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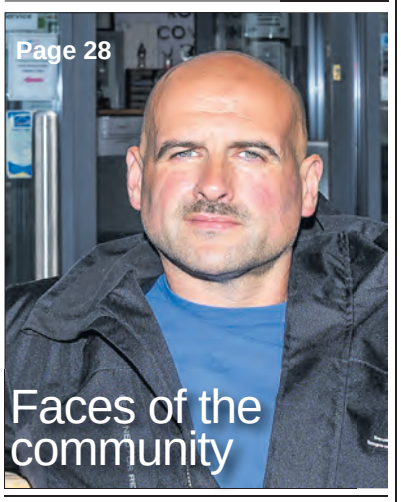
READ IT, BELIEVE IT, REAL LOCAL NEWS – SERVING CLONDALKIN, BALLYFERMOT AND LUCAN – BE PART OF THE STORY


Life & Social

Intimate drama by award winning writer Alan getting numerous accolades

Ballyfermot teacher bids farewell after 50 years page 4

Bawnogue residents concerned with traffic measures page 3





Popular butchers closes after 31 years

IT SEEMS a week doesn't go by these days when another local Irish business is forced to close for financial reasons. See page 12

FINANCIAL REASONS FORCES WELL-KNOWN MCLOUGHLIN'S TO CLOSE

Government says purchase of hotel and convention centre will save €1 billion over 25 years

Citywest Hotel sale to state completed at €148.2m

THE sale of Citywest Hotel and Convention Centre to the government has been completed. See page 2

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covers the following areas:

TALLAGHT: CITYWEST, KNOCKLYON, TEMPLEOGUE, RATHFARNHAM, WALKINSTOWN, BALLYCULLEN, SAGGART, RATHCOOLE & BLESSINGTON
CLONDALKIN: NEWLANDS, MONASTERY, RED COW, BAWNOGUE, DEANSRATH, LIFFEY VALLEY & NEILSTOWN
LUCAN: PALMERSTOWN, DODSBORO, ADAMSTOWN, ESKER, WESTMANSTOWN & NEWCASTLE
BALLYFERMOT: CHERRY ORCHARD, COLD CUT, CRUMLIN, DRIMNAGH, BLUEBELL, INCHICORE & KILMAINHAM

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Next Edition

The next edition of ***The Echo*** in the shops from Thursday, Sep 4, 2025. **Don't miss it!**

Sale of Citywest Hotel completed by State at €148.2 million



Buying of hotel set to save the State €1 billion over 25 years

THE sale of Citywest Hotel and Convention Centre to the government has been completed.

A statement issued by the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration to south Dublin councillors and TDs confirmed that the purchase of the hotel and grounds had been completed as of Tuesday, August 26.

"The purchase is part of the long-term strategy to develop a sustainable accommodation system for people seeking international protection, using more State-owned land and fewer commercial providers," the statement from the department's Community Engagement Team read.

It is expected that the Minister for Justice, Jim O'Callaghan will bring a memo to Government on Tuesday, September 2 when the Dáil resumes with further details.

The price for the sale of the Citywest Hotel, Convention Centre and hotel grounds was set at €148.2 million, which is set to save the State €1 billion over 25 years compared to the costs of the current leasing model.

"The savings to the State will pay back the purchase price within four years," the department said.

"€15m has also been approved to be used for the delivery of essential maintenance and upgrades to the hotel and Convention Centre."

The purchase of the Citywest Hotel for continued use as a transit hub and accommodation centre for people seeking international protection has faced major opposition from local residents and elected representatives in Saggart and wider south-west Dublin.

Concerns have been raised over pressure on services in the area, and a particular issue has arisen over the gym and leisure facilities at the hotel, which are seen as a "valued local amenity".

There are "ongoing discussions to ensure the leisure centre on the site, which has 3,000 members, remains open to the public following the purchase", according to the Department of Justice.

They added that the Lemongrass Fusion restaurant on the site is not part of the sale and won't be affected by the purchase.

The Department has also said there are "no immediate plans to increase the capacity" of international protection applicants at Citywest.

"New spaces for people seeking international protection will be achieved by using the existing capacity currently being used by people fleeing the war in Ukraine, and restructures to the current layout," they said.

"This means the purchase should not lead to increased pressure on local services or the community."

Following finalisation of the purchase, the focus for Community Engagement Teams will be on the "structures to plan for the provision of essential services and supports to assist with the integration process", the statement from the Department of Justice said.

They are set to schedule meetings with local elected representatives to discuss the engagement approach in early September.

"The engagement process is ensuring that the Department listens to the issues that have been identified at local level, to best support planning for essential supports and services that will assist with the integration process," they said.

SDCC
Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas South Dublin County Council

ROADS ACT 1993, SECTION 75

TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF OF R120 NEWCASTLE ROAD, LUCAN, CO. DUBLIN

To facilitate Lucan Harriers to hold a 5 Mile Race, South Dublin County Council has made an order to temporarily close the following road:

Road Name: Section of R120 Newcastle Road, Co. Dublin (south of the roundabout at Supervalu to the junction of Castlegate Way).

Date: Sunday 7th September 2025.

Time of Closure: 9:50 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Detour Route: Both Castlegate Way and Adamstown Avenue will be open in one direction. Traffic from the estates will be able to turn left and loop around.

Diversion Route 1 - From N4 onto the R120, left onto Esker Drive via Esker Cottages/ Old Esker Lane.

Diversion Route 2 - From the R136 Outer Ring Road right onto the New Nangor Road R134 and right onto the R120 Newcastle Road.

Diversion Route 3 - Traffic will be diverted to Adamstown Avenue onto the R136 Outer Ring Road.

- Local access to be maintained at all times.
- 24hr emergency access to be maintained at all times.

Web: www.sdcc.ie

Dublin GAA legend Jim Gavin emerges as a possible contender for presidency

DUBLIN GAA legendary figure Jim Gavin has emerged as a contender for the Irish presidency.

While Heather Humphreys (13/8) and Catherine Connolly (5/2) may be the bookies favourites, Gavin isn't far behind, priced at 4/1.

Gavin is currently the chief operations officer of the Irish Aviation Authority and after leading the Dubs to six All-Irelands, his stock is even higher these days after stepping down from that role, due to his public service work, and his chairmanship of the GAA's football rule committee which led to positive changes in the game this year.

Analysts believe the Clondalkin and Round Towers club man ticks many boxes in terms of leadership and public service, as well as having an exemplary character.

If elected President, Gavin would be the first since Douglas Hyde to have no background in politics.

Hyde's term as the first President of Ireland was a long time ago now (1938-45).

The last time a non-political candidate looked likely to win the presidency was businessman Sean Gallagher in 2011, however his independent bid was scuppered in a distasteful manner during the last live broadcast debate.

RTÉ subsequently apologised to Gallagher and paid substantial damages in 2013 over a tweet read out during the Frontline debate.

Reports this week suggest Fianna Fáil is looking over potential candidates to back in the race and will consider the pros and cons of picking a candidate such as Gavin.



SPECULATION: Former Dublin football manager Jim Gavin may be a contender

No date has yet been set for the presidential election, but it needs to be held before November 11 when Michael D Higgins' 14-year term in office officially ends.

No enthusiasm for kerbs at Bawnogue turn

Road is too narrow say residents

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

NEW traffic measures on a major Clondalkin road are causing considerable issues for residents, weeks before they are even complete.

Work is set to finish up in mid-October on the Bawnogue District Centre Enhancement Scheme, which proposes to "upgrade and enhance the local community of Bawnogue, making it more accessible, sustainable, and attractive for residents, businesses, and visitors".

However residents are complaining that the road has been narrowed too much to make way for a segregated cycle route, and that the junction at Bawnogue Road and Lealand Road has been made "too sharp" for traffic to pass through safely.

Natasha McClelland is a resident of Lealand who said she came across the aftermath of a collision at the junction on Friday, August 22, and heard from another neighbour that a second, separate crash had occurred at the Lealand Road/Bawnogue Road junction later that same evening.

"It's a very, very sharp turn, and just two metres back a big wide double-sized bike track starts from nowhere, the junction has been narrowed," she told *The Echo*.

So many people have hit the kerb at the junction that it's black from their tyres, Natasha said.

"I need to go a little bit wider in order not to either clip my back wheel off the kerb or take the nose off the car that's trying to come out, it's very hard, it's impossible."

Work is still ongoing at the junction, and a new road surface is due to be put down which will reduce the height of the kerb.

Natasha hopes to see the council take on board the concerns that she and her neighbours have voiced and incorporate them into the final works.

"They will say they gave the communities a chance to probably participate before, but I don't know, did they really," she said, referring to the Part 8 public consultation that South Dublin County Council ran for the Bawnogue scheme in late 2023, which only got five submissions at the time.

Cllr Eoin Ó Broin (SD) acknowledged the concerns from local residents about the current issues with the junction, but said he looked forward to seeing how things would pan out once all works have been completed.

"Definitely the junction takes some getting used to, when the whole works are finished we'll have a better sense of how it all fits," he said.

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme



PROBLEMS: Residents Emma Lahiff, Lilly Connolly, Paul Kinsella, Nathasha McClelland, Sebastian Tineghe on Tuesday evening at the site of the works

New plans for nursing home at Sally Park in for approval by council

PLANS for a nursing home at the Sally Park Nursing Home, which closed in February 2024, have been submitted to South Dublin County Council.

Oaklands Nursing Homes Ltd submitted a new application for Sally Park Nursing Home, Sally Park Close, Templeogue, Dublin 24.

It seeks planning permission to amend Condition No. 5 of Reg. Ref. WA/389 which states that the building be used as a geriatric nursing home as set out in the application to now state that the building be used as a nursing home for the provision of residential accommodation and care to people in need of care.

There are no works proposed as part of this application.

The 41-bed operated Sally Park Nursing Home closed in 2024 following a HIQA inspection which identified fire and safety risks.

Passage Healthcare operated Sally Park Nursing Home and Lucan Lodge, which was wound up in May 2024, when they HSE stepped in to take interim charge.

A decision on the Oaklands application is due by September 30, 2025.

SDCC
Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas South Dublin County Council

ROADS ACT 1993, SECTION 75

TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF LEIXLIP RD. & MAIN ST. LUCAN VILLAGE, CO. DUBLIN

To facilitate Lucan Festival Committee to hold a Family Fun Day, South Dublin County Council has made an order temporarily close a section of:

Road Name: Leixlip Road and Main Street, Lucan Village.
Date of Closure: Sunday 7th September 2025.
Time of Closure: 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Diversion Route: Leixlip Road, Lucan – Lucan By-Pass – Lucan Road.

- Local access will be maintained.

Web: www.sdcc.ie



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Fifty-year legacy of leadership and great innovation

Dr Denis Murray says farewell to Ballyer FET

STUDENTS and staff at City of Dublin FET College Ballyfermot Road will bid farewell to a familiar face this week.

Dr Denis Murray, vice-principal at the Ballyfermot campus for the last eight years, will retire from a long teaching career this Friday, August 29.

After 33 years teaching at the college, plus over 50 years in the media industry, he retires with a legacy built on innovation, leadership, and an enduring commitment to education and public service.

Dr. Murray holds a BA (Hons) in Psychology and Communications, a Masters in Business Strategy and Marketing, and a PhD in Educational Leadership.

He began his career during the pioneering era of independent Irish radio, serving as Managing Director of Big D Radio in the late 1970s and early 1980s, and went on to produce a number of media projects, including Stick It in Your Ear, Place Your School on the Map, and Boc Dart and the Big D Space Cadets.

His contributions span radio, television, film, photography, print, and graphic design, over decades focused on broadcast production and presentation.

A dedicated educator, Dr. Murray spent over 25 years as Programme Director of the BA (Hons) in Media Production Management at Ballyfermot College of Further Education, part of the City of Dublin Education and Training Board (CDETB).

In addition to curriculum development and student assessment, he mentored countless learners who have gone on to successful careers in the creative industries.

For the past eight years, Dr. Murray has also served with distinction as Deputy Principal at FET College Ballyfermot, where he played a key role in academic leadership and strategic development.

He also led the college's marketing communications efforts, producing dynamic visual content for social media and student outreach, and has served for over 30 years as a national external authenticator with NCVA/FETAC and QQI.

His vision, mentorship, and dedication have made a lasting impact on the CDETB community, and his influence will continue to be felt for years to come.

Following his retirement from FET College Ballyfermot Road, Dr Murray has announced that he will be taking up a new role as Strategic Communications Consultant at Denis Murray Communications.



DISTINCTIONS: Dr Denis Murray Deputy Principal BCFE

Over 51,000 young people get an offer of a college place this week, not really a daunting task to choose



OVER 51,000 young people will have gotten an offer this week from the CAO for a college place for September 2025.

For many more students who have just received their Leaving Cert results, starting straight into a four-year degree may seem like a daunting task, especially if they have missed out on their first choice, or aren't sure what they want to do.

Maria Mann is the outgoing Student Council President at the Ballyfermot Southwest Campus, City of Dublin FET College, who has just completed a three-year Bachelor's in Media Production Management.

She chose to study at the FET College Ballyfermot Road (formerly known as Ballyfermot College of Education) after she struggled with health issues during her Leaving Cert.

"I wasn't sure where I would have been when I started college, and I didn't want to start into a really intense four-year course, and trying to decide what I wanted to do in the future," she told *The Echo.*

She found the atmosphere at Ballyfermot to be very welcoming and accessible, especially when engaging with lecturers, compared to the experiences of friends who had pursued degrees at more traditional third-level institutions.

"I think for most people, you don't know a huge amount about the area you're getting into, you just know the basics," Maria added.

"I found with the FET college, it was much more hands-on. It was like you were working in the field, but you were learning everything, and so you got to understand what it would be like working in the industry to a certain degree," she said.

FET College Ballyfermot Road offers up to 80 courses across three different faculties: Art, Humanities and Creative Media, Business Administration and Law, and Health, Welfare, and Education.

Dr. Denis Murray, deputy principal at the Ballyfermot campus, said that studying a Post Leaving Certificate course can offer a more mindful transition for students moving from second to third level education.

"It can be a little bit overwhelming in the numbers of people, that change," he said.

"When you come in here, it's not like second level either, it's smaller, it's easier to communicate, and the students are really well supported."



CHOICES: Maria Mann, outgoing Student Council President

The college also offers a number of tertiary degrees, where students study for two years at Ballyfermot and then complete their final two years in either TUD or IADT.

Fees for all Level 5 and 6 PLC courses and traineeships at FET College Ballyfermot Road, are only €50. Some courses require a refundable deposit of €100, which, if applicable to your course, is refundable at the end of the academic year when you complete your award and receive certification.

Another advantage highlighted by Dr Murray is that completing a PLC course offers an alternative route through the CAO if students don't get enough points on their first try, with many third-level institutions offering progression links straight into second year if you've completed an appropriate PLC course.

"It depends on what level of course you've finished, if you've done a Level 5, you may well progress to the second year," he explained.

City of Dublin FET College Ballyfermot Road are currently accepting applications for their new autumn term, with classes due to start in mid-September.

Students can check out courses on offer at www.bcfe.ie, or at the next Open Day on Monday, September 1, from 10am to 1pm at the Ballyfermot Road campus.

Both drivers sent to hospital for treatment after two-car collision


ACCIDENT: Emergency services at the scene on Saturday night.
Photo: An Garda Síochána

A TWO-CAR collision in Bohernabreena on Saturday night led to both drivers being taken to hospital for medical treatment.

Dublin Fire Brigade reported five casualties at the scene of the incident, in which firefighters and paramedics from Tallaght attended, along with three ambulances and gardai.

A gardai spokesperson told *The Echo*: "Gardai and emergency services attended a two-vehicle road-traffic collision on Ballinascorney Road Lower, Dublin 24, late yesterday evening, Saturday August 23.

"The collision involved two cars and happened at approximately 10.30pm. No serious injuries were reported. Both drivers were taken to Tallaght Hospital for medical assessment."

Authorities investigate dead birds found in Quarryvale

National Parks & Wildlife Service warns people not to touch sick or dead birds

AN UNUSUAL case of dead birds found in a park is being investigated by authorities.

Two weeks ago, TD Mark Ward (SF) was informed by members of the public that birds were being discovered dead in Quarryvale Park, Dublin 22.

"The following week it happened again so I took a spin over to the park and found some birds scattered around the paths and on the grass," said Deputy Ward.

The Dublin Mid West TD reported the matter to South Dublin County Council and the National Parks and Wildlife Service, receiving word from an inspector who was going over to investigate it on Friday.

While acknowledging he is no "expert" in avian matters, Ward agrees it is an "unusual" situation nonetheless and a social media post he put up on Facebook led to nearly 300 comments.

"I've been a TD since 2016 and have never come across something like this. It is not what you'd expect. There is definitely the remains of birds' feathers which looks like it was destroyed in some of the remains, while other birds are lying on the footpath relatively intact," said Deputy Ward.

"A couple of residents in the area have also reported finding dead birds in their back garden. I have been to parks in Hermitage, Lucan and Ballyowen but have not seen the same thing."

The Echo contacted the National Parks & Wildlife Service and South Dublin County Council for comment.

On July 3, the National Parks & Wildlife Service released a public notice warning people not to touch sick or dead wild birds, and to keep their pets away from them.

A spokesperson for National Parks & Wildlife Service said: "NPWS is aware of the incident, and it is currently under investigation. We are unable to comment further at this time."


WARNING: Mark Ward, TD, showing the remains of a dead bird

> **"A couple of residents in the area have also reported finding dead birds in their back garden. I have been to parks in Hermitage, Lucan and Ballyowen but have not seen the same thing**

SDCC
Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas South Dublin County Council

ACHT NA MBÓITHRE, 1993, ALT 75

DÚNADH SEALADACH BEARTAITHE AR BHÓTHAR CHNOCÁN VÉINEAS, L4026, RÁTH FEARNÁIN, BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 16

Le hoibreacha athnuachana bóthair atá riachtanach a éascú, tá sé beartaithe ag Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas an bóthar seo a leanas a dhúnadh go sealadach:

Ainm an Bhóthair: Bóthar Chnocán Véineas L4026.

Ó: Dé Céadaoin an 17 Meán Fómhair 2025.

Go: Dé hAoine an 19 Meán Fómhair 2025.

Am an Dúnta: 10:00am go dtí 4:00pm.

Malairt Slí: Lána Stoicín R115, Bóthar Bhaile Éamainn R116.

Fad na Malairte Slí: 4.7km.

- Coinneofar rochtain áitiúil ar bun.
- Rochtain éigeandála 24 uair an chloig le coimeád i gcónaí.

Féadfaidh duine ar bith ar spéis leis nó léi barúil/aighneacht i scríbhinn a thabhairt í a chur faoi bhráid an Oifigigh Feidhmiúcháin Shinsearaigh, Talamhúsáid, Pleanáil agus Iompar, Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas, Halla an Chontae, Tamhlacht, Baile Átha Cliath 24 nó ríomhphost a chur chuig seoroads@sdublincoco.ie tráth nach déanaí ná **5.00pm Dé Luain 1 Meán Fómhair 2025.**

ROADS ACT 1993, SECTION 75

PROPOSED TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF MOUNT VENUS RD, L4026, RATHFARNHAM, DUBLIN 16

To facilitate essential road resurfacing works, South Dublin County Council propose to temporarily close the following road:

Road Name: Mount Venus Road L4026.

From: Wednesday 17th September 2025.

To: Friday 19th September 2025.

Time of Closure: 10:00am to 4:00pm.

Detour Route: Stocking Lane R115, Edmonstown Road R116.

Detour Length: 4.7km.

- Local access will be maintained.
- 24hr emergency access to be maintained at all times.

Any person interested may lodge an observation/submission in writing to the Senior Executive Officer, Land Use, Planning and Transportation, South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Tallaght, Dublin 24 or by email to seoroads@sdublincoco.ie no later than **5.00 p.m. on Monday 01st September 2025.**

Web: www.sdcc.ie

Pupils return to classes on their new school site

But some students are still waiting to hear if they have a bus to get them there

PUPILS at Rathcoole Educate Together National School will return to classes this term at their new school site in Newcastle, but some are still waiting to hear if they will have a bus to get them there.

The school opened four years ago at a temporary site in Citywest while they waited for a new permanent campus on the Coolamber Road in Rathcoole.

Staff were handed the keys on Tuesday, August 26, for their new temporary site on Graydon Road in Newcastle for the 25/26 school year, while the permanent Rathcoole site is under construction.

"Another step in the right direction," the school said in a social media post. "We look forward to staff returning tomorrow and children coming on Friday."

As parents prepare to send their children to the new site, question marks still hang over whether a school bus service will be provided for getting them there.

Parents were informed earlier this year that a private coach service, operating in place of an official school bus service to the Citywest site, would not carry over.

They were told to go to the official Bus Éireann school bus portal and register there using the location of the temporary Newcastle site, but were told they were ineligible, as Citywest Educate Together was in fact their closest school.



NEW SITE: The site for Rathcoole NS temporary building in Newcastle and (inset) Principal Gemma Maher recieving the keys to the new school building in Newcastle

One parent who spoke to *The Echo* described her despair at the incredibly "frustrating" situation over the summer, as they struggled to get an answer from either the Department of Education or Bus Eireann.

"The eligibility test on our system shows that your selected school Rathcoole Educate Together is 4.748km from your home address to the school. The closest school to your home address is Citywest Educate Together National School at 4.683km in distance," an email sent to the parent said.

Speaking to *The Echo* again this week, she explained that at some point over the summer, the new site had been changed to "eligible" on Bus Eireann's online portal.

"So everybody got back on, applied again, paid our €50, and continued to wait," she said.

"We didn't get any contact from Bus Eireann, as far as the school is concerned, we're all still waiting."

In a social media post dated August 20, the school said that a bus had been confirmed for "those coming from Citywest Hotel", and that they were waiting for "final sanction for a bus for the CityWest/Rathcoole area".

"There's no bus for Friday, there's no bus for next week," the parent continued, adding that the uncertainty means she can't book after school clubs for her child either.

"Parents had been unsure whether to send their kids to other schools that would be easier to get to, I don't know what they've done, but yeah, we're all not sure how our kids are getting to school."

Prospect House under the spotlight

PLANS for a development on lands at Prospect House – a Protected Structure – on Stocking Lane, Rathfarnham, is under consideration by the planning authority in South Dublin County Council.

An application was submitted by MSJA Ltd and contain proposals for the repair and partial reconstruction of the existing detached single storey Gate Lodge of Prospect House.

Plans also include the construction of a single-storey rear extension to the Gate Lodge to provide for a one-bedroom detached dwelling, and the construction of eight three-storey, four-bedroom houses within the walled garden.

All homes will be provided with a private garden space to the rear.

The demolition of part of the wall to Stocking Lane will create a new vehicular exit and pedestrian and cycle connection to Stocking Lane.

Prospect House itself will remain as a single dwelling unit, according to the planning application.

A decision on the application is due by October 6.





Supermarket chain pushes for changes to Cuckoo's Nest plans

Tesco is seeking alterations to enable them to provide an off-licence sales area

TESCO Ireland has applied to South Dublin County Council for alterations to an approved planning permission at The Cuckoo's Nest on Greenhills Road.

The supermarket chain seeks alterations to the retail unit as permitted under a previously approved plan, for the provision of an off-licence sales area of 21sqm within the permitted retail unit.

Minor external alterations to the Greenhills Road (shopfront) elevation are also sought to include an automatic sliding entrance door, signage and vinyl window coverings.

In 2023, planning was granted for extension and renovation of The Cuckoo's Nest public house – retaining the original front part of the building and re-establishing a public house/gastro pub use at ground and first-floor level.

The site, which contains the original Cuckoo's Nest house, was bought by the Lynch Family in the 1960s and ceased trading on May 20, 2015.

The Mulvaney brothers from Walkinstown purchased the pub in July 2021, for a sum believed to be in the region of €1.2 million from previous owner Michael Keogh who built the Temple Woods housing development on the site.

Work on the redevelopment of the Cuckoo's Nest has been moving along with a new roof installed on the original house last December.

At the time, developers called it an "essential step in preserving the character of the building" while turning their focus to the internal build-out.

The development consists of the construction of a 3- and 4-storey building to the side and rear of the existing building, which will accommodate public house use at ground floor, with "retail/shop local use" also at ground floor.

Plans also contain proposals for 11 apartments to be built overhead, comprised of five one-bed apartments and six two-bed apartments.

A decision on the Tesco Ireland application is due from council planners by October 13, 2025.

"Work on the redevelopment of the Cuckoo's Nest has been moving along with a new roof installed on the original house last December. At the time, developers called it an 'essential step in preserving the character of the building' while turning their focus to the internal build-out



DECISION: The Cuckoo's Nest has already had a new roof installed on the original house

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GOOD JOB: The e-bikes and scramblers seized and (inset) the drone and liquid THC that was captured

E-scooters, scramblers and e-bikes seized in Day of Action

Nine residences were searched and €10k worth of liquid THC was also found

SEVEN e-bikes, six e-scooters, and scramblers, suspected of being used in criminality activity, were seized by gardaí during a Day of Action.

A total of nine residences were searched in the Clondalkin, Ballyfermot, Rathcoole and Blanchardstown areas by the Serious Crime South Functional Area with support from local Community Engagement members.

The searches on Friday, August 22 also resulted in the seizure of €10,000 worth of liquid THC, subject to analysis, a UAV drone, cannabis worth €500 and a bicycle.

According to a garda statement: "The seized drugs will be sent to Forensic Science Ireland (FSI) for examination and analysis.

"A male [aged 20] was arrested and subsequently charged with an offence under the Road Traffic Act 1961 and bailed to appear before the Criminal Courts of Justice next month.

"Three other individuals were arrested on foot of live bench warrants".

Gardaí say investigations are ongoing.

New garda recruits sworn in for deployment around the state

Out the 154 new gardai, 26 come from nationalities around the world

UP TO 154 gardai were attested as sworn members of An Garda Síochána this week.

Deployments from the new recruits will include seven members allocated to DMR West (Clondalkin, Lucan, Ronanstown, Finglas, Blanchardstown) and five members allocated to DMR South, with three for Tallaght and two for Crumlin.

Of the 154 new recruits, Gardai say 26 were born outside the state and include nationalities such as Australia, Belarus, Brazil, England, Germany, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, Northern Ireland, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania, and the United States.

TD Mark Ward (SF) has said that the government is failing to make any progress at tackling the recruitment and retention crisis in AGS after new figures show that there are 140 fewer gardai stationed in Dublin compared to 2020.

The figures were released to Sinn Féin in response to a Parliamentary Question.

"We have too few gardaí to police our communities," said Deputy Ward, party spokesperson for community safety and youth justice.

"There was a lot of fanfare from Minister O'Callaghan earlier in the year about the recruitment drive. But nothing has been achieved in terms of increasing the number of gardaí available to police the streets of Dublin. In fact, there has only been an increase of three gardaí in Dublin since December just before the Minister took up the role.

"There are serious problems in terms of recruitment and retention which the Minister is simply not addressing.

"Large numbers may be applying to join the gardai but no intake over the last two years has seen the training college operating at full capacity. The government is nowhere near reaching its target of training 1,000 gardai a year."

According to the statistics provided to Sinn Féin, as of May 2025, there was a total of 273 gardai attached to Tallaght station, 203 in Clondalkin and 192 in Lucan.

The Clondalkin figure includes 75 gardai in Ballyfermot, 11 in Rathcoole and 117 in Clondalkin.

The Lucan figure includes 94 in Lucan and 98 in Ronanstown.

Deputy Ward believes there needs to be a "significant increase" in the garda training allowance.

"To address the retention crisis there also needs to be a focus on addressing the current disincentives that exist in terms of retaining those gardaí who have 30 or more years service of which there are now over 1,000," added Ward.



"There was a lot of fanfare from Minister O'Callaghan earlier in the year . . . But nothing has been achieved in terms of the number of gardaí available to police the streets of Dublin. In fact, there has only been an increase of three gardaí in Dublin since December

Medals galore for transplant recipients at World Games

Games are described as ‘a celebration of a second chance of life’ for athletes

THE Irish team at the World Transplant Games brought 28 medals home showing that “there is a light at the end of the tunnel.”

Made of 28 athletes all being transplant recipients, the Transplant Sport Ireland team won 11 gold, 12 silver and five bronze medals at the World Games held in Dresden, Germany from Saturday, August 16 to Sunday, August 24.

Pamela Cassidy, a woman from Dublin 16, won gold in golf and silver in javelin. She commented, “My life changed immensely for the better when I received that call from my transplant coordinator in Beaumont.

“My energy levels are still increasing, being able to eat a normal diet is wonderful.

“There isn’t a day that passes that I don’t think of my donor and the selfless decision of their family at such an awful time for them.”

Two men from Rathfarnham, Sean Beirne and Mark Mulhall, were also part of the team.

“Competing is very important to me,” said Mark. “It's nearly 25 years since my transplant and I want to show people who are going through what I went through that there is light at the end of the tunnel and a chance to live a full and active life post-transplant.”

With over 2000 athletes competing in over 17 sports, the World Transplant Games are the sporting pinnacle of the world transplant community, catering to both high-performance and social athletes.

These Games are “a celebration of a second chance of life, demonstrating the success of transplant surgery and promoting the need to raise public awareness of organ and tissue donation.”



SUCCESS: Members of the Ireland team at the World Transplant Games

> **“Each and every athlete competing gave it their all. Whilst it’s not all about the medals for us, but about showcasing the success of Organ Donation ...**

They also offer an outlet to transplant recipients to meet people who can fully understand what they’ve been through in an exciting and fun atmosphere.

Following the games, Transplant Sport Ireland said they are “very proud of all its athletes who powerfully showcase that Organ Donation works and that it saves lives.”

Team Manager Harry Ward from Baldoyle said, “It was a great World Games for Transplant Sport Ireland. Each and every athlete competing gave it their all. Whilst it’s not all about the medals for us, but about showcasing the success of Organ Donation, we are still delighted with our 28 medals and the breaking of a World record in the 800m.”

According to TSI there are on average between 550 and 600 people active on waiting lists for organ transplants including heart, lung, liver, bone marrow, kidney, and pancreas.

TSI encourages everyone to have ‘the Conversation’ in relation to organ donation with friends and family.

For more information, visit www.transplantsportireland.ie and TSI’s social media. To get involved, email transplantsportireland@gmail.com.

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Emergency Department in Tallaght Hospital 'a nightmare'

Figures obtained show waiting times have gone up by 43 per cent over the last five years

WAITING TIMES in Tallaght University Hospital's Emergency Department (ED) have increased by 43 per cent over the last five years.

TD Ciarán Ahern (Lab) has called on Minister for Health Jennifer Carroll MacNeill to urgently intervene after obtaining the figures, which show ED waiting times growing from an average of 3.5 hours to 5 hours since 2020.

"The A&E in Tallaght hospital has been a nightmare for years and under Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael it's only getting worse. An almost 50 per cent increase in waiting times to be seen by a doctor in just five years is completely unacceptable," said Deputy Ahern.

"And that's only where the patient is actually seen. We know that many people simply give up after waiting hours on end.

"I'm constantly hearing from people who have spent upwards of 12 hours waiting to be seen and then all too often have to go through the indignity of spending the night on a trolley in an overcrowded corridor. I know of one patient who had to wait 48 hours in A&E.

"The brilliant staff in the hospital are doing their level best to accommodate everyone and the care, when received, is second to none, but they're being stretched, facing enormous amount of pressure and stress with very limited resources.

"The Minister needs to get a handle on this. The winter months will soon be approaching and the problem is only going to get worse unless urgent intervention happens now."

"The causes of these long wait-times are obvious – not enough beds in TUH, no public local injury unit, insufficient nursing home spaces and a serious lack of community care. There's 40 per cent fewer GPs in the hospital's catchment area in Dublin South-West than the national average."

> **"The Minister needs to get a handle on this. The winter months will soon be approaching and the problem is only going to get worse unless urgent intervention happens now**



SERIOUS PROBLEMS: Tallaght University Hospital Emergency Department waiting times growing

Call-out to businesses to secure wood and pallets at Halloween to prevent illegal bonfires

BUSINESSES should play their part in protecting the local environment this Halloween season, said a Tallaght councillor.

This week, Fianna Fáil councillor for Tallaght Central, Adam Smyth, has called for businesses to help prevent the rise in illegal bonfires around Halloween night in the area.

He asked all businesses to "safely secure wood and pallets and other combustible materials at this time of the year," as they would normally be collected or stolen from them to set up fires.

Cllr Smyth sent out a letter addressed to local business owners.

"We have some fantastic residents' associations, Tidy Towns groups and other neighbourhood groups, who have transformed our community spaces and green areas, which we all enjoy and benefit from," he said.

"And already we have seen one bonfire in Kilnamanagh, much to the frustration of the local resident association which has done such fantastic work in their area.

"With business and community groups working together, we can vastly reduce the incidents of these bonfires, which not only destroy our beautiful green areas and parklands, but regularly cause injury to our residents and chaos for our emergency services on bonfire night."

According to Cllr Smyth, SDCC spend in the region of €150,000 each year between clean-ups and repairs after bonfire night, which "could be better used."

Last Halloween, 92 of the 218 bonfires occurring across South Dublin County were in Tallaght, and the council spent €65,000 for clean-up costs.

Last October, 255.2 tonnes of bonfire materials were collected, including October 31 and the bank holiday weekend.

While releasing this data earlier in 2025, SDCC also highlighted that burnt earth takes "approximately 18 months" to recover.

Cllr Smyth concluded, "We need both the community and business to play their part, along with the council, to reduce this scourge. If we all stay aware, report any buildup of materials, and let it be known that we don't want these bonfires, we can make a difference here."



WARNING: Gardai supporting council workers while collecting bonfire material on Mayberry Road coming from industrial estates

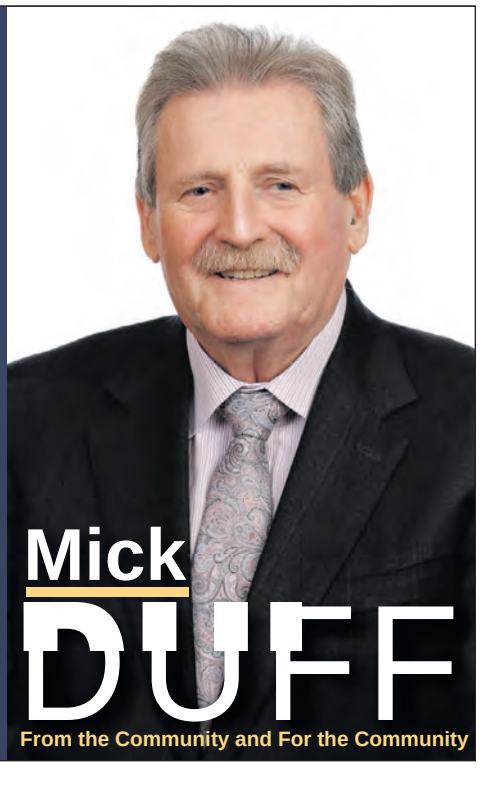
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Butchers closes after 51 years serving locals

Popular McLoughlin's will close it's doors after opening in 1994

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



CLOSING: Michael McLoughlin with staff from McLoughlin butchers outside their shop in The Mill Centre in Clondalkin

IT SEEMS a week doesn't by these days when another local Irish business is forced to close for financial reasons.

Since covid, inflation, rising costs, and many other things, has made life more difficult for the little guys who are the backbone of local communities.

McLoughlin's Butchers in Clondalkin are the latest case and will close for the final time on Saturday, August 30, after 31 years serving the community.

It is especially poignant as the business, started by Michael McLoughlin was one of the first outlets in the Mill Shopping Centre when it first opened in 1994.

"Costs," concedes Michael flatly upstairs at the premises with a resigned air of a man who has seen a lot of changes in 52 years of the business.

"The last couple of years beef has had a huge increase in price, lamb is up, products are generally up, along with utilities, ESB, it's the same for everyone else. Rent is very strong."

Double checking the numbers with the accuracy of a fine cut, Michael confirms beef is up 25-28 per cent in the last nine months.

It is an intolerable situation.

"Covid changed everything. It changed the way people shop. With restrictions on how many could come in to a store, there would be one-hour queues, all the way out into the car park and around the corner, of people waiting to get into Dunnes and after that they would not be queuing up again to get in here," recalls Michael.

The modern-day environment is a long way from where Michael started, helping out his father Joe, who ran his own butchers in Ballyfermot.

"He opened that in 1966 and it closed three years ago. When we started here in 1994 households were bigger, they had 4/5 kids, probably only 25 per cent women worked, now 90 per cent of parents are working. It has impacted lifestyle. People can't afford to have kids."

Ballyfermot brings up Doyle's vegetable shop, which closed last year after 58 years in the community, owner Kevin junior telling *The Echo* at the time that a lot of people get their veg in the supermarket nowadays for convenience, skipping the little guy.

"People are wealthier, but they haven't got time," remarks Michael.

"They go for convenience products. We do a lot of tray products, ready meals, they are a good seller. No washing involved, no preparing dinner for an hour, just pop it in the oven.

"In Ballyfermot, the women would come in twice a day. They had no fridge at home so would come in for the lunch food and then again for the dinner.

"Years ago it was generally the women who cooked the Christmas turkey but half our sales at Christmas now are cooked turkeys. All you have to do is cut it and add veg and have a few drinks."

Over the years McLoughlin's employed over 200 people and today it is 14 staff.

"They have all got jobs lined up. They were all approached, got multiple offers," said Michael.

"The staff have been great here since the very start. Two guys are here 31 years, Gabbi the cook 19 years, Colin eight years, some have been here 10/15/20 years. They have been the backbone of the business, kept things together, guided the young fellas.

"When we started here there was no Lidl or Aldi in Ireland. Superquinn had a store in Lucan, Blanchardstown wasn't built yet nor Liffey Valley. There was always chippers but now there are loads of takeaways. People used to go to the pub for a pint and get something to eat on the way home, but now they can have dinner in the pub."

Having been in the business for many years Michael sees it as a massive "cultural change and societal change."

"We have a unique business here, which all small businesses have. We specialise in meat but we also have relationships with our customers, talk to Ms Murphy. Supermarkets can't provide that. Losing a butcher is like losing a post office or a doctor, you lose that relationship. Local businesses can't compete with the bigger guys but we need small businesses. They are integral to the community."

McLoughlin lists off five butchers that operated in Clondalkin when he started in the Mill, but only one remains after Saturday – Pat Donovan in Neilstown.

Pat Collins, Jack Fagan and Jack Farrell are the other three closures in recent years.

"We need to look at ourselves. In the future there will still be a butcher but maybe not in all areas."

The rent review lease that Michael had meant he could only pass the unit on to another butcher, and although two lads looked at it, they decided to pass considering the costs involved.

"I've four kids but they are all doing really well in their own careers in different fields. They have a great work ethos, something a lot of young people are not getting these days. Today, a young person might start their first job at 25. It is important for young people to mix with older people in the workforce, deal with customers, maybe they will be good with money and learn the value of it."

Looking ahead, Michael will enjoy his first Christmas off in 52 years and pop by to look into the window of a butchers with interest.

"I suppose I'll travel a bit. I have a brother and sister in Australia, grandkids in London. I'm not happy we are closing, I would have loved if it had gone to another butcher, but we have been very lucky here, great staff and customers."

'How can you hope to raise a family?' says Sinn Féin deputy

RENTS in South County Dublin are rising at higher rates than the average across the state and 7.9 per cent year on year – proof that the government has no interest in solving the crisis, according to TD Seán Crowe (SF).

"The latest Daft.ie report shows that rents in south county Dublin are up 7.9 per cent year on year and is only further proof that this government has no interest in solving the rents crisis that is tormenting workers and families," said Deputy Crowe.

"With big commercial landlords and investment firms hoovering up 75 per cent of all new builds in Dublin last year, this means that hundreds of thousands of people are trapped in a rental market where yearly increases rapidly outpace any rise in wages.

"A two-bed in Tallaght now costs almost €22,000 a year if you were to sign the lease today. How can you hope to raise a family in our own place when it takes a whole wage to afford a roof over your heads?

"This is a landlord government with a landlord agenda. They refuse to build social and affordable homes that would allow us to break the cycle and have a housing and rental market that serves the people rather than the other way round."

Echoopinion...

Take time making the right decision

THERE can be a terrifying finality to filling out the CAO – after all you're not just picking a course to study for four years, you're also potentially choosing your career and your life for a good chunk of the coming years.

Students who received their CAO offers on Wednesday afternoon have seven days to choose to accept the course offered to them, whether it's their first preference or not.

A wise way to use these next seven days, for both students and their parents, would be to explore alternative options for post Leaving Cert qualifications, such as PLC courses and apprenticeships.

PLC or Post Leaving Certificate courses are often one year or two-year qualifications that can not only offer more practical and hands on training than a degree but often have links with degree courses in universities.

You can use a PLC qualification as an alternative to apply again on the CAO for a course that you may not have gotten enough points for, and some degrees will allow you to join straight into second year if you've already completed a year in a relevant PLC.

These courses are often also much cheaper than a first year or semester of a degree, giving you the option to try out a field of work or study to make sure it's right for you.

Skilled tradespeople are highly sought after not only in Ireland these days but on the global market too, making apprenticeships in more practical industries a lot more attractive than they may have been in the past, and perhaps even more so than a degree.

Of course, students can always choose to defer the place they have been offered for a year, giving them time to get a job to earn money, try something different or even just buy more time to work out what they actually want.

Decisions will be made in the coming days that will affect a lot of lives for many years, so take the time that you have to make sure it's the right one.

Guide 'the future development and growth of Clondalkin'

SOUTH Dublin County Council are inviting the public to have their say about a proposed Local Planning Framework (LPF) for the Clondalkin area, *reports Ellen Gough.*

A Draft Clondalkin LPF is now live on the council website for members of the public to view and make submissions to, to help guide "the future development and growth of Clondalkin".

The purpose of this plan is to provide policy and objectives to guide the sustainable growth of Clondalkin and ensure its continuous success as a vibrant urban village with associated commercial, cultural and community facilities to serve the existing and growing population, the council said.

"To achieve sustainable growth, we need to protect and preserve the important features of the historic village and support the strong tourism and service industries which depend on its historic identity".

The planning framework is based on an objective outlined in the council's South Dublin County Development Plan 2022-2028, which calls for a Local Area Plan for Clondalkin.

It aims to incorporate "a vision for the development of Clondalkin, wider urban design principles, framework plans for larger infill sites" and a Green local infrastructure strategy.

It also includes conservation plans and a Local Travel Plan, which proposes an extension of the Luas Red Line from the Red Cow to Lucan via Clondalkin, as well as a "long-term higher capacity public transport route" along the R113 and Fonthill Road through Clondalkin Village.

The council will hold three in-person public information drop-in clinics during the public consultation period for the LPF, from Tuesday, August 26 until Monday, September 29.

Council staff will be available to answer queries during two drop-in clinics at the Clondalkin Civic Office, Ninth Lock Road on Thursday, September 4 and Wednesday, September 10, and at the Round Tower Visitor Centre (Brú Chrónáin) on Wednesday evening, September 17.The plans will be on display at Clondalkin Library and the council's planning offices in Tallaght, as well as on consult.sdublincoco.ie where the public can submit their views and opinions.

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Brittas Tractor Run with over 60 vehicles a great success

Afterwards in the Brittas Community Centre over 16 crafters showed off their wares

THE wet weather didn't dampen the spirits at the Brittas Tractor Run that came back on Saturday with over 60 vehicles on display.

Forty tractors, twenty vintage cars and trucks from local businesses participated to support the rural village which aimed at raising enough money to build fencing at the local sports pitch.

"We haven't finalised our counting yet, but there has been a huge financial support to the event this year and we're hopeful that we will get the fencing," said Siobhan Foster from the organising committee at Brittas Community Association.

As Brittas "doesn't usually qualify" for grants for community facilities, the money raised at the Tractor Run means a lot to the area, Siobhan explained ahead of the event.

The tragic death of a local farmer this year had the event postponed of a couple of weeks to Saturday, August 23, but the family "gave their blessing" for the event to go along and attended on the day, said Siobhan.

Following the run, locals turned to the Brittas Community Centre to enjoy activities with 16 different crafters, local businesses and charities' stands, music entertainment and food and drinks.

"I have to give a special mention to 'The Good Look', a new local youth band," said Siobhan.

"People were happy to come in and do a bit of dancing, and a lot of families and kids were in attendance and stayed until late."

Prizes were given to the best runners, with the Hudson Brothers winning 'best turned-out truck,' and John Murphy and his restored Nuffield winning 'best turned-out tractor.'

Rathcoole man John Eagers and his Model T Ford were awarded 'Best Vintage Car' while John McGowan of Manor Kilbride had the 'Oldest Tractor,' a 1949 Ferguson 20.

Minister of Public Expenditure Emer Higgins, Fianna Fáil local TD Shane Moynihan and Fine Gael local councillors Shirley O'Hara and Sarah Barnes attended the event, while many local businesses provided prizes for the successful raffle.

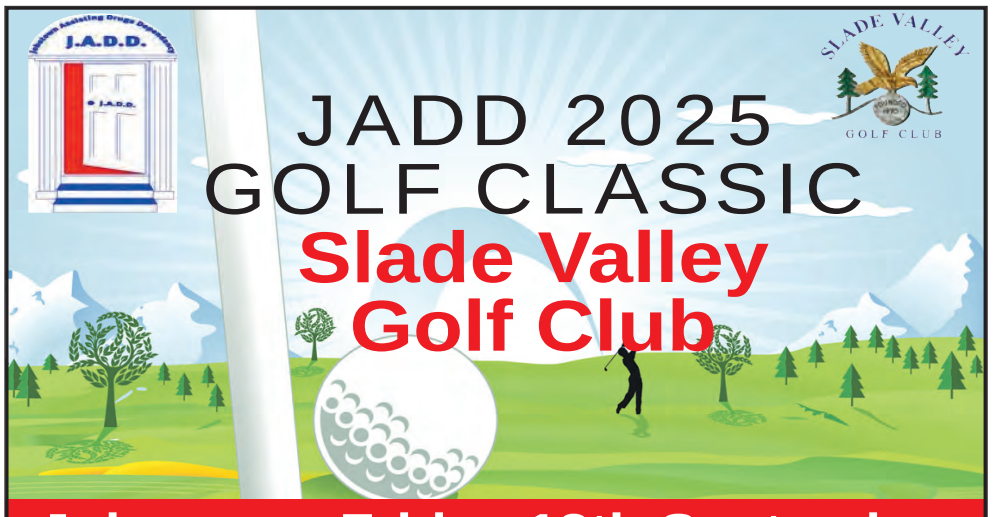
"We got vouchers for driving lessons, restaurants, hair salons, and many others," said Siobhan.

"It has been tremendous to see everyone rooting for us."

"We haven't finalised our counting yet, but there has been a huge financial support to the event this year and we're hopeful that we will get the fencing



FUNDRAISER: Sandra Mansfield and Helen Campbell enjoying the Tractor Run



Join us on Friday 12th September

Join us for the Golf Classic Fundraiser in support of the JADD Project CLG, a community-based addiction service that is committed to helping people, families and children affected by substance use. Our services provide vital emotional support, early intervention, and dedicated respite breaks that offer children a chance to just be kids, safe, supported, and free to enjoy moments of peace and fun. Every swing you take helps fund brighter futures for vulnerable young people in our community.

Venue: Slade Valley Golf Club
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Over €360 raised at Ciaran McDonnell Cup for Cardiac Risk



ENJOYABLE: The players involved in the Ciaran McDonnell Memorial Cup match

ABOUT €360 was raised at the 12th Ciaran McDonnell Memorial Cup in Kingswood, to be donated to Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY).

A "very enjoyable day" for the community, said organisers, the Cup is held annually to remember local man Ciaran McDonnell who passed away to sudden cardiac death in 2010.

Kingswood Castle FC, the organising club, played 'Team Kiwi' named after Ciaran's nickname and made up of his friends and family members on the Ballymount Park pitch on Saturday, August 16.

Senior Men and Women's teams from Kingswood Castle participated in the Cup and the team won 9-7, an "exciting fixture" followed by a raffle held in the Kingswood Lodge Pub.

"It was great to see all the familiar faces, and to see how supported this memorial cup is after 12 years," said Sharlene Kennedy, Chairperson at Kingswood Castle FC.

Ciaran's mother Dolores's "lovely" presentation in front of the big attending crowd contributed to "a special day all round," as the community came together to remember "a fine young man."

"Thank you to everyone who participated, played, sold tickets, helped out and went out of their way to make this day a special occasion, until next year," said the club online.

The proceeds going to CRY in Ciaran's memory will help raise awareness on Young Sudden Cardiac Deaths and Sudden Adult Death Syndrome and how to get checked and access prevention.

Two found with €1.2 million worth of cannabis remanded

Father of two faces additional charges over a further 32 kgs found at his address

By **Tom Tuite**
news@echo.ie

TWO MEN have been remanded in custody after a €1.1m cannabis seizure in Tallaght, Dublin, on Friday.

Ross Kelly, 26, of Marlfield Terrace, and 53-year-old Terence O'Reilly, with an address at Knockmore Grove, both in Tallaght, were charged with possessing drugs for sale or supply over a seizure of 25 kilogrammes of cannabis at Whitestown Way.

Mr Kelly, a father of two, had additional charges over the seizure of a further 32 kilogrammes of cannabis at his home address. It follows an interception and search operation by the Garda National Drugs and Organised Crime Bureau.

They appeared before Judge Peter White at Dublin District Court on Saturday evening.

He held that it was not necessary to refuse bail and strict conditions could be imposed on the pair, who await directions from the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Bail was set in their bonds of €500, and each man requires approval of independent sureties, set at €10,000 for Mr Kelly and €6,000 for his co-accused.



FOUND: The drugs seized by gardai in Tallaght.
Photo: An Garda Síochána

Detective Garda Gavin Curran and Conor Tuite alleged there were three boxes containing cannabis valued €500,000 in a vehicle driven by O'Reilly, the father of three; more boxes with €640,000 worth of the drug were found in Mr Kelly's bedroom.

They were granted legal aid and held with consent to bail to appear at Cloverhill District Court on Friday.

They remained silent and have yet to plead to the charges, which are likely to be sent to the Circuit Court, which has greater sentencing powers.

A contested bail hearing was told that Mr Kelly was involved in the large-scale storage and distribution of cannabis.

Detective Garda Curran maintained that Mr Kelly, who was visibly upset in court, was a "trusted member" of a criminal enterprise, but he accepted that he was not a high-end figure.

Detective Garda Tuite alleged that former taxi driver Mr O'Reilly was a "key logistics man". He added that Mr O'Reilly refused to give gardai the code to unlock his phone, which was a tactic used by sophisticated criminal organisations to disrupt police investigations.

Defence counsel Kevin McCrave stressed the two men had lived for decades in the same area and had children. He stressed they had the presumption of innocence, had no other charges pending, and could face a lengthy period in custody pending their trial if applications were denied.

The judge heard Mr Kelly was involved in boxing and helped young people, and nothing was found in he home of the co-accused when it was searched.

Legal aid was granted. On taking up bail, the pair must surrender their passports, refrain from communicating with each other, remain contactable by phone, and sign in daily at their local Garda station.



Fatal crash: gardai seek N7 footage

A TRUCK driver died in a fatal collision with two cars on the N7 on Friday evening.

Gardaí and emergency services attended the scene on the N7 Westbound at Rathcoole shortly after 6.40pm.

The male driver of the truck was pronounced dead at the scene, and his body was removed to the mortuary at Whitehall where a post-mortem examination is due to take place.

Five other people involved in the incident were taken to hospital to be treated for injuries believed to be non-life-threatening.

The road was closed for examination by Garda Forensic Collision Investigators but has reopened now while investigations are ongoing.

Gardaí are appealing to anyone who may have witnessed the collision between the truck and the two cars to contact them.

Any road users with camera footage, including dash-cam, who were travelling on the N7 near Rathcoole between 6.30pm and 7pm on Friday, August 22, are asked to make this footage available to investigating Gardaí.

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

Raising awareness of drugs, alcohol and good recovery

International Recovery Month begins next Monday with Colour Run

THE Tallaght Drugs and Alcohol Task Force will launch International Recovery Month on Monday, September 1, to "celebrate recovery" and "supporting hope."

Across different venues in Tallaght, next month will be "a time to celebrate the gains made by those in recovery and to raise awareness that recovery is possible for everyone," explained Jacqueline Sheehy from TDATF.

The initiative will be launched at Tallaght Rehabilitation Project in Kiltalown House, starting at 11am.

During the day, expert guest speakers will highlight the impact that substance use has on individuals and families of the community, followed by testimonials and information sessions on the available mental health resources.

The month will kick off with two powerful events, a Colour Run organised by the youth group Connect4 at MacUilliam on September 4 and JADD's Got Talent on September 12.

Recovery will be then talked through at TRP, at a breakfast morning with Recovery Talk in St Dominic's and in Rua Red where TDATF is holding a 'Learning to Live Again' talk.



CELEBRATE: Recovery Month takes place during September

> "The month will kick off with two powerful events, a Colour Run organised by the youth group Connect4 at MacUilliam on September 4 and JADD's Got Talent on September 12

Later in the month, a Tattoo event in collaboration with Bella Ciao will be held at CARP in Killinarden while the HSE service YODA will host a Recovery Coffee Morning for service providers.

The 'Mothers in Recovery' Group will meet at the Russell Building as the last event before the annual 'Recovery Walk' that typically wraps up the month.

This year, the walk from CARP to Jobstown Park will be part of 'Recovery Festival,' on Saturday, September 27, meaning it will be followed by games, entertainment, food and drinks at the finish line.

The programme is a mix of guest speakers opening up about their recovery journeys, educational workshops to fight the stigma and myths still surrounding addiction, support group meetings and community events where people can come together, celebrate and connect.

The events are open to everyone unless stated otherwise, whether participants are in recovery, supporting someone who is or simply want to be part of it.

For detailed information and to have a look at the whole programme, visit www.tallaghtdatf.ie and follow their Facebook and Instagram pages.



SUMMER MARKETS

Tymon Park North

AFRICA DAY
24.05.2025

CULTURAL FOOD DAY
24.08.2025

CIRCUS SPECTACULAR
27.07.2025

MAGICAL PRINCESS AND SUPERHERO DAY
22.06.2025

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

SCAN ME

30+ HOT FOOD ARTISAN & CRAFT STALLS

AFRICA DAY
24/05/2025 (SATURDAY)
MAGICAL PRINCESS AND SUPERHERO DAY
22/06/2025 (SUNDAY)
CIRCUS SPECTACULAR
27/07/2025 (SUNDAY)
CULTURAL FOOD DAY
24/08/2025 (SUNDAY)

2025 Dublin MARKET EVENTS

OPENING TIMES:
11AM-3PM
E: dublinmarketevents@gmail.com

Demand for ban on 'harmful' nitrous oxide drug



Discarded Nitrous Oxide canister in Fettercairn, Tallaght

Drug has been linked to multiple deaths of young people across Europe

CALLS have been made for the Irish government to ban the sale of nitrous oxide after the EU passed an act classifying the gas as harmful to the human reproductive system.

Also known as laughing gas, nitrous oxide has several uses, such as an anaesthetic gas when mixed with air, to inflate balloons or in small silver cartridges for use in whipped cream canisters known as "whippets".

These whippets are the most common form of the drug that people use recreationally, and recreational use has soared in Ireland in recent years.

The Clondalkin Youth Drug and Alcohol Project (YDAP) has reported teens as young as 12 years presenting to their service for treatment for nitrous oxide use.

It has also been linked to multiple deaths of young people across Europe, including the tragic death of 15-year-old Tallaght teenager Alex Ryan Morrisey, who was found dead after apparently ingesting the substance in May 2020.

A recently passed European Union Delegated Act has now classified the substance as harmful and the European Commission plans to update existing restrictions on its sale.

Dublin Mid West TD Mark Ward (SF) is calling on the government not to wait for the EU regulations and to prohibit the sale of nitrous oxide products to the general public now.

"Studies have shown the harm to reproduction that medical and dental staff faced when exposed to small amounts of the gas in the course of their work. These studies showed decreased fertility in these workers," Deputy Ward said.

"My fear is that people are using nitrous oxide as a quick high and they are taking much more concentrated doses of the gas than the staff in those studies.

Nitrous oxide is not currently a controlled substance under the Misuse od Drugs Act 1977 but is classed as a psychoactive substance which is illegal to sell for human consumption in Ireland.

Deputy Ward has drafted legislation to ban the sale of the gas to the public and is calling for cooperation from the government to ensure that this happens in a timely manner.

"There is no reason why the government needs to wait for the go-ahead from Europe, we already know its harms," he added.

"We have all seen the amount of discarded nitrous oxide cannisters in our areas increase, going from the small silver bullets to the larger industrial cannisters.

"This cannot wait. Nitrous oxide must be regulated so that the general public are protected."

Go-ahead for Speaker Conolly apartment units development

Fifty-five apartments and five commercial units for historic site

AN COIMISIÚN Pleanála (ACP) has granted permission for apartment development at the Speaker Conolly pub site in Firhouse with revised conditions.

Developer Seabren Developments Limited, whose director Michael Moran is related to the Red Cow Hotel owners, secured permission from South Dublin County Council in March.

A third-party appeal was lodged in early April by resident Sean McCarthy, who questioned the "monumental height" of the development and said it would be "out of kilter" with any other building on the southside of the Firhouse Road.

"The scale and density proposed would seriously injure the existing transport and amenities in the area," Mr McCarthy wrote.

The planning authority finally granted permission for the development with revised conditions on Monday, August 11.

The historical Firhouse pub will be demolished along with its ancillary stores and structures to be replaced by 55 apartments and five commercial units, on a development site of 0.32 hectares.

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

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

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

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

Twenty-five parking spaces will be provided including two accessible spaces and two car-share spaces, car-parking along the internal access road, electric vehicle charging points, and 104 bicycle-parking spaces. Infrastructural services and connections to existing public services will be provided, such as ducting, waste management, stormwater management, signage, public lighting, solar panels as well as antennas.

In the conditions set by ACP, the developer's obligations to comply with standards in terms of construction, road safety, visual amenity, waste and property management, and public health were outlined.



CHANGES: An artist's impression of the Speaker Conolly plans

SDCC
Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas South Dublin County Council

FÓGRA MAIDIR LE COMHAIRLIÚCHÁN POIBLÍ I DTACA LE HATHRÚ BEARTAITHE UIMH. 1 AR AN BPLEAN FORBARTHA CONTAE DON DRÉACHTCHREAT UM PLEANÁIL ÁITIÚIL CHLUAIN DOLCÁIN

AN TACHT UM PLEANÁIL AGUS FORBAIRT, 2000 (ARNA LEASÚ)

FÓGRA FAOI ALT 13 (2) DEN ACHT UM PLEANÁIL & FORBAIRT 2000 (ARNA LEASÚ)

Tugann Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas, mar údarás pleanála, fógra leis seo de bhun Alt 13(2) den Acht um Pleanáil agus Forbairt 2000 (arna leasú), i dtaobh Athrú Beartaithe Uimh.1: Dréachtchreat um Pleanáil Áitiúil Chluain Dolcáin ar Phlean Forbartha Chontae Átha Cliath Theas 2022-2028.

Cúis leis an Athrú:

Réitíodh Dréachtchreat um Pleanáil Áitiúil Chluain Dolcáin chun QDP14 Cuspóir 3 de Phlean Forbartha Chontae Átha Cliath Theas 2022-2028 (PFC) a bhaint amach agus is éard atá i gceist leis ná ráiteas i scríbhinn agus na cuspóirí agus léarscáileanna a ghabhann leis. Chun cuspóir PFC a bhaint amach, tacaíonn Plean Iompair Áitiúil, Plean Caomhnaithe agus Measúnuithe ar Limistéir Chaomhantais Ailtireachta leis an dréachtphlean, mar aon leis na tuarascálacha comhshaoil seo a leanas:

- Tuarascáil Chomhshaoil mar chuid de Mheasúnacht Straitéiseach Chomhshaoil de bhun Threoir Eorpach um Measúnacht Straitéiseach Chomhshaoil (2001/42/CE) agus na Rialacháin um Pleanáil agus Forbairt (Measúnacht Straitéiseach Chomhshaoil) 2004 (arna leasú).
- Cáipéis Measúnachta Cuí (MC) de bhun Threoir AE maidir le Gnáthóga (92/43/CEE), agus de bhun an Achta um Pleanáil Agus Forbairt 2000 (arna leasú).
- Tuarascáil ar Mheasúnú Straitéiseach Riosca i gcás Tuilte (MSRT) i gcomhréir le 'An Córas Pleanála agus Treoirlínte Bainistíochta Riosca i gcás Tuilte d'Údaráis Phleanála'.

Faisnéis

Is féidir breathnú ar an Athrú Beartaithe, arb ionann é agus Dréachtchreat um Pleanáil Áitiúil Chluain Dolcáin agus na cáipéisí lena mbaineann, ar thairseach chomhairliúcháin na Comhairle ag https://consult.sdublincoco.ie/ga sa tréimhse idir **12:00pm Dé Máirt an 26 Lúnasa 2025 agus 11:59pm Dé Luain an 29 Meán Fómhair 2025, an dá lá sin san áireamh.**

Is breathnú ar an Dréachtchreat beartaithe um Pleanáil Áitiúil Chluain Dolcáin freisin i Leabharlann Chluain Dolcáin agus i Halla an Chontae i dTamhlacht, le linn gnáthuaireanta oscailte (seachas laethanta saoire poiblí).

Beidh foireann na Comhairle ar fáil chun ceisteanna a fhreagairt le linn trí chlinic buail isteach, dhá cheann acu siúd a bheidh ar siúl in Oifigí Cathartha Chluain Dolcáin, Bóthar an Naoú Loc, Cluain Dolcáin, D22 E9X5 ag na hamanna seo a leanas:

- **Déardaoin, an 4 Meán Fómhair 10:00am – 12:00 meán lae**
- **Dé Céadaoin, an 10 Meán Fómhair 2:00 – 4:00pm**

Reáchtálfar an tríú clinic buail isteach ag Ionad Cuairteoirí Chlogáis (Brú Chrónáin), Bóthar an Chloigthí, Cluain Dolcáin, Baile Átha Cliath 22, D22 DV56:

- **Dé Céadaoin, an 17 Meán Fómhair 6:30 – 8:30pm**

Beidh foireann na Comhairle ar fáil freisin le ceisteanna ginearálta a fhreagairt maidir leis an Dréachtchreat um Pleanáil Áitiúil atá beartaithe idir **10:00am-1:00pm Dé Máirt agus Dé Céadaoin** le linn thréimhse an chomhairliúcháin phoiblí, in Oifigí Comhairle Thamhlachta, Halla an Chontae.

Aighneachtaí

Ba cheart aighneachtaí agus barúlacha maidir leis an Athrú beartaithe – Dréachtchreat um Pleanáil Áitiúil Chluain Dolcáin - agus na cáipéisí lena mbaineann, a dhéanamh in aon mheán AMHÁIN. Ar líne ag: https://consult.sdublincoco.ie/ga sa tréimhse idir **12:00pm Dé Máirt an 26 Lúnasa 2025 agus 11:59pm Dé Luain an 29 Meán Fómhair 2025, an dá lá sin san áireamh.**

NÓ

Má tá aighneacht á leagan isteach i gcóip chrua is féidir í a sheoladh sa phost go dtí **4:00pm Dé Luain, an 29 Meán Fómhair 2025** chuig:

Príomhfheidhmeannach Sinsearach, Rannóg Pleanála Chun Cinn, Pleanáil agus Iompar, Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas, Halla an Chontae, Tamhlacht, Baile Átha Cliath 24, D24 A3XC.

Ní féidir glacadh le haighneachtaí ná le barúlacha a leagtar isteach i bhformáid ar bith eile ná chuig aon seoladh ar líne nó seoladh poist eile. Sna haighneachtaí agus barúlacha ar fad, ba cheart go mbeadh ainm, seoladh, agus nuair is ábhartha, an comhlacht a bhfuil an té/an grúpa ag cur na haighneachta isteach ar a shon. Tá páistí, nó grúpaí, nó cumainn a oibríonn ar son leasanna páistí, i dteideal aighneachtaí nó barúlacha a dhéanamh. Cuirfear san áireamh gach aighneacht agus barúil a fhaightear laistigh de na tréimhsí a leagtar amach thuas agus a chuirtear chuig an seoladh ceart, san fhormáid cheart, sula gcuirfear i bhfeidhm an tAthrú – Dréachtchreat um Pleanáil Áitiúil Chluain Dolcáin.

I gcomhréir le hAlt 13(3A)(a) den Acht um Pleanáil agus Forbairt, 2000, arna leasú, déanfar aighneachtaí nó barúlacha a fhaigheann Údarás Pleanála i scríbhinn faoin Alt seo a fhoilsiú ar shuíomh gréasáin Chomhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas laistigh de 10 lá ón uair a fhaightear iad.

Eoin De Burca,
Stiúrthóir Pleanála agus Iompair.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION FOR PROPOSED VARIATION NO. 1 TO THE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE DRAFT CLONDALKIN LOCAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2000 (AS AMENDED)

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13 (2) OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED)

South Dublin County Council, as planning authority, hereby gives notice pursuant to Section 13(2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), of Proposed Variation No. 1: Draft Clondalkin Local Planning Framework to the South Dublin County Development Plan 2022-2028.

Reason for Variation:

The Draft Clondalkin Local Planning Framework has been prepared to deliver on QDP14 Objective 3 of the South Dubin County Development Plan 2022-2028 (CDP) and consists of a written statement and associated objectives and maps. In delivering on the CDP objective, the draft plan is supported by a Local Transport Plan, Conservation Plan and Architectural Conservation Area Appraisals and by the following environmental reports:

- An Environmental Report as part of a Strategic Environmental Assessment pursuant to the European Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC) and the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (as amended).
- An Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening determination pursuant to the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).
- A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) Report in accordance with 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities'.

Information

The Proposed Variation which is the Clondalkin Draft Local Planning Framework and the accompanying documents can be viewed on the Council's consultation portal at http://consult.sdublincoco.ie for the period from **12:00pm Tuesday 26th August 2025 until 11:59pm Monday 29th September 2025 inclusive.**

The proposed Draft Clondalkin Local Planning Framework can also be viewed at Clondalkin Library and County Hall, Tallaght during normal opening hours (excluding public holidays).

Council staff will be available to answer queries during three drop-in clinics, two of which are at the Clondalkin Civic Offices, Ninth Lock Road, Clondalkin, D22 E9X5 at the following times:

- **Thursday 4th September 10:00am – 12:00noon**
- **Wednesday 10th September 2:00 – 4:00pm**

And a third drop-in clinic at the Round Tower Visitor Centre (Brú Chrónáin), Tower Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22, D22 DV56 on:

- **Wednesday 17th September 6:30 – 8:30pm**

Council staff will also be available to answer general queries on the proposed Draft Local Planning Framework **between 10:00am-1:00pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays** during the public consultation period, in Tallaght Council Offices, County Hall.

Submissions

Submissions and observations on the proposed Variation – the Clondalkin Draft Local Planning Framework - and the associated documents should be made in ONE medium only. Either online at: http://consult.sdublincoco.ie for the period from **12:00pm Tuesday 26th August 2025 until 11:59pm Monday 29th September 2025 inclusive.**

OR

Where a submission is in hard copy it can be made by post until **4:00pm on Monday 29th September 2025** addressed to:

- Senior Executive Officer, Forward Planning Section, Planning and Transport, South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Tallaght, Dublin 24, D24 A3XC.

Submissions or observations cannot be accepted in any other format or to any other online or postal address. Submissions and observations should state the name, address, and where relevant, the body represented of the person/group making the submission. Children, or groups of associations representing the interests of children, are entitled to make submissions or observations. All submissions and observations that are received up to the times set out above and that are addressed correctly and in the prescribed format will be taken into consideration before the making of the Variation – the Clondalkin Draft Local Planning Framework.

In accordance with Section 13(3A)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, written submissions or observations received by a Planning Authority under this Section shall be published on the website of South Dublin County Council within 10 working days of its receipt.

Eoin Burke,
Director of Planning and Transport.

Web: www.sdcc.ie

Carlisle site with plans for 145 apartments get the green light from Dublin City Council

PLANS for 145 apartments at the Carlisle site in Kimmage have been approved by Dublin City Council.

Applicant Lioncor Developments subsidiary, 1 Terenure Land Ltd, sought permission for a scheme which is set to see apartments spread across five blocks, ranging in heights of up to five storeys.

The development will be built to the side of the BD Gym (formerly known as Ben Dunne Gym) in Kimmage.

The apartments will be made up of 70 one-bed and 75 two-beds, which are intended to be built to be sold, according to the applicant.

The plans contain proposals for 89 car-parking spaces, 400 bicycle spaces and a crèche.

Up to 17 planning objections were submitted by residents, citing concerns about the scale of the scheme and an "overdeveloped, excessively high and excessively dense series of blocks of flats."

A previous plan for 208 apartments at the site was approved by An Bord Pleanála in 2022 but quashed by the High Court in May 2025.

Over 75 objections were lodged against the Strategic Housing Development scheme in 2022, including the Kimmage Dublin Residents' Alliance, the Kimmage Road Residents' Association and Terenure West Residents' Association.

Another application at the site was granted by the council and upheld by An Coimisiún Pleanála on appeal but is subject to a judicial review.

The applicants are required to pay a sum of €1.33m to the council for public infrastructure costs benefitting from the scheme.



CONCERNS: An artist's impression of the plans for the Carlisle site

Dog poop fines hit a new low for the blind or vision-impaired

Dog-fouling presents a slipping hazard and faeces can also impact white cane users

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

JUST one fine was issued by the council in south Dublin for not scooping the poop last year.

Data gathered by Vision Ireland has revealed that just 48 dog-fouling fines were issued by Local Authorities in 2024.

Dog-fouling is a public safety issue and can pose health concerns for both children and adults. People who are blind or vision-impaired and use mobility aids are particularly at risk.

As part of Vision Ireland's annual Clear Our Paths campaign, a survey of 281 people who are blind or vision-impaired explored the issue of footpath obstacles.

The charity found that 42 per cent of respondents were impacted by dog waste in public spaces on a frequent basis.

Councils are tasked with tackling the scourge of dog-fouling, but overall an extremely low – and seemingly decreasing – number of fines are issued to people for not cleaning up after their dogs.

Fines totalled 48 and 46 in 2024 and 2023 respectively, both a significant decrease from the 82 fines issued in 2022.

Dublin City Council was among 14 local authorities – almost half of the total – who issued zero fines for dog-fouling last year, while South Dublin County Council only issued one fine for the entire year.

Not only does dog fouling present a slipping hazard, but it can also be a major problem for white cane users whose canes are dirtied by faeces which, when folded up, poses a hygiene and health risk.

Respondents to the survey provided insights into the effect dog fouling has on their day-to-day life. One person said: "Dog-fouling gets all over my cane and shoes, and a lot of the time I don't realise. If I'm folding up my cane, it will get on my hands which is embarrassing and disgusting, and it would be much easier if an owner picks up after their dog".

Vision Ireland are imploring dog owners to act responsibly and consider other users of shared footpaths, including people who are blind or vision impaired.



DISGUSTING: Picking up poop is good for everyone's health, especially the children and vision-impaired

Cars parked on footpaths also pose hazards and affect the ability of people who are vision impaired to navigate public spaces.

Seventy-one per cent of survey respondents said that parked cars frequently block their route when using a path and a further 26 per cent of people identified parked cars as the number one obstacle which causes them the greatest difficulty when navigating footpaths.

Data provided by Local Authorities to Vision Ireland revealed that 21,032 fines were issued to motorists last year for parking on footpaths, a 5 per cent decrease in the number issued in 2023.

DCC issued 4,703 fines for illegal parking, while SDCC issued 1,312.

As part of Clear Our Paths, Vision Ireland is encouraging motorists to think twice the next time they consider leaving their car on a footpath and reflect on the potential impact on people who are blind or vision impaired.

Kevin Kelly, Head of Policy and External Affairs at Vision Ireland, said: "It's unacceptable that people who are blind or vision-impaired must put themselves in danger while having to avoid illegally parked cars.

"The health and hygiene issues around dog waste are equally alarming," he added.

"People going about their day should be able to do so freely, but we know from the 21,000 fines issued in 2024 that there are countless hazards on Irish footpaths.

"Fines alone are not the answer, and we urge the public to be more considerate of the needs of everyone who uses our shared spaces."

EB sufferer never wants anyone to experience her loneliness

Make-up artist Claudia is now urging the public to help Debra charity's vital work

A 21-YEAR-OLD woman with a rare skin condition has said she never wants to see another child battle the loneliness and isolation she did.

Claudia Scanlon, from Terenure in Dublin, has a severe form of epidermolysis bullosa (EB), the genetic illness that causes the skin to blister at the slightest touch.

Now the make-up artist is urging the public to help a charity's vital work ensuring that other children battling it, have normal childhoods.

"I don't want any child living with EB to experience the loneliness and isolation I did," said Claudia, who previously appeared on The Late Late Show alongside rugby star Johnny Sexton, to raise awareness about EB.

"Secondary school was a particularly tough time because, like most teenagers, all I wanted to do was fit in.

"The other kids didn't understand my condition and I spent most lunchtimes alone or with my SNA.

"Thankfully, schoolchildren with EB nowadays have more support – Debra (the national charity supporting those with EB) proactively works with the children to provide books and other resources to help their classmates understand the condition."

Claudia highlighted that donations also contribute to vital scientific research, which helps to produce and improve treatment and progress towards a cure.

"People with my type of EB are seven times more likely than the average person to be diagnosed with skin cancer," she said.

"At just 13, I had my first biopsy. Now that I'm 21, I know it has to be a regular thing.

"I have hope for a brighter future – every scientific breakthrough, every new treatment and every new drug offers a glimpse of a better life.

"My greatest wish is for a cure for EB so that no one else has to suffer with this painful condition."

Eighty per cent of Claudia's body is covered in open wounds and she endures excruciating daily bandaging sessions.

"There's no point in sugar-coating it – living with EB is hard, it's painful and it's an uphill battle every day.

"Just doing the ordinary things others may take for granted – like getting out of bed, leaving the house or travelling to work – takes so much energy and determination. I'm sometimes exhausted before I've even left home.

"But the pain isn't just physical, it has a huge impact on your mental health.

"The curious side glances, the hushed conversations or the horrible silence that falls over a room when you enter.

"I'm not sure how I would have coped without the emotional support from the Debra Family Support Team and the psychological support and counselling I received through them."

Claudia turned her passion into a profession and now works as a make-up artist.

"Of all the careers I could have chosen, of course I chose one where I use my hands every day," she said.

"I wanted to work, so Debra arranged wheelchair-accessible transport to and from my workplace.

"The girls I work with are incredible – it honestly feels like I've finally found my tribe."

To support Claudia and Debra's work, visit debra.ie

> **"But the pain isn't just physical, it has a huge impact on your mental health . . .The curious side glances, the horrible silence that falls over a room when you enter**



PLEA: Claudia Scanlon does not sugar-coat the pain and the battle



Rovers' Santa Clara win is topped by Josh at Crumlin Hospital ringing cancer-free bell

THURSDAY'S victory over Santa Clara wasn't the only win this week for Shamrock Rovers manager Stephen Bradley, as his son Josh has been declared cancer free.

Just before his dad took off for the Azores for the UEFA Conference League clash, 11-year-old Josh Bradley rang the bell with his family at Crumlin Children's Hospital on Tuesday, August 19, to signal the end of his cancer treatment.

The Bradley family went public with Josh's diagnosis of leukemia three years ago to "be a voice for families in Crumlin" and to let the fans know what was happening.

"Looking back now, the support that we received from people from everywhere really, from up and down the country, has been absolutely incredible and for Josh too," Bradley told the Irish Independent before the game, adding that two Bohemians fans had stopped him going through Dublin Airport to congratulate him on Josh's recovery.

In a heartwarming moment of support after the win, Rovers fans cheered and chanted "there's only one Josh Bradley", as his dad waved at the crowd in thanks.

Rovers' 2-1 win over the Portuguese side "caps off the best week of my life", Bradley said at the post-match conference.

"The best week of my life in terms of Josh and then tonight, it doesn't get better than that.

"Money, cars, houses. It doesn't mean anything at the end of the day. It's about moments in time and enjoying them.

"And you have to allow yourself to enjoy them."

> "The support that we received from people from everywhere really, from up and down the country, has been absolutely incredible and for Josh too



JOY: Josh Bradley ringing the bell with hospital staff and (inset) Stephen Bradley after the game

'We are exploring all options to achieve completion of the pool'

Council says progress has been made in relation to completions of Phase 2 of the building

SOUTH Dublin County Council is "exploring all options" to achieve completion of the pool side of the Lucan Leisure Campus building "at the earliest possible date."

Works on the project have been delayed for years.

Cllr Francis Timmons (Ind) received confirmation from SDCC that the BCaR validation for the dry side of the building and associated external works was achieved on July 14 and was handed over to the operators, Aura Leisure on July 18.

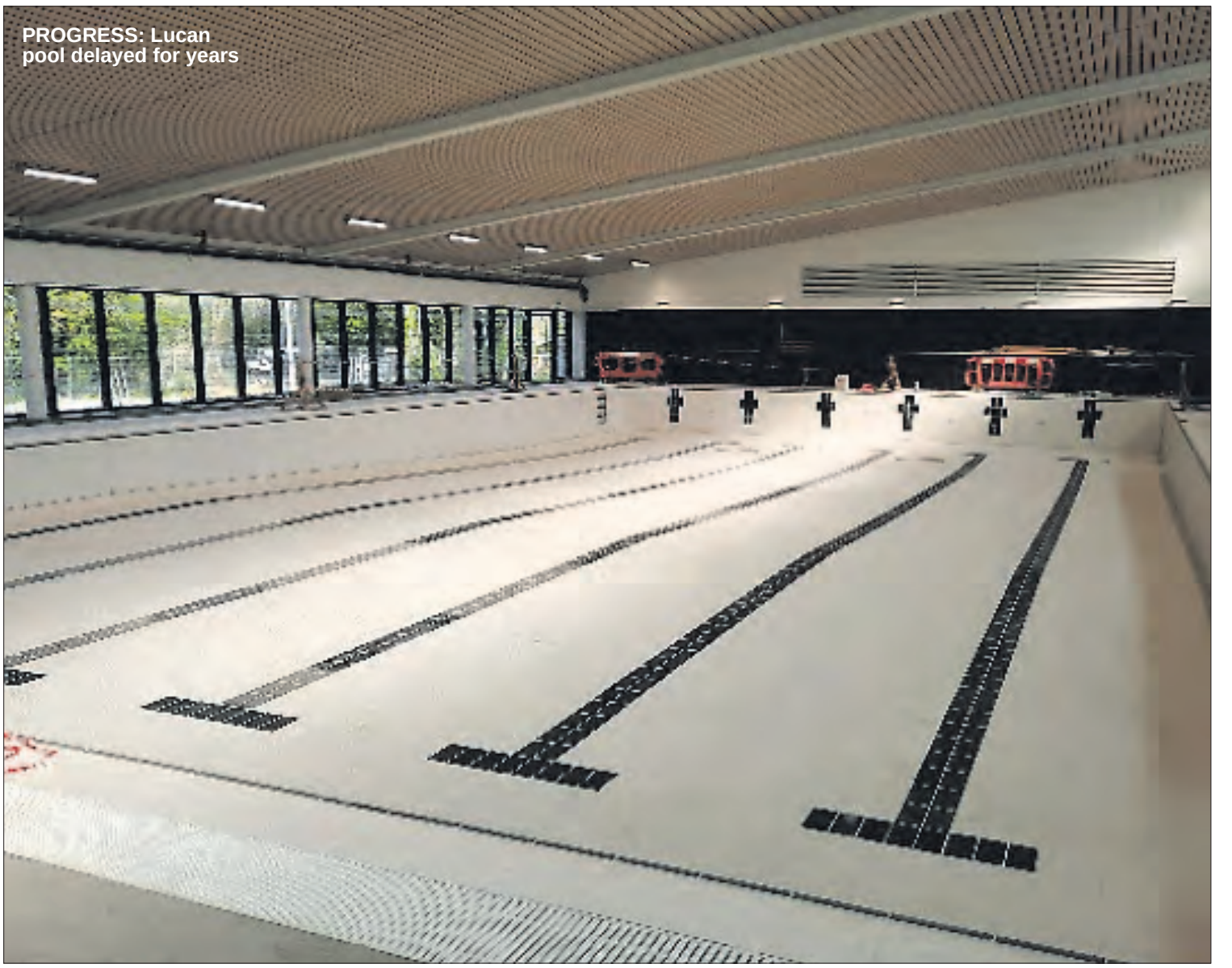
On July 28, the gym was opened to the public and the café is also now open.

"There has been progress made in relation to the M&E installation, tiling, and enclosure completions of Phase 2 of the building which houses the pool. We are exploring all options to achieve completion of the pool side of the building at the earliest possible date and will advise of the date for completion and opening as soon as it is reliably established," said SDCC.

"The original contract sum, including VAT, for construction of the Lucan swimming pool building was €13.5m. During the construction period, public works contracts were significantly impacted by Covid and inflation and these, along with design team and consultant fees, project scope changes to accommodate subsequent design variations, more efficient facility management, and direct payments by the council to some sub-contractors due to recent enhanced project management, account for additional project costs of €4.7 million to date."

In their original costing, SDCC estimated "an original contract sum" of €13.5m, but it could be closer to €20m when finally completed.

> "During the construction period, public works contracts were significantly impacted by Covid and inflation

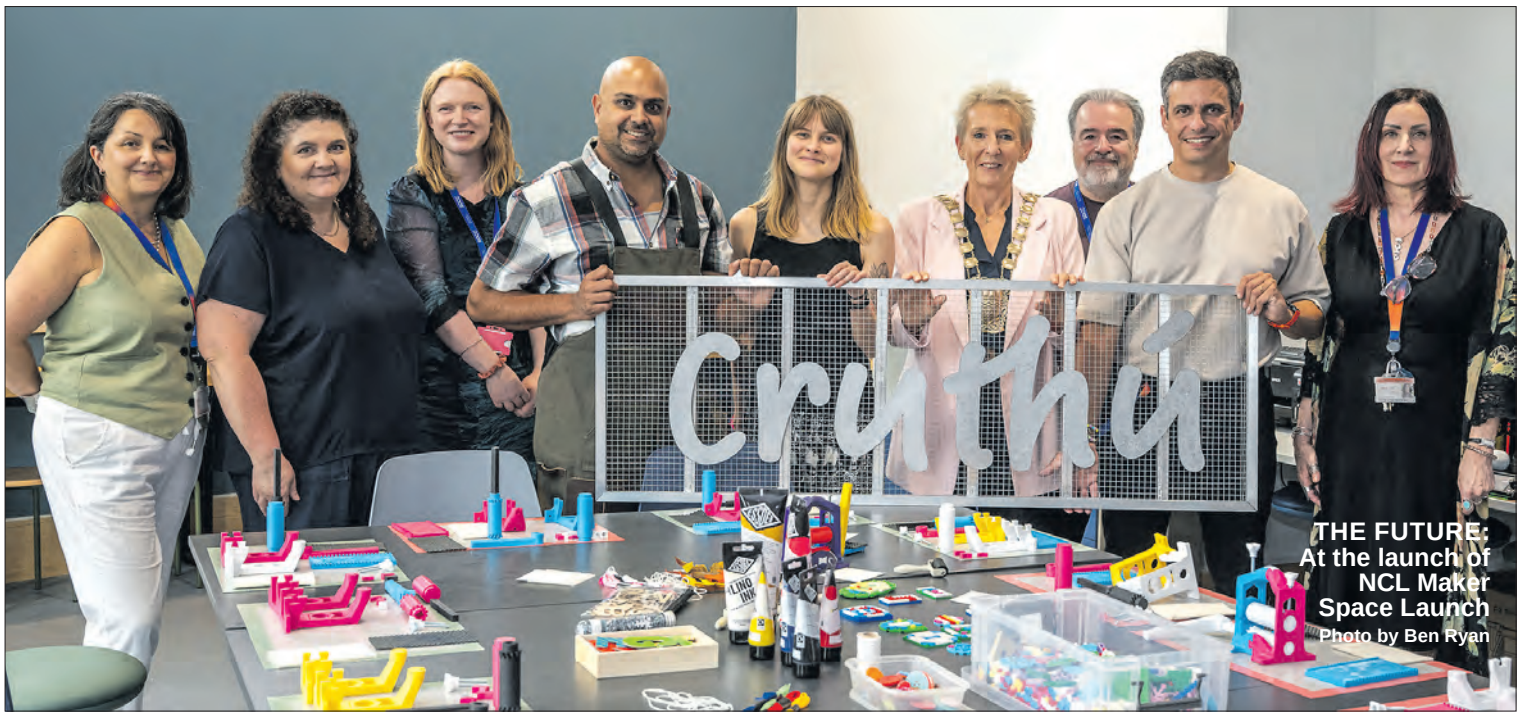


PROGRESS: Lucan pool delayed for years

Explore cutting-edge technology and innovation in your library

‘Cruthú Maker Spaces’ offers hubs to help use creative tools like 3D printing

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



THE FUTURE: At the launch of NCL Maker Space Launch
Photo by Ben Ryan

BRAND new ‘maker spaces’ have launched at two South Dublin libraries this August.

The Cruthú Maker Spaces were launched in Tallaght Library on Friday, August 8, and at Ballyroan Library on Monday, August 18.

Together with a third Cruthú Maker Space at North Clondalkin Library, the spaces offer a dedicated creative hub for people of all ages to explore cutting-edge technology, hands-on learning, and innovative resources.

Led by South Dublin Libraries’ new Maker-in-Residence, William Davis, Cruthú will host a wide variety of free workshops and sessions, from designs, 3D printing to arts, crafts, and electronics, catering to everyone from children to adults.

He’s already begun hosting drop-in sessions across the three libraries for users to get hands on experience with how to use the creative tools on offer, from 3D printers to recording equipment to sewing machines.

“My remit is that I’ll be holding one class a month at each of the main branches and then I’ll be rotating through the smaller branches to hold workshops,” William told *The Echo*.

> **“The library is like a community hub, and all this equipment and laser cutters are meant for non-technical people, for the public – it’s meant for to be accessible**

“It’s up to the branch on what kind of programmes they want to run, obviously they know their users and their base.”

Having moved from the USA, William said he is amazed at how libraries are “so embedded” in Irish communities.

“It’s an amazing community hub,” he noted.

“Maker spaces tend to be embedded in engineering departments or locked away in some obscure building, and the biggest thing is the library is like a community hub, and all this equipment and laser cutters are meant for non-technical people, for the public – it’s meant for to be accessible.”

William’s next drop-in sessions will take place at North Clondalkin Library on Thursday, August 28, 3pm-6pm, and at Ballyroan Library on Saturday, September 13, 11am-1pm.

Upcoming workshops at the Tallaght Library Makerspace include “Jazz up your old clothes for teens” classes on Saturday, September 6 from 10am to 4pm and a “Design your own woodcut bookmark” class on Tuesday, September 9 at 6.30pm.

Ballyfermot road race turns out to be a huge success for Cherry Orchard running club


SUCCESS: Cherry Orchard Running Club held their first ever race on a main road in Ballyfermot

THE first-ever race run on the main road in Ballyfermot was a success and could become a permanent fixture in the local calendar.

Cherry Orchard Running Club hosted their annual race day on Saturday morning.

To celebrate the 12th anniversary of the 5k race, the club wanted to do something special this year and liaised with gardai in relation to traffic and safety management.

Rachel Nolan, Chairperson of Cherry Orchard Running Club, said: “It was so good. We started at Familibase. Like any event there is always room for improvement, but it was a great start.

“The community gardai were very helpful, meeting us ahead of the event and on the day. Somebody recorded the race and it was good to see it from the other side, because there is a lot that goes into organising something like this.”

Runners got good value for their €15 entry fee with goody bags and ice-creams among the extra treats.

The route was main Ballyfermot Road, up Blackditch Road, around Cherry Orchard, and back down Le Fanu.

Founded in 2013, Cherry Orchard Running Club has grown from a small group of friends pounding the pavements to a thriving club with over 300 runners of all ages and abilities.

Over the years, the club has become a familiar sight especially with their distinctive orange club colours at events including the Dublin Marathon.

SDCC
Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas South Dublin County Council

EXTENSION TO THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION PERIOD ON THE DRAFT DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME 2026-2028

SECTION 48 PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000, AS AMENDED

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 48 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000, as amended, that South Dublin County Council has prepared a Draft Development Contribution Scheme 2026-2028 for the administrative area of South Dublin County Council, details as follows:

DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	AMOUNT OF CONTRIBUTION
Residential Development	€126.45 per sqm
Industrial / Commercial Development	€119.52 per sqm

Following a request at the July Council Meeting to extend the public consultation period, the public consultation period on the draft scheme has been extended by one week up to 16th September 2025 inclusive.

The draft scheme can be viewed on the Council’s public consultation portal at http://consult.sdublincoco.ie.

Interested parties are encouraged to make submissions on the draft scheme **via the portal**. Alternatively, written submissions may be posted to **Senior Executive Officer, Planning and Transportation Department, South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Tallaght, Dublin 24.**

Only postal submissions received by 4.00pm on Tuesday 16th September 2025 (addressed as set out above), or on-line by midnight on 16th September 2025 via the portal, will be considered.

Submissions must be clearly marked: **Draft Development Contribution Scheme 2026-2028.**

Submissions and observations should be made in **ONE** medium only and will only be accepted in either format as outlined above.

Eoin Burke,
Director of Planning & Transport.

Web: www.sdcc.ie

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

Lady's Bedstraw



IN BLOOM: The 6-spot Burnet Moth is just one of the many insects that visit Lady's Bedstraw

IN THE past, plants were given names that often indicated what the plant might have been useful for. Lady's Bedstraw is one such plant.

This lovely plant is a member of the Bedstraw family of plants. Each of its individual, yellow, four-petalled flowers are very small, only 2 to 3mm wide.

These are held in dense frothy clusters that occur along stems that can grow up to 100cm long.

The plant's dark green leaves are also very narrow, only 2mm wide, and these grow in whorls around the stem.

The flowers are sweetly scented, and a large patch of Lady's Bedstraw in bloom can fill the air with the aroma of honey.

When the plant is dried, its scent is more like fresh hay. This scent is a result of the presence in the plant of a compound called coumarin which also helps to deter fleas.

These two benefits made Lady's Bedstraw very useful in the past as a stuffing for mattresses and pillows. This is how the plant got its common name.

Lady's Bedstraw was also valued for other reasons too.

Members of this family of plants were once used to help make cheese, where the flowers were added to milk to help it to coagulate, or clump together. It was also used to add yellow colour to butter and cheeses.

These uses gave the plant its Latin name, Galium verum, where 'Galium' is derived from the Greek word for milk, and where 'verum' is derived from the Latin word for true.

Lady's Bedstraw was also used to make dyes for wools and fabrics.

The roots were used to produce a red dye while the stems and leaves produced a yellow dye.

The plant is important for insects too.

A wide range of butterflies and moths visit its flowers, while their caterpillars also feed on its leaves.

Lady's Bedstraw tends to grow in dry, light soils, and so it can be seen flowering from July to September in many of the grassy meadows in our parks.



SWEET SCENT: The tiny yellow flowers of Lady's Bedstraw grow in dense clusters along its stem



ANGER: People at the protest for Harvey

Hundreds turn for Harvey city

Young Harvey faced delays accessing co

HUNDREDS of people took to the streets on Saturday, calling for justice for a young boy with scoliosis who died last month.

Nine-year-old Harvey Morrison from Clondalkin, who died on July 29, had faced delays in accessing surgery to correct his scoliosis and spina bifida which had severely impacted his health.

A Justice for Harvey march took place on Saturday, August 23, from the Garden of Remembrance to the Custom House, calling for action over how Harvey's case, and the cases of hundreds of other children waiting for spinal surgery in Ireland.

Over 1,000 people joined the march according to organisers, calling for changes in children's healthcare in Ireland, especially in the case of children with debilitating and life-threatening illnesses such as spina bifida and scoliosis.

Harvey's case made headlines last year when his parents, Gillian Sherratt and Stephen Morrison revealed he had apparently been removed from Children's Health Ireland waiting list for surgery without their knowledge or any notification.

Harvey eventually underwent corrective surgery but died this summer after an undisclosed illness.

Speaking to the crowd gathered at the Custom House on Saturday, his dad Stephen said they were "here today to call for justice for Harvey, and all the other kids continuing to be failed by Children's Health Ireland and the State."

"Harvey's painfully short life was very much a rollercoaster," his mother Gillian said.

She described her son as easygoing and laidback despite his disabilities, and that all he ever wanted was "his iPad, his Hunky Dorys, the odd lollipop and timely access to healthcare".

"It robbed him of his childhood, it robbed him of his comfort, it robbed him of his quality of life, and it robbed us of the opportunity to make precious family memories with him



out for Justice centre march

orrective surgery which impacted health

"Harvey was nine, he waited for 33 months for scoliosis surgery, and in that time the curve in his spine went from 75 degrees to 130.

"He had to have his whole life put on hold while he waited," she said, adding that the family had missed holidays, she and Stephen had cancelled their wedding and that Harvey's sister's heart surgery had been postponed, all as a result of the delay in Harvey's care.

"It robbed him of his childhood, it robbed him of his comfort, it robbed him of his quality of life, and it robbed us of the opportunity to make precious family memories with him."

Gillian vowed that she and Stephen would continue to be Harvey's voice "in his death".

There were also calls for Tánaiste Simon Harris to resign, over an unfulfilled promise that no child would wait longer that four months for spinal surgery which he made as Health Minister in 2017.

Figures show that of the 231 children waiting for spinal surgery at the end of July 2025, 36 are waiting between three and six months and 38 are waiting for over six months.

The Tánaiste has promised to meet with Harvey's mother Gillian in the coming weeks, while the current



EASYGOING: Harvey Morrison

Minister for Health Jennifer Carroll McNeill is due to meet with surgeons over scoliosis waiting lists and cultural problems at CHI.

In a statement the Department of Health said that CHI the HSE have been asked to to carry out a multidisciplinary report on the timeline surrounding Harvey's care, and that the HSE's Chief Executive has formally commissioned an audit of governance and equity in patient access and waiting list management at CHI.

Walkinstown Scouts scoop the Phoenix Trophy

A proud moment for south Dublin scouts



PRIDE OF PLACE: 94th Walkinstown Scouts – Aisling Kinsella (Assistant Patrol Leader), Peter Kelly, Liam Kearney, Kate Luz, Darragh Scully, Ruairí Watkins, Cian O'Toole and Claire Lonergan

THE 94th Walkinstown Scouts proudly brought back the All-Ireland Phoenix Champions title to the South Dublin neighbourhood after 32 years following "months of commitment and determination."

At the national scouts' Phoenix competition which was held in Pallaskenry, Co Limerick on Saturday and Sunday, August 16 and 17, the Walkinstown group was among 85 teams coming from the four corners of the country.

Over a busy weekend, the Walkinstown team, made up of people aged 12 to 15, took on demanding challenges that tested teamwork, resilience, leadership, and scoutcraft.

"It was a true showcase of the best that scouting instils in young people," said County Commissioner of Dublinia Scout County, Niall Kenny.

"The kids were truly delighted with this achievement."

Adding to the local pride, the 91st Bluebell Scouts, winners of the competition for the past two years, secured a strong second place, highlighting the exceptional strength and consistency of scouting in the Dublin 12 area.

Dublinia Scout County represents all the scouting teams in the city's southside.

Within the community, being a member of a scouting group gives young people important life skills, enhance their ability to communicate, show initiative and be leaders, explained Mr Kenny, while competitions such as Phoenix are a challenge to work hard for.

"These results are not only a milestone for Walkinstown and Bluebell, but also a proud moment for the wider scouting community in south Dublin," he said.



DELIGHTED: 91st Bluebell – Girls 2nd place Millie Walsh, Sofie Abel McDaid, Faye Marshall, Chloe Elukanlo, Evie O'Regan, Daisy Deegan, Eve Power and Aisling Briggs

Lucan Festival for 2025 launches to much fanfare and great acclaim



FUN TIME: At the launch were Shane Moynihan, Cllr Vicki Casserley, Cllr Caroline Brady, Joe Byrne (chairman of Lucan Festival), Garda Sergeant Paul O'Moran and Cllr Helen Farrell

THE programme of events for the 2025 Lucan Festival has been launched, with more than 30 events and entertainment taking place this year.

The Lucan Festival will take place in locations around the village from Tuesday, September 2 until Sunday, September 7.

It has been run yearly since 2009, according to festival chairman Joe Byrne.

"We always used to have community weeks and various activities in Lucan going back to the 70s, horse shows and so on," he said.

"They kind of went out of fashion for a while, and then it got going again."

While the first few years of the festival were weekend events, now there are events running for almost a full week for this year's festival.

These include guided tours of Shackleton Mills, historical talks, public forums with senior citizens and primary school children and historical events such as a guided history walk of Lucan village, and an illustrated talk on the life of Roger Casement.

The Saturday festivities will take place on the grounds of the Lucan House Demesne, where the yearly fireworks display has now been moved as well.

"Usually, we had fireworks on Friday night, at the Liffey Weir, but last year it was so successful that we were overwhelmed by the numbers," Joe explained.

"We had to rethink, and so we're having them in the grounds of Lucan House on the Saturday night."

While all other events are free, entry into the festival on Saturday, September 6 will cost €5 for adults, while children under 12 go free.

The former Italian Ambassador's residence, Lucan House Grounds, will open to the public from 12.30pm to 5.00pm, with children's entertainment with wild birds, dinosaurs and Vikings, yoga, and an international food court.

There will be a short close down, before the grounds open again to the public at 6.30pm for the evening's festivities with live music and the fireworks display at approximately 9pm.

Anyone entering the park between 12.30pm and 5pm will be issued with a wristband to allow them back in in the evening, while anyone else entering the park after 6.30pm will have to pay in.

For the final day of the festival, the main street of Lucan will be closed from 10am to 7pm for a wide variety of events including market stalls, bouncy castles, a Kiddies' Road Train, street performers, face painting, an Open Day at Lucan Garda Station from 2pm and the "world-renowned" Duck Race on the Griffeen from 4.30pm.

> **"The former Italian Ambassador's residence, Lucan House Grounds, will open to the public from 12.30pm to 5.00pm, with children's entertainment with wild birds, dinosaurs and Vikings, yoga, and an international food court**



PROUD: Moyle Park College principal Niamh Cahalane congratulates students after receiving their Leaving Cert results.

Over 51,000 get Round One offers

Teachers urge pupils to come and seek advice

A TOTAL of 65,444 students received their Leaving Certificate results across Ireland on Friday morning.

This year also marks a gradual return to pre-pandemic marking schemes, as grades have been artificially boosted in a post-marking adjustment since 2020.

After receiving their results Friday morning, August 22, over 51,000 students received Round One offers from the CAO on Wednesday afternoon, August 27 at 2 o'clock.

They now have seven days after a CAO offer is made to either accept their first place offer or defer until next year.

Niamh Cahalane, principal of Moyle Park College, Clondalkin, said that while many young people have decisions to make over the next few days, they should remember that "nothing is final".

"Ask, come and seek advice, there are career guidance counsellors, there are teachers – we're here to support them if they're in doubt about anything over the next few days," she said, while also expressing her pride in all her former pupils and their results.

Deborah Dunne, principal of Kingswood College in Tallaght said she and all her staff were "immensely proud" of their class of 2025.

"Their achievements open many pathways – to universities, apprenticeships, further education and the world of work – and we wish them every success in the exciting journey ahead.

A statement from the Department of Education congratulating all students on their results on Friday also highlighted the wide range of supports available to students and their parents.

The National Parents and Students Leaving Cert Helpline and text support service will operate from 10am to 5pm on weekdays (August 22, 25–29) and 10am to 2pm on Saturdays (August 23 and 30).

The State Examinations Commission Candidate helpline is available for queries relating to the Candidate Self Service Portal and the services provided through the portal, including appeals for results, at 1800 111 135 or 1800 111 136 from 9am to 5pm from Friday, August 22 to Monday, September 1.

Results for the class of 2025 have been artificially boosted to a lesser extent than previous years, with just over half of this year's exam results being adjusted as part of the department's plan to phase out

> **"The State Examinations Commission Candidate helpline is available for queries . . . including appeals for results, at 1800 111 135 or 1800 111 136 from 9am to 5pm from Friday, August 22 to Monday, September 1**





TERRIFIC: Moyle Park College students after receiving their exam results



HAPPINESS: Moyle Park College teacher Ms Coughlan with Senan, Alex, Aidan and Adam



CONGRATULATIONS: Rhys and Sean with Moyle Park College teacher Mr Doyle



GREAT: Moyle Park College teacher Ms Fortune with Noah, Alex, Oscar, Gaius and Jason

artificial interventions brought in for the pandemic years.

As a result, the number of top grades this year have fallen, with the level of H1s down by 2.6% per cent compared to last year, and O1s down by 2.1 per cent.

11.7 per cent of grades were H1s this year, dropping almost a fifth from 14.3 per cent last year.

Speaking on the 2025 Leaving Certificate results, Chairperson of the State Examinations Commission Jacinta Stewart said the adjustments for 2025 were "calibrated to meet the Minister's commitments to a gradual return to normal while minimising the impact on candidates to the greatest possible degree".

"This year's adjustment has been formulated so that the overall Leaving Certificate results in the aggregate are at a point broadly midway between the 2020 and 2021 levels, still well above the 2019 levels when examinations were last run as normal," she stated.

AS PART of *The Echo* celebrating 45 years, we're celebrating local faces and places. We share the stories of local people, and remind ourselves of the great community spirit across local areas. This week ***Ken Doyle*** meets Anthony Duffy, a community worker in North Clondalkin.



CHALLENGING: Community worker Anthony Duffy tries to be a positive presence

The Echo – celebrating community for 45 years



HAPPY: Anthony is a keen cyclist and enjoys open-water swimming

REGULAR readers of my little column, will know that your humble correspondent hails from what is now known as North Clondalkin. To paraphrase JFK, Ich bin ein North Clondalkiner.

When we moved to the area, believe me when I tell you, there was nothing there. Absolutely nothing. We were out in the country. Our local shop was Mrs Nolan's van in Neilstown and that was your lot as far as community resources went.

Naturally, being of the parish, I'm all too aware of the unjustly bad name the area has. This week's 'Face of the Community' is a man who spends his working life trying to change the perception of the place and restore the community spirit which cradled me as a young child.

Anthony Duffy is the man in question and he is truly dedicated to the welfare of the people of North Clondalkin.

Anthony, a Rathfarnham native, graduated with a degree in Community and Youth Work from Maynooth University in 2017 and his first assignment, through Foróige, was a spell as a Community Worker in the Summerhill area of the north inner city, another area with severe social issues.

As he will tell us, this only made him keener to make a difference to people who needed it.

"I came to my current position in 2018 and I'm a Community Worker working for the Empowering Communities programme, with particular focus on Rowlagh, Balgaddy and Quarryvale. It can be challenging of course, but it's also stimulating and no two days are ever the same."

"We've had a lot of problems with anti-social behaviour unfortunately and one thing that springs to mind is the epidemic of scrambler bikes of recent years. We've had some success in curbing that danger, but there's still plenty of work to do."

"I'd like to think I've built some strong relationships with the people I serve. I try to be a diligent and positive presence to the residents and above all else, be a friendly face that people can approach safely."

Anthony focuses on what he calls 'Pride of Place.' Instilling a sense of dignity about the areas, encouraging clean-ups and the maintenance of horticulture placed in the estates.

"We work on Area Enhancement alongside South Dublin County Council and one thing we really want to promote is Area Leadership."

"Simply put, we would like some people from the estates to step up and become leaders within their communities. The emphasis is on volunteerism and most of all to tell people they can make a positive impact on their communities. Whilst the rewards may not be financial, the sense of pride in the work is immeasurable."

To that end, Anthony was delighted to tell me about an extremely important event beginning in September.

"From the 17th September, the Empowering Communities programme is running a free course on Community Leadership. Starting on the 17th September, and running once a week thereafter for eight weeks the course will offer training in many skills required for effective Community Leadership. We will be offering Leadership skills, Leadership practice, alongside practical challenges and much, much more."

For more information, contact Anthony at Rowlagh Community Centre.

Anthony is quick to point out that it can be a 'heavy' job and it would be really difficult to get through were it not for the support of his colleagues. He's afraid to name them in case he leaves anybody out but he expresses huge thanks to them.

Away from the office, Anthony is a lover of the great outdoors. He's a keen cyclist and enjoys open-water swimming. He's also never happier than when taking his dog Dutchy out for a run.

"I have to admit that I took a few dodgy turns in my younger years," he tells me, surprisingly.

"Things could have ended up very differently for me but my uncle, Eugene Murphy, took me in hand and advised me not to waste my potential. Uncle Eugene was a free spirit and a bit of a hippy really so I followed his path for a while. I did a lot of travelling and lived in New Zealand and then Canada for a time."

You could have knocked me down with a feather when Anthony told me he had lived in London for five years studying acting of all things.

Still, thespianism's loss was North Clondalkin's gain and I would ask the residents down there to work with Anthony and his colleagues every chance they get.

If ever a place deserved it, it's North Clondalkin.


KEEN: Anthony Duffy dedicated to the welfare of the people of North Clondalkin

> **"I'd like to think I've built some strong relationships with the people I serve. I try to be a diligent and positive presence to the residents and above all else, be a friendly face that people can approach safely**

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

Over €53k raised for cancer by Relay for Life

Dear Editor,

EVERYONE in our community knows of someone who has died from cancer, or is fighting or has survived cancer.

The Relay for Life South Dublin raised €53,015 for supports in our community for cancer. This is due to the huge efforts of a committee who put dedication and work into raising these much-needed funds.

This is highly commendable, but equally important is they gave us a beautiful event and space to remenber all our loved ones cancer has effected.

This is invaluable to all of us who mourn loss and crave hope! I wanted to publicly thanks each and every person involved in Relay for Life 2025 and tell them how proud we are of them to give up their time to host such an important and special event.

I look forward with Hope to the Relay for Life 2026.

Yours sincerely,
Cllr Francis Timmons, Clondalkin.



COMPETITION: Áras an Uachtaráin, the residence of the President

Dear Editor,

AUGUST IS usually decried as the "peak silly season" as the Dáil Éireann, universities and courts are on vacation.

Bidding to become Ireland's youngest-ever president is 35-year-old Nutriband founder Gareth Sheridan who lacks the name recognition of Michael Flatley or Conor McGregor, both presidential hopefuls.

Former Chief Medical Officer, Prof Tony Holohan, quit the race, amid fears of his family being subjected to "personal abuse" which is becoming "increasingly normalised" after the sudden exit of Mairead McGuinness on health grounds.

A contest between Ms Heather Humphreys and Fine Gael MEP Sean Kelly (73) has become progressively likely. Heather Humphreys has a backstory that few of her political peers can match.

The grand-daughter of Unionists and former Cabinet Minister is seeking the Fine Gael nomination.

Her grandfather Robert James Stewart was 19 when he signed the Ulster Covenant in 1912 in protest at the Home Rule Bill which sought to set up a parliament in Dublin.

The Monaghan Presbyterian is proud of her roots and foresees a new Ireland where Unionists would be welcomed. If she were to win the Áras race it could bring a new twist to the Irish Unity debate.

Fine Gael senator Nikki Bradley, TDs Frank Feighan, and Helen McEntee are among Ms Humphreys supporters.

With no sign yet of a clear candidate from Sinn Féin or Fianna Fáil, both parties could abstain from the race.

Prediction: As Ms Heather Humphreys sprints towards the Fine Gael nomination, she could go on to become Ireland's 10th president.

Yours sincerely,
Gerry Coughlan,
Kilnamanagh.

The Angelus was first broadcast by RTÉ at precisely 6pm seventy-five years ago

Dear Editor,

THE ANGELUS derived from the Latin word 'angelus' meaning angel, was first broadcast on RTÉ Radio on Tuesday, August 15, 1950 – a jubilee year proclaimed by Pope Pius XII.

The opening line: "The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary . . ." is traditionally prayed three times a day at 6am, noon, and 6pm. For the last 75 years it has been broadcast daily since then.

When TV began transmittal on January 1, 1962, the 'Angelus Bell' was played from a tape accompanied by old master painting of the Annunciation.

During the late 1940s the then secretary of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs, Leon Ó Broin, discussed a daily spoken broadcast Angelus with Archbishop of Dublin, Dr John Charles McQuaid. The Director of Radio Éireann, Charles Kelly, was consulted but disfavoured the proposal. Both concluded: "the introduction of speech would be a mistake and we should experiment further simply with a bell."

Archbishop McQuaid, adept in horology, directed the first stroke of the bell should be at 6pm which entailed precision engineering, and a fool-proof clock system, installed in the Pro-Cathedral, controlled by a master-clock in the GPO.

The Angelus started transmittal on the Feast of the Assumption, August 15, 1950. Initially, evening peals were broadcast, but is now rung twice daily at noon and 6pm.

In attendance at the inaugural blessing were the entire Radiò Éireann management; clergy from Holy Cross College Clonliffe and Rev. C. Mangan, Secretary to the Archbishop.

The Angelus can furnish a useful broadcasting "junction" where the broadcaster can catch their breath saying: "And now let's pause now for the Angelus." "Ask not for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee," frequently interpreted as a reminder of mortality.

Yours sincerely,
Gerry Coughlan,
Kilnamanagh.

E business
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August 28, 2025

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property@echo.ie
motoring@echo.ie

Search and rescue operations by Coast Guard relocated to Weston

New contract provides for the operation of six AW 189 helicopters

THE IRISH Coast Guard has moved their Dublin-based search and rescue (SAR) operations to Weston Airport.

The move signifies the end of 27 years of Coast Guard helicopter services operating out of Dublin Airport.

The Coast Guard's helicopter SAR services are provided under contract, which is currently transferring from CHCI to Bristow Ireland Limited, who have established their headquarters at Weston Airport.

In response to a parliamentary question from Dublin South West TD John Lahart (FF) about contract details between the Department of Transport and Bristow Ireland, Minister of State at the Department of Transport Sean Canney said the new contractors commenced operations at Weston Airport on July 1 this year "to be followed by Sligo and Waterford in December and January next".

"The new contract provides for the operation of six AW 189 helicopters, five of which are newly built and already in service in Ireland, and the sixth scheduled to arrive in September," Minister Canney said.

"As with the existing contract, the provider for the service's retains responsibility for the supply, operation, and maintenance of the helicopter fleet throughout the lifetime of the contract."

Deputy Lahart also asked the Department of Transport to outline "what happens the helicopter once the contract once has expired", to which Minister Canney said that "given the contractual arrangement", his department did not have direct responsibility for "management of these assets".



NEW CONTRACT: The Irish Coast Guard has established new headquarters for operations

Another parliamentary question from Dublin Mid West TD Paul Gogarty (Ind) also asked the Minister for Transport to outline "the competent authority for noise regulation at Weston Airport; and if he will make a statement on the matter".

In response, Minister for Transport Darragh O'Brien stated that local authorities are responsible for "noise mapping of the area under their jurisdiction".

As Weston Airport is not a major airport, it has not been modelled as part of South Dublin County Council's strategic noise modelling, the Minister continued.

"I have been advised that it is a policy of SDCC to discourage noise-sensitive developments such as nursing homes, schools, hospitals and conference centres in the immediate vicinity of Weston aerodrome," he added.

"For residential development and other noise vulnerable land uses, an appropriate noise assessment with accompanying mitigation measures to protect residential amenity would be requested when submitted to the planning authority."

> **"It is a policy of SDCC to discourage noise-sensitive developments such as nursing homes, schools, hospitals and conference centres in the immediate vicinity**

New housing development in West Dublin to offer affordable homes to first-time buyers

APPLICATIONS will open in September for 26 affordable homes in a new housing development in west Dublin.

Swiftbanks, Mill Road, Saggart is a new collection of 3-bedroom homes built by Cairn Homes.

A total of 26 new homes are being offered for sale by South Dublin County Council under an Affordable Dwelling Purchase Agreement (ADPA).

Applications for the scheme open on Tuesday, September 2.

These 3-bedroom homes are, as subject to exceptions, being made available for first-time buyers only and include 17 mid-terrace houses, six end-of-terrace houses, two end-of-terrace houses with side entrances and one semi-detached.

Buyers will enter an ADPA with SDCC. Under this scheme, SDCC will take an equity share in the home – equal to the difference between market value and the price paid by applicants, expressed as a percentage of the market value.

Applicants must require a minimum of 5 per cent equity to be eligible to purchase.

It is recommended that applicants have their mortgage approval in principle prior to applying for an affordable home or at least be able to apply for a mortgage.

In line with the Scheme of Priority, a minimum of 30 per cent of these homes will only be available to applicants who are or have been living in the SDCC administrative area for a minimum of five years.

Each home boasts spacious interiors with high ceilings, ample storage, and premium finishes, ensuring comfort and style.

Sustainability is a key focus, with features like double-glazed windows, airtight insulation, and an advanced air-to-water heat pump system, achieving an impressive BER A2 energy rating.

The local area provides excellent transport links, amenities such as schools, shops, restaurants, parks, and recreational options, making it an ideal location for a balanced lifestyle.

Applications for these new homes at Swiftbanks must be made through the online portal on the council's website which will open at 10am on Tuesday, September 2 and closes at 4pm on Tuesday, September 23.

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme



NEW HOMES: Swiftbanks 3-bedroom homes have spacious interiors

E business

tel: 4685350 email: business@echo.ie

‘District Centre’ contributes to revitalising the Ballyroan area

Outdoor spaces can be enjoyed beside shops and amenities, and all within 15 minutes walk

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

A NEW ‘District Centre’ around Marian Road in Ballyroan “provides the services of a traditional village,” said South Dublin County Council.

Last month, SDCC completed the Rosemount District Centre Enhancement Scheme, with five main goals in mind – reducing car priority, providing greater social inclusion, supporting active travel and biodiversity and delivering facilities for all ages.

The scheme commenced in 2023 and has now “revitalised” the area through outdoor spaces that can be enjoyed beside local shops and community facilities, all located within a 15-minute walking distance.

The District Centre serves about 4,000 homes, explained SDCC Senior Engineer Gary Walsh in a recent online video presentation.

Twelve shops and the Ballyroan Community and Youth Centre are surrounded by a pedestrian walkway widened to 4 metres, with seating provided throughout.

> “Local shops and community spaces – you just can’t beat it

‘Play on the Way’ features have been installed to serve the children enrolled in the four local schools, with the hope of encouraging them to walk to school daily.

Table tennis and chess tables are also available in the pedestrian area for kids of all ages.

One set of seating has been provided by an Irish start-up which uses old wind turbine blades to build repurposed community facilities.

Ballyroan Parish Church, with a dedicated pedestrian entrance for ceremonies, and Ballyroan Library, complete the lively centre.

The car-parking has been re-aligned to provide more space to pedestrians with a design that retained as many trees as possible.

Traffic-calming measures have been implemented on the Marian Road, the main road in the area.

“The place looks fantastic,” said a resident featured in the SDCC video presentation, while another added “it’s a real hub and walkable, people can come here to enjoy it and relax.”

“It brought the community spirit back,” said the local butcher being interviewed. “Local shops and community spaces – you just can’t beat it.”

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme



FANTASTIC: An artist’s impression of the Rosemount plans

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Shamrock Rovers renews its ticketing partnership

TICKETING software and services provider Future Ticketing has announced a renewal of its partnership with Shamrock Rovers.

The multi-year deal between the industry leader in digital ticketing and the Republic of Ireland’s most successful football club extends a mutually productive relationship which is already nearly a decade old.

Shamrock Rovers FC’s commitment to continuous improvement inspired its original link-up with Future Ticketing, a pioneer in the provision of online ticketing in Irish football.

Future Ticketing has supported Shamrock Rovers in achieving key data and ticketing objectives, from meeting the complex requirements of European football ticketing and facilitating the Return to Football in 2020, to enabling the planning for a new family-focused North Stand at Tallaght Stadium informed by a deep understanding of the club’s demographics.

Ann Marie Guinan, Chief Marketing Officer, Future Ticketing, recalled how Shamrock Rovers first required a new, flexible ticketing system nine years ago which was capable of fulfilling a range of demands.

“We were delighted to work with Rovers to improve the fan experience, deliver quick and easy digital ticket sales and allow instant access to revenue. We have helped the club automate its workload and the development of the bespoke Shamrock Rovers Digital Ticket App was a real breakthrough in ensuring that the seamless digital transformation coincided with enhanced fan loyalty,” said Guinan.

“As befits the most decorated club in the League of Ireland, Shamrock Rovers is a regular participant in European competitions and we have been privileged to assist the Hoops hosting many prestigious fixtures.

“Shamrock Rovers were early adopters of another piece of game changing Future Ticketing technology, Dashboard Connect, which allows the club to host both home and away ticket sales, prioritising loyal fans and guaranteeing ticket holder visibility in a GDPR compliant manner.”

Ross Cullinane, Head of Business Operations, Shamrock Rovers, said: “Since 2016, Future Ticketing has been a key strategic partner for Shamrock Rovers, supporting us through a period of sustained growth. From record attendances at Tallaght Stadium to major European fixtures, Future Ticketing’s technology has allowed us to scale seamlessly while delivering a smooth, high-quality experience for our supporters.”



ON THE BALL: Ross Cullinane, Head of Business Operations for Shamrock Rovers FC and Ann Marie Guinan, Chief Marketing Officer at Future Ticketing, renewed the partnership at Shamrock Rovers’ 4-0 win over Ballkani in the UEFA Conference League, third Qualifying Round

E business

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Closure of Little Caesars a 'sad day for Rathfarnham'

'Little Caesars never just a business, it was a home built on laughter and love'



A POPULAR Italian restaurant in Rathfarnham has shut their doors "with the heaviest of hearts" after over 30 years in business.

Little Caesars, located on Butterfield Avenue, announced the closure of its doors for good after 35 years on Thursday, August 21.

"The rising costs have made it impossible for us to continue, but what will always remain are the memories we've shared within these walls," the owners said in a message to customers.

"It's with the heaviest of hearts that we announce we have closed our doors after 35 incredible years.

"We've watched families grow through three generations here. We've seen first dates turn into weddings, children turn into parents, and strangers turn into friends.

Many customers and regulars shared their dismay over the news, and memories of many happy times at the iconic family restaurant.

"Thank you for all the lovely memories in the city and Rathfarnham for over 30 years. Always a warm welcome and delicious food. You will all be missed by us," one said.

"This was my son Jason's favourite restaurant," another customer shared.

"Jason passed in 2021 and we still hold his birthday celebration with yourselves. We held Jason's 21st in December in the back room. You made a tough day so much easier and showed nothing but kindness and warmth as always. The end of an era. Thank you for being such beautiful people."

One customer, who had only celebrated her birthday at Little Caeser's the previous Monday night, said she was "devastated now, as I just realised I have had my last Pollo Alla Valdostana which is the dish I have ordered every time I've been there for the last 20 years".

"I'm gonna miss that sauce. So sad to see you close," she added.

Close neighbours The Revels, located on Rathfarmham's Main Street, called the news "a sad day for Rathfarnham", and said that any staff members from Little Caeser's who are now out of work could get in touch with them.

"Little Caesars was never just a business, it was a home, built on community, laughter, and love," the owners added.

"We will carry those memories with us forever, and we hope you will too.

"To our regulars who became family, and to those who only visited once, thank you for letting us be a part of your lives."

Sisk gets main contract for development of Center Parcs


EXPANSION: Work has already begun on the new development in Centre Parcs

SISK has been announced as the main contractor for the initial phase of further development at Center Parcs Longford Forest with construction already underway on site.

Headquartered at Citywest Business Park, Sisk completed the initial building phase of Ireland's largest outdoor resort back in 2020.

Overall, a total of 300 jobs will be created during construction and approximately a further 250 permanent jobs once operational.

The new proposed development is set to increase capacity of the resort to approximately 3,500 guests per break.

Sisk will complete 83 new lodges at the resort and a new Lakeside restaurant.

The village near Ballymahon has helped drive growth in the domestic tourism market. In the 12 months between April 2023 and April 2024, Center Parcs Longford Forest generated €58 million GVA for the Irish economy, €23 million in Exchequer revenue and welcomed 260,700 guests.

Locally, the resort has generated €44 million GVA within Longford and created over 1,000 jobs. Of those employed, 60 per cent are from County Longford, with 89% per cent living in the Midlands region.

Sustainability and protecting the local environment have been at the forefront of the development planning and, as part of the expansion, an air-source, heat-pump-led network will power the new lodges.

Measures will be put in place at all facilities to reduce energy consumption, including the use of high-efficiency LED lighting, while new commercial buildings on the village will be powered by electricity rather than gas.

Low-flow outlets will also be utilised throughout the development to reduce water consumption.

The announcement comes just weeks after Center Parcs celebrated six years operating in Ireland this July.

Leanne Broderick, Managing Director, Sisk said: "Sisk is delighted to win the Center Parcs extension project. Having completed the initial first phase of building works five years ago, this is a significant project win for us. We look forward to working with the Center Parcs team again and extending its state-of-the-art facilities."

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‘No’ to proposals for 300 new homes



An artist impression of the plans for the Newcastle site

An Coimisiún Pleanála says the apartment blocks lacked ‘architectural variety’

A PLANNING application by Cairn Homes for almost 300 new homes in south Dublin has been rejected by An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP).

Cairn Homes submitted the application for the strategic housing development (SHD) in Newcastle South directly to the commission in 2022.

If built, the development would have provided 128 houses, 116 apartments and 36 duplex units for a total of 280 homes, with over 420 parking spaces, green spaces and amenities such as a crèche planned as well.

The proposal included 94 three-bedroom homes, eight two-bedroom units, 25 four-bedroom homes and a single five-bedroom property.

The apartments (54 one-bed, 62 two-bed) would have been spread across two five-storey buildings, with the duplex apartments (18 two-bed and 18 three-bed) located across 3 three-storey units.

ACP refused to grant permission for the seven-year planning application on Tuesday, August 8 on a number of grounds.

The decision report from ACP noted that a large section of the proposed 8.47ha site is already undergoing construction for a separate development by Cairn Homes, and that granting permission for this SHD would “necessitate changes and demolition of dwellings in order to implement the development”.

“The demolition of such structures would be contrary to Policy E3 Objective 2 and 3 of the South Dublin County Council (SDCC) Development Plan 2022-2028 which seeks the prioritisation of retrofitting of buildings over demolition,” the report stated.

The report also noted that a number of supporting documents for the application, including the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) were “inaccurate” and “fundamentally flawed”, and that the apartment blocks lacked “the requisite architectural variety” in the context of nearby developments and would adversely affect visual amenities in the area.

The report compiled by the senior planning inspector also noted that councillors from the Clondalkin Area Committee had raised concerns about the development after a presentation in 2022.

The elected members raised “serious concerns” about the rate of development and growth in the Newcastle area, as well as a lack of peak-time bus services, the car-dependent nature of the development, and a poor ratio of childcare floorspace to the number of units proposed.

An Coimisiún Pleanála’s ultimate decision stated the Newcastle South development “would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area”.

Plans turned down for three-storey credit union office building by ‘reason of scale

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

THE construction of a three-storey office building in Ballydowd by Lucan District Credit Union Ltd has been refused planning permission by South Dublin County Council.

Located at The Laurels in Ballydowd, the plans included the demolition of a disused bungalow, unoccupied for about eight years and in advanced disrepair with the replacement by the construction of a new three-storey office building and ancillaries comprising site development works, soft landscaping, cycle and car-parking areas with EV charging points

In making its decision, the local authority said: “The proposed development by reason of its scale, height, siting, massing and proximity to site boundaries, would fail to integrate well into the area, would detract from its existing residential character, and would injure the residential amenity of adjoining properties by reason of visual obtrusion and overbearing visual impact. It is considered that a three-storey building could be accomodated on this site but not with the combination of factors listed above that afflict the present design. The proposed development would therefore be contrary to the ‘RES’ zoning objective and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area”.

The council also went on to say that the proposed development would be contrary to Policy NCBH24 and its relevant objectives to encourage the reuse and adaptation of older vacant and derelict buildings as a key component of promoting sustainable development and the applicant has failed to provide appropriate plans and particulars in relation to: (a) public realm / landscaping and trees (b) green infrastructure proposals and calculations (c) access, transport and parking.



FAILED PLANS: An artist’s impression of the proposed credit union building

property

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Potenial to develop over 170 homes at Cypress Grove House

County estate has already been listed as a South Dublin protected structure

OVER 170 homes might be built at Cypress Grove House, a Templeogue country estate listed as a South Dublin protected structure.

Earlier this month, town planning firm Stephen Little & Associates applied to South Dublin County Council proposing to develop a 'Large-scale Residential Development' at the site.

The proposal includes construction of 172 residential units, both houses and apartments, ranging from 1-bed to 4-bed and from 3 to 5 storeys high.

The refurbishment of Cypress Grove House would also be part of the development.

Built during the first half of the 18th century in Georgian style, Cypress Grove House was home to many different wealthy and respected families.

The name of the house 'Cypress Grove' was inspired by the many cypress trees which grew in the surrounding area.

One of the earliest residents of the house was Sir William Cooper, a member of Dublin's upper-class community, who was both a Master in Chancery and Member of Parliament.

The residence was also occupied for some time by the White Fathers Missionaries of Africa.

The lands comprise an irregular shaped site measuring approximately 2.67 Ha (6.6 Ac) which is entirely zoned as "to protect and/ or improve residential amenity" within the South Dublin County Council Development Plan.

Last year, agent Savills took care of the sale after carrying out three residential feasibilities which showed potential for 178 apartments, or 70 apartments and 25 houses, or 112 units comprising a mix of apartments, duplexes and triplex homes.

Savills said the sale would be a "unique opportunity to acquire a superb development site within one of the most desired residential locations in Dublin."



PROTECTED: Cypress Grove House

Place of worship plans and community centre get green light in Lucan village

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

PLANNING has been approved for a place of worship and community centre by South Dublin County Council in Lucan Village.

Located at Units 39-40, Hills Industrial Estate, Lower Lucan Road, Lucan, the application submitted by Daare Arqam Trust, includes change of use from furniture shop and window shop/showroom to a multi-functional space to include a place of worship and community centre (with ancillary office space).

Also included in the plans are minor internal alterations to layouts and alterations to the elevations to facilitate the change of use and the provision of car-parking spaces and bicycle spaces and all associated landscaping and site development works.

The subject site includes a Protected Structure, Steward's Crafts.



GO-AHEAD: The unit in Lucan village

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school@stewartscare.ie
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Intimate drama by award winning writer Alan getting numerous accolades

By **Ryan Butler**
news@echo.ie

JUNGLE' is an intimate drama by award-winning Clondalkin writer and director Alan Hopkins set against the backdrop of the refugee crisis in Europe.

Chris is a closeted long-haul truck driver making his way across France. One night just outside Calais, he discovers a young Libyan refugee, Bouba, hiding in his truck.

An altercation leads to blackmail. Bouba needs Chris to take him to Calais. Using the fear of his secret being revealed, he forces him to comply.

This short film is produced by recently established company Hal Pictures, which Alan co-founded with his producing partner Husni Hafid, the mastermind behind the Irish-language short film 'Ogham'.

'Jungle', which was first released in 2022, has been met with numerous accolades, including a special mention at the Out of Bounds Film Festival in Molfetta in 2023.

It was also nominated for "Best Irish Short" at the Indie Cork Awards and made the official selection for the Roze Filmdagen in Amsterdam.

The Echo met with Alan this week to talk about 'Jungle', which will air on RTE 1 at 11:40 pm on September 1 before going to RTEPlayer.

It has been a full year since our last interview about 'Ogham,' has it been a busy year for Hal Pictures?

Yes, it's flown by. When we last spoke, 'Ogham' was about to premiere at the Galway Film Fleadh. Since then, it's been screened at festivals worldwide, picked up awards, and given me the chance to travel with the film.

We've also received funding for a new project and are now preparing for 'Jungle's' TV premiere on RTE.

What inspired 'Jungle'?

'Jungle' grew from the helplessness I felt watching people die crossing the English Channel and Mediterranean in search of a better life.

When I find a topic I care about, that's what draws me in as a filmmaker, and the ongoing refugee crisis in Europe and the growing polarisation of people against those with the least power in our society is a story worth telling.

However, taking on a topic of such scale without financial backing or resources, I felt, could lead to making a film that failed to do justice to the topic.

That's why I decided to write an intimate story that is almost adjacent to the realities of the camp they called the "Jungle". I felt if I focused on one person's journey, hoping that through that microcosm, I could speak to the wider truth of the events surrounding it and humanise the topic on a personal scale.

Were there any pressures or struggles involved in production? If that is the case, how did you manage to cope with it?

We shot the film in Kent, UK, which doubled for Calais, during COVID. Like any independent film, we faced time and financial pressures, made more intense by travel restrictions and the risk of being shut down at any moment.

We actually encountered the wrath of a Tory councillor who tried to block our filming permit and shut us down on the final day of shooting. He didn't want a film about refugees being filmed in Kent. Luckily we were tipped off in advance by a supportive council employee.

The way we overcame these challenges was sheer passion, for the story, for the craft, and for getting it right, and a good egg on the inside of the Kent council.

Were there differences in production between 'Ogham' and 'Jungle'?

Outwardly, the films are very different; 'Ogham' is a period piece set during the famine, while 'Jungle' is a modern story set near the Calais refugee camps. But the production challenges were similar: both involved multiple exterior locations and complex logistics.

The main difference was crew size; with 'Ogham', Screen Ireland support allowed for a full crew, which eased some pressure. On 'Jungle', as an independent production, we often took on multiple roles each out of necessity.

It's easy to fail when no one is watching, and the biggest difference from 'Jungle' to 'Ogham' was that we actually had a deliverable and a deadline, and we wanted to deliver the best film possible to Screen Ireland so we might work again in this town. (They loved it.)

What processes were involved in casting Paul McQuaid, Arian Nik, and Ewens Abid?

I had worked with Paul McQuaid previously; he had a small part in an earlier film I directed, and we had such a good experience that we had been looking for another project to work on together, we've actually done three films together now with 'Jungle' and 'Ogham'.

Arian Nik and Ewens Abid reached out to us directly from our casting notice and understood the importance of the story we were trying to tell, so they invested themselves heavily in the project from the outset.



DRAMA: Producer Husni Hafid on the set of 'Ogham'

Arian was just an amazing performer, and his casting tape blew us away. We saw so many actors for that role, and with Arian, we knew immediately that he was the one.

Ewens, similarly, from the moment we spoke with him, his enthusiasm for the work was so infectious that I just really wanted to work with him, and I only wish I had a bigger role for him, but he's in Andor on Disney+ now, so I think he's doing ok.

What is next for you? Are there any other projects or films planned?

We're in pre-production now on our next film, 'A Knock at Your Door', another Screen Ireland-supported project, filming in January 2026, so that is our main focus.

We are always developing new projects, however, and the aim is to be talking about our first feature film the next time you hear from us.

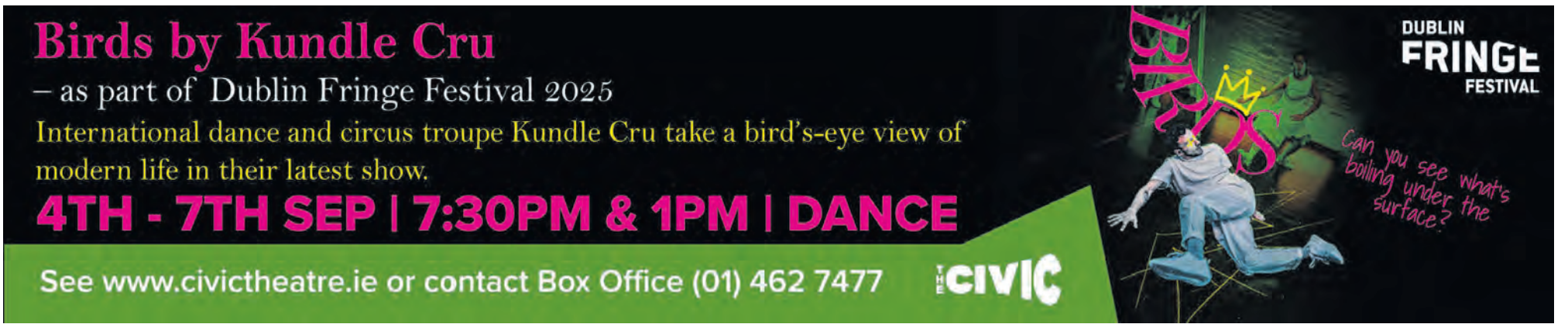
Who would you like to thank for helping with 'Jungle'?

You can't make an independent film without a lot of help from everyone you know, but we really have to thank the support of our families and loved ones and the whole cast and crew.

It really was a labour of love from all involved. Also the support of the refugee community, whose support was invaluable and who this film really is a tribute to.

Finally, though, I have to thank my late Aunt, Pam Kelly; she was always so supportive of me as a filmmaker.

There were many points in the making of this film where we could have faltered, but it was the desire to make her proud and give her the film we knew she would have loved that got us over the line, she powered us through the toughest moments, and I hope she is proud of what we achieved.



Reeling in the years

DURING ST MARK'S GAA CLUB 50TH CELEBRATIONS

Photos by Paddy Barrett

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Sharon Russell, Breda Mullen and Helen Connick



Brian Aherne, Heline Russell and John Ryan



Mick O'Callaghan and Mick Duggan



Evelyn Brereton and Valerie Jameson

International dance and circus company Kundle Cru set for the stage at the Civic

By **Ryan Butler**
news@echo.ie

"THERE is much potential for play and discovery that's always inspiring," explains choreographer Matt Szczerek.

This August, Kundle Cru, an acclaimed international dance and circus company, will launch their explosive new show 'Birds' across Ireland, featuring a four-performance run at the Civic from September 4 to 7.

The show previewed at The Everyman in Cork as part of the Pitch'd Circus & Street Arts Festival by Circus Factory Cork on August 27, as part of the 2025 Dublin Fringe Festival.

Led by celebrated Dublin-based choreographer and urban dance innovator Matt Szczerek, 'Birds' showcases the raw physicality and precision Kundle Cru has become renowned for.

Following their internationally acclaimed dance show 'Blame Game', Kundle Cru return with a fresh, new, high-energy and genre-bending work.

'Birds' is a "take on the ever-changing modern world and its effect on us", according to Matt.

This new work uses hypnotic hip-hop, contemporary dance, and circus artistry to reflect on a world caught in flux, clipped wings, short fuses, and the looming potential for ignition.

Matt explains that the "potential" of skill exchange between dance and circus inspired the formation of the group.

The story of 'Birds' is told through multiple media: light design, projection dance, and circus apparatuses and costumes, which each require "equal care and attention".

Production of Kundle Cru's previous show, 'Blame Game', was interrupted by COVID, and Matt believes there is a "huge difference" in the production of 'Birds' for this reason.

With COVID out of the way, the group gets to "feel the flow" of a production in process, as they can dive deeply into themes for creation without having to worry about their health.

He goes on to remark that he believes



electrifying: international-irish dance company Kundle cru's electrifying new show Birds takes flight at the everyman in cork on August 27 as part of Pitch'd circus & Street Arts festival, ahead of its Dublin fringe festival.

'Birds' is a favourite show of Kundle Cru so far, as "we are getting to really know each other and merge as a company now," not just shine as individual artists.

After the Civic performances, Kundle Cru are performing a short Irish tour of 'Blame Game' at Roscommon Arts Centre on October 15, Riverbank Arts Centre on October 17, and Draiocht Theatre on October 18.

Matt would like to thank all the venues for all the support prior to this production and for "always supporting our vision", Promenade for production support and Arts Council Ireland for financial support.

'Birds' performs in The Civic from September 4 to 7; visit civictheatre.ie for tickets.

Music collective aims at people to be creative

By **Ryan Butler**
news@echo.ie

"THE principle aim of the collective is to encourage young people to be creative and offer them the means of the space to do so," explains singer-songwriter Lara Fleming regarding the SubSounds Youth Music collective.

Coming off the success of the Music Festival in July, the 2025/26 SubSounds projects will start up in October this year, with the application process beginning at the end of August.

The group have two releases this month to promote their applications opening, with one of their more experienced artists, River Sweeney, releasing their new single, 'Like A Poet', on August 15.



PArtnerShiP: lara fleming

River has been a SubSounds participant for the past 5 to 6 years and will join the mentor team in October.

On August 29, the collective are releasing their latest album titled 'So Extra', which will feature songs written and recorded by participants between January and June 2025.

When asked about the work that has gone into organising all of this, Lara responds by revealing that the participants and mentors have been working on the songs "all year" in workshops and rehearsals.

Recordings took place in CONTACT Studio in Rua Red and Camden Recording Studios in Dublin City Centre.

The songs were then mixed and mastered by SubSounds engineers and are ready to be released on streaming platforms such as Bandcamp, Spotify, TIDAL, Apple Music, etc.

Lara herself is currently in the stages of pre-production on her new single, working on the final arrangements before a full band is brought in for rehearsals.

She is hoping to release it around January or February of 2026, so be sure to keep an eye out.

Lara would like to thank Music Generation and CONTACT for a "great partnership" in SubSounds, which has lasted over 10 years as of writing.

She would also like to extend her gratitude to the Annette Halpin Memorial Award for providing "much needed" funding that helped her with her single toward completion of the project, and Martin Moran for supporting her and her musical journey.

Applications for SubSounds 25/26 will go live on SubSounds.ie on Friday, August 29.



Lá Na gClub

AT THOMAS DAVIS GAA CLUB ON KILTIPPER ROAD

Photos by Paddy Barrett

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Georgia, Sophie and Lara



Podge McConnell, April McConnell and Darcey and Lucy McDonnell (Twins)



Sam and Ben Ryan



Erica, Molly and Josh



Orlagh McGuigan, David Horan, Aimee Collins, Seán Byrne and Olivia Girvan



Carmel and Sinead



Dan Walsh, Deirdre Halpin, Michelle Stewart and Jackie Blanchfield



Patrick, Kian, Aaron, Michael, Harry, Cillian and Darren

Clondalkin Drama Group host Secrets and Shipwrecks

By **Ryan Butler**
news@echo.ie

"WE'RE calling the overall production 'Secrets & Shipwrecks', as we think that title encompasses the vibes of both plays quite nicely!" exclaims Michaela Courtney of Clondalkin Drama Group.

In two short plays by Robert Scott, 'The Attic' will leave theatregoers looking over their shoulder, while 'All By Myself' will have them dreaming of paradise, bringing mystery and comedy in one evening.

The members of Clondalkin Drama Group want to bring audiences on two distinct journeys forged from the same pen, from investigating a mysterious letter to exploring a deserted island.

Michaela comments on the production, called 'Secrets & Shipwrecks', remarking that as the plays are short, they can afford to perform more than one, which gives more members of the group a chance to participate.

"More plays means more roles, which means more cast members!"

They chose to do 'The Attic' and 'All By Myself' as, despite both being written by Robert Scott, they are both very different from each other.

As of writing, the group are currently underway with rehearsals, which are going "excellently".

Michaela cites a challenge in production as being the performance space—they rehearse and perform in Quinlan's Black Lion pub, which they "adore" and where the staff are "very kind" to them, but the space is "cramped" and "not ideal."

"If anyone wants to donate a theatre to us or put pressure on the SDCC for more arts spaces in Clondalkin, we'd much appreciate it!"

One of the group's members is currently writing the winter programme, which is going to be 'Aladdin'; production on it will begin as soon as the one-acts have finished performing, with an aim to perform it in January 2026.

The group would like to thank Quinlan's and all its staff for hosting them and allowing them to use their space, everyone in the Clondalkin Drama Group who has been working hard to put this production together, and *The Echo* for reaching out to them and featuring them.

Clondalkin Drama Group will be performing 'Secrets & Shipwrecks' upstairs in Quinlan's in Clondalkin village from September 15 to 18.

The shows start at 7:30pm, and tickets are available at the door: €5 for opening night and €10 for all others. Cash is the only accepted form of payment.



production: 'All By Myself' cast (from L to r): Ashworth (Michaela courtney), pemberton (Jake Kelly), nicholson (Mary o'Grady), Miller (Alan Mcnally) and Larry (Sean Bridgeman)

Showcasing singers and local talent at session

By **Ryan Butler**
news@echo.ie

"IT'S TO raise awareness of local talent around our local area and also further afield," explains Terenure resident Keith McLoughlin.

Keith is a singer-songwriter, music promoter, and radio presenter who presents on Dublin South FM on Sunday nights, hosting many musical guests and playing local music, along with hosting 'The Brady's Sessions' and 'The Songwriter Club'.

'The Brady's Sessions' is a singer-songwriter night showcasing solo acts and groups two Mondays a month in Brady's Bar in Terenure.

Acts are given 30 minutes each to perform their original music acoustically and unplugged, with four acts usually expected for each gig.

Keith says that acts will rehearse on their own and that he will perform "a song or two" at the next gig. He wrote two songs with Sabina Vostner of Slovenia, and she is currently on tour in Ireland.

They participated in the Tipperary Song of Peace Final on August 20 for their new song 'Give Me A Sign'.

"I'm lucky that I work in Brady's too, that Ray and the staff let me organise these nights," beams Keith.

'The Brady's Sessions' take place in Brady's Bar in Terenure, Dublin 6w on September 1 and 15, with some acts booked in for October 16 and 20.

Playing on the first night are Sabina Vostner, Novatone, Brian Horan, and Vin Allen. The host, Keith, may perform a song too. Concert-goers are encouraged to give donations on the night to help the acts.

Follow 'The Brady's Sessions' on Facebook for information on the nights, and if any acts want to apply to play, they are encouraged to get in touch with Keith.





Fun Day

FOR ALL THE FAMILY IN RATHCOOLE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Photos by Paddy Barrett

Photos taken for *The Echo* are available to purchase. Email **reception@echo.ie** or call 01-4685350.
You can view *The Echo* Photography Policy on ***echo.ie***



R.A.M.S. Matt, Michael, Brendan, Ray and Ciáran



Michelle, Declan, Emily and Denis



Tricia Kellett and Iggy Keane



Rose and Chrisse



The Murray Family



Ruben, Oriana, Lianna and Ian



Finn, Sienna and Georgia



Kirsty, Maja and Lilly



Dillon with the Magician



Brody and Oisín

FLASH GORDON

THE BARMAID FINISHES OPENING THE **KOMOK'S BRIDE**, THE ONLY PUBLIC HOUSE IN **LOWLAND STATION**.

A **STORM'S** BREWING. **TRAINS** AND **ROCKETS** WILL BE STALLED, DELAYED, **CANCELED** EVEN.

WHICH MEANS A HORDE OF WET, STRANDED **TRAVELERS**.

WHICH MEANS A LONG **NIGHT**.

LOWLAND STATION.

A LONE TRANSIT HUB IN THE MIDDLE OF A VAST STRETCH OF **NOWHERE**...

...CHOKED WITH TRAVELERS FROM ALL CORNERS OF PLANET MONGO.

WAR IS LOOMING, AND EVERYONE'S TRYING TO GET SOMEWHERE ELSE BEFORE IT HITS.

THEY WERE **TOLD** THERE'D BE **PEACE** NOW.

AFTER ALL, **MING** HAD BEEN **DEFEATED**...

...BY **FLASH GORDON**.

A **LIBERATOR**. A **WARRIOR**. A **HERO**--

--TO **SOME**.

TO OTHERS, HE'S AN **INTERLOPER**. A **TERRORIST**. AN **ALIEN INVADER**.

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HE'S TOUCHED **COUNTLESS** LIVES. **SIX** OF THEM ARE HERE IN THIS PUB.

THESE ARE THEIR STORIES OF **THE MAN FROM EARTH**...

DAN SCHKADE 2·16·25

NEXT: THE GLADIATOR

THE PHANTOM™

CREATED BY LEE FALK

TONDIBI, 1591... THE BEGINNING OF THE FALL OF THE SONGHAI EMPIRE.

A MERCENARY ARMY FROM THE NORTH, SEEKING GOLD IN THE SERVICE OF THE SULTAN OF MOROCCO.

WITH CANNONS, MORTARS AND THE FIRE OF ITS ARQUEBUSIERS, THE INVADER BREAKS THE CHARGE OF THE SONGHAI CAVALRY.

TONDIBI IS SOON LITTERED WITH SONGHAI DEAD.

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SURVIVORS FLEE SOUTH, INTO PLACES OF HIDING IN THE RIVER COUNTRY AND THE RAINFORESTS.

Tony DePaul & Jeff Weigel 11-10-24

www.thephantomcomics.com

THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS

POPEYE

BY RANDY MILHOLLAND

BZZZZZ

WHAT SHOULD I GET FOR MY NEXT TATTOO?

A NEW TATTOO ARTIST.

BZZZZ

I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE MY TATTOO!

BZZZZ

YA BETTER HAVE A GOOD IMAGINATION.

WHATTAYA MEAN?

YER SKIN'S RUBBER. THE NEEDLE CAN'T DO NOTHIN' BUT MAKE YER ARM RIPPLE. TATTOOIN' YA IS IMPOSSIBLE.

SO I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO GET A TATTOO?

NOW DON'T YOU FRET NONE, MISS. I GOT A SOLUTION.

ZEON, USE GLOVES, PLEASE. LOVE, ZEON

popeye.com

A RUB-ON TATTOO?!

LOOKIT THIS WAY. NO ONE'S EV'R REGRETTED A PRETEND TATTOO!

ARF! ARF!

LET'S GET BACK TO SWEETHAVEN.

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SHE CARRIES THE MARK!

THE PROPHECY IS AT HAND!

THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS "SHADOW OVER FIN'S SOUTH" PART 1

8-17

TASQ-ART

WWW.TASQART.COM



Enjoying the tractor run in Brittas on Saturday



On the Nuttfield tractor



Megan, Mannix, Maisie, Kade, Niamh, Oisín, Tadhg and Katie



Caroline Corcoran Ennis



Sydney and Remae



Tipper Services joined in the run



Sandra Mansfield and Helen Campbell



Enjoying the tractor run in Brittas



Tony O'Connor and Gerry O'Riordan



A truck from Shillelagh Quarries

Tractor Run

ANNUAL RUN IN BRITTAS ON SATURDAY

Photos by Paddy Barrett

Photos taken for *The Echo* are available to purchase. Email **reception@echo.ie** or call 01-4685350.
You can view *The Echo* Photography Policy on ***echo.ie***



Frances, Ciara, Sinead, Keira and Roisín



Jack Keogh, Susan Mansfield, Owen Foster and Amanda Mansfield



One of the tractors on the run



Caoimhe and Robyn



Good Look. Luke Kavanagh, Emmet Lucas, Danielle O'Toole, Ben Carroll and Thomas Holohan



Stacey Murphy, Shillelagh Quarries Ltd

Family Fun Day

AT THE PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE ON SATURDAY

Photos by Paddy Barrett

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The Nolan and O'Rourke Families



Jeanne and Hugh Turner



Tricia, Liz, Su, Andrea, Bernie and Dave (SDCC)



Layla and Gillian



Sue Clarke and Marian Sweetman



Jill, Quinn and Kacey-Rey Conway



Simon and Allannah

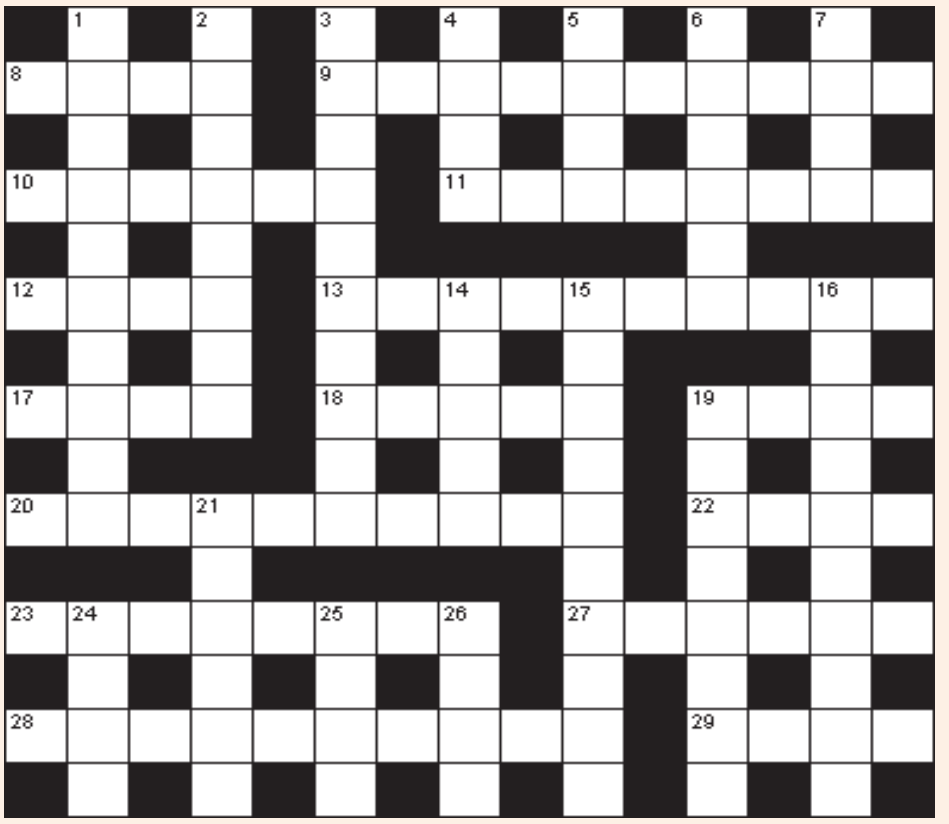


Fitzsimons Academy at the Park Community Centre in Ballycullen



Christina, Delia and Andrei

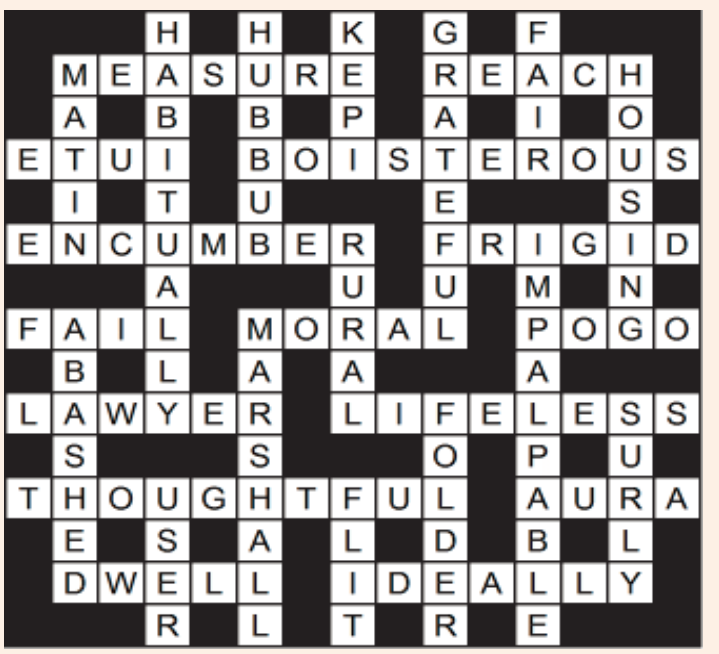
echocrossquiz Q2808



ACROSS
8. Beasts of burden (4)
9. Ominously prophetic (10)
10. Azotic (6)
11. Thick dark syrup (8)
12. French Sudan (4)
13. Western (10)
17. Male monarch (4)
18. Heart artery (5)
19. Prefix meaning "After" or "Beyond" (4)
20. Provoke the hostility of (10)
22. Pouch (4)
23. Not nighttime (8)
27. Not complicated (6)
28. A language of India (10)
29. Stiff hair (4)

DOWN
1. A coming to an end (10)
2. Infallible (8)
3. Devotee (10)
4. Strait-laced (4)
5. Cain's brother (4)
6. Invented the lightbulb (6)
7. ___ meridiem (4)
14. Welsh dog (5)
15. Franchise (10)
16. Put into words (10)
19. Jumble (8)
21. Make a disguised reference to (6)
24. Similar (4)
25. Spew forth (4)
26. Snare (4)

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS 2108



CAN YOU BEAT THIS WEEK'S CROSSQUIZ?

SUDOKU 1

			4		9	8	7	
1						3	6	
								4
5	2			7				
	7		9				8	5
6						9	4	
		6					3	
9	3	5				4		
					8			

SUDOKU 2

7							4	
				8				
				7	4		2	3
		3	1				9	
6	2				5			1
				6				
	4	2	6			3		
		9	4		2		8	
3							5	

ANSWERS

4	5	2	9	1	8	7	6	3
6	8	7	2	3	4	9	5	1
9	1	5	3	4	6	2	7	8
5	7	8	3	6	2	1	9	4
1	3	4	5	7	9	6	2	8
2	9	6	8	4	1	3	5	7
3	2	4	7	8	5	9	6	1
7	6	9	4	5	3	8	1	2
8	4	3	6	2	7	5	9	6

SUDOKU 1

7	3	1	8	9	6	4	2	5
8	2	6	7	1	4	5	3	9
9	5	4	2	3	7	6	1	8
4	9	2	1	5	8	3	6	7
5	6	7	4	2	1	9	8	3
3	1	9	6	8	5	2	4	7
6	8	2	5	7	3	1	9	4
1	4	3	9	6	2	8	7	5
2	7	5	3	4	9	6	5	1

SUDOKU 2

Poet's Corner

THE WINDOW

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.

Looking through a window
reflecting on her life
it was not always smooth
there was heartache there was strife
But through it all her family helped
to ease the pain
Now locked away in a nursing home
she pines for them again.
She can not understand why she can
not see her kids
her eyes are getting misty
tears fall from their lids.
She sees them on a screen
but longs to feel a hug
Deprived in her time of life
by a microscopic bug .

Hope you're all enjoying our



NEW

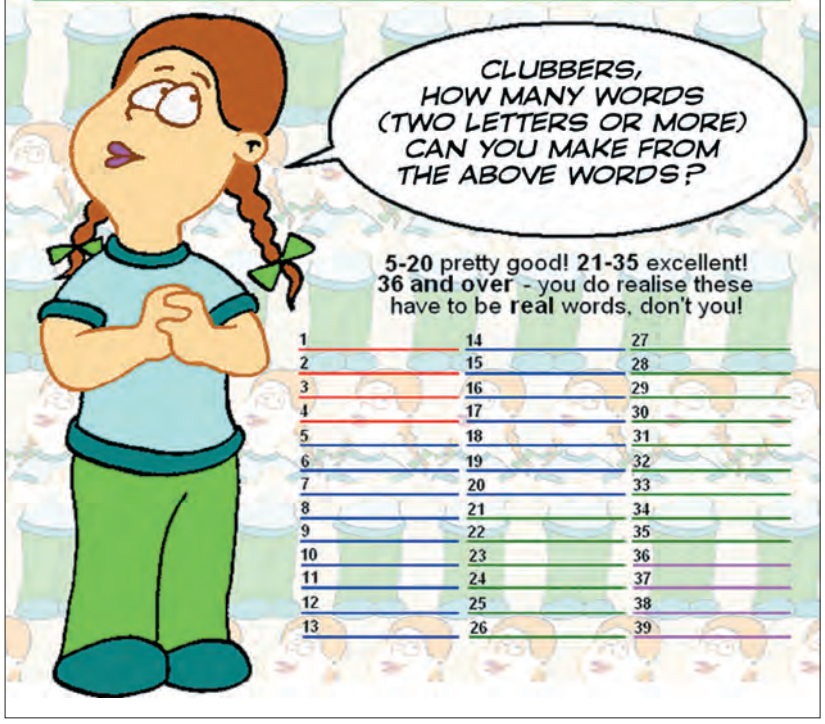
Colouring Competition

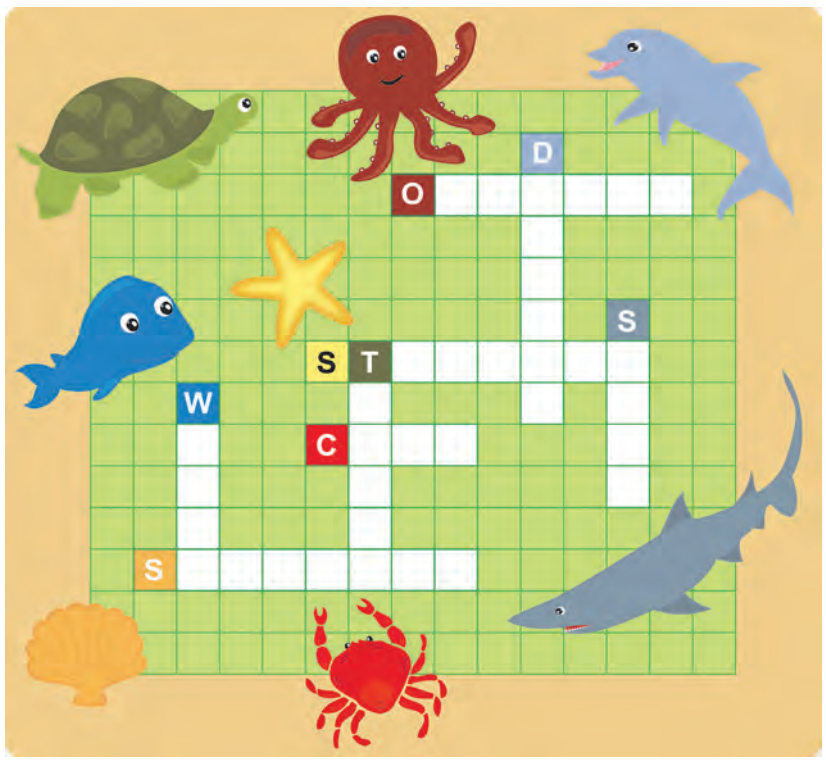
Colour in the Dolphin picture on page 47, take a picture of it and email it to reception@echo.ie or whatsapp it to 083 0106275 and be in with a chance to win a PRIZE.

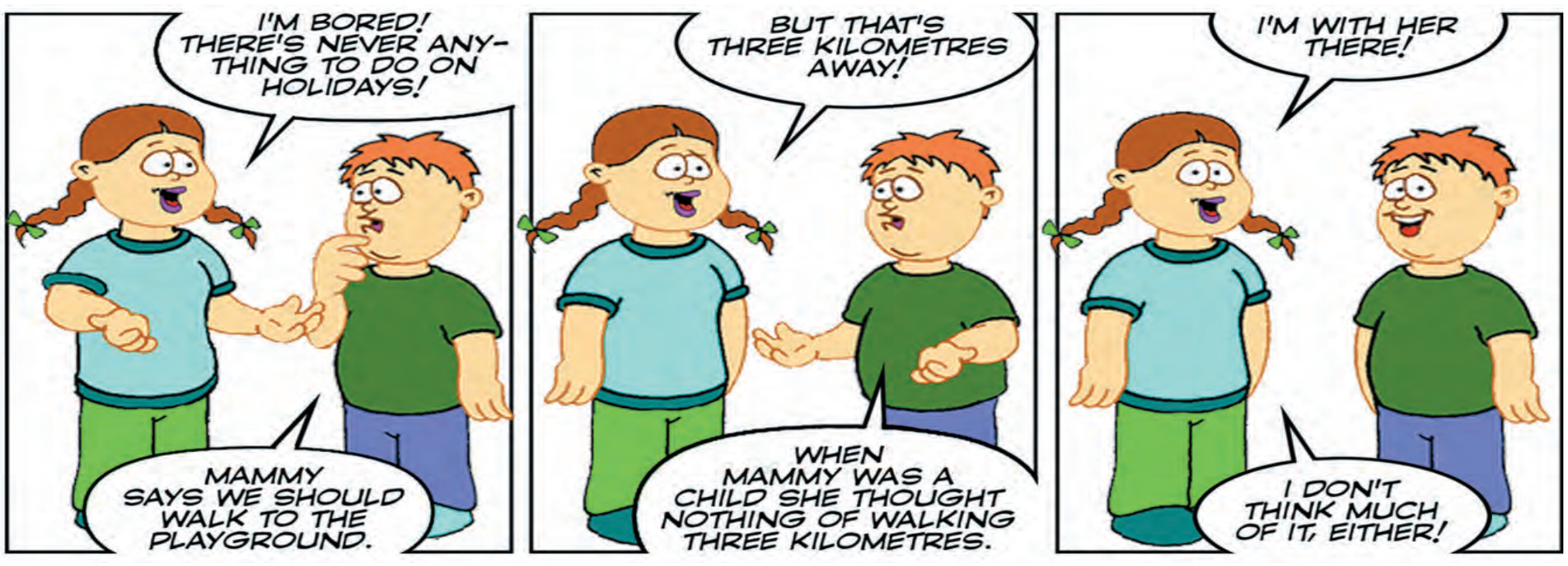


A Word with Echo So...

Back to School





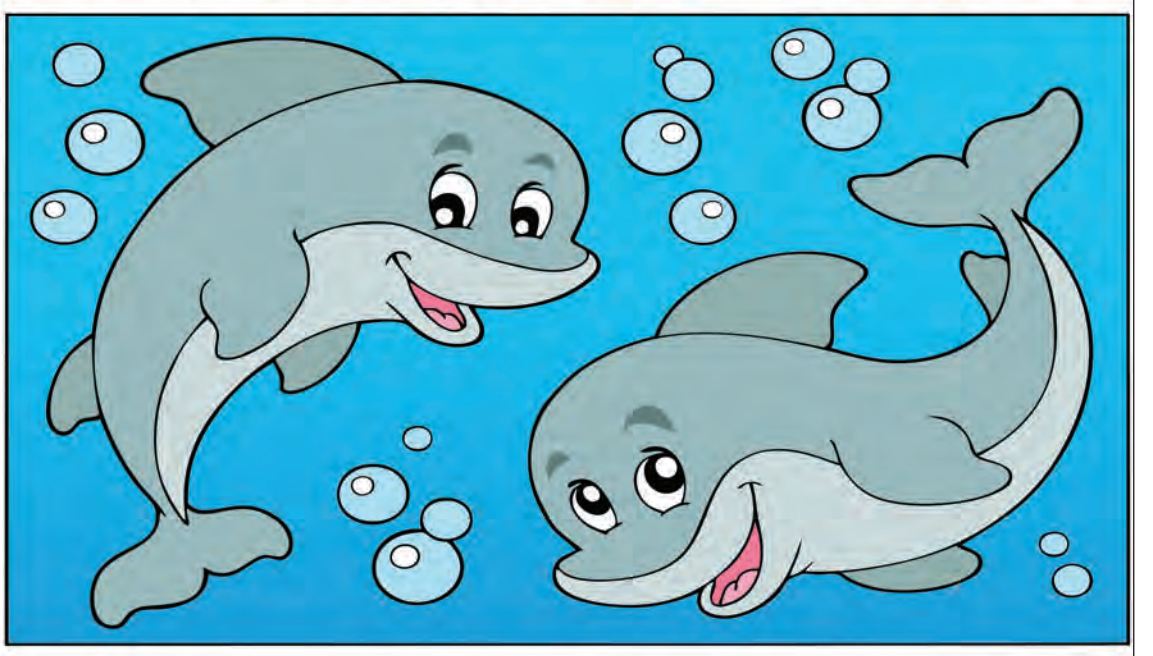


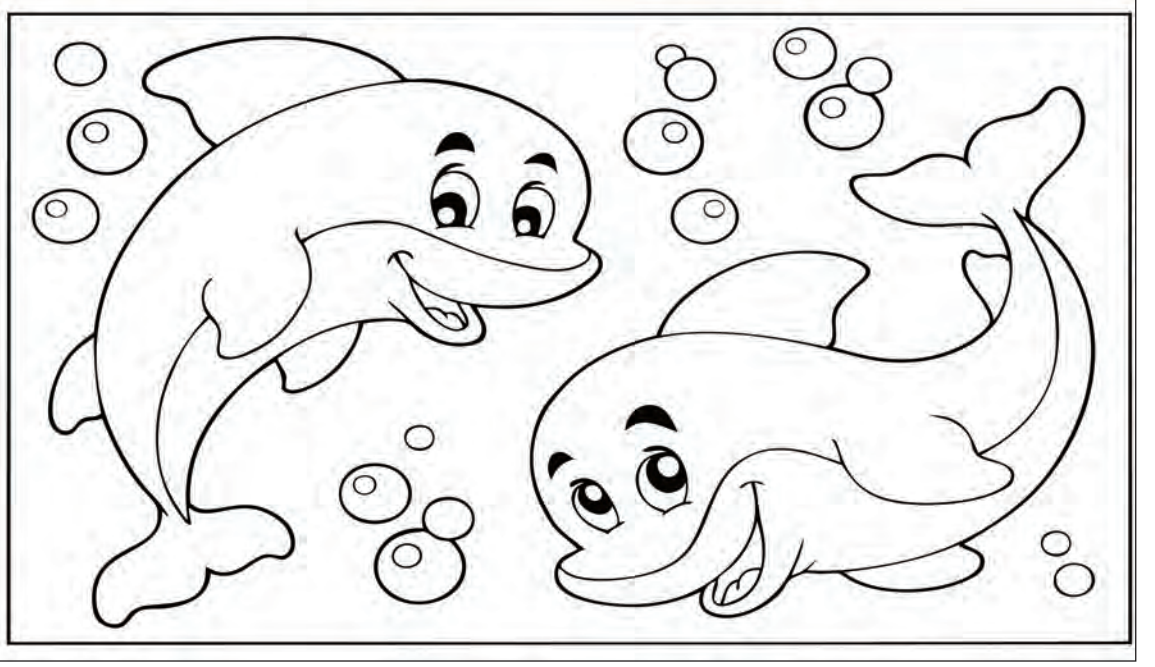
These 2 EchoJoe pages of Awesome, Amazon,

SPOT THE SIX DIFFERENCES!



COLOURING BOOK





LETTER LINK LOG-JAM



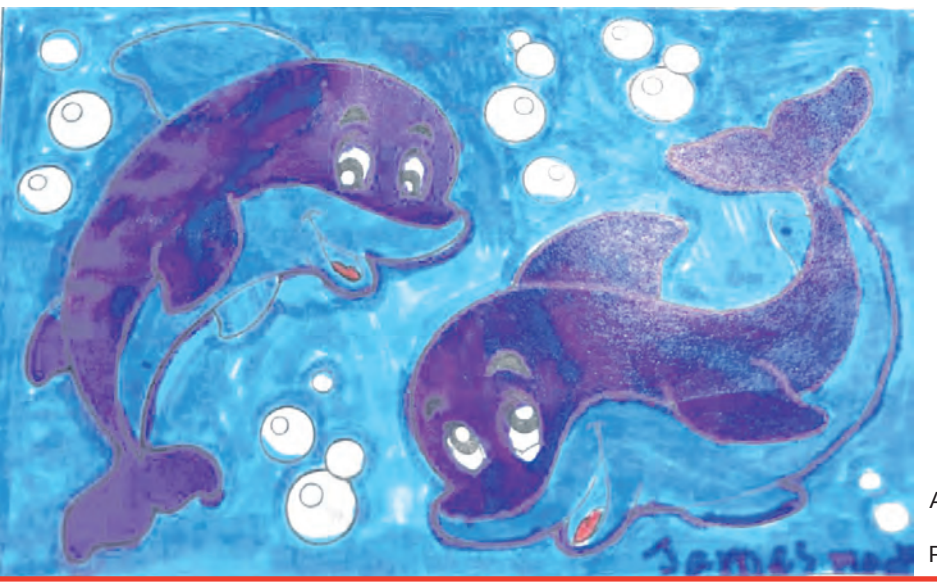
SIL		ALK
RAN		NOT
MIL		ROP
FIR		ESS
CHA		HIN
ARE		CNE
FLO		LUG
BAB		ARN

the missing letters: T, K, D, M, T, A, P, Y.

This week's winner!

James Mockler, aged 10, is this week's winner of the Echo Joe colouring competition. James your prize will be on the way to you soon.

Each month the picture will change, and all entries stay in for the month so you have lots of chances to win!!



August 2025 Picture

Activities are kindly sponsored by amazon

SOMETHING NEW IS COMING

IN SEPTEMBER

Echo.ie
Your Local Newspaper

?????? ???? ??????

family notices

Important Notice
Items for publication for memorial pages must be in by 1pm Friday for next Thursday's paper

Tel: 468 5350
email: reception@echo.ie

ANNIVERSARY



Gough, Anthony (Tony)
10th Anniversary occurred 27th August. In loving memory of a husband, father and grandad. Also remembering his Birthday which occurred 25th August.

Those special memories of you,
Will always bring a smile,
If only we could have you back,
Just for a little while.
Then we could sit and talk again,
Just like we used to do,
You always meant so very much,
And always will do too.
The fact that you're no longer here,
Will always bring us pain,
But you're forever in our hearts,
Until we meet again.
Forever and always, your loving wife Bernie and all the Family.

ANNIVERSARY



Cousins, Stephen
24th Anniversary away from home occurs 31st August.

Stephen
No special day is needed,
For us to think of you,
You are always in our thoughts,
No matter what we do.
We hold you close within our hearts,
And there you will remain,
To walk with us throughout our lives,
Until we meet again.
Loved and never forgotten, Mam, Dad, sister Carol and brothers David & Richard.

ANNIVERSARY



Carroll, Jason
12th Anniversary away from home.

Daddy
We thought of you today,
But that is nothing new,
We thought about you yesterday,
And days before that too.
We think of you in silence,
We often speak your name,
All we have are memories,
And your picture in a frame.
Your memory is a keepsake,
From which we'll never part,
God has you in his arms,
We have you in our hearts.
We miss you and love you Da, Love from your Princess Libby, Cody, Jake & Glenn. xxxx

ANNIVERSARY



Byrne, Eivor
15th Anniversary occurs 28th August. Late of Glenville House, Kiltipper Road.

Always true, thoughtful and kind,
Wonderful memories you left behind.
A daily thought, a silent tear,
A constant wish that you were still here.
Loved and missed by your loving wife Bernie, son Conor, daughters Sinead, Niamh, Aoife & Fiona, grandchildren Amy, Chloe, Charlotte, Kyle, Leon, Ella & Joshua, Sons-in-Law, Brothers & Sisters and many Friends.

ANNIVERSARY



Carroll, Jason
12th Anniversary away from home.

You're a lovely brother Jay,
I've adored since I was small,
And for me the day you left us Jay,
Was the saddest time of all.
But all the memories that we shared,
From when you were a boy,
Have only ever filled my heart,
With happiness and joy.
You grew up and proved to be,
A man both fair and true,
And every day throughout my life,
I will always think of you.
Family, where life begins and love never ends.
Sadly missed by your loving sister Jennifer and brother-in-law Pedder. xxx

Uncle Jay
We remember when we were small,
And you were kind and strong,
You really haven't changed a bit,
As life has moved along.
We know that you were thoughtful,
And today you're still the same,
You're always helping others,
And that has never changed.
You've always been right there for us,
In good times and in bad,
You laughed with us in happy times,
And cried with us in sad.
You were a special uncle Jay,
As special as can be,
More than that, you've been a friend.
Love and missed Taylor, Jack, Casey and Renzo. xxx

NOVENA

9 Day Novena to St. Anthony.
St. Anthony, I resort to thy protection and aid, as proof of my affection and faith, I offer this candle which shall burn every day. Please comfort me in my difficulties and through thy living in the house of my Saviour, intercede for me and all those I love so that we may always hold God in our hearts and be provided for in our necessities, I beseech thee, St. Anthony, to have infinite pity in regard to the favour I ask of thee (here mention your favour). Please help me to overcome all difficulties which I now leave at thy feet. 3 Our Fathers, 3 Hail Mary's, 3 Glory Be to the Father's. This novena should be said for 9 days in succession. Each day a candle should be lit and a copy of this prayer left in the Church to help another soul in distress and to increase devotion to St. Anthony. This miraculous Saint grants everything no matter how difficult and before the termination of the nine days. But even if your request is granted, the Novena must be fulfilled. Holy St. Anthony pray for us. **B.B.**

ANNIVERSARY



Carroll, Jason
12th Anniversary away from home.

It was a sudden parting,
To bitter to forget,
Those who loved you dearly,
Are the ones who can't forget.
We often sit and think of you,
And think of how you died,
To think you could not say goodbye,
Before you closed your eyes.
Your life was one of kindly deeds,
A helping hand for others' needs,
Sincere and true in heart and mind,
Beautiful memories left behind.
The blow was hard,
The shock was severe,
To part with one we love so dear.
Our loss is great, we'll not complain,
But trust in God Jay, we'll meet again.
Too dearly loved to be forgotten, sadly missed by your heartbroken Mam and Dad. xxx
You'll never walk alone.

NOVENA

Novena Sacred 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. **B.B.**

ANNIVERSARY



Carroll, Danielle (Danzer)
8th Anniversary away from home occurs 30th August. Late of Kilmartin Drive. Our loving Daughter, Mother, Sister, Auntie and Friend. Also remembering my wife Maggie who is 1 year & 5 months away from home, my daughter Pauline who is 7 and half years away from home and my son Franer who is 1 year & 8 months away from home. I miss and love you all so very much. xx

Daughter
Missing You so Much Daughter
You left us broken hearted,
Not knowing what to do,
But now we find such comfort,
In memories of you.
The legacy you left us,
Was of happiness and love,
And that shines on forever,
From the glorious skies above.
You brought joy and beauty,
From the moment of your birth,
Now in heaven you're an angel,
Just as you were on earth.
Love and miss you dearly Danzer. 8 long years without you. My heart is broken beyond belief. Love you always your heartbroken Da. xxxxxxxxx

Ma
We still see your face before us,
Your voice we long to hear,
We miss and love you dearly,
God knows we wish you were here.
Tears fall freely from our eyes,
Like a river filled with grief,
Our only comfort now is,
That from pain you've found relief.
Missing you always.
Love and miss you always Ma your loving sons DJ & Carter Woo. xxxxxxxx

Sister
I heard your voice in the wind today,
And I turned to see your face,
The warmth of the wind caressed me,
As I stood silently in place.
I felt your touch in the sun today,
As its warmth filled the sky,
I closed my eyes for your embrace,
And my spirit soared high.
I saw your eyes in the window pane,
As I watched the falling rain,
It seemed as each raindrop fell,
It quietly said your name.
I held you close in my heart today,
It made me feel complete,
You may have died, but you are not gone,
You will always be a part of me.
As long as the sun shines,
The wind blows,
The rain falls,
You will live on inside of me forever,
For that is all my heart knows.
Love and missin you deeply Skin. How's it 8 Years. All My Love Today & Always. Your heartbroken Sister Caroline & Karl. xxxxxxxx

Auntie
Deep in our hearts,
Your life is kept,
To love and cherish,
Not forget.
No more tomorrows we can share,
But yesterdays are always there.
A silent thought, a secret tear,
Keeps your memory ever near.
In our hearts forever.
Love and miss you always. In our hearts forever. Love always Danni, your niece Brooke & nephews Blake and Braxton. xxxx

Danielle
Silent memories keep you near,
As time unfolds another year.
Out of our lives you may be gone,
But in our hearts you still live on.
Thinking of you on your 8th Anniversary away from home. Love always from Nicky, Lou, Shauna and Glen. xxxxxxxx

Dan
They say that times a healer,
But as the time goes on,
I seem to find it just as hard,
To face the fact you've gone.
And today it's the anniversary,
Of the day you went away,
And I'm standing here at your graveside,
And believe me when I say.
You'll never be forgotten,
And every year I'll shed a tear,
But it's only because I love you,
And wish you were still here.
Missing you on your 8th anniversary and always my beautiful best friend love you always your best friend Linda. xxxx

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

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. **B.B.**

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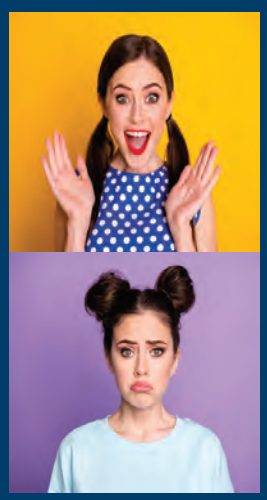
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planning notices

All planning applications must be in before 5pm Monday

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South Dublin County Council

We, Geoffrey and Lillian Hodgins, intend to apply for: Planning Permission at this site: 60 Dodder Rd Lower, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14, D14 PX28. The development will consist of: Attic conversion for storage, featuring a full raised gable to the side, dormer windows to the front and rear, and two rooflights on the front elevation. A single-storey flat roof extension is proposed to the rear. To the front, a part two-storey, part single-storey extension is planned, incorporating a new front-facing gable over the two-storey element. Additionally, a small shed for bicycle storage will be installed at the front of the property. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at the offices of South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Town Centre, Tallaght, Dublin 24 during its public opening hours of Monday to Friday from 9:00am to 4:00pm, and may also be viewed on the Council's website – www.sdcc.ie . A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to South Dublin County Council on payment of a fee of €20 within 5 weeks of receipt of the application by South Dublin County Council.

South Dublin County Council

I, Katie Rooney, intend to apply for: Planning Permission for development at this site: 10 Monastery Walk, Clondalkin, Dublin, D22 E685. The development will consist of: Demolition of the single-storey flat-roof extension and front wall with gate to the side of existing dwelling. Construction of a new two-storey, three-bedroom pitched-roof dwelling with shared vehicular access and off-street parking from Monastery Drive, connection to public services, and all associated site development works.
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

Permission sought for the retention of Collect and Go Coffee Dock, together with associated services and signage at Kingswood Community Centre, Sylvan Drive, Kingswood Heights, Dublin 24 for Kingswood Community & Leisure Centre CLG. The Planning application may be inspected or purchased at the offices of South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Town Centre, Tallaght, Dublin 24. During its public opening hours of Monday to Friday from 10.00am - 4.00pm, and may also be viewed on the council's website - www.sdcc.ie. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to South Dublin County Council on payment of a fee of (20.00 euro) within the 5 weeks of receipt of the application by South Dublin County Council and such submissions or observations will be considered by the Planning Authority in making a decision on the application. The Planning Authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions or may refuse to grant permission.

South Dublin County Council

I, Lynette Retuta, intend to apply for: Planning Permission at this site: 80 Drumcairn Ave, Fettercairn, Dublin 24, D24 P73V
The development will consist of: Amendment to planning permission Reg. Ref. SD25B/0307W: Construction of a single-storey flat-roof side extension, together with a new relocated side gate providing access to the rear garden. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at the offices of South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Town Centre, Tallaght, Dublin 24 during its public opening hours 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 - LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) ACTS 1963 - LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) REGULATIONS 1977 TO 1994

PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED WEEK ENDING AUGUST 8, 2025

LRD25A/0003W 12 Aug 2025 Permission Additional Information
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 creche (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 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.

SD24A/0282 15 Aug 2025 Permission Additional Information
Applicant: St. Annes GAA Club
Location: Bohernabreena, Dublin 24
Description: Installation of new LED Floodlighting system consisting of 6 No. 18 meters high columns, inclusive of all associated ducting, column foundation/bases and Led fixtures for existing pitch.

SD25A/0098W 12 Aug 2025 Permission Additional Information
Applicant: Patrick Frain
Location: 40, Ballyboden Crescent, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16, D16 XY90
Description: The development will consist of the construction of 1 no. two bed, two storey, detached dwelling located directly south of No. 40 Ballyboden Cresent, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16 (previously serving as a large side garden). The development will also consist of demolition of a single storey domestic shed, the widening of the existing vehicular entrance, and all associated site development works on a site measuring c. 0.029 hectares.

SD25A/0184W 12 Aug 2025 Permission New Application
Applicant: MSJA Ltd
Location: Lands at Prospect House (Protected Structure), Stocking Lane, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16
Description: Development on lands at Prospect House (Protected Structure), Stocking Lane, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16. The proposed development will consist of: The repair and partial reconstruction of the existing detached single storey Gate Lodge of Prospect House and the construction of a single storey rear extension to the Gate Lodge to provide for a 1-bedroom detached dwelling, which would also involve changes to the non-original wall between the driveway and walled garden; The construction of 8 no. 3-storey, 4-bedroom houses (within 2 no. blocks of 4 terrace houses) within the walled garden, all provided with private garden space to their rear; 9 no. surface level car parking spaces, upgrade works to the existing driveway and the demolition of part of the wall to Stocking Lane to create a new vehicular exit and pedestrian and cycle connection to Stocking Lane; landscaping; boundary treatments including works to existing boundary treatments; and all associated site infrastructure and engineering works necessary to facilitate the development. Prospect House itself will remain as a single dwelling unit.

SD25A/0185W 13 Aug 2025 Permission New Application
Applicant: Ravelin Ireland YG Ltd
Location: 3030, Lake Drive, Citywest Business Campus, Dublin 24, D24KX6Y
Description: The development will consist of alterations to the existing east elevation to include the provision of a new external fire escape stairs to facilitate the internal subdivision of the existing office building, together with all associated site and ancillary works.

SD25A/0186W 14 Aug 2025 Permission New Application
Applicant: The Square Management Limited
Location: The Square, Belgard Square East, Tallaght, Dublin 24, D24X030
Description: The development will consist of the provision of a new glazed entrance lobby (24sqm) at the existing west entrance to the Square Shopping Centre (Level 3) and all associated site and development works.

SD25A/0187 15 Aug 2025 Permission New Application
Applicant: ESB Telecoms Ltd
Location: ESB Existing Balgaddy 38kV, Tullyhall Rise, Lucan, Co. Dublin.
Description: For the continued use for a period of 3 years of the existing 30 metre high, free-standing lattice communications structure carrying associated communications equipment to be shared with third party operators, all within at 2.4m high palisade compound following parent permission SD23A/0033 The proposed development is located within the Clonburris Strategic development zone

SD25A/0188W 15 Aug 2025 Permission and Retention New Application
Applicant: Ryan Morton
Location: Vital Fabrication, Taylors Lane, Ballyboden, Dublin 16, D16 F8F7
Description: Retention and completion Planning Permission for (1) retention of existing concrete slab (2) completion of Slab & planning permission for extension to existing Fabrication unit, additional floor area circa 153sqm

SD25B/0489W 12 Aug 2025 Permission New Application
Applicant: Francis Cooney
Location: 18, White Pines Meadow, Stocking Avenue, Dublin 16, D16 A3H1
Description: An attic conversion to non-habitable room with dormer window to the rear.

SD25B/0490 13 Aug 2025 Permission New Application
Applicant: Ryan & Shauna Kennedy
Location: 7, Robin Villas, Palmerstown, Dublin 20, D20FR90
Description: The construction of a new first floor extension to the side and rear of the property (circa 29.5 sq.m) to include an additional bedroom and ensuite & family bathroom. Minor alterations to elevations and internal alterations and all associated site works.

SD25B/0491 13 Aug 2025 Permission and Retention New Application
Applicant: Kevin Walsh
Location: 28, Manor Road, Palmerstown, Dublin, 20
Description: The development will consist of retention of external Insulation with smooth top coat render to existing building and permission for faux brick facing to front elevation to match adjoining premises

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Thursday, August 28, 2025

Rovers star Victor set for €2 million move to Arsenal

Transfer will break the Irish transfer record for the talented striker from Tallaght

SHAMROCK Rover's youth prospect and Kiltipper native Victor Ozhianvuna is set to break the Irish transfer record with a move to Arsenal being confirmed last week worth €2m, *reports Michael Howley.*

Arsenal have apparently been interested in the attacker for some time with the Tallaght native starring in a youth tournament a couple of years ago where Rovers would run out 4-1 victors against the London side on the day. Other teams such as Club Brugge were apparently interested in the teenager but Arsenal were among the favourites to sign him for some time now.

The fee is breaking the transfer record that was previously set by Mason Melia and his move to Tottenham Hotspur. Due to regulations brought in post Brexit Irish young players are not able to leave for English teams until they are 18. Melia was officially signed by Tottenham in February of this year but will be joining up with Spurs at the beginning of next year as he is still 17. The deal with Ozhianvuna will follow a similar structure with the player being only 16 now and will remain playing for Shamrock Rovers for the next year and a half likely until January 2027.

The move comes following reports of Arsenal looking to re-establish a major presence in the Irish transfer market after previously signing a host of talent in years gone by, including Ozhianvuna's manager and Shamrock Rover's boss Stephen Bradley being signed to the clubs youth academy by Liam Brady who was heavily involved with the clubs youth section.

Ozhianvuna has made 12 league appearances so far this campaign for Shamrock Rovers and made headlines a couple of weeks ago with an exquisite volley against Wexford in the cup. Clearly blessed with potential he will be hoping that his career can follow the trajectory Mason Melia finds himself on at the moment. That being, perform brilliantly for your League of Ireland club to give yourself the best springboard when making the switch over to England.



Victor Ozhianvuna training the U8 players in Shamrock Rovers last week Photo by Robert Goggins

Last minute goal helps St Pat's continue positive run of form

ST PATRICK'S Athletic continued with their positive vein of form last week as they managed to secure a last minute goal at Weavers Park against Drogheda United, *reports Michael Howley.*

Meetings between the two sides this season have been somewhat dull to say the least with the teams nearly managing to go four games without a single goal scored. While the first half failed to yield a goal Pats certainly did look like the more threatening of the two sides throughout with Brandon Kavanagh and Kian Leavy linking up very well in midfield together on several occasions. A shot from the former around the half hour mark drew an excellent save from Drogheda keeper Luke Dennison.

The second half would see Pat's continue to keep the pressure on, Chris Forrester beautifully playing in Mason Melia whose shot/cross went fizzing across the goalmouth with no Pats shirts in the box to convert. As the half wore on however, Drogheda found themselves more and more in the game with Joseph Anang being called into action on several occasions, though still there was no real clear cut chance. Right at the death after a quick counter attack led to a corner for Pats, Luke Turner would be on hand to head in a winning goal for the Saints securing them the three points.

The win sees Pats move up to fifth position in the table and now after that rough patch of form during the first half of the season they seem to be back to their old selves again now winning their last three league games and also beating Shelbourne in the FAI Cup during that time. They can look forward to a stern test this upcoming Friday as they travel to the Brandywell to take on Derry City. Despite being on a patchy run of form Derry will be confident after coming from 1-0 down to secure a 2-1 victory against Galway while having a man down.

A win for Pats in the Brandywell will be invaluable in boosting their own points tally as well as reducing a rival in the race for the European spots in the league.



St Patrick's Athletic captain Joe Redmond has a key role to play for his side Photo by Matthew Lysaght

Darts

World champion Katie is one of the hottest prospects in darts

KATIE Sheldon is one of the hottest prospects in Darts at the minute, the Tallaght native is a world champion already at just the age of 21 and is set to defend that title when she jets off to South Korea with the rest of the Irish team for the WDF World Cup held between the 22-27 of September, *reports Michael Howley.*

Speaking on the Darts in Ireland podcast hosted by Keith Falkiner Katie spoke about being the number one woman in Ireland.

"I think you are your own self critic as I would say the last little while for me hasn't been as great as it should be. Although I have been nicking the results at the INDOs [Irish ranked events], I know my own ability and I know where my game can be. You just have to keep pushing, keep trying and obviously every win builds on your confidence. I know the potential I do have and once I start to find that consistently in England then a win in the PDC Women's series isn't too far away."

Speaking with *The Echo* in an exclusive interview, Sheldon touched on the previous World Cup win with Ireland back in 2023, she described the achievement.

"The World Cup is massive in any sport and to win in a sport that you've dedicated so many years to it's very very special and one of the biggest I've ever won. When you go away to these events, the whole plan is to go in and win it but sometimes these things never happen and sometimes the plan doesn't always fall into place. That week we were away, everything was falling into place for us, we all played so well which was amazing. Sometimes when that happens in the back of your head you're thinking, maybe we could do it this year, maybe we could but you don't want to get too far ahead of yourself too quickly."

Sheldon picked up Darts at the age of 9 after being introduced to the game thanks to a dartboard owned by her grandfather. After much pestering she convinced her own father to get her one and has been obsessed ever since. Now over a decade later much of her life is taking up by Darts playing four out of five weeknights and often travelling around the country on weekends to play in various competitions.

"I think as you get older you have to sacrifice things whether its parties or communions or all sorts of things but at the end of the day when you come home with wins and big wins at that it makes it all really worth it. It shows that you're doing this for a reason. I think I'm at a stage now where I'm more than happy to go to the darts, that's where my priority is in life. I want to do as well as I can when I'm at the darts. For now and as it's always been, darts is my number one priority."

"I've been playing darts since I was nine years of age and when you put that into perspective winning a World Cup at 21 is absolutely massive. Alongside some amazing women it wouldn't have been possible without the other ladies as well but it makes it all so worth it."

Speaking about the world cup Sheldon commented.

"There's been loads of preparation going on in the background, I've been playing in loads of different tournaments. Just to make sure I'm ready to go. I'm looking forward to it, I love travelling. Especially representing your country there's not many better feelings than that. Especially going away with people I call friends and to play on a team with them is going to be special. I'm looking forward to it. It's hard to win something once but it's always harder to win something twice. We've definitely got a target on our back and I'm sure people are going to want to beat us and we're going to want to beat them as well. I'm really looking forward to it and I'm sure the girls are too."



Katie Sheldon with Darts In Ireland Podcast host, Keith Falkiner

Motorsport

Tohill all set for French Rallycross

RALLYCROSS driver Derek Tohill, and the PFCRX team head to the biggest rallycross in the world this weekend to take on a 35-strong Supercar entry at Loheac in France.

Racing in both the French Rallycross Championship and Motorsport UK British Rallycross Championship 5 Nations Trophy, Tohill returns to the historic venue where he claimed victory in 2013.

In the first of five starts for the Terenure man at the Bretagne circuit, he claimed the win in the Euro RX TouringCar category in 2013, en route to his second European Championship crown.

Having also raced a rallycross Supercar at the circuit on four subsequent occasions, achieving a best result of fourth overall in 2017, Tohill enters the event on the back of a part-programme of French Championship events this season with PFCRX's Peugeot 208 WRX.

Those appearances at Faleyras and Chateauroux have been combined with a full-time campaign in 5 Nations BRX, in which Tohill sits second in the standings, in part thanks to a double-victory at Mondello Park in May, but following a difficult result in the most recent round at Pembrey.

Having aligned with experienced French outfit DA Racing for the 2025 season, Tohill will run within a four-driver line-up in the squad for the Loheac round as part of the biggest Supercar entry anywhere in rallycross in 2025, the event getting underway with the famous parade through the village adjacent to the circuit in front of thousands of fans on Friday afternoon.

"Loheac is one of the most famous rallycross events in the world, the Temple of Rallycross! It is always a privilege to compete there," said Derek Tohill.

"The atmosphere is incredible, the fans are so passionate, and the racing is as tough as it gets. I'm really looking forward to lining up against some of the best drivers on such an iconic circuit — it's a highlight of the year for me, and it is great that Ireland is the next best country in terms of numbers representation after France.

"We are also very proud to work with DA Racing at such a prestigious event. We hope we can reward everyone with a good weekend."



Derek Tohill from Terenure will be in action in France this weekend

Soccer

Bazunu returns to Ireland squad

Goalkeeper Gavin Bazunu has been named in the Republic of Ireland as Head Coach Heimir Hallgrímsson named a 23-man squad for the upcoming FIFA World Cup 2026 qualifying matches against Hungary and Armenia.

The Tallaght lad has recovered from last season's knee injury and is a big addition to the senior squad ahead of next week's matches.

Ireland are set to welcome Hungary to the Aviva Stadium for the opening game of the campaign on Saturday, September 6 and then will travel to Yerevan to face Armenia on Tuesday, September 9.

The squad also includes former Cherry Orchard player Nathan Collins who is captain at Brentford, Templeogue lad Dara O'Shea who plays with Ipswich Town and Liam Scales who previously played with Shamrock Rovers.

The squad also features strikers Troy Parrott and Evan Ferguson, who both arrive in camp full of confidence. Parrott's form has been exceptional, with 10 goals, including scoring in seven consecutive matches, a new record for AZ Alkmaar, while Ferguson made a fantastic start to his loan spell, earning a Man of the Match award on his Serie A debut for AS Roma in their 1-0 win over Bologna.

Martial Arts

Tallaght Martial Arts to fly the fly at Europeans

TALLAGHT Martial Arts Team are ready to Fly the Flag for Ireland at European Kickboxing Championships this September. Sixteen young fighters from Tallaght Martial Arts will travel to Jesolo, Italy, to represent Team Ireland at the WAKO Youth Championships.

For some, it's their first step onto the international stage, for others, it's a chance to add more silverware to an already impressive collection.

The team has been training relentlessly since earning their coveted Team Ireland spots, putting in extra hours, making huge sacrifices, and showing incredible dedication to be the very best fighters they can be.

Making her debut is Dáire Ryan proudly continuing a remarkable family tradition. Dáire follows in the footsteps of her father, mother, uncles, and her grandfather – legendary coach Dave Heffernan – as she steps into her first-ever WAKO competition.

Joining her are an impressive line-up of Tallaght talent: Georgia Clarke – first time on the international mats and eager to make her mark, Nathan Clarke – already a podium finisher in previous championships and hungry for more, Amy and Edward Comerford – talented brother-and-sister duo, experienced and no strangers to international podiums, Shannon Conlon – another rising star looking to add to Tallaght's medal tally, Reece Doyle (Curly & Smiley!) – two fighters sharing the same name but different journeys; one an experienced competitor starting his full-contact career, the other making his debut, Isabel and Leo Golding – a sibling team with plenty of experience hungry for the win, Dara Kelly Clarke and Eoin Finn – both familiar faces on the WAKO circuit and strong podium contenders, Cillian McArdle – a champion in his own right and looking to continue his winning streak, Max and Adam Myers – yet another pair of brothers, both highly experienced and hunting that top spot and Anna White – an exciting contender with her eyes firmly set on a podium spot.

Team Ireland and TMA Head Coach - Martin Bannon expressed his pride: "These young athletes have worked harder than ever. The sacrifices they've made to represent their country are massive, and their commitment is second to none. Whether it's their first time or they're chasing another medal, they've already made Tallaght and Ireland proud."

The Tallaght Martial Arts team has always been at the heart of the community, and their success is backed by families, friends, and supporters who have rallied behind them. With such a strong line-up of talent heading to Jesolo, there's every reason to believe Ireland's tricolour will be flying high on the podium once again.



Dave Heffernan and his granddaughter Daire Ryan and (inset): Shannon Conlon

Athletics

North Clondalkin Running Club launch its successful couch to 5k program again

NORTH Clondalkin Running club is launching another iteration of its couch to 5k program in early September this year, *reports Michael Howley.*

The club has found previous success with its program. Well received by participants they are coached towards a celebratory run in Corkagh Park where members 'graduate' from the programme, completing their first 5km run.

Chaired and founded by Jacqueline Sheehy, The club incorporates a blend of beginner runners and those who are more advanced, now at 100 members, around 20 will be competing in the Dublin marathon this year. These more experienced members play a vital role in encouraging and mentoring those who are at the beginning of their running journeys.

In fact two of the club's more seasoned runners Kieron Lewis and Shane Bowen recently undertook an extreme event where they completed four marathons in four days across Donegal as part of a fundraiser to raise funds for the Clondalkin Autism Parent Support Network.

Helen Rogers, Club secretary spoke on the environment of the club.

"We have a Whatsapp group, so everyone communicates in the group as well and I find that's really encouraging. Some members might go out and do an additional run on the weekend, especially if they're training for the marathon. It's just really good to keep you motivated even just being in the Whatsapp group."

There will be another group made for just the couch to 5km members also.

"We split it into around two runs per week on a Tuesday and Thursday with more of a beginner group and an advanced group. Naturally the advanced group will perform longer runs at a quicker pace."

The club has already seen an uptake in the sign up for the Couch to 5km with at least ten individuals committing to take part in the first training session on the 2nd of September.

The club has been growing in popularity and recognition in recent times and have been invited to tend to the Dublin Marathon Water stations. If the club sends a few members to volunteer in races often they can receive some funding from the race organisers for their trouble. This is a valuable way to generate some money for a club, particularly one such as North Clondalkin Running Club which is heavily community based.

The club bases itself out of Collinstown Park where the vast majority of meet ups take place. Speaking of the benefits Helen Rogers articulated why people should consider taking up the couch to 5km.

"People should sign up to it because it's good for your mental health number one. Getting out and running is great for your mental health. It's also good to meet other people and just to have chats and try to push yourself out of your comfort zone. Just to be around other people of similar abilities and be pushing each other. It's very hard to do something like that going out on your own but if there's a group of people you have the encouragement of going with them. You just feel great afterwards."


Members of North Clondalkin Running Club

The club prides itself on taking an active role in the local community and hosts various events including last year organising a family day as well as a santa dash in Corkagh Park on the 1st of December last year primarily aimed at families and getting people out and active.

St Mark's host annual U11 Seán Bowden tournament



Croí Ró-Naofa U11 footballers

THE annual Seán Bowden tournament took place in St Mark's GAA club on Saturday.

Now in its 6th year, the tournament takes place to remember a young St Mark's club member who sadly passed away to leukaemia in 2018.

There was a huge turnout for the event with teams from St Mark's, Ranelagh Gaels, St Kevin's/St Kilian's, Ballyfermot Gaels, Stars of Erin, St Patrick's and Croí Ró-Naofa taking part in the event.

Each team played a series of group games followed by a cup, shield, trophy or plate final. There was great excitement as the players enjoyed a team parade and Amhrán na bhFiann before a minute's silence was held in memory of Seán.

Medals were presented to all participants by Conor Bowden, Seán's brother followed by the plate presentation to St Mark's Black.

The trophy presentation was made to St Patrick's, the shield presentation to St Kevin's/St Kilian's and finally, after six years St Marks Amber were the winners of the Seán Bowden Memorial Cup for the first time.



St Kevin's/Kilian's U11 footballers celebrate



St Patrick's U11 footballers lift the cup



Ballyfermot Gaels U11 footballers



St Mark's U11 footballers took part in the tournament



St Mark's U11 footballers



Stars of Erin U11 footballers

GAA

Crunch games in hurling C'ship

THERE is plenty of action in the Dublin Senior Hurling Championship this weekend as teams face off in the fourth bout of fixtures in the group stages, *reports Michael Howley.*

Lucan Sarsfields will take on Naomh Barrog in O'Toole Park this Saturday with a 5.30pm throw in time. Sarsfields have performed extremely well so far in the championship and top Group 1 along with Na Fianna with both sides possessing three wins in as many games.

In Sarsfield's last excursion of the championship they defeated St Jude's by 15 points, with previous wins before that against Ballyboden St Enda's and Craobh Chiarain they have shown their class on multiple occasions now and have emerged as one of the strongest teams of their group.

Ballyboden St Enda's take on Saint Judes this Saturday also with the match set to be played in Parnell Park. The two teams find themselves in very similar positions having won a game and lost two so far in the campaign. Both sides have played Lucan Sarsfields and Na Fianna and this game represents a massive opportunity for either team to establish themselves as third placed team in the division.

With decisive wins for both teams against Craobh Chiarain it remains to be seen which team from St Jude's, Ballyboden St Enda's or Naomh Barrog will get the better of one another.

The senior 2 championship will have action going on as well this weekend. Ballyboden St Enda's B team will host Clontarf at Sancta Maria.

They currently are second in their group trailing Erins Isle, after losing to Isle in their last game they'll be hoping to get themselves back on track. Ballinteer St John's and Raheny are hot on their tails however with all three teams being on the same points tally after winning two and losing one of their first three games.

Senior 2 will have seen Thomas Davis take on Naomh Mearnog on Wednesday evening. Currently in third place Davis will be hoping to get a victory against Mearnog who are bottom of the group.

They can not take their opposition lightly however, Mearnog gave Faughs (current group leaders) a very tough game on the opening day of the season and Davis will have to treat them with respect to avoid a potential bananaskin moment.

Faughs themselves will be up against Fingallians this Saturday at the Osprey. The team will be riding high after a derby day victory against Thomas Davis in their last fixture in the championship beating Davis at Kiltipper road by a score of 1-18 to 1-21.

While they have won every game so far, the performances at the start of the campaign could definitely be improved upon and that is exactly what the team has done with each passing game seeing improved performances no matter the opposition. If they show similar form against Fingallians they must be considered one of the favourites for the Senior 2 championship.

Tower's junior ladies team into c'ship final

ROUND Tower junior ladies football team booked the place in the championship decider after seeing off Geraldine Morans 5-19 to 3-8 at the Community Centre last week.

This young Clondalkin side put together a solid display after enjoying good possession in the opening half to establish a commanding lead.

At half time the home side 5-15 to 0-4 at half time but it was Morans who had opened the scoring with two early points.

However, Orlagh Downes and Tara Kelly steadied the Tower's nerves with good combination play while Neasa Breen and Laura Casey kicked scores to set Tower's on their way.

Further points and a goal from Kelly and Downes followed before the interval as Emma Gilvarry and Shonagh Byrne chipped in with good scores to extend their team's lead.

With Eabha Brady and Sophie Doyle working hard, Tower's continued to push forward with Breen adding a fine goal, the sides fifth of the first half.

The visitors made a real go of it in the second half but Tower's worked hard with Maia Ezam making good saves while Aoife McCabe, Saoirse Maher, Ella Behan and the hard-working Bronwyn O'Loughlin keeping a rejuvenated Morans scores to a minimum.



Round Tower junior ladies booked their place in the Championship decider against O'Toole's following their win over Geraldine Morans

The excellent Tower's corner back pairing of Jess Nolan and Mary Kelly defended well while Ashley Trussler was solid at centre back.

The introduction of both Ella McKenna and Eabha Milton helped Towers to a final appearance against O Toole's on Wednesday, September 10.

Soccer

Peamount women keep up their good run of form



Peamount's Eleanor Ryan Doyle comes away with the ball. Photo Bartley Ramsay

PEAMOUNT United have continued on their good form as of recent with a win over Cork City and Bohemians in the last week, *reports Michael Howley.*

Finally the results are starting to reflect their performances, it was a tough period for Peamount who had a number of games not go their way despite the side playing well throughout many of the matches.

The match against Bohemians in Dalymount would be an eventful one to say the least. After no real chances throughout much of the first half it would be the home side to score first with Bohemians netting right before halftime. Peamount would be offered the opportunity to get back into the game minutes later following the resumption of the match when they were awarded a penalty after the referee deemed Bohemians defender Fiona Donnelly to have committed a handball in the box. Ellen Dolan stepped up to take the spot kick but her effort into the bottom right hand corner was saved brilliantly by Bohs keeper Rachel Kelly.

Not disheartened, the Peas would find success only minutes later after a ball into the box by Jess FitzGerald met the head of Dolan who redeemed herself by flicking on the ball into the back of the net. The 55th minute would see Peamount complete the comeback, after the side won possession in the opposition half, Ellen Dolan took her shot brilliantly to drill in a goal from outside of the box, giving Peamount a 2-1 lead that they would hold on to for the remainder of the game.

Their next game against Cork City in Turners Cross saw them pick up not just a victory but a clean sheet as well as they ran out 2-0 winners. Antea Guvo scoring the first chance of the match after 13 minutes put Peamount ahead and they remained in control for the rest of the game. Eleanor Ryan Doyle would tuck away a volley from short range in the 87th minute or so to secure the points for Peamount.

The results have left Peamount still in eighth place in the league but while once they looked in danger of losing sight of seventh and above they have kept themselves well in contention and if they can maintain this run of form they will surely see themselves climb a few spots over the coming weeks. They will have their resolve tested when they head to Shamrock Rovers this Saturday in Tallaght Stadium with a 5pm kick off.

GAA

Boden moving well in c'ship



Robbie McDaid has a go for Ballyboden

Firhouse Road side remain unbeaten in group

BALLYBODEN St Enda's senior footballers continued their good run of form in the championship at the weekend.

The Firhouse Road side put together a solid team performance as they brushed aside the challenge of Ballinteer St John's 4-18 to 1-14 in Parnell Park.

Two goals in each half proved crucial for Boden as they led from start to finish and now occupy top spot in Group One.

Two goals in the first half from Ryan O'Dwyer had Enda's in the driving seat as they established a 2-10 to 1-6 half time lead.

The sides had exchanged scores in the early stages through O'Dwyer and the lively Daire Sweeney before John's eventually opened their account through Eoghan Fitzpatrick on six minutes.

O'Dwyer and Luke Breathnach exchanged scores before the former broke through for the opening goal of the match on 11 minutes.

The lethal O'Dwyer found a way through the Ballinteer defence to guide the ball to the back of the net from 10 yards out.

This score kick started Enda's into action when John's were left picking the ball from the net when O'Dwyer pounced again for another goal.

Further scores from Colm Basquel, Sweeney and McGarry but John's did reply with a two pointer and a goal before the break to give them a lifeline.

Boden did not ease off on the scores in the second half with Ross McGarry, Colm Basquel and Sweeney chipping over the Ballinteer crossbar.

John's did respond with two points but the contest swung again in Boden's favour when Daire Sweeney took advantage of an interception and guided the ball to the back of the net.

The game was wrapped up when a minute later when Sweeney netted a second goal to finish the game as a contest.

Boden are moving well at this stage of the competition and will play St Vincent's in their final group game on Saturday week.



The rain pours down during Ballyboden St Enda's senior football championship match with Ballinteer St John's.
Photos by John Kirwan

Colm Basquel gets in a shot for Ballyboden St Enda's



Niall Scull on the burst for Templeogue.
Photo by Mark McDonagh

Still all to play for in football c'ship

TEMPLEOGUE Synge Street senior footballers suffered a disappointing 0-18 to 4-10 defeat to Whitehall Colmcille's in the championship in O'Toole Park at the weekend.

Having drawn their first match with Ballymun Kickhams, were coming into this game in confident form but conceded four goals at crucial stages in the match.

Dublin player Cormac Costello caused all sorts of problems for Synger as he helped himself to two goals and six points while Sean Foran also found the back of the Templeogue net.

Templeogue now play Castleknock in their final Group Two match next week knowing that a win will be vital to get them off the bottom of the table.

Elsewhere in Group Three, Thomas Davis senior footballers suffered their second defeat in the championship, this time going down to Raheny 0-22 to 1-18 in O'Toole Park.

Having lost already to Lucan Sarsfields in the group opener, Davis were unlucky to go down by a point.

Three pointer-frees from former Mayo keeper Rob Hennelly proved vital as Raheny finished the second half strongly.

Davis will now have it all to do when they play All-Ireland club champions Cuala next week.

Lucan Sarsfields suffered their first defeat in Division Two after going down to Cuala by 3-16 to 0-8 in Parnell Park.

Only leading by three points at the break, Cuala raised the tempo with Niall O'Callaghan along with Eoin Kennedy, Peter Duffy and Con O'Callaghan among the goal scorers.

In Group Four, St Jude's suffered their first defeat in their campaign, going down by 0-11 to 2-24.

Crokes always had the upper hand in this encounter and at half time were 1-11 to 0-5 to the good.

Paul Mannion was again on form for the winners scoring nine points in total while Galway star Walsh registered 1-5 in what was a comprehensive win.

Finian's making their Mark

ST FINIAN'S junior footballers are moving well in the championship after seeing off St Mark's 3-7 to 1-21 in McGee Park.

The Newcastle outfit secured their second win in Group Three which sets them up nicely for their final match against St James Gaels An Caislean on Sunday week.

After seeing off Wanderers in their opening match, Finian's continued this good run of form with a solid performance.

Ritchie Scott impressed for the winners, accounting for a goal and eight points while Barry Devine helped himself to five points.

Diarmuid Guthrie kicked three scores to his credit while Ian Boran at midfield put in a solid performance.

Conor Coyle and Aidan Burke at wing back are others who put in good shows for the visitors.

GAA

Glenmalure off the mark in league as OLV battle back to secure win

ONE TEAM, two last term, a few new faces and a winning start to the season for Glenmalure Rovers, as they got their combined UCFL/AUL Division 3 campaign up and running, *reports John Mooney.*

Rovers were full value and the only problem, really, was they didn't add to their tally in the second, after racing into a 3-1 lead in the first half.

However all was good as Darragh Monks, with two, and Ryan Hyland got their goals, while Carlos Sanchez Manzaneque delivered a beauty to pull one back on the stroke of half time.

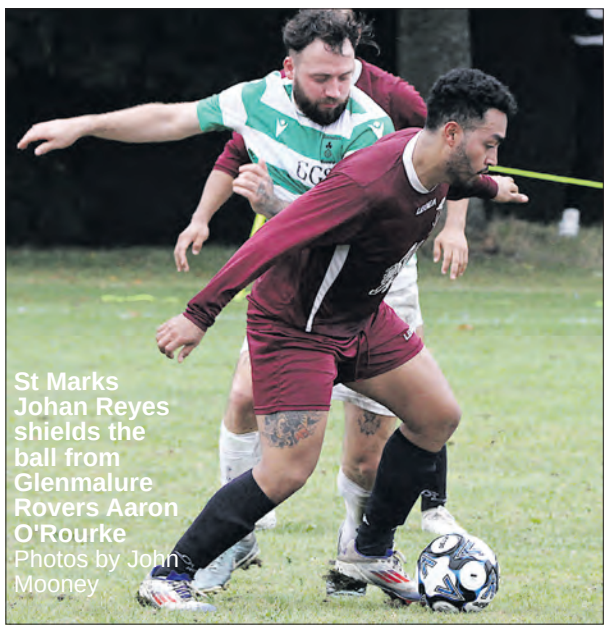
Elsewhere, OLV came from a goal down to record a 3-1 away win over Grange Woodbine on the opening Saturday of the league season.

This UCFL/AUL Division 3 section could be the one to watch as the season progresses and with the three points in the bag the Ballyfermot outfit, with goals from Jake Gorman, John Carthy and Aaron Murray, were the happier heading home.

A TOUGH day at the office for Griffeen Valley FC in the UCFL Division 3A as they switched from their away venue to their home in Peamount Hospital but, unfortunately, went down 2-0 to Phibsboro Club De Futbol. Not the start the Clondalkin outfit wanted but it's only day one and there is a lot of football to be played.



Glenmalure Rovers beat St Mark's 3-1



St Marks Johan Reyes shields the ball from Glenmalure Rovers Aaron O'Rourke
Photos by John Mooney



OLV FC came from a goal down to beat Grange Woodbine 3-1

Newlane tops in eight goal thriller as Clondalkin Celtic cruise to victory

IT WAS a case of who would net the most goals when Clondalkin Celtic started mounting the score against a luckless Team Zimbabwe in Bushy Park last Saturday.

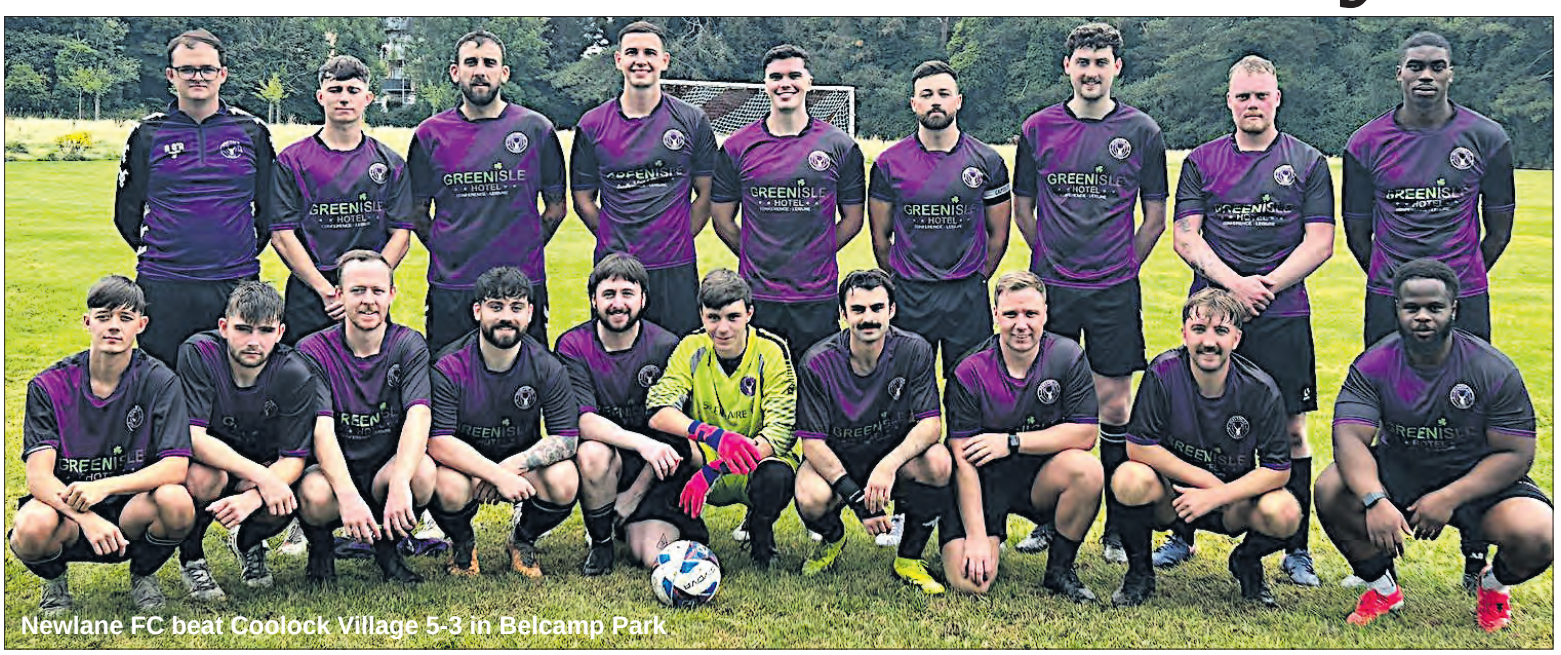
The Celts finished their opening day Division 3A clash with nine goals to their credit in a 9-1 win which turned out to be a two-horse race to score the most.

That accolade went to Adam Kinsella, who got five on the day, and he outshone Dylan Connor who netted four.

Elsewhere, if it was goals you craved on Saturday and you didn't get your fill, well Coolock Village and Newlane FC served up a treat in Belcamp Park in an eight-goal thriller.

Newlane came out on top when winning 5-3, with Robert Moloney getting a hat-trick while Jordan Kinsella and Abisoya Enoch Odusanya were also on target.

The Lane always looked like securing the points as they led for most of the game, however, they were all the more happier when Odusanya popped up with their fifth in the 89th minute to finally kill off the challenge of the Village.



Newlane FC beat Coolock Village 5-3 in Belcamp Park

Soccer

Rovers women look to build on Sligo win



Ella Kelly was a key player in Rovers win

SHAMROCK Rovers women's team and Peamount United go head-to-head in the league in Tallaght Stadium this Saturday.

The Hoops, under manager Stephannie Zambra occupy sixth place in the league while Peamount are currently in eighth place having won six games and drawing two.

Rovers are coming into this contest on the back of a 4-1 win over Sligo Rovers and they will be aiming to maintain the momentum.

Alissa O'Kane opened the scoring for Rovers on nine minutes after good work from Ella Kelly to set the tone for the match.

The lead was double on 18 minutes when Emily Corbett latched onto a ball from Aine O'Gorman to guide the ball over the head of the Sligo net minder, with the aid of a deflection.

Tallaght girl Ella Kelly tormented the Sligo defence throughout and was unlucky not to find the target mid way through the half.

Gorbett also had a chance which she pulled wide before the break after good build up play involving O'Gorman.

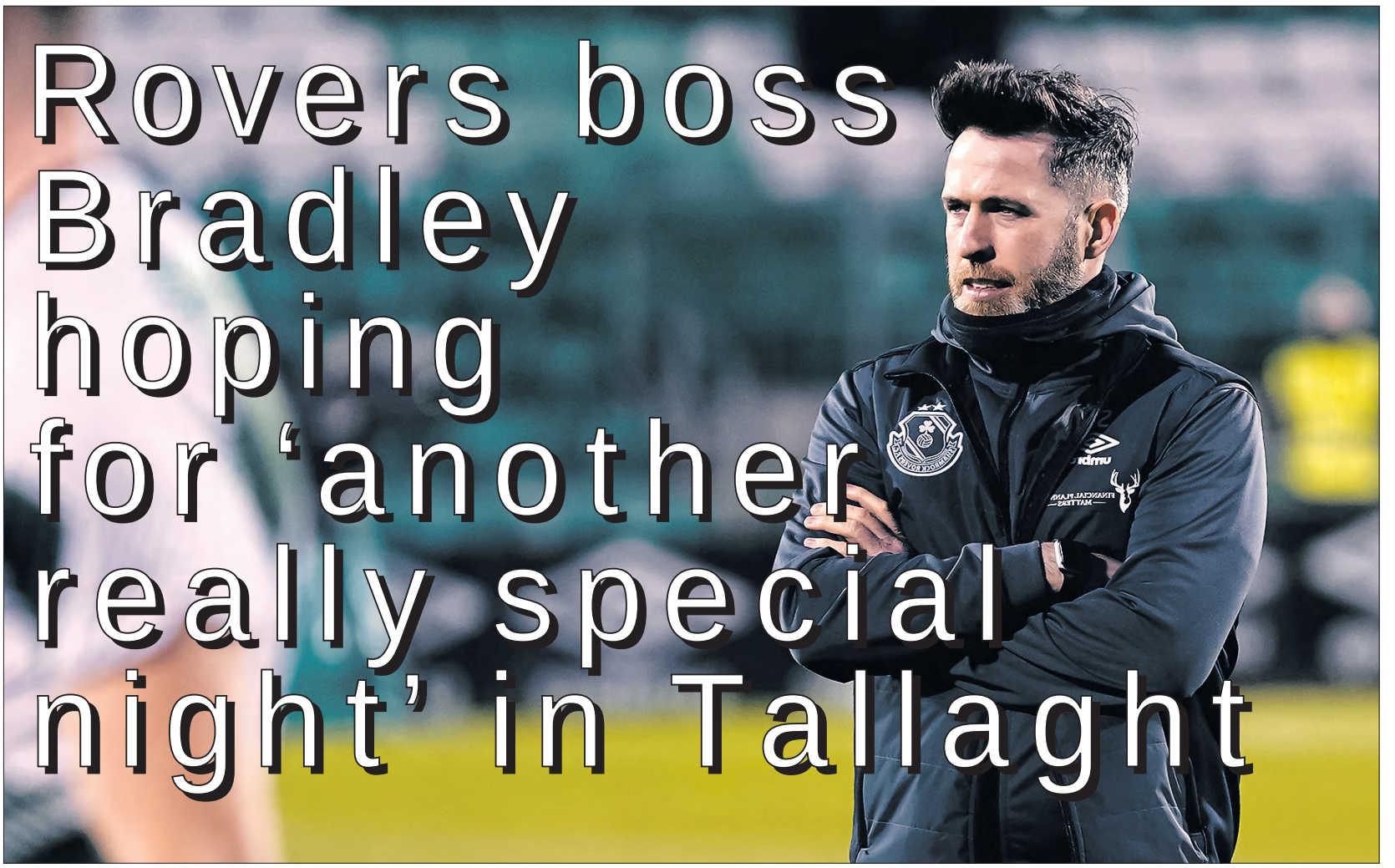
A penalty was awarded when O'Gorman was put down under the challenge in the box after a great ball through from Kelly.

The former Ireland international made it 3-0 when she sent the keeper the wrong way and Rovers were well in the driving seat by the break.

Then with three minutes from half time Sligo were awarded a penalty which they converted.

However, Rovers came storming back when that girl Kelly made a great run down the left and fed the ball across to O'Gorman who hammered home.

There were no goals in the second half as Rovers went on for a well-deserved victory.



Rovers boss Bradley hoping for 'another really special night' in Tallaght

Big crowd expected in Tallaght Stadium with over 7,000 tickets sold

SHAMROCK Rovers take on Santa Clara in Tallaght Stadium in the second round of their Conference League playoff tonight, *reports Michael Howley.*

In the first leg in the Azores, Shamrock Rovers picked up a very impressive win going a goal down after 25 minutes. Goals from Danny Grant and Danny Mandriou respectively have given them a 2-1 lead on aggregate heading into the return leg in Tallaght.

Stephen Bradley spoke on the performance last week and expectations ahead of tonights game. When asked what he enjoyed most from his sides performance he said:

"That we showed our personality. We brought our identity to the game, which I thought was really important. We've learned in European games, especially away from home, you've got to bring that identity, otherwise they can be long evenings. We did that against a good team. I thought we played well."

Bradley spoke on the threat Santa Clara offered and the importance of the previous league game against Shelbourne being rescheduled from the original date of last weekend.

"Their threats are what we felt they would be and what they will be tomorrow night. They have electric pace in the team and some good players. That hasn't changed and we'll see that again tomorrow night. Santa Clara will have their moments, but we'll also have ours. So it's important when we have them, we're ruthless in those moments."

"Shelbourne did request that a few weeks ago. So we'd no control over it, it was taken out of our hands by the league, and I understand why. If the game had been on, we'd have been ready for it. So it was important we enjoyed last Thursday and those moments as the players don't get many times to switch off at this part of the season. So we gave them that couple of days and then it's to refocus and knowing what we're up against tomorrow. We know it's only half-time, Santa Clara are a good team, but it's just now refocusing and getting ready for a tough game."

Rovers are set to receive huge support for the fixture in Tallaght with over 7000 tickets expected to sell. Bradley touched on the importance of the home fans in European ties such as this.

"You can't state how important it is, the energy it gives, it helps you in so many games, but especially these types of games, when you know you need everything to go and win the game. We'll need everything tomorrow night. We know we're against a really good team with good players, but we also know in Tallaght, when we get a big crowd, who bring that energy, we're more than a match for anyone in Tallaght and we can beat anyone. So hopefully it's a big crowd and we can have another really special night."

Finally Bradley touched on the fantastic news he and his family received last week with Josh successfully finishing his treatment for Leukemia in Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin. Bradley mentioned his appreciation for the gesture of support shown by fans after the end of the first leg last week.

"It was a special, special moment and one we'll never forget as a family. It's one we've been waiting for, for over three years. There was a lot of emotion in that moment. As parents, we're just delighted that Josh got to ring that bell, because not everyone is lucky enough to do that. So, we understand how precious that moment was and how lucky we are as a family to get to do that. The fans at the end of the game last week really caught me. I wasn't expecting it and it made me emotional. Thank you to the supporters.

"When I rang home afterwards, the family were watching the game and they all saw it and it was special. So a massive thank you to them and it capped an incredible week."

Pat's U17s book a final spot

ST PATRICK'S Athletic U17s booked their place in the Mark Farren Cup final at the weekend.

The Inchicore side produced a solid display as they overcame Bray Wanderers 4-1 at Richmond Park.

The hosts got off to the best possible start when Joseph Byrne made a good run before he was blocked out, but the ball fell to Jason Spelman who let fly from 22 yards out to the back of the net.

However this lead was short lived as five minutes later, Bray were back on level terms from the penalty spot.

Bray's Billy O'Neill was fouled in the box and up stepped Cristiano Bramley who made no mistake.

There was no more goals in the opening half but Pat's did create chances but could not convert this into scores.

However the second half was only three minutes gone when Pat's regained their lead – this time Joe Carroll Byrne let fly a cracking effort which found the left hand corner of the net.



St Patrick's Athletic U17's beat Bray Wanderers at Richmond Park in the Mark Farren Cup

But it took a goal from substitute Ryan Sheridan when he brilliantly curled the ball to the roof of the net from 25 yards out to put Pat's 3-1 up and give them some breathing space.

The contest was rapped up just on the final whistle when Sam Rooney fired home from close range to complete a brilliant result.

The lively Sheridan did have an opportunity of a second goal but his 30 yard effort came back off the bar. Pat's will now play Waterford FC in the final next month.

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