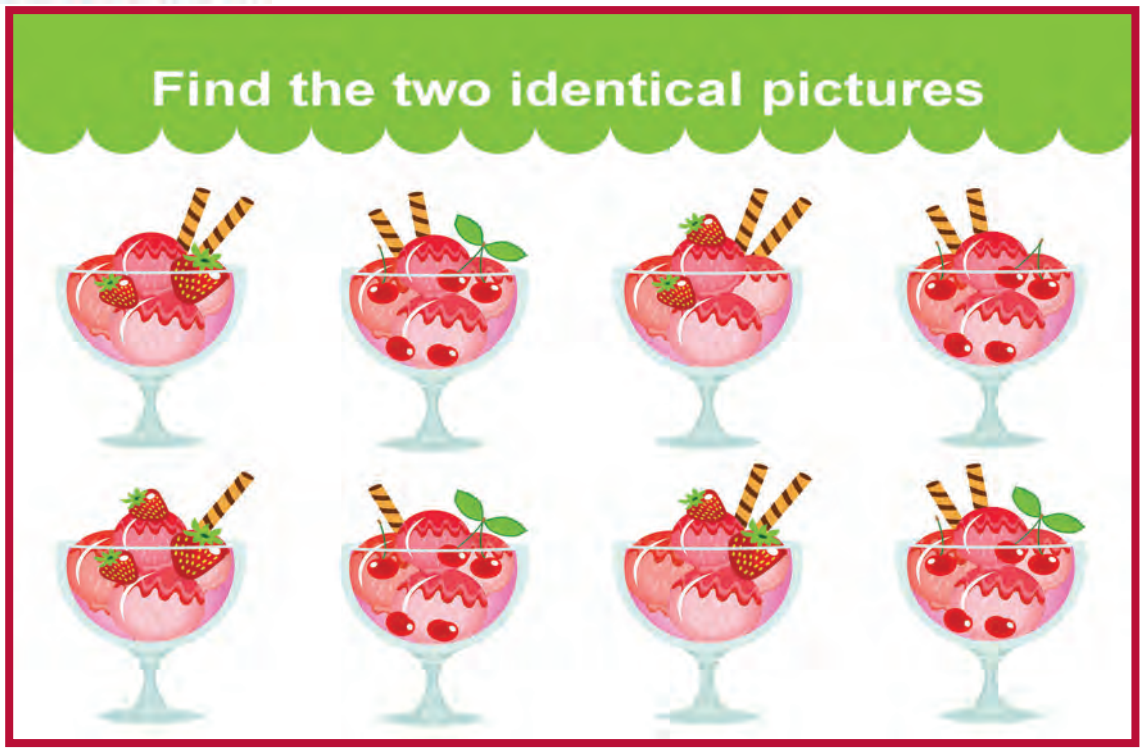
Thousands called Joe
Through the years
Told him their troubles
Shed some tears
He changed this country
Was a voice for us All
To get things done
He was the man to call
Magdalene laundrys
Covid
Lost bottles of wine
Through the medium of radio
He covered all in his time
Feared by conmen
He brought many to light
Fearless campaigner
for what was right
For many his voice
Was that of a friend
At a quarter to 2
You could allways depend

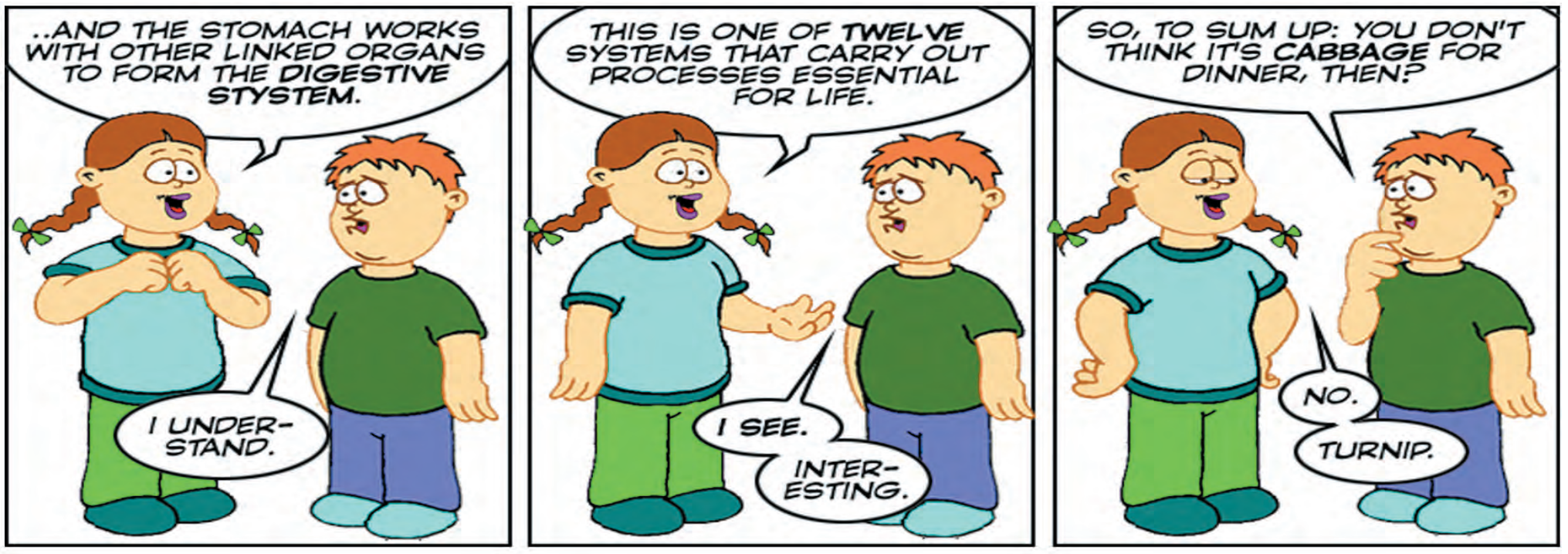


COMPETITION: Colour in the Echo Joe Club Logo, take a picture of it and email it to reception@echo.ie and be in with a chance to win a **PRIZE.**







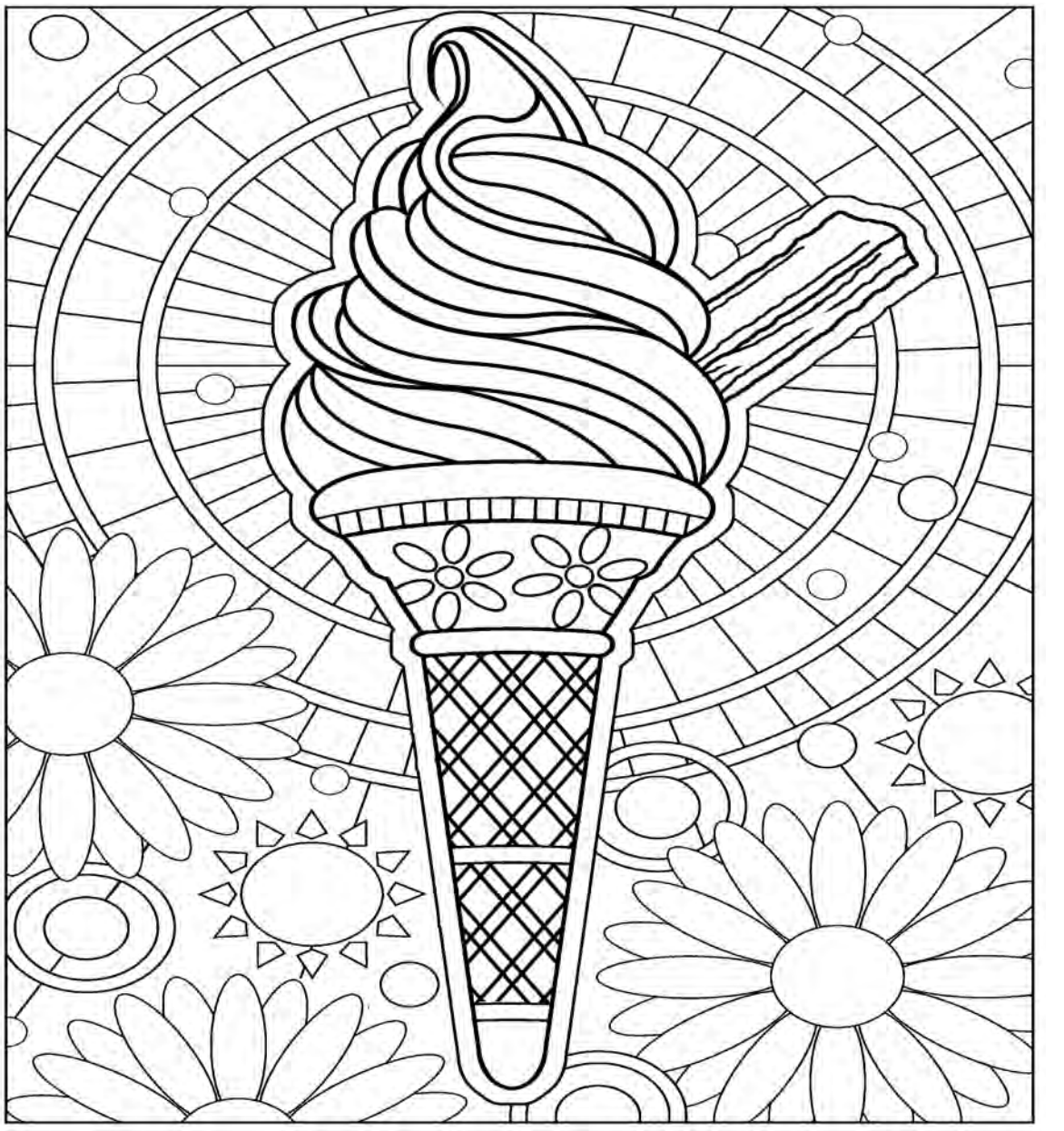


These 2 EchoJoe pages of Awesome, Amazon,

FIND 10 DIFFERENCES



COLOURING BOOK



LETTER LINK LOG-JAM

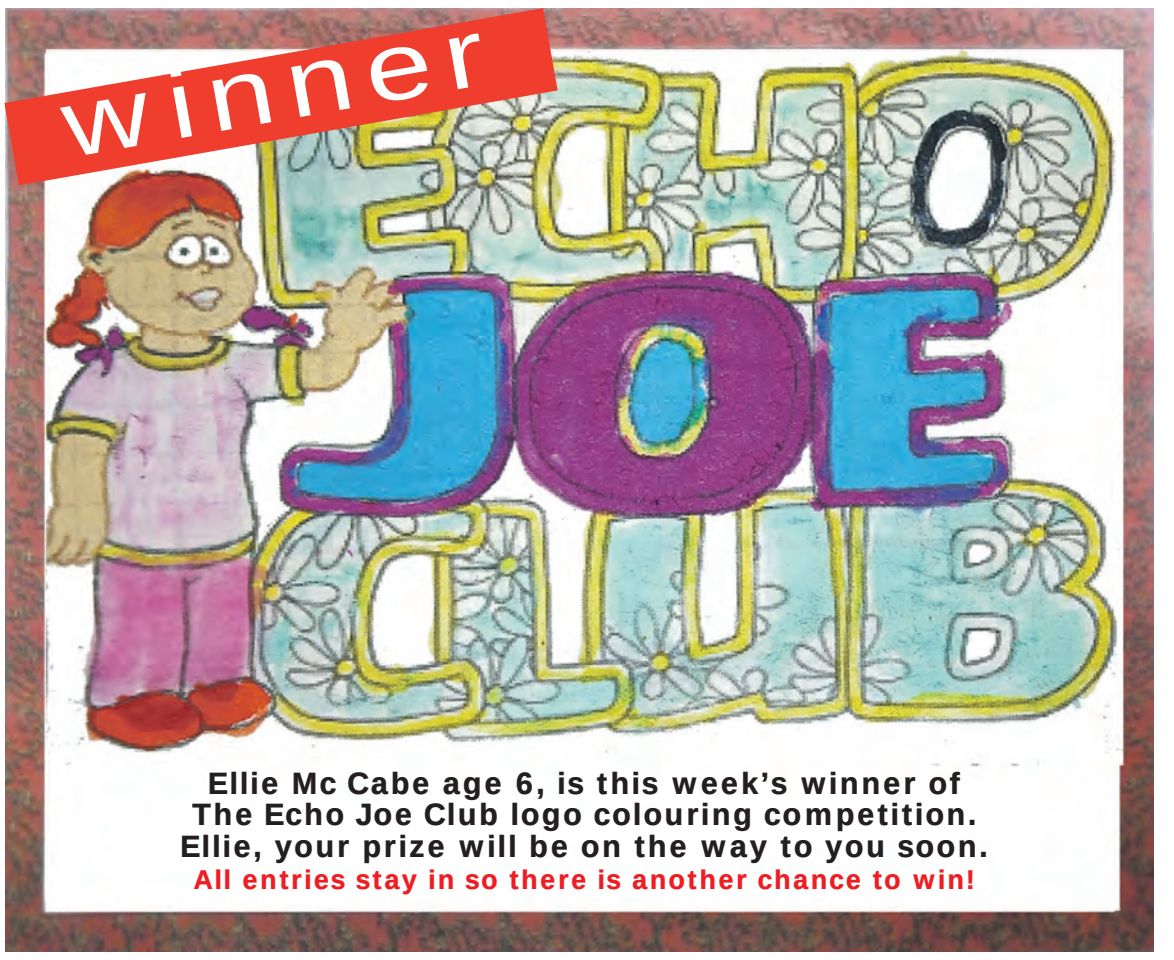
A MISSING LETTER ON EACH ROW FINISHES ONE WORD AND STARTS THE NEXT...

BUT WHAT ARE THE LETTERS?

RAM		EAK
WIN		ARE
BES		ICK
LAS		EAR
MAK		NVY
VAS		PIC
RAF		EAM
SEL		ALL

the missing letters: P, O, T, T, E, E, T, E

winner



Ellie Mc Cabe age 6, is this week's winner of The Echo Joe Club logo colouring competition. Ellie, your prize will be on the way to you soon.

All entries stay in so there is another chance to win!

Activities are kindly sponsored by amazon



Cian and Abbey



Callum and Kelly



Robert Walshe Byrne and Family



Tori, Chloe and Olga



Michelle, Craig and David Donnelly

Catherine, Keane and Thomas



David, Craig, Michelle, Charleen, Glen, Sean and Scott



Kyle Doyle and Jackie Doyle

Logan and Danielle Mooney

Students graduation

IN KILLINARDEN COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Photos by **Paddy Barrett**

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You can view *The Echo* Photography Policy on ***echo.ie***



Students of the Year: Leo Pilkington and Holly Rush with Ms White (Deputy Principal)



Principal Adrienne Whelan with Students



Don and Oleg



Rachel Core, Calvin Core, Anna Hogan and Frank Downey



Rachel Byrne with the Attendance Award with Elaine Byrne and Tomo Casey



Johnny Keenaghan and Robert Keogh with the Soccer Team

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LANDSCAPING

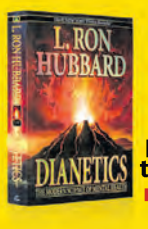
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family notices

Important Notice
Items for publication for memorial pages must be in by 1pm Friday for next Thursday's paper

Tel: 468 5350
email: reception@echo.ie

ANNIVERSARY



Carroll, Thomas
In loving memory of my precious son Thomas whose 11th Anniversary away from home occurs today, 29th May. May he rest in peace.

Son
It's been 11 years now since you've been gone,
I still don't know how to carry on,
Living this life without you is the hardest thing I've ever had to do,
It's very hard trying to be strong,
When you're not here where you belong,
I'm living my life with a broken heart,
Ever since that horrible night you had to part,
To no longer see your face or hear your voice breaks me every day,
So suddenly you were taken, and I didn't get to say,
Just how much I love you and how proud of you I am.
Miss and love you so much Thomas. I'll hold you in my heart forever.
Always loved and never forgotten from your heartbroken Ma
xxxxxxxxxx

Missing You Always
You never said I'm leaving,
You never said goodbye,
You were gone before we knew it,
And only god knows why.
A million times I've needed you,
A million times I've cried,
If love alone could have saved you,
You never would have died.
In life I loved you dearly,
In death I love you still,
In my heart I hold a place,
That only you can fill.
11 years of missing you, love you from Lou and Tommy xxx

RIP Thomas
Another year gone without seeing your smile or hearing your laugh,
Each year gets tougher as I remember our past.
11 years gone but never forgotten.
RIP Snowball.
Love Glen and Shauna xxxxx

Thomas - Precious Grandson
How can I write on paper,
The feelings I have inside,
From your heartbroken Nana,
Who has missed you since you died.
My heart still aches with sadness,
My secret tears still flow,
For what it meant to lose you,
No one will ever know.
Call Thomas's name out softly Lord,
And when he looks your way,
Tell him that I miss him,
Every single day.
Love and miss you always Thomas.
From Nana xxxx

Thomas - Beloved Nephew
We miss you Thomas,
Our hearts are sore,
As time goes by,
We miss you more.
Your loving smile,
Your happy face,
No one could ever,
Take your place.
May the winds of heaven blow softly,
And whisper in your ear,
How much we love and miss you,
And wish that you were here.
Love and miss you forever Snowball.
Jen & Alex xxxxx

Tom - Loving Nephew
Always a smile instead of a frown,
Always a hand when someone was down.
Always true, thoughtful and kind,
Wonderful memories you left behind.
A daily thought, a silent tear,
A constant wish that you were here.
Miss and love you always Tom.
Kev and Emma

Grandson
You left us just your photograph,
Yet your smile still seems to say,
"Don't cry, I'm only sleeping,
We'll meet again some day".
Always in my heart Tom Tom.
Love and miss you Grandad Carroll xx

Nephew
If tears could build a stairway,
And memories a lane,
I'd walk right up to Heaven,
And bring you home again.
Forever in our hearts, loved and missed dearly.
Love Caroline and Karl xxxxxx

Tom
It's been 11 years since my world shattered and crumbled,
Yet I still don't have the words to tell someone how empty my life is without you Tom.
I love you always xx
Love Mairead x

Dad
Your presence I miss,
Your memory I treasure,
Loving you always,
Forgetting you never.
I love you dad xx
Love always Kayla x

Tom
Still missed as much today as you were 11 years ago.
Love Mags x

NOVENA

Miracle Prayer
Dear heart of Jesus I ask you this special favour (mention one) take it dear heart of Jesus and place it within your own broken heart where your father sees it. Then in his merciful eyes it will become your favour not mine. Amen. say this prayer 3 days promise publication and favour will be granted never known to fail. **M.B.**

ANNIVERSARY



Scanlon, Desmond
In loving memory of my Dad whose 18th Anniversary away from home occurs 31st May.

Our lives go on without you,
But nothing is the same,
We have to hide the heartache,
When someone speaks your name.
Sad are the hearts that love you,
Silent the tears that fall,
Living our lives without you,
Is the hardest part of all.
You did so many things for us,
And when we needed someone,
We could always count on you,
We never shall and never will forget you.
Loved and missed beyond words. Your loving daughter Carol, Joe & Family.
Happy Birthday Dad.

Dad
How quick the years have gone since you left us,
But yet it only seems like yesterday,
That we heard your lovely voice,
Your great advice and hearty laugh,
We miss you every day,
But know you're in a better place with no pain.
Another birthday away too.
Happy Birthday Dad.
Love always Declan, Susan, Adam and Megan xx

Dad
Your life was a blessing,
Your memory a treasure,
You are loved beyond words,
And missed beyond measure.
Happy Birthday Dad.
Forever in our hearts love
Denise, Brian and Family.

NOVENA

Novena to St. Jude
Most Holy Apostle, St. Jude, faithful servant and friend of Jesus, the Church honours and invokes you universally, as the patron of hopeless cases, of things almost despaired of. Pray for me, I am so helpless and alone. Make use I implore, you, of that particular privilege given to you, to bring visible and speedy help where help is almost despaired of. Come to my assistance in this great need, that I may receive the consolation and help of Heaven in all my necessities, tribulations and sufferings, particularly, (here make your request) and that I may praise God with you and all the elect forever, I promise O Blessed St. Jude, to be ever mindful of this great you as my special and powerful patron, and to gratefully encourage devotion to you. **M.E.**

ANNIVERSARY



Cronin, Mary
20th Anniversary occurs 30th May. In loving memory of a loving Mother and Grandmother. Also remembering her husband Thomas and her son Thomas, her mother Chrissie and her granddaughter Ashley.

We did not know that morning,
What sorrow the day would bring,
When your heart of gold stopped beating,
We could not do a thing.
You never said goodbye to us,
Perhaps that's just as well,
For how could we have said goodbye,
To the one we loved so well.
When you lose someone special,
The hurt is hard to hide,
But when you lose your mother,
The hurt goes deep inside.
In the silence of our minds,
Where no one else can see,
Your smile, your voice, your memory,
Is kept so tenderly.
For as long as we live,
We will always be glad,
For a wonderful Ma,
We were lucky to have had.
From your heartbroken Sons, Daughter, Daughters-in-Law, Son-in-Law, Grandchildren and Friends.

ANNIVERSARY



Cassidy, Nardeena (Deena)
1st Anniversary occurs 3rd June. In loving memory of my sister Deena's First Anniversary.

Spirit to Spirit,
And Heart to Heart,
Sisters forever,
Together and apart.
Love and miss you always sis.
Gemma and Sean xxx

I chose not to lose my Mam, and instead to gain an angel.
In my mind, my heart, and my life,
She is still completely present to this day,
And as funny, compassionate, and stubborn as ever.
Love you always Ma.
Maria and Eoghan xx

NOVENA

Prayer to Our Lady of Mount Carmel
O, most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, Fruit of the Vine, splendorous of Heaven. Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this my necessity. O, Star of the Sea, help me and show herein you are my mother. O, Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succour me in my necessity. There are none that can withstand your power, O, show me here you are my mother. O, Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee. Sweet Mother, I place this cause in your hands. Amen. **E.K.**

NOVENA

Thanksgiving Prayer
O mother of Perpetual help with grateful hearts, we join you in thanking God for all the wonderful things he has done for us. God our Creator we thank you for the gift of life and all the gifts of nature, our senses and faculties, our talents and abilities. We thank you for creating us in your own image and likeness and for giving us the earth to use and develop to rule and control. Despite our failures you continue to show your love for us by increasing the life of your spirit in us. Finally we thank you loving father for giving us Mary, the mother of your son to be our mother of Perpetual help. We are grateful for all past favours received through her intercession. We pray that these past favours may inspire us to greater confidence to seek the aid of our Mother of Perpetual help Amen. **P.K.**

NOVENA

Miracle Prayer
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 heart of Jesus and place it within your broken heart where your Father sees it. Then in His merciful eyes it will become your favour, not mine. Amen. Say prayer for three days. Promise publication and favour will be granted no matter how impossible. Never known to fail. **M.C.**

NOVENA

Miracle Prayer
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 heart of Jesus and place it within your broken heart where your Father sees it. Then in His merciful eyes it will become your favour, not mine. Amen. Say prayer for three days. Promise publication and favour will be granted no matter how impossible. Never known to fail. Favour Received. **R.H.**

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WEB: www.tallaghtstonecentre.ie

planning notices

All planning applications must be in before 5pm Monday

tel: 468 5350

email:reception@echo.ie

South Dublin County Council
I Lisa Molloy intend to apply for Planning permission for attic conversion with hip to gable roof and dormer to rear roof to accommodate stairs to allow access to attic conversion as non habitable storage space with roof windows to front gable window to side all with associated ancillary works at 28 Orwell Park Rise, Templeogue, Dublin 6W. D6WRC04
The planning application may be inspected or purchased at the offices of South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Town Centre, Tallaght, Dublin 24 during its public opening hours of Monday to Friday from 9:00am to 4:00pm., and may also be viewed on the Council's website – www.sdcc.ie. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to South Dublin County Council on payment of a fee of €20 within 5 weeks of receipt of the application by South Dublin County Council and such submissions or observations will be considered by the Planning Authority in making a decision on the application. The Planning Authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions or may refuse to grant permission.

South Dublin County Council
I, Lynette Retuta, intend to apply for: Planning Permission at this site: 80 Drumcairn Ave, Fettercairn, Dublin 24, D24 P73V
The development will consist of: Construction of a single-storey flat-roof garden room to the rear of the property.
The planning application may be inspected or purchased at the offices of South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Town Centre, Tallaght, Dublin 24 during its public opening hours of Monday to Friday from 9:00am to 4:00pm, and may also be viewed on the Council's website – www.sdcc.ie. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to South Dublin County Council on payment of a fee of €20 within 5 weeks of receipt of the application by South Dublin County Council and such submissions or observations will be considered by the Planning Authority in making a decision on the application.

South Dublin County Council
I, Qaseem Mehdi, intend to apply for: Planning Permission at this site: 9 Hallwell Grove, Adamstown, Lucan, Co. Dublin, K78E9F7
The development will consist of: Single-storey flat-roof extension to the rear, with new side entrance door and two windows; installation of two high-level windows to the ground floor side elevation of the existing house. The site is located entirely within the Adamstown Strategic Development Zone.
The planning application may be inspected or purchased at the offices of South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Town Centre, Tallaght, Dublin 24 during its public opening hours of Monday to Friday from 9:00am to 4:00pm, and may also be viewed on the Council's website – www.sdcc.ie. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to South Dublin County Council on payment of a fee of €20 within 5 weeks of receipt of the application by South Dublin County Council.

South Dublin County Council
I Reece Downes intend applying to South Dublin County Council for Permission to construct the following: 1) A single storey slipped roof design bungalow. 2) A septic tank discharging to a subsurface trench percolation area. 3) Upgraded existing entrance to a domestic vehicular entrance to the requirements of The Roads Department of South Dublin County Council. 4) A bored well. 5) All ancillary groundworks associated with the above. The development to take place on my site at Lynch Park Road, Brittas, Co. Dublin.
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 10.00am - 4.00pm, and may also be viewed on the council's website - www.sdcc.ie. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to South Dublin County Council on payment of a fee of (20.00 euro) within the 5 weeks of receipt of the application by South Dublin County Council and such submissions or observations will be considered by the Planning Authority in making a decision on the application. The Planning Authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions or may refuse to grant permission.

South Dublin County Council
I, Shane McHugh, intend to apply for: Planning Permission at this site: 23 Dodderbrook Lawn, Bohernabreena, Dublin 24, D24 AX2C
The development will consist of: Attic conversion for storage use, including the construction of a dormer window to the front roof slope and the installation of three rooflights to the rear.
The planning application may be inspected or purchased at the offices of South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Town Centre, Tallaght, Dublin 24, during its public opening hours of Monday to Friday from 9:00am to 4:00pm, and may also be viewed on the Council's website – www.sdcc.ie. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to South Dublin County Council on payment of a fee of €20 within 5 weeks of receipt of the application by South Dublin County Council. Such submissions or observations will be considered by the Planning Authority in making a decision on the application.

South Dublin County Council
Planning Permission for proposed ground floor single storey pitched roof extension to rear (floor area = 30.3sq.m) with a proposed ridge height of 3.965m high, complete with 4no. 'velux' roof lights over & 4no. new windows to side/West elevation together with internal alterations & associated site works at 62 The Rise, Boden Park, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16, D16X3K4 for Brendan & Triona McCabe.
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 Department, South Dublin County Council, during its public opening hours of 9.00am to 4.00pm, and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to South Dublin County Council in writing and on payment of a fee of 20 EURO within 5 weeks of receipt of the application by South Dublin County Council

South Dublin County Council
I, Dimitrian Brinza intend to apply for planning permission for development at this site, 13 Castlegrange Close, Dublin 22, D22C897. The development consists of a 40sq.m single storey shed with flat roof in the rear garden of the existing dwelling. Retention permission for the widened vehicular driveway entrance. Permission to dish the public footpath, grass verge, kerb and alterations to front boundary wall and all 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 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
I, Robyn Lawlor, intend to apply for: Planning Permission at this site: 212 Templeogue Rd, Templeogue, Dublin 6W, D6W WY89
The development will consist of: Construction of a single-storey flat roof side extension with rooflight, conversion of existing garage to habitable use, new front entrance door, dormer windows to the rear and side, raised rear ridge height, and a new Velux rooflight to the front. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at the offices of South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Town Centre, Tallaght, Dublin 24 during its public opening hours of Monday to Friday from 9:00am to 4:00pm, and may also be viewed on the Council's website – www.sdcc.ie. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to South Dublin County Council on payment of a fee of €20 within 5 weeks of receipt of the application by South Dublin County Council.

South Dublin County Council
I, Thomas Carroll, intend to apply for Planning Permission for alterations to existing hip roof to incorporate a 'Dutch' half-hipped roof design with attic stairs to allow conversion of attic into non-habitable storage space and installation of two velux windows to the front elevation at 15 Ashfield Avenue, Kingswood Heights, Tallaght, Dublin, D24XK5K. 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 10.00am - 4.00pm, and may also be viewed on the council's website - www.sdcc.ie. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to South Dublin County Council on payment of a fee of (20.00 euro) within the 5 weeks of receipt of the application by South Dublin County Council and such submissions or observations will be considered by the Planning Authority in making a decision on the application. The Planning Authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions or may refuse to grant permission.

Dublin City Council
I, Samantha Meenaghan, intend to apply for: Planning Permission for development at this site: 99 Mourne Rd, Drimnagh, Dublin 12, D12 H2VW The development will consist of: Provision of a new dropped kerb to the front of the property to facilitate vehicular access. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of Dublin City Council, Planning Department, Block 4, Ground Floor, Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin 8 during its public opening hours (9.00a.m.–4.30p.m.). 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.

Dublin City Council
I, David Byrne, intend to apply for: Planning Permission for development at this site: 586 Mourne Rd, Drimnagh, Dublin 12, D12 XN70 The development will consist of: Provision of a dropped kerb and dished footpath to the front of the property to facilitate vehicular access. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of Dublin City Council, Planning Department, Block 4, Ground Floor, Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin 8 during its public opening hours (9.00a.m. – 4.30p.m.). 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, and such submissions or observations will be considered by the Planning Authority in making a decision on 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 MAY 16, 2025

S25424/14 06 May 2025 SECTION 254 LICENCE APPLICATION Additional Information
Applicant: Cignal Infrastructure LTD
Location: Grass verge along Firhouse Rd (R114) Adjacent to MyVet Firhouse, Tallaght, Dublin 24
Description: 18m Alpha 2.0 Streetpole Solutions with antennas and ground equipment cabinet SD25B/0004W 08 May 2025 Permission Applicant: Location: Description: Dary Cummins 6, Woodbrook Park, Templeogue, Dublin 16 Additional Information Construction of a proposed two-storey extension to rear of existing dwelling together with all associated site works.

SD24A/0238 13 May 2025 Permission Clarification of Additional Information
Applicant: James Hargrave
Location: Rear of 30, Barton drive, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14, D14 HY30
Description: Change of use from a residential flat, to the uses as a Creche/ Childminding facility, for 24 childcare places, from the house 7am - 6.30pm, Monday to Friday

SD25A/0108W 12 May 2025 Permission New Application
Applicant: Zoetis Ireland Limited
Location: Broomhill Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24, D24E032
Description: Amendments to the east elevation comprising of the enclosing wind break wall cladding to the existing covered yard area. Cladding to match existing and to be no more than 4.5 metres in height all with ancillary site works.

SD25A/0109 12 May 2025 Permission and Retention New Application
Applicant: Elizbeth Maguire
Location: Lands adjoining, N81, Blessington road, Crooksling, Glenaraneen, Saggart, Co. Dublin
Description: Retention permission sought for the construction of entrance gates, walls, pillars, and a brick structure located inside the entrance gates plus part retain existing hardstanding area plus reinstate part had standing area back to grassland and permission for one number full time residential mobile home and all associated site works

Contact *The Echo* to have a planning notification published Call 468 5350 or email reception@echo.ie

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Deputy Sports Editor: William O'Connor

Thursday, May 29, 2025

Glenanne's Barbara named President of Hockey Ireland

AT THE Hockey Ireland Annual General Meeting held on May 25 Glenanne's Barbara O'Malley was appointed President of Hockey Ireland for a two year tenure.

Barbara has had a remarkable hockey career spanning over 50 years and has dedicated her life to the sport both on and off the pitch.

Her journey began at Sandymount High School, where she started playing school hockey before joining Glenanne Hockey Club in 1975.

At Glenanne, Barbara's contribution both on and off the pitch have been instrumental to the success of the club.

Barbara had the privilege of playing for all the women's teams at various stages, served on the club committee in many different roles, managed the Women's 1s team for several years and Barbara also had the honor of being President of her club on more than one occasion.

In 2006, Barbara joined the Leinster Ladies Hockey Union (LLHU) Committee as a club representative.

Her commitment to the sport led her to be appointed Vice President for the 2007-2008 season, where she represented the LLHU on the Merger Committee. This committee worked diligently to facilitate the proposed merger of the LLHU, the Men's Leinster Branch, and the South East Ladies Branch.

In 2008, Barbara was elected President of the LLHU, serving a three-year term during a pivotal time for women's hockey in Leinster. Following the successful completion of the merger in 2011, she was honored to be appointed as the first President of the Leinster Hockey Association (LHA), a role she held until 2013.

Barbara later returned to Glenanne, where she served as President once again. In recognition of her contributions to hockey, Barbara was named the first Honorary Life Member of the LHA in 2019.

Barbara continues to play a key role with Glenanne Hockey Club as a member of the Glenanne Golf Committee who organise a hugely successful fundraiser for Glenanne each June.

Hockey is a passion in the O'Malley family where Barbara has been a familiar face in the crowds supporting her 3 sons Edward, Kevin and David as they navigate their own successful hockey careers and her husband Eddie who continues to represent Ireland at master's level.

In 2023, Barbara was honored to be appointed Vice President of Hockey Ireland, a role that has allowed her to further advocate for the development and growth of hockey across Ireland.

Barbara is passionate about fostering a vibrant hockey community and looks forward to continuing to the sport she loves.



PASSIONATE: Barbara O'Malley from Glenanne was named President of Hockey Ireland

Tohill does the double in Mondello Park

TERENURE'S Derek Tohill did the double at Mondello Park at the weekend with victory in the Supercar final on Sunday, *reports Barry Cregg.*

It was the biggest event on the Irish rallycross calendar with the British championship coming to town and with it bringing a healthy lineup of Supercars to entertain the large crowd. In Saturday's final he finished runner up to Kildare's Michael Leonard but took maximum points in the British championship.

Having switched to a Peugeot 208 for this season after many years in his beloved Ford Fiesta, "Molly", it would be his first time round the county Kildare track in the new car.

As always in rallycross the heat results determine the starting position for the all the important final.

The weather too was throwing in added pressure going from dry to wet to dry again each time drivers took to the track. With a third and a second place in the first two races a win in the third should have put him on pole for the final but after colliding with John McCluskey in the third heat it looked like his weekend was over.

The car taking a couple of heavy impacts while spinning into the barrier on the exit of turn one. The PartsforCars team worked wonders during the lunch break and got the car ready for the final.

Lining up on the outside of the front row in third alongside Michael Leonard and Patrick O'Donovan he got the holeshot and swept round the outside of his two rivals to take the lead into turn one.

Holding the inside line to turn two he held the lead and gave himself the best chance to settle into the lead. With races only being six laps its crucial to stay ahead on the opening lap to give yourself the best chance of a win.

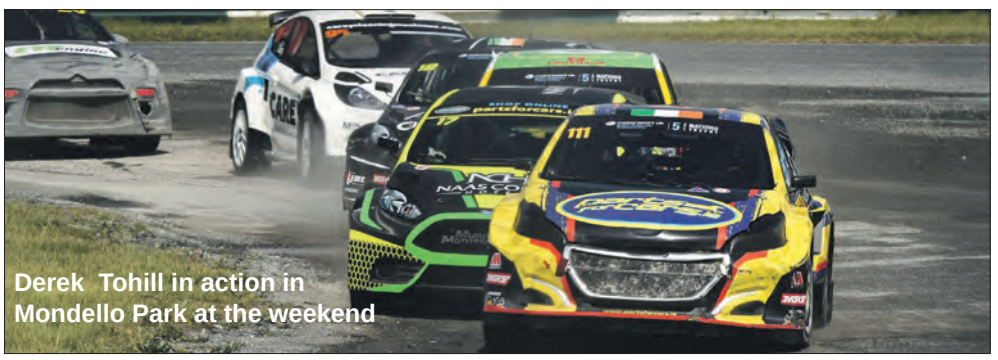
A clean exit of the final turn along with a mistake from Leonard kicking up the rear wheel and costing him drive down the straight, Tohill pulled a couple of car lengths on his two rivals behind.

A better second lap from Leonard saw him close in again but Tohill was still slightly quicker over the lap to maintain his small lead.

Both we loosing and gaining to each other with O'Donovan in third waiting to pounce if anything happened to the two men ahead of him. Leonard took the joker lap on lap five in an effort to try and get ahead on the final lap.

Tohill and O'Donovan carried on one more time but exiting the Joker lap Tohill had enough in hand to hold the lead. However behind him O'Donovan and Leonard went into the rallycross 3 section side by side.

O'Donovan on the inside ran Leonard right out to the edge of the track and took the second place spot. Leonard lost out and dropped back. Tohill had no such worries and took the win. A great drive and gave his team the best repayment for all their hard work.



Derek Tohill in action in Mondello Park at the weekend

O'Donovan came home in second with Leonard in third and McCluskey in fourth making it three Irish drivers in the top four. It was a classy and clever drive by Tohill who kept his cool after taking the lead and put in clean laps to put those behind under pressure and make small mistakes in trying to catch him.

Its the first win in the new car too so the switch of manufacturer seems to have worked.

Speaking after the race the Dubliner was delighted with his win " That win was for the team, they are some crew. Its a mix of Irish and French engineers and they pulled it off today. The car was wrecked after the crash in the third heat. There was chassis damage both front and rear, we had to replace suspension on the front, a bith welding too but they did it. We had a good setup too and it felt good in the final. The win puts me joint leader of British Rallycross Championship now with Patrick so its all to play for. We are doing a round of the French championship next weekend so hopefully the car will be fully sorted for that."

Athletics

C'ship titles for Tallaght athletes

SEVERAL Tallaght athletes delivered fine performance to claim titles at Day 1 of the Dublin Juvenile Track & Field Championships in Morton Stadium, Santry last Saturday.

Khalad Kourrini recorded a new personal best time of 1:56.45 when winning the U19 800m title, while Matthew Reid delivered a spirited run to claim bronze with a new personal best time of 2:02.20.

In the U16 800m final, Leonard Deering stormed off the final bend before claiming an emphatic victory with a time of 2:05.03.

In the long jump contests, Mason Mitchell produced a leap of 5.40m to claim the U15 title, and Brendan Solarin did likewise to win the U18 title with a leap of 5.94m.



Mason Mitchell, 1st in the U15 boys long jump.



Khald Kourrini and Matthew Reid, 1st and 3rd in the Dublin U19 800m Championships



Leonard Deering, 1st in the Dublin U16 800m Championships

Others who competed on the day included Oscar Kavanagh who recorded a time of 2:31.05 in the U12 600m, AJ Carney 2:05.91 in his U13 600m heat, Kayla Loughlin 2.58.73 in her U14 800m heat, while Leah Loughlin contested the U16 800m and 3000m where she recorded respective time of 2:33.70 and 11:31.48.

Elsewhere on Saturday, at the IFAM Outdoor meet in Brussels, Sean Aigboboh recorded a time of 10.52 seconds in his 100m contest, his 3rd fastest time for the distance.

The following day at the Dublin U9/10/11 Team Championships on home ground in Tallaght, Kym Flanagan and Madision McKeown won silver and qualification for the National Championships with a combined time of 19.79 second, while Jude Byrne's and Olivia Hunt's combined times of 10.06 and 10.38 saw them finish 6th of the 55 teams, and Frankie Barry (10.77) and Summer Loughlin (11.62) combined to finish 40th overall. James O'Connor recorded a time of 11.50 in his U11 60m.

Jude Byrne's and Frankie Barry's times of 2.07.8 and 2:16.24 saw them finished 4th overall of the 25 teams in the U11 600m, while Madison McKeown recorded a time of 2"17/65 in her 600m contest. The U11 4X100m girls relay squad that included Madison McKeown, Frankie Barry, Olivia Hunt, Jude Byrne, Kym Flanagan and Summer Loughlin qualified for the final where they finished 5th overall of the 32 teams with a combined time of 1:05.18.

Earlier in the week at the Dublin Graded League 3 meeting in Tallaght, Khalad Kourrini, in his first ever 400m contest recorded a good time of 51.72 seconds, while Adam Lawlor recorded a time of 5:04.89 when winning the Grade "D" mile contest where debutante Bobby Nicholson Reilly recorded a time of 6:09.08 in the same contest.

Liffey Valley AC lead the way in Brickfield

MEMBERS of Liffey Valley Athletics Club were out in force on Saturday, 10th May for their annual volunteer takeover at Brickfields parkrun, bringing energy and encouragement to the popular community event.

As part of the takeover, Liffey Valley AC provided a full team of volunteers, including pacers, timekeepers, marshalls, and barcode scanners. The club's presence helped ensure the smooth running of the event, while also encouraging participants of all levels to enjoy their morning 5k and maybe even chase a personal best.

Takeovers like this are a key feature of the parkrun community, giving local clubs an opportunity to give back, support new runners, and showcase what they're all about.

Brickfields parkrun has been going strong since its first event on 6th January 2018. Since then, 5,226 participants have completed 23,101 parkruns - the equivalent of 115,505 kilometres — with 3,808 new Personal Bests recorded. A total of 517 individuals have volunteered an impressive 3,178 times, highlighting the strong community spirit that underpins the event. Liffey Valley Athletics Club is currently welcoming new members. Based in Islandbridge, right beside the Phoenix Park, the club offers easy access to one of Dublin's most scenic and spacious training locations. Whether you're looking to improve your times, train with purpose, or compete, the club offers structured, accessible sessions in a uniquely friendly and encouraging environment.

If you're ready to take your running to the next level - or just want to be part of a vibrant and positive community - Liffey Valley AC invites you to get in touch. More information is available on the club's website: www.liffeyvalleyac.com and social media channels: @liffeyvalleyac



Members of Liffey Valley AC at the parkrun in Brickfields

Donore Harriers athletes are in flying form

THERE were super performances from the Donore Harriers AC 51 young athletes in running, hurdles, jumps and throws events from age 12 to 19 at the Dublin Juvenile Athletics Championship.

The club secured eight golds, seven silvers, six bronze and many PBs and finals and debuts.

On Day 2, at children's games and team events in Tallaght last weekend, Donore had 32 athletes competing in pairs and on relays. The club secured two gold and four bronze with two relay teams going to the national competition

At the British Milers Club Meet in Manchester, Donore had two excellent runs from our juveniles Men's 800m E Race: 2nd Liam Morris U20 (1.53.04 PB) Men's 1,500m D Race: 6th Charlie O'Neill U20 (3.55.41)

At the IFAM Track meet Brussels Belgium the results saw Gavin Curtin 14.28 PB and Kane Collins 5000m 14.40.

At the Dublin Graded Meet NO. 3 in Tallaght there was a super win in the Dublin Championship with gold and new club record and PB for Lara O'Byrne in 400m and Caoimhe Mackey silver

Women's 400m A Race, inc. Dublin Champs: 1st Lara O'Byrne (58.03 – NEW CLUB RECORD), 2nd Caoimhe Mackey (1.00.29) Women's Mile B Race: 4th Claire O'Hanlon U20 (5.44.62) Men's 10,000m inc. Dublin Champs: 7th Sean McCarthy (39.11.79) Men's 400m D Race: 4th Colm Dunne M40 (1.02.15) Men's Mile B Grade: 4th Cormac Whelan U20 (4.31.81), 5th Harry Cahill U20 (4.37.02), 10th Daniel Hughes 4.49.73 Men's Mile D Grade: 3rd Colin Murphy M50 (5.12.64).

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Active SOUTH DUBLIN
AMATEUR SPORTS AWARDS 2025
In association with: Echo.ie Trusted Local News



Zoe McDermott receives the Active South Dublin Sport Star of the Month Award from Thos McDermott, Head of Active South Dublin, David Kennedy, Editor, *The Echo,* and Bryan Malone, Sales and Marketing Manager, The Plaza Hotel

April Sports Star of the Month is Zoe McDermott

ZOE McDermott is Ireland's first female WKF medallist.

Following the Karate Youth League in Guadalajara last month, Zoe from Kilnamanagh made history by becoming the first female to ever medal at a prestigious karate event.

Zoe's path to the final saw her overcome four incredible rounds and narrowly missed out on gold in the final by two points after fighting 11th ranked Yuliia Krot from Ukraine in the final.

Her superb performances nationally and internationally have secured her a national team spot.

"It was great to get the experience at this level. I am the first female from Ireland to win a WKF medal so I'm delighted with that," Zoe told *The Echo*.

"My team at Senshi Karate has really made me get here and I have been with them since I was five years old so it's really good to be the first female medallist".

Zoe has competition in Croatia next month and the World Championship qualifiers are in October.

Scan the QR code to watch the video.

April Team of the Month
Loreto women's hockey team

THE Women's EYHL Hockey League trophy was secured by Loreto following another superb season.

The Rathfarnham side secured the title for the second year running in what was a brilliant campaign by the side.

In their final game of the season, Loreto played out a 2-2 draw with Old Alex.

Despite being held to a draw, the champions secured a bonus point.

The result saw Loreto win the title by four points ahead of closest rivals Railway Union.

"It was great to win the league consecutively," Loreto coach Paul Fitzpatrick told *The Echo*.

"In 18 games we only lost one and drew three games. It was a good season, the team played well and worked really hard.

"We are looking forward now to the season ahead," added Paul.

Scan the QR code to watch the video.



Bryan Malone, Sales and Marketing Manager, The Plaza Hotel, presents the Active South Dublin Team of the Month Award for April to Loreto women's hockey coach Paul Fitzpatrick. With them are Thos McDermott, Head of Active South Dublin and William O'Connor, News Editor, *The Echo*

Soccer

Ballyfermot lads ROC in Premier Shield final



Action from the shield final and (inset) ROC Celtic landed the first of a possibe three trophies

A CRACKING UCFL Premier Division Shield final on Saturday saw ROC Celtic land the first of a possible three trophies before the season draws to a close, *reports John Mooney.*

A 3-2 win in their favour saw them lift the trophy after a depleted Livorno gave them a game, but for the second time in a week ended up missing out in a final, they lost on penalties in the Richard Knight Cup the previous Saturday.

ROC were comfortable in the opening half and were two goals up through Lee Collins and Jay O'Neill, who somehow chipped home from an almost impossible angle.

But Livorno hit back on the stroke of half time through Rhys Hogan and it was game on.

ROC regained their two goal advantage early in the second half when Aaron Shortall shot home, but a mistake at the back allowed Livorno to reduce the deficit when Kevin Long slotted home.

However, despite some late pressure the Ballyfermot lads held on.

Rovers strengthen squad with McGovern signing

SHAMROCK Rovers have strengthen their squad with the signing of striker John McGovern.

Currently leading the Airtricity League, McGovern's signature is a big boost to Stephen Bradley's side.

In the 2024-25 season just finished in the Irish League for Dungannon Swifts, the 22-year-old scored 14 league goals in 29 appearances, having joined Swifts from his local club, Newry City.

After many weeks of negotiations, the club agreed a transfer fee with Dungannon Swifts which they say will remain undisclosed.

This transfer is subject to subject to International and Domestic clearance which, when approved, would allow John be available for selection from July 1st, 2025.

Speaking with shamrockrovers.ie about the signing, head coach, Stephen Bradley said: "We were up quite a lot to watch John. We tried quite a bit over the last year to get him, but it wasn't possible.

"John was at University and Dungannon weren't ready to sell at that moment in time. So, it was a case of continuing to monitor John and thankfully we've got him in now. We could have moved in on other players in the previous window, but we wanted to wait on John as he was someone we'd monitored for quite some time. He fits the group, has a good age profile and we really like what he's about. So we waited and now we got it done"

"There's a lot more. I don't think out and out poachers can play in this team, as silly as that sounds, I don't think they can. There's so much more we ask of our forwards to do and be involved in.

So John isn't just an out and out goal scorer. If you watch him, he's got a bit of everything, he's someone we really like and he's a really good person and we can't wait to get working with him."

John also scored the opening goal in the recent Irish Cup Final against Cliftonville, with Dungannon winning 4-3 on penalties following a 1-1 draw after extra time.

He has recently completed his degree in Business and IT and is both a former Down inter-county GAA footballer and a former Under 21 international for Northern Ireland.



John McGovern has signed for Shamrock Rovers

Kiltalown edged out in shield final

SPARTAK Dynamo picked up the UCFL Division 3B Shield with a commanding win over Kiltalown FC 2nds, when they ran out 6-2 winners last Saturday.

Spartak ticked all the boxes on the day and by half time had built up a 3-1 lead.

Kiltalown threw caution to the wind after the break as they pressed to reduce the deficit but, unfortunately for them, they left themselves open at the back and paid the price.

Spartak took full advantage and exploited the gaps to add a further three to bag the trophy. Scorers for the winners were Keith Kelly, with a hat-trick Cian Stenson, two, and Stewart Love. Martin McDonald and Shane Samuel's netted for Kiltalown

Black Forge seconds team slip up in final

BLACKFORGE FC seconds could not match their first team counterparts by adding to the trophy cabinet on Saturday when they went down on a 2-1 scoreline to Harding FC 2nds in the UCFL Division 1 Shield final.

The Forge firsts had won the UCFL/AUL Premier Division on Friday night but a battling 2nds had to settle for second best on Saturday.

Harding lead 1-0 at the break through Matthew LeMottee, the Forge levelled at the midway point in the second half through Conor O'Leary but minutes later Harding bagged the winner from Jack Reynolds.

Rovers players in U16 girls squad

A NUMBER OF local girls were in the U16 Ireland team for the UEFA Development Tournament game against Finland.

Despite going down 1-0, Ireland put in a solid performance.

Shamrock Rovers Ciara Milton tormented the Finish defence throughout and was unlucky not to score while defender Hailey Twomey also of Shamrock Rovers went close.

Keelin Comiskey of Shamrock Rovers played in the first half in defence and was replaced by her clubmate Hailey Twomey while Hoops player Lara Dallaghan came on after 63 minutes.

Another Rovers player Alice Buggle came on after 63 minutes into the attack and replaced her team mate Kassie McLoughlin.

Keeper Sarah Doyle, one of seven Rovers players in the squad was also part of the team.

Soccer

Soccer players in hunt for awards

THE nominees for the 35th Football Association of Ireland (FAI) International Awards have been confirmed ahead of an event on Friday.

The winners will be presented with their trophies in the Aviva Stadium ahead of the International Friendly between Ireland and Senegal.

The performances taken into account are from June 2024 to May 2025.

In the running for awards are former Cherry Orchard player Nathan Collins who is contention for Senior Men's International Player of the Year while foremer Shamnrock Rovers player Abbie Larkin and former Cherry Orchard player Jessie Stapleton are in the running for the

Young Women's International Player of the Year.

Shamrock Rovers defender James Roche is among the contenders for the Men's Under-18 International Player of the Year while Hoops trio Keelin Comiskey, Ciara Milton and Hailey Twomey are in the hunt for the Girls' Under-16 International Player of the Year.

The Boys' Under-18 Schools International Player of the Year category see Alan Kizenga from St Mac Dara's Community School in Templeogue in the running in this category.

'Just a phenomenal win' for Arsenal hero Katie

Proud father Gary says Champions League victory is just 'unbelievable'

AS ARSENAL won the Women's Champions League at the weekend, there are a family and a community who couldn't be prouder of team captain Katie McCabe, a Kilnamanagh native, for her "phenomenal win", *reports Alessia Micalizzi.*

"She has always been a good leader, good at rallying the troops," said Katie's father, Gary, speaking to *The Echo* on Tuesday.

"We are so delighted. It was fabulous, just a phenomenal win."

Katie's family were with her at the Jose Alvalade stadium in Lisbon, where the team beat Barcelona 1-0 in the 2025 UEFA Women's Champions League final on Saturday, May 24.

After the win, they met her on the pitch and kicked off the big celebration together.

With this win, Katie has made history, as she is only the fourth Irish woman to win the Champions League.

"Barcelona threw absolutely everything at us and we… kept it together, we rode it out, we rode the storm," she said in interviews following the match.

"It's been an unbelievable day for the club."

In a previous interview for DAZN, Katie said that she knew "the weight she was carrying" wearing the Arsenal shirt and talked about the higher levels of concentration she would need in the Champions League.

What she achieved on Saturday had "always been at the top of her list," said dad Gary, who believes it was "an overall good team performance" that led to victory.

He praised the motivational skills Katie showed since when she started playing as a little girl.

"She has the ability to bring the team on, an abundance of motivational skills. And you need that from a player, even more so from a captain. She always had that."

As mentioned by Katie in several media interviews, she "grew up in a football family."

"It was always a big thing in our house, my son and I used to play locally before she played, and we have about six players in the house," said Gary.

"At the time, she was only four or five, but she would watch us play and it was just part of our life, every week and weekend, and always on television."

A player with Kilnamanagh AFC, where she first honed her skills, Katie was always supported along the way, even when being the only girl in the team.

"I was always around the corner, with her at every step of the way until she was 16 and started going to trainings on her own," said Gary.

"I remember a match she played with boys in Crumlin once, she was well ahead of them," he laughed.

According to Gary, after a full-on weekend of celebration, Katie is now getting ready to fly to Istanbul, where Ireland will play Turkey in the UEFA Women's Nations League on Friday, May 30.

Meanwhile in Kilnamanagh, Gary gets compliments and congratulations everywhere he goes.

"At the local school, at the shops. It's constant at the moment. Everyone is telling me that Katie has done really well."



Kilnamanagh's Katie McCabe celebrates with her family after the Champions League success

Bronze for Sorena in Bulgaria



Upcoming South Dublin Taekwondo athlete Sorena Shirvani once again reached the podium in the premier open 'kids' event in Europe. Coached by his dad in two impressive matches he secured a bronze medal in Sofia, Bulgaria.

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