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ERIC LALOR: LO'ER BY NATURE

THE STORY

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'I don't really meet other young cancer survivors'

A YOUNG mother from Ballyfermot who survived childhood leukaemia is calling on the Dublin community to get involved in Relay For Life South County Dublin this May, reports Ellen Gough. See page 7

RELAY FOR LIFE IS A GREAT WAY TO SUPPORT EACH OTHER SAYS HOLLIE

Report shows the crime rate in Rathcoole has increased by 70% in the last five years

Ronanstown crime rate 108% higher than average

THE crime rate in the Ronanstown, Clondalkin and Rathcoole garda districts is "very high" compared to the national average, according to a new database, while Tallaght is just above the "high" threshold, reports Alessia Micalizzi.

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LIFFEY VALLEY & NEILSTOWN
LUCAN: PALMERSTOWN, DODSBORO, ADAMSTOWN,
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Next Edition

The next edition of *The Echo* in the shops from Thursday, May 15, 2025. **Don't miss it!**



Echojoe: see pages 50 and 51

Comhairle Contae
Átha Cliath Theas
South Dublin County Council

ROADS ACT 1993, SECTION 75 TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF HAYDEN'S LANE, CO. DUBLIN

To facilitate Bear Events Group to host a Fastlane Three-Quarter Marathon, Half Marathon and a 10km race, South Dublin County Council has made an order to temporarily close the following road:

Road Name: Hayden's Lane, Co. Dublin

Date of Closure: Sunday 18th May 2025

Time of Closure: 9:00 am to 1:30 pm.

- Local access will be maintained.
- Impacted residents can use the L5134 to access R120.
- Residents will be contacted directly to be informed of the event and road closure.

Web: www.sdcc.ie



Database puts Rathcoole crime rate at 90 per cent above average

Ronanstown has record rates at 108 per cent above average countrywide

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

THE crime rate in the Ronanstown, Clondalkin and Rathcoole garda districts is "very high" compared to the national average, according to a new database, while Tallaght is just above the "high" threshold.

Criminology expert and former garda Brian Fox developed Crimestats.ie, an open-source website linking Eircode, local garda stations and CSO crime figures from the previous year to inform the public about crime rate in their area.

Ronanstown, which as a garda district includes Fonthill, the west side of Lucan and some parts of Palmerstown, recorded crime rates at 108 per cent higher than the national average, with the most prevalent crimes being "drug offences, attempts to murder and related offences, weapons and explosives."

Crime rate in Rathcoole, which as a garda district includes Newcastle, Baldonnel,

Saggart and Citywest, was 90 per cent higher than the country average, with kidnapping offences, theft related offences and damage to property figuring among the main crimes.

In the Clondalkin area, robbery, extortion and hijacking offences, alongside drug offences and damage to property had the crime rate at 48 per cent higher than the rest of the country.

While in Ronanstown and Clondalkin the crime rate has decreased by 8 per cent over the last five years according to the website's extrapolated data, it has increased by 70 per cent in the Rathcoole area.

Crime rate in Tallaght is 40 per cent higher than the country average. It figures as a "very high crime rate" area although Crimestats.ie lists crime rate as "very high" if it is more than 40 per cent above the national average and "high" if it is between 10 per cent and 40 per cent above the national average.

The most prevalent crime categories in Tallaght were damage to property, robbery, extortion and hijacking offences and theft

related offences.

Crimestats analysis also read that crime rates in Tallaght "have not increased or decreased significantly" over the last five years, meaning that as a garda district it is "maintaining this level of crime on an on-going basis."

With a crime rate 32 per cent higher than the national average but stable over the last five years, Ballyfermot was considered a "high" crime rate area, while Crumlin and Lucan figured as "average" as their crime rates were within 25 per cent of the calculated country average.

With a crime rate 50 per cent lower than the national average and a 21 per cent crime decrease over the last five years, Rathfarnham was classified as a "very low" crime rate area, followed by Terenure, a "low" crime rate area where crime figures are 30 per cent lower than nationally.

Crimestats.ie data are calculated using the garda's population density estimates in each district to ensure fair categorisation.

Problems with sale of Old School Master's House in Lucan village

LEGAL complexities have led to further delays in the sale of the Old School Master's House building in Lucan village, reports Maurice Garvey.

The acquisition of the building by South Dublin County Council to benefit tourism interests in the area, has been a source of interest for a number of years.

The *Echo* reported in January 2022 that the council was engaged in negotiations to purchase the building and "pursuing an interest" in the site.

At the recent Lucan area committee meeting, Cllr Liona O'Toole (Ind) asked for an update on the "agreed sale of the Old School Master's House in Lucan Village."

In response, SDCC said: "Unfortunately, unexpected legal complexities have been encountered with the estate of the vendor since

the council agreed heads of terms for the property. This has resulted in a delay in the timeline for the transaction which is outside the council's control. We cannot provide a timeline for the resolution of these issues and cannot progress the matter until matters outside the council's control have been resolved."

The property has been placed on the market on several occasions, with *The Echo* reporting in 2019 that the asking price for it was €450,000.

At that time, in response to a motion by former Cllr Danny O'Brien (SF), the council outlined the potential costs of purchasing and developing the building.

Estimated costs in 2019 had a €450k purchase price for the property, refurbishment costs at a minimum of €250k and a conservation architect's report costing approximately €15k.



COMPLEXITIES: Old School Master's House in Lucan village

Students explore the European Union



VISIT: MEP Aodhán Ó Riordán during his visit to St Raphael's

SIXTH class students taking part in a project exploring the European Union had a visit from one of Dublin's own European representatives, reports *Ellen Gough*.

MEP Aodhán Ó Riordán visited St Raphael's NS in Ballyfermot last Friday, May 2, to meet with pupils taking part in the Blue Star Programme, run in schools across Ireland and Europe with the aim of teaching children about the European Union, the work it carries out and its member states.

Each class were assigned a different EU state to complete a research project on. They were able to present their work to Mr Ó Riordán during his visit, and he also answered many questions from students about the EU and his work.

Posting on his social media, Mr Ó Riordán called it a "wonderful experience" and "such a thrill to visit the school and thanked the pupils for their "amazing questions" and a "fantastic" welcome.

New role for former garda superintendent

Garda Ian Lackey is promoted to the office of Assistant Commissioner

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

FORMER Tallaght Garda Station Superintendent Ian Lackey was recently promoted to the office of Assistant Commissioner, Organised and Serious Crime, as Chief Superintendent.

A Rathfarnham native, Lackey fulfilled a number of stints in Tallaght over the years, most recently as Superintendent from 2017 to 2022.

Following his tenure in Tallaght, Lackey was a Detective Superintendent with the Garda National Protective Services Bureau (GNPSB) from 2022 to 2025.

Chief Superintendent Lackey was among a number of appointments by gardai this week, although his promotion effectively took place on March 10.

The announcement forms part off a national restructuring by gardai which they say, will deliver a greater range of specialised services in local areas, such as the investigation of sexual crime, domestic

violence, cyber-crime, and economic crime.

The operating model will see the number of garda divisions reduce from 28 to 21.

Under this new structure, each division in the country will be organised into four areas: Community Engagement, Crime, Performance Assurance, and Business Services.

When Lackey arrived in Tallaght in late 2017, it was his third time to work at the station since his graduation from Templemore.

Living in Rathfarnham as a child, Lackey's first placement as a new recruit in 1992 saw him work alongside the community gardai in Fettercairn.

In 2015, he was involved in An Garda Síochána's Modernisation and Renewal Programme – before returning to lead the Tallaght District, which includes Rathfarnham, in 2017.

Speaking to *The Echo* around the time he was leaving in 2022, Lackey cited the need for a new station in Tallaght and for more members to get back out in the community.



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WINNERS: Winning team from Deansrath CC – Darragh Kinsella, Calvin Chukwudomen and Carla Gannon, alongside Mr Mark McDonald (Director of Schools, DDLETB)

Clondalkin colleges battled it out for gold in debating competition

TWO Clondalkin schools achieved outstanding success in a regional debate competition – reaching the final where they battled it out for gold, reports *Maurice Garvey*.

Deansrath Community College and St Kevin's Community College were among more than 30 post-primary schools competing in the Dublin and Dún Laoghaire Education and Training Board (DDLETB) Junior Debating competition.

A hard-fought and spirited final saw Deansrath win a tight final, but it was an outstanding performance by the two Clondalkin schools who engaged in six months of intense competition prior to competing in the

(DDLETB) region competition.

Deansrath teacher Matt Corbett also praised both teams who “faced off in the grand final” at DDLETB headquarters in Tallaght with a “close and spirited debate.”

“While we at Deansrath were delighted to come out on top, it really was a very tight contest. The students from St Kevin's were equally impressive, and I think it's something the whole community can be proud of – that not one, but two Clondalkin schools reached the final of such a highly competitive event. Every student who took part, from both schools, is a credit to their teachers, their

families, and their community,” said Mr Corbett.

Deansrath emerged victorious, earning the title of DDLETB Junior Debating Champions 2025.

The final debate centred on the motion around regulating fast fashion – an issue that sparked passionate arguments on both sides. Calvin, a third-year student at Deansrath, reflected on the experience.

“Debating the fast-fashion topic really opened my eyes to global issues and how we can respond to them. I've gained so many skills – like confidence, research, and critical thinking – that I know will help me in the future.”

Bonus points for rugby club's mini-forest in underused area

Clondalkin RFC has planted 2,500 native Irish saplings under 100 Million Tree Project

CLONDALKIN RFC has become the first rugby club in Ireland to plant a mini-forest on their club grounds, reports *Ellen Gough*.

The planting, done in conjunction with the 100 Million Tree Project and sponsored by Uniphar, took place on April 22.

Up to 2,500 native Irish saplings were planted on a 0.25-acre site by club members of all ages.

Speaking at the planting, club president Kieran Phelan said the club was “thrilled to be taking part” in the project, which is the first of its kind in Ireland.

The 100 Million Trees Project, in partnership with Uniphar, is a national not-for-profit initiative that aims to plant 100 million native Irish trees across the country over the next decade.

This initiative will increase the native Irish tree population, add biodiversity throughout the country, and help mitigate carbon dioxide output in Ireland.

Clondalkin RFC, which moved from a small seven-acre site to a 27-acre site in Baldonnell three years ago, became involved in the project through club member and former player Darrach Finnegan, who was inspired by his own background in agricultural and environmental science.

“With such a large area the club has the opportunity to implement a number of environmental and biodiverse projects,” Darach said, who is a member of the commercial committee at the club, one of the fastest-growing in the country.

“My thought process was that if we

can make the club environmentally friendly and sustainable, that would help with inward investment from local businesses in Park West, Citywest, wherever else,” he continued.

“We had a few areas of the club that really weren't being used, and they end up being dumping grounds. So instead of that, we said it would look great as mini-forests, especially for the minis and the youths of the club and hopefully bring more new players down from the area.

“Another big issue is a lot of the hedgerows on the grounds have ash trees, and we're going to end up losing pretty much all of our ash trees on site [due to ash dieback]. This will help to replace them,” Darach added.

It will take up to two years for the mini-forest to mature, but already in the weeks since the planting, the saplings have grown, according to Darach.

While this mini-forest is too densely planted to allow for walks or footpaths, the club anticipates it will help offset their carbon footprint from travel to and from games, and they have already begun to plan a layout for a second, more accessible forest.

“We are already planning our second planting towards the end of the year to continue our commitment to environmental projects with further projects in the pipeline,” Darach said, adding that they are looking into projects such as bird and bat boxes.

“I would encourage anyone or any sport club with a small area that is not being used to engage with the 100 Million Tree Project.”



FOREST: Terry Woolhead, Eoin Delany, Kieran Phelan and Darach Finnegan of Clondalkin RFC



TREES PROJECT: The trees planted at Clondalkin Rugby Club

“Another big issue is a lot of the hedgerows on the grounds have ash trees, and we're going to end up losing pretty much all of our ash trees

Demand for CCTV in area deemed a ‘persistent hotspot’

Discarded gas canisters, anti-social behaviour and dumping of waste are some of the problems

By **Alessia Micalizzi**

alessia@echo.ie

MORE ACTION in a Lucan area has been called for by a councillor because the area has become a “persistent hotspot” for littering and anti-social behaviour.

At the Lucan Area Committee Meeting on Tuesday, April 22, Cllr Liona O’Toole (Ind) said she was contacted by residents unhappy with litter, broken glass, discarded gas canisters and anti-social behaviour on the walkway from Castle Riada Drive to Castle Road.

Her request to explore CCTV installation was supported by Cllr Caroline Brady (FG) who said “less intrusive measures” such as improving visibility and upgrading lighting on the path had already been taken.

On their latest inspection of the area, on Thursday, April 17, SDCC Litter Warden found “several bags of green garden waste, broken glass and a couple of bags of household waste.”

“There was no identifiable evidence found when bags were searched. No gas canisters were visible on this occasion,” the Council added.

Litter picking in the area is carried out as part of routine grass cutting, and SDCC Public Realm has previously removed shrubbery and cut hedges to improve visibility.

The path is also listed on the 2025 Public Realm Improvement Works Programme for widening and surfacing, which includes pruning and further improvement of lighting.

At the Lucan ACM, a council officer said measures will be implemented, but reminded attendees that anti-social behaviour is the responsibility of An Garda Síochána.

As for CCTV, before preparing a business case for the installation, the Council has to demonstrate that they have deployed less intrusive measures and that these have failed.

SDCC will consider CCTV for this area subject to all other requirements such as relevant complaints from the public and crime statistics, and a new CCTV legislation about to be enacted.

“It’s good to know that there will be an assessment for a CCTV system,” commented Cllr O’Toole.

“Immediate action is needed to enhance safety and restore the walkway as a secure and welcoming route for all residents.

“Let’s hope we will resolve it and won’t see it on the agenda again.”



Masterplan for Lucan House could bring benefits of €2.5m

SOUTH Dublin County Council expect to present the final Lucan House Masterplan to elected members “by early June.”

In response to a question by Lucan councillor Helen Farrell (IND), SDCC said the Masterplan “is currently progressing through the feasibility and concept design stages.”

The former residence of the Italian ambassador to Ireland was acquired by SDCC in December 2024 for €10 million, and it will be turned into a public amenity and visitor destination.

In February and March, the Council encouraged residents to provide their thoughts and ideas through an online consultation form and in-person events.

Responding to another question by Cllr Farrell, SDCC recently estimated that approximately €1.5m per year could be generated from the project, and that induced benefits of visitor expenditure within Lucan could be worth up to €2.25m per year.

It also said that the masterplan “seeks to identify viable uses to generate revenue whilst ensuring positive impacts for the wider Lucan area.”

“The former residence of the Italian ambassador to Ireland was acquired by SDCC . . . for €10 million



'Significant safeguarding concerns' at Cheeverstown

HIQA report was carried out by inspectors following reports of injuries to residents

By Ellen Gough

ellen@echo.ie

HEALTH inspectors have raised "significant safeguarding concerns" about the safety of residents following an unannounced inspection of a disability centre in South Dublin.

The inspection of the Dublin 6W centre, run by Cheeverstown House, was carried out by inspectors from the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) following reports of "unexplained bruising" and two incidents of serious injury to residents.

The centre accommodates 13 adults with a range of intellectual disabilities. While the report, published by HIQA on Monday, May 6, found that staff were "kind and supportive", and engaged very well with the needs of the residents, "serious shortcomings in resident safety, compatibility and access to essential services" were found.

31 cases of unexplained bruising to three residents were reported by the care provider, along with two incidents of serious injury to a resident within a three-month period.

Inspectors found that the two incidents of serious injury to a resident had been "incorrectly categorised as involving no injury", and no cause had been identified for the second incident. The severity of



CONCERNS: HIQA inspectors carried out a report on Cheeverstown House

this injury should have triggered an alert of a "serious risk incident", however this did not occur, and inspectors were "not assured that incidents involving residents were effectively reported".

"Poor patient or manual handling practices" were suggested by management as the reason for the 31 reported instances of unexplained bruising to residents, however one third of staff did not have up to date

manual handling training, it was found.

Inspectors found that 11 of the 33 staff at the centre were overdue mandatory manual handling training, which according to the centre's own

risk assessment they were not permitted to work without.

Inspectors also found that 18 out of 33 staff had not completed mandatory refresher training for safeguarding vulnerable adults.

"Significant gaps in governance and oversight were identified" by inspectors over the two-day inspection period, particularly in relation to record keeping and documentation. There were delays in providing documentation requested by inspectors on the day. A lack of engagement by senior management with staff meetings meant there was a "lack of escalation for some concerns raised by staff".

Lack of staffing resources was also noted as "having an impact on residents' access to meaningful activities and goals within the local community". One resident, who told inspectors they were "very happy" at the centre, had previously attended a day service up until the Covid-19 pandemic. The need for a day service review for this resident had been identified in 2022, but at the time of inspection, no alternative day service had been secured, impacting the residents "social engagement and overall quality of life".

The centre was assessed overall on compliance with nine regulations under the 2007 Health Act. It was found to be "not compliant" with seven of the nine.

Campaign highlights dangers facing motorcyclists when on the roads



CAMPAIGN: Members of South Dublin County Council, Gardai and the East Coast LA's at the launch of the campaign

SOUTH Dublin County Council, East Coast LA's, along with An Garda Síochána, in collaboration with Wicklow County Council, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council and Dublin City Council is launching their 'Think Twice, Think Bike' campaign.

This high-profile multi-agency initiative is aimed at motor cyclists, highlighting the dangers facing them when out on our roads, particularly as summer approaches, more motorcyclists will be taking to the roads.

According to the RSA, 105 motorcyclists were fatally injured, and 921 motorcyclists were

seriously injured between 2019 and 2023, representing 14% of fatalities and 13% of serious injuries.

The campaign coincided with the May Bank Holiday weekend. The campaign focuses on highlighting 'Safe Ways' to protect you as a motorcyclist and encourages safer road use, highlighting to drivers that motorcyclists are vulnerable road users.

To promote safer behaviour and taking responsibility the campaign will include the following tips: Before you head out on the roads, get someone to ride with you, effectively

shadowing you to ensure you have not got rusty, as your motorbike may have been parked up since last summer. Let them assess/check your lines and give constructive feedback. Are you driving safely, or are there some areas you can improve. Check you are familiar with your bike. Check your bike is in good road worthy condition. Are you a danger to yourself or to others? Are you familiar with any changes that may have occurred in relation to the 'Rules of the Road' since you last took your Motorcycle out on the road?

Road Safety Officer at South Dublin County

Council Orlaith Maguire said 'the campaign is aimed at creating awareness of motorcyclists on our roads, the safe use of motorcycles, targeting both motor bike riders and car drivers alike.

Research shows that almost 51% of fatalities occur on a weekend day (Saturday / Sunday) It only takes a split second to change someone's life forever, and as a driver you have to ask yourself could you live with the consequence of your actions? So far this year there have been 10 motor cyclist fatalities on Irish roads. We all share the road, so let's all come together and together we can do this'.

Support Relay for Life appeal



PLEA: Hollie Maxwell with her daughter Phoebe

A YOUNG mother from Ballyfermot who survived childhood leukaemia is calling on the Dublin community to get involved in Relay For Life South County Dublin this May, *reports Ellen Gough.*

Registration is now open for the 24-hour event in Corkagh Park on May 31 in aid of the Irish Cancer Society, which brings the local community together to celebrate cancer survivors and remember those who have been lost to cancer.

Participants team up and take turns to walk through the day and night, with someone always on the move during the 24-hour period.

Ballyfermot woman and cancer survivor Hollie Maxwell was diagnosed with leukaemia when she was six, and she finished chemotherapy just before her First Communion.

The 28-year-old is sharing her cancer experience to encourage others to take part in Relay For Life and to show that there is hope after a cancer diagnosis.

"Most people have been affected by cancer, and I think Relay For Life is a great way for us to support each other – there's a great sense of community," Hollie said.

"I went to my first Relay For Life in 2016. It felt really amazing, and it was very emotional. It was really nice to meet other survivors and hear their stories – especially other young people, I don't really meet other young cancer survivors in my day-to-day life."

The funds raised at Relay For Life are essential to enable the Irish Cancer Society to provide free, vital support services to people affected by cancer across Ireland and to fund groundbreaking cancer research.

A moving Candle of Hope ceremony is one of the main highlights of Relay For Life, when thousands of candle bags, personalised with messages of hope and remembrance, are lit in celebration of cancer survivorship and to honour loved ones lost to cancer.

Another key feature of every Relay For Life is the survivors' lap, where cancer survivors who have lived or are living with cancer are invited to open the event with a special celebratory lap of their local Relay track.

"One in two of us will be diagnosed with cancer in our lifetime, so it's so important to get behind fundraisers like Relay For Life so these vital services can continue to be there when we need them," Hollie added.

To register a team for a Relay For Life South County Dublin, or to buy a candle bag to be displayed as part of the Candle of Hope ceremony, visit www.relayforlife.ie/event/south-county-dublin.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED) PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, 2001 (AS AMENDED) NOTICE OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT BY A LOCAL AUTHORITY

Location: South Dublin County Council intends to carry out development at the former South Dublin County Council Depot, at the Stables and Courtyards of Rathfarnham Castle and the adjoining Sean Keating Garden, Grange Road/Rathfarnham Road, Dublin14 (D14 FC62 & D14 XT02), Rathfarnham Castle (Protected Structure RPS. 221) Grange Road, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14, on a development site of 1.1725 hectares. The site is bounded by Castleside Drive to the north, Rathfarnham Road to the west and Rathfarnham Castle and its grounds to the south and east.

Nature & Extent of the Proposed Development:

Pursuant to the requirements of the above, notice is hereby given of the proposal to construct the following scheme by South Dublin County Council:

The development will consist of the refurbishment and change of use of the former stable buildings and former council depot yards, to provide mixed-use cultural/arts/café/ restaurant uses together with retail use, WC's, storage areas and a switch room.

Detailed Description of the works:

1. Works to the building to the north of the castle known as Cromwell's Fort (GFA 269m²), and its change of use to two multi-purpose event spaces and associated lobby areas.
The proposed works to include:
 - i. the removal of a modern flat roof covering and the replacement with a pitched roof with zinc finish and rendered masonry gable-ends;
 - ii. the removal of the existing solid floor to the southern internal room and replacement with a new insulated floor slab and the insertion of a new raised floor to the northern room;
 - iii. the removal of infill blockwork from existing openings and the provision of new windows and doors to existing openings;
 - iv. Installation of new services, partitions and repair and repointing works as required, including application of lime render finish.
2. Works to the existing single storey former stable buildings (GFA 591m²) within the existing courtyards to the north of the Castle and change of use to cultural/arts spaces, retail, café/restaurant, public toilets and ancillary lobby, storage and services spaces. The proposed works to include:
 - i. the removal of temporary roof coverings and the replacement with slate roof coverings;
 - ii. the minor modification of roof profiles above 2no. entrance doorways to provide sufficient head height at entrances;
 - iii. the removal of temporary bracing to windows and doors and replacement with new windows and doors to existing openings;
 - iv. the insertion of a new opening to the western perimeter wall to provide a new public entrance to the courtyard immediately to the north of the castle, and the closing up of an adjacent existing doorway opening;
 - v. The creation of new openings within dividing walls of the existing stable buildings to provide improved connection between the buildings;
 - vi. The construction of a new single-storey mono-pitch extension (GFA 83m²) to the northern elevation of a former stable building;
 - vii. New insulated floor slabs, installation of new services and repair, repointing and lime render works as required.
3. The provision of a new single storey café and restaurant and ancillary support space (area GFA 528m²) within the former council depot yards comprising:
 - i) The demolition of a section of wall to the north-west to provide access between the proposed restaurant dining area and back of house areas;
 - ii) The construction of a single storey mono-pitch structure in the north-west corner including clerestory windows facing north and west along the existing perimeter walls of the site to provide a café/restaurant dining area, and an associated single storey flat-roof structure to the north to provide ancillary support to the café/restaurant, including kitchens, staff and visitor WCs;
 - iii) The provision of an internal plant room to the rear;
 - iv) The provision of external ancillary support areas including a screened bin store, screened plant enclosure at ground level and screened rooftop plant enclosure;
 - v) The provision of two new openings within the existing western perimeter wall to facilitate the insertion of secure entrance gates, to provide staff, deliveries and bin store access to the rear of the ancillary space and bin storage areas;
 - vi) The provision of four new openings within the existing western perimeter wall to facilitate the insertion of new glazed window openings to the café/restaurant;
 - vii) Repairs and repointing to the existing walls as required.
4. The provision of new, single storey, slated roof structures to the existing structures (GFA 33m²) to the north of the building known as the Seismograph Building consisting of:
 - i) A secure bike store area and provision of 10no. long term bicycle storage spaces including 1no. enlarged bicycle space for a cargo bike;
 - ii) A secure bin storage area for the retail spaces;
5. The demolition and reconstruction of the walls to the north and west of the northernmost former depot yard;
6. The provision of a new car park on part of the Sean Keating garden adjacent to the boundary with Castleside Drive, with entry from the existing Rathfarnham Road car park, including:
 - i) the demolition of 2no. existing gate posts and part of the adjacent existing garden wall and railings, and the removal of 14no. existing trees to facilitate the construction of a new pedestrian and vehicular entrance, pedestrian footpath and delivery drop-off area;
 - ii) the regrading and releveling of the existing sunken pond and garden area to provide 54 no. car parking spaces (including 4no. accessible parking

spaces and 10 no. EV parking spaces) and 42 no. short-term bicycle parking spaces to the north of the site and associated landscaping;

- i) The reconfiguration of the existing pedestrian entrance gate and new hard and soft landscaping to the north-west corner of the site to facilitate improved pedestrian access;
7. All associated site services, site development works and landscaping comprising:
 - i) Removal of temporary cabin structures from the existing former council depot yards and associated site clearances;
 - ii) The construction of new gated entrance and railings between Rathfarnham Castle forecourt and the proposed site;
 - iii) The removal of 4no. car spaces from the existing Rathfarnham Road car park to provide a new enlarged pavement area adjacent to the entrance to the Café/Restaurant;
 - iv) The reallocation of the existing bus set down area to accommodate a universally accessible set down area;
 - v) The local regrading of the footpath within the Rathfarnham Road car park along the perimeter wall to the west of the courtyards to provide accessible entrance points to the courtyards;
 - vi) The removal of part of southern end of the existing low level boundary wall between the existing car park and Rathfarnham Road to facilitate a new raised table and improved pedestrian crossing point; installation of a new access control gate to the carpark entrance from Rathfarnham Road;
 - vii) The regrading and releveling of the existing surfaces to facilitate universal access throughout the site
 - viii) The provision of new hard and soft landscaping to the existing courtyards;
 - ix) The provision of new secure entrance gates to the existing openings between the park and courtyards;
 - x) The infilling with masonry construction of an existing unused entrance between the northern courtyard and the park to facilitate the regrading of the courtyard.
 - xi) Installation of new drainage, attenuation and site services and associated trenching and reinstatement works.
 - xii) Installation of new external site lighting to the car parking areas and courtyard spaces;
 - xiii) Repairs and repointing of existing structures throughout, as required.

The former council depot yards and former stable buildings fall within the zone of notification for Rathfarnham Castle, a National Monument (RMP DU022-014, Nat. Mon. 628) and a Protected Structure (RPS. 221)

The proposed Part 8 development has undergone Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening under Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended). No likely significant effects were identified during the AA and EIA Screening processes, or during an Ecological Impact Assessment (EiA) prepared for the proposed development. Therefore, there is no requirement to proceed to the next stage of AA or for a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) to be produced. In addition, the proposed development is not a type of development that triggers the requirement for an EIA and subsequent preparation of an EIA Report as per the prescribed classes of development and thresholds set out in Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended). Any person may, within 4 weeks from the date of this notice, apply to An Bord Pleanála for a screening determination as to whether the proposed development would be likely to have significant effects on the environment.

Persons wishing to inspect drawings and particulars of the proposed development in person can do so as follows:

Plans and particulars of the proposed scheme will be available for inspection or purchase at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy for a period of four weeks from **Thursday 8th May 2025 to Friday 6th June 2025** only; at the Planning Department counter in the offices of South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Tallaght, Dublin 24 between the hours 10.00am – 12.00 noon & 2.00pm to 4.00pm Monday to Friday, and at Ballyroan Library, Orchardstown Avenue, Dublin 14, D14 Vy33 between the hours 9.45am – 8pm Monday to Thursday and 9.45am to 4.30pm Friday to Saturday. Hours may differ at public and bank holidays.

The plans and particulars of the proposed development are also available for inspection online on the Councils Public Consultation Portal website (<http://consult.sdblincoco.ie>) during the period: **8th of May 2025 to 20th of June 2025.**

Submissions:

Submissions or observations in relation to the proposed development, dealing with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which the development would be situated, may be made as follows:

Online at <https://consult.sdblincoco.ie> up to **11.59pm on Friday 20th of June 2025.**

Or

Written submissions not later than **5.00pm, on Friday 20th of June 2025** to: Administrative Officer, County Promotion Unit, Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development, South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Tallaght, Dublin 24. Submissions should be labelled **"Castle Stables and Courtyard at Rathfarnham"**.

NOTE: Please make your submission by one medium only. Only submissions received by **Friday 20th of June 2025** and addressed as set out above, will be considered. Submissions cannot be accepted in any other format or to any other postal address. Submissions and observations should state the name, address, and, where relevant, details of any organisation, community group or company etc. which you represent.

Signed:

**Director of Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development,
South Dublin County Council.**



ABANDONED: Rubbish in the garden of a vacant house in Kilcronan Court

Resident in Kilcronan court has received four different rent quotes

A dispute over an increase in rent and rent arrears, has yet to be resolved

By **Maurice Garvey**

maurice@echo.ie

A RESIDENT claims he does not know what his rent is, having indirectly received four different quotes via the management body for the estate.

Martin Bray (68), a Kilcronan Court resident, has lived in the Clondalkin

estate for 30 years with his wife and son. "That's the problem, I still don't know what the weekly rent is and I can't get a letter confirming it," said Martin, who signed his initial agreement with Nabco when he moved to the estate.

The estate is now managed by Co-operative Housing Ireland (CHI), who were formerly known as Nabco.

Over 70 homes in Kilcronan Court/Place are under the management of

CHI, an Approved Housing Body (AHB).

Mr Bray said there is a dispute over an increase in rent and rent arrears, which has yet to be resolved.

"CHI told me €83, they told MABS €77 and they told the Christine Buckley Centre it was €76," said the pensioner.

A spokesperson for CHI told *The Echo*: "CHI operates a differential rent policy, where rent is based on household income and recalculated annually (from July to June). Rent is typically 12-15% of household income. Member tenants are notified of their calculated rent each year and receive a quarterly rent statement. If member tenants have any questions or would like to discuss any

aspect of their tenancy, we would encourage them to call our contact centre or their income specialist."

Mr Bray says bill payments still show Nabco on it and that the communication from CHI is poor.

"CHI won't come out and talk to me or the other residents even though there are other issues raised, including mould at our house and they told me what time I should put the washing machine on. There is also two vacant houses in the estate which are generating litter, dumping, rodents and weeds."

"The house across the road, Bernie died and it has been vacant for a year and a half," said Mr Bray.

In relation to vacant properties at

Kilcronan Court, CHI said their priority is to have them ready to "re-let as soon as possible, however delays do occur."

"For example, one of the properties was unfortunately abandoned by the member tenant, which requires us to engage with the Residential Tenancies Board (RTB) to regain possession. The property then needed to be assessed for works needed and a contractor appointed.

"We are pleased to say that work is now being carried out, and as soon as this is completed and we have received a nomination from the local authority, we hope to welcome a new member tenant to their new home," said a CHI spokesperson.

“CHI won't come out and talk to me or the other residents even though there are other issues raised, including mould at our house

Call to investigate Park and Ride facilities to serve Lucan Village

By **Alessia Micalizzi**

alessia@echo.ie

NATIONAL Transport Authority (NTA) proposals for 'park and ride' facilities could serve Lucan with 500 to 600 car spaces and Adamstown with 30.

At the Lucan Area Committee Meeting on Tuesday, April 22, Councillor Caroline Brady (FG) called on the Council to "investigate the feasibility of providing Park and Ride facilities to serve Lucan Village, with the aim of increasing parking availability and reducing traffic congestion."

According to Cllr Brady, strategic locations such as Liffey Valley, Adamstown, and Kishogue should be assessed, and connectivity to public

transport and walking routes into the village should be considered.

South Dublin County Council shared a NTA "strategy proposal" to provide a 500 - 600 space Park and Ride at either junction 5 or 6 of the N4.

"If the option chosen is junction 5, the Park and Ride would be located in the vicinity of Coldrinagh, Lucan," explained SDCC.

"In addition, there are proposals to create a circa 30 space Park and Ride facility in Adamstown."

SDCC noted that 20 Park and Ride spaces have already been provided on the R136, near the newly opened Kishogue station, and that more parking for Kishogue station will be provided as the Clonburris SDZ gets built out.

The Council suggested commuters can use the "significant" paid parking spaces available at Liffey Valley and take the bus for their city centre journey from there.



Climbing the Kerry mountains to prepare for the Camino

CLIMBERS from Tallaght Athletics Club took a trip to Kerry this bank holiday weekend as part of their preparations for the Camino de Santiago later this year, reports *Ellen Gough*.

Ten members of the club, accompanied by ten members of another local hiking group, scaled Carrauntoohil last

Saturday, May 4, on a trip organised by club member Carol Murray.

“We are going to do the Camino in September, so it was just getting some practice in,” club member Helen Sweeney said, adding that the climb, with “some pit stops” took the group just over seven hours.

“Our guides were The Lodge And Reeks Guiding Company, three brilliant guides. We were thrilled to reach the top to fly our flags proudly,” she continued.

Members of the Tallaght Athletics Club will start their Camino de Santiago walk later this year on September 14.



PREPERATION: Tallaght Athletic Club members at the base of Carrauntoohil

SciFest is a School Fair with flair



WISE: Daniel Murphy and Killian Carroll

SECOND-YEAR pupils at Firhouse Community College showcased their scientific knowledge at the SciFest School Fair last week, reports *Ellen Gough*.

The science fair, organised by the student STEM team, took place last Wednesday, April 30, as part of SciFest, the national STEM fair programme for schools in Ireland.

This is the second year that Firhouse Community College has put on a SciFest fair, according to science teacher and STEM coordinator Nadia McCormack.

“We’ve made it compulsory now that they have to take part, and we’ve incorporated it into their classroom-based assessments (CBA),” she explained.

The fair allowed students to present their projects beyond the classroom, with first-year students, parents and primary school students all invited as guests to the fair last Wednesday.

“The primary schools absolutely loved us, they were very interactive with our second-year students, asking them loads of questions,” Nadia continued.

“They can do whatever project they want within reason, once it’s safe, once we have the materials, or they can bring in the materials.

“That’s part of their CBA too, that they independently cope with their own ideas, that we’re not telling them what to do, and just trying to try to create independent learners.”

First-year students had been allowed to take part in last year’s fair, however this year was restricted to just second years as they have more “experience and confidence” with experiments.

However a mini science fair will be held for first years later this week, and Nadia is hopeful they will be inspired by their older schoolmates.

“It’s about exposing them to the idea of the competition and to get them enthusiastic about science.

“We found the first years from last year were more enthused this year and had moved their projects on from last year.”

The end goal for Nadia is to encourage students to engage and get excited, not just about their CBAs, but about STEM and science subjects, and to encourage them to get involved with the Young Scientists competition.

“It’s so important to praise them and for them to hear how great they are, it’s about trying to build them up and get them excited and get them into the Young Scientists,” she said.

Take Action for a Greener South Dublin County this May! - Dublin Climate Action Week is coming!

Local Authorities Leading on Climate Action

#DCAW25

12 - 18 May 2025

DUBLIN CLIMATE ACTION WEEK

www.dublinclimateactionweek.ie

Mark your calendars! South Dublin County Council is thrilled to be a key partner in Dublin Climate Action Week, taking place from May 12th to 18th. This inspiring week is a fantastic opportunity for all of us to learn, engage and contribute to building a more sustainable and resilient future right here in our community.

Climate change is a challenge we face together and Dublin Climate Action Week provides a platform for everyone – individuals, families, community groups and businesses – to discover practical ways to make a difference. South Dublin County Council is hosting a diverse range of events throughout the week, designed to be informative, engaging and empowering.

Get involved in South County Dublin!

Here’s a sneak peek at some of the exciting events happening locally:

- Discover Sustainable Farming in Glenasmole (Thursday May 15th, 2pm)
- Community Climate Action Funding (Friday 16th May 1-2pm, County Hall, Tallaght)
- Join us to prepare a new stepping stones forest or for a guided walk of the Dublin Mountains Makeover project or to help with peatland restorations.
- For more details on these events plus many more, go to www.DublinClimateActionWeek.ie or scan the QR code



L to R: Fingal County Council Mayor Brian McDonagh, South Dublin County Council Mayor Baby Pereppaddan, Dublin City Council Lord Mayor Emma Blain and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Cathaoirleach Jim O’Leary

SCAN HERE



'Protect your skin, wear your SPF and get your moles checked'

Jane (46) was diagnosed with a malignant melanoma after family urged her to be checked

ONE South Dublin woman is sharing her experience of being diagnosed with skin cancer to highlight the importance of getting any concerning skin changes checked out, reports *Ellen Gough*.

Jane Murray, from Perrystown, is one of 11,500 Irish people diagnosed with skin cancer every year, the most common type of cancer in Ireland.

The 46-year-old was diagnosed with a malignant melanoma last February, after her friends and family spent several years urging her to get a mole on her arm checked out.

Jane is sharing her story to encourage people to be 'Skin Smart' and to get any concerning changes checked out by their GP.

Explaining how her diagnosis came about, Jane said: "I had absolutely no symptoms. My friend, Alan, is a nurse and he'd tell me that I needed to get a tiny little mole on my arm checked out.

"It had all the characteristics of a cancerous mole: jagged edges, different borders, and it rose from my skin.

"When I was on holidays last year, my husband, and my son's girlfriend, were saying to me that I should get it looked at. I got the mole checked in November, mainly out of spite because I wanted them all to stop asking me about it."

Jane, who regularly used sunbeds in her 20s and described herself as a "sun-worshipper" on holidays, got the mole removed and then received her diagnosis the following year.

She was then referred to a plastic surgeon who took two centimetres around and two centimetres down

from where the mole had been, to check if the cancer had spread. Thankfully, Jane got the all-clear last April.

"I asked the surgeon what would've happened if I had left the mole, if the people around me hadn't pushed me to get it checked out," Jane continued.

"He said I would've been in a lot of trouble, and that by the time I would've been symptomatic, I would've been at stage four and there wouldn't have been much that could have been done for me.

"A tan is really just not worth the risk. I feel very lucky that there were people in my life who pushed me to get the mole checked out. Don't feel stupid for getting something small checked – I put it off for so long, but I should've done it sooner.

"Protect your skin, wear your SPF, don't use sunbeds, and get your moles checked," she added.

According to Kevin O'Hagan, Cancer Prevention Manager at the Irish Cancer Society, nearly nine out of every 10 cases of skin cancer are caused by UV rays from the sun or sunbeds.

"As Jane's powerful story shows, it's important to go to your GP if you notice any skin changes," he said.

"Early detection is vital. We want to ensure that the public are aware of the signs and symptoms of skin cancer and take action."

Anyone with questions or concerns about skin cancer, can contact the Irish Cancer Society Support Line on Freephone 1800 200 700 or supportline@irishcancer.ie

“ When I was on holidays last year, my husband, and my son's girlfriend, were saying to me that I should get it looked at. I got the mole checked in November, mainly out of spite because I wanted them all to stop asking me about it

Jane Murray with her friend Alan and inset: Jane's mole before removal



Cllr Mick Duff

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

Mick can be contacted on:
Mobile: 087 2865570

Email:
mduff@cllrs.sdublincoco.ie

Twitter: @CllrMickDuff



Mick DUFF
From the Community and For the Community

More action for travel route

THE National Transport Authority (NTA) provided €25,000 to fund a consultation for an active travel scheme in Esker, Lucan, and the development of its potential design, reports *Alessia Micalizzi*.

In response to a question by Councillor Liona O'Toole (Ind), SDCC said that the scheme would provide an active travel route between Griffeen Road and the R136 incorporating permeability links to the Castle Riada and Moy Glás estates.

The proposal will be subject to a "reasonable level of consensus and agreement" coming from the public consultation and in that case the project will be brought through the Part 8 process within 2025.

Funding for the design and construction will be then sought from the NTA in 2026.

"While necessary discussions have taken place over the years, it is now time for more action," said Cllr

O'Toole.

"A firm commitment is needed to drive these projects forward without further delays, as they are essential for improving safety and connectivity in our community."

In her question, she asked for an update on another permeability link between the Paddocks and Hillcrest.

"From an engineering and cost perspective, an accessible link between the Paddocks and Hillcrest would be relatively straightforward," said SDCC.

"However, this would require consensus from residents in both areas, prior to any detailed design being undertaken.

"Additionally, the Paddocks development is not taken in charge so any link would require agreement with the landowner / management or undertaken following a TIC process."

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Cian (26) helped change the lives of three people

26-year-old died from a brain bleed after alleged assault

By **Alessia Micalizzi**

alessia@echo.ie

“CIAN always helped everyone, that’s who he was,” said the brother of an organ donor who has changed the lives of three people after his passing.

Cian Gallagher (26) died from a brain bleed after being assaulted in Tallow, Co Waterford, where he was managing a construction project in November 2022.

His brother Shane, who now lives in Kiltipper, Tallaght, said “it was an easy decision” for the family to agree Cian’s organs would be donated.

“What happened to Cian, we wouldn’t wish it on anyone, but it gives us comfort to know that what he did helped other people.

“After almost three years, it still feels raw, we’ll never get over it. But when we’re having a hard time, we can take a step back and realise that from something so bad, something good has come.”

Due to his young age, Cian never discussed organ donation with the family, but according to Shane it was what he would have wanted considering his good and caring character.

“He was always the kind of person who helped everyone. There were stories we only found out about after his death, like that time he helped his neighbour with a dead battery and refused to take money.

“He only said ‘that’s what neighbours are for.’”

Cian saved the lives of three different people, who got his liver and two kidneys.

His family received a letter from the man who got Cian’s liver saying that “it changed his life, and he can now finally enjoy time with his family,” said Shane.

“That way you see first hand the difference it makes. You see there’s a real person on the other side, who is grateful and whose life has improved.

“They always say the only thing you can’t buy in this world is time, but that’s what those people received through Cian’s donation.”

Cian’s heart valves are also stored in the Mater Hospital and the family were told that they will likely change the lives of a few children who need them replaced.

“A natural valve is always better than a



EASY: DECISION: Shane Gallagher from Kiltipper, holding a photo of his deceased donor brother Cian (26) with his fiancée Ramona and their daughter Erin (3)

mechanical one, the doctors told us.”

On Tuesday, May 6, Shane spoke at the launch of the Irish Kidney Association Organ Donor Awareness Week, starting this Saturday, May 10.

He encouraged families all over the country to “have the conversation” with their loved ones to make sure they know what each other’s wish would be.

“You never really want to think or talk about your loved ones passing away,” he told *The Echo*, “It could be what they want to do but you just weren’t aware.”

Shane encouraged people to get their organ donor card from the IKA or to tick the box “yes” for organ donation when applying for, or renewing, their driving licence.

According to the Road Safety Authority, nearly half of all licensed drivers have chosen to take the step which is represented by Code 115 on the license.

In 2024, according to the Irish Kidney Association, 263 organ transplants were carried out thanks to the generosity of 84 deceased donors and 30 living kidney donors. This included 175 Kidney transplants, 53 Liver transplants, 16 Heart transplants, 15 Lung transplants, 4 Pancreas transplants.

600 people are currently on transplant waiting lists, 500 of those waiting for a kidney transplant and the rest waiting for a heart, lung, liver, and pancreas.

The Irish Kidney Association reminded that only around 1pc to 2pc of people die in circumstances where organ donation is medically possible, typically in hospital intensive care units.

“This statistic underscores just how rare and precious the opportunity for organ donation truly is. That makes every potential donor incredibly valuable and highlights why family discussion remains essential.”

Echoopinion...

‘No more compromises. No more outdated rules’

EVEN the most uninterested in sports couldn’t help but sit up and take notice when senior players in a Leinster semi-final camogie match are sent off the pitch to change out of the kit they say is best for them.

The issue of wearing shorts in camogie is on everyone’s lips after Saturday’s semi-final between Kilkenny and a Dublin team that included a number of local players, was almost cancelled following a protest by players.

The Camogie and Ladies Gaelic Football Associations do not have the best press right now. The disparity in conditions and facilities between men and women’s Gaelic sports has been well documented. But surely threatening to cancel a senior semi-final over shorts is doubling down on being the bad guys? It’s definitely not a good look.

It’s worth noting that two votes on allowing players to wear shorts were voted down at last year’s Camogie Association congress by county reps. Compare that to the recently released survey by the Gaelic Players Association, which found 83% of players want the choice of shorts, and it displays a paternalistic and patronising attitude by the organisation towards its players. Be quiet little girls, and do as you’re told.

Despite the Kilkenny and Dublin teams conceding to officials on Saturday, it seems the fight for shorts has just begun.

“Protesting is our only option,” according to St Jude’s player and Dublin camogie captain Niamh Gannon.

In a game between Lucan Sarsfield and Ballyboden St Enda’s this Tuesday evening, both teams wore shorts. Posting a picture of the two teams on Instagram, Lucan Sarsfields captioned it with this defiant message: “No more compromises. No more outdated rules.”

It’s hard enough for girls to choose to stay in sports, let’s at least let them be able to play in comfort when they do make that choice.

New ‘trust agreement’ and lease still in the works over shared clubhouse

By **Maurice Garvey**

maurice@echo.ie

A NEW ‘trust agreement’ and lease is still in the works over a shared clubhouse in Lucan.

Griffen clubhouse is used by Weston Hockey, Lucan Harriers, and Arthur Griffith Park FC.

The original lease agreed with South Dublin County Council in 2003 ran its course following the dissolution of the previous committee Hillcrest football club and since then the clubs and the council have been in talks over a new arrangement.

At the recent Lucan area meeting, Cllr Jaqueline Sheehy (FF) asked for a progress report following Lucan Harriers, who attended the council chamber at the end of February for a deputation.

In response, SDCC said their Senior Executive Parks Superintendent met with

the club members on February 28 following the deputation “in relation to the maintenance issues outlined at the meeting.”

“These issues are being worked through with the club. The Senior Executive Parks Superintendent is working with the contractor to set a date for the repair works to begin on the athletics track. The club will be informed as soon as a date is set.

The licence agreement for the track is currently set as an annual licence agreement. The Senior Executive Officer has discussed this with the club since the deputation meeting and is looking at other options. This will be discussed again with the club shortly.”

SDCC also said that they have been working with the club in drafting a trust agreement that will be issued to “relevant clubs this week with the intention of a new lease for the clubhouse being drawn up and agreed with the relevant clubs.”



TRUST: The facility used by the clubs

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St Finian's marks 200 years of schooling in Newcastle

Time capsule buried in school grounds with a photo of children's history team

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

LAST Friday saw generations of past and present pupils of St Finian's National School get together for a major birthday celebration.

St Finian's NS in Newcastle Lyons is marking 200 years of pupils this year, having first opened its doors in April 1825.

The school held an open morning on Friday, May 2, inviting past and present pupils, parents and teachers to celebrate this milestone birthday.

"It was an open morning for the whole community, for past teachers, past pupils, past students, really anyone that had connections to the school," teacher Declan Rooney explained.

"We had old roll books dating back to the 1800s and pictures over the years, of classes, of sports events, musical events, all that."

The day, organised by the head of the school's history team Caroline Reid, also featured a performance by Newcastle-based Retired Active

Men's Social (RAMS) choir, and a planting of an olive tree.

A time capsule was also buried on the school grounds, with items including a newspaper with Friday's date, a school jersey, and "a picture of the children's history team who were really helpful in the whole event," according to Declan.

No official date has been set yet for digging it up, but it's likely to be sometime in the next 20 years, he said.

While on its fourth building, the school has never moved from its original site since 1825, a boast that few other schools in Ireland can make.

"We had people there on the morning who were going back five, six generations, whose great, great grandparents went to the first building," Declan explained.

"That's the beauty of Newcastle," he continued. "Obviously, it's a much bigger community now than it was ten, 15, 20 years ago, but the fact we only still have one school, you can trace back links going back literally six generations of families."

“ Obviously, it's a much bigger community now than it was ten, 15, 20 years ago, but the fact we only still have one school, you can trace back links going back literally six generations of families



DIGGING: Aoihe Coyne plants for the future

Freedom FM announces launch of DAB+ digital radio programme

ONCE a small pirate radio station broadcasting from a garden shed in Templeogue in the mid 1990s, to a well established online radio station with four coast-to-coast FM licences under its belt, Freedom FM is thrilled to announce its launch on the DAB+ digital radio platform across Leinster.

This expansion allows listeners across the province enjoy the station's nostalgic mix of chart-toppers, dance anthems, R&B classics, and rock favourites in crystal-clear digital quality.

Re-established as an online station in August 2020 during the Covid-19 lockdowns, the former pirate radio station from the 1990s Freedom FM quickly gained a dedicated following.

The station's online success led to temporary licensed FM broadcasts across major Irish cities, including Dublin, Cork, Limerick, and Galway each year since 2021, adding in counties Wicklow, Kildare and Cork along the way. Now, with its transition to DAB+, Freedom FM is set to reach digital radio listeners across the Leinster region whilst they commute to work or do the school run.

"We're delighted to be bringing our entertaining mix of music from the 90s and noughties to more places via the DAB+ digital radio network," said Sean Power, Station Manager of Freedom FM. "I know our 33 DJs and radio presenters will get a real kick helping Generation Y, people born between 1981 and 1997 relive their youth through the music of those two decades."

Freedom FM recently secured a content licence from the broadcast regulator Coimisiún na Meán which allowed it join the new DAB+ digital radio platform, as part of a

trial service operated by Fáilte DAB and licensed by the communications regulator COMREG.

The station is not just a wall-to-wall jukebox. Stand out programmes include Tallaght native Louise Scott presenting Momstrife, a show that was inspired from the madness that comes from parenting, or Fáinne Gael an Lae, a four-hour 90s and noughties music show each Sunday morning presented in Irish by Labhaoise Ní Mhaolmóna where she welcomes guests to share their memories of the era and their favourite ceol of the 90s and noughties.

All forms of EDM, Dance, Trance, Drum and Bass, Ambient and electronica from the 1990s and the early 2000s are catered for at the weekend, whilst those interested in easing into the night with love songs from the 90s and noughties can cuddle up with Nikki or Feargal from 11pm. Throughout the rest of the week, listeners can enjoy a wonderful mix of pop music from the station's featured decades.

The station has also grown its presenter line-up in recent times. The Tallaght and Templeogue accents are now joined by regional accents from across Ireland, making this local venture a truly cross-country enterprise.

Freedom FM will be reliving the 90s and noughties with a mixture of Pop, R'n'B, Dance and Rock music as well as specialist music shows around the clock during its time on the DAB+ digital radio network.

The station will continue its online broadcasts too via www.freedomfm.ie, on smart speakers, and through its free online app available on the App Store or the Google Play Store.



WONDERFUL: Paul Kavanagh, Sean Power and Ralph McGarry ready to go on air on DAB+ with Freedom FM



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Tips on dealing with asthma and clearing up myths

ASTHMA is the most common respiratory disease in Ireland, affecting one in 13 people.

Research indicates that young adults with asthma have disproportionately higher rates of visits to the ED and demonstrate lower engagement with preventative healthcare services.

The adult healthcare system expects them to be autonomous with their asthma self-management, but frequently these young adults have poor asthma insight and poor adherence to treatment.

To raise awareness in this group of young adults in the community, the Respiratory Nursing team from

the hospital visited the TU Dublin Tallaght campus to mark World Asthma Day 2025.

There was great engagement from staff and students combining fun and education!

The nurses shared evidence-based asthma tips, cleared up some common myths and were able to point students in the right direction for getting support if they needed it.

They also took this opportunity to promote the work of the Respiratory Integrated Care Hub here in Tallaght as well as the vital resources provided by the Asthma Society of Ireland, who also supported the event.



CELEBRATING WORLD ASTHMA DAY 2025: Raising asthma awareness in staff and students on the TU Dublin Tallaght Campus with support from the Asthma Society of Ireland. Providing asthma education, busting myths and advising on self-management. From left: Precious Osoko (Respiratory Clinical Nurse Specialist), Louise Cullen (Respiratory Clinical Nurse Specialist), Carol Buckley (Respiratory Clinical Nurse Specialist), Sophie Nash (Asthma Society of Ireland), Alison Breen (Respiratory Clinical Nurse Specialist) and Emma Mulligan (Respiratory Advanced Nurse Practitioner)

Demand for stable housing for domestic violence survivors

Women's Collective Ireland works with over 700 women helping to rebuild their lives

By Alessia Micalizzi

alessia@echo.ie

DOMESTIC violence survivors are "systematically failed" when they're not provided with stable housing, said Women's Collective Ireland (WCI).

WCI Tallaght works with over 700 women in the area helping them rebuilding their lives after experiencing domestic violence.

The group will support an upcoming motion by Councillor Kay Keane (PBP) calling on South Dublin County Council to provide housing for domestic violence survivors.

"On behalf of the 700+ women of Tallaght that we work with in a community development setting, I would strongly advocate for the council's support of this motion," said Jennifer Philips from WCI.

"Access to safe, secure, and permanent housing is not a luxury – it is a basic human right and an essential step in protecting survivors from further harm.

"Without a direct and guaranteed pathway from refuge services to stable housing, survivors are systematically failed – forced either to return to dangerous, abusive environments or continue to be further destabilised through the added trauma and instability of homelessness when in need of safety.

"Failing to prioritise housing for domestic violence survivors is not a neutral policy decision; it directly places women and children back in harm's way.

"Including survivors of domestic violence as a priority category within the housing allocation system is a vital and urgent action. It would demonstrate a real commitment to ending cycles



of abuse, preventing further trauma, and ensuring the safety and dignity of some of the most vulnerable members of our community."

The motion is due to be discussed and voted on at the South Dublin County Council full meeting on Monday, May 12.

Cllr Keane is appealing to those who support

the motion to also contact their local councillors before the meeting.

"We need to speak up in solidarity with those who have suffered domestic violence and are now facing homelessness," she said.

"While there are excellent short-term refuge spaces, provided by the likes of Saoirse Domestic

Violence Services, we have a real lack of long-term public housing, and we need to get the council to take this seriously.

"We need more public housing, and to make sure no one is faced with the choice of homelessness or returning to a dangerous house."

Nina for Life sunrise walk on Saturday

"AFTER each sunset there is a sunrise," wrote NINA for Life suicide prevention service as the group brace for their sunrise walk on next Saturday, May 10.

NINA for Life welcomes everyone. The meet-up begins at 3.45am in Kingswood Community Centre across from the church, with the event starting at 4.15am.

Participants are invited to wear a

NINA for Life tee-shirt if they have one or just something yellow, and to donate to support their work at the GoFundMe page "NINAforLife Sunshine Walk."

The fundraiser has already reached over €5,700 which will "go back into education and creating awareness around positive mental health," said NINA.

"Our main purpose is to raise awareness of suicide," read the fundraiser page.

"We achieve this through education, training and community-based events.

"The challenge we set ourselves is to assist in removing the stigma of suicide within the local community and the wider society and to get people talking as young as possible so that everyone

who needs help is not afraid or embarrassed to talk about their difficulties or ask for the help they need."

After the walk, participants can enjoy tea, coffee and more chats at the Kingswood Community Centre car-park.

There, they will have the chance to light up a candle or flashlight for those

who were lost to suicide.

Registration to the event can be done with any of the NINA committee members, or by contacting them through their Facebook page "NINA For Life Suicide awareness."

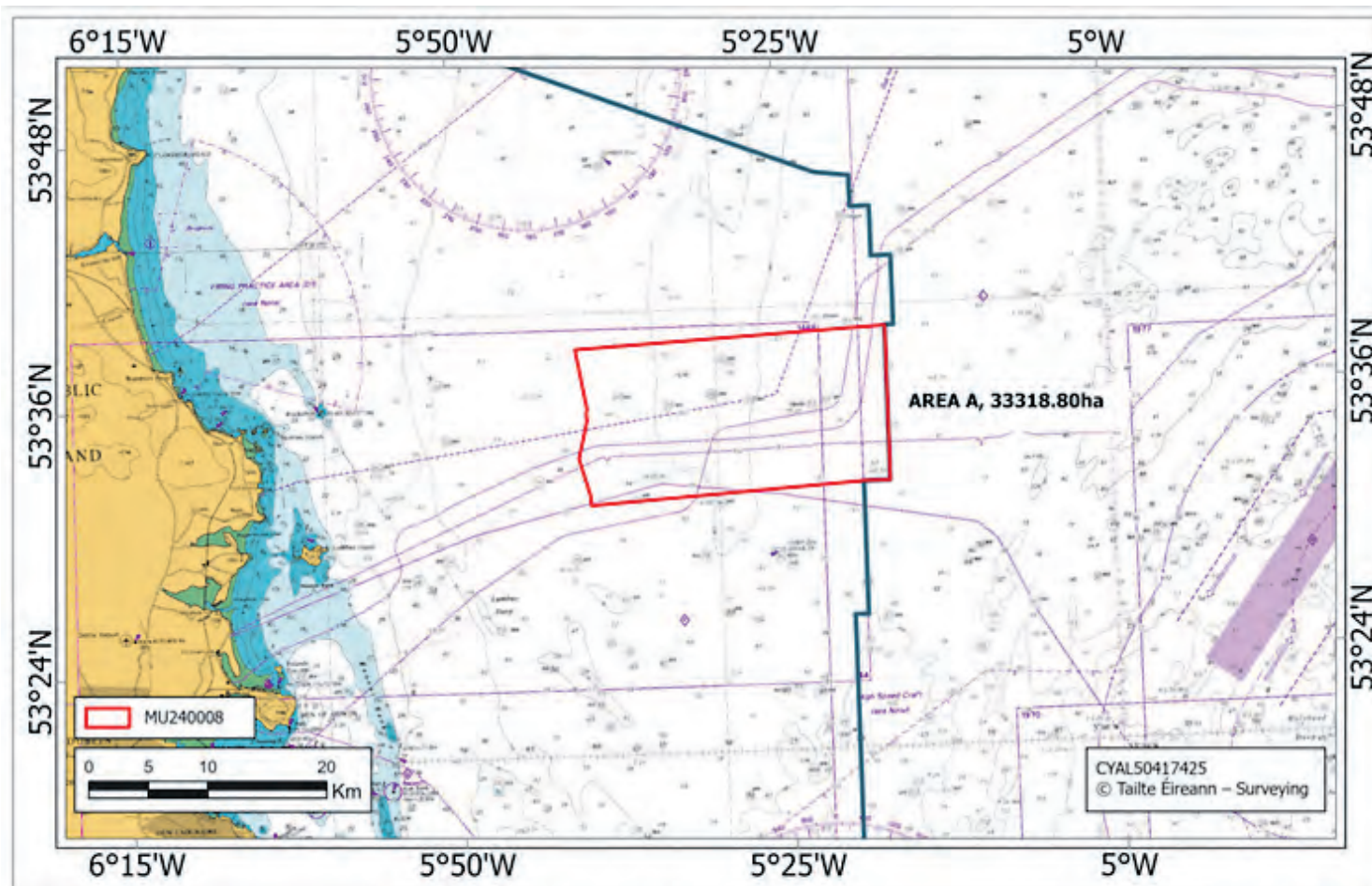
Tallaght Person of the Year Glenda Murphy Smullen will attend the walk and show support to NINA's vital work in the community.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011

Invitation for public submissions on an application for a maritime usage licence and an appropriate assessment

Mares Connect Ltd. submitted an application on 28/06/2024 to the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (“MARA”) for a maritime usage licence under section 117 of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 to undertake marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigation, to assess various factors, including seabed suitability and stability for routing cables and other electrical infrastructure associated with the interconnector project from the 12 nautical mile (nm) limit to the EEZ. The activities will take place in the Irish Sea, off the Dublin Coast, between the 12 nm limit and the boundary of the EEZ. The licence application is for a period of 5 years.



**PUBLIC NOTICE
PROPOSED MARITIME USAGE LICENCE
MUL240008**



A related Natura Impact Statement has been submitted with the above licence application. The licence application and the Natura Impact Statement are available for inspection on MARA’s website

<https://www.maritimeregulator.ie/applications/mul240008/> and at the following address by appointment– Maritime Area Regulatory Authority, 2nd Floor, Menapia House, Drinagh Business Park, Drinagh, Wexford, Y35 RF29.

Members of the public who wish to make a submission in writing to MARA on the licence application and the Natura Impact Statement may do so quoting ref: MUL240008 to the following e-mail address – licence@mara.gov.ie or by post to the following address - Licence Unit, Maritime Area Regulatory Authority, 2nd Floor, Menapia House, Drinagh Business Park, Drinagh, Wexford, Y35 RF29.

The closing date and time for a written submission to be received by MARA is 17.30 on 06/06/2025.

MARA will then, as soon as practicable, carry out the appropriate assessment determination in accordance with regulation 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011. After the determination, MARA will either grant, part grant or refuse the licence application.

Dated the 7th day of May 2025

Signed: Representative of MaresConnect

St Anne's GAA sunrise walk for suicide prevention

ST ANNE'S GAA in Bohernabreena will have their sunrise walk to support suicide prevention and people affected by suicide on Saturday, May 10.

The "Walk into the Light" will start at 4.30am at the club premises

and go on for 7 km through Bohernabreena Waterworks and Glenasmole valley.

Buckets for donations will be available along the walk and funds raised will support suicide prevention charity Pieta House.

Breakfast, tea and coffee will be waiting participants as they come back to St Anne's GAA after the walk.

"St Anne's GAA has been doing this for over five years," explained Tallaght Person of the Year Glenda

Murphy Smullen, who is the Health and Wellbeing officer in St Anne's.

"It's a very important occasion. Unfortunately, suicide is still widespread in the community.

"We want to highlight that there is help out there and that everyone in

the community can help you if you're struggling.

"If you need help, please reach out to your community. The Health and Wellbeing team in St Anne's is there, our door is always open," said Glenda.

Lights, cameras and action from Defence Forces snapper

Photographer Mark Pollock takes to the Tallaght Library stage for his first exhibition

By **Ellen Gough**

ellen@echo.ie

A NEW photographic exhibition highlighting the diverse roles within the Defence Forces is on display at Tallaght Library for the month of May.

'From Many Paths, One Purpose' is local photographer Mark Pollock's first exhibition, made up of 103 individual photographs of service members and support staff across all branches of the Irish Defence Forces.

Photography is a hobby for Mark, who works as a civilian for the Department of Defence at Casement Aerodrome at Baldonnel. "I approached them and said 'look, I want to do a series on the Army, Air Corps and Navy', and they said fire away," he said.

"The Defence Forces should reflect society, and society should reflect the Defence Forces, that was the concept of it."

The exhibition features 103 portraits – a number chosen to reflect on the 103 years that the Irish Defence Forces has existed – of members of the various branches, as well as civilian support staff.

The portraits were taken over an 18-month period, during which some of Mark's subjects have seen major changes. One of his first subjects, Sgt Kerri Maguire, was eight-and-a-half months pregnant when she posed.

"I asked her on the night how old is your son now, and he's a year and a half," he shared with a laugh.

He also remembered Navy chaplain Father Des Campion, who passed away last November not long after Mark took his portrait.

"It was actually his birthday when I took his picture – he was 80 years old."

"I'm very proud of the Defence Forces, and the work they do that people don't see," Mark said.

"Behind the uniform you have carpenters, plumbers, electricians, chefs, mechanics, and technicians, I want to show that side of it."

Mark also praised the staff at Tallaght Library and South Dublin County Council who "jumped on board" when he approached them about hosting this first-ever exhibition of his work.

"The staff are fabulous, Liz Corry was brilliant – she's the Senior Executive Librarian there.

"I got the pictures together and said to them any chance you could have an exhibition, and they jumped on board, they were so accommodating."

'From Many Paths, One Purpose,' by Mark Pollock will be on display in the Back Wall Gallery in Tallaght Library for the month of May.

“ Behind the uniform you have carpenters, plumbers, electricians, chefs, mechanics, and technicians, I want to show that side of it



HAPPY DAYS: Mark Pollock with Sgt Kerri Maguire (centre) who was pregnant at the time of her portrait being taken and Sgt Carmel Bennett
Photos by Sam Gibney



DELIGHTED: Members of the public at the exhibition

Ballyfermot parish searching for a secretary

ASSUMPTION Parish, Ballyfermot, is currently inviting applications for a vacancy for a Parish Secretary.

The role is offered initially on a one-year fixed term and part-time basis for 20 hours per week, 9am to 1pm, Monday to Friday.

The role includes duties in providing administrative services to the parish, managing the parish office, receiving members of the public and dealing with enquiries, maintaining computerised accounts for the parish, recording and managing parish records, and

responsibility for payroll function.

The successful candidate will have at least five years administrative experience, book-keeping skills, up-to-date computer skills, including Microsoft Word, Publisher and Excel, with some database experience, interpersonal

skills and ability to work in a team.

Letters of application with enclosed curriculum vitae should be emailed to Assumption Parish Office atparishcentreballyfermot@gmail.com, or posted to Assumption Parish Office, 197 Kylemore Road, Ballyfermot,

Dublin D10, P659, before 5pm. on Friday, May 16.

Add 'Application for Secretary Post' to subject line on email, and on envelope address if posted.

A job description will be sent to all candidates on receipt of application.

Excrement and rubbish around Kingswood

“RUBBISH and human excrement” around overgrown bushes have been spotted on the Cookstown Road at the top of Kingswood estate according to a councillor.

Cllr Dean Donnelly (Ind) said he was “happy” with South Dublin County Council’s response which addressed the issue.

“The Council has examined the area in question and will commence a clean-up of the dumped materials and some localised strimming works will be undertaken,” SDCC said at the Tallaght Area Committee Meeting on Monday, April 28.

In addition, the location has been prioritised for vegetation clearance to improve visibility and enable passive surveillance, with these works scheduled to commence following the end of the bird-nesting season on August 31.

“To support these efforts members of the public are encouraged to report incidents of illegal dumping directly to South Dublin County Council and to report anti-social behaviour to An Garda Síochána,” added SDCC.

Check out your health at Fair Day

FETTERCAIRN Community Centre will host a Health Fair Day on Wednesday, May 21, between 10am and 2pm. Everyone is welcome to join for a health check, SWAN holistic therapies, Alone and mental health supports. The event is sponsored by South Dublin County Partnership and Slaintecare. The Irish Heart Foundation will be attending the event.

South Dublin schools scoop top prizes at SciFest fair

SciFest founder spoke about how far the programme has come on

FOUR schools from across South Dublin scooped a number of prizes at the SciFest@College fair in TU Dublin Tallaght last week, reports Ellen Gough.

The fair took place on Thursday, May 1, as part of SciFest, Ireland’s largest and most inclusive STEM fair programme for second-level students which runs throughout the year.

It marked the beginning of SciFest’s 20th year celebrations, which will take place in 2026.

“It was very special to return to TU Dublin, Tallaght Campus, where the very first SciFest was held in 2006,” Sheila Porter, SciFest Founder and CEO said.

“To see how far the programme has come since then is truly inspiring.”

Just 170 students from 14 schools showcased 67 projects at the first ever SciFest in the Tallaght campus in 2006, while last week’s event saw 322 students from 23 schools presenting an incredible 158 projects.

The event included an official opening from 9.30am with judging of the students’ projects until 12.00 noon, followed by an awards ceremony in the afternoon from 2 to 3pm.

Students from South Dublin schools took home four of the 14 special awards handed out at Thursday’s fair.

The Business Excellence Institute Award was awarded to Eva Gavra Boland of Jesus and Mary College, Goatstown for her project ‘Promoting inclusivity in female GAA activewear’, while the Boston Scientific Medical Devices Award went to Cyrus Maniar of The King’s Hospital, Palmerstown, for his project titled ‘Customizable Glasses for light-sensitive individuals’.

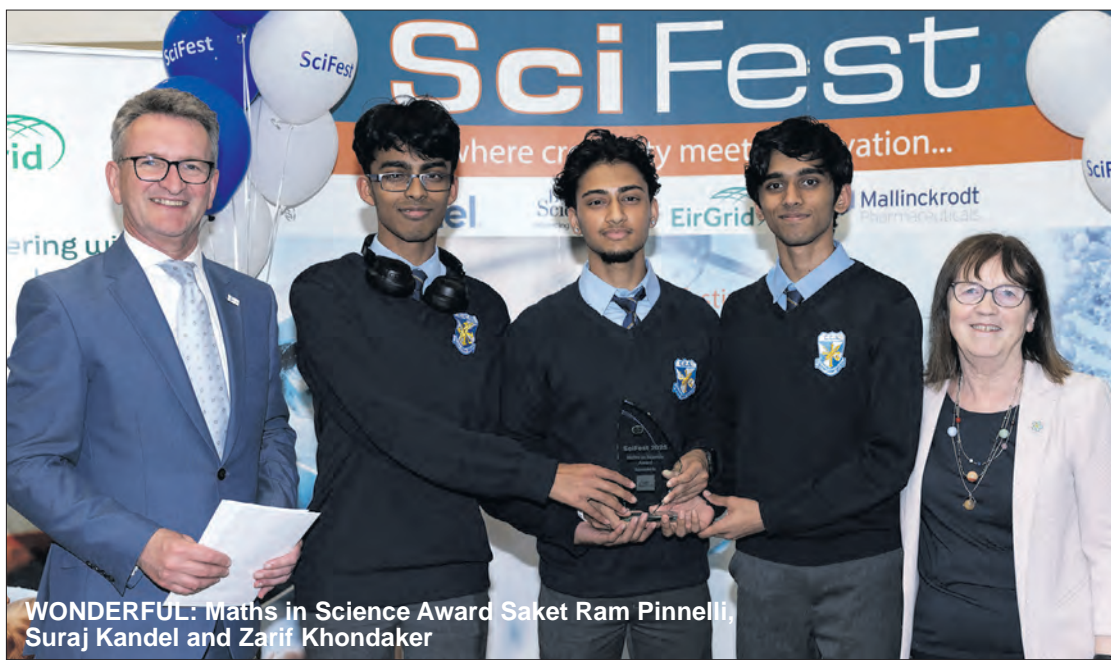
Students Saket Ram Pinnelli, Suraj Kandel and Zarif Khondaker from Tallaght Community College won the SciFest Maths in Sciences Award for their project ‘Stairway to Strategy: Do Older Students Spot the Nash Equilibrium Faster?’.

The Regeneron Life Sciences Award was won by Jael Pila Di Wumba a student at Firhouse Educate Together Secondary School for her project entitled ‘How can implementing drought-resistant crops improve food security and sustainable agriculture in hot developing countries?’.

They will join other SciFest@College winners from the 16 regional fairs across Ireland at the National Final, which takes place this November.



ACHIEVEMENT: Boston Scientific Medical Devices Award – Cyrus Maniar



WONDERFUL: Maths in Science Award Saket Ram Pinnelli, Suraj Kandel and Zarif Khondaker

“It was very special to return to TU Dublin, Tallaght Campus, where the very first SciFest was held in 2006

Average time for fixing faults with Council was almost 5 days

SOUTH Dublin County Council completed 750 work orders to fix heating faults in Tallaght properties in 2025.

In response to a question by Councillor Dermot Richardson (Ind) who called for heating breakdowns in council houses to be prioritised, the Council said that the average time to complete these work orders was 4.95 days.

“The Council categorises all requests for repairs depending on the nature of the problem,” read the response.

“These categories are emergency, urgent, routine or cyclical.”

According to their guidelines, an emergency request is tackled within 5 working days and an “urgent” one within 10 working days.

When it comes to routine repairs such as replacing the toilet cistern or a “faulty radiator,” the response might take 12 weeks and over, and “cyclical” works such as repairing leaking gutters or replacing hall-doors would be completed between one and seven years.

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ROADS ACT 1993, SECTION 75

PROPOSED TEMPORARY CLOSURE, TUBBER LANE (L5373-2) CO. DUBLIN

To facilitate Circet Networks Ireland to install a ducting network by means of trenching, South Dublin County Council propose to close the following road:

Road Name: Tubber Lane (L5373-2) from the junction with Stacumny Lane up to the Celbridge Link Road L2010 junction.

From: Sunday 25th May 2025

To: Saturday 28th June 2025

Time of Closure: 7:00a.m. to 7:00p.m.

Detour: Detour onto Stacumny Lane via R403 Dublin Road and right onto Celbridge Link Road L2010.

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@sdbublincoco.ie no later than **5.00p.m. on Monday 12th May 2025.**

Web: www.sdcc.ie



Wellness event for cancer survivors aimed to promote emotional healing

THE importance of community and peer support was emphasised in a wellness event for cancer survivors hosted by Relay for Life South County Dublin.

On Saturday, April 26, a Pranic healing session and a mental resilience workshop for cancer survivors took place at the Howlness centre in Clondalkin, featuring Pranic healer Keith Howell and coach Karen Kruger.

"The event was designed to provide a nurturing environment where cancer survivors could come together to share their experiences and find support in their journeys," said Caroline Corcoran from Relay for Life.

"The day aimed to promote both physical and emotional healing and

emphasised the importance of community and peer support.

"Survivors had the opportunity to connect with others who understood their journeys, creating a network of encouragement and solidarity.

"It was a resounding success, leaving participants feeling rejuvenated and supported.

"Many attendees expressed gratitude for the opportunity to connect with others and gain valuable insights into managing their health and well-being.

"This gathering served as a reminder of the strength and resilience of the human spirit and the healing power of coming together to support one another on the path to wellness."



Salutations to John who turned up for work 'come rain or snow'

Over 30 colleagues and family celebrated his work achievements and his memories



HIGH ACHIEVER: Anto Connolly and John Byrne



Anto Connolly, John Byrne and Yvonne Butler (job coach who supported John getting the job at Mak Fasteners)

By **Alessia Micalizzi**

alessia@echo.ie

“It was a privilege working with him . . . It was a lovely send-off and everyone got quite emotional

OVER 30 people took part in an “emotional” send-off to a Templeogue employee retiring after 21 years.

John Byrne (54), who has Down syndrome, has been a “vital” part of Tallaght materials company Mak Fasteners, said manager Anto Connolly, showing up “come rain or snow.”

Securing the job two decades ago with the support of Cheeverstown disability service, John worked half-days for five days a week and was dropped off every day by proud parents Olive and Damien.

His role primarily centred on bagging nuts

and bolts and over the years he “picked up quickly” how to use machines and other tasks, said Anto.

“He came out of his comfort zone and managed very well to adapt to the role.

“It was a privilege working with him for 21 years.”

On his last day, Thursday, May 1, all his colleagues alongside his parents, sister and niece celebrated his achievement and shared memories.

“John loves music and in particular Christy Moore,” said Anto. “One day he came to

work bringing some memorabilia from his concert and we chatted away.”

Jennifer Feeney, Community Inclusion Coach at Cheeverstown, said, “Twenty-one years in one place is really meaningful to John.

“It was a lovely send-off and everyone got a bit emotional too.

“John knew it was his time to retire, as he wants to spend more time with family, friends and his community.

“We’re all very proud of him and we wish him the best in his next chapter.”

Support for bereaved parents

ANAM Cara, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, will hold its monthly Parent Support Evening on Monday, May 12, at 7.30pm in the Maldron Hotel, Whitestown Way, Tallaght.

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

Anam Cara also offers an online support group meeting. To find out more call 4045378 or email info@anamcara.ie.

Walk of Hope on Saturday

AMONG many others, HOPE Suicide Prevention Drop-In Centre will hold a "Walk of Hope" on Saturday, May 10. The walk will start from Dodder Valley Park opposite Aherne's pub at 4am, go past the Firhouse Weir and back to The Edge café for refreshments.

HOPE invited all walkers to bring a photo of their loved one to place on one dedicated table at The Edge. Registration is not needed, and donations are welcome.

"We had a great turnout last year, so hopefully [we will] have the same this year to remember all those gone too soon and those suffering with any mental health issues," wrote HOPE on their Facebook page.

Bright future for Irish in Tallaght area with theatre

Building will host drama and all groups promoting Irish language

By Alessia Micalizzi
alessia@echo.ie

THE construction of a theatre beside Aon Scéal? Café in the Tallaght Irish Language and Cultural Centre will set a "bright" future for Irish in the area.

Works have commenced last week, explained Pól Ó Meadhra from Gaelphobal Thamhlachta, and the space is expected to be complete and ready to open this September.

Although built in the shape of a theatre, the new space will host much more than Irish drama groups, becoming the hub for all cultural activities taking place in the centre and open to all local groups who want to promote the Irish language.

Gaelphobal Thamhlachta bought the building that is now the Irish Centre ten years ago and Aon Scéal? has fostered the use of the language in the area ever since, while employing young locals who attended Gaelscoil or were fluent, said Pól.

The theatre will be an additional resource for the community available for many uses.

It will be the main venue for amateur all-Irish drama group Aisteoirí Thamlachta, their rehearsal work and live performances.

It will host an Irish film club, Irish classes for beginners and classes from the University of Galway Irish programme.

"We expect the café to feed to the theatre and vice versa," Pól told *The Echo*.

Club Óige Feachtas Tamhlachta, an Irish language youth club based in Scoil Santain, will hold regular activities

“Tallaght is currently the area with the “strongest” presence of spoken Irish in Dublin, and Gaelphobal Thamhlachta is working hard to have their centre recognised

targeted at “a new generation of native speakers and learners,” and the theatre will also see regular lectures on the history and culture of Tallaght.

According to Pól, Tallaght is currently the area with the “strongest” presence of spoken Irish in Dublin, and Gaelphobal Thamhlachta is working hard to have their centre recognised as an Irish Language Network, a state recognition for areas where Irish is alive and thriving.

The project is funded by the Department of

Rural and Community Development in conjunction with South Dublin County Council.

“This support reflects the confidence that the state authorities have in the capacity and vision of Gaelphobal Thamhlacht,” said the organisation.



FUTURE: Construction starts on the theatre beside Aon Scéal

Laurels Cycle Crew wheeling their way to a record 17 years of cycling for charity

THE Laurels Cycle Crew enjoyed their annual Galway to Clondalkin venture, which culminated with 45 cyclists arriving home at the Laurels pub in Clondalkin Village, reports Maurice Garvey.

This is the 17th year of a charity fundraiser established in 2009 by Laurels manager Damien Long and head barman Denis McCarthy.

The initiative has raised over €1.35m for various causes and this year it is fundraising for the Clondalkin New Ageing Well Centre.

Derek Cummins, a Laurels Cycle Crew member, praised the hard work of all involved and said the group is already planning ahead for the next venture.

“Each cyclist was given a

limited-edition medal.

“Another fantastic moment was when our own photographer Matthew Lysaght took an amazing picture last year opposite the Riverside Inn in Birr, but this year the crew stopped and met the whole family who posed with us all for a picture,” said Derek.

“We are delighted for this fundraising event to make a full fit-out of the Ageing Well Centre in the heart of Clondalkin.”

Crew member Graham Brown is the only one who has cycled every year since it started in 2009 but new cyclists of all abilities are always welcome to join the fun.

The Laurels Crew also organise an annual Santa Cycle in December, from Phoenix Park to the Laurels.



SNAP HAPPY: Matthew Lysaght took the photos at the Laurels cycle in Birr, Co Offaly

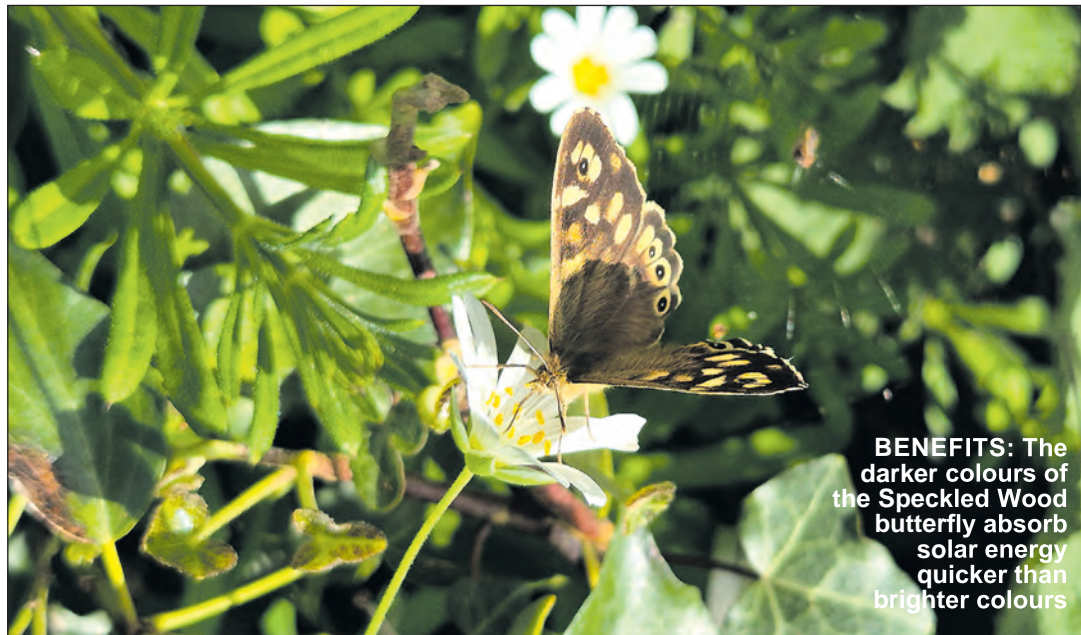
Green Eye

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

Early summer butterflies



BENEFITS: The darker colours of the Speckled Wood butterfly absorb solar energy quicker than brighter colours

THE recent lovely warm weather lifted the spirits of many people.

It also greatly benefited our late spring and early summer butterflies by getting the season off to a good start for them.

Humans are warm-blooded and can generate heat in their bodies from the breakdown of their food. Butterflies are cold-blooded insects and cannot regulate their internal temperature. Instead, they need to draw heat from an external source, like the sun.

A butterfly's wing muscles need to be warm before it can fly off and search for food and find a mate. They absorb this heat from the sun.

Their wings act like mini solar panels, absorbing solar energy and converting it to heat energy which warms the muscles at the base of the butterfly's wings. This allows the wings to flap.

In cool and overcast conditions, this warming-up process takes much longer.

This is why butterflies are not very active in dull weather.

In Ireland, the months of April and May are never

guaranteed to deliver a lot of bright sunshine, so the recent sunny weather offered a really great boost to butterflies.

Getting a good start to the season is important because, for many butterflies, their life span is short. Having bright sunny weather allows them to be active for longer periods during the day. This increases their chances of finding a mate and laying eggs for the next generation.

Dull and cool weather reduces their chances of being active enough to find a mate in time before the season, and their life span, ends.

Flowers also need good sunshine to produce a lot of nectar and attract insects.

We can help butterflies and pollinating insects by growing a lot of different nectar-rich flowers in our gardens and parks.

We also need to offer safe resting places for insects, by retaining hedgerows and growing shrubs, by leaving some areas of grass to grow long, by not tidying the garden too much, and by avoiding the use of chemicals in the garden.



ACTIVITY: In early summer, Holly Blue butterflies will be attracted to nectar-rich garden flowers like Forget-me-not

BRINGING LOVE: Charity walk is a vital fundraising event inset: Darkness into Light volunteers



Darkness into Light spreads love and hope

‘Everyone at Pieta and beyond has Johnny Fox remembered.’

By **Alessia Micalizzi**
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DARKNESS INTO LIGHT walks to support suicide prevention will come back this Saturday as founder Johnny Fox is remembered.

On May 10, starting at 4.15am, 5km walks will take place in Corkagh Park, Tymon Park, St Catherine's Park in Lucan and Marlay Park in Rathfarnham.

Revenue from registrations will go to Pieta House and allow the charity to keep providing support services to people in crisis and people affected by suicide.

On their Facebook page, Pieta remembered Darkness into Light founder, Killinarden man Johnny Fox, who died last year.

‘Johnny is sorely missed, and his impact will forever live on. His love for community and his message, ‘Hope and love, that’s what it’s all about,’ will never

be forgotten.’ From John’s first event in Phoenix Park in 2009, which involved 400 people, 150,000 people now walk together worldwide, ‘spreading hope, love, and a message that no one is ever alone.’

‘Everyone at Pieta and beyond has Johnny Fox to thank for starting one of our most vital fundraising events.’

The walk along Corkagh Park Cycle Track will start at the lake entrance to the park and will have local entertainment and art on display ‘making it one to remember,’ said the organisers.

The DIL Tymon Park walk will start at St Jude’s GAA Club in Templeogue and ‘community spirit has been plentiful’ since their first walk in 2017. Participants will be welcomed back to St Jude’s for refreshments.

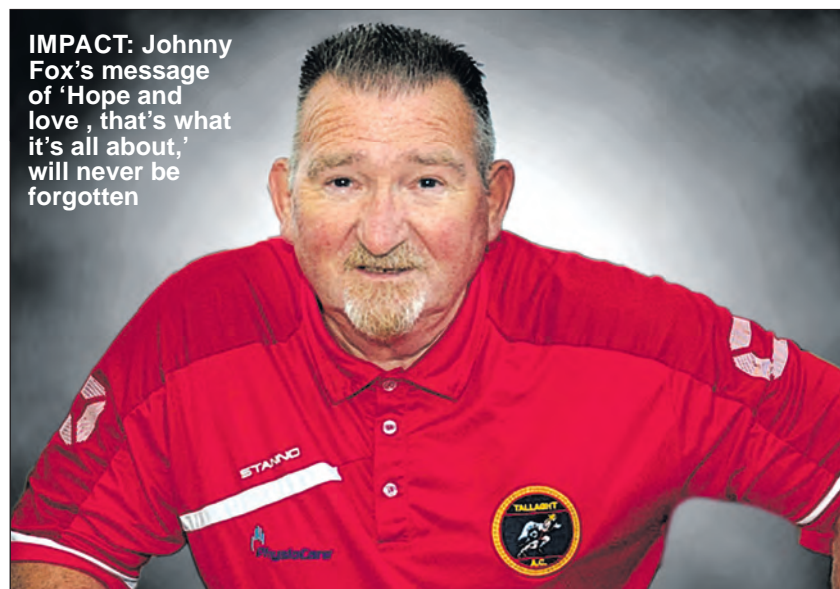
‘Join us for the most important sunrise of the year,’ said organisers of the walk in St Catherine’s Park in Lucan, who recommended getting there in advance to

‘Johnny is sorely missed, and his impact will forever live on. His love for community and his message, ‘Hope and love, that’s what it’s all about,’ will never be forgotten



s into reads hope

Johnny Fox to thank for starting this event'



IMPACT: Johnny Fox's message of 'Hope and love, that's what it's all about,' will never be forgotten

access parking as gates will close at 4am. As for the Marlay Park walk, the starting point will be the entrance from Ballinteer Road, and the group is looking forward to "a tranquil atmosphere" while walking "for a great cause."
"This inspiring event symbolises hope, as communities come together to support mental health and prevent suicide," reads the Darkness into Light website.

Pieta is 85pc funded by fundraising events and uses revenue to provide a 24/7 free helpline, therapy and support sessions.
In 2024, they received 100,000 calls and SMS, 51,000 hours of therapy and saw 7,000 clients.
To sign up for Darkness into Light visit www.darknessintolight.ie.

Sharing your skills and life experiences can be of great personal benefit



GIVING BACK: Colette Gallagher speaking at a previous volunteer information event held at Tallaght Library

SOUTH Dublin Volunteer Centre is hosting Experience Counts, a special talk at Tallaght Library on Monday, May 12, at 11 am.

The information opportunity is designed for individuals aged 50 and over who are interested in exploring rewarding volunteering opportunities.

The session will highlight the wide range of volunteer roles available in South Dublin and showcase how participants can make a meaningful impact by sharing their skills, knowledge, and life experience.

Colette Gallagher, Volunteer Engagement Officer at South Dublin Volunteer Centre, says, "We want to connect with individuals over 50 who can bring a

wealth of experience and insight to volunteering. "This event is a great opportunity to discover the personal and community benefits of volunteering and the many roles available.

"Whether you're looking to give back, meet new people, or learn something new, we can help find the right opportunity for you.

"We invite anyone interested to join us at the library."

Experience Counts is part of the Volunteer Centre's commitment to ensuring that everyone in the community can engage in meaningful volunteer work.

To learn more about volunteering, visit www.volunteersouthdublin.ie

“ We want to connect with individuals over 50 who can bring a wealth of experience and insight to volunteering. This event is a great opportunity to discover the personal and community benefits of volunteering and the many roles available. Whether you're looking to give back, meet new people, or learn something new, we can help find the right opportunity for you. We invite anyone interested to join us at the library

Anti-social incidents on routes include two men with handgun

Stones, bottles and eggs were among the many items thrown at buses this month

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

TWO young men carrying a handgun were seen by a driver of the 77A bus route at a stop on the Belgard Road according to the monthly Tallaght Transport Forum report.

The incident took place on Monday, April 14, around 1pm, and was captured by CCTV.

It's one of 14 anti-social incidents affecting safety on bus routes in the area this month and being reported at the Forum on Friday, May 2.

Eight of them involved stone-throwing, with two windows ending up broken on the 77A route at night.

Most of the stone-throwing incidents happened in Killinarden on 77A and 65B routes going both towards Citywest and Dublin City Centre, between Killinarden Heights and Killinarden Community Centre and around the same time – 9pm to 10pm – on different days.

One involved the 27 route going to the northside at Fortunestown Way/Swiftbrook Close.

Besides stones, a bottle was thrown at the 77A on April 29, from a Killinarden Heights stop, this time at 12.43pm. According to the driver's report, the bottle broke the bus offside mirror.

Youths threw eggs at the 65B from a Killinarden Community Centre stop on April 20, and a "missile" was also thrown by youths four days earlier at the 77A from the Blessington Road/Montpelier View stop.

The missile-throwing resulted in no damage according to the report. Another "youth" was reported to have opened "exit doors from inside then kicked and broke exit doors" and subsequently "alighted" the bus on April 7, on the 49 route at Belgard Square West.

A driver reported being threatened at the Fortunestown Road terminus of the 27, on April 28 at 3pm. This was the only incident where CCTV wasn't available.

The Tallaght Transport Forum is attended monthly by local councillors, SDCC officers, Garda senior officers and representatives from Dublin Bus, Go Ahead and Luas, and local community representatives.



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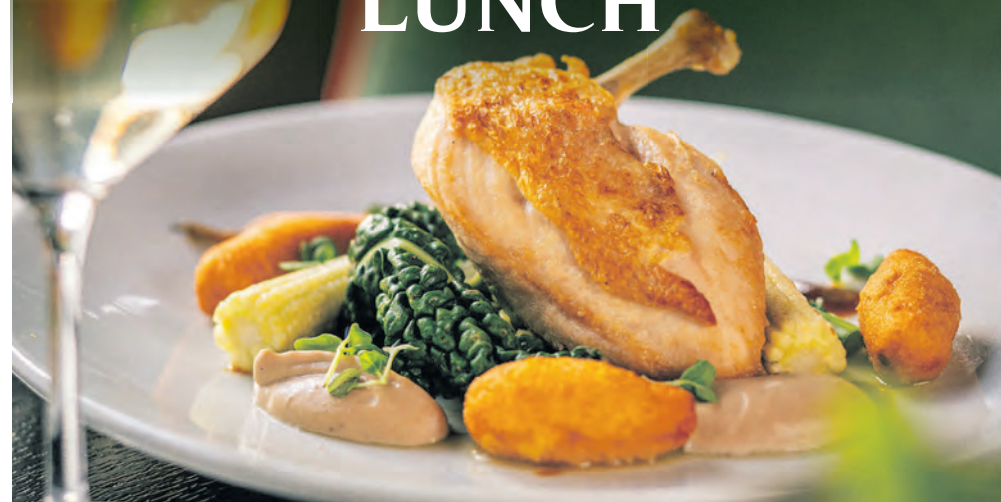
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Tallaght library issues 8,000 books and has almost 20,000 visitors

TALLAGHT library had 19,821 visitors in March, featuring 190 events and issuing over 8,000 books.

Nearly 400 new members joined the library throughout the month.

Among March highlights were the Seachtain Na Gaeilge sessions, International Women's Day panels and talks and Engineers' Week.

A Teddy Bear donation for hospitals was hosted in April following a toy swap. The library kept its usual activities going, such as Tai Chi and Yoga classes, Spanish exchanges, movie club meetings and arts and crafts sessions.

Six events including an Egg Hunt were

organised during Easter's Week keeping the library busier and busier.

Upcoming events for May are the Bealtaine Festival with a bingo session, a plant swap, a choir exhibition and Tai Chi taster sessions.

The library will focus on sustainability in May marking Climate Action Week and Biodiversity Week, with events like the sustainable fashion talk and a bee's workshops for schools.

A decade of marriage equality in Ireland will also be celebrated in the library on May 19, with members who were affected by the amendment in 2015 welcomed to share their story.

“The library will focus on sustainability in May marking Climate Action Week and Biodiversity Week, with events like the sustainable fashion talk and a bee's workshops



VISITORS: Tallaght library highlights

Call for multi-agency action against anti-social behaviour

Tallaght Community Council says there is 'blatant drug-dealing and drops'

By Alessia Micalizzi

alessia@echo.ie

ANTI-SOCIAL behaviour and open substance use in Tallaght village are "increasing" according to Tallaght Community Council who renewed their call for a multi-agency response.

"Blatant drug-dealing and drops" are taking place at repeated times and places, as they wrote in a letter to relevant authorities three weeks ago, along with loitering and alcohol consumption at ATMs and outside banks, violent thefts in shops, and criminal damage to business premises.

Over the "many years" of monitoring and reporting, TCC identified in the lower part of the Greenhills Court complex, housing individuals with "highly complex needs, including serious addiction," the source of such behaviours in the village.

"During the fortnight since our letter, the daily on-street anti-social and criminal activities have worsened," wrote TCC in a new letter addressed to the Department of Justice, SDCC and local TDs and councillors, local Garda representatives and Focus Ireland.

"The assigned Community Garda for Tallaght village has also been moved to a new role within Community Policing.

"To date we are unaware of any multi-agency contact [or] meeting being called."

TCC had suggested five short-term actions to respond to the issue, which they believe have been left unheard.

A "tenant strategy review" for Greenhills Court was suggested to SDCC, along with the creation of a confidential drug-dealing campaign in the area.



ISSUES: Open substance use in Tallaght village is increasing according to TCC

“A strategic, multi-agency focus is needed now. The glaring lack of specific responses to our letter and the local news coverage of the issue shows no meaningful urgency

TCC would also like to see more community garda resources and "visible, daily" patrols, and a "targeted, focused drug operation" in the areas mentioned.

According to them, since their first letter there haven't been "visible changes" to the gardai or outreach agency presence on the ground and the

incidents have increased instead of decreasing.

TCC thanked Focus Ireland and Senator Teresa Costello for their "specific and positive email responses" but are still waiting for a more collective and concrete response.

"A strategic, multi-agency focus is needed now. The glaring lack of

specific responses to our letter and the local news coverage of the issue shows no meaningful urgency or community support required here from responsible agencies.

"Does it now fall to us, community volunteers to call the multi-agency meeting? Is anyone listening to the community?"

Celebrations for Homeless Street Leagues



WINNERS: Grange Utd with Sean Kavanagh

IT WAS another fantastic day of celebration for the Irish Homeless Street Leagues finals in Tallaght this week, reports Maurice Garvey.

On a sun-kissed day, players from Street Leagues across the country battled it out at the Astropark venue on Greenhills Road for the All-Ireland titles.

The finals also provide an opportunity for selectors to cast their eye over the talent on display, which helps the selection process for the Irish men and women's teams competing at the Homeless World Cup 2025, taking place in Norway this August.

Clondalkin resident Sean Kavanagh, editor of Ireland's Big Issue magazine, is the founder of Irish Homeless Street Leagues.

Under the programme, thousands of men and women have benefitted from their participation in street leagues, using it as a stepping stone to a better life, while many have represented their country at the Homeless World Cups.

In recent years Amazon have provided support to the Irish Homeless Street

Leagues and the company had a large crew of staff members on hand to assist with the finals event.

Sean Kavanagh, Chairman and founder of Irish Homeless Street Leagues praised all who took part in the event.

"It was a great day, lovely atmosphere, we had some great support including the Mayor and former Mayor Alan Edge, some brilliant footballers involved which allowed coaches to run their eye over the players," said Sean.

"No one should be left standing on the sidelines watching life pass them by. IHSL is not just about sport, it's about empowering people to fulfil their true potential and participate fruitfully in life, sport is the catalyst that helps us achieve that goal. A sincere thanks to all whose support make it possible."

Both the Irish men's and women's team consistently punch above their weight at the annual tournament, and have won trophies, including the ladies last year in South Korea.

Coaches expect to pick the teams in the next month or so.



ACTION: Playing in the Street Leagues finals and (inset) Lidia, Casey, Abby, Vanessa, Linda and Alison

Young mother faces homelessness within the

Despite her situation Niamh remains upbeat and works

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

A MOTHER in temporary woman's refuge accommodation is facing homelessness in a month due to the dire lack of available places to live.

Niamh Ryan (30) has a four-year-old daughter Ailbhe and has been staying at accommodation in Tallaght for the last three months.

However, the temporary arrangement ends on June 2 and despite looking everywhere for a place, Niamh has been unable to find anything, such is the disastrous state of housing accommodation in the country.

"My worst fear is ending up in a hostel with my daughter. It is fear of the unknown and what she will be exposed to," said Niamh of the dangers that exist at hostels.

"There is not even room available at family hubs. I know women who are in them years, they can't move on because there is nowhere to go."

Fear drove Niamh from the family home. She suffered emotional abuse from a family member and wanted to protect her child.

"I didn't want my daughter growing up in that environment."

Niamh rang emergency housing at Dublin City

Council (DRHE) and was told to ring Women's Aid.

Although she is on the housing list with the city council and put in an application on 'exceptional housing grounds', it has been a difficult process to date with no solution in sight.

"You apply for places but get nothing back, no response. When I was in the council making an application, there was three people ahead of me and they were all homeless."

"There used to be a stigma about homelessness but not anymore."

Despite the bleak situation, Niamh remains upbeat, working as a special needs assistant in Larkin Community College in Dublin 1.

She also captained the Irish women's team to a trophy last year in South Korea during the Homeless World Cup 2024.

"The Irish manager Mary Byrne works with me in Larkin, she invited me down to the street leagues. We started slow but then went on a roll in South Korea. It was deadly."

Niamh comes from a sporting background, playing camogie for Na Fianna, and has run the Dublin marathon the last two years, with plans to run the Belfast marathon this year.

A sporting stamina will be required in the months ahead as she tries to secure accommodation for her daughter.



SUPPORT: Linda, Kaitlyn and Eccles



Scott is in contention for place on Irish team



POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT: Scott O'Brien still attends an after-care group

es being
ne month
s as a special needs assistant

GROWING up with a mother who had substance abuse issues would be deeply traumatic for children, reports *Maurice Garvey*.

For Scott O'Brien (20) it meant waking up and trying to help his five sisters get ready for school while a session was still going on in the house from the night before.

"I grew up in Tallaght. We would be going to school in the morning while there was a session on in the house with people in the kitchen. Things would always go missing from the house," recalled Scott.

"I wouldn't tell my Da at the weekends. While I was with him, I would get in trouble for robbing in shops.

Scott's dad took him when he was 12 to live with him in Clondalkin. Scott's half-sisters remained with their mother, and he has no contact with any member of his family to this day.

Hard to believe but worse was to come.

"Life was good with my dad. I was easily led, started hanging around with kids smoking weed in secondary school. Two days before my 18th birthday, my Dad sat me down and asked me to leave. I didn't care."

Scott was taken in by his girlfriend's father and got a job, but that didn't last very long.

"I started going out at the weekends with older people, ended up doing cocaine."

When Scott started renting a room in shared accommodation, the mental torment that built up over his formative years became too much of a burden.

"I stopped going out anywhere. I was going through a major psychosis, thinking they (roommates) want to kill me. So, I packed my bags and gave my clothes to St Vincent de Paul."

Scott became homeless at 18 years of age and tried to take his own life.

"I wasn't eating, robbing biscuits from shops and washing myself with a bottle of water. I was just lost.

"One day I was sat on a couch and swallowed 56 paracetamol tablets. I woke up the next morning feeling sick. Only for someone else there called an ambulance I might not have made it."

An ambulance rushed Scott to hospital in Blanchardstown, but he was still getting cocaine delivered to him in the ward while in recovery.

However, in hospital, a visitor was to have a profound impact on his life.

"A key worker from Coolmine came in telling me they had a place in a treatment centre. It was a six-month programme. It was hard because of my age but I looked at the older men there as my motivation for getting better."

After 14 weeks in Coolmine, Scott started taking part in the Irish Street Leagues and this has helped him to be involved in a positive environment.

"Football is my favourite."

After finishing treatment in Coolmine in January, Scott continues to keep playing football with the street leagues and is in contention for a place on the Irish men's team competing in the Homeless World Cup in Norway in August.

Another major development is that he recently started an electrical apprenticeship with CJK which provides steady work and a valued education in an important trade.

Now clean, he still attends an after-care group, and life is much better, but he knows that there will be good days and bad days ahead.

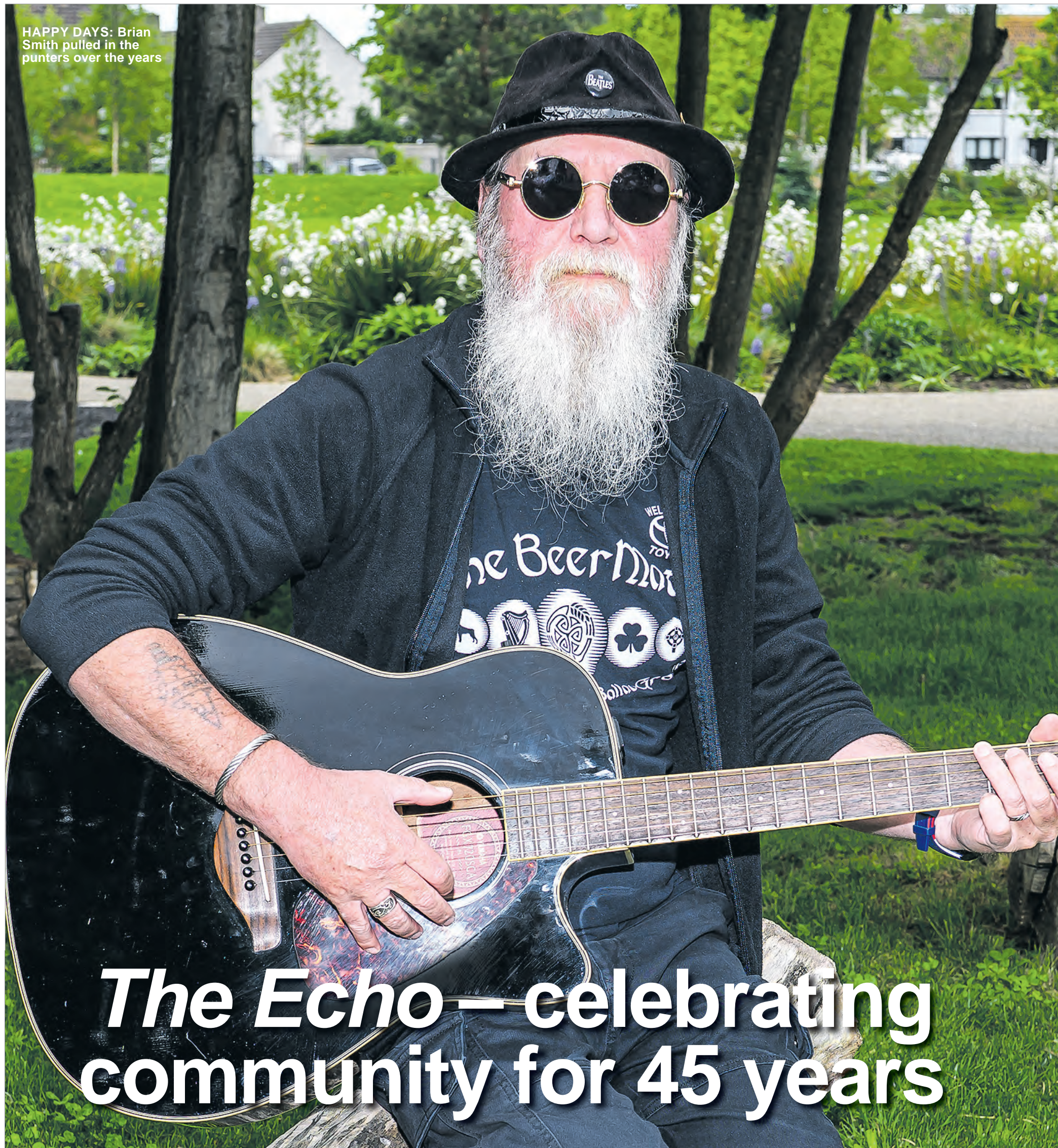
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OPTIMISTIC:
Niamh Ryan and
Jim Kelly

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 Brian Smith about his retirement from The Beermats trad group

HAPPY DAYS: Brian Smith pulled in the punters over the years



***The Echo* – celebrating community for 45 years**



EMOTIONAL: Brian Smyth says Colm Gibbons was the driving force in the band

NO DOUBT many of our readers will be familiar with Ballyfermot-based trad and ballad powerhouses, The Beermats.

Formed in 1993, the band has gone from strength to strength over the years, and are still pulling in the punters every time they play.

As such, when we heard about the departure of erstwhile guitarist and 'Face of The Beermats' Brian Smyth after 31 years of service, we knew we had to feature him in these pages.

A Ballyfermot original, Brian was born in The 'old' Coombe and grew up on Gurteen Road as one of nine children. Sadly, his Dad died when he was young, which was a huge thing to deal with for the whole family.

"For school, I went to Mary, Queen of Angels and then to Ballyfermot Vocational School, universally known as 'The Tech' in those days," Brian tells me.

"I was a bit sporty as a youngster and I boxed and competed in athletics at St John Bosco in Drimnagh. I was a decent runner in my day but not such a good footballer unfortunately."

As a young man making his way in the job market, Brian soon had a slice of luck.

"When I was younger, I was mad into motorbikes and I was delighted when I got a job with Reg Armstrong Motorcycles in Long Lane in 1976."

"I have a funny little claim to fame from those days. When the brand new Honda Goldwing came to Ireland, we were the first dealer to get them. I subsequently became the first person in the country to ride a Goldwing when we tested it."

He eventually became a Grab Driver for the council, and stayed there for 20 years before taking on his current position in water maintenance and he's done that for 18 years.

"I'm coming up to 67 and I think 31 years is a good stint to have put in. I'm delighted that Colm is carrying on with the band with the current line-up. I wish them nothing but success"

But we're here for the music and the origins of The Beermats, which, as Brian will tell us, were unusual to say the least.

"I remember it well, I was sitting having a pint with my friends Paul O'Donnell and Paul Gann and there was a ballad group playing across from us. As I was watching, I said to the lads, 'we could do that.' The two Pauls pointed out that none of us could play, and I just said 'we can learn' and so, we did. Paul O'Donnell would be the banjo player, Paul Gann was going to be the flute and whistle player and I was going to be the guitarist."

"So we bought the instruments, and learned. With the addition of Colm 'I'm not a ballad singer' Gibbons on lead vocals the original lineup was ready. We put together a short set and off to the races we went."

As it turned out, the lads were quick learners and Colm turned out to be a great singer and the great driving force of the band. Colm is still going strong as The Beermats' frontman.

"That's one guy who deserves all the success. He's been a dedicated and committed cheerleader for us for many years and he's been responsible for our success further afield too, getting us gigs and networking on our behalf."

Paul O'Donnell and Paul Gann gave great service to the band but eventually they left, (don't forget, the lads were always part-time musicians, keeping their day jobs) leaving big holes in the lineup to fill.

A bittersweet meeting led to The Beermats recruiting another great man who spent twenty years in the band.

"Many years ago, a young fella called Anthony Brennan was killed in a tragic accident on the lower Ballyfermot Road and we were asked to play at his funeral Mass. Afterwards we were talking to the

family when someone told us that Anthony's father Tono was a talented musician with a love of our kind of music. We asked him to join the band almost immediately and he was a great addition to us."

Tono wrote some original songs for the band, including 'Anthony's Farewell,' which, as you can imagine, is

a very emotional interlude at a concert.

The Beermats have always written originals though, either by themselves or with collaborators. They've had songs written for them by such luminaries as Brendan Phelan, Finbarr Furey and Pete St John amongst others.

The lads have played all over the world and have had great success in Germany, Switzerland, North America and anywhere the Irish diaspora has reached. They're a fixture on the European festival circuit playing to huge crowds and, as Brian told me, they've received the red carpet treatment by certain bookers.

"There's a particularly enthusiastic fella in Switzerland called Max who owns an Irish pub called Paddy O'Brien's over there. He arranges our flights and gets a limo to pick us up at the airport. It's great," he says with a laugh.

Not so long ago, The Beermats packed out Vicar St for three nights and they're only getting bigger, even without their 'focal point' with his trademark beard.

"Well I wanted to leave before I fell off the stage to be honest. I'm coming up to 67 and I think 31 years is a good stint to have put in. I'm delighted that Colm is carrying on with the band with the current line-up. I wish them nothing but success."

Brian has recently been honoured with a tribute night in Downey's in Ballyfermot. Behind every great man there's a great woman as they say, and Brian's wife Cecelia had a huge hand in its organisation.

"It was amazing and it was a complete surprise to me! They had T-shirts and mugs with my face on and every wall was covered with pictures of me and the band over the years. I'll never forget it, it was an incredible night."

Brian and Cecelia are the proud parents of Louise 'Yoko' Smyth and Kim Susan Smyth and remain completely devoted to each other after 41 years together.

As we finish our interview, I ask if there's any people he'd like to thank and he gave me a list of names as long as your arm which unfortunately I don't have the space to include in full.

But he made special mention of Colm's wife Claudia, his sister Pauline, Liam Dunne and Ray Delaney, great banjo players from



QUICK LEARNERS: Brian, Colm and the lads in The Beermats had great success

Clondalkin and countless others.

Brian is not a man to big himself up too much and he's all the more charming for it. He constantly gives the credit for The Beermats success to others, but 31 years standing on stage playing guitar and looking cool tells its own story.

We wish Brian a happy retirement from music and continued success for The Beermats.

'Creativity in Common' celebrates the power of inclusive creativity

A NEW exhibition bringing together works by neurodiverse artists opens this week in Rathfarnham, reports *Ellen Gough*.

'Creativity in Common' is a vibrant exhibition presented by Connections Arts Centre (CAC) that is taking place at Ballyroan Library in Rathfarnham from this Wednesday, May 7.

It brings together artwork by members of the Connecting Artists (CA) Collective—a group of talented neurodiverse artists and artists with intellectual disabilities—alongside pieces created by participants from Connections Arts Centre's community art classes.

Open to the public during library opening hours, 'Creativity in Common' celebrates individuality, creativity, and the power of inclusive artistic expression.

The CA Collective comprises 27 artists from the Connecting Artists Programme, an initiative supporting neurodiverse artists and artists with intellectual disabilities in developing their creative and professional practices. It provides a safe and supportive space

where artists can collaborate, share skills, and exhibit their work.

The exhibition features CA Collective Artists including Michael Hade (pictured), Rachel Coen, David Singleton, Kristin Reynado Suniega, Amy Begley, Alan Tarpey, Amy Clarke, Bradley Farrell, Brian Kennedy, Clement Yang, Jason Grace, Jenny Stafford, Mark Buckley, Niamh Eldridge-Barry, Peter Kehoe, and Thomas Higgins.

Connections Arts Centre is an award-winning, not-for-profit social enterprise that supports the disability community in Ireland. They provide accessible arts, lifestyle, and community education programmes that promote inclusivity and empowerment, and actively supports the CA Collective through mentorship, online meetings, professional opportunities, and exhibitions like this one.

The exhibition is free and accessible to all. A special opening evening will take place this Thursday, May 8, from 6pm–8pm at Ballyroan Library, Orchardstown Avenue, Dublin 14 (D14 VY33).



POWER OF ART: Rathfarnham artist Michael Hade with his piece 'It's a Plane' at the Royal Hibernian Academy

Offer 'empathy not pity' when dealing with all IBD sufferers

Lucan woman reveals her way of coping with a 'hidden illness' that takes a mental toll

By **Alessia Micalizzi**

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A WOMAN who opened up about life with Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) invited everyone to "be curious in a respectful way" ahead of World IBD Day on May 19.

When she was 15, Lucan woman Tammy Strickland (31) was diagnosed with ulcerative colitis, which is a condition grouped under IBD along Crohn's disease.

She received the diagnosis after suffering from a severe gastrointestinal infection and a year of debilitating symptoms, jaundice and extreme weight loss.

Living with ulcerative colitis, explained Tammy, means going through "very random" flares with symptoms like diarrhoea and abdominal pain, but "it's not only about running to the bathroom, it's a real hidden illness and it takes a mental toll too."

She "can't remember a time where she wasn't taking tablets," but she was also relieved to find out that her condition is treatable and is now in control thanks to biweekly injections, a healthy diet and vitamins integration, and only needing the hospital in case of acute flares or emergencies.

IBD also affects the immune system with the body attacking itself causing ulcers, swelling and inflammation of the gut.

As she is 'immunocompromised' by the disease, Tammy got Covid six times and also suffered from fatigue and kidney stones.

"People can be a bit impatient, if you want to stay away from crowded places to avoid picking something up," said Tammy.



PURSuing DREAM: Tammy Strickland and partner Steve Ahern

On the other hand, talking about the symptoms with which it is associated is not always easy.

"When I was younger, I found it extremely difficult to talk about my illness with anyone, including my own family, because there was always a sense of shame and blame associated with the disease," said Tammy.

"I always felt like there was something deficient in me and I had to make up for it in school and hobbies. I also had to cancel a lot of plans with friends due to the nature of my disease and not everyone

understood this. It can be exhausting to always have to explain yourself and the disease and what flares lead to."

A lot surer than herself today, Tammy thinks nobody should be afraid to talk about it and that people around her can be aware of it without going into the "gory details."

Her partner Steve "went beyond the ick factor," she said, they joke about the condition together and he "has always been patient and loving when any health issue arises."

About to get married this year, Tammy is pursuing her dream to be a scientist and a science educator and is

three quarters of the way through her PhD in neuroimmunology.

She is part of a voluntary education programme and offers free science grinds in her local community.

Marking World IBD Day, Tammy sent an encouraging message to fellow people with the condition, "You can do anything you want at the pace that suits you best. Don't let flares hold you back and don't be hard on yourself when you need to take rest periods to heal, you don't have to prove anything to anyone."

She also renewed her call to people around those affected to be patient

with changes of plans and respectful of the full story they might not know.

According to Crohn's and Colitis Ireland, IBD affects 50,000 people in Ireland. A separate condition from Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS), which is a disorder of the gut-brain communication but doesn't affect the immune system, IBD can be inherited from genetics but also from a combination of factors such as stress, food choices, environment or underlying immune system issues.

On May 19, Crohn's and Colitis Ireland will host webinar "IBD 101" from 6.30-8.30pm on www.crohnscolitis.ie with speakers including psychologist Dr Jennifer Wilson O'Raghallaigh, celebrities living with IBD, Armagh GAA star Niall Grimley and Gogglebox Ireland TV critic Sarah Reilly, and consultant gastroenterologist Prof. Anthony O'Connor based at Tallaght University Hospital. Registration is free and available on the website.

The charity offered some guidelines for people to be more aware of the condition in a respectful manner, such as "Offer empathy not pity," "Avoid blaming the person or trivialising what they are going through," and "Offer practical help with chores, errands and travel to medical appointments."

It suggested to teachers dealing with students with IBD to allow them leave the class without having to ask for permission, and to employers to adjust workloads and provide flexible hours to help employees with IBD.

Anyone concerned about IBD can call the Crohn's and Colitis Ireland Support Line on 01 531 2983 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9.30am to 12.30pm or visit www.crohnscolitis.ie for information.

SUNSHINE HAPPINESS:
Carports are highly versatile



Bring on the sunshine!

Takeda Ireland seek to install solar carports at their company car park on Nangor Road

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

TAKEDA Ireland are seeking planning permission for solar carports at their Grange Castle Business Park facility. The Japanese pharmaceutical company are seeking the installation of solar carports and a ground-mounted

solar PV array at the company car park on Nangor Road.

Solar carports are highly versatile and can be installed in various locations such as office carparks, shopping centres, or at home.

According to providers in Ireland, they provide reliable vehicle protection while efficiently generating renewable energy.

Some come with a special roof design that features solar panels on the roof of the car ports.

This allows users to power and charge their EV vehicles on site. A standard size is 5m x 5m and they can generate up to 2kwh of power.

The proposed Takeda development will consist of solar carports (three and five panel versions) over existing

surface car-park areas, solar panels on ground-mounted frames, underground electrical ducting and cabling within the development site.

The plans submitted with South Dublin County Council also include integrated lighting for carport areas, and all associated ancillary development works.

Construction and operational access

will be via existing site entrances from the existing Grange Castle Business Park internal road network

According to its website, Takeda employs more than 1,000 people in Ireland with commercial operations, corporate services and manufacturing facilities across four locations in Baggot Street, Bray, Citywest and Grange Castle.

Extra State funding sees room for new Family Resource Centre

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

POTENTIAL exists for a new Family Resource Centre (FRC) to be introduced in the county following the announcement of additional funding by government.

Currently there are 121 FRCs in the country including Killinarden, Kilnamanagh, Quarryvale, Cherry Orchard, and two in Ballyfermot (St Matthew's and Lynch's Lane).

Funding was secured as part of Budget 2025 to allow membership of the FRC Programme to increase from 121 to 126 nationally, in line with the Programme for Government commitment.

Minister for Children Norma Foley welcomed the

announcement by Tusla of the opening of the application process for the programme this week.

In 2023, 129,305 people participated in FRC community-based initiatives, while 15,578 people availed of group-based supports.

Working in partnership with Tusla, FRCs operate a prevention and early intervention approach, offering support to all children and families in the community.

In 2023 FRCs delivered 52,481 parenting/family support sessions, 70,960 counselling and therapeutic support sessions, while 51,154 children and young people benefited from pre- and after-school activities

Interested groups/organisations will have four weeks to complete the application process. Tusla will arrange to supply a dedicated

application form to any group/organisation expressing an interest.

Minister Foley said: "The Programme for Government commits to increasing funding and expanding the capacity and network of Family Resource Centres. In this context, I am very much aware of the valuable work that Family Resource Centres do in our communities, including engaging with vulnerable families, offering services to individuals across the whole life cycle from early years to senior citizens, and fostering a positive and inclusive community spirit.

"I am delighted that Tusla is commencing the search for new FRC Programme members, and that in the coming months we will have an additional five Programme members in place."



VALUABLE ASSET:
Kilnamanagh Community Centre

Apprentice from Rathfarnham finalist in trade competition

Carpenter joins nine other aspiring finalists in bid for 2025 crown

RATHFARNHAM-BASED apprentice Charlie Harpur, aged 23, has been announced as one of the top ten finalists for this year's Screwfix Trade Apprentice competition.

Apprentice carpenter Charlie, who is currently studying Carpentry and Joinery at CDETB, will join nine other trade apprentices from across the UK and Ireland, in a bid to be crowned Screwfix Trade Apprentice 2025 winner.

The winner, who will be announced at the two-day final in May, will take home an incredible prize bundle of tools, training and technology worth €10,000 – while also scooping €2,000 worth of Screwfix vouchers for their college.

Originally starting at university, Charlie soon realised that a hands-on career was more suited to his interests and decided to pursue carpentry. Now, halfway through his four-year apprenticeship, he's enjoying taking on more responsibility with his employer. Once qualified, Charlie plans to stay with his current employer for several years to continue learning and gaining experience, with the long-term goal of starting his own construction company alongside his electrician brother. His unmatched commitment, innovative thinking, relentless work ethic and drive saw him stand out in the semi-finals after being selected from more than 2,000 applications.

Commenting on the announcement, Charlie said: "I can't believe I've made it through to the finals of this year's Screwfix Trade Apprentice competition. When I submitted my application, I never dreamed I'd make it this far. It's also so exciting to be representing Rathfarnham at the national final."

"The carpentry industry is hugely rewarding to work in, and to be recognised for my skills and dedication at this

level is such a huge compliment.

"The competition is an incredible opportunity to showcase what I've learned so far, while highlighting the importance of trade apprentices in shaping the future of the carpentry industry – and I'm looking forward to the final where I can take my creativity and skills to a new level."

The final will offer the top 10 the chance to network and participate in workshops hosted by industry experts and will see each of them interviewed by an expert panel of judges. The judges include representatives from Screwfix, the Chartered Institute of Plumbing & Heating Engineering (CIPHE), the National Inspection Council for Electrical Installation Contracting (NICEIC), the Federation of Master Builders (FMB) and Screwfix Top Tradesperson Mohammed Rahman. Alongside the interviews, DEWALT will be showcasing some exciting product demonstrations, the team from SITE will be sharing the latest workwear and finalists will have the opportunity to get creative in some team-building workshops.

Screwfix Marketing Director, Jack Wallace shared his enthusiasm for the competition, saying: "Apprenticeships are vital to the growth of the trade industry, ensuring we have talented individuals entering the workforce with the skills required to succeed."

"The Screwfix Trade Apprentice competition is about spotlighting passionate apprentices who are paving the way for the future. We're thrilled to celebrate this next generation of tradespeople. The talent we see is just getting better and better, so I already know it will be a tricky decision for the judges to make on the day. I wish all finalists the best of luck!"



PASSIONATE: Charlie finds the industry hugely rewarding

Vacant Property grants are approved for 145 applicants

APPROVAL OF 145 vacant Property Refurbishment grant applications has been given by South Dublin County Council, helping to bring more homes back into residential use across South Dublin and Dublin Mid West, said Emer Higgins (FG), Minister of State and Dublin Mid West.

Minister Higgins said the grant is supporting people across South Dublin and Dublin Mid West to bring these vacant and derelict properties back into use as homes.

"The Vacant Property Refurbishment grant was introduced to help bring derelict properties back to life as affordable homes. So far in South Dublin and Dublin Mid West, 177 applications have been received, 145 approved, and 48 grants issued up to March 31, 2025. Of those, eleven grants have been issued so far this year on completion of works, according to the latest figures.

"You can apply for a grant of up to €50,000 to renovate a vacant property and up to €70,000 if the property is derelict."

"We can see the number of grants being paid out continuing to rise significantly each quarter as works on properties are completed.



NEW LIFE: Vacant Property grant revitalises

"It's fantastic to see so many people in South Dublin and Dublin Mid West availing of this support, and I hope to see a continued increase in approved applications throughout 2025."

"Across the country, €12.5m has been paid out since the grant was launched in July 2022,

showing the scheme's importance.

"The grant helps repurpose the buildings we already have, so we are boosting available accommodation whilst also rejuvenating our towns and urban centres."

Minister Higgins concluded:

"Fine Gael is committed to helping more people in South Dublin own their own home and increasing supply is key to achieving that. The Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant helps bring buildings back into use and revitalises our communities".

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New Customer Experience Centre unveiled by AVI-SPL

Global technology provider has over €6.2 million invested in the local economy

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

AVI-SPL unveiled its new Customer Experience Centre in Tallaght this week. The global provider of technology solutions has invested over €6.2 million since entering the Irish market in 2022 with the acquisition of Sonics AVI.

AVI-SPL is a modern workplace system integration company operating in over 70 offices globally and partnering with 86 per cent of the Fortune 100 listed companies.

It offers end-to-end design, deployment, and managed services of AV, UC and collaboration technology across all sectors including finance, professional services, technology and pharmaceutical. AVI-SPL were also behind the installation of the Dublin Portal livestream project in the city centre.

Since acquisition of Irish-based AV integrator, Sonics AVI, the tech firm has since tripled its headcount here and continues to grow.

Within Ireland alone, AVI-SPL customers range from local enterprises to global blue-chips with presence in-county, such as LinkedIn and Workhuman.

At the launch, Thomas Stone, President of South Dublin Chamber of Commerce, said: "I am thrilled a global technology leader like AVI-SPL is staying and continuing to invest in Tallaght. The opening of this world-class Customer Experience Centre today is a powerful

endorsement of South Dublin as a dynamic hub for innovation and enterprise. By bringing cutting-edge solutions and expertise, this investment not only elevates our local economy but also creates new opportunities for collaboration and growth across the wider business landscape."

Mike Kellaway, Managing Director, UK & Ireland, AVI-SPL, said: "Our investment in Ireland reflects the huge potential we see here. The new experience centre allows our teams to deliver best global practices right here in Ireland, offering our clients a hands-on look at the next generation of workplace technology – enabling our clients to boost collaboration ROI."

"Our growth projections reflect the rapidly increasing demand for top-tier office space and reduction in commercial premises vacancies in Ireland. Through our experience with the biggest brands globally, we can accelerate businesses to the next phase of their growth journeys."

To celebrate this milestone, AVI-SPL hosted two events on May 1, 2025: a grand opening of the Customer Experience Centre in Tallaght and an industry forum event in Dublin City Centre, focused on future-ready workplace strategy with Irish rugby legend, Brian O'Driscoll, Anne Sheehan, Microsoft's EMEA Enterprise Lead, entrepreneur and founder of Ergo, John Purdy, Robin van Meeuwen, Creston EMEA Director and John Murphy, AVI-SPL Global Chief Operations Officer.



POTENTIAL: Colin Barrett (General Manager, AVI-SPL Ireland), Margaret Considine (President, Chambers Ireland) and Mike Kellaway (Managing Director, UK & Ireland, AVI-SPL)
Photo: Naoise Culhane

Thumbs-up for underground fuel tanks and fuel pumps

A BACKLOG of cases at An Bord Pleanála delayed a ruling in Kingswood regarding plans for fuel pumps and underground fuel tanks at a truck-wash off the N7, reports Maurice Garvey.

The planning application by Campus Oil Retail Ltd was denied by South Dublin County Council in 2024 and appealed to the Board, who have now upheld the appeal and allowed the development.

The proposal contains plans for an additional two fuel pumps and two islands on lands at Kingswood Truck Wash, Old Naas Road, Kingswood Cross.

Campus Oil sought retention for works completed and for the installation of four underground fuel tanks (each fuel tank has a capacity of 75,000 litres and store HVO and BIO fuels), including a network of pipes and inspection manholes.

A planning report submitted by Hughes Planning on behalf of Campus Oil for the appeal, said the applicant considered the original proposal was not an "intensification on the site given the two fuel pumps will serve existing customers and offer a more environmentally friendly bio-fuel option."

Intensification on site was one of the reasons for refusal by SDCC in 2024.

The subject site is a 0.6 hectare of industrial lands located at Kingswood, between Old Naas Road and the N7.

The site is bound to the north by Wilson car dealership and to the south by the residential area Brownsbarn Wood.

Campus Oil provide a truck wash on the site and associated fuelling for HGV's.

Among the conditions in the ruling by the board include the control of noise pollution, construction work, and lighting in the "interests of residential amenity and traffic safety."



RULING: Campus Oil in Kingswood

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Some objections to Mosque plans



DIFFICULTIES: The proposed building for Lucan mosque

One submission says introduction of prayer centre will attract significant number of visitors

FURTHER submissions have been lodged in relation to proposals for a mosque at Hills Industrial Estate in Lucan, reports Maurice Garvey.

It has led to objections as the proposal is located in a zoning area that excludes 'places of worship'.

The Hills estate site is located beside Lucan bridge and village.

A number of submissions raise concerns about the impact on traffic at an extremely busy area, noise and disturbance and impact on local infrastructure.

A submission by one resident says the "introduction of a prayer centre will be likely to attract a significant number of visitors at specific times."

Another submission notes that

Daare Arqam Trust has been advertising on their website that the Hills Industrial Estate unit is "now a community centre and as of December 27, 2023."

"This raises significant concerns about the unauthorised use and refurbishment of the property without proper planning approval. Local residents are concerned that the current property is already operating as a mosque. A similar precedent was set by Daare Arqam Trust at 1 Liffey Road," said the submission.

TD Paul Gogarty (Ind) in his submission says he does "not see an issue with a combined community building and mosque at this location in principle."

Deputy Gogarty said he receives complaints on a regular basis "about houses being used as places of worship of multiple denominations, leading to large numbers of vehicles being parked adjacent, often in a haphazard and irresponsible way."

"Housing estates are not suitable for such purposes, which is why proper, adequate places of worship need to be approved," said Gogarty.

In a submission, Cllr Joanna Tuffy (Lab) said: "Lucan has expanded greatly in recent decades and its population has become more diverse and there are now multiple faiths practiced by its residents, including the Muslim faith. Lucan has a significant Muslim population who

are valued members of our community."

Tuffy says prior zoning allowed a Baptist church on the site, but there is now a "great absence" of new places of worship and establishing new places of worship has "proved very difficult."

"It is my belief that this application has been made to meet a genuine and pressing need in our community," said Cllr Tuffy.

Daare Arqam Trust, formerly known as Lucan Islamic Centre, list their first premises for a place of worship at Liffey Valley Park in 2003.

Cllr Linda de Courcy (Ind Ire) has asked South Dublin County Council why their planners have met with the

applicant twice when they are already in breach of planning for the Liffey Road mosque.

"It remains operating since 2009. SDCC is dragging its heels – its not good enough," said de Courcy.

"If I was a shop and was in breach of planning, and then I wanted to build another shop, I wouldn't expect council planners to meet with me to facilitate the plans. It is very concerning. This is a serious breach of planning laws and should be taken into account."

SDCC say they will not comment on the assessment of individual applications.

A decision is due on the planning application by May 15, 2025.

Woodstown Lane in Ballycullen set for development of over 500 residential units

A LARGE Residential Development plan, comprising of 502 residential units, has been lodged for a site at Woodstown Lane in Ballycullen, reports William O'Connor.

Lagan Homes application which is lodged with South Dublin County Council includes the development of 502 residential units made up of 108 one-bed, 170 two-bed, 162 three-bed; 62 four-bed, along with 197 two-storey houses (terraced, semi-detached, detached), 19 two-bed, 116 three-bed; 62 four-bed and 28 three-bed.

The proposals include four-storey simplex/duplex apartment blocks providing 305 apartments (108 one-bed apartments, 151 two-bed apartments, 46 three-bed apartments).

The proposed development also includes a crèche, public open space, car-parking (surface/undercroft), bicycle-parking, bicycle-storage structures and lockers, bin stores, and eight ESB substations.

Vehicular access to be provided from the existing spur road connection to Stocking Avenue to the west of the site, and via Stocking Wood Drive to the east of the site (with relocation of existing ESB substation).

Additional pedestrian-only routes will be provided into Abbot's Grove Park and Stocking Wood Copse with future connections provided for into Stocking Wood Manor, White Pines Park and the future school site to the north of the application site.

The proposed development includes all associated site development works (including site reprofiling, retaining structures and downing of ESB overhead lines), landscaping, boundary treatments and services provision the lands are located to the east of Abbots Grove Park, south-east of Abbots Grove Avenue, south of Stocking Avenue and Stocking Wood estate and west of White Pines Park.



PROPOSED: An artist's impression of the plans for the site in Ballycullen

New launch of cost-rental and social homes at Adamstown

THE official launch of 184 new cost-rental and social homes at The Sidings in Adamstown, was launched at an event on Friday.

The homes were delivered by Oaklee in partnership with Evara, the private homebuilder and with the support of South Dublin County Council.

The project also benefitted from flexible funding models including the Department of Housing's Cost Rental Equity Loan (CREL) scheme, Capital Acquisition Lease Funding (CALF) and finance from the Housing Finance Agency (HFA).

The official launch was attended by the Oaklee leadership team, Evara executives and senior management, the Housing Agency, project stakeholders and residents.

The collective celebration epitomised Oaklee's corporate values of agility, empathy, and ambition.

Oaklee already manages over 2,400 homes across 19 counties, but this new apartment development marks its first launch of cost-rental homes, a tenure the organisation expects to deliver more of in future.

All of the apartments in The Sidings are A-rated, high-quality and spacious with fully fitted kitchens and built-in wardrobes. There are a total of 154 cost-rental homes including a mixture of one-, two- and three-bed apartments. The remaining 30 homes are being made available as social housing.

The development was designed by Henry J Lyons and delivered by Evara to complement the first phase of development at The Crossings, a new urban village at the heart of Adamstown. The Sidings is a nine-storey "landmark" building and a visual marker for this new neighbourhood. The architectural design includes feature balconies, brickwork and active frontages to the ground-floor level which positively contributes to the street environments and residents of The Crossings.

The village centre includes a large shopping centre with Tesco and Aldi supermarkets, other individual retail outlets including McCabes, Grafton Barbers, Urban Vets, Belfry & Co and



LAUNCH: Helen Moore (Head of Development, Oaklee), Sharon Cosgrove (CEO of Oaklee), Cllr Liona O'Toole (South Dublin County Council), Michael Hynes (CEO of Evara), and Isabelle Gallagher (Head of Development, Evara)

ABC Gym.

The development also includes a public plaza and a three-acre public park, while there are a number of crèches and schools nearby. The Crossings is also located next to a purpose-built train station on the main west Dublin commuter and intercity train lines with excellent access to the N4 and the M50.

During the launch, Oaklee also announced an agreement to acquire 47 additional homes from

Evara at Castlehouse in Cherrywood. Cherrywood is undergoing significant development as Ireland's largest Strategic Development Zone (SDZ) and emphasises Oaklee's strategic goal to deliver more homes through strong partnerships, focusing on areas with high demand and potential for community engagement. The new Cherrywood apartments will be made available as social homes.

Sharon Cosgrove, CEO of Oaklee, said: "The

official opening of The Sidings and the additional acquisition of 47 homes in Castlehouse exemplifies a successful collaboration between Oaklee and Evara aimed at addressing the ongoing need for housing in Ireland. By combining resources and expertise, we are delivering communities that not only meet the immediate demand for housing but also contribute to the creation of sustainable, vibrant and well-connected communities."

Go-ahead given for 73 units adjacent to Drury Mills

PERMISSION has been granted for a residential scheme of 73 units at lands adjacent to Drury Mills & Drury Park, Swiftbrook, Saggart, reports William O'Connor.

Applicant Anthony Neville Homes were approved permission by South Dublin County Council at a site which is located within the curtilage of protected structures associated with the former Swiftbrook Mills comprising chimney, storage building, millpond, tail-race, entrance gates and wall.

The development will consist of 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 and terraces. Block B is a two-storey terrace accommodating six houses and two duplex units with associated gardens and terraces and Block C is a three- to four-storey terrace accommodating 27 duplex units



GRANTED: An impression of the plans in Saggart

with associated balconies and terraces.

Block D is a four-storey terrace accommodating eight apartments and 12 duplex units with associated balconies.

The development will include new internal roads accessed from Drury Mills

and Drury Park; 84 car-parking spaces; bicycle-parking and bin stores and substation; Landscaped public and communal open spaces and boundary treatments; All associated site works and services.

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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

AIB responding to market pressures with €1.2bn buyback

Dear Editor,

THE STATE has agreed in principle to AIB's €1.2bn share buyback proposal. The bank also secured the backing of 97 per cent of eligible shareholders for a plan to buy back €1.2 billion of stock from the State at its annual general meeting AGM held in Molesworth Street last Thursday.

The scheme will allow AIB buy 1,901.6 million shares from the Department of Finance, and means the State's

shareholding would drop from almost 12 per cent to 4 per cent.

The completion of this share redemption, means a further €1.2bn returned to the State in addition to the €100m in dividends due to be disbursed this year.

The addition of €18.5 billion of cash that taxpayers have already recovered from AIB, the total is set to realise €19.8 billion. AIB said the drop in net interest income to €0.95bn, from €1.04bn

in the same quarter in 2024 was partly offset by an increase in average loan volumes. Net interest income would be bolstered by strong deposits base and structural hedges; set to ease the impact of falling official and market rates.

It is reducing its non-green mortgage fixed rates by 0.75 percentage points from May 13, they still remain some of the most expensive in the market.

With the exception of the high value four-year fixed rate, the lower rates also

applies to its subsidiaries EBS and Haven. Monthly repayments on a new €300,000 two-year fixed-rate mortgage, with a loan-to-value of 50 to 80 per cent over a 25-year term, will be €1,557.

Given that the previous monthly repayment would amount to €1,682, the reduction represents a monthly saving of €125. AIB is responding to market pressures.

Yours sincerely,
Gerry Coughlan, Kilnamanagh.

Flying the flag for hypocrisy?

Dear Editor,
WRITING in *The Echo* on May 1, Councillor Timmons complimented the late Pope Francis and says he should be admired for his deeds.

Is Mr Timmons being very hypocritical? After all he was one of the main instigators for not allowing the Papal flag to be flown outside SDCC offices during the papal visit to Ireland in 2018.

Yours sincerely,
Larry Broderick, Clondalkin.



Dear Editor,

WORLDWIDE Catholic cardinals are set to converge under Michelangelo's ceiling frescoes in the Sistine Chapel on May 7 to begin the secretive election process to choose the next pope.

They sing the Veni Creator, then make their solemn oath as prescribed in paragraph 53 of *Universi Dominici Gregis* and commit, if elected, to faithfully fulfill the *Munus Petrinum*

as Pastor of the Universal Church and maintain absolute secrecy regarding the conclave.

After a solemn Eucharistic celebration with the votive Mass *Pro Eligendo Papa*, the Cardinal electors then proceed in a solemn procession to the Sistine Chapel.

Of the cardinals with voting power 53 are European, followed by 23 cardinals from Asia, 18 from Africa, 17 from South America, 16 from North America, four from Central America and four from Oceania.

Together, they represent 17 countries. To validly elect a new Pope, a two-thirds majority of the electors present is required.

If the total number of electors is not evenly divisible by three, an additional vote is taken. If voting starts on the afternoon of the first day, only one ballot will be held.

Thereafter, two ballots are held in the morning and two in the afternoon. After the votes are counted, all ballots are incinerated. Italian Cardinal Giovanni Angelo Becciu

announced he will not participate in accordance with the will of the late Pope Francis.

For eligible cardinals, who invited the faithful to pray for their discernment in choosing the next Pope, the challenge will be finding a candidate who has a broad enough appeal and personal credibility to be chosen for the role.

Yours sincerely,
Gerry Coughlan, Kilnamanagh.

Nitrous oxide canisters are no laughing matter

Dear Editor,

A BILL to regulate the sale of nitrous oxide has been re-introduced by Mark Ward TD, Sinn Féin spokesperson for community safety, alongside Deputy Seán Crowe.

The Bill was brought about by the deputies following the increased evidence of use in communities across Ireland and the increased incidences of harm due to misuse of nitrous oxide.

Deputy Ward said:

"I am introducing the Sale of Nitrous Oxide and Related Products Bill 2025 today with my colleague Seán Crowe.

"You only have to walk through any park or housing estate in Dublin and beyond and you will see discarded nitrous canisters.

"When I first noticed them in my area, they were small singular one-use canisters, known locally as 'silver bullets'.

"Over time this has changed to large industrial

sized canisters, known as fast gas. These large canisters are sold on the street.

"Unscrupulous dealers are making vast profits from the sale of nitrous oxide.

"Manufacturers are also making vast profits and this fast gas is marketed towards children.

"A report published by the HSE by their Adolescent Addiction Service has shown that 22 per cent of young people attending their adolescent service admitted to taking nitrous oxide.

"This is an increase of 175 per cent in a year and only captures young people that have come to the attention of addiction services.

"The widespread use of nitrous oxide is resulting in anti-social behaviour, litter, and damage to people's health.

"Young people are playing Russian roulette when they use this gas.

"Inhaling nitrous oxide cuts off oxygen to the brain resulting in lightheaded and giddy affects.

"This is where the name laughing gas comes from, but let me tell you laughing gas is no laughing matter.

"A neurology specialist at the Mater Hospital warned of an increase in the number of patients suffering severe nerve damage after inhaling nitrous oxide gas.

"They reported that the gas causes a range of sensory issues including a numbness in their hands, feet and extremities, serious issues with balance, problems with their heart rate, and mental health issues.

"Earlier this year we have reports of an increase in young people presenting for help after getting frostbite from using nitrous oxide.

"Scarring is a really significant thing. Some of the patients presented with burns around the lips and fingertips and can take some months to resolve.

"There is also an environmental impact after several incinerators and waste management facilities

around Europe suffered major damage when canisters exploded in their furnaces and compactors.

"I will re-introduce this legislation today to regulate the sale of Nitrous Oxide to commercial use only.

"This is like legislation introduced in Holland where authorities are regulating the use of nitrous oxide outside the medical and catering industries.

"This Bill will not criminalise young people for simple possession of nitrous oxide, however it would give the Gardaí the power to seize the canisters.

"This Bill will enable members of an Garda Síochána to seize nitrous oxide products from those without appropriate licences.

"I am calling on all members of the Dáil to give support to this common-sense Bill."

Yours sincerely,
Mark Ward TD, Sinn Féin, Dublin Mid-West.

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The Secretary, Board of Management, St. Marks Community School, Cookstown Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24 D24VW22.

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Applications comprising of detailed CV and letter, should be addressed to: Michael Duff, Chairperson Tallaght Addiction Support Project: mickduff@staengus.ie (Applications by email only) Subject: Project Manager (TASP)

Closing Date: 5pm on Friday 16th May 2025

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Local history with Monica McGill

A tranquil place that gives time to heal in a purely holistic way

Peamount Healthcare campus has a tranquility that patients and visitor enjoy

IN THE hinterland between Clondalkin, Newcastle, and Lucan, Peamount Healthcare's campus sits on a large site on rising ground 300 feet above sea level in the area officially known as Loughtown Upper, Newcastle, Dublin (<https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/11208003/peamount-loughtown-upper-newcastle-dublin>).

At present, the campus is surrounded by cropfields, although newly built housing and busy industry are creeping ever closer. Increasingly no doubt, this will further emphasise the serenity of the place.

A long driveway brings the visitor into the campus locals know as "Peamount", or "Peamount Hospital". Each low-rise care facility has its own discrete car-park, with wide lawns and tidy shrubberies between them. The buildings directly devoted to patient and client care are composed of a single ground floor.

They are all built on a human scale, and this gives a sense of respect, of time afforded to people to inform their care-givers about their welfare. Physical space is also given importance.

The pleasant walkways with mature trees, birdsong, and soft, tidy lawns suggest the high standard of care and tranquillity the hospital's patients, clients and their visitors enjoy.

The impression is that clients and patients are listened to here, that there is time to heal in a holistic way.

Absent from Peamount are the more usual over-manding high-rise blocks of brash, unforgiving concrete and glass we ordinary folk associate with harried hospitals nowadays, even though these facilities normally have little option but to extend upwards for lack of landspace.

Peamount, on the other hand, seems to have nicely balanced efficiency with humanity in its many modern and heritage buildings.

It concentrates on offering a wide range of up-to-date health and welfare services to people, outside the surgical and emergency range, and is supported by the HSE.

Administrative hub

The administrative hub of Peamount Healthcare is situated in the original 19th century dwelling house.

It's an imposing house commanding the grounds, surrounded by a lawn and trees, including a majestic horse-



SERENITY: One of the driveways
Photo: Monica McGill

chestnut tree.

Like others on campus, this three-storey house is a heritage building. It has many interesting architectural features both inside and out.

It once belonged to the Leonard family, then the Land Commission and then another private owner. Eventually, in 1912, it was purchased with its grounds by the Women's National Health Association of Ireland, under the dedication, guidance and watchful eye of Lady Aberdeen (see Anna Day: Turn of the Tide: The Story of Peamount, Brophy Books, Dublin, page 21). Thus started Peamount's long years of proud service to people's health and welfare, culminating in the excellent variety of services it provides today.

Heritage – buildings and healthcare history

Peamount's buildings are part of our architectural heritage, but they are also certainly an important part of Ireland's medical and healthcare history, an aspect rarely considered.

Early days – a sanatorium

Originally meant only as a temporary sanatorium for tuberculosis patients to recuperate, Peamount became a permanent feature in the fight against "consumption" (as TB was known then). This permanency was due to the unwillingness of responsible bodies in early 20th-century Ireland to take effective action

against TB. These included local and other authorities charged with providing humanitarian healthcare in their own regions. The many stipulated low-rise care buildings of Peamount were designed so they could be easily removed if and when these authorities would provide the necessary care. It seems they did not do so. Instead, committees of individuals who established Peamount and other similar sanatoria shouldered the on-going responsibility, and did so with competence and efficiency.

Background

According to Anna Day's book Turn of the Tide: The Story of Peamount (Brophy Books, Dublin 1987), there had been "eight minor potato famines [in Ireland] between 1817 and 1842".

Better known potato famines occurred in 1847/8. Increasingly, many of those living in the countryside were forced to either emigrate or seek better fortune in our cities, but there many found only congested, damp and dire housing conditions and worse poverty. Such conditions aided the spread of TB. "By 1905 . . . TB was primarily a disease of the young, with the highest incidence in the 15-35 age group; it accounted for 16 per cent of all deaths . . ." (Anna Day, page 13).

Antidotes

Modern medicines in the fight against TB had not yet become widely available when Peamount was established. Presumably, the original isolation of the Peamount site in the countryside, and its elevation in the clean air above the cramped, unhealthy environments of our cities made the choice of location ideal. However, some local people at the time objected to the healthcare facility. Good care, clean air, good food, rest, and gentle exercise when possible were required for those afflicted. Patients included many children who attended school on campus – the historic schoolhouse still stands but needs renovation. The staff at Peamount even ran a farm (now gone) beside the main campus, where clean milk and other fresh foods were provided to the sanatorium. Our urban design requirements don't allow hospital farms as a feature of our healthcare system today.

Ireland's villages and towns. Townspeople were informed when the vans would be in their locality. Everyone lined up outside the van, waiting to ascend into it and have their lungs X-rayed to help diagnose the early onset of the disease. Our Breast-Care screening is an equivalent of such a service now.

Peamount Healthcare today

Today, the breadth and scope of Peamount Healthcare's services continues its long and distinguished history of taking excellent care of people, with the same quiet attention to detail and respect established all those years ago. It's been practised – even during tough times – ever since. Although no longer a TB sanatorium, Peamount's stated aim is "empowering each individual to live a full and meaningful life". This aim is particularly evidenced, for instance, in their Rehabilitation Services.

Peamount's 2023 Annual Report stated that in its nine HIQA registered centres, its 650 staff took care of its 1,321 inpatient admissions, 75 admissions to the Crisp programme, 2,435 respiratory outpatients, and its 2,004 day-service slots taken up by members of the local community. Statistics can't reflect clearly enough the diverse skills of everyone helping to make Peamount the unique facility and community it is. As well as its Board of Directors, Executive Management Team, 20 Consultants and 2 GPs, every member of Peamount's staff is to be congratulated for the outstanding work each does. We are lucky to have them, the care heritage and the historic and modern buildings in which they work.

Author's note: Many thanks to Peamount Healthcare CEO and Administrative Staff for information regarding this article.



IDEAL LOCATION: Administration building
Photo: Monica McGill



CARING: Memorial stone at the gateway
Photo: Monica McGill

Life & Social

The Echo – dedicated to having the conversation about local arts and entertainment. Tell us your story.

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Tender Mercies

A TOUR-DE-FORCE PERFORMANCE PORTRAYS MARY FORTUNE

By **Ryan Butler**

news@echo.ie

INSPIRED by a headline in a local newspaper, Fair City's Sorcha Furlong, in a tour-de-force performance, captivatingly portrays Mary Fortune.

She recounts the highs and lows, loves, disappointments and demons of her time with us.

This is done in an incisive, fine-tuned study of a woman on a downward spiral.

Furlong brings vividly to life a whole cast of characters from Mary's past.

This includes her parents, ex-husband, hairdressing clients, neighbours, friends and beloved twin brother Barry.

Blackly comic and poignant, you'll be thinking of Mary long after the lights go down.

'Tender Mercies' was originally developed, produced and staged at The New Theatre, Temple Bar, Dublin.

It will be presented by playwright Colette Cullen and Home You Go Productions in association with Age & Opportunity.

It will be performed as part of the nationwide Bealtaine festival – celebrating the arts and creativity as we age.

This week, *The Echo* sat down with Colette to discuss 'Tender Mercies', which performs in the Civic from May 19 to 24; book now to avoid disappointment!

In addition, please note that this show will be performed in the studio space with unallocated seating, so please arrive early, as latecomers may not be seated.

What inspired the story for 'Tender Mercies'?

It all started when I came across a headline in a local newspaper which stopped me in my tracks.

"Body of woman 'dead for a year' only discovered when bank enquired about a debt her brother had guaranteed."

The article, reporting on her inquest, went on to state that the cause of her death couldn't be determined.

She was last known to have been alive almost a year before the grim discovery. There were no suspicious circumstances pertaining to her death, and an 'open verdict' was recorded.

I couldn't stop thinking about this woman and felt compelled to write a play in her memory.

In 'Tender Mercies', Sorcha Furlong plays a fictional character, Mary Fortune, inspired by this woman, and tells my imagined version of how she ended up becoming that headline.

How long has it been in production?

I originally directed a work-in-progress version in Scene + Heard a couple of years ago and then sent the script to director Caroline FitzGerald.

I'd seen a number of shows Caroline had



FINE-TUNED:
Sorcha Furlong in
the poster for
'Tender Mercies'

directed, and I loved them.

Then Anthony Fox chose it for The New Theatre's New Writing Week 2023, and they developed, produced and staged a full production in 2024.

How did you recruit Sorcha Furlong for the role?

Caroline had worked with Sorcha before, and as soon as she read the script, she immediately thought of her.

I knew Sorcha from her work on Fair City, and like Caroline, I could see straight away that she'd be brilliant as Mary Fortune, and she is.

What are some of the struggles/pressures that have had to be overcome during production?

Finance is always a problem in the independent theatre sector.

We only had a two-week rehearsal period and a one-week run in The New Theatre and then transferred to The Viking Theatre for three weeks.

Anthony Fox and all the team at The New Theatre are wonderful to work with, but their Arts Council grant just isn't enough.

They really do their best to stretch their funding as far as possible to support as much new

work as they can.

What are the future plans for you and Home You Go Productions?

I have a new play, 'Love and Other Promises', opening in The New Theatre on June 4.

It's a follow-on from 'When Rachel Met Fiona', a play I did there in 2023, which was very successful with both audiences and critics alike.

The two characters of Rachel and Fiona just wouldn't go away, and in 'Love and Other Promises', we pick up their story five years later.

It's a standalone play, so you don't need to have seen 'When Rachel Met Fiona' first, and like that play, it's a love story with a lot of comedy in it but that also goes into much darker areas.

What has been your favourite project to work on and why?

It's hard to pick one project over another.

I really enjoyed collaborating with Caroline and Sorcha on 'Tender Mercies'. They were both such a joy to work with, and I learnt so much from them.

In 'Love and Other Promises', I'm being reunited with many of the 'When Rachel Met Fiona' team – director Iseult Golden, production designer Lisa Krugel and lighting designer Cathy O'Carroll, which I'm thrilled about.

Actor Emma Dargan-Reid, who played Rachel and who's just finished playing Cordelia in King Lear at The Gate, is reprising her role as Rachel in 'Love and Other Promises', which is brilliant, as she was so amazing in 'When Rachel Met Fiona'.

It's also exciting to work with new people, and Fiona is being played by Kathy McGarry.

This will be my first time working with Kathy. She and Emma were classmates in The Lir and are also good friends, which really helps as they play a married couple in 'Love and Other Promises'.

Who would you like to thank for helping with this production?

Age and Opportunity for the Bealtaine Touring Award 2025, which allows us to tour 'Tender Mercies' during Bealtaine to Backstage Theatre Longford (May 15), the Civic Tallaght (May 19 - 24) and dlr Mill Theatre Dundrum (May 29 - 31).

My collaborators Caroline FitzGerald and Sorcha Furlong, who've both done a really incredible job and are also great fun to work with.

Anthony Fox, Lynne Tracey and all of The New Theatre team for being such steadfast supporters of my work.

I am forever grateful to them.

Eric Lalor: Lol'er By Nature

"Eric never fails to crack me up, a great standup" – Joanne McNally

17TH MAY | 8:15PM | COMEDY

See www.civictheatre.ie or contact Box Office (01) 462 7477

**ERIC
LALOR**

**LLOL'ER
BY
NATURE**



ICIVIC

Scifest Fair

BY SECOND YEARS IN FIRHOUSE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Photos by **Paddy Barrett**

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Jayden Maher, Max O'Neill, Eoin Finn, Matthew Meehan, Ryan Fulham, Oisín Martin and Andrew Lee



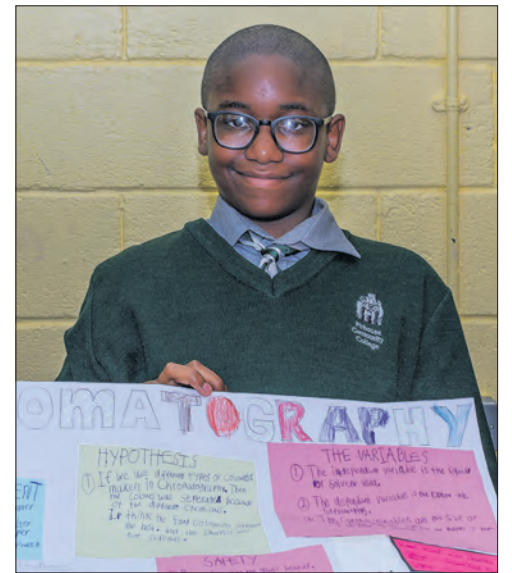
Joanna Morat, Zoe Murphy, Aimee Tuohy, Grace Curran, Leah Bailey and Angel-May Judge



Megan Halligan, Isabella Byrne, Holly Johnson and Elija Novak



Amelia Doyle and Abby Devlin



Karl



Daniel, Kevin and Pryce



Robyn Syms and Amy Little



Calum Kennedy and Dara Sweeney

“ He looks at me the way I look at cheesecake.

Elijah Greenwood

Food with passion

STRAWBERRY & WHITE CHOCOLATE SHORTCAKE CHEESECAKE

by **john paul kennedy** /jpkennedy.kennedy@gmail.com



Indulge in the delightful flavours of summer with this strawberry white chocolate shortcake cheesecake! This recipe is a perfect blend of creamy cheesecake, luscious strawberries, and rich white chocolate, all layered on a buttery shortcake crust. It's simple to make and sure to impress at any summer gathering. Whether you're hosting a barbecue, a picnic, or just enjoying a sunny day, this dessert will be a hit with everyone.

Ingredients:

250g Mascarpone cream
250ml double cream
250g full fat cream cheese
400g good white chocolate
1 teaspoon vanilla extract / bean paste
250g strawberries
200g plain digestive biscuits
100g unsalted butter
1 tablespoon icing sugar

john paul kEnnEdy is a self-Taught cook and an avid fan of collecting cookery books with a passion for good old-fashioned home cooking. his passion for proper family cooking stems from his two grandmothers, who were both excellent cooks, one of whom was a trained chef. **jp** promises to bring us plenty of family-inspired recipes and tasty treats while showing us how to get the basics right



Method:

1. crush up the digestive biscuits, you can pop them into a plastic freezer bag and bash with a rolling pin or if lazy like me pop them into the food processor. Melt the butter in a saucepan and add the crush digestive biscuits, mix together then pop into the base of your tin and pat down evenly. place into the fridge to chill while you make the cheesecake filling.
2. Melt the white chocolate in a heatproof bowl set over a pot of simmering water, ensuring the bowl doesn't touch the water. as soon as the chocolate squares begin to lose their shape, start stirring until smooth. set aside to cool slightly.
3. whip the double cream, then add in the mascarpone, cream cheese, vanilla and combine together. Then add in the melted white chocolate and mix until all combined.
4. using half the strawberries, cut into thin slices and place on top of the biscuit base then pour over the cheesecake filling and smooth with a spatula. pop the other half of the strawberries and a tablespoon of icing sugar into a food processor and blitz until you have a smooth coulis.
5. dollop with a spoon on top of the cheesecake. pop some strawberries on top for decoration, cover with cling film and place in the fridge to set – this will take at least three hours but i prefer making cheesecakes the night before serving.
6. remove from the fridge about 15 minutes before serving, cut into individual slices, serve and watch as your guests devour this indulgent cheesecake.

enjoy every bite of this refreshing and decadent strawberry white chocolate shortcake cheesecake. it's a treat that captures the essence of summer in every slice. happy prepping and even happier eating! This recipe is simply sublime!

Contact
jp on:

Twitter: @Jpkcooking
Email: jpkcooking@gmail.com
Instagram: jpkennedy.kennedy

A day to remember

COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION AT OUR LADY OF HOPE CRUMLIN

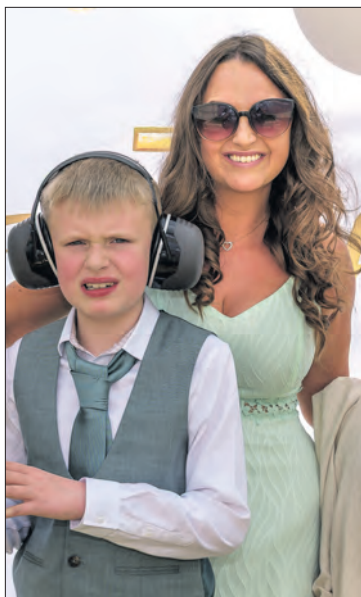
Photos by **Paddy Barrett**

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Shanelle, Susana, Sautha, Robert and Rayma



Chase and Lisa



Elizabeth and Francesca



Sarah, Susana, Sautha, Jacqueline and Charlie



Tracy, Faye and Patrick



Louise, Darren and Logan



Risto, Simon, Ann, Adam, Nina, Zara, Faye and Logan



Faye and Logan



Erin, Harry and Margaret



Daniel and mother Ann Marie



Sienna and Jason

Summer at the Civic

LIVELY AND VARIED SEASON FULL OF THEATRE AND MUSIC

By **Ryan Butler**
news@echo.ie

"SUMMER at The Civic is always something special – and this year is no different," remarks Artistic Director of the Civic Theatre, Donal Shiels.

The Civic are thrilled to present a "lively and varied" season full of theatre, music, workshops, and community celebration.

A highlight is 'The Sound Collector', brought to life on stage from the beloved works of Roger McGough – a treat for all ages coming June 10.

They are also proud to mark Bealtaine with a beautiful trio of productions that celebrate the richness of experience and creativity as we age.

For younger audiences, 'Gravity Shift' promises adventure and energy – a brand new series of workshops where young people can learn from professional aerial artists and parkour trainers.

This workshop is coming to the Civic on August 12.

For theatre lovers, the Civic has got a "top-class" lineup:

Stephen Jones returns to their stage in 'My Summer with Bowie' by Eugene O'Brien on June 11.

Pat Kinevane brings his powerful and poignant 'Before' on July 2, and Seamus O'Rourke delivers storytelling gold with 'Padraig Potts' on July 12.

They continue their Discover Digital strand this August with 'Bada Boom' – where gaming meets live arts in a truly unique way – on August 28.

Cruinniú na nÓg on June 7 will also be a full day of free events for young people – always a joyful highlight.

Of course, it wouldn't be summer at The Civic without the end-of-year shows from our fantastic local stage schools, plus a lively mix of music, comedy, and a few surprises still to come.

All of this is made possible by the team at The Civic – a "group of people who work with great heart and purpose to bring meaningful cultural experiences to audiences".

Donal would like to thank audiences for continuing to support their local theatre: "we look forward to welcoming you through our doors this summer."



BoATMAN: ouch Productions and Colm o'Grady will present 'The Lonesome Boatman' on June 22
Photo by Peter Martin

The Beauty Queen of Leenane

By **Ryan Butler**
news@echo.ie

"IT'S a fantastic play and a definite must-see, if we do say so ourselves!" exclaims Michaela Courtney of Clondalkin Drama Group.

Clondalkin Drama Group are currently working on a production of the play 'The Beauty Queen of Leenane' by Martin McDonagh.



MUSTSEE: Ray Dooley (Sean Bridgeman), Mag Folan (Frances Tuffery), Maureen Folan (Jenny Molloy-Byrne) and Pato Dooley (Alan McNally)

The play is set in the mountains of Connemara and tells the story of Maureen Folan, a plain and lonely woman in her early 40s.

Also featured is Mag, her manipulative, ageing mother.

Mag's interference in Maureen's first and potentially last romantic relationship sets in motion a chain of events that are as tragically funny as they are horrific. The play has laugh-out-loud moments as well as scenes that may bring a tear to your eye and characters that will leave audiences questioning everything.

The play is being directed by our member John O'Connor, and rehearsals are going "very well", according to Michaela.

The group are excited to not only be performing as usual upstairs in Quinlan's but also to be putting on 2 performances in the Rathcoole Court of Petty Sessions.

They will be performing in Rathcoole on May 17 and 18, with tickets available to purchase from the Rathcoole Community Centre for €10.

They will then be performing in Quinlan's The Black Lion Pub in Clondalkin from May 26 to 29, with tickets available at the door for €15 (€10 for the opening night on the 26th).

Clondalkin Drama Group would like to remind their "lovely" audience that they can only accept cash at the door!

Be sure to keep an eye on their social media accounts for updates and pictures!

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The Path That Connects Us

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St Seton's Students, Aisling Flood (Art Teacher St. Seton), Linda Dunne (Activity Co-ordinator), Louise Boughton (Art Teacher Ballyfermot Campus Art College) and Nicola O'Neill (Glenaulin Nursing Home)



Aisling Flood (Art Teacher), Linda Dunne (Activity Co-ordinator), and Louise Boughton (Art Teacher Ballyfermot Campus Art College)



Roberta (Glenaulin) and Josh



Faith and Jayden



Jake and Conor



Residents Nancy Long, Betty Walker and Connie Kiernan



Residents Jeffrey Lloyd, Lily Walsh and John Quigley

How to Be Human

MARGOT FOX BRINGS HER SHOW TO THE TALLAGHT THEATRE

By **Ryan Butler**
news@echo.ie

"'HOW to Be Human' was inspired by the beautiful mess of everyday life."

This is what Margot Fox has to say regarding her latest show coming to the Tallaght Theatre.

In a world where everyone seems to be winging it, 'How to Be Human' offers a hilarious and heartfelt guide to navigating the beautiful mess of existence.

Margot Fox, a mental health coach and comedian with a knack for blending insight with irreverence, brings her signature style to the stage in this one-of-a-kind one-woman show.

Equal parts stand-up comedy, self-help, and social experiment, 'How to Be Human' tackles everything from emotional regulation to the absurdity of daily life.

With sharp wit and deep wisdom, Margot explores what it really means to master the mind, find laughter in struggle, build trusting connections, and, ultimately, be a little less of a hot mess.

She reveals that the idea for the show has been "marinating" for around 35 years before she started to write it six months ago; it went into production last month.

Margot goes on to comment that highs involved with the production include those moments when "everything clicks".

Lows include existential spirals at 2 a.m., where "I wonder if anyone really needs a show about being human... followed by caffeine-fuelled editing marathons."

When asked if she prefers writing or performing, Margot responds with, "it's like choosing between cake and ice cream."

However, she would have to say performing, as she comes alive on stage and "nothing beats the energy of a live audience sharing a moment together."

Margot also believes 'How to Be Human' "might just take the crown" as her favourite project she has ever worked on.

If all goes well, she is hoping to tour this show around the county in regional theatres and "spread laughter in the chaos" to as many people as possible.

Margot would like to thank her two "long suffering" daughters for their support

'How To Be Human' will be coming to the Tallaght Theatre on the Greenhills Road on June 6 at 8pm.

Tickets are available at thefoxoflife.com/events; be sure to book your seats before they're all gone!



HILARIOUS: Margot Fox

 **TALLAGHT CHORAL SOCIETY**
presents

Vivaldi - Gloria
Schubert - Mass in G
Selected Arias



Conductor
Brian Murphy

Organist
Tristan Russcher

Sopranos
Aisling Kenny
Róisín O'Grady

Mezzo Soprano
Sharon Carty

SATURDAY 24TH MAY

4pm

Terenure College Chapel

TICKETS €15

Available at tcsmayconcert.eventbrite.ie



Magical afternoon

HOSTED BY TALLAGHT
CHORAL SOCIETY

By **Ryan Butler**
news@echo.ie

"LYNSEY Callaghan picks the concert subject matter every year" explains Declan Doyle of Tallaght Choral Society.

Join Tallaght Choral Society for a delightful Saturday afternoon May concert.

Immerse yourselves in the joyous melodies of Vivaldi's 'Gloria' and the harmonic beauty of Schubert's 'Mass in G'.

Plus, as an extra treat, their soloists Sharon Carty, Aisling Kenny and Róisín O'Grady will also entertain you with their selection of baroque arias in the intimate setting of Terenure College chapel.

Have a magical afternoon as Tallaght Choral Society with Tristan Russcher (organist) and soloists bring these choral masterpieces to life under the baton of conductor Brian Murphy.

This early summer event is sure to leave you inspired and uplifted.

Musical director Lynsey Callaghan would have had this planned "about a year ago", continues Declan, explaining the group had previously performed 'Vivaldi' 5 years ago.

This is a light piece, perfect for a summer's day.

In contrast, 'Mass in G' is quite a solemn piece that was first performed by Tallaght Choral Society 6 months ago.

The choir usually have two concerts per year; one in the summer, one in the winter.

Lynsey is currently on maternity leave, so her husband, Brian Murphy, also a qualified conductor, will be taking the baton for this performance.

The group started rehearsing for this May concert in January this year, meeting every Monday evening in St Mary's Priory from 7 to 10 pm.

Declan is confident,

commenting that the choir is "well-used" to preparing for big pieces like this.

Once back from maternity leave, Lynsey will announce plans for the winter programme this year.

The choir is also planning to go to an international choir festival in Barcelona later this year.

Declan would like to thank St Mary's Priory for allowing Tallaght Choral Society to rehearse there for the last 20 years.

He would also like to thank Lynsey Callaghan and Brian Murphy for their direction, as well as The Echo for their publicity.

Finally, Declan would like to extend a heartfelt congratulations to Lynsey and Brian on the birth of their daughter Hannah-Mae.

Tallaght Choral Society's May Concert takes place at the Terenure College Chapel at 4pm on May 24.

Tickets are available on Eventbrite.

200th birthday celebrations

AT ST FINIAN'S NATIONAL SCHOOL IN NEWCASTLE

Photos by **Paddy Barrett**

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Teacher James Whelan with Mia, Sophie, Aoibhe, Ruby, Lucy G and Daisy



Principal Jonathan Loftus planting a tree



Sandra, Mr Whelan (Teacher), Callum Naughton (6th Class) and Sophia Moran



Aaron, Alfie, Jack, Borys, Rían and Ciarán



Caroline Reid



Kevin Ebbs (retired caretaker) and Caoimhe O'Sullivan (teacher)



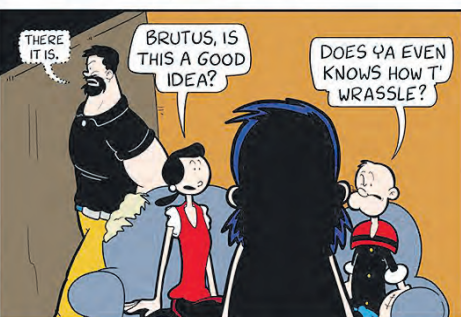
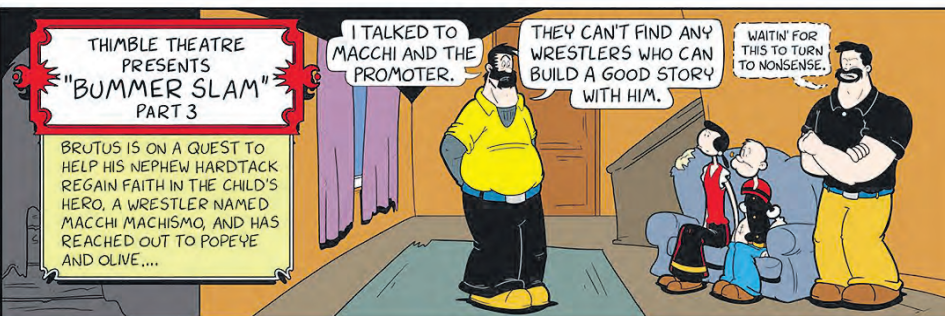
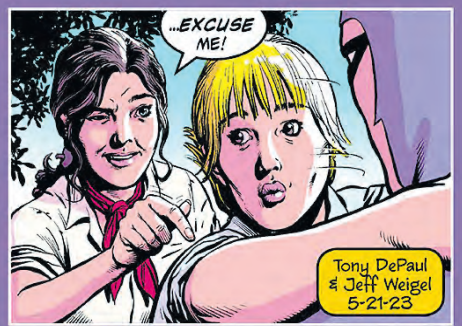
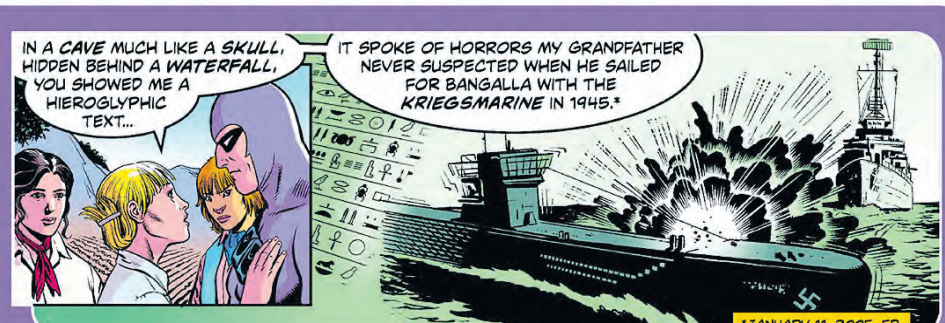
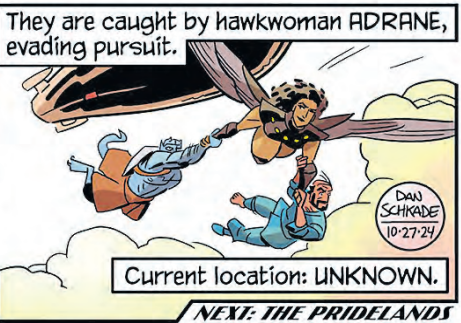
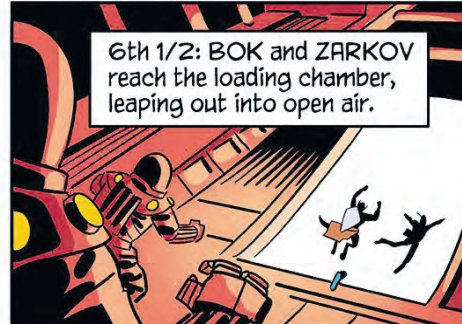
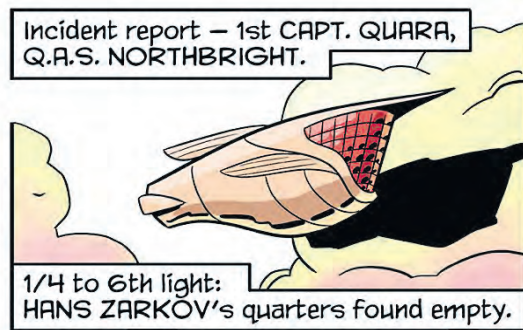
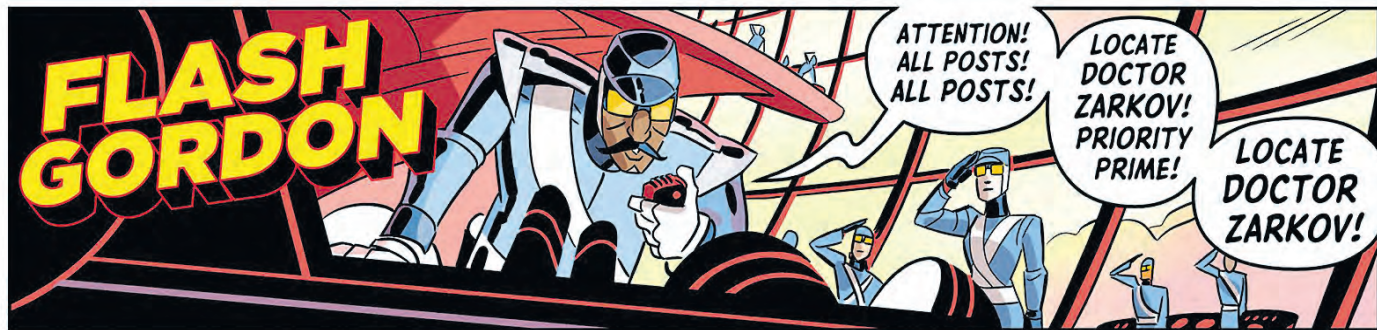
Paddy Becton, Shirley O'Hara, Michel Baneham, Mario Aprile, Caroline Reid, Declan Rooney, Ailbhe Ní Fhiaich, Jonathan Loftus and Minister Emer Higgins (Cake From Betsey Bake Shop)



Holly White, Alice Kelly and Robyn White



Croía and Maria Rooney



eSports Community Club

INNOVATIVE EVENT HELD IN KNOCKMITTEN COMMUNITY CENTRE

Photos by **Paddy Barrett**

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Jack, Kallan, Dominic, Blake, Eoin and A.J.



George Toaffe and Peter Kelly



Matthew Martin, Barry Donoghue and Kyle Redmond (Bigfoot)



Ryder playing on the computer



Lawrence Boran and Steve Daly (Chair eSports Irl)



Cllr Shirley O'Hara, Lawrence Boran, Leana Byrne (KCC Manager), Aoife Tracey (SDCC) and Steve Daly (Chair eSports Irl)



Knockmitten CC Staff with Jackson and Kora French

“ If you keep good food in your fridge, you will eat good food.

Errick McAdams,
personal trainer

Health & Fitness

SICK OF DIETS? MY 3 NO-NONSENSE WAYS TO ACTUALLY GET HEALTHY TODAY!

by Ursula Frawley / info@moveitfitness.ie



Sick of diets? Me too. Let's be real—most of them suck the joy out of life and don't even deliver long-term results. So instead of hopping on the next trend, let's focus on what actually works.

Here are three simple, science-backed habits that can change your health for good—without the stress, guilt, or expensive meal plans.

As a health and fitness coach, I see it all the time: people wasting time, money, and energy on the latest "miracle" diet. And honestly, it frustrates me. But I get it—everyone is just trying to feel better. That comes from a good place. So don't beat yourself up. We've all been there.

Now, let's talk about what actually works. These three tips are free, effective, and if you stick with them, your body will thank you—big time!

URSULA FRAWLEY IS A PERSONAL TRAINER AND OWNER OF MOVE IT FITNESS. HER ONLINE STRENGTH & FITNESS CLASSES, WHICH RUN LIVE SEVEN TIMES A WEEK, HAVE BEEN HELPING WOMEN TO FEEL STRONGER AND FITTER SINCE 2020. HER ONLINE AND IN-PERSON PROGRAMMES ARE FOCUSED ON MOTIVATING AND CHANGING A MINDSET TO ENJOYING THE FITNESS JOURNEY, WHILE FEELING EMPOWERED WITH A POSITIVE MINDSET. URSULA LIVES IN DUBLIN 24 WITH HER HUSBAND AND FOUR CHILDREN. GET MORE INFORMATION BY EMAILING HER AT INFO@MOVEITFITNESS.IE OR WWW.MOVEITFITNESS.IE

1. Walk Like Your Life Depends on It (Because It Kinda Does)

You've heard me say it before, and I'll say it again: walking is the most underrated form of exercise. Just 30 minutes a day, five days a week, can transform your health—physically, mentally, and emotionally. And if you can go longer or more often? Even better. This is your daily reset button. Hit it often.

2. Eat the Rainbow (No, Not Skittles!)

Want better energy, clearer thinking, and a body that feels amazing? Load up on colourful whole foods—fruits, veggies, and anything that grew in the ground. The more natural colour on your plate, the better your health and longevity. Science says so. More plants = more power. Simple as that.

3. Get Strong, Stay Strong

Resistance training isn't just for gym bunnies! You don't need fancy equipment or a complicated plan. Start at home with basics—standing up from a chair, using tin cans for weights, or doing bodyweight moves like squats and pushups. Aim for two sessions a week, and you'll build strength, boost your mood, and future-proof your body.

You've probably heard all this before. But maybe you just needed a reminder: the simple stuff works. You don't need to overhaul your life. Just start with these three steps—and let consistency do the rest.

Now go move, eat something colourful, and get strong. You've got this!

Remember, always consult with your GP before embarking on any change in diet or new health & fitness regime.



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COMPETITION: Colour in the Echo Joe Club Logo, take a picture of it and email it to reception@echo.ie and be in with a chance to win a **PRIZE**.

A Word with Echo So...

Long Evenings

CLUBBERS,
HOW MANY WORDS
(TWO LETTERS OR MORE)
CAN YOU MAKE FROM
THE ABOVE WORDS?

5-20 pretty good! 21-35 excellent!
36 and over - you do realise these
have to be real words, don't you!

1	14	27
2	15	28
3	16	29
4	17	30
5	18	31
6	19	32
7	20	33
8	21	34
9	22	35
10	23	36
11	24	37
12	25	38
13	26	39

Panel 1: Girl: SOPHIE, I LEFT MY BRAIN INTO THE PRINT SHOP. Boy: I'M HOPING I HAVE A PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY!

Panel 2: Girl: SNOW WHITE STILL THERE, WAITING FOR HER PHOTOS TO DEVELOP? Boy: YES, SHE ALWAYS HANGS AROUND THAT SHOP.

Panel 3: Girl: AH WELL, ONE DAY HER PRINTS WILL COME!

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

Y	B	E	A	R	B	N	M	Q	F
P	M	U	M	T	L	I	P	W	O
O	E	H	M	O	N	K	E	Y	X
W	P	Y	W	A	F	P	A	P	G
L	I	O	N	W	P	E	Z	E	I
P	N	V	K	Z	T	N	E	N	R
P	A	N	D	A	S	O	B	G	A
A	F	R	C	R	G	W	R	U	F
C	P	A	R	R	O	T	A	I	F
D	E	E	R	Y	N	C	J	N	E

Grid letters: G, F, C, B, A, B, P, T, M, S, B, B.

Spot the difference

COLOURING BOOK



Find the seven differences between the two pictures.

Найди семь отличий.

Finden Sie die sieben Unterschiede.

Trouvez les sept différences.

Encontrar las siete diferencias.

ANSWER:



LETTER LINK LOG-JAM

A MISSING LETTER ON EACH ROW FINISHES ONE WORD AND STARTS THE NEXT...

BUT WHAT ARE THE LETTERS?

PON		ENT
BEN		EAM
SEE		OOR
PEA		ITE
ARC		ARM
BAN		UMP
PIN		INK
RAM		INE

The missing letters: P, T, D, K, H, D, K, P.

winner

Chloe cooke, aged 6, is this week's winner of The Echo Joe Club logo colouring competition. Chloe, your prize will be on the way to you soon.

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Kilnamanagh AFC won the shield at the Tallafest 2019 Soccer Blitz



Tallaght Town AFC won the cup at the Tallafest 2019 Soccer Blitz



Sean and Connor Duff with Sgt Carolyn Cullen, Garda Barry John Molloy and Garda Ruth Carey



Canon William Deverell and Family



Brenda Mockler from *The Echo* with Thomas Barry of Thomp2 Socks



Teresa Fox with Ellie and Hannah



St Mark's Taekwon-Do School



Sinead Tighe, Tallaght Community Council with SNA's Helena Murphy, Karen Murphy and Nicola Mulligan at the Inclusion Zone at Tallafest



Citywise

As part of our 45th year celebrations we bring you on a trip down memory lane

Celebrating Tallafest 2019

organised by Tallaght Community Council

OVER 10,000 PEOPLE JOINED IN THE FUN AND FESTIVITIES

by Paddy Barrett and James Reynolds



Tram returns to Tallaght



Tallaght Mens Sheds



Elizabeth and Martin



Mayor Vicki Casserly



Molloy staff on board the tram



C.J Byrne and Valerie Brady

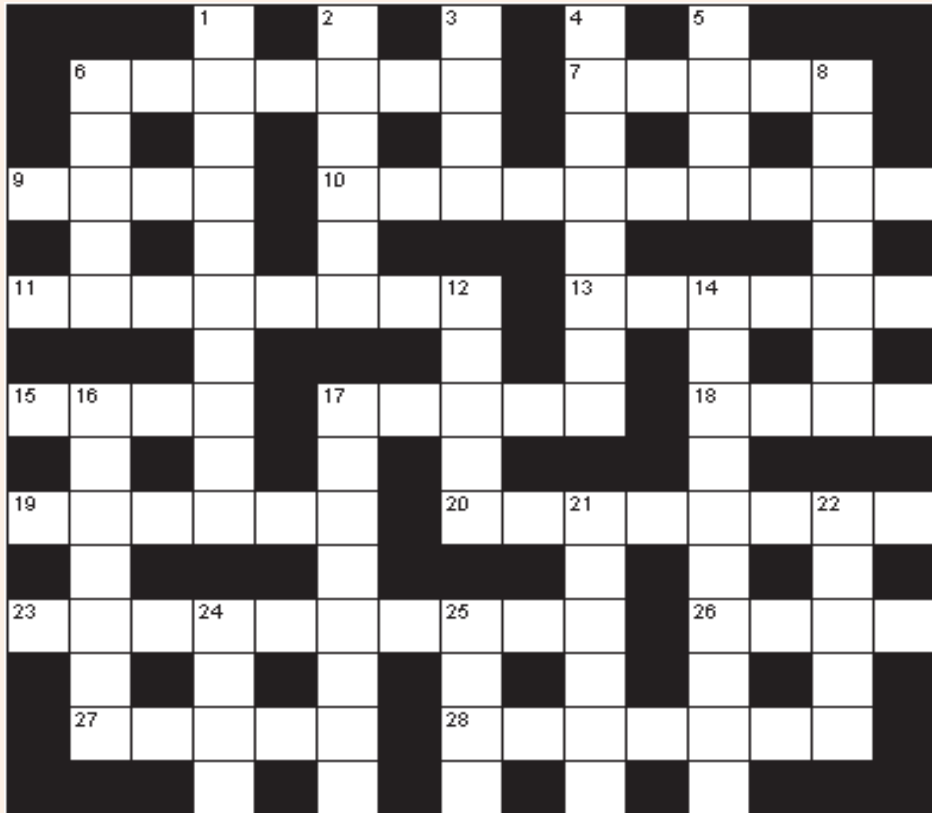


Peter Navan, Cllr Teresa Costello and Donnie Anderson



Rose and Bridie enjoying Tallafest

echocrossquiz Q0805



ACROSS

- 6. Downy juicy fruits (7)
- 7. Deacon (5)
- 9. Freudian stage (4)
- 10. Rip off (10)
- 11. Scholarly (8)
- 13. European peninsula (6)
- 15. Hindu princess (4)
- 17. Stubble (5)
- 18. Home for a pet bird (4)
- 19. Coercion (6)
- 20. Vegetarian (8)
- 23. He "lifts" wallets (10)
- 26. American ones are apple (4)
- 27. Chip away at (5)
- 28. Halloween wear (7)

DOWN

- 1. Moderating pain or sorrow (10)
- 2. Pharynx (6)
- 3. Slave (4)
- 4. Headscarf (8)
- 5. Inspiration (4)
- 6. A velvet-like fabric (5)
- 8. Ship's gear (7)
- 12. Appeal (5)
- 14. Food for koalas (10)
- 16. Cruel (7)
- 17. Client (8)
- 21. A developmental disorder (6)
- 22. Soft leather (5)
- 24. Oddball (4)
- 25. Propel with the foot (4)

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS 0105



CAN YOU BEAT THIS WEEK'S CROSSQUIZ?

SUDOKU 1

	5	4		1		2		3
		2				8		
	1				3			
					8	5		
	8			9				
	2					4	8	
2		6						
7				2	6		4	1
						9		6

SUDOKU 2

		3		7				
4				8		9		
	1	6		2			4	3
		5				2	9	
2								6
		1						
	5				7			
1							6	4
	4		3	9				

ANSWERS

7	9	8	1	6	3	2	4	6
4	6	3	8	5	2	9	7	1
9	2	1	7	4	6	8	5	3
8	7	4	2	3	5	1	6	9
6	3	5	9	7	4	8	2	1
1	9	5	3	8	4	7	1	6
9	2	6	4	8	5	3	7	1
3	4	2	7	6	8	3	9	1
2	8	6	1	7	4	9	3	5

SUDOKU 2

6	2	6	4	8	7	1	3	5
4	1	3	6	2	5	8	9	7
8	5	7	1	3	9	6	4	2
9	4	8	5	7	6	3	2	1
7	6	7	1	2	9	3	5	4
2	3	5	8	4	1	7	6	9
4	7	6	3	5	2	9	1	8
1	5	8	9	6	4	2	7	3
3	9	2	7	1	8	4	5	6

SUDOKU 1

Poet's Corner

PATRICK

by Gerard O'Keeffe



I moved to Tallaght 35 years ago and quickly came to love it. I've been writing poetry for almost 50 years. I'm now retired and I have five grandchildren – they mean the world to me.

That Easter Monday morning
 He bravely read aloud
 The Republican proclamation
 There was no cheering crowd
 Ready to give his life
 For the country he loved so dear
 Patrick Pearse and his comrades
 Against the empire
 Showed no fear.
 For six days the battle raged
 From Dublins GPO
 Those brave men and women
 The world would come to know.
 Their lives they
 gave for Ireland
 Of them I am so proud
 They gave birth to this nation
 Foreign occupation
 Not allowed

45th YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Thank you all for your support over the past 45 years, we hope we've served you well

2021: Thursday, May 1, 2025 26-page birthday feature Your Local Newspaper: Est. 1980

The Echo Newspaper was voted Best Small Family Business of The Year 2021

Echo

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45th YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Thank you for your continued support



2002: Damien Duff celebrates his goal with Robbie Keane during the FIFA World Cup Finals 2002 Group E match between Republic of Ireland and Saudi Arabia at the International Stadium Yokohama, in Yokohama, Japan on June 11, 2002

AD 790 (a few years before *The Echo* in 1980): Experts say that Clondalkin's Round Tower is Medieval, together with the streetscape around it and dates back to the time of the Middle Ages



2010: Richard Baneham (right), from Old Bawn in Tallaght, and his colleague Stephen Rosenbaum hold their Oscars aloft after they won the Academy Award for Best Visual Effects on the movie *Avatar* at the awards ceremony in Los Angeles in March 2010. Richard won a second Oscar in 2023



1998: Liffey Valley Shopping Centre opened on October 14, 1998 and is located near the junction of the M50 motorway and N4 road, closely surrounded by Lucan to the west, Ballyfermot to the east, and Clondalkin to the south

2024: At the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, Rhasidat Adeleke finished fourth in the women's 400m final, setting a new Irish national record with a time of 49.28 seconds. She also contributed to the women's 4x400m relay team, which came fourth in their final and established a national record

2004: The Luas Red Line from city centre to Tallaght opened on September 26, 2004. Work on the Red Line began on August 19, 1999

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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

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



Power, Dolores
69th Birthday, 7th away from home, occurs 11th May. Late of Oldcourt Cottages, Tallaght.

*I remember the day I met you Dolores,
And the day God made you mine,
I remember the day God took you,
And will till the end of time.
But when God came and took you,
My whole world fell apart.
But in my world of memories,
You fill my heart with pride,
I feel so alone Dolores,
But I know you're by my side.
Happy Birthday Dolores, forever in my heart. I will always love you, your heartbroken husband Jim. xxxxxx*

Happy Birthday
*God saw her getting tired,
And a cure was not to be,
So he put his arms around her,
And whispered 'come with me'.
With tearful hearts we watched her slowly fade away,
Although we loved her dearly,
We could not make her stay.
A golden heart stopped beating,
Hard working hands to rest,
God broke our hearts to prove to us,
He only takes the best.
Your loving Grandchildren, Sons, Daughters-in-Law, Sisters, Brothers, Mother-in-Law and all your extended Family and many Friends.*

Happy Birthday Mam
*If we could have a lifetime wish,
And one dream that could come true,
We would pray to God with all our hearts,
Just to see and speak to you,
A thousand words won't bring you back,
We know because we've tried,
And neither will a million tears,
We know because we've cried,
You've left behind our broken hearts,
And precious memories too,
But we've never wanted memories,
We only wanted you,
If roses grow in heaven lord,
Please pick a bunch for us,
Place them in our mam's arms,
And tell her they're from us,
Tell her we love and miss her,
And when she turns to smile,
Place a kiss upon her cheek,
And hold her for a while,
You gave us all you had to give,
Gifts both big and small,
But most of all you gave us love,
The greatest gift of all.
Love and miss you, your laugh and your hugs forever. Daughter Emma, son-in-law Aaron and granddaughters Caragh and Alanagh. xxxxxx*

ANNIVERSARY



Kenny, Martin
20th Anniversary away from home occurs 14th May. Late of O'Hogan Road, Ballyfermot. Also remembering his brother Kevin & nephew Jack.

*If we only knew that morning,
What heartache that day would bring,
When your loving heart stopped beating,
And we couldn't do a thing,
They say there is a reason,
And that time will heal,
But neither time nor reason,
Will change the way we feel,
No one knows the heartache,
That lies behind our smiles,
And no one knows how many times,
We've broken down and cried,
So we want to tell you something Martin,
So you won't be in doubt,
You are so wonderful to think of,
But so hard to live without.
Loved and sadly missed from Mam, Dad, sisters Karen and Samantha, Jonathan, Jack, Rosie, Sadie & Elsie, brother Stephen, Siobhan, Halle, Harper, Hunter & Harlyn.*

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



Campbell, Dougie
In memory of a loving Dad, Grandad, Brother & Friend, whose 65th Birthday occurred 4th May, his 10th away from home. Late of Donomore Crescent. Also remembering our mam Noleen and their granddaughter Gorga-Mae who sadly passed away on 17th March 2020.

*If Heaven had a number,
I would call you on the phone,
To wish you Happy Birthday,
And ask you to come home.
We know you're in a special place,
Where angels always sing,
Where joy and love & peace are yours,
Until we meet again.
Sadly missed by Barbara, Alan & Girls x great-grandchildren Paisley & Cade x Susie and Family, Jonathan and Family, Michelle & Family, Jason & Family, Lyndsey & Family. xxx*

ANNIVERSARY



Ayres, Brendan (Ayresy)
17th Anniversary away from home occurred 7th May. Late of Clondalkin.

Bren
*We're missing you a little more,
Each time we hear your name,
We've cried so many tears,
Yet our hearts are broken just the same.
We miss our times together,
Things in common we could share,
But nothing fills the emptiness,
Now you're no longer there.
We've so many precious memories,
To last our whole life through,
Each one of them reminders,
How much we're missing you.
Loved & missed forever Mam, Dad, Emma, Amanda, Sinead, Gillian, Ken, Eamonn, Craig, Dave, Ryan, Holly, Sophie, Leon, Alex, Ella Fleur, Isabelle, Max, Millie, Noah and Olivia. x*

ANNIVERSARY



May, Patrick
28th Anniversary occurs 12th May. Late of Ballyfermot. R.I.P. Also remembering our mam Bridie May, gone four months.

*Our lives go on without you,
But nothing is the same,
We have to hide our heart ache,
When someone speaks your name.
Sad are the ones that love you,
Silent tears that fall,
Living our lives without you,
Is the hardest part of all.
From our loving daughters Ann, Marion, Breda and Martina, sons Pat and Davy, Sons-in-Law, Daughters-in-Law, Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren.*

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



Hayes Jnr, David
09/05/91
David my beloved son on your 34th Birthday.

*I think of you always,
With special love and pride,
But the pain and sorrow in my heart,
Is very hard to hide.
Love always Dad. xxxxxxxx xx*

NOVENA

Miracle Prayer
Dear heart of Jesus I ask you this special favour (mention one) take it dear heart of Jesus and place it within your own broken heart where your father sees it. Then in his merciful eyes it will become your favour not mine. Amen. say this prayer 3 days promise publication and favour will be granted never known to fail. M.C.

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. T.E.

NOVENA

Novena to St. Clare
Ask St. Clare for 3 favours, 1 business, 2 impossible. Say 9 Hail Marys for 9 nights with lighted candle. Pray whether you believe or not. Publish on the ninth day. Powerful Novena. Say "May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, adored, glorified and loved, today and every day, throughout the whole world, AMEN". Say 6 times every day for 9 days. Your request will be granted, no matter how impossible it may seem. Publication must be promised. H.H.

NOVENA

Novena Heart of Jesus
Dear Heart of Jesus in the past I have asked for many favours I ask you for this very special one. Take it Dear Heart of Jesus and place it within your broken heart, where your Holy Father sees it then in his merciful eyes it will become your favour and not mine. Say this prayer for 3 days promise publication and favours will be granted never known to fail. Promise to publish, many thanks for favours received and about to be received. P.M.

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



O'Brien, Louise
1st Birthday away from home.

*Today your memory is quietly kept,
No need for words we will never forget.
Each one of us in our own way,
Have special thoughts of you today.
Deep in our hearts you will always stay.
Sadly missed by her loving mam Nuala, her husband Vincent, her two sons Gary and Niall, her Daughters-in-Law and her four Grandchildren.*

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



Reddy, Aileen
Remembering our mam Aileen Reddy whose 89th Birthday occurs 11th May. 1st Birthday in heaven, having been called home on 13th April.

*We are sure Ma the Seamus fella,
Da and all the family and friends gone before you will have a great time celebrating with you this year.
Sadly missed by your daughters Sandra, Lisa, Janice & Families. Months mind mass on Sunday 11th May.*

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planning notices

All planning applications must be in before 5pm Monday

tel: 468 5350
email:reception@echo.ie

South Dublin County Council

I Rosemarie Gannon intend to apply for Planning permission for attic conversion with hip to gable roof to accommodate stairs to allow access to attic conversion as non habitable storage space with roof windows to front all with associated ancillary works at 26 Templeogue Lodge, Templeogue, Dublin 6W. 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

We, Daragh & Caragh McMahon, intend to apply for: Planning Permission at this site: 22 Coolamber Park, Knocklyon, Dublin 16, D16 A0P0. The development will consist of: Construction of a single-storey front extension with a sloped roof; demolition of the existing rear and side extension; construction of a single-storey flat-roof rear extension incorporating a rooflight; and provision of a new side access. 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

We, Jason McDermott and Aoife Lockhart, are applying for planning permission for (1) new rear extension (2) attic conversion with new dormer window to rear and two rooflights to front (3) extension to domestic shed (4) new vehicular entrance, and all associated site works, at 105 Kennelsfort Road Upper, Palmerstown, Dublin 20. D20TW74. 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

Permission sought for conversion of existing domestic garage for habitable purposes, including alterations to front elevation, together with widening of existing entrance at 19 Wainsfort Park, Terenure, Dublin 6W for Peter Monahan and Sharon O'Donnell. 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 Sean Grehan, is applying for Planning Permission for a part two storey extension to the rear and a porch extension to the front with lean to roof over. At 31 Kylemore Avenue, Ballyfermot, Dublin 10, D10 FA03. 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 and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

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 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 - LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) ACTS 1963 - LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) REGULATIONS 1977 TO 1994

PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED WEEK ENDING APRIL 25, 2025

<p>S25424/15 23 Apr 2025 SECTION 254 LICENCE APPLICATION Additional Information Applicant: Cignal Infrastructure LTD Location: Lower Ballymount Road, Greenhills, Dublin 12 Description: Proposed 18m Lollipop Streetpole Solutions with Quadband antennas and ground equipment cabinet</p>	<p>Location: 42, Greenfort Drive, Clondalkin, Dublin 22, D22 F9T7 Description: Single storey granny flat extension to side of existing house</p>	<p>lines), landscaping, boundary treatments and services provision the lands are located to the east of Abbots Grove Park, south-east of Abbots Grove Avenue, south of Stocking Avenue and Stocking Wood estate and west of White Pines Park.</p>
<p>SD24A/0204 23 Apr 2025 Permission Additional Information Applicant: Philomena Condron Location: To the rear of 7 Esker Cottages, Lucan, Co. Dublin. Description: Construction of a proposed new three bedroom dormer bungalow with new vehicular entrance, boundary treatments and associated site works.</p>	<p>SD24A/0270W 24 Apr 2025 Permission Clarification of Additional Information Applicant: Gerard Mac Cormac Location: 20, Monastery Crescent, Clondalkin, Dublin 22, D22 WE10 Description: 1) demolition of detached domestic garage to rear, 2) construction of a 2-storey detached dwelling to rear with new vehicular access and new pedestrian access, 3) modification to existing house rear garden perimeter including relocation of garden wall, 4) all related works.</p>	<p>SD25A/0096W 22 Apr 2025 Permission New Application Applicant: Queenvalley 2 Limited Location: Lands at St. Mary's (eircode No. D14H2H5) and, Presbytery (Eircode No. D14P7N8), Willbrook road, Rathfarnham, Dublin Description: Permission is sought for minor works to the existing 2 no. dwellings as follows: (i) the demolition of a detached garden shed to the front garden of St. Mary's and demolition of 2 no. sheds located to the rear of St. Mary's and Presbytery (comprising a total floor area of 40sqm), (ii) the subdivision of the front boundaries of St. Mary's and Presbytery and alteration to the existing vehicular entrance off Willbrook Road to facilitate 2 no. new vehicular entrances to the existing car parking area and to provide for 2 no. car parking spaces per dwelling, and, (iii) the replacement of the existing windows to the front facade of the existing two storey, semi-detached houses. Planning Permission is also sought for a new residential infill scheme on the lands to the side and rear of the existing dwellings to comprise: (iv) the construction of 5 no. new dwellings comprising 2 no. two-storey detached dwellings and 3 no. three-storey detached dwellings (1 no. three-bedroom unit and 4 no. four-bedroom units), all flat roofed, with each dwelling being served by private amenity space in the form of a rear garden and the three-storey dwellings also being served by private terraces at second floor level; (v) the provision of a new vehicular and pedestrian entrance including reduction in the height of boundary wall off Willbrook Road; and new internal access road serving the proposed residential scheme, and; (vi) the provision of 7 no. car parking spaces, 10 no. resident bicycle parking spaces, and 6 no. visitor bicycle parking spaces to serve the residential scheme. The proposal also includes all ancillary site and infrastructural works which include: the provision of bin stores, foul and surface water drainage, public open space, landscaping, boundary treatments, and all associated site development works necessary to facilitate the overall development. The development results in a total of 7 no. dwellings.</p>
<p>SD25A/0001W 24 Apr 2025 Permission Additional Information Applicant: Maurice Leahy Location: Sixth Floor, Tallaght Retail Centre, Belgard Road , Dublin 24, D24 Y66R Description: Change of use of a vacant unit to four one bedroomed apartments.</p>	<p>LRD25A/0003W 24 Apr 2025 Permission LRD3-Application Applicant: Lagan Homes Ballycullen Limited Location: Woodtown, Ballycullen, Dublin 16. Description: The proposed development will consist of 502 no. residential units (108no. 1-bed, 170no. 2-bed, 162 no. 3-bed; 62 no. 4-bed) comprising 197no. 2 storey houses (terraced/semi-detached/detached) (19no. 2-bed, 116no. 3-bed; 62no. 4-bed) and 28no. 3 and 4 storey simplex/duplex apartment blocks providing 305no. apartments (108no. 1-bed apartments, 151no. 2-bed apartments, 46no. 3-bed apartments). The proposed development also includes a cr?che (c.475sq.m), public open space, car parking (surface/undercroft), bicycle parking, bicycle storage structures and lockers, bin stores, and 8no. ESB substations. Vehicular access to be provided from the existing spur road connection to Stocking Avenue to the west of the site, and via Stocking Wood Drive to the east of the site (with relocation of existing ESB substation and associated works to the existing hammerhead). Additional pedestrian only routes will be provided into Abbot's Grove Park and Stocking Wood Copse with future connections provided for into Stocking Wood Manor, White Pines Park and the future school site to the north of the application site. The proposed development includes all associated site development works (including site reprofiling, retaining structures and downing of ESB overhead</p>	
<p>SD25B/0065W 23 Apr 2025 Permission Additional Information Applicant: James Nyland and Anne Marie Flynn Location: 22, Hermitage Court, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16, D16F6W2 Description: Construction of a single-storey extension to the rear of the property, a first-floor extension over existing kitchen, amending an existing ground-floor window to a door in the (south) side gable and the construction of a ground-floor window in the (north) side gable.</p>		
<p>SD25B/0090W 25 Apr 2025 Permission Additional Information Applicant: Lisa Kelly</p>		

Contact **The Echo** to have a planning notification published
Call **468 5350** or email **reception@echo.ie**

Echo Sport

Deputy Sports Editor: William O'Connor

Thursday, May 8, 2025

National titles for Keelan and Jayden



Sacred Heart's Jayden Wall and Keelan Thormey

Sacred Heart Boxing Club had two Dublin champions contest the All-Ireland Schoolboy Championships in the National Stadium last week.

First up Keelan Thormey in the boy three 59kg category drew a quarter-final against the Munster champion Jake Waters from Fr Horgan's Boxing Club in Cork.

Keelan taking a comfortable unanimous decision win moving him into the semi-finals with team mate Jayden Wall boy three 56kg who had gotten a bye into the semis.

Both lads faced tough opposition in the semis against two Connacht champions hailing from the Titan's Boxing Club in Galway.

After two highly competitive bouts and brilliant performances, both lads had their hands raised - Jayden Wall winning on a 4.1 split decision and Keelan Thormey edging a 3.2 split in his favour setting up two All-Ireland finals.

First up in the final of the boy three 56kg final Jayden faced the champion of Ulster Shea Murney from Goldan Gloves Boxing Club.

After three epic rounds, Jayden had his hand raised taking a 5.0 unanimous decision winning his first national title.

Five bouts later, Keelan in the boy3 59kg final took on Ulster champion in Patrick Ward from Killyman Boxing Club.

After a dominating performance Keelan had his hand raised taking a comfortable 5.0 decision picking up his second national title.

St Francis girls delight at winning U15 cup title

ST FRANCIS were celebrating at the weekend when they secured the U15 girls Premier Irish Rail Cup.

It was a superb achievement for the Clondalkin side who overcame Peamount United 3-2 and have now won back-to-back titles.

St Francis had plenty of good performances on the day with Megan Dalton, Candice Mahoney and Ellie O'Connor standing out.

Fia Clucas Keogh had her shooting boots as she claimed a hat-trick and is top scorer in the league for the past two seasons.

Keeper Isabelle Moore made two superb saves to deny Peamount a equaliser as they applied the pressure.

Katie Carey made a goal line clearance for St Francis while captain Robyn Murphy at midfield along with Alannah Mooney and Zara Behan worked hard throughout.

The squad now have three league games left with wins here securing a double-double two seasons in a row for the team.



St Francis U15 girls celebrate their Irish Rail Cup victory over Peamount United

Mixed Foursomes success for pitch and putt players

THE winners of the Dublin Mixed Foursomes at the weekend were Thomas and Deirdre Egan from Glenville Pitch & Putt Club who were first out and led the field and never looked in danger of losing their early lead of 93 points.

Deirdre is Thomas's grandmother and as we always say Pitch and Putt is a sport for all ages.

In second spot was husband and wife team Damian and Orla Creevey from Lucan on a total of 86 points. The gross prize went to Anthony Malone and Tracey Smith also from Lucan with a score of 81 points.

The First 18 went To Frank Connolly and Marion Nolan with 47 points and second 18 went to Micheal Keenan and Irene Finnegan 43 points on the back 9 both pairings from the host club Glenville.

The county board would like to thank the Glenville club for their usual hospitality and thanks for being great hosts.

As is the norm in Glenville the course was in top class condition and our thanks to all who took part in the competition and best wishes to all in the forthcoming championships.



Orla Creevey and Anthony Malone

Frank Connolly and Marion Nolan with Anthony Malone and Susan Ritchie



Anthony Malone, Thomas and Deirdre Egan and Susan Ritchie

Motorsport

First Formula Vee C'ship win for Melia

A WET and cold start to the third round of the TyreDoctor.ie Formula Vee championship contenders last week, reports Barry Cregg.

Kirkistown Racing Circuit was the venue located south of Belfast. The popular northern track can provide some great racing with slip stream style young racing due to the long straights but this time with the wet conditions on a newly surfaced track it would be a job to stay on it at all. Testing on Friday was also wet so the crews got the setups done well in time for qualifying on Saturday morning.

Despite the conditions Eamonn Thornton, Conor Melia from Lucan, and Fergal Begley really upped their game and put in some quick times to put themselves right in the mix the with 'A' championship runners.

Thornton lined up on pole position his best qualifying to date, and ahead of Conor Melia. Fergal Begley and Lee Flynn lined up on row two so it would be a close battle if the previous race in Mondello was to go by. The wet and greasy conditions would also have an effect and needed to be treated carefully. A heavy mist came down as the rolled up to the line and as the lights went out it was Melia who got the best start and lead the field away to turn one. Begley also got a flyer and moved into second demoting Thornton to third.

By the end of the first lap it remained the same but all were nose to tail so anything could happen and still very early days. Begley tried to take the lead on the inside of turn one but had to back out but still kept enough momentum to try a move on the outside of turn two. However it ended in a spin and all hopes of victory gone. This left Melia and Thornton to battle it out at the front and both men from Lucan in Dublin had similar pace so it

would who had the nerve to try a move in the tricky and slippery conditions.

Up front Melia had his work cut out holding Thornton off and a move down the inside at turn one saw Thornton take the lead. A slide on the exit of turn three saw Melia loose ground over the next couple of laps but not enough to lose the crucial toe. Two laps later and a better exit from the chicane saw both men side by side down the back straight. It looked as if Melia had it at the hairpin but Thornton drew alongside down the main straight and held the lead but only just. This was another cracker at Kirkistown despite the bad weather. Niall O'Mara was lying comfortably in third and on for some good points but ran wide on the exit of turn 3 and hit the barrier but luckily managed to get back going but dropped down the field. More points lost as in Mondello. Surely his luck will have to change soon.

Back at the head of the field Thornton again made a gap on Melia but lost it overtaking the struggling O'Mara which lead to Melia getting on his tail again and despite his best efforts to get by at the hairpin each lap he lost his advantage on the exit and could not make the move stick down the main straight. With laps running out it would have to work or find a new spot to take the lead. With a two laps to go he pulled it off and bravely held it round the outside of turn one to stay in the lead. His pace through the chicane helped him pull enough of a gap to prevent a move by Thornton down the back straight but there was still a lap to go.

All eyes were on first and second as they raced to the hairpin for the final time. An side move by Thornton ended in a spin and luckily it didn't end with a collision with Melia. It did end his chances of victory though but luckily he still had



Conor Melia, with his trophy after winning the Tyre Doctor.ie Formula Vee race and inset: Conor during the race
Picture by Barry Cregg

enough over third place man Andy Keogh to keep himself in second. It left Melia to take the chequered flag with ease. It was the only point in the whole race he could do anything with ease. It was a great first championship victory for the Dubliner and also a great way to put the ghosts of the bad crash he had at the circuit last season to bed. Thornton came home in second, still a great result for him and Andy

Keogh took third.

A delighted winner after the race explained how it went: "It's great to finally get my first win after all that happened last year here. It was hard the weather made the track so slippery in places it was like ice. Eamonn and myself had a great battle so fair play to him it was great fun. Hopefully I can do it at Bishops court next time out."

First race for Daire in European Clio Cup



Daire Flock in action

Daire Flock competed in the first round in the European Clio Cup at Nogaro in Southwest France with two x 30 minute practices on the Saturday.

The forecast was mixed for the weekend and with both practices being wet which set up for the two races on Sunday and Monday which was going to be challenging for the Tallaght lad.

Qualifying on Sunday was dry and a relatively short track at Nogaro, finding space to get a competitive lap time with 40 cars was going to be difficult. With 20 minutes to set a time, Daire managed to position his car 15th on the grid.

Race One saw damp conditions and Daire getting a good start off the line, entering the first corner he had to take action to avoid a collision which pushed him back to 24th. This collision led to a red flag.

Restarting under the safety car, once the race recommenced, Daire made his way through the field and finished 11th and 3rd in the junior class, making up thirteen places in damp and slippery conditions.

Race 2 was on Monday with qualifying in the morning, with the sun out and a dry track, Daire found space on the track was difficult. He qualified 21st on the grid 1 and 2 second from pole.

He got the start he needed off the line progressing through the field making up 11 places fighting for a top 10 position when he had to avoid another racing incident pushing him back to 16th where he finished coming third again in the junior class.

Daire said: "I am happy with my results being my first European race. I'm third in the Junior class nine points from first, I'm now looking forward to the next round in Dijon in May. I'd like to thank my sponsors, Gorilla Design, Glenhaze Distribution, Rygor Autos and Reactive Welding. I would also like to thank Westbourne Motorsport for giving me the opportunity to race in Europe."

Sailing

McNaughton and Cronin win Youth National Sailing crown

LAST week end Irish Sailing held it's 2025 Youth Nationals in Dun Laoghaire where over 200 young people participated in five different classes over four days.

Old Bawn's Cora McNaughton and Sean Cronin from Malahide were in second place for the first three days and clinched the title on the final day with two bullets (sailing slang for a win) qualifying them for the Junior Europeans in Porto, Portugal.

One might say that Cora performed a Rory McElroy in Youth Sailing as this was her fifth attempt to gain this title.

Cora has gained this title on the back of winning the Irish Sailing Junior Champions Cup 2024 and Irish National Championships in 2023. It is clear that Cora's talent and drive has enabled her to peak at National level, so what's next?

Cora has already embarked in her programme of International sailing for 2025 with the RYA British Youth Nationals in Pwllheli winning one of her races. Other International's include Kiel week (Germany) and Junior Europeans in Porto.

Cora has her sights set even higher and her ultimate goal for 2025 is to qualify on the World stage – for the Youth World Championships in Vilamoura (Portugal) in December.

In order to achieve this, she needs to come in the top 20% of Kiel week or Junior Europeans and of course she needs financial support which is her biggest challenge currently.



Cora McNaughton from Old Bawn and Sean Cronin in action

Hockey

Loreto edged out in CY champions showdown

In a thrilling EY Champions Final in Havelock Park, two early Railway Union goals made the difference as the Leinster side secured a second competition win in a row.

A physical opening quarter saw Rathfarnham side Loreto dominate possession, but Railway Union produced two eventually vital moments.

A Railway Union penalty corner in the fourteenth minute was dispatched by Railway Union to open the scoring. Just two minutes later, Katie Mullan stung the palms of fellow Ireland compatriot Elizabeth Murphy with a powerful reverse shot, the resulting loose ball falling to Emma Smyth to volley into the net on her reverse stick to double the lead.

Loreto got a foothold in the game in the second quarter, but Railway's high press kept them pinned back. A penalty corner for Railway almost saw the side add a third but the goal mouth scramble was well dealt with.

The second half continued in the same vein, with Loreto trying to find a way back into the tie. A stroke in the fourth quarter eventually provided that lifeline, with Caitlin Sherin finding the net to make it two one, setting up a tense final ten minutes.

Loreto withdrew keeper Elizabeth Murphy in favour of an extra outfielder in an effort to draw level in the final five minutes, with the league winners throwing everything they had at Railway, but the Railway defensive unit held firm to secure back-to-back EY Champions Trophy Finals.

After making history at this year's Euro Hockey League by becoming the first Irish Women's side to secure a win in the competition, Railway Union will return to the EHL for 2025/26 with hopes of securing more victories.

Basketball

Templeogue fall at final hurdle in U18 Women's Cup decider

A HAUL of 30 points and nine rebounds for Game MVP, Helena Keane went a long way to seeing Meteors emerge 77-50 winners over Templeogue in Monday's Under 18 Women's National Cup Final in the National Basketball Arena.

Andrea Chryslyn Jude and Kira Lynch combined for a further 29, as Meteors steadily pulled clear of their Dublin rivals, for whom Katie Behan served up 22 points and linked up with Sophie Gallagher for 20 rebounds.

It was Meteors who made the brighter start to this decider, as Stephanie Nnabuihe and Kaitlyn Summers struck in the paint before Keane converted from both sides of the arc to propel them 9-3 up.

Yet Templeogue responded with an eight-point run to overtake by two, as Lauren Neville, Sophie Gallagher and Behan all put the ball through the string.

But, while they pushed that lead out to four, Meteors regained some momentum to battle their way back into a 22-19 lead by the close of the first quarter, Ríodhna McGrath serving up a sublime three with just six seconds remaining in that period.

Another strong start to the second quarter saw them open up an eight-point gap, Keane again inflicting some damage from both inside and downtown.

Timely threes by Eabha Booth and Behan kept Templeogue on their heels, but Meteors remained out in front, helped by buckets from Nnabuihe and Kira Lynch, along with a breakaway layup by Jude.

Liliyah Waters did drain two free throws for Templeogue, but her side



Templeogue U18 women's team lost out to Meteors in the National Cup Final

continued to struggle with the increased defensive intensity of Meteors, who moved 19 points clear after another Nnabuihe bucket was followed by seven straight points from Keane, whose three-point effort was met with a favourable roll.

Grace Miley did get in for a late first-half deuce, but Templeogue were still left facing a 48-31 deficit heading into the half-time break.

The prospect of a second-half revival

appeared even more remote for Templeogue as they shipped the opening six points of the third quarter, Jude and Lynch landing some early threes.

But Templeogue were not about to throw in the towel and served up 12 unanswered points, including buckets from Booth, Miley, Behan and Sophie Gallagher that closed the gap to 11.

A deuce from Lynch did arrest that run as Meteors steadied the ship with the aid of a treble by McGrath that helped see

them take a 61-44 cushion into the final quarter.

Again they accounted for the opening six points of the fourth, Keane picking up two from the free-throw line, as Meteors moved 23 points clear.

Templeogue were unable to make much, if any, in-roads into that advantage as Jude, Keane and Sarah Donnelly did keep the scoreboard ticking for Meteors to help see them make it comfortably over the finish line.

Boxing

Championship title success for Jobstown boxers

THERE was delight for Jobstown Boxing Club at the Schoolboy and Girls championships with the club winning three titles.

It's a remarkable success story for Jobstown who now have 50 Irish titles to their credit.

Blake Fegan won the B2 33kg in three bouts starting the competition off in first gear. Then going up the gears

he booked his place in the final beating a good competitor from Fr Horgan's in a masterclass performance in his second national title

Jobstown's Ava Mullhall competed in the G2 37kg after securing a place in the final.

Ava put in a solid performance in the decider beating a boxer from the north Camlough club.

Amaze Olanyian won by walkover in the g3 92plus with not being able to get a match and has done great work to be crowned champion.

This comes of the back of Brodrick Abudior winning the National Irish last month in the Youth Two 63kg, again having three bouts, beating all three opponents to secure his fourth national title



Brodrick Abudior



Blake Fegan



Amaze Olanyian



Ava Mullhall

Soccer

Kilnamanagh U12 girls turn on the style

KILNAMANAGH U12s girls team turned on the style in the Andy Wardick Cup final at the weekend.

The Kilnamanagh side overcame the challenge of Peamount United 4-0 to claim the title in some style.

Kilnamanagh started well with Abbie Halpin tormenting the Peamount defence throughout.

Halpin scored three goals for the second year running in the cup final in what is a great achievement for the lethal forward.

Kate Breen was another player that stood out, assisting in three goals and scoring the other one.

Sophia Kenna in defence put in a solid show as did Jade O'Connor, Eabha Malone and Lily Baker put in big shows at midfield.

Both teams are still in contention for the Premier League title.

This Saturday, Kilnamanagh are in the U12 SFAI Cup final against Thomastown from Kilkenny.

"Every one of the girls played really well," said Kilnamanagh coach Tony Halpin.

"From goalkeeper throughout the pitch, the girls worked hard and the substitutes that came on all made an impact.



Kilnamanagh U12's celebrate their Andy Wardick Cup final victory
Photo by Les Evans

St Francis U13s claim Dublin Bus crown

ST FRANCIS U13 boys had plenty to shout about when they lifted the Dublin Bus Cup title at the weekend.

The Clondalkin side put together a solid display as they overcame the challenge of Killester/Donnycarney 2-1.

Francis went two goals to the good with both goals coming from the boot of Cayden Reynolds.

Kilester came out strong in the second half, but a determined Francis team held strong despite conceding a late goal.

In a dramatic finale, Francis were pushed to the limit, but they had solid performances from Daniel Breen in defence and Adam Leonard at midfield.

Both keepers had a fine game with Rhys Henvey and Cameron O'Neill impressing.

Meanwhile, St Francis U11s put in a brave show in the Paddy Brennan Cup decider.

Despite going down 5-2 to Swords Celtic, St Francis can hold their heads high.



St Francis U13 boys celebrate with the Dublin Bus Cup

Sacred Heart U14s complete double after nine-goal thriller

SACRED Heart U14s came out tops in a nine-goal thriller in the Paisley Deering Cup final at the weekend.

The win completes a superb double for the Killinarden club who secured the league crown already this year.

Sacred Heart put together a solid performance as they brushed aside the challenge of Greystones 6-3.

Shane Brady opened the scoring for Hearts before Greystones replied with two goals to take the lead.

Just before the interval however, Adam Culligan stepped up and bent a brilliant effort to the roof of the Greystones net to leave it 2-2 at half time.

Sacred Heart raised the tempo in the second half adding four more goals and playing some excellent football.

Victor Banach powered in two headers while Darragh Daly finished off a brilliant team move to put his team in the driving seat.

Culligan completed the rout when he netted a fine goal to finish of the contest in brilliant fashion.



Sacred Heart U14's beat Greystones in a nine goal game winning 6-3

Soccer

Crawford looking forward to U21 friendlies

TALLAGHT'S Jim Crawford's Ireland Under-21s team will take on Croatia Under-21s and Qatar Under-23s in two friendlies in Zagreb next month.

The young Boys in Green will use the international window as final preparation before the start of the European Championship qualifiers in September.

Ireland return to the Croatian capital after a successful summer window last year that saw a 3-2 win over the hosts and a 2-2 draw with an England U20s team.

Ireland will be looking to build on the 3-1 friendly win over Hungary in March where Mason Melia became the Under-21s' youngest ever goalscorer and Brentford's Conor McManus netted twice on his international debut.

Speaking ahead of the fixtures, Head Coach Jim Crawford said: "We look forward to taking on a very good team in Croatia. Like ourselves, they are second seeds for qualifying so we know it will be a very tough test especially in Croatia. Likewise, Qatar will be tough opponents, their style will reflect what we are likely to come up against in the qualifiers so it's an important challenge for the players to overcome."

Ireland face Moldova away on Thursday, September 4 before returning for the home game with Andorra on Tuesday, September 9.

Crawford says he will use the games as an opportunity to assess his options ahead of the campaign.

He said: "It's important we take a look at the player pool that is available to us. There will be players coming into the squad who weren't available to us in November and March so we will be looking at bringing in players for their first Under-21s squad. Like with any international window, it's an opportunity to impress and an opportunity to stake a claim to involved come September and beyond. These are two important games going into the campaign ahead."

Samuels on target 4 times as Kiltalown secure victory

SHANE Samuels turned in a man-of-the-match performance on Saturday, when Kiltalown FC travelled to Larkview FC for this UCFL Division 3B Shield A section in Whelan Park, reports John Mooney.

Samuels netted four times, it could have been more, and lead the line like a true striker, always showing for the ball, shooting on sight and not afraid to do the mucking out too.

A 5-2 win for the Tallaght lads means they now top the table, and they could easily make the final should results go in their favour.

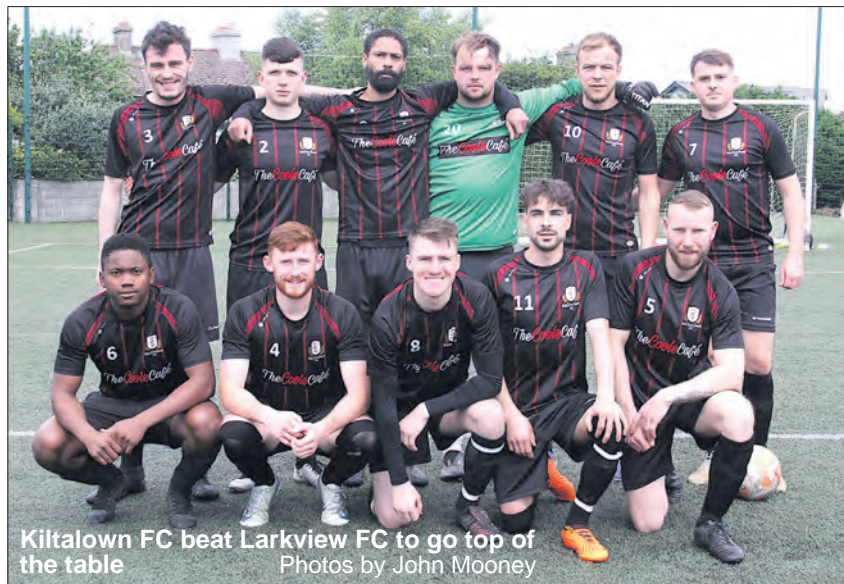
It's a complete turn around from the start of the season when they could not secure a result, never mind buy one, but since the return after the winter break, and a few new faces, they have shot up the table.

Saturday saw Samuels open his account inside six minutes, when he turned quickly onto an Diogo Fernandes through ball and slotted home.

Minutes later Kiltalown should have been 2-0 in front after Samuels slipped the ball to Sam Falomo he drew the home keeper before slipping a pass on a plate for Martin McDonnell, but McDonnell hit



Kiltalown FC's Anto Dillon gets away from Larkview's Sam Murray and Jack Johnson



Kiltalown FC beat Larkview FC to go top of the table
Photos by John Mooney

the bar from six yards with the goal gaping.

However, Samuels bailed him out on 25 minutes when he slotted home from the penalty spot, while five minutes later the home side reduced the deficit when Ryan Foley smashed home from inside the area.

It gave them a lift but not high enough, as with ten minutes of the restart Samuels had his hat-trick when he guided home a Anto Dillon centre.

Falomo brought their tally to four when he was on hand to slot home from close range, but Larkview responded with a

goal from Jack Johnson, after the visitors keeper, Alex Geoghan, made his only mistake by spilling a free kick.

But Samuels had the last say in this great team performance when he got his fourth of the afternoon, from another Dillon pass to round off the scoring.

KILTALOWN FC: Alex Geoghan, Nathan Mustafa, Darragh Stewart, Karl Lynch, Colin Middleto, Sam Falomo, Anto Dillon, Adam Burke, Shane Samuel's, Martin McDonnell, Diogo Fernandes, Gérard Conway, Aaron Phelan, Ryan McCormack, Kyle Cooney.

Clinical Rovers topple UCD



Professional. Commanding. Clinical. Three words to describe Shamrock Rovers 4-1 victory over DLR Waves at the UCD Bowl, reports Christine Allen.

Ominous in all-black under the bright May sunshine Rovers pressed - Aine O'Gorman, Joy Ralph and Emily Corbet haunting the DLR defence from the opening bell.

Keelin Comiskey set the tempo early doors with a series of quick throw-outs, while Corbet dipped and sprinted along the left, forcing Jess Gleeson and Leah Donnelly to make several key interceptions

Against the run of play, Michelle Doonan came close for the Waves in the 8th minute.

Spotting Katie Keane off her line, the DLR Dynamo reacted instinctively with a delicate chip, but Keane scrambled back to catch.

The Waves struggled to piece together a string of passes as Rovers dominated possession - Doonan's attempts to turn the tide alongside Aisling Meehan and Rachel Doyle abruptly shut down by Scarlett Herron and Comiskey on the right.

Corbet dipped and weaved on the left channel and in the 10th fired a one-touch effort from close range, but Eve Badana's reflexes were not left wanting.

Ralph bopped, chopped and turned up top, blasting a flurry of shots towards the DLR goalminder, but it was Corbet who beat the Waves keeper first when Comiskey threaded a precise pass that

sent the number ten bursting down the left.

Striking first time, she caught DLR cold in the 17th with a cross-come-shot that Katie McCabe herself would be proud of. 1-0 to The Hoops.

As the Waves fought to avoid another whitewash, Nadine Clare and Neema Nyangasi sparked in flashes, but neither could match the composure of Rovers number eight - Melissa O'Kane.

With timely interceptions and intelligent switches of the ball, O'Kane assuaged concerns while Jaime Thompson, like a cheat code, unlocked opportunities with visionary balls towards the roving Ralph.

Rovers extended their lead after the half-hour mark when Scarlett Herron rose high to meet a Comiskey corner. The deflection skimmed off Maria Reynolds, but Aisling Meehan took the last touch, inadvertently turning it into her own net.

The home side emerged with renewed intent after the break; A. Brophy's elusive runs and Rebecca McMahon's resolute defending igniting a competitive edge.

Their persistence paid off in the 59th when Rachel Doyle picked out Aisling Meehan with a superb pass.

Meehan, breaking free from the wall of black shirts, took one deft touch with her left to round Keane before calmly slotting the ball into the net. 2-1

Seconds after the restart, a defensive lapse from DLR saw the Rovers number 9 gifted the ball - but there was still work to be done.

Controlling the take down with her right boot, Ralph nudged it past the defender with panache before calmly slotting it home with a finish as stylish as



Aine O'Gorman was in action for Shamrock Rovers against UCD
Photo by John Lee

Rovers new threads. 3-1

In the 74th, a loose back pass from DLR opened the door, and Emily Corbet stepped through, curling a strike over Badana and into the back of the net.

Four for the Hoops, and surely three points in the bag.

In the final stages, DLR fought to salvage a respectable scoreline, but Maria Reynolds produced another masterclass in defence, calmly snuffing out the Waves' attacks alongside Herron.

With twenty minutes remaining, both sides made a flurry of substitutions.

For DLR, Amy Ryan and Robyn Bolger's introductions were one of a number of changes made by Laura Heffernan, while Rovers also made several switches - Ruesha Littlejohn bolstering their defensive solidity as the game wound down.

But Rovers had the game comfortably in hand - Melissa O'Kane pulling the strings in midfield to keep the Waves at arm's length.

The Hoops ultimately saw the game out with ease, securing their third win in the Women's Premier Division.



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