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Commemorative stone and plaque vandalised in Corkagh Park page 5

Senior ministers backing Jim Gavin in presidential race page 14



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Council buy five properties for €3m as part of St Pat's plans



DUBLIN City Council have acquired five properties in Inchicore for €3 million as part of a major redevelopment of St Patrick's Athletic FC's home ground, *reports Ellen Gough.* See page 12

UPGRADES TO RICHMOND PARK WILL SEE STADIUM INCREASE TO 8,000

Clondalkin generated €477,840 in speed fines last year - the highest total in Dublin

Garda speed vans take in over €6.2 million

CLONDALKIN and Lucan recorded one of the highest grossing revenue areas for garda speed vans. *See page 23*

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Next Edition

The next edition of ***The Echo*** in the shops from Thursday, Sep 11, 2025. **Don't miss it!**



PROTEST: Secretaries and caretakers protesting outside TD John Lahart's office on Tuesday

'Disheartening' for school secretaries and caretakers

Ongoing protest for equal pension rights for school staff

"IT'S DISHEARTENING and degrading," said a Balrothery school secretary taking part in the ongoing protest for equal pension rights for school staff.

While working day by day alongside teachers and principals, school secretaries and school caretakers are still excluded from secure retirement options as they are not conferred public service status.

Over the summer, Forsa trade union has called for an indefinite strike that started on Thursday, August 28, outside the Department of Public Expenditure saying this is a "calculated policy decision to maintain inequality."

From Monday, September 1, Fórsa members have also placed pickets on schools nationwide.

The strike has been backed by 98 percent of Fórsa's school secretary and caretaker members, including Nicola McGaharan, a secretary at St Joseph Special School in Tallaght.

"We work in a public building, shoulder to shoulder to other staff who get the benefits of it," she said.

"We don't get bereavement days, we don't get their same sick days. Yet, we're told that we hold the schools together, and that they would fall apart without us.

"We're asking for pension parity, literally just what we deserve."

Nicola has been taking part in the strike with St Joseph's caretaker, Ronan Lynch, who has worked in the school for 13 years.

She knows of secretaries in other Tallaght schools who have filled the role for 20 years and are still in the same situation.

"We're out and fighting and this is an indefinite action. It could be weeks or months, but it will be a hazard for the upkeep of the school.

"Without us, the letters to parents won't be sent, the bins won't be emptied.

"Each day that goes on, we get more deflated. We don't want to be here, we would only like to be back to school seeing our students again and meeting the new pupils."

Nicola explained that especially in a special education school like St Joseph, she is the "first point of contact" to reassure parents that their kids are going to be safe when they're in.

Fórsa represents more than 2,800 school secretaries and caretakers nationwide.

While the 2023 agreement between Fórsa and the Department of Education brought school secretaries onto the centralised public payroll, and delivered substantial pay improvements, they remain excluded from the Single Public Service Pension Scheme. They are also denied key entitlements including occupational sick pay and bereavement leave.

Caretakers, meanwhile, are still awaiting implementation of a comparable pay deal, three years after the original agreement was signed. Many remain on €13 an hour, a rate that has not changed since 2019.

Fórsa's head of Education, Andy Pike, said, "Our members have waited long enough. That's why they've voted overwhelmingly to strike, and to picket the very department that continues to block progress," he said.

"What's at stake is fairness. It's about the school secretary or caretaker who, after 40 years of service, retires with nothing while their school colleagues leave with a secure pension. It's about a worker diagnosed with cancer being denied the basic sick pay protections afforded to every other school staff member."

Mr Pike added that there is no justifiable objective reason for their exclusion.

Engagement at the WRC on Wednesday, August 27, concluded without any outcome.

The Department of Education did not at any point outline to Fórsa its position on the request to admit secretaries and caretakers into the public service pension scheme.

The WRC then informed Fórsa that same evening that they had concluded that the gap between the two parties is too far apart for any resolution at this point in time.



EXPERIENCE: Over 100 years experience in one photo and not a pension in sight as secretaries and caretakers protest outside TD John Lahart's office in Tallaght

SDCC
Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas South Dublin County Council

ACHT NA MBÓITHRE, 1993, ALT 75
DÚNADH SEALADACH AR BHÓTHAR CHNOCÁN VÉINEAS L4026, RÁTH FEARNÁIN, BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 16

Le hoibreacha athnuachana bóthair atá riachtanach a éascú, tá ordú déanta 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: 4.7 km.
- Coinneofar rochtain áitiúil ar bun.
- Rochtain éigeandála 24 uair an chloig le coimeád i gcónaí.

ROADS ACT 1993, SECTION 75
TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF MOUNT VENUS ROAD, L4026, RATHFARNHAM, DUBLIN 16

To facilitate essential road resurfacing works, South Dublin County Council has made an order to 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: 4.7 km.
- Local access will be maintained.
- 24hr emergency access to be maintained at all times.

Web: www.sdcc.ie

Residents demand that council opens new construction access

Alpine estate locals say there is a problem with safety and the construction traffic

RESIDENTS in Alpine estate in Clondalkin have called on South Dublin County Council to provide a separate access to a new construction site in the middle of their estate.

SDCC has begun construction of 13 age-friendly homes on a green in Alpine estate but residents have safety concerns about the level of construction traffic that will be using the central thoroughfare through the estate.

"There is a fear that a high level of disruption and danger will occur during the day with many children and other vulnerable users being put at unnecessary risk," said Cllr William Carey (SF).

Carey cites an alternative access available directly from the Fonthill Road but that SDCC ruled this out.

"During the consultation period for the build I urged SDCC to provide for this access but it was denied on the basis that Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) would not approve the opening from Fonthill Road.

"This in my view was the wrong decision and was creating unnecessary dangers to pedestrians."

Cllr Carey says many residents from Alpine Residents Association contacted him to complain that it was unacceptable to have to put up with this when alternative access is clearly available.

"The group engaged fully with SDCC on issues pertaining to the development but stated that this was an unacceptable matter to have to deal with. While construction is a necessity it should not be allowed to create a danger for all those living alongside."



CONCERNS: Residents from Alpine at the site of development with Cllr William Carey

> **"There is a fear that a high level of disruption and danger will occur during the day with many children and other vulnerable users being put at unnecessary risk**



Jigsaw 'sea dip'



SEA DIP: Barry Dempsey, second from right will be taking part in the sea dip

Participants will have the chance to find out about the services for young people

A JIGSAW-LED 'sea dip' in Bray will be all about community, mental health and the importance of seeking help.

The mental health service based in Tallaght organised this event for its second year in partnership with Jigsaw Wicklow, to take place on Sunday, September 14, at the Bray seafront.

"The aim is to have a connective atmosphere where anyone is welcome, to show the power of community and promote help-seeking in its many forms," said Barry Dempsey, Youth and Community Engagement Worker at Jigsaw Dublin South West, speaking of the event. "It's set to be bigger than last year."

After the dip, participants will have the chance to find out about the available support services for young people's mental health, while sipping tea and coffee, chatting and listening to "a few laid back tunes" by the event's DJ.

A number of warm-up activities for "all ages and abilities" before dipping into the Irish Sea will include a hike up to Bray Head, a guided run by the Earlybird running club, yoga, breathwork and 'boxercise.'

There will be a sports promotion unit and a walk and roll dedicated to wheelchair users and their friends.

"Our Youth Volunteers will be there and it is also a fundraiser [for Jigsaw] as we provide free support to young people across Tallaght, Clondalkin, Lucan, Rathfarnham, parts of Templeogue and Terenure," said Barry.

"I am hoping to have some of our own community partners attending on the morning, such as Connect 4 Project and Include Youth.

"At the same time there will be Swims in Galway, Kerry and Portmarnock in solidarity with young people across Ireland."

J.A.D.D.

JADD 2025
GOLF CLASSIC
Slade Valley
Golf Club

SLADE VALLEY GOLF CLUB

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.

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Date: Friday 12th September, 2025

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Walk the Dog to raise funds for the DSPCA



SUPPORT: Walk the Dog takes place this Saturday

THE Dublin Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (DSPCA) is announcing the return of its sponsored walk, 'Walk The Dog', taking place on Saturday, September 13.

'Walk The Dog' will feature a 7.5km round-trip sponsored hike through the beautiful woodlands of Glencullen in South County Dublin, along a section of the Dublin Mountains Way.

Participants will enjoy stunning views while helping raise vital funds to support the DSPCA's mission of rescuing, rehabilitating and rehoming thousands of animals every year.

"Every euro raised goes directly towards caring for the animals who depend on us," said Grainne O'Kelly, Director of Fundraising and Communications at the DSPCA.

"We are delighted to welcome supporters and their canine companions back for this special day in the Dublin Mountains."

Each registration includes a special DSPCA dog bandana, goodie bag with Purina treats and vouchers for the finish-line barbecue on the day, hosted by the delicious Grizzly's Café.

Those who are unable to make it to Dublin, can register to take part in their own local sponsored walk on the same day.

Balancing on beams, spinning and sliding!



BOOST: At the opening of the new upgraded Knockmitten playspace

THE UPGRADED Knockmitten Playspace was officially opened last Monday (August 25), by Councillor Francis Timmons, Area Chair for Clondalkin, along with Cllrs Shirley O'Hara, Linda de Courcy, and Eoin Ó Broin at the ceremony.

Speaking at the event, Cllr Timmons said: "We recognise that this playspace upgrade was eagerly anticipated by the local community and has already been well-utilised, with many families gathering here daily. The new equipment, including swings, an embankment slide, a playhouse, spinner, see-saw, stepping stones, and balancing beams, offers something for children of all ages and encourages imaginative play."

Cllr Timmons also thanked the local community and Knockmitten Community Centre for their patience during construction and acknowledged the Department of Rural and Community Development for supporting the project under the Community Recognition Fund.

The upgraded playspace is already proving to be a vibrant hub for families and a positive boost to the local community.

Vandalised plaque in Corkagh Park now in council storage

Inscription on stone to mark the official opening of park bore the name of Ray Burke

A COMMEMORATIVE stone and plaque marking the opening of Corkagh Park in the 1980s has been removed by the council after it was vandalised earlier this month.

The plaque on the stone bore an inscription marking the official opening of the park in July 1986 by the then chairman of Dublin County Council, Ray Burke.

A member of the Facebook group Friends of Corkagh Park shared a picture of the damaged plaque in early August, showing that Mr Burke's name had been chiseled off.

The Fianna Fáil TD and councillor was a minister under both Charles Haughey and Bertie Ahern, and was investigated by the Planning Tribunal over bribery allegations from his time as a councillor in Dublin County Council.

Appointed as Minister of Foreign Affairs by Bertie Ahern in 1997, Mr Burke resigned within months over allegations that he had received bribes from a property developer of up to IR£80,000.

Mr Burke also received payments from the backers of an independent radio station Century Radio, which he failed to declare and led to him serving four-and-a-half months in Arbour Hill for making false tax returns, the most senior Irish politicians to serve time.

> **"Mr Burke resigned within months over allegations that he had received bribes from a property developer of up to IR£80,000**

In 2015, the Planning Tribunal withdrew their findings of corruption against him after issues arose with witness testimony.

Another member of the Friends of Corkagh Park shared a picture on August 19, showing the stone and plaque being removed.

In response to a query from *The Echo*, South Dublin County Council confirmed they had removed the stone, and that it was not a further act of vandalism.

"The council has removed the old stone and the damaged plaque and have put them into storage," a council spokesperson said.

"The damage is being assessed, and a decision will be made whether to repair or replace the plaque and the setting."



REMOVAL: Corkagh Park commemorative stone being removed, (inset) chiselled damage seen on stone

Funded by the Local Democracy

Presidential race hots up with Jim Gavin emerging as a candidate

Senior figures in Fianna Fáil have backed him

A WEEK ago Jim Gavin emerged as a potential presidential candidate but since then the Clondalkin man has received backing from senior figures in Fianna Fáil to be their nomination.

This includes support in recent days from Taoiseach Micheál Martin, and Minister for Justice Jim O'Callaghan, and now all of the party's senior Cabinet members have indicated support for the former Dublin GAA football team manager.

Mr Gavin (54), a Ballyroan resident, has not yet publicly addressed the bid.

Gavin's odds have dropped considerably from 4/1 last week when his name was first touted, to be the front-runner at Evens as of Tuesday afternoon with Paddy Power.

The Round Towers man leads a long list of potential candidates for the gig ahead of Heather Humphreys (2/1), Catherine Connolly (10/1) and Mary Lou McDonald (10/1).

MEP Sean Kelly, the former GAA President dropped out of the race on Monday.

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 after 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.

Taoiseach Micheál Martin said: "I'm very supportive of Jim Gavin, he has the right values."

"What has struck me, is anybody I speak to, who have had an involvement with him, or who have worked with him, speak very highly about his integrity, his principles and his values."

Nominations for those seeking to enter the contest to be Fianna Fáil's candidate close at 5pm this Friday, with parliamentary party members entitled to nominate just one person. Contenders need five nominations from the Fianna Fáil parliamentary party to be considered as a potential candidate.

The Department of Housing confirmed that polling day will be Friday, October 24, pending cabinet approval on Wednesday.



EXEMPLARY: Jim Gavin's stock is higher than ever



INTEGRITY: Round Tower clubman Jim Gavin

> "I'm very supportive of Jim Gavin, he has the right values. What has struck me, is anybody I speak to, who have had an involvement with him, or who have worked with him, speak very highly about his integrity, his principles and his values

The Echo visited Jim Gavin's hometown of Clondalkin and asked for their thoughts on the presidential election

Jimmy Finn



Absolutely. I think he is one of the best non-political candidates who suits the role perfectly. It's a clever ploy by Fianna Fáil and will split the GAA vote with Sinn Féin. I don't think it will damage Jim's reputation. He is as clean as a whistle.

Francis McCabe



The GAA is a clique and he's just a pawn. If it was an ordinary person like you or me, we'd never be approached. It's because of his status, but I'll be voting either way.

Maura Corr



No, I don't think so. Catherine Connolly would be better suited. I don't think it should be anyone from Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael or Sinn Fein.

Margaret Healy



I know Jim Gavin from when my sons went to school with him in Clonburris but I was surprised that he is going with Fianna Fáil. I think Catherine Connolly would be well suited, she knows her stuff.

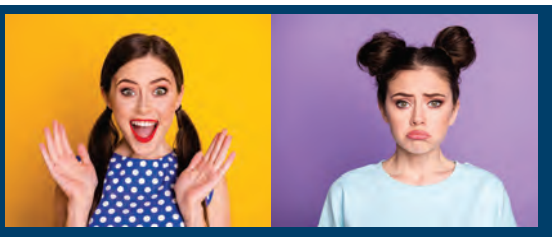
Margaret Smith



I've my mind made up about Heather Humphreys. I would have to think about voting for someone from Clondalkin, that would be nice. I'm born in Galway but have lived in Clondalkin since I was 14. Catherine Connolly is a good candidate also.

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Candlelight Vigil will mark World Suicide Prevention Day

‘Losing somebody to suicide is extremely tragic, and leaves so many unanswered questions’

ALL those who have died by suicide will be remembered at a Candlelight Vigil organised by a local man in collaboration with South Dublin Libraries.

To mark World Suicide Prevention Day, musician Luke Clerkin has organised a vigil to be held in Tallaght.

Luke previously told *The Echo* he lost a housemate to suicide and decided to raise awareness on this issue ever since.

“Losing somebody to suicide is something that’s extremely tragic, and it leaves behind so many unanswered questions and there’s so much grief attached to that,” he said speaking ahead of this year’s event.

“We want to be able to give people the opportunity to remember those who have passed away, and for them to be able to do it with other people who understand what they’re going through.”

People will be invited to light a candle at the end of the night, following music, poetry and a few speeches given by local mental health organisations, including NINA for Life Suicide Awareness, Hope — Suicide Prevention Drop In Centre, Walk & Talk and Tree of Hope.

Tallaght Library is hosting the event for the second year in a row.

Representatives of those organisations supporting the event will be attending to show anybody who is struggling with suicidal thoughts or ideations that “there is another option and there is help out there,” explained Luke.

The Tallaght World Suicide Prevention Day Candlelight Vigil will be held on Wednesday evening, September 10 at Parthalán Place opposite the Civic Theatre, starting at 8pm.

For more information on the event, please contact: lukeclerkinmusic@gmail.com.

If you’re struggling with mental health, or are going through suicidal thoughts, you can call Samaritans 24/7 at 116 123, Pieta House 24/7 at 1800 247 247 or text ‘HELP’ to 51544, Aware at 1800 80 48 48, Teenline 24/7 at 1800 833 634 and Childline 24/7 at 1800 666 666, text 50101 or chat online at www.childline.ie/login.

“We want to be able to give people the opportunity to remember those who have passed away, and for them to be able to do it with other people who understand what they’re going through



AWARENESS: Musician Luke Clerkin has organised a candlelight vigil



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WONDERFUL EVENT: Blitz organisers Louise Magaharan, Emma O'Donnell, Glenda Murphy Smullen, Ray Dooley and Stephen Smullen with Una Ennis (Archie's Mam) and (inset) referees Paul Cullivan,Tom Eakins, Reggie Harborn, Richard McGrath and Lee Maroney with Tallaght Person of the Year Glenda Murphy Smullen. Photos by Grace Hilliard

Over €5,000 raised for charities with tournament in St Anne's

Over 300 people attended the Bohernabreena club on a 'gorgeous evening'

OVER €5,000 was raised at the weekend in aid of Tallaght child Archie Ennis fighting Muscular Dystrophy and the Down Syndrome Centre at a charity tournament in St Anne's GAA.

On Friday, August 29, 16 clubs from Tallaght and beyond played each other in men's and ladies' football, hurling and camogie for two great causes, with a crowd of "over 300" people attending the Bohernabreena club.

"It was a gorgeous evening, the whole place was used, and the fun went on until late," said Tallaght Person of the Year Glenda Murphy Smullen who organised the event with Emma O'Donnell from the Down Syndrome Centre.

The playing teams included St Anne's, Thomas Davis, Croí Ró Naofra, St Mark's, St Kevin's and Killian's, Robert Emmett's, St Jude's, Good Council, Ballinteer St John's, Geraldine P Moran, St Olaf's, St James' Gaels, St Bridget's, St Pat's Donabate, Eire Óg, St Kevin's CBC.

Following an opening ceremony and a "bonding" moment under the shining sun where all players sang the national anthem, Una Ennis, Archie's mam, gave a speech.

As seven-year-old Archie was diagnosed with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy and needs treatment abroad costing over €3 million, the whole of Tallaght has been fundraising since last December, achieving an extraordinary sum of over €1,090,000 so far.

"I think before Una spoke, not everyone knew what the tournament was about. But once they heard her, everyone was like 'oh my God, let's get this going," said Glenda.

"I thank everyone involved," Una said on social media following the event.

The money raised, which is still being counted but now amounts to over €5,000 will be split between the two causes.

During the matches, no scores were kept but teams were awarded 'Most Enthusiastic,' and 'Best Craic,' for each of the four sports played, and four best players were elected.

When the fun moved from the pitches to the club indoors, "it turned into the most amazing disco," laughed Glenda, which even had the raffle postponed to next week.

"Emma and I would like to say a huge 'thank you' to everyone involved."



ENTHUSIASTIC: St Mark's over-35s ladies football team joined by Archie's mam Una and (inset) St Anne's over-35s ladies football team

> **"As seven-year-old Archie was diagnosed with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy and needs treatment abroad costing over €3 million, the whole of Tallaght has been fundraising since last December, achieving an extraordinary sum of over €1,090,000 so far**

First responders first on scene for 74 per cent of emergencies

TALLAGHT Community First Responders were the first on the scene in 74 per cent of emergency calls received in August.

Typically a 'holiday' month, August was instead a "very busy" month for the Tallaght CFR this year, according to their monthly report.

Their volunteers responded to 35 emergency call alongside the National Ambulance Service (NAS) and Dublin Fire Brigade.

More than half of the calls (17) were made for cardiac or respiratory arrest, and 12 calls were made to assist people going through chest pain or heart difficulties. Over the month, volunteers also dealt with four cases of stroke and two people becoming unconscious or fainting.

Tallaght CFR is always in need of support from the community to be able to keep providing their services.

To donate, visit their website www.tallaghtcfr.ie.

Knife seizures escalated by 28 per cent over five years 2020-2024

GARDA divisions of Dublin South Central, West, North, and North Central, have the highest levels of knife seizures in the state.

An Garda Síochána's Analysis Service released an analysis of knife related crime over the 10-year period 2015-2024.

Among the findings in the report, there has been a 28 per cent increase in knives seized by gardai over the five-year period 2020-2024 compared to 2015-2019.

This led to a 14 per cent increase in prosecutions for possession of a knife during the same corresponding periods.

Gardai say most murders and assaults with a knife occur in residential locations, not on street/open spaces.

The report states a 40 per cent reduction in robbery with knife in retail spaces over the five-year period 2020 to 2024 compared to 2015-2019 and a 35 per cent reduction in robbery with knife in street/open spaces during 2020-2024.

On average, five knives are seized and taken off Irish streets every day

Up to 18,906 knives seized during the ten years.

There are nearly 20,000 prosecutions for possession of knife /flick knife (over 10 years) which leads to nearly 40 prosecutions every week.

Males account for 86 per cent of offenders, with the age range 18-34 years accounting for 57 per cent of cases.

Teenagers, under 18 years account for 9 per cent.

Government slammed over rent crisis situation

Two-bed in Tallaght now costs almost €22k per year

THE Government has "no interest" in solving the rental crisis, said a Dublin South West TD as the price of renting an apartment in Tallaght keeps rising.

According to the latest Irish Rental Report published on Daft.ie, that covers Q2 2025, renting a one-bed apartment in the Dublin 24 area now costs an average of €1,483, an increase of 4.2 per cent compared to previous data.

A two-bed apartment has risen to a monthly cost of €1,795, which particularly struck Sinn Féin TD, Sean Crowe.

"A two-bed in Tallaght now costs almost €22,000 a year if you were to sign the lease today," he commented. "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?"

"The latest Daft.ie report shows that rents in south county Dublin are rising at higher rates than the average across the state. Rents 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."

The report showed that in West County, where most of the developments are being built, rents are up 9 per cent.

Availability, on the other hand, is down 15 per cent, with "just over 1,350 homes available to rent in Dublin" last month.

According to Deputy Crowe, not enough of the yearly new builds are social and affordable homes, which ends up "trapping" people in the rental market where yearly increases "outpace rise in wages."

"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 the rental market," he said.

"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."



CRISIS: Rental problems trap people in market

> **"With big commercial landlords and investment firms hoovering up 75 per cent . . . in Dublin last year, this means that hundreds of thousands of people are trapped in the rental market**

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Commissioner visits Tallaght garda station on his first day

Commissioner Justin Kelly acknowledges the challenges that gardai face today

NEW Garda Commissioner Justin Kelly paid a visit to Tallaght Garda station on his first day in the role.

This was the station that the Commissioner was first posted to when he joined An Garda Síochána in 1992.

During his visit, Commissioner Kelly met members of Tallaght Unit B, gardai from the Detective Unit and more.

According to AGS, the visit was an opportunity for frontline colleagues to speak personally with the Commissioner and ask him any questions they may have.

Commissioner Kelly hosted his first press conference on Tuesday.

Speaking to his nearly 18,500 colleagues in AGS Commissioner Kelly said it is "an incredible honour" to take up the role and a privilege to lead an organisation he is "very proud of."

I want to thank you all for the great work that you do. The policing professionalism and dedication that I see on a daily basis is a credit to you all.

I also want to acknowledge all the work of our garda staff and reserves who play such a crucial role in our organisation."

"An Garda Síochána is trusted by the Irish public and, in fact, is one of the most trusted police services in the world. I have been in the job for over 33 years. So I really do appreciate the pressures and challenges that you face."

Commissioner Kelly outlined his responsibility to make sure members have everything they need to do the job well and to remove hindrances that prevent this.

He plans to meet many in the organisation through visits to stations and offices and through the upcoming Cultural Audit.

"An Garda Síochána is trusted by the Irish public and, in fact, is one of the most trusted police services in the world. I really do appreciate the pressures



APPRECIATIVE: Garda Commissioner Justin Kelly meeting staff in Tallaght Garda Station on Monday and (inset) Commissioner Kelly outside Tallaght Garda Station. Photos An Garda Siochana

Vandalism, road traffic accidents and technical failures all contributed to the removal of bus shelter

A BUS shelter on Esker Road in Lucan has been removed by the National Transport Authority due to repeated "vandalism, technical failures, and road traffic accidents".

The bus shelter at Finnstown Abbey (Stop 3368) was dismantled and removed by the NTA on August 19 and replaced with a temporary bus stop pole and signage.

Independent councillor Liona O'Toole shared correspondence she received from the NTA confirming that they had removed the shelter as it "has been the victim of repeated vandalism and more recently a road traffic accident".

"The continued problems at the shelter location have been as a direct result of a sequence of a number of different events one after another, rather than one single event," the NTA spokesperson said.

"These events have been outside of the control of the NTA. It is not possible to police acts of vandalism, technical failures, and road traffic accidents."

The power supply for the shelter was turned off by the NTA after the road traffic collision late last year to "ensure that awaiting passengers are protected from potential electrocution when in contact with the shelter structure".

"Additionally, the shelter itself was temporarily rejigged/propped by our bus shelter contractor to keep some form of a protective structure in place at the bus stop location," they said.

A recent technical review of the shelter deemed that it was "unsafe, posed safety risks and should be removed due to the very poor condition of the structure".

The review also noted that the roof and the advertising panel of the shelter were "constructed very close to the kerb line of the road".

"While that arrangement may have been acceptable back in November 1997, when the shelter was originally installed it is not acceptable under current accessibility standards in addition to changes to the bus fleet," the NTA spokesperson added.

"Additionally, the configuration of the shelter is the most likely reason that the shelter was damaged during the RTA due to the close proximity of the shelter to the kerb line."

The NTA have no precise timeline for replacing the shelter but said it should be some time "later in 2025".

"Statutory approvals, such as a road-opening licence, a traffic management plan, an application to ESB networks for a power supply should a solar-powered solution be unviable, in addition to the mobilisation by an available suitable civils contractor must be put in place, to plan and schedule the works."

Sharing the response from the NTA, Cllr O'Toole said she was also aware of "other shelters needing attention", and that she would continue to engage with the NTA about these.



PROBLEMS: Esker Road temporary bus stop

Cllr Mick Duff

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Paul Murphy to join aid flotilla to Gaza

TD will join 1,000 other activists seeking to break the aid blockade

TALLAGHT TD Paul Murphy will join the latest flotilla seeking to break the aid blockade on Gaza this week.

The People Before Profit TD will join the flotilla of dozens of boats, which set sail from Barcelona on Sunday, August 31, when it docks in Tunisia on Thursday, September 4.

He's set to join Swedish activist Greta Thunberg, queer Irish author Naoise Dolan and up to 1,000 other activists on 50 boats carrying aid that will attempt to break the Israeli blockade on Gaza.

In a statement from Tunis, Tunisia, where he is undergoing training to join the flotilla, Deputy Murphy said this was "the biggest flotilla of its sort so far".

"You know, just like in Ireland, there's a man-made famine taking place. What are you going to do? I think all of us have an obligation to do whatever we can with our positions," he said.



HIGHLIGHT: Paul Murphy in Tunisia on Monday heading to join the flotilla

> "What are you going to do? I think all of us have an obligation to do whatever we can with our positions

Deputy Murphy was arrested in June in Egypt while attempting to reach the Rafa border crossing over land.

He was first detained on June 13, along with a number of Irish and international activists attempting to take part in a protest march from Egypt to Gaza to highlight the ongoing aid blockade.

After being released that evening near Cairo airport, Deputy Murphy was detained a second time two days later when he went to a police station to retrieve his phone which had been seized by authorities.

He was eventually released and flew back to Ireland on June 17.

The Global Sumud Flotilla – sumud meaning "resilience" in Arabic – is the latest and largest flotilla to attempt to break the aid and food blockade on Gaza.

Greta Thunberg was detained by Israeli authorities in June this year along with other activists on the Madleen in June while attempting to reach Gaza, while another attempt in July on the Handala was also stopped by Israeli forces.

Both were intercepted in international waters.

Echoopinion...

Shaping up to be entertaining presidential race

THE date has officially been set for the Irish presidential election this year, with Friday October 24 appointed as the day we elect a successor to Michael D Higgins.

Our outgoing president ends his term officially on November 11, wrapping up 14 years of leading and representing Ireland with a dignity and grace many will find hard to live up to.

The role of Irish president is a largely symbolic one and for many decades was seen as a "retirement" post for former Taoisigh and senior statesmen (and women).

In recent years though they've descended into farcical affairs where any celebrity with enough political pull can get their name on the ballot, and this year looks to be the same.

So far only two candidates have been officially confirmed. TD and former Leas-Cheann Comhairle Catherine Connolly secured early nominations from Labour, People Before Profit and the Social Democrats, while Heather Humphreys was confirmed as Fine Gael's nominee on Tuesday.

Former Dublin GAA manager Jim Gavin seems to be Fianna Fail's choice, perhaps putting an end to speculation of a run by Bertie Ahern.

It also seems Bob Geldof approached Michael Martin looking for his party's nomination, an unlikely pairing if ever there was one.

He's the latest celebrity to put his name in the ring, joining Michael Flatley, Conor McGregor, businessman Gareth Sheridan and ex-weather forecaster Joanna Donnelly in seeking local council nominations in the rat race to the Áras.

With 52 days to go, it's already shaping up to be an entertaining one.

Council acquire five houses as part of €3m redevelopment of St Patrick's Athletic ground

DUBLIN City Council have acquired five properties in Inchicore for €3million as part of a major redevelopment of St Patrick's Athletic FC's home ground, *reports Ellen Gough.*

The upgrades to Richmond Park would see capacity at the stadium increase to 8,000.

In an update provided at the DCC monthly meeting on Monday, September 1, the council's chief executive Richard Shakespeare confirmed that five properties on Emmet Road, Inchicore had been "acquired by agreement".

The total cost of acquiring 119/119A, 129, 131 and 133 Emmet Road was €3,003,000, he said.

The update was in reply to a question from Cllr Darragh Moriarty (Lab), who criticised the council for allowing "the project to stall".

"Generally this process has not progressed with the speed it was originally intended," he said.

"DCC initially said it planned to complete and publish the compulsory purchase order map by end of 2023, then it in 2024, then by the end of 2024 and now we are three-quarters of the way through 2025."

According to a statement from League of Ireland, the council still needs to acquire a number of other properties on the Emmet Road which back onto Richmond Park, including 121, 123 and 127, "whilst St Pat's currently use 125".

As the north of the grounds is bordered by the Camac River, the planned extension will move the south terrace back onto Emmet Road.

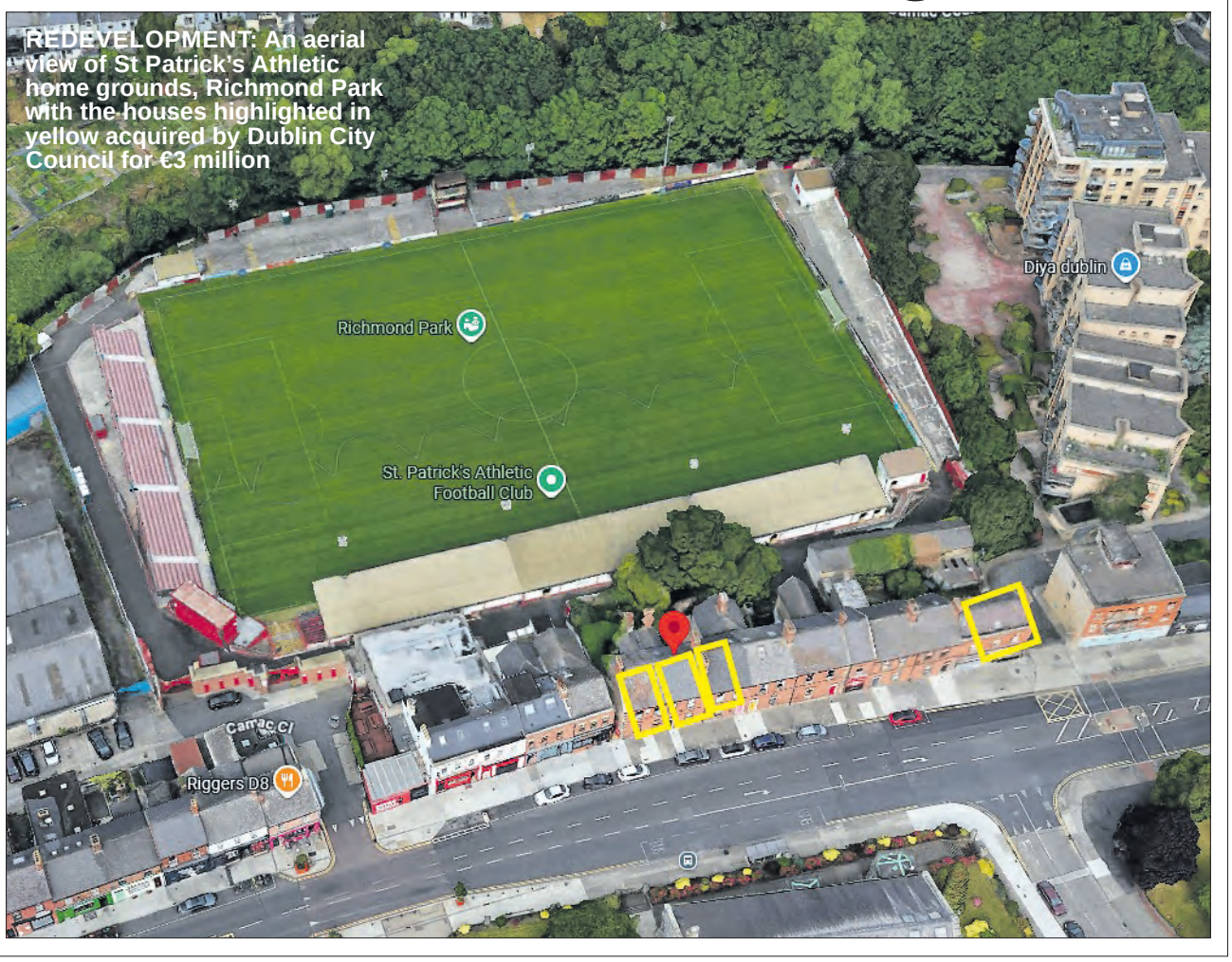
Discussions are also taking place around the impact of the development on the Camac, League of Ireland said.

Cllr Moriarty also requested an update on "information from St Pat's Athletic in relation to redevelopment of the stadium and grounds".

"DCC and St Patrick's Athletic have been in discussions around Draft Heads of Terms outlining the relationship between the parties moving forward and continue to work through the detail," the chief executive's reply continued.

He confirmed that discussions were taking place between St Pats and the council's Flood Projects Office and Drainage division regarding the impact on the Camac, but a formal planning process, "including any relevant Section 247 pre-application consultations, has not yet commenced".

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REDEVELOPMENT: An aerial view of St Patrick's Athletic home grounds, Richmond Park with the houses highlighted in yellow acquired by Dublin City Council for €3 million


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Parents might have to manage traffic problem

School in cul-de-sac and near a 'chaotic bend' poses a clear safety risk

PARENTS at a Tallaght school are considering "managing traffic themselves" at morning drop-off times as their concerns about road safety have been left unheard.

Scoil Santain wasn't part of the Safe Routes to School programme but has been the scene of "multiple near-misses" due to a particularly dangerous crossing, said the Parents Association which has been calling for road improvements since last year.

The school is located in a cul-de-sac, and its pedestrian entrance at Homelawns is currently marked by two white lines that are "not very visible, especially on dull wet days," explained Margo Hannon, the Association's chairperson.

The crossing is also located near to a generally "chaotic" bend where drivers reverse and young children "dart over" when they see their friends on the other side of the road.

"Despite recent efforts, including the installation of school bollards and attractive road markings by South Dublin County Council last year, the situation at the drop-off point in particular has not improved," she said.

"The increased number of cars at peak times continues to create significant safety risks. The council last February have advised us that they currently do not have the resources to provide a raised pedestrian crossing. The crossing remains a high-risk point for children and parents."



CONCERNS: Scoil Santain the scene of 'multiple near-misses'

According to Margo, the school parents are now "considering managing traffic themselves using cones and high-vis jackets."

"While the community gardaí carried out spot checks late last year, this was only a temporary measure.

"In addition, a road safety officer from the council observed one afternoon collection period and reported no major concerns. However, from our perspective, it is the morning drop-off that presents the greatest danger, as children often rush across the road at different points, creating unpredictable and unsafe situations."

This week, the Parents Association sent a letter to An Taisce that is in charge of the Safe Routes to School Programme asking for "advice, resources, or tips" in the absence of SDCC intervention.

In the council's Annual Budget 2025, €2.552 million was allocated for road safety and improvement works including €825,000 for new pedestrian crossings and traffic calming works.

€2.185m was provided for Road Safety Promotion, School Wardens and Education Work.

Pipe bombs found by Gardai

PIPE Bombs were discovered in a house in Jobstown on Monday evening during a search by gardai.

The bomb squad was called in by gardai during the incident who removed the devices safely from the property.

A statement from gardai said: "Gardaí executed a search warrant at a residential property in Jobstown, Dublin 24 on the evening of Monday 1st September, 2025.

"During the course of the search a number of pipe bombs were located.

"EOD arrived and removed same".

Gardai say investigations are ongoing.

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Fun time in Glenasmole



HAPPY DAY: Catherine Merriman, Keith Walsh, Orla Jones, Ricardo Fuscardi, Deirdre Satelle, David Farrelly (SDCC) and Ronan Gough at Glenasmole Community Centre for the family Fun Day on Saturday. There were local small business stalls selling handmade items, face painting, children's entertainers, bouncy castles, sensory van, ice cream van and lots and lots of fun things to keep the children and adults entertained

Advertorial

New chapter in dental patient care

Lucan Village dental practice dentists join Dental Care Ireland's ballyowen Team


Dr. Sean McAleese and Dr. Tony McKeon

Dr. Sean McAleese and Dr. Tony McKeon of Lucan Village Dental Practice are pleased to announce that they are joining the renowned Dental Care Ireland team at the Ballyowen Castle location.

After many successful years providing exceptional care to the Lucan community, the two respected dentists are excited to bring their expertise and patient-first approach to the state-of-the-art Ballyowen Castle practice.

Known for their compassionate care and personalised treatment, Dr. McAleese and Dr. McKeon have become trusted healthcare providers to generations of patients in Lucan. Their decision to move to Dental Care Ireland's Ballyowen Castle location allows them to continue offering high-quality care while expanding the services they provide, including access to root canal treatments, braces, and implant specialists, all under one roof.

Dr. McAleese expressed, "Joining Dental Care Ireland at Ballyowen Castle was a decision made with our patients in mind.

We've formed lasting bonds with many families over the years, and we're excited to offer them even more advanced services and a broader range of treatments.

Rest assured, our commitment to providing personalised care will remain unchanged, only now enhanced by the resources and expertise available at Ballyowen Castle."

Dr. McKeon added, "This partnership enables us to continue offering the level of care our patients know and trust, with the added benefit of a more extensive team and cutting-edge technology. We look forward to serving both our long-standing patients and welcoming new ones at this exciting new chapter in our journey."

Although Dr. McAleese and Dr. McKeon will now be based at Dental Care Ireland Ballyowen Castle, they want to assure their Lucan patients that this transition will not disrupt their care.

On the contrary, they will have access to even more advanced treatments, including root canal, braces, and implant specialists, all in a comfortable and welcoming environment.

"We're excited to join a practice that shares our values of patient care, community, and integrity," Dr. McAleese said. "Our move to Dental Care Ireland at Ballyowen Castle is the next step in providing our patients with even better care, and we're eager to continue the relationships we've built over the years."

Dental Care Ireland is delighted to welcome Dr. McAleese and Dr. McKeon to the Ballyowen Castle practice, reinforcing their mission to provide comprehensive, high-quality care to all patients.

For more information about the services available at Dental Care Ireland Ballyowen Castle, including access to root canal, braces, and implant specialists, visit: www.dentalcareireland.ie.



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Airtricity Green Fund gives €5m to 56 projects including two in South Dublin

TWO SOUTH DUBLIN-based projects are among over 50 to receive funding from Airtricity's community fund.

The SSE Airtricity Generation Green Community Fund awarded a total of €5 million to 56 community projects earlier this August, including Jobstown-based Citywise Education and Liffey Partnership's Cherry Orchard Community Garden.

The Generation Green Community Fund has been established to support communities across the island of Ireland in their journey towards sustainability, and is designed to empower local communities to take an active role in the Green Transition – a collective shift toward greener, more sustainable living.

The fund aims to support projects from a wide variety of groups that promote sustainability, environmental awareness, and climate action at a local level.

Whether it's a grassroots group improving energy efficiency, a school integrating sustainability into learning, or a social enterprise creating climate-friendly solutions, the fund is designed to uplift and enable communities making a real difference.

The grants awarded are between €10,000 and €25,000.

Liffey Partnership's Cherry Orchard Community Garden project have been awarded the funding to purchase a new EV Van and build a teaching cabin.

"This will help us to reduce our carbon footprint and most importantly improve the Garden as a facility for the whole community to enjoy," a statement from the project read.

"Following the success of the recent Strawberry Fair, we are grateful to be able to develop this space and provide a hub of climate action in Cherry Orchard.

"Huge thanks to Padraig and the SSE team who are supporting projects across Ireland and Northern Ireland that are helping to create a greener future."

Funding awarded to Citywise Education will "allow us to introduce an innovative out-of-school programme for local young people to increase their level of climate knowledge and action in the communities that we support", the organisation said.

"It's amazing to see communities like ours at the heart of Ireland's sustainability journey. We would like to offer our sincere thanks to SSE Airtricity for believing in grassroots project."

"We're delighted to support such a wide range of ambitious, community-led sustainability projects," Stephen Gallagher, Managing Director SSE Airtricity said.

"We understand the challenges many projects and groups face in accessing funding resources, and we're proud to play a part in enabling them to create lasting environmental and social impact."

Ex-inmate is a trained barber and in business for himself

He manages his ventures through social media marketinig and a website

A FORMER inmate who lost out on a potential career in football, managed to get clean in jail and has turned his life around, working as a barber and operating two side business ventures.

Nathan Benson (27), from Knocklyon, received a three-year sentence 2019 for theft and assault, having built up 33 convictions in a relatively short period of time.

"I was introduced to it at school, smoked my first joint in second year, bought coke off a student when I was in third year, people wanted it so I started selling it," Nathan told *The Echo*.

At the time Nathan was on a scholarship to private school Rockbrook Park School and was playing junior football with the Republic of Ireland from the ages of 15 to 17.

His involvement in drug-dealing, dabbling in weed and coke use was bad enough, but discovering benzos led to "life spiralling out of control."

"Once benzos were involved everything fell away from me and I was left on my own. My friends didn't want to know me. You don't know what you're doing, you could rob a bank on benzos and not even remember.

"It's dangerous. A lot of things I've done I wouldn't have done if I wasn't on benzos."

He recalled being stabbed by a former friend at a house party and being hospitalised – a symptom of the bad company drug users keep.

After his conviction in April 2019, Nathan spent a few weeks in Mountjoy before he was transferred to Wheatfield Prison.

"Everything goes in there, its like the prisoners run it. Someone was stabbed on the landing. I didn't really get into it. At the start I was using drugs to cope. I didn't really know how to deal with my emotions."

Seeing how well a fellow inmate was doing inspired Nathan to make some changes.

"He was in trouble before but was now going to the gym and working in the kitchen. I asked how did he do it?

"I couldn't take it anymore, was thinking to myself 'why am I always getting into trouble – why always me?' When talking to counsellors I would say that the drugs help me deal with anxiety and depression."

Following a suicide attempt while in an isolated pad at the time for mental health, Nathan concedes it was "more so a cry for help."

This time around he engaged positively with counsellors, attended group talks and partook in meditation.

"If you are getting into trouble you lose all your privileges, your shop order, not able to work. The staff are very helpful once they see you putting the work in."

He completed the last year and a half of his sentence clean from drugs.

Following release in October 2021 he didn't waste any time, getting a retail job and studying barbering in college.

"I was happy to be out but wasn't happy. I'd lost my old friends, owed a drug debt and had no qualifications. I wanted to be a footballer and still had hope."

Losing years to drugs and prison meant football was no longer an option, but Nathan kept working in retail and moved into barbering after receiving his qualification, working today for Buzz Barbershop in Newcastle.

Now living in Ashtown in Dublin 15, last year he set up a clothing business called Outer, and a supplement venture Naturally Super Human, building up 100,000 followers across his social media accounts.

"Barbering helps me, I enjoy it and have made good friendships. My mam has been a huge support, she is a rock the whole time.

"I started the clothing business this time last year. I knew I could sell from my dealing days, similar principle, but wanted to try something legal and I love clothes."

Despite his first order being stolen after the delivery driver left it outside his door in Ashtown, Nathan put out a message on Facebook and managed to trace the box down, albeit a lot of it was stolen.

"There was 5k worth of stock. I got some of it back to cover the costs and re-invest in another order."

He manages the venture through social media marketing and a website, enjoying relative success to date, making 20k in sales and a few thousand from the supplement product.

"I always wanted to be a millionaire and know I'm not going to get that from a 9-5. I love clothes and health. I came from nothing but change is possible."



CHANGED: Nathan Benson turned his life around

"Once benzos were involved everything fell away from me and I was left on my own. My friends didn't want to know me. You don't know what you're doing, you could rob a bank on benzos and not even remember

SDCC
Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas South Dublin County Council

ROADS ACT 1993, SECTION 75

PROPOSED TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF SECTIONS OF TEMPLEOGUE ROAD (R137), RATHFARNHAM ROAD (R114), DODDER VIEW ROAD (R112) AND SPRINGFIELD AVENUE, CO. DUBLIN

To facilitate the Rathfarnham WSAF Athletic Club to hold the Rathfarnham 5K Road Race and Juvenile races, South Dublin County Council propose to temporarily close sections of the following roads:

Road Name: Dodder View Road, Rathfarnham (both lanes) leading onto Rathfarnham Road (left lane towards city), Templeogue Road (Left Lane only towards Templeogue Road Village), slip lane to Springfield Avenue and Springfield Avenue to Fairways Junction.

Date of Closure: Sunday 28th September 2025.

Time of Closure: 8:30am to 10:30am.

Local access will be maintained.

Any person interested may lodge an observation/submission in writing to the Senior Executive Officer, Land Use, Planning and Transportation, South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Tallaght, Dublin 24 or by email to seoroads@sdublincoco.ie not later than **5.00 p.m. on Monday 8th September 2025.**

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The Maldron Hotel, Tallaght
Tel: Pamela 086 123 1774

BALLYFERMOT
9.30am & 6.00pm
Ballyferomt Community Church, Drumfin Pk.
Tel: Noleen - 087 654 2635

TUESDAY:

TALLAGHT: 9.30am
The Maldron Hotel, Tallaght
Tel: Pamela - 086 123 1774

TALLAGHT
9.30am, 11.00am
Thomas Davis GAA Club, Kiltipper Rd, Tallaght
Tel: Janet - 087 683 7730

NEWCASTLE
6.00pm
St. Finian's Community Hall, Newscastle, Co. Dublin
Tel: Aoife – 085 229 4182

GREENHILLS: 6.00pm
Greenhills Community Centre, St Josephs Road, D12 Y899
Tel: Janette - 085 256 6417

WEDNESDAY:

TEMPLEOGUE
9.30am, 11.00am, 5.30pm, 7.00pm. Early weigh: 8am
St Mary's Rugby Club, Templeville Road
Tel: Pauline - 085 770 4751

CLONDALKIN
9.30am & 11.00am
Sacred Heart Parish Centre St John's Drive. D22WN30
Tel: Martine - 089 448 2127

CLONDALKIN
4.30pm & 6.00pm
The Glue Pot, Old Nangor Road, D22HW18
Tel: Sharon - 083 151 4777

THURSDAY:

TALLAGHT
9.30am - Early weigh: 8.30am
The Plaza Hotel, Tallaght
Tel: Carol - 089 202 0210

TERENURE
6.45pm
Terenure Badminton Centre, Whitehall Road. D12 P659
Tel: Janette - 085 256 6417

KNOCKLYON
5.00pm & 6.30pm
The Iona Centre, Knocklyon
Tel: Carol - 089 202 0210

FRIDAY:

TALLAGHT - NEW VENUE
9.30am - Early weigh from 8.30am
Thomas Davis GAA Club, Kiltipper Rd, Tallaght
Tel: Janette - 085 256 6417

TERENURE
5.30PM
Evergreen Hall, 70 Terenure Road North, D6W, D6W H568
Tel: Noleen - 087 654 2635

SATURDAY:

TALLAGHT
7.30am, 9.00am & 10.30am
The Plaza Hotel, Tallaght
Tel: Christine - 086 088 5142

TALLAGHT
9.30am.
Kilnamanagh Community Centre, Tallaght
Tel: Caroline - 085 251 6686

CLONSILLA
8.00am & 9.30am
Mountview Youth and Communithy Centre
Lohunda Downs, D15EY81
Tel: Sharon - 083 151 4777

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CELEBRATIONS: All previous chairs of St Mark's GAA Club were honoured with a commemorative medal on the evening in recognition for their service

Fifty years a-playing for St Mark's GAA club

Gala dinner honours past chairs of St Mark's and celebrates 50 years

ST MARK'S recently celebrated their 50th anniversary with a week of celebrations culminating with a Gala dinner at the Louis FitzGerald Hotel last Saturday.

The event was prepared with the idea to honour the past of the club with commemorations being awarded to the previous club chairs over the years. The night consisted of an MC on the night, Chris Keeley. The 15 past chairs of the club were honoured with nine of them being present to receive the medal.

The gala night and the week of activities themselves were well received by attendees with the variety of events and activities on offer including a family fun day, memorial tournament and a pool competition ensuring that all demographics and age groups were accounted for.

There was a multitude of guests in attendance including GAA president Jarlath Burns who presented the medals to the former chairs. Finbarr O'Mahony, CEO of Dublin GAA, Joe Keane, Dublin LGFA Chair, and Carl O'Brien, Dublin Camogie Chair, were all present.

Jarlath Burns touched on the importance of St Mark's and why it is flourishing as a club.

"Fifty years ago people got together and decided 'why not, why shouldn't we set up a Gaelic club to serve the people in this area', as a result of that there are now five clubs serving that general area of Tallaght.

"This area, and I can feel it in the room tonight, I can feel a sense of community and love of place and love of your club and love of your neighbours. It's palpable.

"This is one of the loveliest events I have been to. The sense of occasion there has been in this club means that the GAA is working in this area. As the president of the GAA I am proud to lead an organisation that has a club like St Mark's in it, doing the work that you are doing every day, every week in your area."

That sense of community is something that St Mark's prides itself upon as touched on by Hayden Moore who joined the club in his early teenage years after being persuaded by his friends.

"I work for Dublin GAA now, that is only because I love the GAA and the only way I love the GAA is through St Mark's. It's not just about me or the person beside me, it's about leaving the jersey in a better place. There's something for everyone. If you're not the best player that's okay. The GAA slogan is 'it's where we all belong' so there is something for everyone.

"Everyone has things going on outside of sport, especially in our community – there's a high level of deprivation across the way in west Tallaght and we have a lot of people in the club who might have things going on at home or whatever it is.

"When they come up to the club it's a chance to cut loose, enjoy themselves and have a bit of craic. We don't turn anyone away, if there's someone that wants to play and they're struggling, we'll figure something out. There is something for everyone and we want to look after everyone in our community in whatever way we can.". *See photos on page 54*



MEET-UP: Jarlath Burns and Declan Bolger (first St Mark's player to play for Dublin Senior Footballers) meet again, having marked each other when Armagh met Dublin in the league in 1990



PROUD: An Uachtaráin Jarlath Burns with past chairperson, Anne O'Reilly – both of whom hail from Armagh


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Action needed to prevent bonfires in housing estates

Residents concerned as illegal bonfires start two months before Halloween



CONCERNS: An illegal bonfire last year in Tallaght

A TALLAGHT councillor called for a "dedicated emergency number" to be set up for the collection of flammable materials to prevent and tackle Halloween bonfires.

While Halloween night is two months away, two illegal bonfires have already upset the Kilnamanagh community over the past few weeks, bringing councillors to voice their concerns and call for immediate action.

"We need more responsible action by the industries who produce these materials in the first place," said Tallaght Central councillor Mick Duff (IND).

"Most of the bonfires seem to come from pallets, tyres and other industrial waste. Businesses need to store them properly and comply with the recycling agreements they signed up for. Last year, this hasn't happened enough."

As bonfires are set up with such material being disposed of in the streets of Tallaght and beyond, Cllr Duff said an "emergency line" could be a solution, considering that SDCC Public Realm typically respond "immediately" to collect it.

"We badly need it as we get closer to October, as the general Council emergency number is used for so many other things. If we had a dedicated line, whenever Residents Associations or Tidy Towns come across material, they can make that call."

Cllr Duff also said that it's "unfair" that the Kilnamanagh community has been targeted with this when there's so much attention and dedication put by local groups into preserving the place as it is.

Groups of young people are usually believed to be behind the bonfires.

"The parents need to step up. Young people know the impact of what they're doing, as they're learning about it in school," said Cllr Duff.

"Some say that having Halloween bonfires is a tradition around here. It could only be considered a tradition when we had nothing else."

In 2024, 92 of the 218 bonfires occurring across South Dublin County last Halloween took place in Tallaght, and the Council spent €65,000 for clean-up costs.

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

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

Free travel for students extended to U9s

FROM this week, the new TFI Child Leap Card will extend free travel in Dublin Mid West on all TFI services for children between 5 and 8 years of age, , Fine Gael Minister of State and Dublin Mid West TD, Emer Higgins, has said.

Minister Higgins said the card, available through leapcard.ie, will expand free travel to almost a quarter of a million children across Ireland, building upon existing free travel on public transport for children under 5-years of age.

This measure was announced as part of the Budget 2025 package of measures and is a key Fine Gael delivery on the Programme for Government commitment to make public transport more affordable and accessible for families.

"It is fantastic to see this being rolled out in Dublin Mid West. Fine Gael are committed to alleviating the financial burden associated with transport costs to parents," said Minister Higgins.

"Fine Gael are all about putting money back in your pocket. I would urge all Dublin Mid West residents to apply now for their eligible children."

Minister of State with responsibility for Rural Transport, Jerry Buttimer TD said: "I am delighted to see that the expansion of this scheme will support almost a quarter of a million more children and their families by providing access to free travel for under 9s, it also lays foundations for lifelong habits of sustainable travel.

Woman arrested in connection with threat to Tanaiste family

A WOMAN arrested in west Dublin in connection with a threat against the family of Tánaiste Simon Harris has been released without charge.

The woman in her 30s was arrested on Tuesday, September 2, and detained for questioning at Ronanstown garda station.

Gardaí said on Wednesday that she has been released without charge and a file will now be prepared for the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Gardaí were alerted over the weekend to a specific and detailed threat that it is understood to have been posted on a popular social media platform.

It's understood the threat was to kidnap the Fine Gael leader's young children.

In a statement released on Sunday, Mr Harris said that "as a father, I have very strong views and feelings on this as you can imagine".

"As a political leader, I find it unacceptable in every way. Let me be clear: threatening people—any person – is a crime.

"Threatening children is despicable. It is cowardice. And it is a line that no decent society should tolerate being crossed."

The Tánaiste and Minister for Defence, Foreign Affairs and Trade has a significant garda protection detail, similar to that of a sitting Taoiseach.

His home in Wicklow has been the target of previous protests and he has been subject to numerous threats online and on social media in the past.

Gardaí have confirmed that a criminal investigation is underway, and includes detectives from the National Cyber Crime Bureau and the State's counter terrorism unit, the Special Detective Unit.

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Magic and balloon modelling on Fun-Day Sunday

THE annual Family Fun-Day is back again this September at Saggart Schoolhouse Community Centre.

As well as an afternoon full of entertainment, the Fun-Day is a opportunity to meet some of the organisers and coordinators of the weekly classes that are run in the centre on Sunday, September 7.

A children's magic show will take place at 1pm, along with face-painting, balloon modellers and performances from groups that attend the centre/

There will be board games and a giant games room, plus a sensory play area, an ice-cream van, plus tea, coffee and more refreshments available in the centre.

This is the second Family Fun-Day since the Saggart Schoolhouse Community Centre opened in May 2024 in the former St Mary's National School building in Saggart village.

Anyone attending is advised that there will be no on-site parking during the event.

The Saggart Schoolhouse Community Centre Family Fun-Day takes place this Sunday, September 7, from 1pm-4pm.

Let's talk about Sepsis, a life-threatening issue

Free public health talk in Tallaght Library to raise awareness

TALLAGHT University Hospital (TUH) continues its commitment to community health awareness through its Let's Talk About series, an initiative designed to bring important health information directly to the public.

The next session in the series focuses on a condition that can affect anyone, at any age: Sepsis.

Come along on Wednesday, September 10 at 11am in Tallaght County Library for a free public health talk led by Dr Sarmad Waqas, Infectious Diseases Consultant at TUH.

This event will help attendees understand how sepsis develops, why early action is so important, and what steps can be taken to prevent it.

What You Will Learn: How to recognise the key warning signs of sepsis; when to seek medical help and simple prevention tips; wound care, vaccinations, and managing chronic conditions

Dr Waqas emphasises the importance of public awareness: "We encourage everyone to become familiar with the signs and symptoms of sepsis. Alongside prevention, early detection and treatment are key to saving lives. That's why awareness is so important, knowing the signs can make all the difference."

Attendees will also have the opportunity to ask questions during a dedicated Q&A session.

Whether you are a parent, caregiver, student, or simply health-conscious, this talk offers practical knowledge that could help protect you and your loved ones.

In 2024 alone, TUH treated over 1,300 patients for sepsis, with cases spanning all age groups. These figures highlight the urgency of understanding this potentially life-threatening condition, and the value of community education in tackling it.

This event is free and open to all, so come along, bring a friend, and take a proactive step toward better health.

"We encourage everyone to become familiar with the signs and symptoms of sepsis . . . Awareness is so important



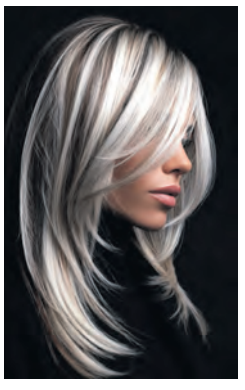
COMMITTED: Tallaght Library hosts talks on community health problems and (inset) Dr Sarmad Waqas

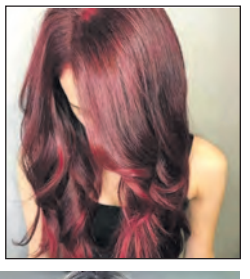
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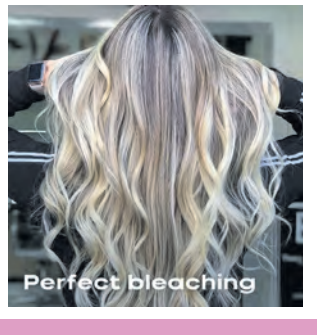
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Celebrating recoveries from substance abuse and addiction

Tallaght Recovery Month in September is filled with workshops and events

CREATING a "healthier, more compassionate" community is one of the goals of Tallaght Recovery Month launched on Monday by the Tallaght Drugs and Alcohol Task Force.

Every year, September is filled with events, workshops and other community gatherings that raise awareness on, and celebrate, recovery from substance abuse and addiction.

This year, the launch event at the Tallaght Rehabilitation Project in Kiltalown House was a "resounding success," said Jacqueline Sheehy from TDATF, "drawing a large and engaged crowd."

"The event featured inspiring guest speakers who bravely shared their personal journeys with addiction, highlighting the strength and resilience required to overcome it," she explained.

"The attendance was outstanding, with many community members showing their support for those affected by addiction. The event provided a safe space for individuals to connect, share their experiences, and find hope and encouragement.

"The guest speakers' powerful stories and messages of recovery resonated deeply with the audience, emphasising the importance of community support and resources in overcoming addiction."

South Dublin Mayor, Cllr Pamela Kearns, officially launched Recovery Month with Chairperson of Tallaght Drugs and Alcohol Task Force, James Doorley, Tallaght Person of the Year, Glenda Murphy Smullen, and service users Aaron and Danielle.

"We are very grateful to them and to everyone else who attended, spoke and helped make this possible," commented Ms Sheehy.

Community-oriented events will follow the launch, starting with the Colour Run organised by the youth group Connect4 for Thursday, September 4.

The Run starts at the MacUilliam estate at 6.30pm and will be going on for two hours.

On Friday, September 12, Jobstown recovery service JADD will host JADD's Got Talent from 6pm.

In between, educational events such as TRP's 'Get Hooked on Recovery,' TDATF's 'Family Support Respite Day' and a Breakfast with Recovery Talk in St Dominic's will be held.

TDATF will also talk about 'learning to live again' after recovery in Rua Red on Monday, September 15, and recovery will also be celebrated while trying to challenge the stigma that surrounds it with the annual TRP play at Tallaght Theatre on September 16 and 17.

Over the second half of Recovery Month, JADD will host 'Fireside Chat with singer Eddie Winston' and a Vision Board Workshop with Barnardos, while a Tattoo Day has been organised by Killinarden service CARP for Sunday, September 21.

Other interesting group talks will be held, including St Aengus Recovery Talk with Holistics, a Recovery Coffee Morning for Service Providers organised by the HSE service YODA and 'Mothers in Recovery Group' at the Russell Building in Tallaght.

As every year, Recovery Month wraps up with its 'Recovery Walk.'

A 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.



RECOVERY: At the launch of Recovery Month in Kiltalown House on Monday

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.

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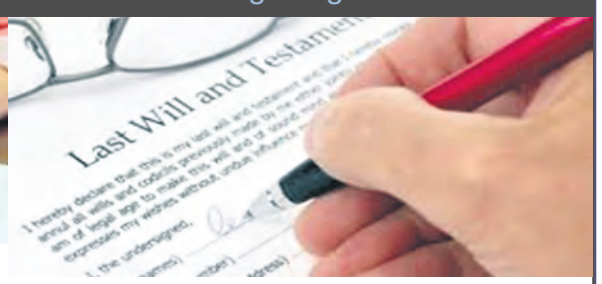
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‘Amazing’ volunteer turn-out after appeal

A NEW Community First Responders group established in Clondalkin have reported an “amazing turnout” of interested volunteers.

Clondalkin Community First Responders was established this summer by local resident Mary Conlan.

“Clondalkin’s a huge place, with a population of over 49,000, I’ve seen places where they have first responder units and they work really well,” she told *The Echo*.

“My son is involved in the one in Kill, and they’re very busy.”

Community First Responders (CFR) are volunteers who are trained to attend certain types of emergency calls in the area where they live or work.

After a number of information evenings in July, the first official meeting took place in Knockmitten Youth and Community Centre on Thursday, August 14.

“We had an amazing turn-out of volunteers! It’s fantastic to see so many people wanting to help in our area,” the group shared, adding that their first training session has already been fully booked.

If you are interested in volunteering with Clondalkin Community First Responders contact clondalkincfr@gmail.com.

Garda speed vans take in over €6.2m in 30 months

Last year Clondalkin area generated over €477k, the highest in city

TALLAGHT, Clondalkin and Lucan are some of the highest grossing revenue areas for garda speed vans.

Figures for speed van collections over a 30-month period were released to Ireland South MEP Cynthia Ní Mhurchú, who has called for a “get-tough approach” and a greater concentration of speed vans at accident black spots.

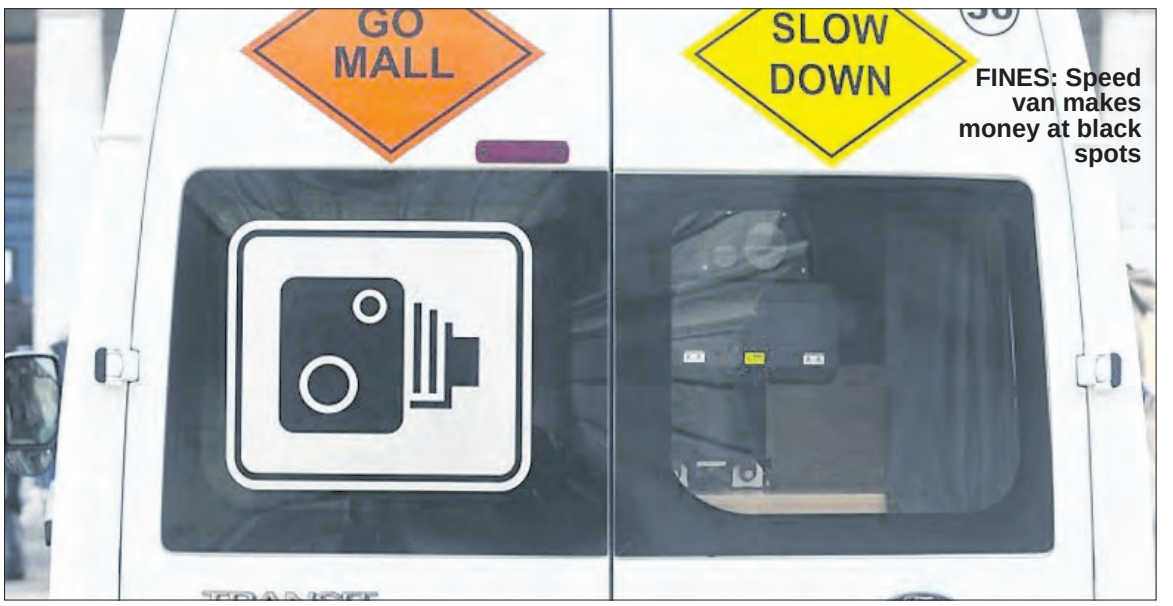
Garda speed vans in Dublin took in over €6.2m in 30 months and over €32m nationally.

According to the figures, in 2024 Clondalkin garda speeding vans generated €477,840 last year – the highest total in Dublin.

In 2024, Tallaght generated over €256,000 while Lucan took in over €251,000.

Meanwhile, in 2023 Tallaght generated over €445,000, Lucan over €343,000 and Clondalkin over €118,000.

Ní Mhurchú, an EU Transport Committee MEP, made her calls as gardaí released figures to her showing the collection in fines from speed vans in the Republic of Ireland between January 2023, and June 8, 2025.



FINES: Speed van makes money at black spots

> **“Garda figures also show that the organisation paid out over €44m to private speed camera operators**

The MEP questioned why revenue from speed vans across all garda districts fell by 15.9 per cent between 2023 and 2024.

Garda figures also show that the organisation paid out over €44m to private speed camera operators between the start of 2023 and up to August 18, 2025, meaning that the garda speed van system is operating at an overall loss.

“A European Commission report from 2020 estimated that 10 to 15 per cent of all crashes and 30 per cent of all fatal crashes are the direct result of speeding or inappropriate speed,” said Ní Mhurchú.

“174 people died on Irish roads in 2024, which means that 52 of those people died as a direct result of speeding. There are 52 families across the country mourning loved ones because we have failed to tackle speeding in any meaningful way.”

Ní Mhurchú welcomed an extra €9m in funding for up to 100 new speed cameras to enhance road safety at the end of 2024 but said that continual investment in new technology is needed, along with smarter positioning of speed vans and consideration of re-education courses as a judicial sanction for repeat offenders.

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Liffey Valley to City Centre Core Bus Corridor Scheme.
Construction is now underway.

The BusConnects Dublin programme is beginning its first set of infrastructure works, starting with the Liffey Valley to City Centre Scheme – a key milestone in a major transformation of how people move around Dublin. In time, the programme will deliver 230 km of dedicated bus lanes and 200 km of cycle lanes.

Construction is already underway on the Liffey Valley to City Centre Core Bus Corridor Scheme. This marks the beginning of a city-wide transformation that will result in more sustainable travel choices and safer and more reliable journeys. These changes will benefit everyone who lives, works, or travels in Dublin.

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To stay up to date on construction and any changes to your route, visit **LiffeyValleyScheme.ie.**

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HONOURED: The Kilnamanagh and Tallaght City FC that competed in the Shaun Dargan memorial match

Over €1,700 raised at Shaun Dargan memorial tournament

KILNAMANAGH AFC hosted the Shaun Dargan memorial tournament on August 23 for another successful year honouring the life of former player Shaun Dargan who died in 2020.

The match took place at Ned Kelly Park and consisted of teams made up of Shaun's friends who had played beside him throughout his life, representing Kilnamanagh AFC and Tallaght City FC respectively.

A native of Tymonville, Shaun died on December 1, 2020 with the game running since 2021 onwards. Proceeds are donated to HOPE Suicide Prevention Charity. The game also is played in honour of Brandon Shaun Mitten, son of Shaun's friend Ciaran who died in 2022 on April 16 at only 15 months old from sudden unexplained death in children, commonly known as SUDC.

Anthony Hanevy, one of Shaun's friends, was part of the organising of the event along with friends Ciaran Mitten, Keith Molloy, Gary Foy and Shaun's twin sister Carla in tandem with the HOPE Suicide Prevention. The event has been in the pipeline since earlier this year with initial prep beginning around April/May. The game is a competitive affair and not treated as an exhibition, Kilnamanagh has managed to come out on top in the last three meetings, winning 5-3 this time around.

The match was followed by Music Bingo in the Penny Black pub afterwards. Overall this year over €1,700 was raised going towards HOPE. Shaun's immediate family would like to extend their thanks to all of their extended family and friends who have offered help and assistance to them over the past few years, whether that be in regards to the charity match or just generally offering support.

Hanevy spoke on the organisation of the event and how its reputation has grown.

"I think in the first year or so it was difficult to put together, but everybody knows of it now, so whenever we ask for stuff it's done straight away. The likes of Kilnamanagh providing the pitch, changing rooms and stuff like that, and the likes of the Penny Black, everybody couldn't have been more helpful, it all comes from the community."

Hanevy himself is involved in coaching and spoke about his own view on mental health in sports.

"I think in the last year or two years people are starting to open up a bit more. Not just Shaun's match but I think people organising events like this are helping people talk to each other. I think it's helped us as a group of friends to be honest. Five or six years ago it was frowned upon to open up and be seen as 'weak'. It only takes the straw that broke the camel's back, you don't know what's behind closed doors"

Hanevy affirmed that there is no sign of the exhibition stopping over the future.

"Our kids will be organising it. It's a great day out but the main thing is to raise awareness that needs to be raised and to remember Shaun and Brandon."

If you have been affected by this story and need support, please contact HOPE Suicide Prevention Drop-In Centre Tallaght Facebook page or call 087 136 3082 and Samaritans 116 12316 123.

Pieta House Dublin South in Tallaght call 01 462 4792, for Pieta House Ballyfermot call 01 623 5606 and for Pieta House Lucan call 01 601 0000 or visit the charity's website.

For Barnardos' Children's Bereavement Helpline contact 01 473 2110, which is active 10am to 12pm Monday to Thursday.



MISSED: Shaun Dargan



Thumbs-up for tourist/visitor letting outside academic terms

Gowan House in Carriglea Business Park gets go-ahead for short-term letting

PROPOSALS to amend a previously permitted Large-Scale Residential Development (LRD) on Naas Road have been granted planning permission by Dublin City Council.

Applicant Malclose Limited sought permission to amend a condition for a previously granted student accommodation LRD at Gowan House, Carriglea Business Park, Naas Road.

The developer sought permission to use the permitted student accommodation bedspaces as "tourist/visitor accommodation outside academic term time only."

According to a city council planning report, while student accommodation is not explicitly listed under Zoning Objective Z14, An Coimisiún Pleanála previously deemed the use appropriate under the parent permission.

"The site is located within the Naas Road Strategic Development Regeneration Area (SDRA 5) and the



PERMISSION: Gowan House is near public transport and urban infrastructure

> **"Accommodation shall only be occupied for short-term letting of 'no more than two months'**

City Edge Strategic Framework, and although not identified as a key development site, it benefits from proximity to public transport and existing urban infrastructure.

"The applicant has provided a clear rationale for the proposed amendment, citing alignment with national policy and legislation, and highlighting the operational and sustainability challenges posed by the current restriction," said the report.

"Having regard to the minor nature of the amendment and its consistency with broader planning objectives, it is considered that the proposal would not adversely impact residential amenity or the character of the area, and the Planning Authority has no objection to the amendment, subject to compliance with relevant conditions."

Among the conditions are that the tourist / visitor accommodation shall only be occupied for short-term letting periods of "no more than two months and shall not be used as independent and separate self-contained permanent residential units."

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Residents object to trees outside St Kilian's church being felled

Parish priest said the decision to remove them was for safety and not taken lightly

TREES outside St Kilian's church in Kingswood were considered a "real danger" to pedestrians and were entirely removed amid the disappointment of parishioners.

"The decision to remove them was not taken lightly," explained parish priest, Fr Frank Drescher, in a message addressing parishioners online. "It was made by the parish administrative committee and approved by myself only after much discussion."

The residents started noticing trees were being cut this week and were "upset" as they believed some of the trees had been on the parish grounds for up to 40 years.

However, a "large amount of leaves" falling to the grounds every autumn had caused serious health and safety concerns over the past few years, explained Fr Frank, with a parishioner being injured after slipping last year and other reporting near misses.

"We must balance environmental care with the safety of parishioners," he said in his message.

> **"Please know that the parish remains committed to caring for both people and creation**

Other reasons brought the parish to come to the decision, such as reducing the burden on the volunteers who collected leaves, who have now come to be "a few and mostly elderly."

"In recent years, one person alone collected around 100 bags of leaves each autumn. This is too heavy a responsibility for our limited team," said Fr Frank.

This led to the following reason he mentioned, "Financial reality," as he explained that the parish couldn't afford hiring professional landscapers for the upkeep of the trees and grounds.

"Our parish income barely covers our running costs, and we rely on savings," he said.

Lastly, the trees "blocked" much of the sunlight that was supposed to fuel the solar panels that are part of a newly installed heating system in the church buildings.

The trees removed will be replaced with other species that are easier to maintain and less likely to create hazards, such as fir, yew or silver, while the trees in front of the church facing the street will remain.

The parish is open to suggestions from residents for alternative replacement to the old trees.

"We share your love of nature, and I deeply regret the upset this has caused. Please know that the parish remains committed to caring for both people and creation, within the limits of what we can manage," concluded Fr Frank.



UPSET: The trees cut down outside St Kilian's church



Padel facilities sought in proposals

PLANNING permission has been lodged for an outdoor padel tennis court facilities in Cookstown Industrial Estate.

Applicants C&C Sports Consultants Ltd have lodged the planning for Units 5 and 8 at Building 2 and 3, Cookstown Industrial Estate.

The plans include protected screening around playing surface and permission sought for this outdoor playing facility for a period of five years only.

Climb up that family history tree!

HAVE you always wanted to research your family history but not known where to start?

An informal genealogy and family history group meets at Clondalkin Library monthly to share ideas and research.

The Genealogy and Family History Group will meet again on Thursday, September 18 at 6.30pm.

School stress for families in emergency housing

Salvation Army already provides 250,000 bed nights per year in its individual and family homeless centres

THE Salvation Army has said housing families in emergency accommodation is placing extra stress on many parents as the new school term begins.

The charity said children in family hubs in the capital often have to travel significant distances to schools each morning.

It was reacting to the Department of Housing figures for July, which show there are now 1,648 homeless families in Dublin (a rise of 22 families on June's figures), including 3,719 children – up 53.

The Salvation Army, one of the biggest providers of homeless accommodation in Dublin, said the statistics mask 'a raft of unheard and unseen consequences'.

"Children placed in emergency accommodation in places such as Houben House, our largest family hub in Harold's Cross, often face long journeys to school," said Anthony Byrne, service manager at Houben House.

"We have seen some parents struggle to get their children up for 6am to get two buses to have their kids arrive at school on time.

"This adds another layer of pressure to an already fraught situation for families who have no control over how close or otherwise they are placed to the schools their children attend."

The Salvation Army provides 250,000 bed nights per year in its six individual and family homeless centres across Dublin.

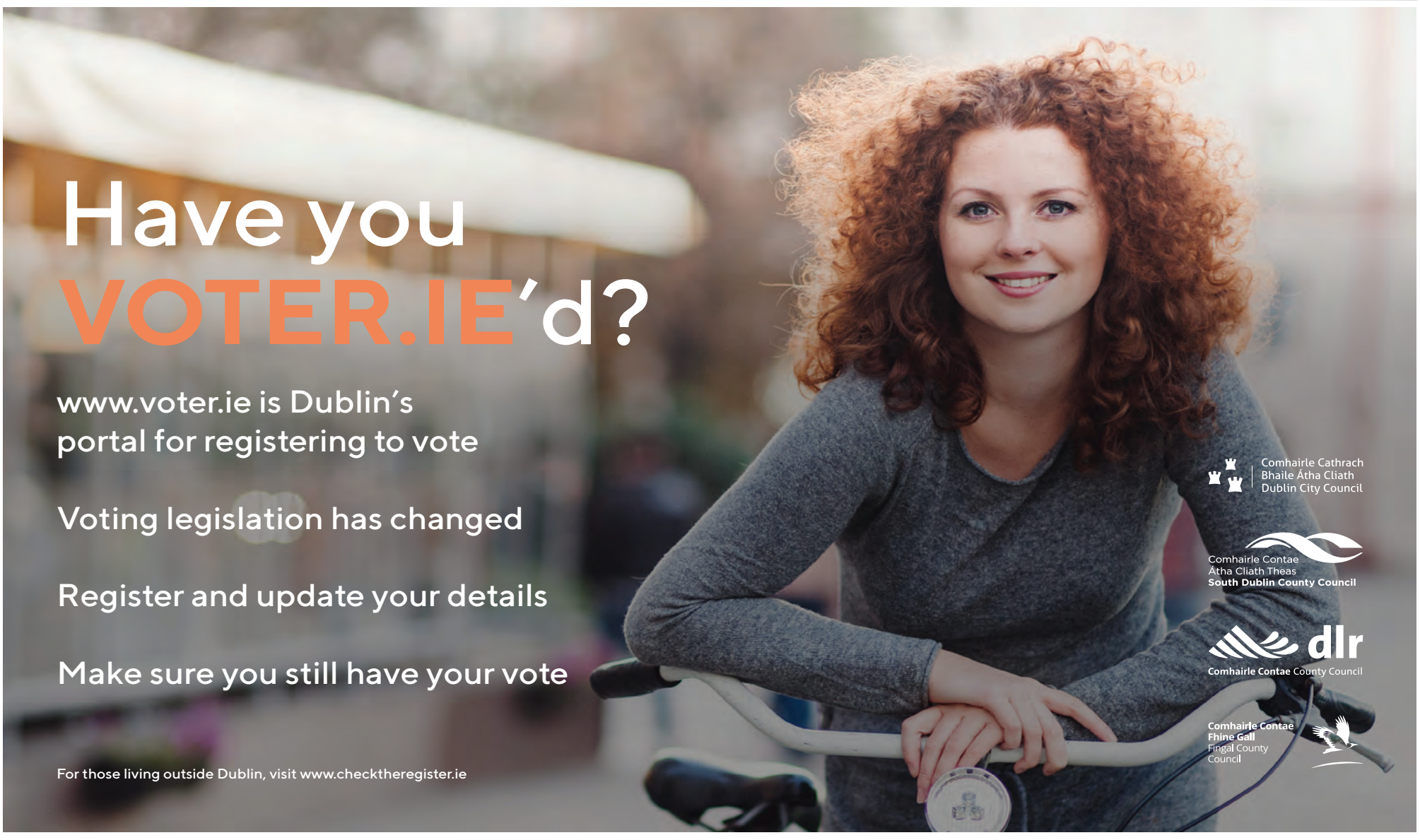
The Salvation Army operates a facility in Clonard Road in Dublin 12.

> **"We have seen some parents struggle to get their children up for 6am to get two buses to have their kids arrive at school on time. This adds another layer of pressure to an already fraught situation for families**



FRAUGHT: Children placed in emergency accommodation often face long journeys to school, says Anthony Byrne, service manager at Ireland's largest family hub in Harold's Cross

Photo by Gareth Chaney



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

Blackberries are green when they are red . . .



RIPENING PROCESS: Green, red, and fully ripe blackberries are often found together on the one stem.

THIS LITTLE riddle refers to blackberry's ripening process.

Ripe blackberries are coloured deep purple, while unripe berries are red. Unripe fruit is often referred to as being 'green', so when blackberries are only developing and are still coloured red, they can be said to be green.

There is another step, however, before blackberry's red stage.

In early summer when the blackberry flower has been pollinated by the many insects that visit it, the flower's petals drop away.

The fruit then begins to form as small, hard, green-coloured berries.

As summer progresses, the hard green berries slowly grow and swell. With the right amount of rain, heat, and bright sunshine, the green berries begin to turn red.

The red colour of ripening blackberries is due to the increase of compounds in the fruit called anthocyanins. These give certain types of fruit their red, blue, or purple colours.

As the red blackberry continues to ripen and swell, the levels of anthocyanin rise. As these increase, they deepen the colour of the red berries, turning them gradually into blackberry's typical purple-black colour.

If there has been enough rain, the berries become soft and plump with juice. Plenty of bright sunshine and heat then increases the level of sugars in the fruit, making the juice sweet and tasty.

It can take six to eight weeks for the berries to develop from hard green berries into fully ripe blackberries, but this will depend on the weather.

Too little rain forms dry, hard, blackberries, while too little sunshine results in sharp-tasting fruit.

Blackberries have been collected and eaten by humans for thousands of years, and not just for their taste.

Blackberries are well known to offer health benefits as they contain Vitamins C and K, fibre, and trace amounts of omega-three and protein.

The anthocyanins that give blackberries their colour are also said to be anti-oxidant and anti-inflammatory compounds.

These support good gut health and can help boost the immune system.

This is just what we need as the cooler days of autumn approach.



GOOD GUT HEALTH: The good weather this summer has resulted in a bumper crop of big juicy blackberries.



FUN TIMES: Katie, Carla, Cara and Kerri

Bowling, karaok with their 'lifelo

Celebrating a special 'medals night' w

DOWN Syndrome Dublin celebrated three years of making "lifelong friendships" through bowling with a special 'medals night' in Tallaght.

On Tuesday, August 19, the excitement for the bowling night was higher than usual, as members knew they would get a medal, with dancing and karaoke until late.

The bowling nights at Tallaght Leisureplex were set up in 2022 by Sandra O'Reilly and other local parents of children with Down Syndrome, and while it doesn't directly involve Down Syndrome Dublin's staff and volunteers, it is strongly supported by the organisation.

The weekly meeting was supposed to replace other activities that had been put on hold by the pandemic, and only counted seven members back then, but it soon became the kids' "favourite moment of the week" and it has grown to currently 30 members aged from 10 years old up.

"It's really about giving the kids a chance to make friends, and giving their parents support," said Sandra.

"I totally expected it to go on over the years because we would have never left those first members alone."

As they grew up together, members got closer and teenagers would also meet up outside of Tuesday's nights.

"Some are starting to have crushes on each other, love cards have been sent," said Sandra.

Last Tuesday's event at Leisureplex in Tallaght is the group's annual way to celebrate what they've built together.

Every member received a medal and they had pizza together, followed by

"It's really about giving the kids a chance to make friends, and giving their parents support . . . I totally expected it to go on over the years because we would have never left those first members alone





GREAT GAME: Charlie, Liam, Bobby and Jamie



HAPPY DAYS: Millie, Lilly Rose, Amber

ke and dancing ong friendships'

with pizza, singalongs and lots of fun

dancing and singalongs until 10pm.

"The excitement was unreal, they were counting out the hours that day. It was a great night and it's lovely to have this once a year," said Sandra.

"Again, it's just about being together."

The group is running through the summer as well to maintain a routine that is so important for members to have.

On members' birthdays, they rent another space in Leisureplex to celebrate with a cake.

"We would like to thank Leisureplex and Down Syndrome Dublin for their support," concluded Sandra.

Bowling nights take place every Tuesday at 7.00 pm at Tallaght Leisureplex.

They are always accepting new members and can be contacted at Hayleigh@downsyndromedublin.ie.



CHEERS: Lauren and Fionn



WONDERFUL: Jackson and Andre



BOWLING BOY: Jamie lets it go



LADS ON THE LANE: Scott, Tony and Cathal

Speech and language therapy waiting time now over three years



UNACCEPTABLE: The waiting time Speech and language therapy appointments is over three years

THE average waiting time for children in Ballyfermot and Palmerstown who need speech and language therapy is over three years.

Up to 244 children in the area are waiting on average 165 weeks for their first assessment for speech and language in the area.

The average waiting time for first assessments for children in Clondalkin is 108 weeks, with 277 on waiting lists.

That's according to figures from the HSE publicised by Dublin Mid West TD Mark Ward (SF).

"The waiting times and numbers of children waiting for speech and language therapy in my constituency are not only unacceptable, but shameful," he said.

The figures were sent to Deputy Ward in response to a parliamentary question and are correct as of July 31 this year.

In Lucan, parents can expect to wait 86 weeks before their children are seen, while in West Tallaght and Rathcoole children are waiting up to 85 weeks for their first assessment.

"We acknowledge the extended waiting time for the provision of services at present, as we work within our current staffing resources," said the reply from Gillian Farrelly, Interim Head of Primary Care Dublin South City & West, Dublin South West, Kildare & West Wicklow Integrated Healthcare Areas.

"Parents are welcome to contact the service on 01 9214054 where the Speech & Language Therapy Service can offer phone advice clinics for parents with children on a waiting list."

More figures released by the HSE to Deputy Ward reveal that 7,087 children from the Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow Health Region are waiting for assessment of needs reports to be issued to them.

"This is thousands of families waiting in limbo," the Sinn Féin TD said.

"Even more shocking is that there are over 3,200 children waiting more than 12 months for their stage 1 call. This one of the first step in the assessment of needs procedure.

"1,331 of these are waiting for more than two years. It is a statutory requirement that an assessment of needs is provided within 6 months. How can so many children be waiting 12 or 24 months?" he continued.

"I have had parents in my constituency office who have done everything they can do to help their children, only to be told that they have to continue waiting."

> **"Even more shocking is that there are over 3,200 children waiting more than 12 months for their stage 1 call. This one of the first step in the assessment of needs procedure . . . It is a statutory requirement that an assessment of needs is provided within 6 months**



DRIVE SAFELY: Mayor Pamela Kearns with Garda Luke Goonan, Orlaith Maguire (Road Safety Officer SDCC), Road Safety Warden Anita Mooney, School Principal Claire Durr and students from Senior Infants and Second class at the launch of the Back to School Road Safety Campaign in Scoil Maelruan in Old Bawn, Tallaght. Photo by Ben Ryan

'Slowdown' cry as lists 34 deaths of ch

With a further 592 children seriously injured, call

THIRTY-FOUR children aged 15 and under were killed on Irish roads and a further 592 seriously injured during a 5-year period, according to the Road Safety Authority child casualties report of 2019–2023.

This age group represented 4 per cent of fatalities and 8 per cent of total serious injuries during this time.

South Dublin County Council believes we can make our roads a safer place for our children and is appealing to all parents, guardians, teachers and all road users to make road safety a priority, as schools are now returning for the new academic year.

The reports show that two-thirds of the 626 child casualties(killed or seriously injured) were either pedestrians (49 per cent) cyclists (19 per cent), with highest numbers occurring in Dublin and Cork, 25 per cent were passengers, 3 per cent were e-scooter users and 2 per cent were motorcyclists with 2 per cent being drivers.

Irish roads will experience a significant increase in traffic volumes as schools and work routines begin to return.

Pamela Kearns, Mayor of South Dublin County Council, said: "I was delighted today to be at the launch of SDCC back-to-school road safety campaign and I would like to share with you some of the key points we need to be conscious of to ensure your children's safety. Please let children out of the car in a safe place beside the footpath.

"Do not block the sight line of school wardens, who carry out such an important role in keeping children safe, crossing the road to get to and from school.

"Do not park on double yellow lines, on the footpath or on cycle lanes. Not only is it illegal it can also cause a serious and dangerous situation for small children weaving in and out between parked cars and moving vehicles.

"Do watch out for children cycling to school.

"Do provide your child with some article of high visibility clothing or armband. Be safe be seen. All road users have a duty of care to protect children as they go to and from school, these few simple guidelines will ensure that we can do that.

"So, this September I ask all parents, guardians and other road users. Watch out for that child, it could be yours."

Orlaith Maguire, Road Safety Officer at South Dublin County Council says: "Children are our most vulnerable road users, and they cannot be responsible for their own safety when using the road. They simply do not have the cognitive skills to allow them to recognise danger, therefore programmes like SDCC 'Back to School' campaign and the 'Safe

> **"No child under 12 years should walk or cycle to school without supervision. Child restraints when transporting children must be used, as the driver is responsible to ensure that anyone 17 years or under is wearing the correct child restraint/ seatbelt**



report
hildren
-out for road safety

Cross Code' are vital in teaching children essential road safety skills at a young age.

"No child under 12 years should walk or cycle to school without supervision. Child restraints when transporting children by car must be used, as the driver of the car is responsible to ensure that anyone aged 17 years or under is wearing the correct child restraint/ seatbelt, or face 3 penalty points and a cash fine.

"Parents must speak to their children about road safety and how to stay safe when walking or cycling to school, how to cross the road at a safe place, and how to get out of the car safely on the safety side by the footpath.

"Parents play a hugely important role in educating their children on road safety matters and should lead by example. Walk the extra distance to cross at a safe place like a pedestrian crossing."

This campaign is aimed at raising awareness within the community, highlighting to all drivers that there are a lot more children out and about near the roads. This September please – 'Slow down and expect the unexpected!' Further information can be found by emailing info@sdublincoco.ie

Search continues in Belgium for remains of Patrick Sarsfield



HERO: Patrick Sarsfield memorial statue in Limerick and (inset) Former church wall at potential Sarsfield burial site in Huy in Belgium

PREPARATIONS are underway to excavate the final part of a site in Belgium where the remains of the first Earl of Lucan Patrick Sarsfield are possibly buried.

A search has been underway for the remains of the 17th century Irish hero in the Belgian town of Huy for the last two years.

The potential burial site was discovered by Dr Loïc Guyon, Honorary Consul of France in Limerick, and founder of The Sarsfield Homecoming Project, after over two years of research.

Dr Guyon uncovered archival evidence that indicated Sarsfield, who led the defending forces during the 1690 Siege of Limerick, and later the Flight of the Wild Geese to France, is potentially buried on the grounds of the former St Martin's Church in the town.

Hopes were dashed earlier this year when DNA testing on two male skeletons uncovered under what had formerly been the chapel floor revealed neither was Irish.

One of the skeletons appeared to be that of a "strongly built man" in his 30s, raising expectations it might have been the famous Earl, who died aged 33 fighting in the French army in 1693 and was recorded as being exceptionally tall for the era.

A townhouse was built over St Martins in the 1930s, and much of the site is now buried several feet under a garden.

Up to 200 tons of soil needs to be removed before archeologists can access the remaining site.

In a project update shared on Friday, August 22, Dr Guyon said he was "delighted to announce" that preparations had begun for the excavations.

"Before removing the soil, the only remaining wall of the church, behind which the back garden is located, had to be consolidated and protected so that it does not collapse," he said.

A local building company has been working to secure the wall in recent weeks, and staff from Huy City Council are due to visit the site in the first week of September to inspect these measures.

> **"The whole operation comes at a cost of €70,000 . . . but it should enable us to resume the excavations by the end of September if everything goes according to plan**

"The whole operation comes at a cost of €70,000 to the project, but it should enable us to resume the archaeological excavations by the end of September if everything goes according to plan," Dr Guyon said.

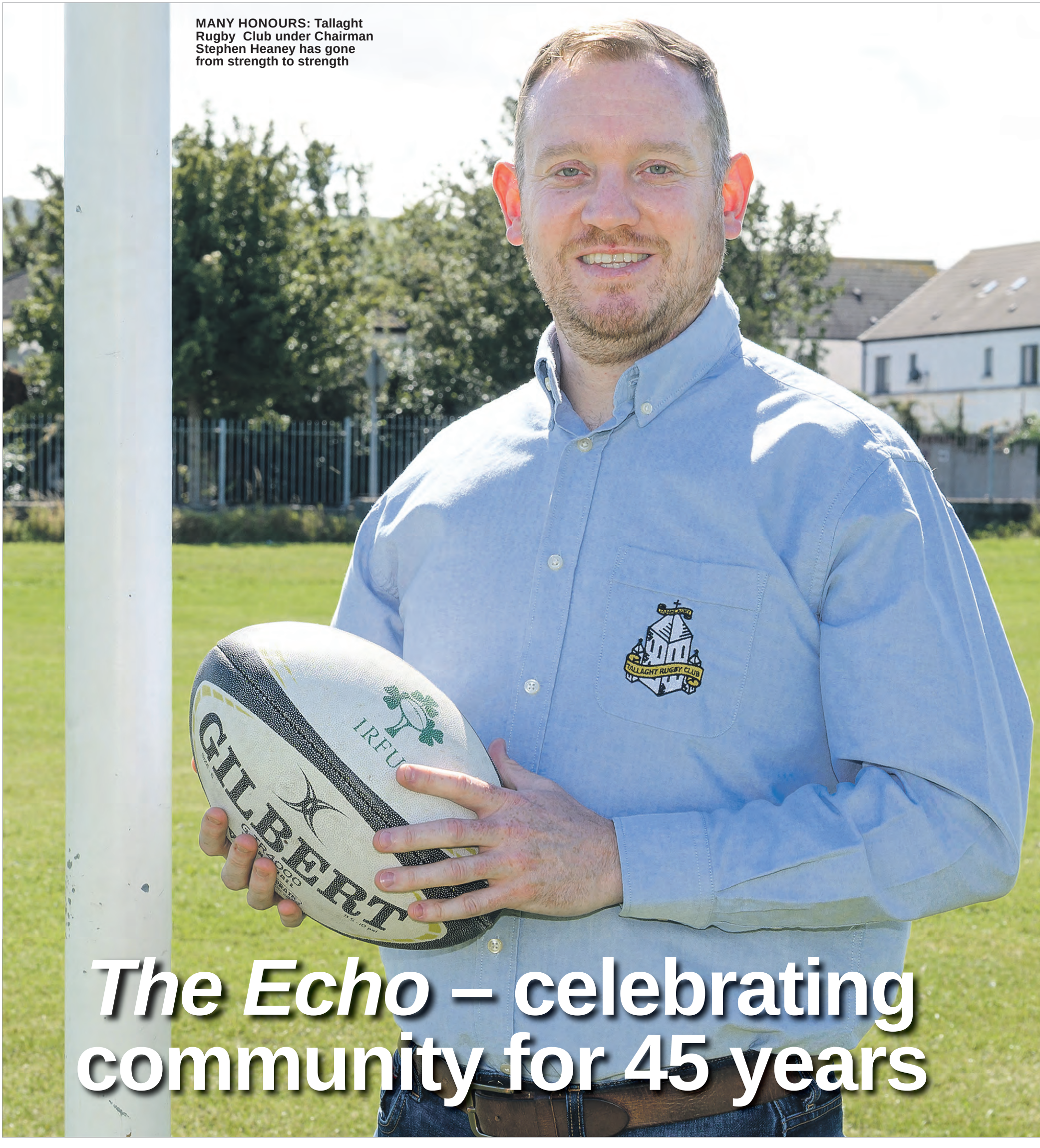
Walk and talk along the Camac River



IN FULL FLOW: A Walk and Talk on the Camac River, hosted by the local community group Friends of the Camac, and led by Patrick Ging was held last week. The Heritage Week event was full of information about the heritage history and fauna of the river.

Photo by Tommy Keogh

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 Tallaght Rugby Club Chairman Stephen Heaney.



MANY HONOURS: Tallaght Rugby Club under Chairman Stephen Heaney has gone from strength to strength

The Echo – celebrating community for 45 years



VIBRANT: Stephen Heaney's true passion is rugby

TALLAGHT Rugby Football Club was set up in 2002 as part of the "Tallaght Project," an IRFU (Irish Rugby Football Union) initiative, designed to introduce rugby in non-traditional areas.

Since then, the club has gone from strength to strength, with both the men's and women's teams winning many honours throughout all the age groups, going from under-eights to senior.

Unfortunately, the club has one big problem, they're effectively homeless. Games are played at the good will of other sporting organisations. Our 'Face of the Community' this week, Club Chairman Stephen Heaney is hopeful that the rugby nomads of Dublin 24 find a permanent home sooner rather than later.

Before we give you Stephen's pitch for an, erm, pitch, we'll take a look at the life of a true Tallaght clubman.

"I'm a Tallaght man, born and bred," he tells me. "I grew up in Springfield and went to school at St Mark's. I live in Maplewood now, so you could say I came back to my roots after some years away."

"After St Mark's I studied at what is now IT Tallaght and then moved to Belfast where I graduated with a degree from the University of Ulster in Business and Applied Management."

"I played sport all through those years, and particularly Gaelic football in Belfast.

"Here at home I played everything and I was a keen hockey player with Glenanne at one stage. Sport has always been a huge part of my life."

"My rugby career started when I was travelling after University. I ended up living in Queensland, Australia and I played for a team called, believe it or not, Condamine Cods. I got the bug from there and was determined to continue playing when I got home."

Stephen's career started in earnest when he accepted a position at DNA IT Solutions and worked under a man named Joe Greene whom he cites as a great influence. He's now a Senior Sales Executive with E.T.L. Networks and whilst I'm sure Stephen loves his job, he might sneakily admit that the rugby is his true passion.

"We're a great little club," he enthuses. "I first came in as a player when Luke Tyrell was manager, playing centre primarily and the enthusiasm and dedication of the people around the place were completely infectious. When my playing days ended, I made sure I stayed involved."

Unsurprisingly, Stephen was keen to talk about some of the club's achievements.

"Well the Men's team have been Metro Division 7 winners and Metro Division 6 winners.

They've also won the John Madden Cup and a Madden plate. We were also Winter's Cup finalists, which was a big achievement for us.

The women's team were Division 5 league winners and now play in Division 3.

Our coaches are the heart and soul of the club and they include ex-players Adam Nolan and Ciaran Rudd. Martina Fitzpatrick has played for us for years and, having been Women's Development Officer, is now Director of Rugby, the first woman to ever hold the position in the club.

> **"We really want to create a community club, a club that represents the area . . . I'd really love to see our club become a Tallaght sporting institution. At the moment, if someone wanted to come and watch us play, they wouldn't know where to go**

In the youths, there's almost too many to mention but Dec Malone is an ex-player who has triplets playing with the club now.

"Darren Conway organises a lot of games for the minis and for other clubs too. Craig O'Brien is the men's player's Player of Year no less, and he coaches the boys' 15s."

Then there's Tom Hall. Tom's doing a fantastic job in the Youth Development role – he has a brilliant team of coaches and is growing the youth section week on week. The youth section is the highlight of the club at the moment and we're very optimistic for the future.

Stephen is very concerned that he's left people out but one thing he stresses to me is that he's extremely grateful to all the coaches and volunteers who keep the club going. He's even more grateful that he was elected chairman of the club he loves.

And so to the search for a home. Stephen tells me that the club has to rent various pitches from South Dublin County Council, generally a pitch in Firhouse or another one in Tymon Park.

"There are avenues we're exploring to find a home and we have such a vibrant group of people within the club.

"We don't really want them to have to get changed in shipping containers going forward."

"We really want to create a community club, a club that represents the area properly. We're blessed with great sporting clubs in Tallaght and I'd really love to see our club become a Tallaght sporting institution. At the moment, if someone wanted to come and watch us play, they wouldn't know where to go, and that really can't continue."

Stephen tells me there's an action plan in place and they're working, with the co-operation of the IRFU, towards establishing a home for Tallaght Rugby Club. Stephen is an impressive guy and if anyone can lead them to achieving their ambition, I don't doubt he's a great man to have in the front row, so to speak.

Meanwhile, Stephen is happily attached to his partner Ciara Beirne and enjoys a contented civilian life in Maplewood. Ciara is totally supportive of Stephen's passion project, which is just as well really. He's dedicated to spreading the word on the club every chance he gets.

We at *The Echo* wish Stephen and Tallaght Rugby Club all the luck in the world on and off the pitch.

And hopefully soon enough, the pitch will be their own.

For more information on Tallaght Rugby Club, visit https://tallaghtrugby.com



KEEN: Stephen is grateful he was elected chairman of the club

E letters

Letters and emails should be kept as short as possible. We reserve the right to edit any submissions. Letters must be received by Tuesday, 3pm prior to publication

All thoughts are on the Presidential candidates

Dear Editor,
WITH the Presidential race gaining momentum perhaps it's time to examine the credentials of some of the candidates who have so far thrown their hat into the ring?

The candidate with the support of Labour, Social Democrats and People Before Profit, Catherine Connolly, was first off from the beginning, but will the momentum of that be sufficient for her to sweep up support among the common people?

The withdrawal on health grounds of former European Commissioner Mairead McGuinness – who seemed to some a shoe-in – opened up the field for Fine Gael. Heather Humphreys was confirmed swiftly as a nominee after Sean Kelly dropped out, and she is already being regarded as a formidable candidate. She has put forward her track record that she supports communities and will bring people together. Can we take that with the proverbial pinch of salt?

Micheál Martin's choice, Jim Gavin, is well known in GAA circles but can he kick the ball out of the park or would it be an own goal?

And don't forget, former Taoiseach Bertie Ahern, with the name for bringing home the Good Friday Agreement, has not ruled himself in or out yet.

Remember, Bertie is the cutest of them all!

Yours sincerely,
Michael Andrew,
Tallaght.



Health care hikes on the cards again

Dear Editor,

IN WHAT is becoming a weary and familiar move, the cost of health cover has been spiralling, with insurers now announcing multiple price increases each year.

October marks the period when half of health insurance policies are up for renewal.

From October 1 VHI announced a 3 per cent price hike. Consumers will pay between €15 and €80 extra per year while a family plan could rise by €180. In March, VHI plans jumped by 3 per cent, the second price rise this year which commands 1.2m customers.

The increases are the first of what is a slew of premium hikes from its competitors such as Laya and Irish Life Health.

From April, Laya Healthcare increased premiums by 6.6 per cent plus 6.5 per cent in October 2024.

From October 1 Laya, which has a customer base of 700,000 plans to raise its prices by an average of 4.5 per cent. When these figures are totted up, they amount to a hefty 17.6 per cent rise. Crucially, Laya and VHI are not alone in hiking prices.

Irish Life, which has 500,000 customers, announced a 3 per cent average rise in the cost of its plans from 1 October.

The cost of private health insurance has jumped with average prices at €2,000 per capita equating to €200 extra compared to the average price the Health Information Authority (HIA) recorded in 2024.

According to HIA: "shopping around is the best way to save money on health insurance."

Laya said: "Advances in medical technology and new therapies are improving outcomes for our members, but they are also driving the highest healthcare costs we've seen in 25 years."

Yours sincerely,
Gerry Coughlan,
Kilnamanagh.

After eight cuts in the European Central Bank's, PTSB is on course for a dividend

Dear Editor,

PTSB, which has 98 outlets nationwide, returns for the six months up to June 30, reveal an underlying pre-tax profit falling a chunky 38 per cent to €51 million.

Return on capital equity (RoE) fell to 2.9 per cent which is underwhelming. Customer loans increased by 4 per cent to €22.2bn in the year ending June 30.

Customer deposits grew by 7 per cent to €25.2 billion. Following a total of eight cuts in the European Central Bank's key interest rates, PTSB remains on course to pay a dividend.

Mortgages represent 98 per cent of PTSB lending of €21.8bn. PTSB has a low-cost retail deposit funding of €23.5bn, €9.3bn of which stays in current accounts with €13bn in retail deposit accounts paying 0.8 per cent.

PTSB has expensive wholesale funding costing 5.7 per cent pursuant to the Central Bank restrictive capital ratio requirements which necessitates PTSB to borrow on the wholesale market; having a surplus of €7.2bn which generates minimal interest with ECB base interest rate at 2 per cent.

On foot of this, PTSB submitted an application to the Central Bank to decrease the riskiness of its mortgage book, in a bid to release expensive capital from its balance sheet.

PTSB could free up €270m of capital resulting from a recalibration of its risk-weighted asset (RWA) models. Staff numbers for the year ending 30 June stood at 3,085, down 162 or 5 per cent compared with 31 December.

This has impacted PTSB lack of profitability; given its unbelievably high cost-income ratio of 76 per cent when a figure well under 50 per cent should be targeted.

Yours sincerely,

Gerry Coughlan,
Kilnamanagh.

E business
recruitment,motoring&property
September 4, 2025

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email: business@echo.ie
property@echo.ie
motoring@echo.ie

Apprentices from Tallaght Centre to compete on World Skills stage

Five electrical installation apprentices qualify to take part in contest

A NUMBER of apprentices attached to Tallaght Training Centre will compete in world and national events over the coming months.

Sherri Brennan, Tallaght Training Centre, said: "World Skills Ireland is a competition that will take place in the RDS, September 17-19. Our apprentice Maksym Vlasiuk is one of only five electrical installation apprentices to qualify to take part in this competition,

"The winner of this will go on to represent Ireland in the World Skills in Beijing. Maksym is employed by Fantasy Lights which you may know from Walkinstown. He is currently serving his Phase 2 apprenticeship here in Tallaght."

Brennan, who looks after the Craft Apprenticeship Programme in the centre and is a former President of South Dublin Chamber, says two more of their apprentices will represent Tallaght Training Centre in National Apprentice Of The Year 2025 later in the years.

"Kian Murphy who works for Brooklyn Engineering, has been nominated. He completed his Phase 2 electrical apprenticeship in Tallaght Training Centre earlier this year.

"We also have Rory Deegan who is currently completing his Phase 2 Wood Manufacturing & Finishing apprenticeship in Tallaght Training Centre. Along with being nominated for National Apprentice Of The Year 2025, he has also been asked to speak on the Heroes Stage at the World Skills Event in the RDS."



SKILLS: Derek from Fantasy Lights with Maksym and Avril Fitzgerald, Instructor of Phase 2 Electrical Course Tallaght Training Centre and Paul Byrne, Fantasy Lights

> "Tallaght Training Centre continues to churn out high numbers of Phase 2 Craft apprentices and is making a really positive impact

One of the centre's instructors, Jim Smith, will line out as an adjudicator in the Cabinet Making Competition at World Skills.

"Tallaght Training Centre continues year after year to churn out high numbers of Phase 2 Craft apprentices from all over Ireland plus many other disciplines and are making a really positive impact in the area of qualified Apprentices plus QQI accredited training," said Ms Brennan.

After '33 wonderful years' KOKO jewellery and body-piercing unit is closing its doors

BODY-PIERCING and jewellery store KOKO is set to close at the end of September.

In an announcement on their Instagram, The Square Shopping Centre store said "after 33 wonderful years the time has come for us to close our doors on September 30."

The KOKO unit is located on Level 2 between the two main anchor tenants, Dunnes Stores and Tesco.

In their social media post KOKO thanked their customers for the "loyalty, trust and friendship you have all shown us over the decades – it's been a privilege to serve you."

Last year, the unit that was let to KOKO went on the market with a guide price of €400,000.

According to the estate agent company handling the sale last year, the unit produces an annual rental income of €40,000 and is described as a rectangular shaped, open-plan retail unit.

Agents McNally Handy & Partners described it as "ideally located" between Dunnes Stores and Tesco, providing an "excellent profile and high footfall."

The unit possesses an extensive display extending to 9.22m in total including a 3.97m roller shutter covered entrance. Internally, the unit benefits from an overhead hot and cold air conditioning unit and is fitted out with tiled floors, and single-glazed display windows.



CLOSING: KOKO unit in The Square

E business

tel: 4685350 email: business@echo.ie

CRH acquisitions in Ukraine poses huge risks for future needs

Building market in Ukraine expected to boom should peace be established with Russia

BUILDING material giant CRH has been granted too much control over supply in Ukraine according to Sergii Pylypenko, head of building materials group Kovalska.

Speaking to The Financial Times, Pylpenko said the CRH recent acquisition of cement plants "contains huge risks for the future needs of Ukraine" as it gives the US-listed company an almost 50 per cent local market share.

The building market in Ukraine is expected to see a boom should peace be established with Russia.

Ukraine's supreme court will hear a case by Kovalska – the state's biggest cement consumer – in September arguing that a competition regulator erred last year in approving CRH's €100mn purchase of the Ukrainian assets from Dyckerhoff, a unit of Italy's Buzzi.

CRH has been an investor in Ukraine for 26 years, and said the deal had been approved after "an extensive review process involving consultation with stakeholders, customers and other market participants."

Ukraine's anti-monopoly committee (AMCU) required CRH to divest at least 25 per cent of the assets to an independent investor, given that the company and Ukraine's second-largest cement maker, Ivano-Frankivsk, would control most of Ukraine's supply.

The regulator said CRH's combined market share was 46 per cent. Industry sources suggest it is below 40 per cent, based on installed capacity.

The AMCU in June named Divinereach, a newly incorporated vehicle of Ireland's O'Reilly business family, as the approved investor.

> "The building market in Ukraine is expected to see a boom should peace be established with Russia



CONTROL: CRH is based in Belgard Castle

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'Excellent opportunity' for Sisk as it acquires Farrans

SISK has reached an agreement to acquire Farrans Construction. Farrans is a leading Northern Ireland-based, building and civil engineering contractor, with 625 employees, delivering world-class projects in core sectors including aviation, water and renewable energy in Ireland and the UK.

As part of the sale, which is subject to relevant regulatory approval, the Farrans business will continue to trade under its own brand and all project operations will continue as normal. The consideration will not be disclosed.

Sisk, who has its headquarters at Citywest Business Campus, is Ireland's largest construction and civil engineering company, operating across Ireland, the UK and Europe.

The coming together of these two successful contracting businesses will unlock new opportunities for delivering major infrastructure projects across the UK and Ireland.

Commenting Paul Brown, CEO of Sisk, said: "The acquisition of Farrans represents an excellent opportunity for Sisk to broaden its sectoral reach across the UK and Ireland. Their strong reputation and track record in delivering complex infrastructure projects aligns well with our strategic growth ambitions. This acquisition creates significant opportunity to capitalise on the growing aviation, energy, water and utility sector markets, leveraging the combined capability and highly skilled workforce."

Sisk is acquiring Farrans from the building materials provider CRH.

> "The acquisition of Farrans represents an excellent opportunity for Sisk to broaden its reach across the UK and Ireland



ACQUISITION:Sisk is located in Citywest Business Park

E business

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Britvic Ireland shows profits doubling in the last year

Increased turnover of almost €193m was boosted by merger of Britvic Americas

BRITVIC Ireland saw its profits more than double in the latest accounts – rising to €16.7m for the year ended September 20, 2024.

The drinks group, whose Irish operations are based in Kylemore, saw increased turnover of €192.98m, which was a 9 per cent rise compared to the same period in 2023.

Britvic was acquired earlier this year by Carlsberg in a €3.9 billion deal.

The UK headquartered group has a manufacturing site in Ballyfermot for the last 50 years, and also operates a Ballygowan bottling site in Limerick.

It owns brands including Ballygowan, MiWadi, Club, Cidona and TK.

According to latest accounts, the company increased staff numbers over the 12 months, rising from 375 to 430.

That pushed its wages and salaries bill higher, to €29m, and total remuneration to just under €35m for the year.

Britvic said brand growth in the period was largely due to Pepsi, Ballygowan, 7Up and MiWadi.

Turnover was boosted by the merger of Britvic Americas Limited, adding €2.4m, while an additional €2.9m of revenue was attributable to price increases as a result of the Deposit and Return Scheme.

Britvic Ireland has a history here for over 240 years and is the only large-scale soft drinks manufacturer in the Republic.

Brands such as Robinsons, Fruit Shoot and London Essence Company as well as PepsiCo brands like Pepsi and 7UP are produced and marketed under licence.



PROFITS SOAR: Britvic Ireland is based in Kylemore

Sheridan withdraws from EY Entrepreneur of the Year

PRESIDENTIAL hopeful Gareth Sheridan confirmed his withdrawal from the EY Entrepreneur of the Year programme to focus on his bid for the Áras.

Sheridan, an entrepreneur, co-founded Nutriband in 2012 and is a past pupil at Terenure College.

Sheridan had already stepped aside from his chief executive role of the company for three months while he sought the presidential nomination.

Earlier this year Sheridan was among a delegation of 140 of Ireland's top entrepreneurs who travelled to Japan for the annual EY Entrepreneur Of The Year CEO Retreat.

The EY programme is due to end in November.

Mr Sheridan and Nutriband were nominated in the established category.

"It was an honour to go so far in this prestigious event, but obviously I can't go any further, as I focus now on the local authority council meetings regarding the presidential nominations, as per article 12.2.2 of the Constitution," said Sheridan.

He must get the backing from four local councils, or 20 members of the Oireachtas to get on the ballot for the upcoming election. The first of a series of 31 meetings is scheduled for September 8.

Sheridan said he has secured the support of two councils.

Nutriband's lead product is Aversa technology, which the company describe as an abuse-deterrent fentanyl transdermal patch to provide clinicians and patients with an extended-release chronic pain relief.

Nutriband was founded in Dublin before relocating to Orlando, Florida.

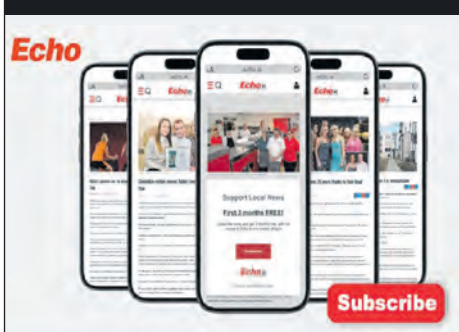
> **"He must get the backing from four local councils, or 20 members of the Oireachtas**



STEPPED ASIDE: Gareth Sheridan hopes for a presidential bid

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USEFUL: Bring your bike to TU Dublin Tallaght Campus

Green light for bicycle-storage unit on Technological campus

PLANS for a bicycle-storage unit on the grounds of Technological University Dublin Tallaght have been approved by South Dublin County Council.

The third-level college sought permission for a bicycle-storage unit to accommodate 75 bicycle spaces, to be located within the TU Dublin Tallaght campus.

It is set to be located in an area to the east of the main campus building and to the west of the Quad, along with all associated site works and services.

The bicycle-storage unit will be an enclosed, covered single-storey structure with a gross development floor area of 101 sq m.

SDCC considered that the proposed development accords with the policies and objectives of South Dublin County Council, as set out in the South Dublin County Council Development Plan 2022 – 2028.

Proposals from Square management to get go-ahead for 'temporary' ice rink in car park

MANAGEMENT at The Square Shopping Centre is seeking temporary planning permission for an ice rink in a section of the existing car-park.

The proposal is for the eastern car-park lands (beside the children's playground) and is for temporary use "for the next 5 years 2025-2029."

The plan contains proposals for the erection of a temporary tent structure for use as an ice rink for a period not exceeding three months per year (November to January).

All associated site and development works are included in the proposal including plant, lighting, ancillary signage and with pedestrian routes to the shopping centre and associated car parks.

The proposal will result in the loss of 48 spaces for the duration of the temporary ice rink use.

The council is due to make a decision by mid October.



FUTURE: The planning permission is for the ice rink in The Square car park

property

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Permission granted for two apartment blocks in village

The blocks will be three to four storeys high and will have balconies and terraces

PROPOSALS for apartments at Greenhills Court in Tallaght Village have been granted planning permission by South Dublin County Council.

Applicant O'Mahony Holdings SPRL sought permission to build 11 apartments and one retail unit at the location.

The plans contain proposals for construction of two residential apartment blocks of 3-4 storeys in height over an existing basement level.

Block A contains two 3-bed apartment units and one ground floor retail unit.

Block B contains nine apartments in a 3-storey apartment block. This will consist of five one-bed apartments, three two-bed apartments and one three-bed.

All apartment units will be provided with associated private balconies/ terraces.

This proposed development will also comprise of the provision of 32 bicycle-parking spaces (24 long-stay bicycle parking and eight short-stay bicycle parking spaces).

The subject site is currently partly developed with an existing residential scheme known as Greenhills Court comprising 17 apartment units in four apartment blocks.

Vehicular access is via Old Greenhills Road with pedestrian access via Greenhills Road and Old Greenhills Road

SDCC considered that the proposed development accords with the policies and objectives of South Dublin County Council, as set out in the South Dublin County Council Development Plan 2022–2028.



GRANTED: Greenhills Court in Tallaght Village

Double-height warehouse and office goes on the market with guide price of €525k



IINVESTMENT: The unit in Greenogue Business Park in Rathcoole

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

AN industrial unit in Greenogue Business Park in Rathcoole has gone on the market with a guide price of €525,000.

The industrial investment comprises of a double-height warehouse and office accommodation together with structural mezzanine level.

The total current rent reserved €45,000 per annum with an annual CPI linked rent reviews capped at 4 per cent with a collar of -1 per cent.

The facility is let to MMS Transport & Logistics Ltd and has a lease expiry date in July 2035.

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Enquiries to:
(01) 2119121 or school@stewartscare.ie

CV and written references via email or post to:
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Rosse Court Avenue
Lucan, Co. Dublin K78 K8W7
school@stewartscare.ie
by Friday Sept 19th 2025

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- **Job category:**
  Vehicle graphics and sign writing removal
- **Company:** EIRTRANS (VB) LIMITED
- **Job Location:**
  Eirtrans (VB) Ltd Brownstown Road
  Newcastle Co. Dublin D22 Y2F2
  53.3179893493652 -6.5119571685791
- **Start date:** 25/08/2025
- **Contract type:** Permanent Full-time
- **Positions:** 2
- **Career level:**
  Experienced [Non-Managerial]
- **Salary:** 34,000.00 Euro Annually
- **Hours per week:** 39
- **Remote/Blended Working:** No
- **Sector:** transportation and storage

Advertorial

One very happy Slimming World Lady

65-year-old woman with heart condition, who struggled all her life with her weight, reaches her target





I AM a 65-year-old woman and I have struggled with my weight all my life. I was never any more than two stone over weight but it was always a struggle. I joined lots of slimming classes and I would lose a few pounds here and there but I never hit my goal.

I have a heart condition called Cardiomyopathy. I was diagnosed with this condition over 30 years ago. When I was diagnosed, I was told not to overdo anything. I was swimming a lot at the time and was even told to stop swimming as there was a high risk of sudden death with over exertion. I was never told to lose weight by the doctors.

In September 2022, I had heart failure. I knew I had put a lot of weight on. I was retaining fluid and food and I put it down to COVID-19. The cardiologist put me on water tablets and I lost a stone. Still, nobody told me to lose weight.

I didn't feel fit and I knew I should try and do something about weight and fitness. Eventually, I decided in August 2023 to take action and I joined Slimming World. The consultant made me feel very welcome and at the introductory chat the consultant stressed that if you stick to the plan you will reach your target. I definitely took that on board. I felt really at home in the group. Everyone seems to get on well and I put that down to the consultant.

The consultants make everyone feel very comfortable with their support.

The week after starting Slimming World I had an appointment at the Heart Failure Clinic in the Mater Hospital. I was informed by the cardiologist that I would be considered for a heart transplant. The cardiologist advised me that I would only be considered for transplant if I lost weight and got fit (a big change to what I was told previously). I duly informed the cardiologist that I had joined Slimming World and she was happy to hear my plan.

From August 2023 to-date I have lost 3 stone in weight and reached my target. I walk at least an hour every day and I have stopped drinking alcohol on my doctor's advice.

I was very happy attending my last visit to the Cardiologist, she was very pleased with my results and said they would rule out a Heart Transplant if I keep my weight in check and maintain my fitness.

I must say that the weight loss would not have happened had I not joined Slimming World, I really mean that.

It has been a life-time struggle losing weight for me, prior to joining Slimming World, and all in all I'm delighted and proud of my new self. I will keep attending class every so often as this is where I have learned so much, and I hope I will be an inspiration to others in the group.

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Life & Social

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tel: 01 4685350 **email:** news@echo.ie

REVERB performs at The Civic as part of Dublin Fringe Festival

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

MOVEMENT and melody collide in an electrifying celebration of legacy, live music, and movement by choreographer Sarah Golding at the Civic Theatre with music by multi-instrumentalist Lisa Canny.

This high-energy performance of 'REVERB' by Luail – Ireland's National Dance Company, combines powerful physicality with spellbinding vocals and composition, exploring the ways in which our actions ripple through time and leave their mark.

With Canny's signature mix of traditional and modern sounds driving the dancers, every beat tells a powerful story, blending past and present in a raw, emotional experience.

Get ready for a performance where rhythm lives, tradition breathes, and every moment and movement resonates.

'REVERB' performs at the Civic from September 11 to 12 as part of the Dublin Fringe Festival; check the Civic website for more details and booking information.

Choreographer Sarah Golding and composer Lisa Canny spoke with *The Echo* this week about the origin of their collaboration, their creative process, and creating work for Luail—Ireland's new national and all-island dance company.

Can you tell us about your work with Luail – Ireland's National Dance Company?

Sarah: I was approached by Luail in 2024, to choreograph a new dance piece containing a live music element for their inaugural year. I had worked on a piece earlier that year for Luail's partner, the Belfast-based dance company Maiden Voyage Dance, and 'REVERB' has taken a lot of inspiration from that piece. It has been a real pleasure working with Luail in its inaugural year. It all still feels really new, and there's such a great buzz around; I feel like I'm part of helping Luail to build its narrative for the future.

Tell us a bit about the story behind 'REVERB', please!

Sarah: I saw Lisa at her album launch at a tiny church in London, and I remember thinking, "she is electric; I HAVE to collaborate with this person." We had mutual friends, so I knew it was possible. When the opportunity came to make a new piece for Luail – the fact that I was going to be in Ireland and that there was going to be a live-music element to this piece – it felt like the moment to bring Lisa into the project.

What is 'REVERB' about?

Sarah: 'REVERB' is about how memories change over time. When Lisa and I first had that discussion, we chatted about how when you experience something, and then when you recall it, the memory has already changed or shifted in some way… so Lisa and I felt that the next progression of this would be to explore how we share memories and tell stories.

Lisa: I suppose one of the main feelings we wanted to go with, for me when I was writing the music, was the idea of joyous types of movement. That was really important for both of us; we wanted it to be the sharing of joy, and we wanted people to feel uplifted. That has been the theme of our collaboration

What processes have been involved in production so far?

Sarah: Creating 'REVERB', we looked at the ways that you share legacy and stories, what setting does that happen in? Is it a social gathering? Is it at a party; is it privately; is it quietly; is it loudly? What do these different moments of sharing look like? When I thought about this, what I started to make physically felt a lot like reverb – the repetition of stories told through the body – and I feel like the identity of this music is such a clear response to this.

Lisa: Yes, I was following the flow of it and not overthinking it or trying to create anything in particular, and then you end up with whatever comes naturally. Also bringing Josh and Laura to come in and play them live. The music kind of has a lot of opposing ideas. There's a lot of juxtaposition going on throughout the whole soundtrack between Irish instruments and Irish melodies. Obviously it's very influenced by trad, and then with these loops that I was finding on splice or online, I was chopping up a bit, and they definitely weren't Trad or from the Irish music scene at all. And to use those elements to create the music and then bring them to Laura and Josh and actually play some of those loops, but on a fiddle and in an Irish way, brings another element of interest to it. So, it's like it got its foundation in Trad, but it's just like a world of sounds, a world of other feelings.

Sarah: This is a really ambitious production featuring a cast of seven and three musicians all performing live on stage together, so there are many moving parts, all of this will be brought to life with stunning stage design by Katie Davenport and costumes by LaurA Fajardo Castro.

What is next for Luail after the performances in the Civic? Are there any more events or performances planned this year?

Sarah: 'REVERB' will tour eight venues across the island of Ireland this September and October, moving from Civic and then onto Armagh, Dundalk, Kildare, Mayo (Lisa's home county), Longford, Sligo and Limerick.

Straight after the tour of 'REVERB', Luail will present Dancehall, a revival of a 10 year old work by Emma Martin with music composed by Andrew Hamilton performed by Crash Ensemble. Inspired by Ireland's Public Dance Halls Act, this work revels in the powerful simplicity and raw humanity of the dancehall, a space where freedom, resistance and individuality unapologetically meet in messy, sweaty, chaotic joy.

Dancehall will tour to six venues across Ireland this October – opening the Belfast International Arts Festival on October 15th before moving onto Donegal, Cork, Dublin, Galway and Limerick…

Who would you like to thank for helping to organise these performances?

Sarah: Maiden Voyage Dance has been instrumental in making this collaboration between Luail, myself and Lisa possible. Luail's incredible production team, Liz Roche, the Artistic Director of Luail, and Miranda Driscoll, who is producing the entire show and tour; and of course Luail's extraordinary ensemble of dancers and musicians, Laura Doherty and Josh Sampson, who will perform with Lisa and the dancers on stage.



POWERFUL: Sarah Golding and (inset): Lisa Canny
Photo by Ste Murray



Family Fun Afternoon

IN THE PRIORY GARDEN IN TALLAGHT VILLAGE

Photos by **Paddy Barrett**

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Ella and Lily



Asiegha Mauri and Joshua



Ian, Faron and Soren



Amelia, Ophelia, Hannah and Katelyn



The Slamon Family



Aoife, Danny McAuley and Bernie Poynton



Carmel with her Grandchildren



Amy and James

Rare glimpse of area around the present day fire station on Crumlin Road

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

"ONE of our volunteers, Trevor, has been doing a bit of work around that area [of Crumlin]," explains Aidan of the Crumlin and Walkinstown History Group.

The Crumlin & Walkinstown History Group presents a rare glimpse of the area around the present-day fire station on Crumlin Road and Rutland Avenue before the housing scheme transformed it.

See unseen photos, hear long-lost stories of people and bustling businesses, and uncover surprising literary links to Joyce, Beckett, and Shaw.

It vanished from map and memory; a lost corner of Crumlin, hidden for decades, was brought vividly back to life. This is just one chapter in the bigger story of Crumlin's past.

The Dolphin's Barn fire station later replaced the many "lovely" homes that once lined the canal.

Aidan mentions that Trevor made contact with descendants of the people who lived in those houses, obtaining photographs and building up the story.

The event is a presentation to tell people about the history of the area and the houses that were demolished.

Aidan notes that it aims to inform people about a time when old houses were demolished and new ones were built, which is a significant part of local history.

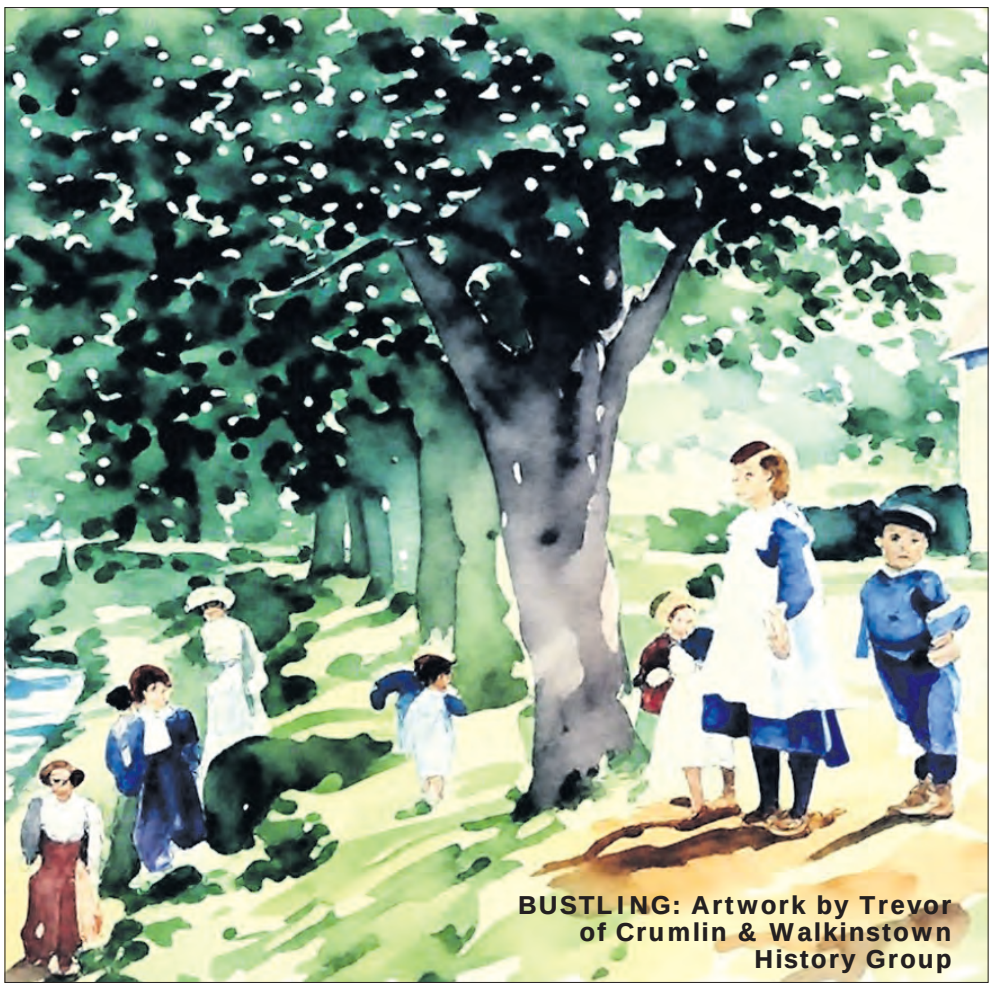
The presentation has generated a lot of interest, as it was booked out quickly, indicating a need for a repeat of it.

Aidan expresses hope that the event will be a success and that people will be interested in hearing the story.

He also mentions that the Dublin City Libraries are running the Dublin Festival of History from the end of September to the middle of October this year.

Two talks are organised as part of the festival, both to be held in Walkinstown Library.

The first talk on October 4 will be about Ranelagh Square, a historic area in Crumlin, with a volunteer speaker who lives there.



BUSTLING: Artwork by Trevor of Crumlin & Walkinstown History Group

The second talk on October 11 will be given by Speaker 2 about Kimmage Mills, a historic mill on the Poddle River, which operated for over 100 years.

Aidan would like to thank Walkinstown Library for facilitating the room and organising the booking system, Trevor for his research, and the members of the History Group for their help.

He also extends his gratitude to the people of Crumlin and Walkinstown for showing an interest in local history.

The 'Vanishing Crumlin' presentation takes place in the Walkinstown Library on September 10 from 6:30pm to 7:30pm.

Places are full as of writing, but make sure to get a spot on the waiting list on the Dublin City Library website.

ELLYD releases single Tomorrow Be Kind

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

"I DIDN'T initially set out to create it, but everything changed when the first song came to me—Tomorrow Be Kind, which eventually became the title track."

This is what Lucan singer-songwriter ELLYD (real name Elaine Doyle) has to say regarding her latest release, coming to streaming on September 5.



STREAMING: Lucan singer ELLYD

She continues by saying that it took a couple of years to complete, and in the end, she had to carefully choose which songs would make it onto the final record.

"Ultimately, I selected the ones I enjoyed creating the most," she remarks.

To Elly, the album feels both "confident and incredibly delicate—a reflection, I think, of the nature of the songs themselves."

'Tomorrow Be Kind' has been a long time coming for Elly, having wanted to write and record her first album for 'quite a while'.

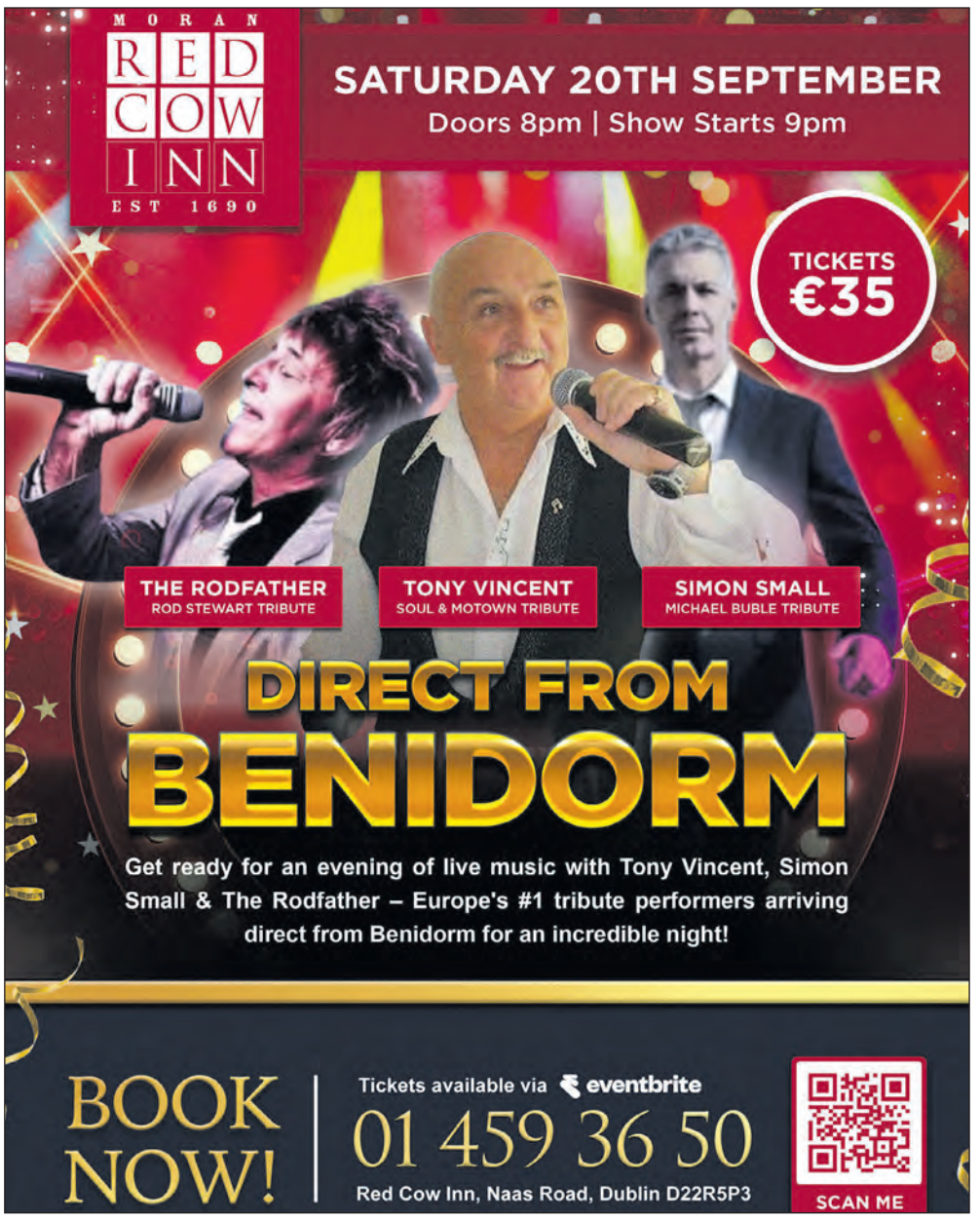
The songs came to her gradually over the course of a couple of years, and she believes they reflect where she was in life at the time they were made.

This summer, Elly has worked toward getting a live band together for the launch show, which takes place on September 5 in Whelan's.

Even though she is a solo artist, she has always written with a full band in mind, so getting back into the rehearsal room with other musicians and hearing the songs in that space has been "really exciting".

For help with this album, Elly would like to thank her family, who encouraged and supported her; Martin Quinn, who recorded, mixed, and mastered the album; Andrew Quinn, who played drums on the tracks; and Sean Lennon, who created the "incredible" artwork.

Tickets to the Whelan's show on September 5 are available on www.whelanslive.com; don't miss it.



30-year reunion party

AT GLENVIEW LAWNS IN TALLAGHT ON SATURDAY

Photos by **Paddy Barrett**

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Pat, Quinn, Amy, Marie and Alex



Tony, Neil, Linda, Marie and Ava



Podie, Linda and Mark



Alison, Yvonne, Natalie and Elaine



Ronnie, Martin and Mark



Margaret, Anna, Tina and Jeanette



John and Mary Fogarty with Barbara, Henry and Pippa Byrne



Erin and Ruby

June is enjoying the character Birdie in Mrs Brown's Boys

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

"SHE HAS seven kids with seven different fathers; let's say she's a popular woman!" jokes Firhouse comedian, singer, and actress June Rodgers, regarding her character Birdie Flanagan in 'Mrs. Brown's Boys'.

The long-running RTE/BBC sitcom created by Brendan O'Carroll focuses on the misadventures of the fictional Finglas mother of the same name as she meddles in the lives of her six children.

It has been nominated for a National Television Award for 'Best Comedy', with the ceremony due to take place in the O2 Arena in London on September 10.

June has a history with the franchise, having previously appeared as the character 'Fat Annie' in the 1999 film Agnes Browne starring Anjelica Huston, before reprising the role in 'Mrs. Brown's Boys D'Movie' in 2014.

She went to play various characters in the television series, before taking on the regular role of Birdie Flanagan in 2023.

June says her experiences of playing Annie were "so much fun. When I read the part that Brendan had written for me, I loved her straight away."

She also remarks that she is enjoying playing the character of Birdie, as "she's like a woman that hasn't really grown up, and she wants to dress like the young ones do."

"I look forward to seeing what she will be up to next."

June has no plans to do a Christmas Show this year, as she has decided to take a break and spend time with her family.

She will also be in 'Mrs Brown's Boys Christmas Specials', filmed at the BBC in Glasgow in October.

"Really looking forward to that; they are such a lovely bunch of people to work with, and that all comes from the top, Brendan O'Carroll."

For the nomination, June would like to thank the public who love Mrs Brown and love the show as "we all do".

The NTAs are on September 10; remember to support June and vote for 'Mrs. Brown's Boys' to win 'Best Comedy' on the NTA website.



June Rodgers starring alongside Brendan O'Carroll in Mrs Brown's Boys
Photo by © BoCPIX 2025

Oasis tribute band is going from strength to strength

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

"IT WAS from a karaoke competition in the Swallows pub in Clondalkin," explains Clondalkin-born Gavin Fleming.

15-years-ago, he was introduced to Ballyfermot's Paul McKeever through a mutual friend; they now play lead singer Liam and lead guitarist Noel Gallagher, respectively, in arguably the biggest Oasis tribute band in the world, Live Forever.

Other members include Keith Murphy from Ballyfermot, who is on the drums, and Joe Mullens and Mark Bolger, both hailing from Tallaght, who play guitar.

Since their formation, the band has grown from strength to strength, amassing a large social media following of 100,000 across all platforms and widespread success and recognition throughout the UK and Ireland.

The band has performed at some of the biggest venues in the country; they recently performed at the Forest Fest in Laois alongside artists such as the Dandy Warhols, Franz Ferdinand, and Tom Meighan.

They were performing in Whelan's in Dublin on August 16 and 17, the same weekend that Oasis were performing in Croke Park.

Gavin explains that the band began performing acoustic pre-gig shows a couple of years ago, which build up to the main event.

He can also confirm that both shows, which featured former world boxing champion Ricky Hatton as a special guest, sold out.

As well as the usual Oasis hits, such as 'Wonderwall', 'Champagne Supernova', or 'Don't Look Back in Anger', some of the lesser-known songs, such as 'Rocking Chair' or 'Don't Look Away', were also performed.

At the time of writing, Live Forever will also have closed out Electric Picnic on Saturday, August 30, on the Survivor Stage at 1am.

Congratulations to all involved.



RECOGNITION: Oasis tribute band Live Forever





Hannah-Rose, Janet, Michelle and Willow with Alpacas Sean and Frank



Charlie O'Connor, Hooper (Mini) and Cllr Adam Smyth



The Garda Band entertained the crowd in Fettercairn



John, Frank and Mary Ann O'Donnell with Debbie Lee Byrne



Debbie Lee Byrne, Tommy Ryan and Tania Tracey



Louise, Nikki and Ellamae



Melissa Duffy and Lacey May Duffy



Tallaght Gardai enjoying the family fun day



Ruairí Smyth and Cllr Adam Smyth



Brian, Danny and Paul

Family Fun Day

AT FETTERCAIRN COMMUNITY AND YOUTH CENTRE

Photos by **Paddy Barrett**

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Deborah, Edel and Vicky



The Casey Family



Andy Leeson and Jean Lowry



Danny



Chloe and Mia with Sean and Frank



Maria, Paddy and Eric Keegan

> Cake will always be the answer. The question is irrelevant.
>
> *Unknown*

Food with passion

RASPBERRY & ALMOND BAKEWELL CAKE



by **john paul kennedy** / jpcooking@gmail.com

I'm delighted to be back with my weekly food blog after the summer break. i hope everyone managed to enjoy some downtime with family and friends. we are not back in the 'ber' months and if i am honest these months and season are my absolute favourite. i love what it evokes in terms of cooking and baking, homely, earthly, comforting dishes and recipes, great for sharing with family and friends in the comfort of your cosy home. i like to use my summer hiatus researching and sampling new recipes and for my first blog back, i'm bringing you a delicious raspberry and almond bakewell cake that is incredibly easy to make and simply delicious to eat! Served with lightly whipped vanilla double cream, is a taste sensation. it's an old fashioned traditional bake, the type of recipes i love trying - The classics are always the best!

john paul kEnnEdy iS a Self-TaughT cook and an avid fan of collecTing cookery bookS wiTh a paSSion for good old-faShioned home cooking. hiS paSSion for proper family cooking STemS from hiS Two grandmoTherS, who were boTh excellenT cookS, one of whom waS a Trained chef. **jp** promiSeS To bring uS plenTy of family-inSpired recipeS and TaSTy TreaTS while Showing uS how To geT The baSicS righT

Ingredients:

140g ground almonds
140g unsalted butter (softened)
140g self- raising flour
140g castor sugar
1 teaspoon good vanilla extract
2 eggs
250g fresh raspberries
flaked almonds & icing sugar to decorate









Method:

1. preheat your oven to 180 / 160 degrees fan. grease and line a 22cm loose bottomed tart tin.
2. place the ground almonds, butter, sugar, flour, eggs and vanilla extract into a food processor and blitz until combined.
3. use half the mixture and pour into the tart tin, and spread out evenly. Scatter two-thirds of the raspberries on top and then spoon the rest of the cake mixture on top and scatter on the rest of the raspberries. Scatter the flakes almonds on top and place into the oven to bake for 50 minutes until nice and golden.
4. allow to cool for 10 minutes then remove from the tin and allow to cool completely before dusting with icing sugar – ready to serve with vanilla double cream.

The ground almonds give this cake an almost marzipan like texture, and the fresh raspberries a delicious burst of tartness. any classic cake like this must be served with lightly whipped cream and a cup of tea; make this the perfect evening treat / light dessert to serve after Sunday supper / dinner party. Quick to whip up and bung in the oven, this cake is at it's best in the first three days but will last up to five days in an airtight container in the fridge. delighted to be back sharing lots of new recipes and some updated versions of some recipes i've brought you previously over the past 6 years! i hope you give this classic, simple and delicious recipe a go. it will definitely be one you come back to over and over again!

Contact jp on:
Twitter: @Jpkcooking
Email: Jpkcooking@gmail.com
Instagram: jpkennedy.kennedy

> Your mind is the strongest and most valuable muscle you can grow in the gym.
>
> *Greg Plitt*

Health & Fitness

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO BUILD MUSCLE MASS?



by **Ursula Frawley** / info@moveitfitness.ie

Let's start with a quick reminder of why muscle is so important. Every single one of us has muscle. It's what helps us move, function, and feel strong in our everyday lives. But here's the thing. As we get older, our muscle mass naturally starts to decline. And that decline is a major reason we struggle with simple everyday tasks.

From lifting a shopping bag to standing up from a chair without support, it all comes back to strength. I've worked with so many women who once struggled with basic movement, and through consistent strength training, their lives completely changed.

The good news? Muscle is one of the most adaptable organs in the body. You can absolutely build it back up with the right approach. Let me show you how simple and empowering it can be.

How Often Should You Train?

If you train around three times per week for just 30 minutes, and follow a focused plan, you can build muscle effectively. It doesn't need to be complicated. By targeting both your upper and lower body and using movements that work multiple muscles at once, you'll feel stronger in less time than you think.

When Will You See Results?

Muscle responds quickly. In just a couple of weeks, you'll notice a difference in how you feel. Give it 12 weeks, and you'll start to build a strong reserve of muscle that supports you every single day.

This isn't about overnight change. It's about progress that sticks. Strength that carries you through your life with more ease and confidence.

It's Easier Than You Think

One of the best parts? You don't need a gym. You don't need heavy weights. All you need is a simple set of resistance bands or light weights and a plan that supports your progress.

These workouts don't need to be high intensity or leave you dripping in sweat. Strength training can be grounding, calming and dare I say, even meditative. My clients often tell me that they finish their sessions feeling not just stronger in body, but also clearer in mind.

Now Is the Perfect Time to Start

With September here and a fresh season ahead, it's the ideal moment to set a new goal. You don't need to wait for January. You don't need to wait until life slows down. Start now. Feel the difference. And enjoy the journey to getting strong from the inside out.

You've got this.

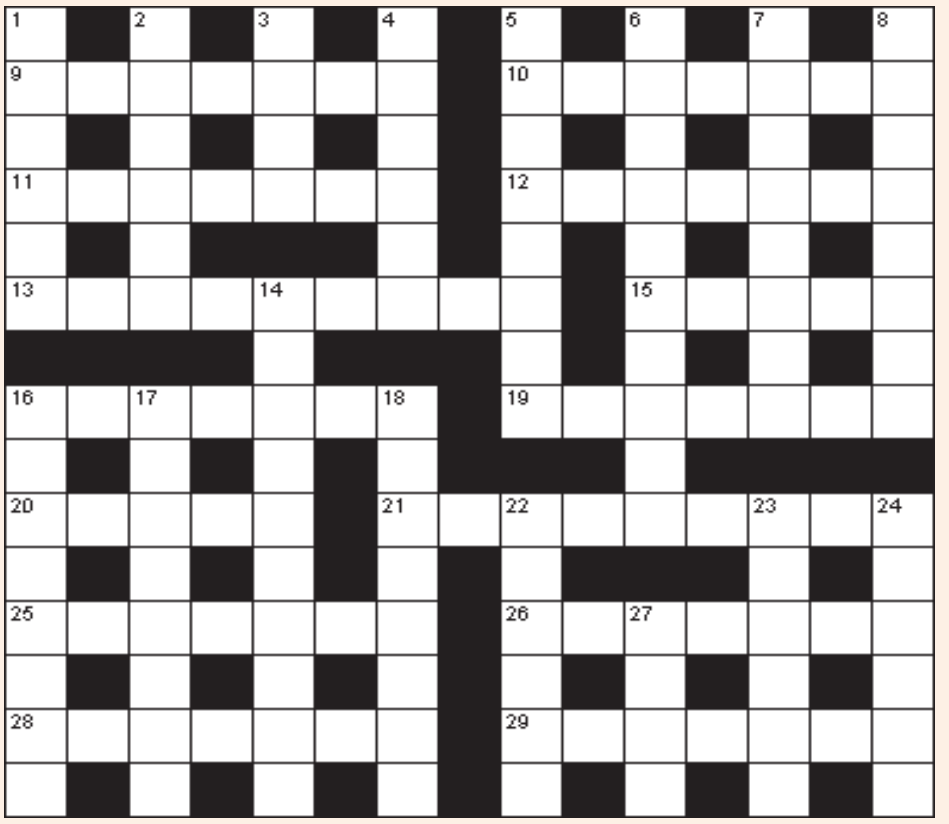
This article is not a substitute for medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Remember, always consult with your GP before embarking on any change in diet or new health & fitness regime.

URSUla FRaWIEY IS A PERSOnAL TRAInER And OWnER OF MOvE IT FITnESS. HER OnLInE STREnGTH & FITnESS cLASSES, WHIcH Run LIvE SEvEn TIMES A WEEk, HAvE BEEn HELPInG WOMEn TO FEEL STROnGER And FITTER SIncE 2020. HER OnLInE And In-PERSOn PROGRAMMES ARE FOcuSEd On MOTIvATInG And cHAnGInG A MIndSET TO EnJOYInG THE FITnESS JOuRnEY, WHILE FEELInG EMPOWEREd WITH A POSITIvE MIndSET. uRSuLA LIvES In duBLIn 24 WITH HER HuSBAnd And FOuR cHILdREn. GET MORE InFORMATIOn BY EMAILInG HER AT InFO@MOvEITFITnESS.IE OR WWW.MOvEITFITnESS.IE





echocrossquiz Q0409



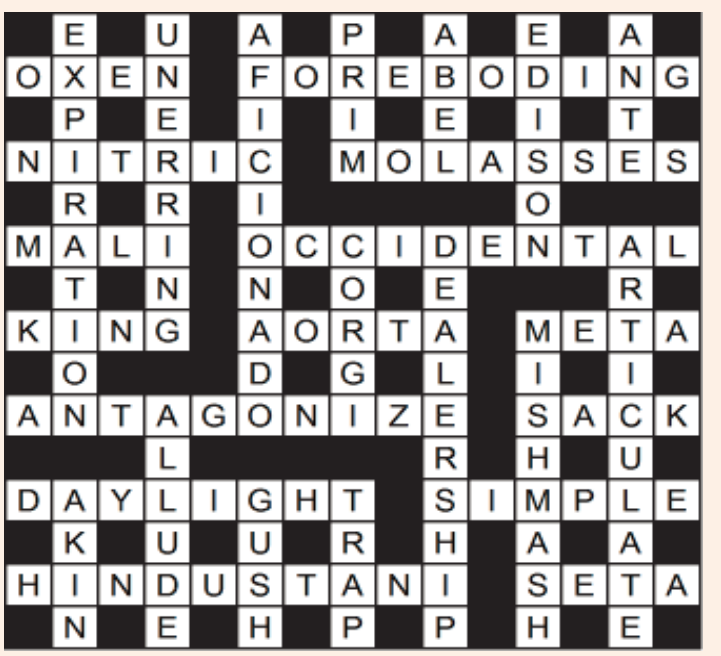
ACROSS

9. Make bigger (7)
10. Stammer (7)
11. One who wrongfully seizes power (7)
12. Use (7)
13. Self-employed (9)
15. A type of dog (5)
16. Patella (7)
19. Because of that (7)
20. Mischievous (5)
21. Dusk (9)
25. Feed (7)
26. Deprive of priestly office (7)
28. It's caused by excessive sun exposure (7)
29. Extremely cold (7))

DOWN

1. Reject outright and bluntly (6)
2. Charm (6)
3. Harvest (4)
4. Nerve (6)
5. Suitable for eating (8)
6. Infliction of a penalty (10)
7. Mentality (8)
8. Genial (8)
14. Lacking moral discipline (10)
16. Avidness (8)
17. Sewer water (8)
18. A strong liking (8)
22. Harbor ill feelings (6)
23. Nuclear (6)
24. Probable (6)
27. Chafe (4)

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS 2808



CAN YOU BEAT THIS WEEK'S CROSSQUIZ?

SUDOKU 1

		5	6					
2			7	4				
	4					8	7	
						3		8
	5	8					4	
	9			1	7		2	
		6	1		5			
				8				7
	1				9		3	

SUDOKU 2

	1							3
			5					4
		9			2	5	6	
1								6
	4			6	1		5	
		2		3	9			
7						8		
	2			7				
4	9				5	6	1	

ANSWERS

4	9	3	8	2	5	6	1	7
8	2	1	9	7	6	4	3	5
7	6	5	3	1	4	8	2	9
6	5	2	4	3	9	7	8	1
9	4	8	7	6	1	3	5	2
1	3	7	2	5	8	9	4	6
3	7	9	1	4	2	5	6	8
2	8	6	5	9	3	1	7	4
5	1	4	6	8	7	2	9	3

SUDOKU 2

8	1	7	2	6	9	5	3	4
5	2	9	3	8	4	1	6	7
4	3	6	1	7	5	2	8	9
3	9	4	8	1	7	6	2	5
6	5	8	9	3	2	7	4	1
1	7	2	4	5	6	3	9	8
9	4	3	5	2	1	8	7	6
2	6	1	7	4	8	9	5	3
7	8	5	6	9	3	4	1	2

SUDOKU 1

Poet's Corner

ROOFTOPS AND GRAVEYARDS

by **Laura Keegan**

My name is Laura and I've been writing poetry since I was a child. It's something I like to do in my spare time and how I like to express myself through this art form.

Thirty-plus, still in my old room
while towers rise, fortunes bloom
buy-to-rent, they rub their hands
marble floors in gilded lands
Waiting rooms stretch, a graveyard line
we rot in chairs, we pay in time
Paper weighs more than flesh, bone
we choke, we sit, we die alone
They build, they promise, then betray
we scrape, we fight, we rot away
The hand that feeds is cracked, bare
empty fingers grasping air
Pockets glitter, hope runs dry
we scream, we burn, we wonder why
Taken, stolen, gone like leaves
all by the hand that feeds, deceives

FLASH GORDON

LOWLAND STATION.
A STORM HAS TRAPPED A GROUP OF TRAVELERS IN THE KOMOK'S BRIDE PUB...
...WHERE SIX STRANGERS SHARE THEIR ENCOUNTERS WITH THE ALIEN WARRIOR

THIS IS HYREX. HE WAS A GREAT GLADIATOR ONCE. NOW HE'S JUST AN OLD MAN WITH NO WAY LEFT TO PROVIDE FOR HIS FAMILY...
DAN SCHKADE w/ J. BONE 2·23·25

...EXCEPT TO DIE IN THE ARENA FOR THE WIDOW'S PURSE.

BUT FLASH GORDON DOESN'T BELIEVE IN TRADING DEATH FOR COINS.

HYREX TRIED TO RETURN THE FAVOR...

...BUT FLASH DIDN'T USE THE SPEAR AS A WEAPON.

HE USED IT AS A TOOL.

HE CRACKED OPEN THE WINNER'S PURSE--

--AND WENT AFTER THE MAN WHO FORCED THEM ALL TO FIGHT IN THE FIRST PLACE.
TINK
NEXT: THE FALLEN PILOT

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THE PHANTOM™

CREATED BY LEE FALK

THE RISE AND FALL OF EMPIRES IN THE SUDAN, MASTERS OF GOLD, ALL.
THE GHANA OF THE GREAT MANSA MUSA, THE MALI, THE SONGHAI.
NOW COMES THE SULTAN OF MOROCCO WITH THE HELLFIRE DAWN OF A NEW AGE...
BEDDED FOR THE NIGHT BEYOND THE BATTLEFIELD, THE PHANTOM HEARS FOOTFALLS AT THE APPROACH, VOICES DIMMED IN SHADOWS.

HE RECKONS ON RENEGADES OF EITHER ARMY...
DEFILERS OF THE DEAD MEANING TO STRIP AWAY POSSESSIONS OF EVEN SCANT VALUE.

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HIS DEFENSE IS AT THE READY...

IN THAT VERY INSTANT, HIS ATTACKERS ARE UPON HIM.
Tony DePaul & Jeff Weigel 11-17-24

www.thephantomcomics.com

POPEYE

THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS
BY RANDY MILHOLLAND

THIS HAS BEEN THE WORST DAY IN... WELL, MAYBE A MONTH OR SO.
YA GOTSTA LOOK AT THE BRIGHT SIDE, OLIVE.

WELL, I DO ENJOY COMPLAINING.
PLEASE FIND A DIFF'REN' BRIGHT SIDE.

THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS
"SHADOW OVER FIN'S SOUTH" PART 2
OLIVE OYL AND POPEYE ARE RETURNING TO SWEETHAVEN AFTER OLIVE WAS UNABLE TO GET A TATTOO, STUCK WITH A RUB-ON TATTOO INSTEAD. LITTLE DO THEY KNOW THEY HAVE STOWAWAYS...
OF ALL THE ROTTEN LUCK.

IT'S NOT EVEN A COOL RUB-ON TATTOO!

MEANWHILE....
HOW ARE WE S'POSED TO GIT THIS TUB BACK T' OUR TOWN?
popeye.com

BOSS GAVE US THIS HORN. HE SAID IT'S MAGICAL.
HE SED WE JUS' GOTTA BLOW IT AS GENTLY AS POSSIBLE...

...AN' A MAGICAL MIST WILL GENTLY TRANSPORT TH' SHIP TO OUR HOME!

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MINUTES LATER.
I GUESS I SHOULDA EMPHASIZED "GENTLY."
BE FAIR! WHEN AM I EVER GUNNA GET T'HAVE A HORN SOLO AGAIN?
QUESTEL
8-24

TASQ-ART

WWW.TASQART.COM



Sam Sherwood, Robbie Glynn, Conor Burke, Joey Cannon, Darren Finn and Ross Byrne



Margaret, Anne, Carmel, Maureen and Margaret



Claire, Jessie, Renee and Ellen



Clare, Maryann, Michael and Orla



Orla Kavanagh, Lauren Keogh and Aisling Cannon



Jack and Emma



Leeanne, Siobhan and Rebecca



Suzy Forde, Gillian McNulty and Erika McLoughlin



Emma Nolan and Martina Finn



Hayden Moore and Danielle Walsh

Dress to impress

AT ST MARK'S GAA CLUB 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

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***



Helen Connick, Martina Finn, Laragh McDonnell and Luke Crosbie



Niamh, Niamh, Tara and Nicola



Ger, Fr. Bill and John



Wiggy and daughter Sophie



Ciara, Sue, Elaine, Sarah and Nicola



Neil Ussher (Chairman) and Gary Mahon (Vice-Chairman)

Hope you're all enjoying our

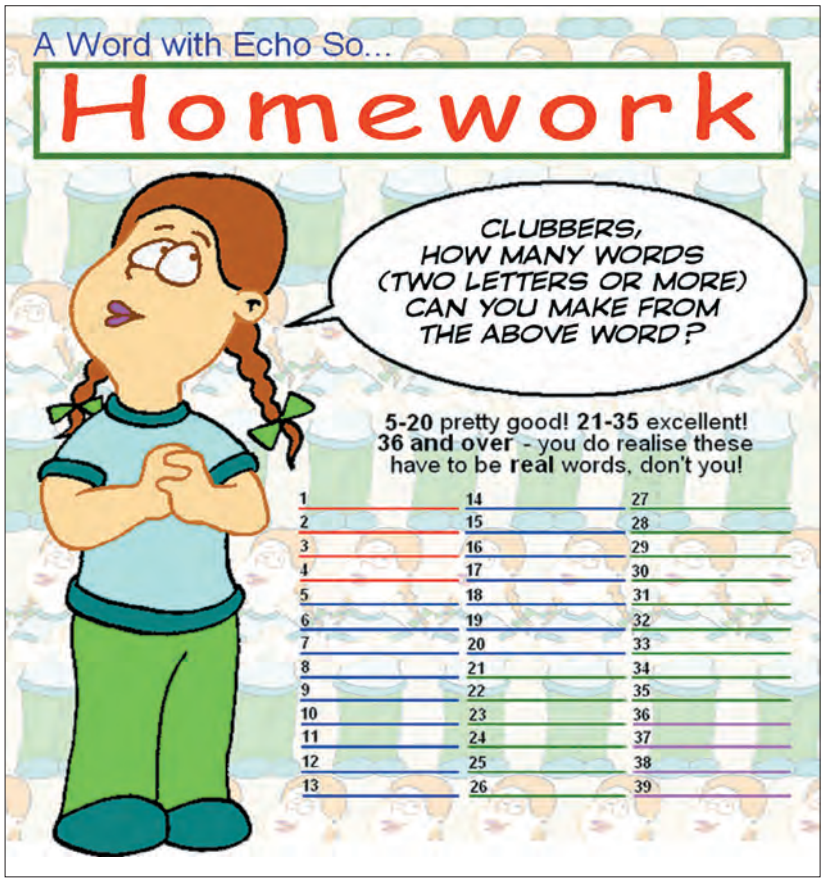


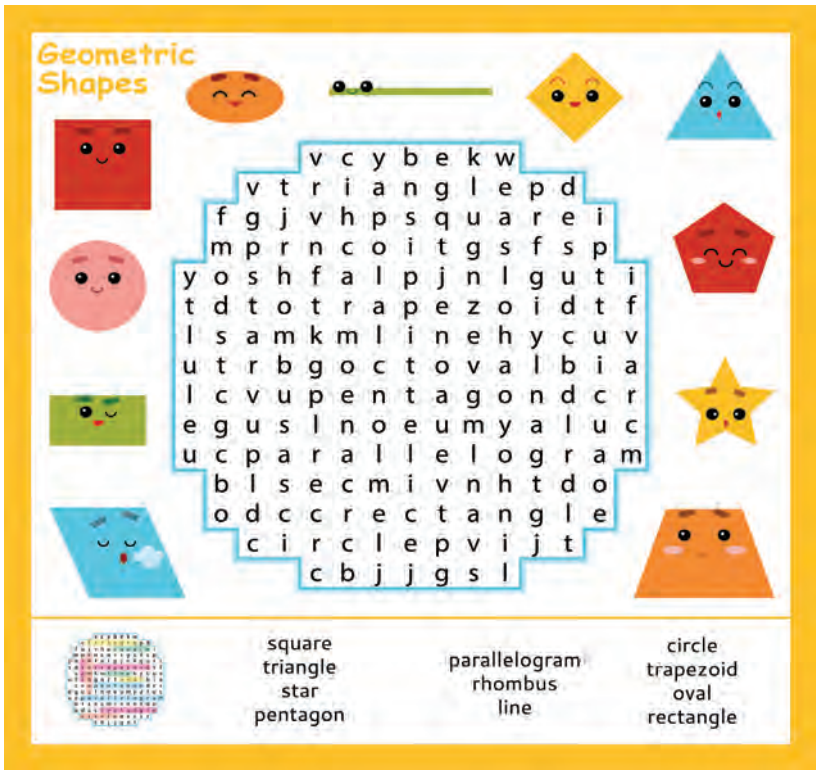
NEW

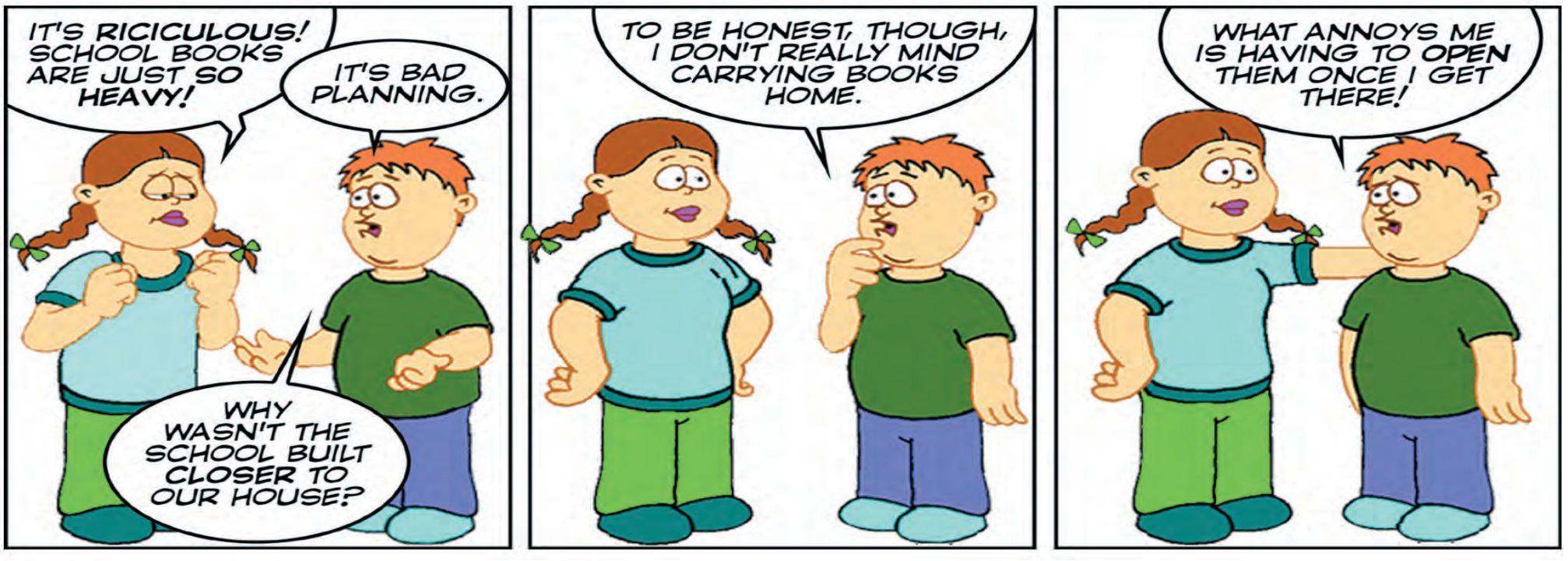
Colouring Competition

Colour in the pool slide picture on page 57, 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.**









These 2 EchoJoe pages of Awesome, Amazon,

Spot the 10 differences

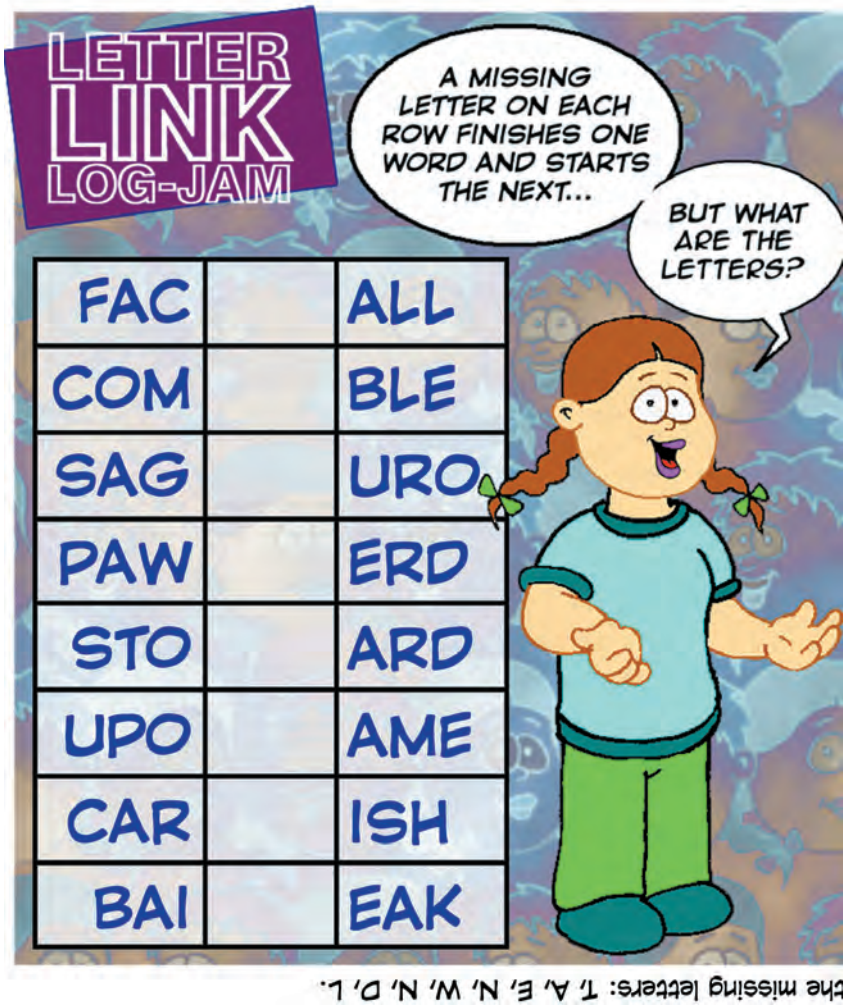




COLOURING BOOK



LETTER LINK LOG-JAM



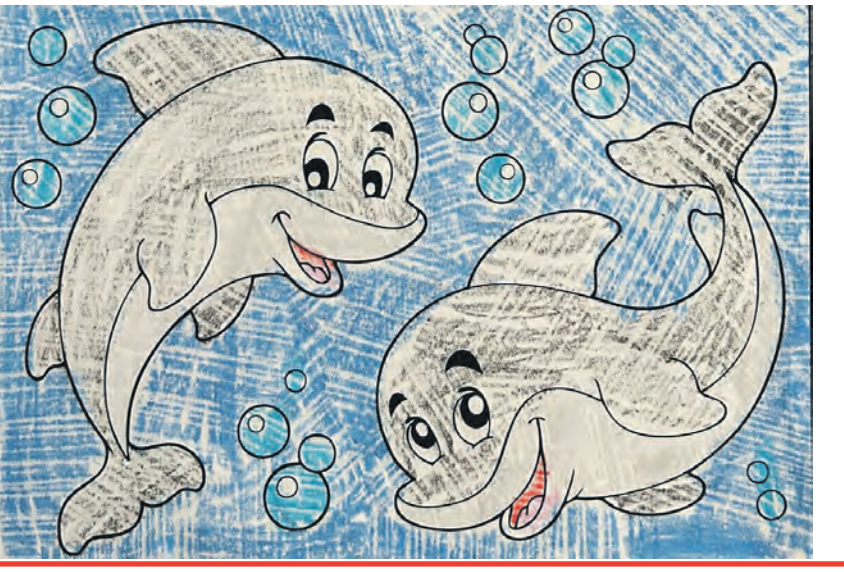
FAC		ALL
COM		BLE
SAG		URO
PAW		ERD
STO		ARD
UPO		AME
CAR		ISH
BAI		EAK

The missing letters: T, A, E, N, W, N, D, L.

This week's winner!

Mason Ennis, Highland, Michigan, aged 6, is this week's winner of the Echo Joe colouring competition. Mason 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

Eleven Workers Flee Factory For Fear Of Contamination

Despite recent alarm and controversy about asbestos, a Tallaght factory has had no difficulty replacing eleven of its workers who left in fear of contamination by the substance. And the management claims that conditions at the plant are no more dangerous than in many other industrial and domestic situations.

But the company admits that asbestos is hazardous and they would welcome substitutes. While a trade union official has said that, in view of the present confusion about the material,



Denis Keogh-General Manager of Chemoflon.

he would be unwilling to work in the factory.

The eleven workers, all girls, were employed at the Cookstown Industrial Estate premises of Chemoflon, a firm using white asbestos in its manufacture of braided gland packings for industrial pumps.

The girls had been upset by the recent TV documentary 'Alice, a fight for life', which vividly portrayed the hazards of asbestos and also suggested a long-standing conspiracy by the industry to gloss over the dangers.

After several weeks negotiation with management and consultation with experts the girls were still unhappy with conditions at the plant, and finally left a fortnight ago. But even before their notice had expired new recruits were employed and in training.

The braiding process at Chemoflon uses white asbestos yarns, which total 35% of the finished product. General Manager, Denis Keogh, insists that safety standards have always been striengent; the Institute for Industrial Research and Standards has checked the place regularly and there has been medical examination of the workers at the company's request.

Highest readings of airborne asbestos fibres in the factory have been well below international standards and the plant is now proceeding even further with its safety measures, he claims.

A 12-page company handout, issued to the workers when the scare started, invoked statistics to show that working with asbestos could be 15 times safer than staying at home and 20,000 times safer than rock-climbing.

Meanwhile, opponents of asbestos continue to call for its total banning and claim that there is no safe level of exposure to the fibres, which can cause scarring of internal tissues resulting in rapidly fatal cancers and crippling asbestosis.

The book 'Asbestos, killer dust', extracts from which were given to the Chemoflon workers by their trade union, claims that much of the machinery used to measure airborne fibres is inadequate.

Page 189 of the book compares the two types of microscope commonly used to monitor asbestos and suggests that the optical microscope (used in Chemoflon by the IIRS) can give zero readings where very high concentrations of the dust exist.

Worldwide claims for asbestos-related disease are currently running to tens of millions of pounds; and one of America's biggest manufacturers recently tried to dodge its responsibilities in the matter by declaring bankruptcy though still making a profit.

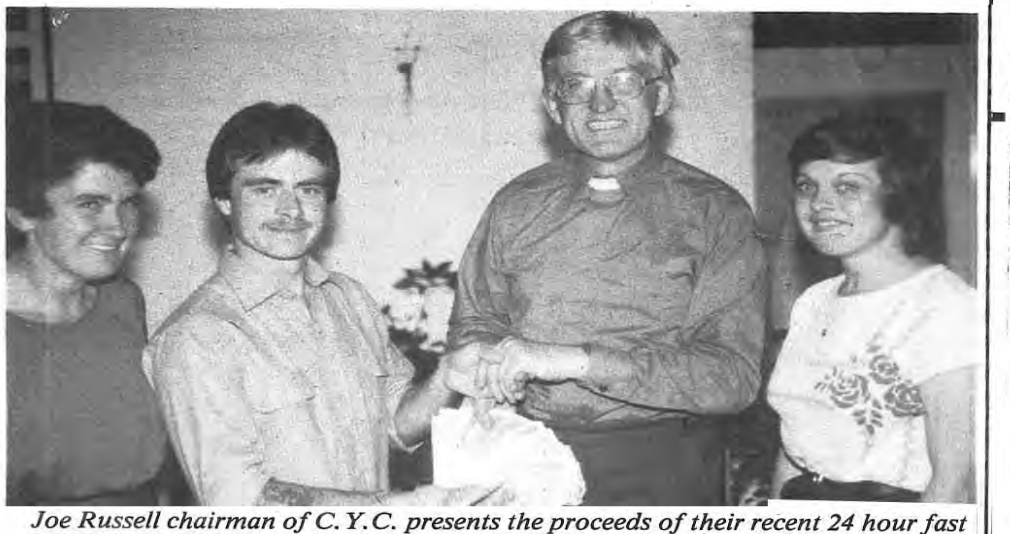
Chemoflon have undertaken to compensate should any of the former employees conract an asbestos illness. But, since such diseases normally take ten to forty years to show up, some of the workers feel the promise to be worth little.

Asked about the union's attitude towards asbestos, a spokesman for the ITGWU said 'The safest way is not to use it at all... the company does seem to have bent over backwards... we can only keep our members informed of any new evidence that comes in. To be honest with you, I wouldn't work with it'.

Chemoflon is an offshoot of parent company, Martin Merkel, Hamburg. The firm has been at Cookstown since 1978 and presently employs a staff of 33. Of these, 24 operate on the factory floor.



Chemoflon in Cookstown Industrial Estate employs a total of 33 people.



Joe Russell chairman of C.Y.C. presents the proceeds of their recent 24 hour fast (£218) to Fr. Hegarty O.P. chairman of the Board of Management St. Colmcille's School. Also included are Ann Guiran (l) and Caroline Grogan.

Tallaght Dole Money Once Again The Target For Thieves

The Tallaght dole money was stolen for the second time within a month last weekend when a crafty thief robbed £130,000 from a city-centre sorting office before making off with the cash in a post-office van.

The man, dressed as a postman, walked into the second floor of the Sherriff Street sorting office at 8.10a.m. on Saturday, September 11th, collected the mailbags for Tallaght, Clondalkin and Lucan post offices and drove off past a garda squad car which was waiting outside to escort the money safely out of the city.

The theft came exactly three weeks after armed raiders had snatched the £100,000 Tallaght dole from Tallaght Post Office, thereby delaying welfare payments for twenty-four hours.

On September 11th, however, the office was open for business as usual and dole money was paid to all who came to collect.

The Minister for Posts and Telegraphs, Mr. John Wilson, has ordered a top-level enquiry into the robbery which gardai believe to be an 'outside' job.

Mr. Wilson said that the people responsible for the crime would be 'pursued relentlessly and brought to justice''. He added that measures aimed at making post offices harder targets for theft would be speeded up.

However, gardai say that no 'definite line of enquiry' is being pursued and it is believed that police spent at least an hour on Saturday chasing a van in which the raider was not travelling.

Meanwhile, Fine Gael, spokesman on telecommunications, Mr. Paddy Harte T.D. said that Saturday's robbery could have taken place 'almost every night, in any sorting office, in any part of the state'.

Mr. Harte also called for a public enquiry into security at post offices, which he said was a 'national scandal'.

Holiday Competition

We are still sifting through the entries in our 747 & Sunbound sponsored Holiday competition.

The result is expected anyday now and as soon as the winner has been decided we will be in contact.

Whats News?

Need some news coverage of your local event (or scandal)? Then phone the Echo staff reporters, Michael or Richard at 522483.

Mercon Supplies Ltd

Whitestown Industrial Est.

Blessington Road
(behind Willwood Factory),
Tallaght

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fittings all sizes, ... oped),Slow burning
Heaters, Oil fire ... all sizes to 4" and fitt-
Gas boilers, Pipe ... d basins, W.C. pans,
tube Metric 15r ... ashing machine valve,
shire Solder Rin ... el twin flue

We w ... .O.C.
(... ery)

This advertisement is no longer active

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523544 523975

Willwood
We Are Here X

Start Your Own Business Competition

Bank of Ireland has launched its second Start Your Own Business Competition. To mark the Bank's Bicentenary in 1983 the total prize fund has been increased from £13,000 to £30,000 and the competition will be open to both manufacturing and service proposals.

A prize of £15,000 will be presented to the overall winner of the competition to be used as equity in the new business. In addition a special prize of £3,000 will be presented for the best proposal from a young entrepreneur between the ages of 18 and 25. The remaining prize fund will be divided on a regional basis at the judges' discretion.

In addition to the prize fund, Bank of Ireland will provide guidance in setting the winning projects and loan finance where appropriate.

The Competition is open to individuals or groups over 18 years old on the 1st September 1982 in the Republic and Northern Ireland with viable proposals for business in the manufacturing or service sectors.

The adjudication panel will be chaired by Mr. T. P. Hardiman, President of the C.I.A. and Chairman of the National Board of Science and Technology and will include

* Professor George Pogue School of Accounting and Finance, Ulster Polytechnic.
* Eamonn Cahill, Divisional Director, Irish Productivity Centre.
* Pat Molloy, General Manager, Bank of Ireland, Area East.

One further businessman will be invited to join the panel before adjudication takes place.

The principal assessment criteria will be

* The viability of the project as proposed.
* The ability of the entrants to implement the proposals.
* The growth potential of the proposal in terms of output and employment.

The closing date for entries for the 'Start Your Own Business' Competition is 1st March 1983 and the winners will be announced in July 1983. Details may be obtained from: 'Start Your Own Business' Competition, Bank of Ireland, Head Office, Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2. Tel. 785744/785933 exts: 2160/2737.



As well as enjoying themselves at the Summer Camps at the Tallaght Sports Complex, the children taking part are given a chance to express themselves through Art and Drama.

Pipe Band Being Re-formed in Jobstown

A meeting in Jobstown next Thursday will discuss the future of the new Tallaght Pipe Band, which, only three months after its formation, has lapsed due to lack of interest.

The band was formed in early July but, despite having the services of a top instructor, attendance at practice rapidly fell off and classes had to be abandoned.

The meeting next Thursday, September 23rd, will be in 49 Bawnlea Avenue at 7p.m. and will consider the possibility of reviving and developing the new band.

The first meeting of the New Tallaght Pipe Band took place in St. Thomas National School Jobstown on July 1st. Few people turned up, even though 1,000 newsletters were distributed in Jobstown, Killinarden and Knockmore, advertising the band.

14 children enrolled initially and lessons, at 60p per week, started in the school under the guidance of Pipe Major John Duggan, noted instructor and competition judge.

However, as attendance at the classes dwindled to 9 the committee began to incur debts (the teacher and caretaker had to be paid) and it was decided to stop classes until further notice.

Now the band's organisers are pleading with parents to attend next Thursday's meeting and to lend their co-operation. If there is a negative response, they say, the band will have to be finally wound up.

The committee points out that it would be a shame to disappoint those children who are already interested in the band and even saving for equipment, and the young girls who have been looking to join the majorettes.

Details of the New Tallaght Pipe Band are available at any time from the Secretary, Noel Farrell, 21 Kilclare Gardens,

R.A.'s Should Monitor Planning Applications

THE NEED to monitor Planning applications effecting Tallaght has been stressed by Tallaght Community Council's Executive member Mrs. McNally. It is hoped that each Residents and Tenants Association in Tallaght would assist in the process and the T.C.C. is to continue to pursue the whole question.

New Branch Of An Taisce For Tallaght/Clondalkin

A new association of An Taisce-The National Trust-to look after the environmental interests of Tallaght, Clondalkin and Lucan is being formed as a result of an informal meeting in the Green Isle Hotel earlier this week.

The new South West County Association of An Taisce will have its inaugural meeting (also in the Green Isle) on Monday, November 8th, at 8p.m. and the programme will include a panel of speakers on environmentel matters. Issues likely to concern the new association in its early days are rezoning of land, toxic-waste disposal and general dereliction of public areas.

Last Monday's preliminary meeting was called by An Taisce Metropolitan Group, an umbrella organisation intent on setting up local associations where none now exist. Among the attendance were Margaret and Celia Taylor of Tallaght Historical Society.

A spokesman for the Metropolitan Group, Pat McCabe of Howth, told the ECHO that the enormous environmental and social problems of the Tallaght/Clondalkin area suggested the need for a local association of An Taisce.

He described An Taisce (the Irish word means 'Treasure') as a voluntary, independent, non-sectarian organisation dedicated to preserving what is valuable in our country.

'Ireland's greatest asset - its renowned beauty - is rapidly being stifled by virtually unrestricted air and water pollution, unplanned building, increased ravaging of wildlife and trees and the reckless abuse of energy'.

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family notices

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ANNIVERSARY



Moore (nee Gaule), Mary
7th Anniversary of a loving Wife, Mother & Grandmother occurs 8th September 2025. Late of Lindisfarne Drive & Dunlavin, Co. Wicklow.

Your love I miss,
Your memory I treasure,
Loving you always,
Forgetting you never.
No words I write can ever say,
How much I miss you every day.
As time goes by,
The loneliness grows,
How I miss you nobody knows.
I think of you in silence,
I often speak your name,
But all I have are memories,
And your photo in a frame.
I never stopped loving you Mary,
I'm sure I never will,
Because deep inside my heart,
You are with me still.
Loved and remembered by your loving husband Dell and family. xxx

They say there is a reason,
They say time will heal,
Neither time or reason,
will change the way I feel.
Gone are the days we used to share,
But in my heart you are always there,
The gates of memories will never close,
I miss you more than anyone knows.
Always remembered and loved by your mother Phyllis. xxx

Mum
I still see your face before me,
Your voice I long to hear,
We miss and love you dearly,
God knows we wish you were here,
Tears fall freely from my eyes,
Like a river filled with grief,
My only comfort now is that,
I know you're free from pain.
Every year gets harder. We miss you so much and love you so much. Love your son Matthew, Megan, Alfie, Grayson & Indie Mary. xx

Mam
Your love was a shelter,
Steady and kind,
A place of belonging,
A peace I could find,
Though time has carried,
Your presence away,
Your spirit still guides me,
Through each passing day,
In laughter and silence,
In tears that still fall,
I feel you beside me,
A mother through all,
So today I remember,
With sorrow and grace,
The warmth of your smile,
The light of your face,
Forever in memory,
Forever in heart,
From me dearest mother,
You'll never depart.
We love and miss you every day. Love Mick, Janice, Glen & Gavin.

Mary
Gone are the days we used to share,
But in our hearts you're always there,
The gates of memory will never close,
We miss you more than anyone knows,
With tender love and deep regret,
We who love you will never forget.
Always loved & missed, Dee, Alan & Family.

ANNIVERSARY



Price, Jade
4th Anniversary occurs 9th September 2025.

No farewell words were spoken,
No time to say goodbye,
You were gone before we knew it,
And only God knows why.
Our hearts still ache in sadness,
And secret tears still flow,
What it meant to lose you,
No one will ever know.
From your loving Mam, Sisters, Niece, Grandad, Aunts, Uncles & Cousins.

Our wonderful Mum we miss you so much,
Your beautiful smile and your loving touch,
We miss your voice and beautiful face,
We miss not having your warm embrace.
We talk about you every day,
And how much we miss you in every way,
We love and miss you so much Mam.
From your heartbroken son Johnny and heartbroken daughter Alisha. xx

4th Anniversary of my beautiful niece Jade – Four years
Four years may have gone by,
But there's not a day I don't wish,
I could hear your voice or see your beautiful smile.
Loved and missed every minute of every day, your loving aunty Sandra. xx

ANNIVERSARY



Gaffney, May
43rd Anniversary occurs. In loving memory of our dear mother May, who died 10th September 1982. Also, our dear father Johnny, who died 21st September 1991. Late of Blackditch Road, Ballyfermot. Also remembering our brothers Gerard, John and Harry and our sister Dolores.

We travel to your graveside,
And picture your faces so clear,
In silence we stand in sorrow,
For the parents we love so dear,
The flowers we place upon it,
Will wither and decay,
But the love we buried with you both,
Will never fade away.
Always remembered from your loving daughters May and Carol, sons-in-law Larry and Maurice, Grandchildren, Great-Grandchildren and Great-Great-Grandchildren.

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. **P.M.**

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. **G.T.**

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

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. **R.B.**

NOVENA

Prayer to Our Lady of Mount Carmel
O, most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, Fruit of the Vine, splendorous of Heaven. Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this my necessity. O, Star of the Sea, help me and show herein you are my mother. O, Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succour me in my necessity. There are none that can withstand your power, O, show me here you are my mother. O, Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee. Sweet Mother, I place this cause in your hands. Amen. **V.D.**

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. **T.H.**

NOVENA

9 Day Novena to St. Anthony.
St. Anthony, I resort to thy protection and aid, as proof of my affection and faith, I offer this candle which shall burn every day. Please comfort me in my difficulties and through thy living in the house of my Saviour, intercede for me and all those I love so that we may always hold God in our hearts and be provided for in our necessities, I beseech thee, St. Anthony, to have infinite pity in regard to the favour I ask of thee (here mention your favour). Please help me to overcome all difficulties which I now leave at thy feet. 3 Our Fathers, 3 Hail Mary's, 3 Glory Be to the Father's. This novena should be said for 9 days in succession. Each day a candle should be lit and a copy of this prayer left in the Church to help another soul in distress and to increase devotion to St. Anthony. This miraculous Saint grants everything no matter how difficult and before the termination of the nine days. But even if your request is granted, the Novena must be fulfilled. Holy St. Anthony pray for us. **B.B.**

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planning notices

All planning applications must be in before 5pm Monday

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South Dublin County Council
We, Amy Nolan & Chris McCarthy, intend to apply for: Planning Permission at this site: 8 Forest Lawns, Kingswood, Dublin 24, D24 W1YP The development will consist of: Attic conversion for storage with rear dormer window and a single-storey front extension with sloped roof. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at the offices of South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Town Centre, Tallaght, Dublin 24 during its public opening hours of Monday to Friday from 9:00am to 4:00pm., and may also be viewed on the Council's website – www.sdcc.ie. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to South Dublin County Council on payment of a fee of €20 within 5 weeks of receipt of the application by South Dublin County Council.

South Dublin County Council
We, Andra Bundgaard-Murray and Stephen Murray, intend to apply for Planning Permission at our residence, 65 Woodlawn Park Drive, Firhouse, D24VH2R . The proposed development includes the conversion of the existing attic. Alteration of the existing roof profile from hipped to full apex, Insertion of a gable window. Removal of the existing chimney. Construction of a dormer window to the rear roof plane and insertion of two roof windows to the front, plus all associated site 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 public opening hours (Monday to Friday, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM). It may also be viewed on the Council's website – www.sdcc.ie. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to South Dublin County Council, subject to a fee of €20, within five weeks of the application being received by the Council.

South Dublin County Council
Creative Connections Clg in collaboration with the Connect 4 project are applying for permission for a community mural on the wall at the rear of 1a Knockmore Avenue Tallaght, Dublin 24. D24XF60. This application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of South Dublin County Council during its public opening hours of 9am – 4pm, Monday – Friday and a submission or observation may be made to South Dublin County Council in writing and on payment of the prescribed fee (€20) within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt of South Dublin County Council of the application.

South Dublin County Council
Keith Rochford intends to apply for Planning Permission for a development at no. 1 Birchview Drive, Dublin 24. (D24 A9R7) Planning Permission is sought for 1) the demolition of the existing single storey side garage and the construction of a single storey front, side & rear extension to the existing two storey detached dwelling, ancillary alterations to all elevations , demolition of existing chimneys and all associated site works, 2) the wrapping of the existing two storey dwelling with external insulation and ancillary alterations to all elevations 3) Widening of the existing vehicular entrance and all associated site works and 4) the increasing in height of a portion of the existing side boundary wall to 2.9m as measured from public footpath side and all associated site works. This application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of South Dublin County Council during its public opening hours of 9am – 4pm, Mon-Fri, and a submission or observation may be made to South Dublin County Council in writing and on payment of the prescribed fee (€20.00) within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by South Dublin County Council of the application.

South Dublin County Council
We, Muhammad Saifuddin Khurram and Safwaf Fatima intend to apply for Planning Retention permission for ; 1) Conversion of existing attic space comprising of modification to existing roof structure, new access stairs, 4no roof windows to the rear. 2) Single storey extension with 2no. roof windows to the rear of existing dwelling. and Planning permission for; 1) Single storey extension with 2no roof windows to the rear of existing dwelling and all associated site works at 26 Tullyhall Close, Lucan, Co Dublin, K78 F599. This application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of South Dublin County Council during its public opening hours of 10am - 4pm, Mon-Fri, and a submission or observation may be made to South Dublin County Council in writing and on payment of the prescribed fee (€20.00) within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by South Dublin County Council of the application.

Dublin City Council
I, Natalie Lynch, intend to apply for full planning permission at 50 Spiddal Road, Ballyfermot Dublin 10 D10 WF96. The development consists of the construction of a single storey 1 bedroom self-contained log cabin in the rear garden with

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL - LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) ACTS 1963 - LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) REGULATIONS 1977 TO 1994

PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED WEEK ENDING AUGUST 22, 2025

SD25A/0125W 19 Aug 2025 Permission Additional Information
Applicant: Winthrop Technologies Limited
Location: Unit 5-9 Unit 4, Turnpike Business Park, Dublin 22, D22 CD74
Description: Retention permission is sought for: Part (104 sq.m gross) of the first floor currently in light industrial use at Unit 5-9: Enlargement of ground floor window at Unit 5-9 on the north elevation enlargement of first floor windows at Unit 5-9 on the south elevation. Planning permission is sought for: (i)The change of use of Unit 4 (of 292.5 sq.m), including that part at first floor (104 sq.m) for which retention permission is sought, from light industrial use to office based industry use and amalgamation of Unit 4 with Unit 5-9 (1,505 sq.m gross) to provide a single office based industry unit of 1,797.5 sq.m gross together with all associated and ancillary works, including internal fit-out. (ii) At the south elevation of Unit 4: a. At ground floor, existing door, external shutter box, all supports and electrics to be removed and to be replaced with a new glazed door unit, and existing roller shutter door and all supports/electrics to be removed and replaced with new window unit. b. At first floor, 2 no. new aluminium/glass windows. (iii) 4 no. bicycle parking spaces, including provision for cargo bike.

SD25B/0317W 22 Aug 2025 Permission Additional Information
Applicant: Dimitrian Brinza
Location: 13, Castlegrange Close, Clondalkin, Dublin 22, D22C897
Description: The development consists of a 40sq.m single storey shed with flat roof in the rear garden of the existing dwelling. Retention permission for the widened vehicular driveway entrance. Permission to dish the public footpath, grass verge, kerb and alterations to front boundary wall and all associated site works.

SD25A/0189W 16 Aug 2025 Permission New Application
Applicant: Liam & Pauline Delaney
Location: 32, Knocklyon Heights, Knocklyon, Dublin 16, D16P2K0
Description: Divide existing site into 2 sites, demolish existing garage and kitchen area of existing house, erect a new 4 bedroom detached 2 storey house in the side garden of site with new boundary walls, 2 car spaces and new vehicular entrance to front of new house and all associated site works.

SD25A/0190W 16 Aug 2025 Permission New Application
Applicant: C&C Sports Consultants Ltd
Location: Units 5&8, Building 2&3, Cookstown Industrial Estate, Tallaght, Dublin 24
Description: Planning permission is sought for 1 no. Outdoor Padel tennis court facilities with protected screening around playing surface , permission sought for this outdoor playing facility for a period of 5 years only and all associated site works

SD25A/0191W 18 Aug 2025 Retention New Application
Applicant: Green Urban Logistics Airways Limited
Location: Cloverhill Industrial Estate, Clondalkin, Dublin 22
Description: Retention Permission for several items further to the construction of the development as granted planning under South Dublin County Council Reg. Ref. SD24A/0015 for an extension, refurbishment, and alterations to adjoined warehousing Units 1, 2 & 3 Cloverhill Industrial Estate, Clondalkin, Dublin 22. The items for which Retention Permission is sought are as follows: 1.Alterations at Unit 1, resulting in a total area of 10,153m2 (10,120m2 of warehouse area, and 33m2 of Staff Facilities Area) as follows: A.Omission of previously proposed subdivision of Unit 1 in two units (Unit 1A and Unit 1B), with no area change. B.Change of use of 276m2 of Ancillary Office Area and 236m2 of Staff Facilities Area to Warehouse Area (at Ground Floor) and removal of 545m2 of Ancillary Office and Staff Facilities Area (at First Floor) due to the omission of previously proposed 2 storey Ancillary Office for Unit 1A and Unit 1B and redesign of existing Plant Room area at North-western corner of Unit 1 to accommodate warehouse toilet block and IT room. 2.Alterations at Unit 3: change of use of 3m2 of Staff Facilities Area to Ancillary Office Area and 39m2 of Ancillary Office Area to Warehouse Area (at Ground Floor) and 3m2 of Ancillary Office Area to Staff Facilities Area (at First Floor), resulting in 5,182m2 (4,824m2 of warehouse area, 221m2 of Ancillary Office Area and 137m2 of Staff Facilities Area) due to the structural design arrangements at the Ancillary Office and demolition of 2No. existing warehouse offices. 3.Previously proposed existing internal roller door to be built up, now retained to provide a connection between Unit 1 and Unit 3. 4. Elevational changes, with no floor area changes, due to the above mentioned modifications, including: A.Addition of 3No. fire escape concrete steps and refugee area at Unit 1. B.Omission of 2No. personal doors at Unit 1. C.Relocation of 1No. level entry door at Unit 1 and, D.Omission of 1 dock leveller door due to the retention of existing level door and personnel door at Unit 3. 5.Associated site works including: A.Existing ancillary area at front elevation of Unit 1 is retained unaltered. B.Previously proposed HGV access at front elevation of Unit 1 now omitted due to the omission of the subdivision on Unit 1, HGV access is now at South-eastern corner of the site. C.Addition of fence and swinging gate for fire escape circulation at South-western corner of Unit 1 and omission of fire tender swinging gate at the rear of the site, between Unit 1 and Unit 3. D.Site works adjustments due to elevational changes. All other elements remain as per granted planning application Reg. Ref. SD24A/0015.

Contact *The Echo* to have a planning notification published Call 468 5350 or email reception@echo.ie

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Echo Sport

Deputy Sports Editor: William O'Connor

Thursday, September 4, 2025

Israel breaks his own 100 metre record



Israel Olatunde of Tallaght Athletics Club celebrates winning the Men's 100m during the 2025 Morton Games at Morton Stadium in Santry
Photo by Sportsfile

TALLAGHT AC member Israel Olatunde has broken his own Irish 100m record at a track meeting in London this past weekend, *reports Michael Howley.*

Participating at the Be Fast Today Track Academy meeting at the Lee Valley Stadium Olatunde managed to clock in an impressive time of 10.08, getting ever closer to breaking the ten second barrier. Olatunde did benefit from the tailwind of 2m/s which is the maximum tailwind that is permitted in an event for the time to be considered valid.

Olatunde would finish second overall in the event with the only man faster being Britain's Eugene Amo Dadzie who managed a blistering 9.87 time. The result provides a positive note in what has been a frustrating period for Olatunde. Now carrying out a significant portion of his training in America alongside Olympic Champion Noah Lyles, Olatunde is under the tutelage of Lance Brahman.

The last we saw of Olatunde was in the National Championships in the Morton Stadium, Santry at the start of August where he was unable to make the final of the 100m due to a hamstring strain, leaving the path clear for Bori Akinola to pick up the crown. His season best before last weekend was 10.23 so clearly significant improvements have been made. While the result is too late for him to qualify into the World Championships in Tokyo which are being held in only a weeks time, it will allow him to participate in next years European Athletics Championships which are being held in Birmingham, England.

Quadrathon runners raise €6,000 for CAP

North Clondalkin Running Club members support autism support network

NORTH Clondalkin run club are known for facilitating newer less experienced runners with one of their couch to 5km programs beginning in Collinstown Park earlier this week, however the club is also composed of far more experienced members such as the likes of Keiron Lewis and Shane Bowden who recently undertook the Quadrathon challenge, *reports Michael Howley.*

The Quadrathon saw the pair race four marathons across four days in the Inishowen peninsula of Donegal at the end of August, raising money for the 'CAP' or the Clondalkin Autism Parent support network. The principal goal of the fundraiser was to purchase adaptive running buggies so that children with autism and special needs would still be able to participate and get involved with North Clondalkin Running Club. These buggies can vary in price in the hundreds of euro to the more advanced models suitable for intense exercise in the thousands.

The training plan that Keiron and Shane took part in was designed to go for 26 weeks and involved multiple days in a row of running upwards of 20km in order to prepare them for the ordeal ahead. Though both runners would find themselves injured and the training compromised because of it.

Throughout the races, the runners were assisted by Keiron's wife Kerry Barratt, a massage therapist who provided post race messages and lymphatic drainage after each race which enabled the runners to recover quicker between races and aided in completing the amount of miles necessary with the back to back marathons.

Speaking to Keiron Lewis after the event he reflected on some of the more challenging aspects of the experience.

"A place called Mamore Gap, it's a climb of 900ft all in the space of a mile, it's straight up. You're climbing it. It's mental. When you're climbing up Mamore gap which is almost ¾ through your third marathon, it's just in your head. It's 80% mental and 20% physical. We know what we can do physically, we've done marathons in the past and we've done two and a half before we got to that gap. We knew it's just mental, just go over it like."

The duo ended up raising over €6,000 for the club which will go towards facilitating the purchase of new running buggies. Keiron would be entitled to a break after such an event but is showing no signs of stopping scheduled to take part in the Dublin City Marathon as well as the over 50km championships over the coming months.



North Clondalkin Running Club members Keiron Lewis and Shane Bowden

Donore's Raftery all set for Worlds

THE Irish squad for the World Athletics Championship has been revealed with Donore Harriers athlete Jack Raftery making the cut, *reports Michael Howley.*

The championships are set to take place next weekend from September 13 to the 21st.

Raftery will be representing Ireland in Tokyo in the 400m relay and is currently on the provisional listing for the individual 400m event, pending an invite from World Athletics to meet the quota.

The Donore Harriers athlete has consistently shown that he is the best 400m men's athlete in the country winning gold in the last two national championships.

His season best for this year has seen him beat the 45 second barrier clocking in a time of 44.98 becoming the second Irishman in history to do so with only David Gillick managing 44.77 back in 2010. For reference this time would have seen Raftery place eighth at the Paris Olympics.

Unfortunately Tallaght AC athletes Rhasidat Adeleke and Israel Olatunde will not be making an appearance at the World Championships in Tokyo. Adeleke ultimately elected to withdraw after an unfortunate season that was blighted by injuries, Olatunde has dealt with his own difficulties also and was unable to reach the form required to compete in Tokyo.

Some of the more familiar athletes that will be representing Ireland at the upcoming world championships include Sarah Healy (Women's 1500m), Kate O'Connor (Women's Heptathlon), Mark English (Men's 800m), Sarah Lavin (100mH), Nicola Tuthill (Hammer), Andrew Coscoran (1500m), Cathal Doyle (1500m), Sophie Becker (Women's 400m, Mixed 4x400m Relay and Women's 4x400m Relay), and Sharlene Mawdsley (Women's 400m, Mixed 4x400m Relay and Women's 4x400m Relay).



Mixed relay athlete Jack Raftery pictured ahead of the World Athletics Championships which take place in Tokyo from September 13-21
Photo by Sportsfile

Boxing

Jobstown boxers pick up gold medals at Emerald Box Cup

JOBSTOWN Boxing Club continues to thrive as can be seen by performance of the athletes at this year's Emerald BoxCup which was held in Tallaght Leisure Centre, *reports Michael Howley.*

With six out of seven fighters winning gold, they are continuing to establish themselves as one of the top boxing gyms in not only Dublin but the country.

Brandon Geoghegan picked up the u18 gold medal at 64kg. Brandon was victorious in both of his bouts over the weekend, picking up unanimous decision wins in both with the final being against Max Ryan from Lucan Boxing Club.

Brandon's performance in the first two rounds of the contest was enough to guarantee himself the victory and the gold medal.

Brodic Abudiore also won his division winning the gold medal in the u18 67kg weight class.

The young fighter fought three times over the weekend with a stoppage in his first round and two unanimous decisions after.

Darren O'Toole continued his winning ways after an excellent performance in Florida last month. The scintillating form continued with O'Toole winning every round in all three of his bouts at the Emerald Cup.

He joined Jobstown less than six months ago and has had 11 fights in that time, winning all 11.

Gabrielle Mongan was back in action after winning the U23s championship only a few short weeks ago. She picked up a gold medal in the women's 70kg weight class.

Winning a split decision in her semi final and getting a victory against a former European medalist in the final bout in a unanimous decision.

Ryan Jenkins would also pick up a gold medal in the men's 70kg weight division.

That follows a silver medal at this year's u23 championships where lost the final to Bobbi Flood who is among the best upcoming amateurs in the country.



Jobstown boxers picked up gold medals and (inset) Charlie Connolly won the U15 Cadet Championship

Josh Olaniyan made his return to the ring for the first time since the elite championships. He picked up a win against Kevin Osifo from Cherry Orchard in the 75kg weight class. Olaniyan was making a comeback after being defeated in the elite championships but looked to be back to his best cruising to a unanimous decision win.

Max Kavanagh picked up a silver medal in the tournament coming up short against Jamie Roberts from Ballybrack boxing club. The fight ended as a split decision.

Speaking on the performance in the tournament Amanda Spencer spoke: "We were one of the best teams there, we were most definitely an outstanding club out of the whole weekend. What was sweet about it was that it was in our own backyard in Jobstown."

Super Heavyweight Adam Olaniyan received a walkover after weighing in opponents weren't able to be found for him.

Spencer spoke on the ordeal of finding him an opponent.

"It's frustrating because he's not getting the bouts he should be getting, they're avoiding him. Big time. Darren's only in the club for six months and he's had more fights than Adam this year, but it does go by the weight divisions. When you're a super heavyweight it's part and parcel, you know there's not going to be a lot of activity when it comes to the amateur sport."

In other competitions Charlie Connolly won the u15 cadet championship in the 63kg weight class last Friday night. Connolly beat Athlone's Joe Joyce in the final winning on a 4/1 decision, he will now be considered for European selection.

The club is preparing for several tournaments over the coming months including a trip to Sweden in October that sees them compete on an international stage.

Grainne travels to Liverpool for worlds

THE World Boxing World Championships are being held in Liverpool this year with the tournament set to take place from September 4 to 14, *reports Michael Howley.*

The Irish squad for the competition has been revealed with former Olympian Grainne Walsh boxing out of St Marys Tallaght representing her country in the 65kg weight class.

These World Championships are organised by the World Boxing governing body, formed only in 2023. Since forming the organisation has become the new International Governing Body for amateur boxing and will sanction the Olympics at the upcoming 2028 games held in Los Angeles. World Boxing replaces the old IABA which was rife with allegations of corruption and integrity issues. These World Championships are the first to be sanctioned under the new governing body.

Grainne Walsh of St Marys in Tallaght put herself in pole position to represent Ireland at the tournament following an excellent performance at the National Elite Championships where she defeated Kaci Rock of Holy Trinity in the final. Now raring to go and put herself back in contention to qualify for the 20280 Olympics she spoke on the preparations for the tournament.

"I think this is the time where the excitement starts to build, we're all sharp and competing against people that we could potentially be fighting. Everyday is a learning day and we're just getting closer to that time. I think the energy feeds amongst the team and we're all looking forward to getting started."

The world championship will also mark the first time that men and women will be held at the same tournament rather split into two separate events. Grainne Walsh gave her thoughts.

"It's brilliant, a lot of the time it's completely separate, women's europeans and women's worlds. For all of us to come together is brilliant. Having the experience last year at the qualifying tournaments which were male and female, the teams were quite small but to experience having the men and the women together was brilliant, everyone was singing off the same hymn sheet."

Grainne is first set to get into the ring this Friday with the womens 65kg weight class scheduled to compete between 11am -3pm on that day.



Grainne Walsh in red in action against Kaci Rock in blue

Basketball

‘We’re all looking forward to representing Ireland’

FOR the first time in their history the Irish 3x3 basketball team has qualified for the FIBA Europe Cup with Tallaght man and former Eanna Basketball coach Darren McGovern taking over the helm and leading the team in Copenhagen, *reports Michael Howley.*

They will face a baptism of fire in their opening two games of the tournaments with their opponents being the last two winners of the competition, the Netherlands and Latvia. Ireland made it to Copenhagen after beating Cyprus in the final of a qualifying tournament back in June.

The five-man extended squad - Matt Treacy, Jordan Blount, John Carroll, Sean Jenkins and Cian Heaphy - are currently in Serbia at a training camp ahead of the finals, with head coach Darren McGovern paring that down to four players for the tournament itself.

The team will find itself at a disadvantage however as key players Sean Flood and Taiwo Badmus who were integral to the side qualifying in June will not be available for selection due to other commitments.

McGovern spoke on the prep his side had been involved in.

“The guys have been working hard since we arrived at our training camp in Serbia last Friday, along with several sessions back in Ireland. Choosing the final four to travel to Copenhagen will be a difficult one, but whoever we pick will be ready to give their all against really tough opposition. We’re all looking forward to representing Ireland at the highest level in Europe.”

Basketball Ireland CEO John Feehan also spoke on the upcoming tournament.

“We’re really excited to see our Ireland men’s 3x3 team get on the court on Friday against the cream of FIBA 3x3 crop. It’s a historic achievement to be playing in this tournament and facing the last two 3x3 Olympic champions shows the calibre of opposition we are mixing with.”

The first two matches will be held this Friday, broadcasted on the TG4 app and player with the Latvia game set to begin at 10.30am while the match against the Netherlands is scheduled for a 3.45pm start time.

GAA

‘Learning a new sport is great fun’ mother of three

Gaelic4Mothers&Others is a programme for women who never played football

IT MIGHT be a completely new venture on a number of fronts, but Pauline Martin has thoroughly enjoyed her opening few months as part of the Sports Direct Gaelic4Mothers&Others team in Good Counsel Liffey Gaels, *reports Daire Walsh.*

A native of Niort in western France, Pauline has been in Ireland since the age of 18. Having initially planned to spend a year on these shores as a way of improving her English – she also worked as an au pair during this period – she met her now husband just a few months into her stay and ultimately decided to remain in Ireland on a permanent basis.

Although she had an interest in gymnastics, Pauline acknowledges she never really took part in team sports back in Niort. Yet with her eldest child having joined the club last September, Martin had found herself on the sidelines of Good Counsel Liffey Gaels – whose main pitches are located on Drimnagh's Galtymore Road in Dublin’s southside.

It was whilst attending one of her son’s training sessions that Pauline was informed that there was a Gaelic4Mothers&Others side in the club and with her curiosity now sparked, she opted to join the set-up for 2025.

“There was one time [at her son’s training] where I was approached by a Dad that said ‘you know there’s a women’s team, Gaelic4Mothers’. That’s kind of how it started, it sparked my curiosity. I just turned up. I couldn’t remember the exact date, but it’s about five or six months ago that I came for the first training,” Pauline recalled.

“It has benefited me on so many levels. I really had that feeling the last few months since I joined. I really had that regret that I never joined a team sport like that and I feel like I’ve missed out. The social aspect, the new friendships that can be made and the benefit that has had on my mental and physical health is just incredible.

“I just found that it’s so inclusive and they’re all very supportive. Obviously we have our WhatsApp groups. There’s one solely for the training sessions and just any information related to matches or blitzes. There’s another separate one for just chats. If anyone needs a recommendation for a babysitter or anything else like that! It’s really like a new family, a new community.”

First introduced by the LGFA in 2008, the Sports Direct Gaelic4Mothers&Others initiative is a recreational and innovative programme for women who have never played football before or who have not played in a very long time.

Played in a fun, non-competitive and social environment, this initiative provides an opportunity for women to get their recommended weekly exercise in a fun way while meeting other mothers in the area they live in.

The campaign hashtag for Sports Direct Gaelic4Mothers&Others is #myreasonwhy and as Pauline explained above, the fact that she regretted not trying her hand at a team sport in the past was a major factor behind her deciding to take part in the initiative.

However, she is also someone who likes to challenge herself and with the sport of ladies football being an entirely new concept to the 35-year-old mother of three, Pauline has also gotten out of her comfort zone in the past few months.

“I am quite competitive. Even though it’s non-competitive sport, I am quite competitive! I like to push myself and I like a good run. I’m not giving up on a ball. I think it was that I was never really brought up with team sports. My parents were not into it.

“They were always fit and active, but never really involved in any club or any particular sport, or had a great passion for any particular sport. I’ve always loved a hike or a good long cycle. Since I came to Ireland, I’ve been more active than I would have been in my teens.



The Good Counsel Liffey Gaels side which competed in the South Leinster Gaelic4Mothers&Others Blitz in Bray Emmets in June of this year and (inset): Pauline Martin

“I do love to push myself and even after having three kids, I still feel like I have a good bit of energy. I’m quite a high energy person, I love a good run around. Learning a new sport is great fun.”

In terms of her journey with the Sports Direct Gaelic4Mothers&Others programme, the South Leinster Blitz held at Bray Emmets GAA in Wicklow on June 21 of this year was a significant one for Pauline. Having played just two games with Good Counsel Liffey Gaels up to that point, she was now participating in an event that saw clubs from a host of counties coming together for a hectic day of action.

Yet after overcoming some pre-tournament nerves, Pauline enjoyed being surrounded by family and friends in Bray as she continued to embrace being a part of a new community and culture within her adopted country.

“I suppose I was a little bit nervous. It was a huge number coming from different parts of the country. It was a great social event, a great sports event. Afterwards we got to enjoy socialising as well. I don’t drink alcohol, but I still stayed back and just enjoyed being with my team-mates and it was an absolutely fabulous day out.

“The sun was shining and my family joined as well. My children got to see me play for the first time I think in a match and my husband too.

“I got great feedback from everyone, including my coach actually, who reminded me recently. He said ‘all I can say is, you did great on your last Blitz Pauline’. I think I’ve played better in this Blitz than maybe when we were just training.”

Since linking up with their Sports Direct Gaelic4Mothers&Others team, Pauline has been asked if she would like to get involved as a coach on her son’s U10 boys side in Good Counsel Liffey Gaels. She hasn’t decided to take this step just yet, but having gained so much from being part of their G4M&0 set-up, Martin is eager to maintain her current playing status for the foreseeable future.

“For now I’m just really happy being where I am. As a player, just learning the new skills and just improving. Our coaches are fantastic. I’m learning to focus and even my sense of focus wouldn’t have been the best in the past, so I’m working on different aspects,” Pauline added.

Athletics

Busy times for Donore Harriers

WHILE the inclusion of the Jack Raftery into the Ireland squad for the World Athletics Championships will be the main story grabbing headlines, there has been plenty of other activity going on within Donore Harriers recently that may have flown under the radar, *reports Michael Howley.*

The Scottish U17 championships at Grangemouth Falkirk Scotland took place from the 24th to the 25th of August. Donore Harriers actually had two athletes find success in the competition with both Charlie O’Neill and Zion Osawe last week representing Ireland. Ireland sent over a developmental squad that travelled to Scotland for the U17 Track and field championship

This was Zion’s first time representing her country and she more than rose to the occasion with 3rd place finish and a 1.64m PB in the high jump. Surely the first of many future appearances in green for Zion.

Charlie O’Neill once again had a victory in an 800m race which turned into a highly tactical race so times took second place to finish placings , Charlie won the race in 2.04.19 finishing off a terrific track season

Fifteen members of the club turned out for the half marathon in Tullamore managing to brave the wet and windy conditions last Saturday morning. Well done the men’s senior and master teams as well as the individual women. The master men’s team consisted of Darragh Keegan, Alan Kenny and Des tremble and secured a gold team position in the National Masters.

Darragh was 12th man overall and Des managed to secure a silver medal in the M55 division as well as a Leinster and county gold. Joan McTernan won a national F65 bronze medal while earning a silver in Leinster and Tony Kynes finished fourth in the M70 national division and third in Leinster.

Alan Kenny would win a gold county team medal for his performance in the competition.



Donore Harriers members at the national half marathon in Tullamore

GAA

Crunch games ahead for senior football teams

THE Dublin Senior Football Championship is back in action this weekend with the third round of fixtures set to take place, *reports Michael Howley.*

Ballyboden St Enda's find themselves in a matchup against St Vincents at Parnell Park this Sunday with a 4pm throw in time. Eamonn O'Reilly told *The Echo* earlier on in the year that despite being happy with the sides performance in the league emerging victorious in AFL Division 1, the Championship was going to be the true measure of the team with performance there valued above all else.

Their performances so far have indicated that this still remains the priority and after picking up two victories they sit top of their group. Boden will be expecting more of the same against a St Vincent's side that is currently sitting bottom of the table having lost to both of those teams on a -26 points difference.

Group 2 will see Templeogue hope to get their first win of the championship campaign as they take on Castleknock this Sunday at O'Toole Park at 2pm.

Recently promoted from the Senior 2 championship, Templeogue impressed in their first match when they overcame a deficit of six points in the second half to snatch a draw with Ballymun Kickhams. They since lost their second game against Whitehall Colmcille by four points but have shown they are able to compete with teams in this division. Headed by the likes of intercounty star Niall Scully Templeogue will be looking to get something out of the game against Castleknock.

Group 3 sees Lucan Sarsfields and Thomas Davis compete against Raheny and Cuala respectively.

Currently third in the group Sarsfields will be looking to leapfrog Raheny into second as they take on the northside team this Saturday in Parnell Park at 2:30pm. Sarsfields started off the campaign well with a three point victory against Thomas Davis but in their last match were dispatched by current All Ireland Champions Cuala. Perhaps unsurprisingly, Cuala are considered to be favourites for the competition so this game appears to be the decider for second place between Sarsfields and Raheny.

Thomas Davis will have the chance to prove themselves against Cuala in O'Toole Park that same day. Unlucky to be at the bottom of their group Davis lost by just three to Sarsfields and only a single point against Raheny, they are clearly able to compete however the manner that Cuala ran through both of those teams suggests they will need a huge performance to get one over the current champions.

Intercounty players like Mick Fitzsimons, Peadar Cofaigh O Byrne and one of the best players in the country Con O'Callaghan is just the tip of the iceberg in terms of talent Cuala possess and Davis will need to be at their best to get something from the game.

St Jude's take on Clontarf in Group 4. While Kilmacud Crokes are of course favourites to make it out of the group Judes did brilliantly to get a win over St Sylvester's who appear to be their main competition for second place. They take on current bottom placed Clontarf in O'Toole Park this Saturday with a 3:30pm throw in.

Senior 2 sees St Mary's travel to the Northside to take on Naomh Barrog at 6:15pm Saturday evening.

They will be searching for their first championship win of the campaign while in group 4 Round Tower's Clondalkin take on Fingal Ravens at Rolestown hoping to put their last defeat against St Patrick's Donabate behind them.



Boden tops in derby

Firhouse Road side get the better of St Jude's

BALLYBODEN St Enda's managed to do enough to overcome their local rivals St Jude's on Saturday afternoon. The contest would be won by 12 points in the Dublin Senior One Hurling Championship game held in Parnell Park, *reports Michael Howley.*

The second quarter of the game would be where Boden truly came into their own, the match would be close for the first 15 minutes with only two separating the teams but for the remainder of the first half Boden would dominate to score 1-08 without reply to lead 1-15 to 0-5 by the time of the interval.

St Judes would fire back in the second half with some scores of their own but they would be unable to close the gap that Boden had created. In fact, Boden should have scored their first goal of the match just two minutes into the game with David Keogh through on goal, Judes keeper Ross O'Reilly did well to close the distance and disrupt the shot.

Conor Nolan would open the scoring for Judes shortly after and Conor Dooley from Boden and Diarmaid McLoughlin from St Judes would trade points in quick succession. Boden would begin to take control of the game after capitalising on a series of poor restarts from Judes with John McGuire, James Madden, Fionn Murphy and Niall McMorrow all managing to secure scores to leave them three points clear 10 minutes into the game.

Judes would find themselves in further trouble as the second quarter started as Boden truly began to pull away with a multitude of frees as well as a series of scores from McMorrow began to widen the gap.

David Keogh would make up for his earlier miss in the game and strike home a goal in the 21st minute after a poor puck out from St Jude's was intercepted. Judes would eventually score just before the half time interval with Callum Graham ending their 16 minute dry spell but the damage had already been done with the side trailing to Boden by 13 points at halftime.

Judes would somewhat come back into the game at the beginning of the second half, Ciaran Hogan and Conor Nolan both managing to get themselves on the scoresheet. What the side really needed however was a goal and it would arrive in the 41st minute with substitute John Carty converting the rebound after a Conor Nolan shot had been parried.

Boden would ride out the game in style however and never looked to be in any real danger continuously adding scores to their tally throughout the second half. James Madden and Timmy Hammersley adding to the tally in the final quarter only confirmed their result further with the dismissal of Jack Lambert in the 52nd minute being too little too late for St Judes to take advantage.

There is one round left of fixtures left in the round robin stage of the championship before the quarter finals, Boden have put themselves as nailed on for a quarter final with Judes needing a big win against Naomh Barrog in a weeks time if their championship is to continue.



Ballyboden St Enda's Jim Kennedy stops a St Jude's attack during the match in Parnell Park Photos by John Kirwan

Ballyboden's John McGuire goes on a solo run



Charlie Keher sets up an attack for Lucan Sarsfields senior hurlers Photo by Matthew Lysaght

Sarsfields are a team to watch out for in c'ship

LUCAN Sarsfields Hurlers have had an excellent start to the championship campaign so far, *reports Michael Howley.*

They came up against Naomh Barrog at O'Toole Park last Saturday afternoon where they extended their winning run and have now found themselves firmly nestled within the top two of Group 1 alongside Na Fianna.

After four wins in four games they have established themselves as one of the teams to watch out for in the competition.

The match against Naomh Barrog on Saturday was certainly competitive but Sarsfields did more than enough to emerge as deserved seven point winners on the day.

The first half in particular was an extremely tight affair with Lucan heading into the interval just two points ahead.

They had been awarded a penalty in the 10th minute of the match after Charlie Keher found himself fouled in the box, Sean Harkness would step up to the plate and convert from the spot securing the lead for Lucan. The scoreline at half time read 1-10 to 0-11.

The second half would see Lucan pull away a little more as Sean Harkness would find himself continuing to score racking up an impressive tally of 1-7 by the end of the match, but Barrog were not being swept aside so easily and an outstanding performance from Joe Flanagan saw him score 0-11 to keep his side in the game.

Sarsfields had enough in the tank to prevail however and would see out the result to secure their fourth championship win of the season. While still unbeaten they have now dropped to second place in the group after previously holding top spot with Na Fianna now edging them on points difference.

Sarsfields have an opportunity in two weeks time to truly test out where they are at when they come up against All-Ireland Champions Na Fianna, this will undoubtedly be the toughest test that they will have faced so far and will provide a real indicator as to where Sarsfields truly are positioned in regards to the championship and will tell how far they can go.

As well the game will decide who takes top spot in Group 1 which will have an impact on the seeding and matchups for the quarter final stage which will shortly follow after.

GAA

Junior hurling teams reach knock out stages

THE round robin portion of the Junior A Hurling Championship has concluded with five games being played by each team in Group 1 & 2, *reports Michael Howley*.

The format of the competition sees six teams in each group with the top four in each qualifying for a quarter final.

The way the seeding works is that the first place team in group 1 faces off against the fourth place team in group 2 etc. Likewise for relegation the fifth place team faces off against sixth in the other group and vice versa with the two losing teams going down a division to Junior B.

In Group 1 Ballyboden St Enda's finished on top after winning four out of their five games. Their only defeat came to Clanna Gael Fontenoy in a game that they were probably favoured to win looking back, they lost that match by three points 2-16 to 1-22 but would quickly rebound defeating their main competition in the group Faughs.

Now Ballyboden will find themselves in a quarter final with St Mark's from Tallaght. Marks finished fourth place in group 2 after winning their first two games of the competition against St Finian's and Thomas Davis. A valuable draw against Lucan Sarsfields ensured that they would have enough to reach a quarter final. Their last two games were against the group leaders Kevins GAA and Raheny, while Kevins decisively won the match between the two sides, the game against Raheny was much closer with the final score being 2-08- 0-10 with Marks being defeated by just four points.

Faughs find themselves up against Lucan Sarsfields after finishing second in their group to Boden. The game against Boden was the only fixture that Faughs would lose so far in the campaign, coming up four points short in the match played at Tymon Park. Aside from that blip on their record they have maintained a perfect winning streak across the championship swatting aside all comers.

Sarsfields have had an unusual campaign so far, in the five matches they have played, they've only managed to win one, yet still have finished third in their group thanks to the three draws against St Mark's, Raheny, and Thomas Davis. Their sole win coming up against St Finian's while their defeat to group leaders Kevins seems to be the standard for that group.

In terms of relegation playoffs St Jude's find themselves against Thomas Davis after the two teams finished fifth and sixth respectively in their groups.

Tower's ladies Erin big win in shield showdown

ROUND Towers Ladies B team picked up a win in the Junior N Shield football final after a comprehensive win against Erin's Isle on Wednesday evening at Monastery Park. The final score read 1-2 to 2-9, *reports Michael Howley.*

Coach Will McCabe spoke on the occasion.

"We played Erins Isle in the past and it's always been a passionate game. It was a passionate, tough game. Were we in full control all the time? Definitely not. When our second goal went in then we were good but Erins Isle are a very strong team but there was a lot of passion and it was a very physical game. The two teams respect each other and give everything anytime we play each other and that was the same the other night."

Goalkeeper Tara Morris played a pivotal role in the Shield final ensuring that her team retained their lead by making a number of saves. McCabe was quick to praise the efforts of the overall team however,

"We will have an awards ceremony at the end of the year for player of the year and at the moment I have about seven or eight in my head, there's no one standout. They are so supportive of each other, they are there to give everything for the team. It's just fantastic. They all just want to play football."

The team found themselves in the shield after narrowly missing out on the championship semi final. McCabe spoke on the aims of the team and what their goals are.

"We just narrowly missed out on the championship, it was on points difference we lost out. When that didn't happen for us we put everything into trying to retain the shield. We won the shield last year also so this is two years in a row. We used the disappointment from not getting into the championship semi final to spur us on and think let's go win this.

"Absolutely [hoping to reach semi final stages of championship], and also one of the goals we have as well as that would be to aim towards the league next year. We'd aim to try to get promotion up to the next league. We started slow this year and that's why we are mid table now. It's a case that one of our goals next year would be to push on and go for the league and championship.



HANDS UP: Round Tower's junior ladies team celebrate their shield success



Round Tower's Niamh McGrattan on the attack during the final at the Community Centre.
Photos by Matthew Lysaght

Shield success for St Anne's

ST. ANNE'S Senior Ladies clinched the Junior K Shield in a nail-biting final on Wednesday, the match would be an incredibly close affair with ultimately only three points separating the teams at the final whistle with the scoreline reading 4-4 to 1-10 in favour of St Annes with a dramatic late penalty sealing the Shield in Bohernabreena, *reports Michael Howley.*

A key component of the club's victory was the depth of the squad with the team being able to call upon quality players from the Under -15 and -16 squads to help bolster an already strong side. St Annes started quickly and scored the first two scores of the game to get themselves off on the right foot.

Fingal Ravens however would not be turned over easily and showed why they were slight favourites heading into the fixture. The teams went tit for tat with one another and nothing could separate them at the break heading into the tunnel with St Annes scoring 1-4 to Ravens 0-7.

Fingal Ravens would begin to put their stamp on the game in the second half and manage a five point lead for themselves. This would have been expanded on further had it not been for the outstanding performance of St Annes goalkeeper Robyn Hempenstall who ensured her team stayed in the game with a series of excellent saves. Her teammates repaid her efforts when Laragh Fogarty scored a goal that closed the gap on Fingal and brought St Annes back into the game.



St Anne's senior ladies team and (inset): captain Grace Mahon receiving the shield from referee David Maguire

The spirit of St Annes refused to be broken and through sheer grit and determination the girls clawed their way back into the match drawing themselves level with just a minute of regular time left on the clock. Now with nothing to separate the teams, five minutes of injury time was announced with everything still to play for.

It would be St Annes who would come out on top after Lynn Murphy was brought down in the box for a penalty to be awarded. Leah Kirwan stepped up to the spot and despite the pressure slotted home the ball to score her third goal of the night and ensure that St Annes found themselves in the front seat with only moments left in the match.

They would hold on to their lead and secure the win with a three point margin with captain Grace Mahon being presented the trophy at the end of the game.

While the Junior D ladies fell just short in their final against Na Fianna, losing by two points, it was a day of double celebration for the club as the Junior Hurlers were also crowned champions in their final.

Celebrations for St. Anne's went long into the night, marking a fitting end to a memorable championship.

Soccer

Super Saints share the spoils with Derry City

ORDINARILY securing a draw at the Brandywell would be considered a good result for any team in the league, however St Pat's will surely be disappointed in the manner that draw came about, *reports Michael Howley.*

Led by Tallaght's Stephen Kenny, the Saints travelled up north to play a team that is among the best in the league in Derry City, perennial title challengers and no pushovers.

A competitive game of football in the first half saw both sides take attempts on goal with each keeper making saves though admittedly each shot felt rather tame. It would be the midfield maestro Chris Forrester who would make the wheels start turning as he won back the ball in midfield and almost instantly played through an excellent ball to Mason Melia just minutes before halftime.

The 17-year-old did not disappoint and after some brilliant footwork slotted home the ball in the left hand corner. Now in double digit goals for the season Melia is showing that he is someone who can be relied on in Pats' front line.

Not just a goalscorer, Melia returned the favour in the 63rd minute, selflessly playing the ball off to Forrester allowing the veteran to make it 2-0 rather than adding to his own goal tally. Now Pats were cruising towards a comfortable victory which would have big ramifications on the table.

Until a goal of the season contender from Alex Bannnon of Derry City in the 75th minute, after receiving the ball at an angle right on the edge of the area, Bannon hit a seemingly hopeful looping shot that cleared everyone's head and just managed to dip down under the crossbar.

Just like that the momentum shifted and Pats were unable to hold on to the lead when that man again Alex Bannon managed to poke the ball home in a scrappy affair in the box from a corner kick. The spoils would be shared at the Brandywell with 2-2 the final score.

The result keeps Pat's within touching distance of those European spots though now they have played two games more than Shelbourne, while it looks fair to say now that the top three teams will be a combination of Rovers, Bohemians and Derry the fourth placed spot at the minute looks up for grabs to anyone between Drogheda, Pats and Shels.

St Pat's U14s book a spot in FAI Cup final

ST PATRICK'S Athletics U14 team will be taking on Shamrock Rovers in this year's Eddie Wallace FAI Cup final after a 2-0 victory against Waterford, *reports Michael Howley.*

The result came thanks to the goalscoring exploits of Matt Canny who managed a brace in the match to put the Saints on the road to the final. Manager Mark Connolly spoke of his side's performance.

"We were comfortable I thought throughout, the first two thirds we went 2-0 up, we created a lot of chances and just didn't take them in those first two thirds. Waterford went a little bit more direct in the last third in particular. They got a lot of big boys on. We physically wouldn't be a huge team whereas they would have a lot more physicality than we would have but we dealt with it well.

"For the boys that's their fourth clean sheet in a row now. Moving into the final it's a little bit of consistency coming into the squad that they might not have had earlier in the year but they're definitely after improving massively from where they were to where they are now."

Connolly reflected on the mentality of the team headed into the game,

"Like all games, the mentality of the whole club is to win every single game. We would always assume that we're better than everybody, we'd want to look at ourselves as being better organised, better individuals, better technically and tactically better. If you didn't have that belief going in as coaches then the kids wouldn't have it you may as well not participate in these sort of games."



St Patrick's Athletic U14's will take on Shamrock Rovers in the Eddie Wallace FAI Cup final after they beat Waterford

The U14 and U13 age groups are critical in the development of youth players for St Patrick's Athletic. The age groups see an influx of players from many of Pats partnered teams such as Cherry Orchard and Inchicore Athletic with coaches then tasked with creating a functioning team unit between players that may have never played with one another before.

"I think there's 12 different clubs represented in this U14s team, you can imagine trying to put them together, we need to get to know them, they need to get to know us and they need to get to know each other. For us it's a progression of where we're at at the end of the year. If we win and get to the finals it's brilliant but it's making sure that when we go to U15s then we're even more competitive and developing the players.

"The massive thing at this age group is developing the player, getting them to understand what's expected of them for when they go U17 and U20 because that's full time, that's a professional contract they're chasing."

The game against Rovers is scheduled to take place next month, but the two sides will be meeting each other in 'friendlies' beforehand. Connolly spoke on the nature of the games ahead.

"It'll be a proper Dublin Derby, we're looking forward to it and it's a great way to end the season off."

Clondalkin Celtic go goal crazy

THREE games in eight days, 17 goals scored, four conceded and nine points in the bag have Clondalkin Celtic sitting top of the UCFL Division 3C section at the end of the first week of the new season, *reports John Mooney.*

Last Saturday in Clondalkin Leisure Centre it was Lucan's IPY FC who faced the new look Celts, and after putting on a decent show had to bow to the power Clondalkin have when they turned the screw in a commanding second half to win out 4-1.

The home side have hit the ground running since the opening day and after just 10 minutes of this game had the lead, when Gavin Greene headed home a corner from the right from Robert Murray.

They could have easily doubled that lead before IPY got back in the game on 25 minutes, but Dylan Connor saw his effort well saved and then Adam Kinsella just lobbed his effort inches wide.

IPY's Muneeb Rouf took a corner from the left hand side of the field, keeper Derek McHugh could only parry the ball and Asad Ridoy was on hand to slot home.

That goal gave manager David Gilligan some food for thought and at half time he set the lads straight, and they responded within two minutes of the restart.

Dean Bollard latched onto a through ball from Abdul Hamidouche, rounded the keeper and rolled the ball home.

Tails were up and five minutes later it was 3-1 as Kinsella broke free from midfield and fired in a shot that was saved, but the ball came back to him and centred for Connor to score.

It meant that IPY had to throw players forward and inevitably leave gaps at the back, which the home side were only too happy to exploit and on 76 minutes they bagged the points with goal number four.

Daniel Mitchell won a battle in the middle of the park and played a one-two with Kinsella, before firing home to the bottom left hand corner of the net.

First week done and dusted, three wins, plenty of goals and top of the league for Clondalkin, so far so good.

CLONDALKIN CELTIC: Dave Brennan, Dean Bollard, Dylan Connor, Daniel Mitchel, Derek McHugh, Wayne Elliot, Gavin Greene, Adam Kinsella, Abdul Hamidouche, Stephen Bermingham, Robert Murray, Eugene Hill, Sean Murphy, Eoin Murrar, Sean Eustace.Jamie Kearney, Adam O'Keefe.





Clondalkin Celtic (above) beat IPY FC 4-1 (below) to make it three wins from three and sit top of the league Photos by John Mooney

Soccer

Rovers to bank over €3m after reaching group stages in Europe

SHAMROCK Rovers have qualified for the conference league group stage after a 0-0 draw against Santa Clara in Tallaght Stadium last Thursday, winning the tie on aggregate 2-1 after victory in the Azores the week previous, *reports Michael Howley.*

The result has ensured millions in the bank for Shamrock Rovers with the team earning over half a million from their performances in the qualifying rounds alone. Now that they have qualified for the 'league' or group phase, Rovers will receive a sum of just over €3m as they participate in the next round of the competition.

On top of the €3m received they will also be viable to earn performance related bonuses depending on their results. €400,000 being awarded for every win the team manages and €133,000 for every draw.

With last year Rovers winning three games that would see them collect an extra €1.2m. Finishing between ninth and 16th place generates a further €200,000 and reaching the knockout play off as they did last year would earn a further €200,000 also. Clearly the potential for earning in the Conference League is huge and while the likes of Chelsea who won the tournament last year would think nothing of seemingly paltry amounts, for a League of Ireland team the figures are monumental.

Rovers will begin their European campaign this season on October 2nd when they travel to Czechia to take on Sparta Prague. They have not been dealt an easy run of fixtures with the aforementioned Sparta Prague, AEK Athens and Shakhtar Donetsk all representing games that they will be heavy underdogs in. For Rovers to get anything from those games would be an excellent return and they will be viewing the matchups against old foes Slovenian side Celje, Icelandic team Breiðablik and Maltese outfit Hamrun.

Local lads named in Crawford's U21 squad

REPUBLIC of Ireland Under-21s Head Coach Jim Crawford has named a squad of 23 for the opening two games of the UEFA European Under-21 Championship Qualifiers against Moldova and Andorra.

Ireland travel to Moldova next week where they'll take on the Moldovans in Nisporeni on Thursday, September 4 before returning home to face Andorra at Tallaght Stadium in their first home game of the campaign on Tuesday, September 9.

Forwards Cian Dillon from Tallaght who plays with Queens Park Rangers gets a second call up after impressing in the June Internationals as is Mason Melia (St Patrick's Athletic) and 17-year-old Michael Noonan (Shamrock Rovers),

Melia is back with Crawford's squad after becoming the youngest player to score for the Under-21s in March.

Peamount continue winning streak with win over Rovers

PEAMOUNT United have continued their excellent form as of late with a fantastic derby win over local rivals Shamrock Rovers this past Saturday running out 1-0 victors in Tallaght Stadium, *reports Michael Howley.*

Now after winning their last three games against Bohemians, Cork and Shamrock Rovers Peamount are looking like a dangerous side with the results finally going their way after a string of solid performances but nothing to show for them.

Keeper Amanda Budden was immediately called into action in the 7th minute as she denied Emily Corbett with an excellent save after the Rovers striker found herself in through on goal. Peamount would respond at the other end only a few minutes later, Becky Watkins delivering an excellent ball across the box with Ellen Dolan's scuffed attempt almost finding its way into the back of the net, over the head of Rovers keeper Summer Lawless before bouncing off of the crossbar.

Dolan would avenge the miss about ten minutes later, after winning the ball from Melissa O'Kane in midfield Dolan delivered a fantastic looping shot from well outside the box which completely bypassed Summer Lawless and found its way into the top left corner of the goal. The deadlock had been broken and now Peamount had a lead to defend.

Often considered to be one of the most defensively sound teams in the division Peamount had plenty on their hands to deal with as Rovers came forward looking for a goal. Ella Kelly threatened on several occasions but the Peamount defense and Amanda Budden were able to nullify any threats. They would go close to adding a second to their tally in the 63rd minute as Ellen Dolan's curling effort was inches from finding the back of the net.

Amanda Budden was called back into action in the 86th minute producing a fantastic save to slow down a thumping shot from Emily Corbett, Lauryn O'Callaghan played a huge role in preventing the effort from crossing the line after, producing a goal line clearance right at the death of the game. Peamount would hold out for the remainder of the match securing all three points.

The win puts Peamount now on level with Bohemians and only four points behind Shamrock Rovers, a few weeks ago seemingly beyond touching distance of the rest of the table, Peamount now have a real springboard to use and can start climbing the places.



Anna Butler gathers possession for Shamrock Rovers in Tallaght Stadium
Photos by Una Murray



Karen Duggan and Ella Kelly of Shamrock Rovers in action in Tallaght Stadium



Karen Duggan clears her lines for Peamount

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Soccer

A special night for Rovers in Europe says boss Bradley



Shamrock Rovers manager Stephen Bradley and his son Josh celebrate qualification for the UEFA Conference League group stages. Photos by Darren Kearns

Over 8,200 supporters celebrate a superb result for the Hoops in Tallaght

IT WAS an emotional night for Shamrock Rovers who qualified for the UEFAConference League group stages after holding Portuguese side Santa Clara to a 0-0 draw at Tallaght stadium last Thursday night, *reports Michael Howley.*

Rovers had managed a 2-1 victory in the Azores the week before and thanks to some shrewd defending across the pitch, reached the group stages for the third time in four years.

The news around the club has been nothing but positive over the last week or so as along with results on the pitch, major victories off the pitch have been boosting morale across the club. Manager Stephen Bradley's son Josh has finished successful treatment for Leukemia. The Rovers fans paid tribute to Josh last week after the match in Portugal and did the same this time around holding an applause across the ground in the 11th minute as well as a banner across the South Stand reading "Your courage + bravery inspires us all, one Josh Bradley". Josh was present on the pitch at full time and celebrated with his father and the fans.

Speaking of the tribute Stephen Bradley said:

"The applause during the game was incredible, I didn't know it was going to happen, I didn't expect it. It was really moving. It was special. I can't describe the feeling, a real warmth and very emotional. Josh said to me before I left the house today and he never says it, he said 'you better win the game' so I said to the lads we better win this game for Josh and go through. For him to have that moment in front of the South Stand doesn't get much better on the night that you qualify for the league phase. Special night both as a father and as a manager."

Speaking after the game Stephen Bradley touched on the importance of the night for the club.

"Yeah it's a special night, it has to be up there as one of the best nights we've had at this club in my time. To beat a team of that level when you take into the level they play every week and budgets, to beat them over two legs coming through the path that we came through is special."

The Portuguese side looked comfortable in possession and were probing the Rovers defence looking for a way to get through but Rovers defence stopped them from getting any shots on target. McGinty's finest moments between the sticks came in the 70th minute as he produced a truly world class save to deny Gabriel Silva's volley from close range. The crowd of 8223 roared on the home side who survived late pressure from Santa Clara to secure a famous result and the most important yet of their season.

Hoops are in safe hands

SHAMROCK Rovers have qualified for the Conference League Group stages and while the whole team played a crucial role in achieving this the role of goalkeeper Ed McGinty cannot be overlooked particularly in that crucial game last Thursday against Santa Clara, *reports Michael Howley.*

Signing from Sligo Rovers last year, McGinty has blossomed into his first team position under Bradley with the Rovers boss regularly giving plaudits to the Scottish keeper and it is not hard to see why with performances like last week.

A volley in the 70th minute from Vinicius Junior seemed to be destined for the goal but McGinty produced a world class acrobatic save to send the ball over the crossbar. He was called on again towards the end of the game when in the last few minutes parried away a low shot that seemed destined for the bottom corner. The saves secured Rovers the victory and with that the chance to play European football as well as millions in the bank.

Speaking after the game McGinty gave his thoughts on the performance.

"It's a big team performance over the two legs from the lads. To go over there and get the winning result and to come back here. I thought we looked well today, I thought we had chances, they had a couple chances too. We done well".

After a similar chance was converted by Santa Clara in the week prior in the Azores, McGinty reflected on both instances.

"I was annoyed at last week's one [goal conceded in the azores], still am to be honest. I was just concerned whether it was getting over the bar and thankfully it did, the lads defended the corner very well after."

McGinty spoke on the opposition last week in Santa Clara and how keeper's keep themselves in the game when called upon.

"Very good individuals, very quick and moved the ball really well over the two legs, it's a great result to get past them. You're kind of always in the game, you're always talking and making sure defence is in the right position and getting information to Pico [Lopes], Lee [Grace] and Dan [Cleary]. I try to stay involved in games as much as I can even if it's just communication or positioning."



Ed McGinty celebrates with the Rovers fans after their game against Santa Clara Photo by Darren Kearns

'A spirit that can't be broken and I think that's very important'

STEPHEN Bradley is a name now synonymous with Shamrock Rovers,*reports Michael Howley.*

Now seen as the juggernaut of Irish football, this was not always the case and before Bradley's arrival the team had won two league titles in twenty years, with a pair of back to back successes in 2010 and 2011 being the only league victories in that time. It had been even longer since the club had won a cup.

Bradley spoke about the transformation that the club has seen since his appointment as head coach in 2016.

"When I came in I felt there was a disconnect there. Our average attendance was 700 and I felt there was no connection between the fans and the players of the club. I wanted to really change that and I've opened up everything we do to the fans. We go to the galas, the dos the nights, I think it's important over the years you get to know them personally and understand them and them with you as well."

"It helps when you're going through tough moments like last season domestically. We're able to stay together because you can relate to each other and I think that trust is built over years."

Bradley stated how watching "The Three Kings" documentary impacted his mentality regarding this.

"It was really special, the connection they had with the fans and the city and I remember thinking that was a special connection and that's a bond, as we say in the dressing room, a spirit that can't be broken and I think that's very important. We've worked on that for a long time, club, players, fans and staff altogether. I think that's why we can stick together through tough times and enjoy these moments."

Now with Shelbourne set to join Shamrock Rovers in the group stages of the upcoming Conference League, Rovers boss Stephen Bradley has given his thoughts on another Irish team being added to the mix.

"That should be our aim, to push the league, to get two of us in the league phase. We shouldn't shy away from that, we should embrace it and meet it head on. The days of League of Ireland teams feeling underdogs and feeling 'can we do this?' These days are gone. We're here to go and be better, we know with everything going on and the government funding that we need to take the league forward."

"We need to do our stuff on the pitch to build that trust and to show them it's worth investing in all facets of the game here. It's about building trust, and our business on the pitch was to get through and right up to Christmas now people will be talking about the league."

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