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A FRIEND FOR LIFE

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Dept of Justice to provide the site but up to Garda Commissioner to provide resources

Site for Garda Station at state-owned Citywest complex

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice has offered to use a site on the Citywest complex for a proposed full-time 24-hour Saggart Garda Station, reports James Roulston Mooney. See page 9

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Next Edition

The next edition of *The Echo* in the shops from Thursday, Nov 6, 2025. **Don't miss it!**

Saggart reeling after two nights of violent protests

VILLAGE: The Church in Saggart

A peaceful protest by residents was "seized upon by bad faith actors, who had no connection or

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

RESIDENTS of Saggart are still reeling from two nights of violent protest outside the Citywest Hotel last week.

However, many say that these events are the inevitable result of their concerns "not being

listened to".

Rioting broke out on Tuesday, October 21, outside the State-owned IPAS centre in Citywest, following the alleged assault of a ten-year-old girl on the hotel grounds.

A peaceful protest by residents was "seized upon by bad faith actors, who had no connection or care for our village", according to a statement by Saggart Village Residents Association (SVRA).

"To observe such violence on our street echoed across global media was heart-breaking," they said, thanking Gardai for "their presence and protection" and urging for calm in the community.

An Garda Síochána have maintained a presence outside the Citywest Hotel since the first night of violence, which was followed by a second night of rioting on the Wednesday.

To date over 30 people have been arrested and many charged with public order offences following the violence, and Gardai say they are continuing to investigate.

More protests by residents have taken place in the days since, but these have been peaceful, including a "family friendly vigil" on Saturday and a demonstration for women and children on the bank holiday Monday night.

Amanda is a Saggart resident and a member of the Saggart Guardians group, set up just a few months ago to oppose the purchase of Citywest by the government.

She was one of the organisers of Monday's Women and Children protest, as these are two groups that "do not feel safe" in Saggart.

"It's all over Ireland, not just in our village, but particularly in Saggart village, women and children haven't been feeling safe for a very long time," she told *The Echo*.

"We want it shut down, it's not fit for purpose, and we've been fighting this for a very long time.

"We're not against people coming in with proper documentation that are looking to integrate into Ireland, I'm married to an African man that came in as a refugee over 20 years ago," she said.

"The hostels he was in, there were curfews, there were no knives, no drugs, no fighting between people in the hostels, what you have in Citywest is different people all put in the one centre."

Amanda said she is friends with mothers in the centre whose children attend school with her own daughters, and that women and children living within the Citywest IPAS centre had been invited to the gathering but said they had been told by management they "would be evicted" if they took part.

"They're terrified for their children in there as well, because they're like 10 feet across from men, some who take drugs and alcohol, it's no place for a child," she said.

SVRA said that they and other

community groups in Saggart and surrounding areas had repeatedly raised concerns about the potential impact of the IPAS centre, "both in communication with councillors and via peaceful protest means", as well as concerns the village would become "a focal point for social agitators seeking to further their agendas".

"These were not engaged with in any substantial way," they said.

They called on the government to support community groups in the area as a "first line of defence" against misinformation and residents' concerns.

"The government made the decision to purchase Citywest Hotel without any community engagement, councillors and TDs also are reluctant to meet the public to share their concerns.

"This leaves resident groups to fill the gap between government and the people they serve," SVRA said, adding that this leaves them exposed to criticism and "being targeted".

A community engagement meeting took place on Monday, October 27, attended by local councillors and representatives from the Department of Justice, who offered to use a site on the Citywest complex for a full-time 24-hour Saggart Garda Station.

Amanda said this was a welcome move, but that when she sees it, she will believe it.

"I do hope it does happen. People just want to be heard."



PROTEST: Women and children peacefully protesting in Citywest

“It's all over Ireland, not just in our village, but particularly in Saggart village, women and children haven't been feeling safe for a very long time. We're not against people coming in with proper documentation that are looking to integrate into Ireland

Horse believed to be part of Citywest Riot found injured

Gardaí seized the horse and are investigating the incident

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

A HORSE that's believed to have been charged towards Gardaí during the Citywest riots was found injured in Tallaght on Monday.

The horse was found by Gardaí on patrol in Tallaght on Monday, October 27, "totally exhausted" according to animal welfare group My Lovely Horse.

"Today we had a call from An Garda Síochána Tallaght, this poor horse was lying on the ground and could not get up," the group said in a statement.

One of the gardaí who came across the animal had "horse experience", they said, and was able to get the horse off the ground and moving, although he was "totally exhausted and struggled to walk".

"When waiting on transport we discovered this is the horse in the video on the trap with a child on the drivers lap that was ridden into the riots at Citywest last week," the statement continued.

Social media footage from the unrest that took place outside the Citywest Hotel on Tuesday night, October 21, appears to confirm that the horse found in Tallaght was one of a number that protestors used to charge at members of An Garda Síochána's Public Order Unit who were protecting the IPAS centre.

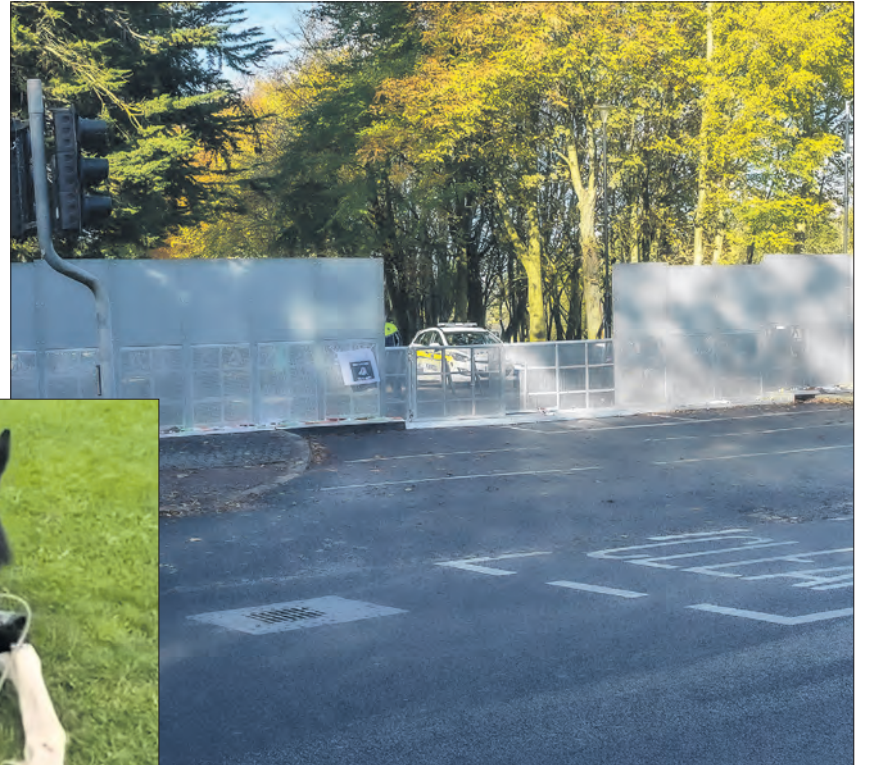
In a statement, Gardaí confirmed that its members had observed "a horse in a

public space in Tallaght" while on patrol on Monday.

"Gardaí seized the horse and are investigating this incident while also liaising with the relevant animal welfare organisations," a Garda spokesperson said, adding that investigations are ongoing.

My Lovely Horse said that the animal has suspected colic and "severe cuts on his legs from ill fitted straps and sores on his mouth from the bit", asking for donations to help support his care.

"This lovely boy is safe and getting the veterinary treatment he so deserves," they said.



ABOVE: Citywest centre with safety fence and left, the horse believed to have been charged toward Gardaí during the Citywest riots, found injured and abandoned



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Marathon man honours his wife and the donor who saved her life

Runner's wife Niamh received a kidney transplant from her best friend Lindsay

By **James Roulston Mooney**
jamesrm@echo.ie

A MAN ran the Dublin marathon in honour of his wife with kidney disease and her best friend, a Lucan resident who saved her life.

Stephen Rubotham ran the marathon for the Irish Kidney Association a month after his wife Niamh McCabe received a kidney transplant from her best friend Lindsay Daly at

Beaumont Hospital.

Niamh has polycystic kidney disease and went into end stage kidney failure in 2024 before Lucan resident Lindsay came to the rescue after Stephen was found not to be a match, but not after another setback.

Husband Stephen said: We were devastated to learn I wasn't a match, but Lindsay was waiting in the wings.

"After months of tests for Niamh and Lindsay's operations

to proceed, everything was lining up, but at the final stage, it was discovered that Niamh had developed unexplained antibodies.

"The surgery was called off."

The year-long wait paid off in September when the living donor kidney transplant was carried out.

Best friend Lindsay was discharged five days after the procedure to recuperate while Niamh returned home a few days

later.

Before her transplant Niamh had to step back from her role as a Special Needs Assistant as her chronic kidney disease had decreased her energy levels so much.

The mother of two went on a nightly peritoneal dialysis in January 2025 to combat this and saw improvements, even managing to go to Electric Picnic with her dialysis machine a week before the transplant operation.

"Dialysis didn't stop her trying to live a normal life, despite her condition leaving her very tired. She's incredible."

Stephen had planned to run the marathon alongside his nephew Luke, who was set to fly from Australia to take part.

However, an infection ruled out Luke and Stephen decided to run on his own for a cause dear to his heart.

"The Irish Kidney Association has helped our family

through some very tough years.

This marathon is my way of giving back and raising awareness about kidney disease and organ donation."

A fundraiser set up on eventmaster.ie to raise funds for the Irish Kidney Association smashed its target of €3,000.

Over €4,000 has been raised in aid of the charitable voluntary organisation as a result of Stephen's run and Niamh and Lindsay's story.



GIVING BACK: Marathon runner Stephen Rubotham visiting the hospital ward of wife Niamh where she reunited with her kidney donor friend Lindsay post transplant

Fun skating experience for families, friends and skating enthusiasts at South Dublin on Ice

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

The Square Tallaght is set to sparkle this winter with the grand opening of its much-anticipated Ice Rink in early November, proudly supported by South Dublin County Council.

Families, friends, and skating enthusiasts of all ages are invited to glide into the festive season at South Dublin on Ice, an exciting new attraction right in the heart of South Dublin.

The rink, located in The Square's outdoor plaza, will offer a fun and safe skating experience for everyone,

from first-time skaters to seasoned pros.

With a backdrop of festive lights, cheer and seasonal music, the ice rink promises to be a highlight of South Dublin's winter celebrations.

South Dublin on Ice will run from early November through the Christmas season, with special

sessions for schools, families, and groups, as well as festive events and entertainment planned throughout the winter.

School bookings will be catered for during school hours 9am to 3pm, while public sessions will run from 10am during holiday session and 4pm during school hours.

Special offers are available for group bookings, family passes, and school tours.

To book tickets and session times go to www.southdublinonice.ie.

Early booking is recommended to secure your preferred time slot.

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme



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'Fresh First' re-fit planned for Tesco in Ballyfermot

In the re-fit plan healthy items such as fresh fruit and vegetables are given priority positioning in the store

By James Roulston Mooney
jamesrm@echo.ie

THE BALLYFERMOT Tesco has been approved for a "significant capital investment" from Tesco Ireland to modernise its look.

Significant improvements are set to be made to the store front at the

Ballyfermot location, as well as a 'Fresh First' refit.

Tesco's Fresh First programme sees stores refitted so that healthy, perishable items such as fresh fruit and vegetables are given priority positioning in the store.

The store will acquire a new display area inside that is set to underline a commitment to fresh fruit and vegetables.

Councillor Vincent Jackson has

welcomed the update after years of lobbying for a better-looking store in Ballyfermot.

Cllr Jackson said: "Over the years, they weren't too happy to be honest about my comments about the store.

"But anyone I know in Ballyfermot will echo what I said."

Poor reviews detailing empty shelves, limited open tills and the cleanliness of the shop appear when the store is searched up online.

Cllr Jackson had recently described the layout of the Ballyfermot Tesco as something from the past and noted that it was "one of the worst stores in the Republic of Ireland."

In 2022, Tesco Ireland invested €50 million into new stores and store refurbishments across the country.

In July, a store in Virginia, Cavan

was reopened after a €3.5 million upgrade was completed following its purchase by Tesco Ireland last year.

Tesco expressed disappointment at the Ballyfermot representative's latest comments which were said at a recent area committee meeting in September.

A letter in response to Cllr Jackson reads: "We take pride in being a good neighbour, and in how our stores are presented for our customers and our communities... Tesco Ireland remains fully committed to the site, the store, and the 80 colleagues working there."

Tesco Ireland did make clear their disappointment at the state of the car park and clothes bank areas of the location, which are under the remit of the local authority.

The company noted that the area required more regular servicing from

Dublin City Council to improve the outdoor features of the site.

CCTV has been installed to watch the clothing banks to discourage the dumping of unloved clothing when the banks are full.

Cllr Jackson said that the issue was very visible over the summer months, and some were strewn across the car park and soggy.

Cllr Jackson added: "At least now, we started to have the mechanism to be able to prosecute people if they're quite evidently dumping there, you know..."

"...It's not only a maintenance thing with the companies – it's people's behaviour and leaving stuff beside them."

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme.



“At least now, we started to have the mechanism to be able to prosecute people if they're quite evidently dumping there, you know...”

Drug dealer jailed for five and a half years for selling drugs to undercover gardai and taking part in a €89,000 burglary

By Isabel Hayes
news@echo.ie

A DRUG dealer who sold drugs to undercover gardai and took part in the €89,000 burglary of a new Tesco store has been jailed for five and a half years.

Eric Norton (32) pleaded guilty to three counts of possessing drugs for sale or supply and two counts of possession of drugs at addresses in Dublin on dates in October 2020 and March 2021.

He also pleaded guilty to one count of burglary at Tesco in Adamstown on March 26, 2023. He has 101 previous convictions.

Detective Garda Grainne Collier told David Perry BL, prosecuting, that an undercover garda rang Norton and said they had seen his ad for drugs on Snapchat. Undercover gardai proceeded to buy drugs from Norton on three separate occasions,

including cocaine and tablets.

In February 2021, gardai noticed unusual activity in a basement flat in Fitzwilliam Square, with several young men coming in and out of the building. They discovered it was being leased out on a short-term basis by Norton.

When searched, gardai found Diazepam tablets, cannabis and ketamine with a combined total of just under €7,500. Documents found in the flat were linked to Norton, including his passport. He was arrested and questioned by gardai. When shown his passport, he admitted it was his and asked for it back as he needed it, the court heard.

While on bail for these drug offences, Norton and three other men arrived in a van at a Tesco store in Adamstown in March 2023 disguised as workmen. A fire test was being carried out in the store and the men gained access through an open shutter. They loaded €89,000 worth of

mobile phones, razors and cigarettes into the van before making their escape.

Norton was recognised in CCTV footage of the burglary and his DNA was found in the van when it was seized. He had photos and videos of the stolen goods on his phone, Garda Kevin Duffy told the court.

After entering guilty pleas to some of the drug offences, Norton failed to show up for a sentence hearing and a bench warrant was issued for his arrest, the court heard.

Keith Spencer BL, defending, said his client had a drug addiction at the time of the offending and his life had spiralled out of control. He engaged in crime to pay for drugs, defence counsel said. Norton has said he is now drug-free and his sponsor gave evidence on his behalf.

Sentencing him Tuesday, Judge Martin Nolan handed down sentences of two years and three and a half years, which he ordered to run consecutively.



Man broke into car pound to take back wife's car which was impounded due to thousands of unpaid M50 charges

By Declan Brennan
news@echo.ie

A MAN broke into a car pound to take back his wife's car which had been impounded due to thousands of unpaid M50 charges, a court has heard.

Keith O'Neill (38), of Sheehy Skeffington Meadows, Tallaght, Dublin 24, pleaded guilty to criminal damage at Ktech Security, Cookstown industrial estate, Tallaght on

December 3, 2021.

Prosecuting counsel Rebecca Smith BL told the court that a few days earlier, a car owned by O'Neill's wife was seized and taken to the secure yard in Tallaght. The car had €5,000 to €7,000 in unpaid tolls linked to it.

On December 2, the woman phoned to ask for the car to be returned and later that day she and O'Neill went to the yard to ask to get the car back. She contacted the yard again the next day and asked for items to be returned and there was some discussion about payments.

That night O'Neill was caught on CCTV breaking into the yard and taking the car.

The father of two cut through a lock valued at €500. The car was later recovered parked at a location not associated with his home address.

O'Neill has a number of previous convictions for criminal damage and for road traffic offences.

The court heard the break-in left the owner more concerned about the premises and that he had to increase the security.

George Burns BL, defending, said that the

outstanding toll fines were subsequently paid. He said his client isn't working currently and has had a lot of serious mental health problems in recent years.

Judge Nolan said that O'Neill broke in to take his wife's car back. He noted that most of his previous offending dates back to 2014 or before. He suspended a prison sentence of 18 months on condition that O'Neill keep the peace and be of good behaviour. He also ordered him to pay a sum of €750 over to the business owner or to a charity of his choosing.

Nina for Life charity tattoo day inks up almost €10,000 for suicide awareness

A KINGSWOOD charity group have raised almost €10,000 for suicide awareness after holding a tattoo day and raffle, reports Ellen Gough.

NINA For Life Suicide Awareness held their yearly tattoo day to raise money and awareness for their work in providing awareness and educating people about suicide, on Saturday, October 18.

Founder Jean Haas expressed her immense gratitude to all who attended the day at Kingswood Community Centre, as well as all the volunteer staff and tattoo artists.

"It was an amazing event for us, because we're only a small organisation, so every penny counts that we raise.

"We do workshops, and amongst all our stuff that we do, we don't charge people, so yeah, everybody that got inked, people that bought spot prizes, Kingswood Community Centre who give us the premises every year, you know, we're so grateful."

Jean founded NINA for Life after her son Christopher took his own life 12 years ago.

"We set up NINA because I felt I wanted to give something back instead of falling apart, which I did for two years," she said.

“When you lose somebody, grief is hard, but when its suicide, grief is a little bit harder, because you have all the anger and what ifs, and a lot of blame on yourself, especially when it's a child

"It keeps his memory alive as well, in a nice way, and hopefully, we're giving hope to people that are struggling.

"When you lose somebody, grief is hard, but when its suicide, grief is a little bit harder, because you have all the anger and what ifs, and a lot of blame on yourself, especially when it's a child. But Nina is being a big part of our community now, and hopefully we are helping people," Jean said.

Up to 150 people were tattooed by artists Jody and Tony and Derek from Skin Vibes Tattoo in Inchicore.

At €50 per tattoo, this raised €7,500, plus an additional €1,750 raised from the raffle.

Jean thanked all the artists and "beautiful volunteers" who helped out on the day, saying NINA for Life couldn't keep going without the community in Kingswood and wider south Dublin.

"We do our Family Fun Day every year and it's amazing, the whole community gets involved.

"Every tattoo has a symbol and a reason behind it and there were tattoos personal to people," she added.

"If you can give hope to people, I think that makes a little difference in the absolutely cruel world we're living in at the moment."



HELPING HANDS: Kelly Haas, Frankie James, Danny Haas, Jenny McGrath and Ciara Higgins-Mroz
See more photos on page 42

Locals raise over €5,000 for non-profit Animal Aid mission

Volunteers operate remotely and try to give animals a better life by connecting them with a home

By James Roulston Mooney
jamesrm@echo.ie

A LOCAL community has raised over €5,000 for a non-profit organisation that was temporarily forced to shut their doors due to mounting bills.

Clondalkin Animal Aid's mission is to give stray or surrendered animals, mainly dogs or cats, a better life by connecting or reuniting them with a home.

The team of volunteers operate entirely remotely and without permanent premises in their name.

Volunteer Claire Sherry exclaimed her joy at the fundraiser hitting the target in just a day: "It's unbelievable isn't it, it's quite unbelievable." The organisation has been

“We simply do not have enough money coming in to cover the outgoings. We have nothing in the bank and bills coming out of our ears

around since 1991 and has survived in their non-profit form for the last 34 years.

The team provide a range of services in aid of animals in the local area beyond rehoming.

In the event that rehoming is not possible, CAA will provide food and shelter for the animals and have taken in several pets to save them from horrific circumstances.

However, all this has a price and while Sherry is happy to keep going as long as they can stay afloat, she strained how easy bills can rack up for the business.

"If we can't get someone to foster some of the dogs, we have to use kennels, you know? And that's another bill . . ."



Photo credit:
Clondalkin Animal Aid

" . . . We do get a government grant, usually in December. Every year, you have to apply for it again and every year, you go through more stringent things, you know, asking more questions and more and more . . ."

" . . . If we're lucky enough to get it again this year, it'd be December."

One of the members of the team, Rachel Johnston, put the fundraiser up after they had to cease operations temporarily.

Rachel stated on the fundraiser page that the group need to fundraise but do not have the manpower at their disposal to plan and organise such things.

Rachel wrote on the fundraiser page: "We simply do not have enough money coming in to cover the outgoings. We have nothing in the bank and bills coming out of our ears."

"We are mentally, physically and financially drained. There's never an end – there's always more waiting for help, and we just can't give it."

Spooks, zombies and Monster Mash for Halloween festivities

Free events across South Dublin as we celebrate the season of ghosts and ghouls

By James Roulston Mooney
jamesrm@echo.ie

SOUTH Dublin has an incredibly busy Halloween schedule to celebrate the festival with lots of free events set to take place across the region this weekend.

Áras Chrónáin in Clondalkin will host a Halloween Céilí on Thursday, October 30 at 8pm with song and dance set to fill the evening.

Tallaght will host 'Tallaween' at Parthalán Place on Friday, October 31 from 11am to 4pm. Tickets are available on Eventbrite.

The event will include two movies screened, zombies and fire performers, while food trucks and glitter stations will be available on site.

A sensory-friendly option is available until 2pm.

Toddler time at the County Library in Tallaght will also take place on the Friday from 10.30am to 11.30am.

Lucan's Nightmare Realm scream park is running until Sunday November 2, with tickets still on sale for the last few days.

In Ballyfermot and Cherry Orchard on Friday, October 31, the D10 Halloween Festival will entertain attendees across various locations throughout the day.

A zombie run in Le Fanu Park will take registrations from 11am and start



at midday, while a Halloween disco is part of the 'Get Your Spook On' event at Cherry Orchard Equine Centre.

Markievicz Park will have some games and performances as part of Ballyfermot Youth Service's

'Halloween Spooktacular'. The 'Halloween Hullabaloo Party' will begin at 12 noon at the

Ballyfermot Family Resource Centre, with a party in Cherry Orchard also set to start at 2pm in the Orchard Community Centre that day.

The Community Civic Centre in Ballyfermot will host a ticketed sensory event run by the NeuroVibe Tribe from 11am to 2pm while all these other activities are ongoing.

A 'Monster Mash' at Familibase will have inflatables, arts & games tents, performances, music, face painting and much more from 2pm to 5pm.

A fireworks display in Cherry Orchard Park will conclude the day's proceedings at 7pm.

The Crumlin Halloween Festival will also be held on Halloween at Eamonn Ceannt Park – festivalgoers can ride a ghost train and dance to live music from 12pm to 4pm.

A walking tour of Tallaght Village hosted by Tomás Maher will begin at 11am on Saturday, November 1 – tea and coffee will follow at Aon Seéal Café.

'Spookdalkin' will take place in Clondalkin at Brú Chrónáin on Sunday, November 2 at 11am to 4pm with a Day of the Dead themed movie set to be screened, skeletons in the crowd and a mariachi band performing.

Costumes are encouraged for many of these events and prizes are available for the 'most spooktacular' at 'Tallaween' and 'Spookdalkin'.

Seán Crowe TD

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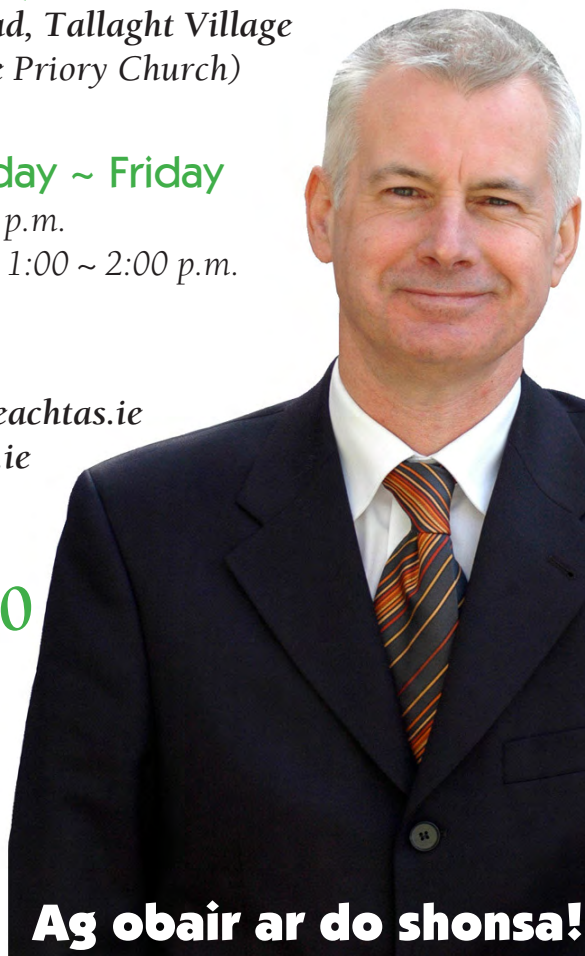
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court reports



Funded by the Local Courts Reporting Scheme

Father allegedly sent emotionally abusive message to teenage son

A FATHER who allegedly messaged his teenage son on PlayStation telling “don’t be a pussy” saw his case struck out.

The man, who cannot be identified, was in Tallaght District Court, facing a potential breach of a Safety Order.

The court heard from the man and his former partner, the mother of their son, whom he is separated from, in court.

Garda Shane Kenna,

Tallaght Garda Station, said he was contacted by the mother after the father contacted the son on February 22, 2025, via a message on PlayStation.

The woman was “in fear” because no contact was to be made with the son due to a Safety Order that was in place.

It is alleged that the father sent an “emotionally abusive message” to his son, who was 15-years-old at the time, saying “don’t be a pussy

you’re nearly a man now.”

The son previously blocked his father on social media accounts including Tik Tok and Snapchat.

Following the message, the son told the mother and pictures of the message were sent to gardai.

Taking to the stand, the mother said another Safety Order was added this year and alleged there had been other Facebook messages sent to the

son since then, including one that said “I’m your father don’t forget.”

“That’s not how you talk to a 15-year-old child that you are trying get back into your life ‘don’t be a pussy you are nearly 16,” said the mother.

She said her son previously told the father at The Square shopping centre that he didn’t want to see him right now but if he does he will let him know.

Judge Patricia McNamara said that there was no evidence that the original messages on Facebook and PlayStation had been checked, and that there was no evidence how the messages got to gardai other than oral evidence by the injured party.

“But it has to be proven beyond reasonable doubt. I do not believe there is a case to answer. I’m going to strike it out,” said Judge McNamara.

Disqualified and fined for failing drug sample test

A MOTORIST who failed a drug sample test was fined and disqualified from driving.

Larkin Mooney (23), Moorefield Grove, Clondalkin, appeared before Blanchardstown District Court facing road-traffic charges.

Garda Laura Tunney told the court that on April 23, 2024, the accused was stopped on Thomas Omer Way in Clondalkin in a Toyota Yaris, and lawful demand was made for motorist documents.

Mr Mooney subsequently provided a sample but failed, and also failed to produce driving documents including insurance.

The court heard Mooney had two previous driving convictions, including a drug-driving offence and one-year disqualification in 2023.

Defence solicitor Ciaran MacLoughlin said his client acknowledged drug issues on the road but was not driving now, has a child, and was co-operative with gardai.

The court heard he is actively looking for work and was working in the car industry at the time of the offence.

Judge John Brennan was concerned that Mr Mooney had generated three offences in a “short period of time”, that he was disqualified when the latest offence occurred and was “not learning his lesson” particularly with his “partiality to drugs, especially cocaine.”

However, he noted the early guilty plea, that the defendant hasn’t come to garda attention since and that he is a father of a young child with limited means.

Judge Brennan disqualified Mr Mooney from driving for six months with a €200 fine and fined him €100 with 11 months to pay for no-documents.

Woman at restaurant had to be restrained by gardai

Defendant was highly intoxicated and fighting with another female



By Maurice Garvey

maurice@echo.ie

A WOMAN who had to be restrained by gardai following an altercation with another female at a restaurant in Liffey Valley Shopping Centre, was remanded on continuing bail for a charitable donation.

Mary Stokes (31), of Shancastle Avenue, Clondalkin, appeared before Blanchardstown District Court, charged with public order offences.

The court heard that on September 18, 2025, gardai responded to a disturbance at Cosmos restaurant in Liffey Valley where two females were fighting.

On arrival, the defendant was highly intoxicated and refused to leave, shouting at Garda James Byrne.

The court heard she tried to grab a glass and a jug, before being removed from the premises and restrained in handcuffs.

Ms Stokes was taken to Ronanstown

Garda Station and had to be restrained when she was put in a cell.

Defence solicitor Simon Fleming said his client on the day had engaged in a “drastically clouded judgement” but that she is someone who has no previous convictions and works in retail.

Mr Fleming said his client comes from a Traveller background and although some other members of the family have faced serious charges in the past she has not, and had pleaded guilty to the

charges. Judge John Brennan said it was concerning that the defendant failed to calm down on the day in question but took into account her no-previous convictions, that Ms Stokes was otherwise a hard working woman working fulltime and “hopefully it was a once-off.”

Ms Stokes was remanded on continuing bail to November 30, for a charitable donation of €100 to Merchant’s Quay Project.

Bridegroom in court after pre-wedding fracas said nuptials were in 10 minutes

A BRIDEGROOM appeared in court shortly before his wedding was due to take place.

Thomas McCarthy (23), with an unknown address in the UK, appeared before Blanchardstown District Court, charged with public order offences arising from pre-wedding celebrations at a hotel.

The court heard that gardai were called to a disturbance at the Clayton Hotel in Lucan, after midnight on October 21.

Mr McCarthy was highly intoxicated and was

arrested and brought to Lucan Garda Station.

He refused to give gardai an address and uttered numerous slurs at gardai including “penis face”, calling Garda Heffernan a “scumbag” and Garda Kennedy a “dirty lesbian.”

Asked by Judge John Brennan when his wedding was due to take place, McCarthy said “in ten minutes.”

Defence counsel Kelly Breen understood from her client that the priest was being updated as the proceedings took place to delay and push back the

ceremony, which was to take place in Clondalkin.

The court heard the defendant is Irish, is marrying an Irish bride and lives in the UK, is not working at the moment but had “far too much alcohol” on the night in question.

“He is the groom. I understand other family relatives are here. There was far too much alcohol involved,” said Ms Breen.

Judge Brennan considered the case for a victim-impact statement from the hotel due to the “huge aggression” that Mr McCarthy engaged in

on the night with staff, with gardai and the “worst kind of language.”

“Extraordinary that on the eve of your wedding, you think you would have some level of self-control,” said the Judge.

However, to deny him the opportunity to go to his wedding would be “unduly harsh.”

Mr McCarthy was remanded on bail to Blanchardstown and directed to have a sum of €500 on the day for a charitable donation to the Merchants Quay Project.

Site for Garda Station at the state-owned Citywest complex

Department of Justice will provide the site but it is up the Garda Commissioner to provide resources

By James Roulston Mooney
jamesrm@echo.ie

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice has offered to use a site on the Citywest complex for the proposed full-time 24-hour Saggart Garda Station.

The news comes after an incident involving an asylum seeker and a young girl that received nationwide attention and regular protests in the last week.

Councillor Francis Timmons attended the community engagement team meeting on Tuesday where the news was shared.

Cllr Timmons exclaimed: "The Department [of Justice] has said they will provide a site for a Garda station on the grounds of the state-owned Citywest complex, but it's up to the Garda Commissioner to provide resources!"

The area of Saggart is currently served by Rathcoole Garda Station, which has limited opening hours.

Rathcoole's station is open seven days a week from 8am to 6pm but closes for an hour from 1pm to 2pm in between this.

The proposal for the Saggart station will provide a station closer to home for locals as well as one that can be visited outside of many people's working hours.

Cllr Timmons said: "It's not good enough and I demand that the



GARDA STATION: Department of Justice will provide a site for a Garda station on the grounds of the state-owned Citywest complex

community is listened to.

I have spoken to and listened to many people in Saggart and surrounding areas who feel unsafe and in fear, the Department of Justice and government must act immediately to restore a sense of community safety in Saggart."

Gardaí have continued to make arrests following the chaotic scenes at Citywest last week, which saw a Garda van set alight, and projectiles launched at the Public Order Unit.

Over 30 people have been arrested for their role in the public disorder with Gardaí still appealing for information on persons involved.

The State completed the purchase of the Citywest Hotel and Conference Centre in August for €148.2 million and has continued to use it as a transit hub and accommodation centre for people seeking international protection.

"The state now owns the Citywest complex, and this would be an ideal

location to base a station to serve the Four districts and to enable a rapid response to the public.

"I've heard of people not reporting crime due to a feeling of 'what's the point!' This is not good enough...no one should feel unsafe in their community regardless of where there from."

According to the Department of Justice, the site is one of the "suggestions" under consideration.

The Department of Justice stated: "Community members and elected representatives have raised suggestions about local services as part of these engagements, and in other fora.

"These suggestions include the potential development of a new Garda Station in Saggart as part of the Citywest campus that is now in State ownership."

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme.

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Now and Then auditions for Back to the 80s

“GET READY to moonwalk back in time,” beams director Catherine Griffin. The Now And Then Production Company is thrilled to announce auditions for their next spectacular production, 'Back To The 80's'.

Auditions will take place on Thursday, November 6, from 7pm in St Mary's Priory, Tallaght Village, with the show set to hit the stage next April in the Kilnamanagh Family Recreation Centre.

Founded back in 1990 by Patricia Dunne, who is now the honorary president, the group continues to thrive under the same ethos 35 years later.

The Now And Then Production Company has long been a vibrant part of the local arts scene, bringing joy, nostalgia, and incredible performances to the Tallaght community.

The buzz surrounding this year's show has been enormous, with a significant influx of registrations already pouring in for auditions.

“But don't worry,” reassures Catherine, “the doors are still open!” Whether you are a seasoned performer or brand new to the stage, there is a place for everyone in Now And Then.

Auditions are for lead roles, but anyone who would like to be part of the

chorus or just work behind the scenes is encouraged to “rock up to our next rehearsal” on Monday, November 3, at 8pm in St Maelruian's Parish Hall to get involved.

Now And Then's production dream team of director Catherine Griffin, musical director Kenneth Whelan, and choreographer Brigid Kelly are calling on all auditionees to come along with an open mind, plenty of energy, and most importantly, to have fun.

“So dust off your leg warmers, tease that hair, and join The Now And Then Production Company as they take you Back To The 80's!”



€120million refurbishment for Baldonnell headquarters

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

GOVERNMENT plans for a €120million refurbishment and extension are being developed for the Air Corps headquarters at Baldonnell to accommodate the force's expanding aircraft fleet.

The details of five new proposed hangers and extensive refurbishment of existing buildings at Casement Aerodrome have been published in tendering documents from the Department of Defence.

It comes as the government seeks to transform the Irish Air Corp from a branch of the Army to a stand-alone organisation on a par with the Army and Navy, and it will be renamed the Irish Air Force.

The first proposed phase will see two existing hangers at Baldonnell be refurbished and construction of a new hanger to serve as a base maintenance hub, at an estimated cost of €85 million.

There are also proposals for four additional new hangers at a cost of €40 million.

The expansion is needed to accommodate the Air Corps growing fleets of fixed wing aircraft and helicopters, as there currently is not enough hanger space for all three newly acquired Airbus C295s.

One of the three Airbus C295s, acquired for long-range transport and maritime patrol use, is



without hanger space and currently must sit on the tarmac at Baldonnell.

New hanger space will also be required for four new Airbus H145M helicopters, to be used for pilot training and to enhance intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance and light combat capabilities, as well as a new fleet of “super-medium” helicopters for troop transport, search and rescue and air ambulance

operations.

Speaking at the delivery of the last of the three Airbus C295s, Tánaiste Simon Harris said the procurement of these aircraft represented “a significant enhancement of the State's transport, airlift and medical capabilities, and is further evidence of the government's ongoing commitment to enhance the capabilities of our Defence Forces”.

Echo on Tour



The Echo on tour in Bratislava, Slovakia with Cllr Francis Timmons

Cllr Mick Duff

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Email:
mduff@cllrs.sdublincoco.ie

Twitter: @CllrMickDuff



Residents call for more attention to be given to Drumfinn Park

“IT'S A forgotten place, it's a lovely pocket park.”

Local residents have called for more attention to be given to Drumfinn Park in Ballyfermot.

Residents have asked for more maintenance to be done within the space and improvements added to the area.

The park is surrounded by the Ballyfermot Garda Station, Youthreach and the Liffey Partnership among the many establishments overlooking the square, as well as housing.

Councillor Vincent Jackson noted that more is needed to take care of the area than is already provided by the local authority.

Cllr Jackson stated: “The council will cut the grass in it periodically and do little things, but it needs more than that. It needs a bit more attention.”

The Ballyfermot Councillor added that there is an opportunity available to the council to work alongside nearby groups like Youthreach to help maintain the park.

However, he did note that maintaining the space to the quality of another local green space, People's Park, would not be possible, despite stating that it was “the gold standard.”

He explained that private contractors maintain People's Park and the daily maintenance there, including grass-cutting, weeding and litter picking, is expensive work.

“I'd say it's quite expensive to get it done so I don't [want to] lead people up the garden path letting people think that every park can be like that.”

“I wish it would be, but it's not going to be.”

Cllr Jackson said that the area is well used in the summertime when the weather is at its best.

A basketball court is on the left-hand side of the pocket park, and some benches are dotted on the right half.

However, Cllr Jackson feels that more can be done to make it more appealing for people who make use of the public amenity.

Improving the paths, waste removal, flower planting and improvements to the green, which can be used for other sports, would all improve Drumfinn Park, according to the Ballyfermot representative.

“Anything that would bring additional footfall makes the place safer, and the more something is used, the better it's kept.”

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme.

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As Catherine Connolly prepares to move to the Áras the after-effects of a divisive election continue to be felt

Whether the left alliance lasts to bear fruit in a general election remains to be seen

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

As Catherine Connolly prepares for her move to the Áras to serve her seven years as Ireland's president, the after-effects of probably one of the most divisive elections in the State's recent history continue to be felt.

While the actual electoral turnout was 45.8% (just shy of 2% higher than the 2018 presidential elections), Ms Connolly took home a whopping 914,143 votes, or 63.36%, winning by one of the highest margins in the history of all presidential elections.

Her campaign and election are the culmination of highly organised and extremely unlikely left-wing alliance between independents, Sinn Féin, Social Democrats, Labour, and People Before Profit.

Whether that alliance lasts to bear fruit in a general election remains to be seen, but it was more than enough to see off Fine Gael's Heather Humphries 29% of the vote, who was entered in this race as a last minute replacement for Mairead McGuinness and whose campaign will forever be remembered for mud-slinging at Catherine Connolly over anything else.

As a final kick in the teeth, Fianna Fail and Jim Gavin failed to even achieve enough votes – around 12.5% of the valid poll – to be able to recoup up to €250,000 of their election expenses.

The former Dublin manager pulled out of the race to the Áras in early October due to controversy over money he owed to a former tenant but remained a valid candidate on the ballot, earning just 7.2% of the vote nationally.

The real runner up of this presidential election is the 'Spoil the Vote' campaign, launched barely a week before polling day.

213,738 votes were spoiled, accounting for 12.9% of the total vote and the highest number of spoiled votes ever counted in any Irish election.

Messages on the ballot papers ranged from simple Xs beside all three candidates, to insults like 'traitors' and 'jokers', to full-blown

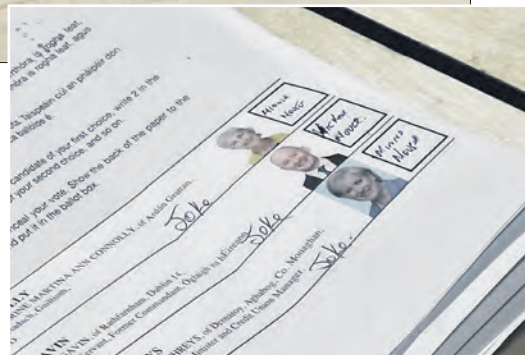


ELECTION: The count centre in Dublin South West and inset, a spoiled vote

manifestos and arts and crafts level of defacing.

Speaking off the record to *The Echo*, one member of staff at the Dublin City count centre in the RDS said they had "never seen anything" like the level of spoiled votes and that some of the messages scribbled on the ballots were "frightening".

Many spoiled ballots referenced recent



events in Saggart, where two nights of rioting broke out following the alleged sexual assault of a ten-year-old girl on the grounds of the State-owned IPAS centre in the Citywest Hotel.

Saggart sits within the Dublin Mid-West constituency, which saw the second-highest level of spoiled ballots returned from all 43 constituencies

Echoopinion...

Make safety and fun your priorities this Halloween

HALLOWEEN is a busy time of year in every community and is also an important time for those within these communities to showcase their respect for one another.

Everyone loves to have fun on Halloween, but it should not be done to the detriment of others and those in our communities must be aware of this.

Fireworks will naturally be set off at this time of year, but the set up and firing of them must be done responsibly and at a time that won't wake the neighbours up.

Dogs, among other household pets, will be terrified of these displays and owners must be wary of that as the time draws near, as well as those who wish to put on the shows.

Furthermore, there have been several accounts of antisocial behaviour in parks over the last few months and there will be more next Friday, no doubt about it.

People must care for the amenities that they share with others – there are more interesting ways to have fun than to wreck something that everyone enjoys.

Drivers must take care with trick-or-treaters advancing on houses for sweets and those in the act of searching for these sweets must also be considerate of motorists and cyclists on the dark Halloween evening by wearing reflective gear.

Safety is a priority, if people stand by that then there won't be any compromise to the fun people can have, only less danger that can come from it.

across the country, at 20.2%.

Just over 19% of the total ballots cast in the Dublin South Central constituency were marked spoiled, while 14.5% ballots in Dublin South-West were also deemed spoiled, with at least two boxes from the Tallaght/Jobstown areas returning more spoiled ballots than actual valid ones.

Many spoiled ballots also had Maria Steen or other failed candidates added as options, reflecting calls by Ms Steen and others for a review of the council or Oireachtas routes for prospective candidates.

While the decision of Fine Gael to block their members from nominating any other candidates has been criticised as "undemocratic", it can also just be seen as a political party exercising their whip as is their right.

Catherine Connolly may have officially announced her independent candidacy in July, but rumours of a run by the former Leas-Cheann Comhairle had been well-founded long before.

Perhaps if candidates like Garth Sheridan and Maria Steen had started to seek nominations a little earlier than August and September respectively, they might have had more success.

At the end of what has felt like a particularly bruising campaign, Catherine Connolly will now be sworn in as the tenth – and third female - Uachtarán na hÉireann on November 11.

Presidential Election Results 2025

ELECTRATE	Turnout	C CONNOLLY	J GAVIN	H HUMPHREYS	Invalid/spoil
Dublin South-West					
113,193	46.0%	28,079 63.0%	4,084 9.2%	12,375 27.8%	7,537 14.5%
Dublin Mid-West					
85,112	42.4%	20,412 70.8%	2,683 9.3%	5,724 19.9%	7,287 20.2%
Dublin South-Central					
71,384	41.1%	18,750 79.0%	1,266 5.3%	3,723 15.7%	5,585 19.0%

Five and a half years jail following seizure of €700,000 worth of cannabis and cocaine

By **Fiona Ferguson**
news@echo.ie

A MAN has been jailed for five and a half years following the seizure of €700,000 worth of cannabis and cocaine.

Alan Tighe (38) was arrested following the controlled delivery of €360,000 of cannabis concealed in air compressors and a further €352,000 of cocaine later found in a van.

Dublin Circuit Criminal Court heard that Tighe became involved in the offending due to debt linked to his cocaine use and was working under duress arising from the debts.

Tighe, of Birchwood Drive, Tallaght, pleaded guilty to possession of drugs for sale or supply at

Centre Point Business Park, on October 17, 2023 and at an underground car park in Tallaght on October 18, 2023. He has prior convictions for road traffic offences.

Passing sentence on Friday, Judge Martin Nolan said Tighe was there to receive, hold and probably transport the drugs. He said Tighe was vulnerable by reason of his addiction.

Judge Nolan said in mitigation Tighe was a good family man and had entered an early guilty plea.

The judge said he could depart from the mandatory 10 years' imprisonment applicable to these offences. He imposed five and a half years concurrent sentences.

Garda Kevin Cooney told Carol Doherty BL,

prosecuting, that gardai were alerted by customs to a consignment of cannabis in a delivery of air compressors. Gardai rang the phone number on the delivery and made contact with Tighe, who said he would accept the delivery.

Gardai travelled to the business park where the delivery was to be made and arrested Tighe at the scene. The cannabis was found to have a street value of €62,000.

The court heard the garda investigation connected Tighe to a van in an underground car park in Tallaght and a search the following day found it to contain €352,000 of cocaine.

Giollaíosa Ó Lideadha SC, defending, said his client had a cocaine addiction at the time, had run up significant debts and was getting "money off

the bill" for this operation. He said Tighe was working under duress arising from the debts and had no signs of wealth.

He said Tighe's role was not sophisticated and he made admissions in relation to his own role only.

Counsel handed in letters from Tighe's family and friends outlining their positive experiences of him, his strong work ethic and the changes in him since this offence. He said there has been a complete change turn around in his circumstances.

Mr Ó Lideadha asked the court to take into account his client's early guilty pleas, his co-operation, good work history and personal circumstances.

Half of Cycle South programme to be completed by end of 2025

Active Travel scheme will eventually deliver almost 270km of cycle lanes

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

UP TO 50 per cent of the council's Cycle South Dublin programme is set to be completed by the end of 2025.

Cycle South Dublin is an ambitious programme of work under the council's Active Travel scheme, that is set to deliver approximately 263km of new and improved cycle lanes through 45 different projects by 2029.

There are currently 11 projects in varying stages of development for 2025, with six due to be completed by the end of this year, according to the SDCC director of climate action, Teresa Walsh.

These include the Airton Road extension scheme, Dodder Greenway section 5 (Butterfield Road, Firhouse Road and Spawell Link Road), the D24 neighbourhood Network Phase 2 (Ballycullen and Killininy Road), Castletymon Road Phase 1a (District centre to Greenhills Road), Grand Canal to Lucan Urban Greenway Phase 1a (Grand Canal to Esker Lane) and the Grand Canal Greenway (12th Lock to Hazelhatch).

Projects currently under construction or ready to commence in 2025/early 2026 include the Templeville Phase 2 and Glendown Active Travel schemes as one project (works ongoing, to complete in summer 2026), Castle-tymon Road South (to link to the

Dodder Greenway), Firhouse Road Active Travel Improvement Scheme, Whitehall Road Active Travel Trial scheme and the Tallaght to Clondalkin Phase 1 (south of Cookstown Road).

The Tallaght to Clondalkin Phase 1 will be held until completion of the Uisce Éireann works on Belgard Road in 2026.

As of this October, 50 per cent of the Cycle South Dublin network will be delivered or will be ready to commence works, Ms Walsh said in her written reply to a question from Cllr Eoin Ó Broin at the full monthly council meeting on October 13 about the work currently being done to implement the programme.

She added that continued delivery of the Cycle South Dublin "is dependent on significant annual funding provided by the National Transport Authority".

Earlier this year the NTA granted €21.5 million to South Dublin County Council to "progress its Active Travel and School Safety programme of works throughout 2025".

In addition to the active travel and cycle routes, South Dublin Safe School Zones schemes are developed and delivered by the Active Travel section.

Ms Walsh also said that there are seven other Cycle South Dublin projects at various stages of design and planning.

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme



ACTION: Cycle South Dublin

Lucan wastewater network to receive €3 million Uisce Éireann investment

The programme is a targeted investment to increase the capacity of water and wastewater infrastructure to enable social and economic growth and development, including the delivery of essential housing

By **James Roulston Mooney**

jamesrm@echo.ie

THE WASTEWATER network in Lucan is set to get a €3 million investment from Uisce Éireann.

The network located in Tobermaclugg has the capacity to support over 14,000 homes, should future developments come about.

Works to upgrade the existing wastewater pumping station will be undertaken as part of Uisce Éireann's national Growth and Development Programme.

The programme is a targeted investment to increase the capacity of water and wastewater infrastructure to enable social and economic growth and development, including the delivery of essential housing.

Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage James Browne TD commented, "This upgrading work by Uisce Éireann will enable the potential delivery of badly needed new homes in South Dublin.

"Housing delivery is the top priority of this Government, and this project demonstrates the investment we are making in public water infrastructure to accelerate house building."

Housing targets for local authorities recently increased, causing brainstorming and concern within council chambers.

The new baseline annual housing growth requirement under the NPF is now 3,217 new dwellings per annum up

to 2034 and 2,414 from 2035-2040.

The previous target was listed under the South Dublin County Development Plan 2022-2028 as 2,600 dwellings per annum until 2034.

Uisce Éireann Programme Manager Ciaran Ryan welcomed the investment, with the belief that it will help future growth of the Lucan area.

Mr Ryan said: "We are delighted to be delivering these works for the community. These works will increase the capacity of the wastewater infrastructure, facilitating social and economic growth, including planned residential development."

GMC Utilities Group Ltd. are working on behalf of Uisce Éireann to deliver the project, which is expected to be complete in Q4 2026. Works are confined to the existing pump station site, located at Tubber Lane, with advance site access signage in place.

Uisce Éireann understands that this type of work can be inconvenient and works crews will make every effort to minimise any disruption these necessary works may cause. Standard working hours are 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday.

Uisce Éireann is responsible for delivering public drinking water and wastewater services for the people of Ireland. We are committed to enabling communities to thrive by continuously upgrading and developing critical infrastructure to support sustainable growth and development, providing safe drinking water, and enhancing the environment.

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme.



WASTEWATER: The network in Lucan is set to get a €3 million investment from Uisce Éireann

SDCC
Comhairle Contae South Dublin
Átha Cliath Theas County Council

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ACQUIRE DERELICT SITE COMPULSORILY UNDER DERELICT SITES ACT 1990 (AS AMENDED BY THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000)

Notice is hereby given that South Dublin County Council (hereinafter referred to as the "local authority") in exercise of the powers conferred on them by section 14 of the Derelict Sites Act, 1990 intend to acquire compulsorily under the said Act the derelict site described hereunder.

A map of the said derelict site has been deposited at the offices of South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Town Centre, Tallaght, Dublin 24 and the Civic Offices, Clondalkin, Dublin 22 and may be inspected there between 30th October 2025 and 28th November 2025 during hours of business.

A copy of the map may also be viewed online at www.sdcc.ie, where information in relation to current hours of business may also be found.

Any owner, lessee, or occupier (except a tenant for a month or a period less than a month) may, on or before **4.00 p.m. on the 28th day of November 2025** submit to the local authority an objection to the proposed compulsory acquisition of the derelict site. Any such objection must be in writing, stating the grounds of the objection and addressed to the local authority at:

The Senior Executive Officer, Climate Action, South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Tallaght, Dublin 24.

Description of Derelict Sites Proposed to be Acquired

Derelict Site at 38 Russell Crescent, Tallaght, Dublin 24, comprising as Apartment No. 38, second Floor, Russell Crescent, Russell Square, Dublin 24, situate in the Townland of Jobstown, in the Barony of Uppercross contained within Folio 132362L of the County Dublin Register of Ownership of Freehold Land, and shown outlined in red on map reference numbers DS 1726-00 and DS 1726-01.

Dated this 30th day of October 2025.

Web: www.sdcc.ie



MEP Lynn Boylan will host a workshop to bring together experts and activists for a free panel event focused on EU trade policy

By **Ellen Gough**

ellen@echo.ie

DUBLIN MEP Lynn Boylan is set to host a free panel discussion and workshop to bring together experts and activists for an event focused on EU trade policy this November.

"Never Waste a Good Crisis: Building an alternative to rotten trade deals" is the theme of the trade event taking place at the European Parliament Liaison Office in Ireland at 3pm on Thursday, November 6.

It will feature a panel of experts discussing the EU's trade policy, and the impact it has on ordinary people.

"The event is called "never waste a good crisis" because this is exactly what is being done by the EU, and by the government here, using the Trump tariffs as a smokescreen to secure rotten trade deals," a statement from Ms Boylan's office said.

"The EU is using this chaos to ram through the Mercosur deal, which will flood the market with South American beef, this isn't just bad for the climate, but it's bad for our farmers, and bad for the health of the consumers too.

"Here in Ireland, the government are doing the same thing to have the CETA deal fully ratified."

The CETA (Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement) deal, is a trade deal between the EU and Canada that eliminates customs duties and other tariffs to

make trade easier between the two regions.

Provisionally implemented by Ireland since 2017, it has not been fully ratified yet due to issues over a mechanism within the agreement for settling disputes between investors and sovereign governments

"Even the vulture funds that are driving the housing crisis in Dublin could sue the government here if they ever did anything that impacted on their profits, if the CETA deal was fully ratified," the statement from Ms Boylan's office continued.

The issues over the CETA and Mercosur deals, both "bad news for the majority of people here", will be discussed at the event by Ms Boylan and "a panel of experts".

These include former Irish Daily Mirror and Star environment correspondent and event chair Shauna Corr; farmer Fergal Anderson, from county Galway and co-founder of Talamh Beo; Jean Blaylock, coordinator of the European Trade Justice Coalition; solicitor Fred Logue, who acted for Patrick Costello TD, in the successful challenge to Ireland's ratification of CETA and Leah Sullivan, a Trade and Climate Policy Coordinator at Climate Action Network Europe.

"Never Waste a Good Crisis: Building an alternative to rotten trade deals" will take place from 3pm-5pm at the European Parliament Liaison Office in Ireland on Balfe Street, Dublin 2.

Doors open at 2.30pm, register for a free ticket on Eventbrite.ie

SDCC
Comhairle Contae South Dublin
Átha Cliath Theas County Council

ROADS ACT 1993, SECTION 75 TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF HAZELHATCH ROAD R405, CO. DUBLIN

To facilitate GMC Utilities Ltd. on behalf of Uisce Éireann to install a watermain, South Dublin County Council has made an order to temporarily close the following road:

Road Name: Hazelhatch Road (R405) Co. Dublin from junction of R405 with Loughtown Road and the junction of R405 with Athgoe Road.

From: Monday 10th November 2025.

To: Friday 8th May 2026.

Excluding: **December 24th 2025 to January 4th 2026.**
Works will resume on Monday 5th January 2026.

Time of Closure: 24hrs daily.

Detour Route: **Heading Southbound to Newcastle R405** – Loughtown Road – R120 – Athgoe Road.

Heading Southbound to Newcastle: L2008 – Lyons Road – Athgoe Road.

Heading Northbound to Celbridge: Athgoe Road – R120 – Loughtown Road – R405.

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

Web: www.sdcc.ie



Radical treatment for Ria means she could walk again

The young mother was left paralysed after a fall from a balcony while on holiday in Spain

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

FRIENDS of a young Killinarden mother left paralysed after a fall while on holiday in Spain are raising money for a radical treatment that could help her walk again.

Ria Doherty (26) was on a holiday with friends in Marbella in May 2025 when she slipped and fell from a balcony.

The devastating fall broke her neck and back, causing catastrophic damage to her spinal cord.

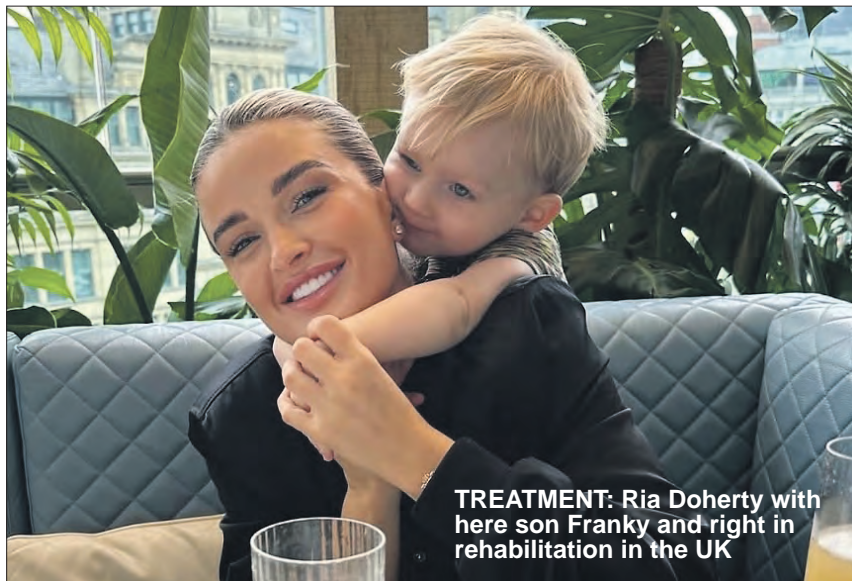
She spent five weeks in a Spanish hospital, enduring two major surgeries and spending five days in a coma, before being moved to the UK for further surgery and rehabilitation.

Doctors in the UK have told her there's "nothing else" they can do for her, according to her friend Karl Dunne.

"She's in hospital between Liverpool and Manchester, like a rehabilitation centre, and they're obviously helping her try walk again but at the end of day now, they've told us there's no hope left," he said.

However, a specialist stem cell treatment, available only in Cyprus and Dubai, may give Ria the chance to walk again.

"She's looked into the stem cell surgery, her doctors over there were still saying basically, they wouldn't go for it, because there's a chance that she won't walk again.



TREATMENT: Ria Doherty with here son Franky and right in rehabilitation in the UK

But it's a chance that she's willing to take," Karl explained.

Ria's recovery has been very hard on both her and her young son Franky, who only gets to see his mam once a week in hospital in Manchester.

The GoFundMe, launched on September 15, has already raised over £30,000 of its £100,000 goal.

The funds will not only go towards the costs of Ria's surgery, which Karl is

hopeful will happen in the new year, but also go towards adapting Ria and Franky's home in Dublin to better suit her recovery and mobility after the surgery is completed.

"It comes obviously at a big significant price, but anything is worth it to get her back being herself again, back to Ireland and where her child is, and just start a fresh life again," Karl said.

You can donate to the 'Now Is the Time to Help Ria' fundraiser on GoFundMe.



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Climate Action Storymap is a dedicated space for citizens to follow the Council's climate action

THE Mayor of South Dublin, Councillor Pamela Kearns, launched the new SDCC Climate Action Storymap on 20 October 2025, alongside Chief Executive, Colm Ward, and Teresa Walsh, Director of Climate Action.

The Climate Action Storymap is hosted at www.sdcc.ie/climateaction, a dedicated space for citizens to follow the Council's climate action.

The Climate Action Storymap aims to tell the story of how SDCC is delivering climate action both spatially and interactively. It connects climate action directly to local communities,

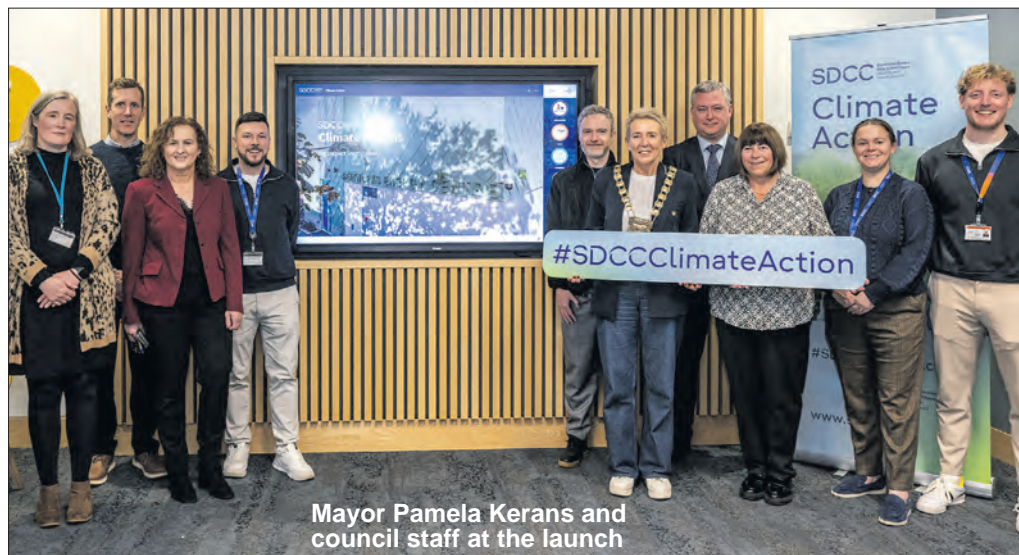
showcasing initiatives and impacts across the county.

The intention is to keep communities up to date on what is happening around them with the hope that it inspires additional action by showing what is possible. Above all, they want to continue to evolve how they communicate climate action, looking to add interactive elements to the experience.

Their response to climate change requires action from the entire local authority, and the Climate Action Storymap showcases relevant work that is happening across the various SDCC departments. The Storymap provides updates on their progress towards achieving the 4

targets and the 129 actions in our Climate Action Plan 2024-2029, and forms one of their key communication channels, alongside their Annual Reports and updates on their key areas of work, both provided at www.sdcc.ie/climateaction.

Speaking at the launch, The Mayor of South Dublin, Councillor Pamela Kearns, said "We are always looking for new, innovative ways to communicate to the citizens of South Dublin how their local authority is delivering climate action locally. We hope that people engage with the Climate Action Storymap and check back in regularly to see how climate action is evolving across the County".



Mayor Pamela Kerans and council staff at the launch

Bobby and Eoin raise almost €8,000 running 5k a day for month of October

Bobby decided to take on the challenge with his friend Eoin to raise funds for Childhood Cancer Ireland after his five-year-old niece was diagnosed with leukemia

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

TWO Tallaght teenagers have been running 5 kilometres every day for the month of October to raise money for a young girl with cancer.

Bobby McKee, a 14-year-old boy from Ellensborough, decided to run 5k every day in October to raise money for Childhood Cancer Ireland after his five-year-old niece Frankie was recently diagnosed with leukemia.

He asked his friend and third year classmate at Firhouse Community College Eoin Finn to join him.

Aisling Finn, Eoin's mother, told *The Echo* how amazed she is by the initiative shown by these two boys.

"I think when [Bobby] told his family he kind of just mumbled it at them, you know how teenage boys are," she said with a laugh.

"This is his way of helping and making a difference."

Both Bobby and Eoin are already very fit and sporty, she said.

The pair became friends around seven years ago when they both joined Thomas Davis GAA Club, and both are involved in boxing and martial arts clubs in Crumlin and Tallaght, with Eoin representing Ireland in kickboxing at the WAKO Youth European

Championships in Italy earlier this year.

"Along with school and their activities they get out together to do the 5k every day, sometimes it's early sometimes it's late after training but they get it done," Aisling said.

"Bobby is gone away now with his dad for a few days but he'll keep running, him in Spain and Eoin here in Tallaght."

The boys have already beaten their initial fundraising goal of €500, raising almost €8,000 since October 1.

Their final run will take place on October 31, where both of their families will turn out to support the boys.

"We're just so proud of them," Aisling said.

"I've been driving them to all their runs to save their legs a bit, some nights with their other training they go out at 11pm. I'm doing the driving as my little bit to help with what's going on."

"Ava, Frankie's mam and Bobby's sister is so proud of him, and for Frankie, to know that your uncle is doing this for you," she said.

"The support they have received from their schools, clubs, family and friends has been amazing and of course from all who have donated so far they thank you."

You can donate on Bobby and Eoin's 'Fight against cancer' GoFundMe page.



PALS: Bobby and Eoin who have raised almost €8,000

“Along with school and their activities they get out together to do the 5k every day, sometimes it's early sometimes it's late after training but they get it done



SAMHAIN IN SOUTH DUBLIN

Talla^wween

SPOOKDALKIN

Tallaween

Friday 31st October
Parthalán Place, Tallaght

Spookdalkin

Sunday 2nd November
Brú Chrónáin, The Round Tower
Clondalkin

SCAN ME



IF YOU DARE

court reports



Accused sentenced to nine months for laundering money found in his home

A MAN who was caught storing just under €65,000 in his home has been sentenced to nine months for money laundering, reports Sonya McLean and Claire Henry.

Chesing Wan (37), of Avonbeg Gardens, Tallaght, pleaded guilty at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court to handling €4,195 and £2,180 sterling which was the proceeds of crime at his home on July 16, 2023.

He has four previous convictions for minor district court offences.

Detective Garda Mark Berigan

said a warrant was obtained to search Wan's home following receipt of confidential information. Wan was there and indicated that he had cash in his bedroom.

Phones that were also present in the bedroom were analysed and it was concluded that Wan had been using WhatsApp to arrange meetings with multiple people to collect cash to store it at his home.

The detective said the messages included photographs of a €20 note, which is used as an "essentially form

of verification" between those communicating with each other.

Det Garda Berigan said that, in terms of the cash found, Wan was on the lower end of the scale.

Wan is a father of four who has suffered from depression. He previously had a drug addiction but has since been rehabilitated. He has worked as a chef.

Passing sentence on Thursday, Judge Orla Crowe said: "This is an inherently serious matter" and noted that it was a "considerable amount of

cash and that this defendant was clearly trusted."

Judge Crowe said there is a probation report before the court, which places Wan at a "moderate" risk of re-offending.

The judge also noted the contents of many letters handed in on Wan's behalf, which spoke of his devotion to his children.

The judge said the mitigating factors in this case were his guilty plea, that he has not come to any adverse attention since, he has battled

with alcohol and drug addictions and had mental health difficulties. She noted that "many people have spoken up for this defendant."

Judge Crowe said this offence warranted a custodial sentence, noting the maximum sentence available to the court was 14 years.

She sentenced Wan to 18 months in prison, suspending the final nine months for two years.

She also placed him under the supervision of the probation services for one year post-release.

Woman who hit motorcyclist on M50 slip road did not see biker

Victim of collision sustained fractures to his collarbone, ribs and pelvis

By Eimear Dodd

news@echo.ie

A WOMAN who collided with a motorbike on the M50 has been handed a suspended nine-month sentence for careless driving.

Dublin Circuit Criminal Court heard on Thursday that the motorcyclist sustained serious injuries, including a broken wrist, and fractures to his collarbone, ribs and pelvis.

In a victim-impact statement, he said his life was "irrevocably changed" and that he spent four weeks in hospital following the collision and required three surgeries.

Nafisa Xussein (57) pleaded guilty to one count of careless driving causing serious bodily harm on October 25, 2021, at the M50 northbound junction 6, Blanchardstown on October 25, 2021.

Evidence was heard that a car driven by Xussein collided with a motorbike on the M50 northbound at junction 6. She indicated to move into the slip road at junction 6, but didn't see the motorbike when she made her manoeuvre and sideswiped him.

An investigating garda told Oisín Clarke BL, prosecuting, that Xussein said in a voluntary interview that she had checked her mirrors, but not over her shoulder.

Xussein of Whitechurch Heights, Rathfarnham, remained at the scene and provided a breath sample to gardai, which was negative for alcohol.

She has no previous convictions, her documents were in order, and she fully cooperated with the gardai.

In a victim-impact statement read to the court by Mr Clarke, the victim said this collision caused injuries which have had a lasting impact on his life.

He said he suffered fractures to his wrist, ribs, collarbone and pelvis as well as bruising to his right lung and pelvis area.

He said he was in "immense pain" and required intensive physiotherapy while in hospital to help him walk again. He also underwent further



physiotherapy after leaving the hospital.

The man said he is semi-retired, but his work as a diving instructor has been affected because his ability to help underwater if someone gets into difficulty is more restricted.

He expressed his thanks to the emergency services, his wife and family and two strangers who helped him while he was on the M50.

The garda agreed with Alan Delany BL, defending, that the insurance

companies have settled any claim. It was also accepted that only material damage would have been caused if two cars had been involved in this type of collision.

Mr Delany asked the court to consider his client's early guilty pleas and lack of previous convictions.

He said his client realised too late that she needed to turn off at that junction.

Counsel asked the court not to impose a driving disqualification as

his client is a single mother and requires her licence to drive one of her three children, who has serious medical issues, to appointments.

A letter of apology was handed to the court along with medical documents and reports.

Judge Jonathan Dunphy said the court accepts that "this appears to have been a lapse of concentration" and that while Xussein indicated, she did not show adequate care in checking for a motorbike before performing the

manoeuvre.

Having considered Xussein's guilty plea and the mitigation, Judge Dunphy imposed a nine-month sentence suspended for 12 months.

The judge said he would not impose a disqualification in the "exceptional circumstances" of the evidence that Xussein required her licence to bring her child to medical appointments.

Judge Dunphy wished the injured party well in his continued recovery.

South Dublin local groups are awarded almost €26k in grants

Irish Wheelchair Association and Tallaght Rockets Volleyball Club got €3k each

By **James Roulston Mooney**
jamesrm@echo.ie

ALMOST €26,000 in grants have been awarded to 14 different local groups across South Dublin.

Awards of €25,787.71 were given in the form of 16 grants to local groups across three different categories.

These grants are split into three categories – community development grants, community events funding and sports development grants.

The three sports development grants had the highest cumulative total out of all categories, with €11,000 being awarded by the council.

Perrystown Manor Estate Community Centre received €5,000 under this grant for programme delivery – the highest amount given.

The Lucan branch of the Irish Wheelchair Association and Tallaght Rockets Volleyball Club are in receipt of €3,000 each following their successful grants for programme delivery and equipment respectively.

Applications are assessed by South Dublin County Council's Community Development Team.

Impact on the local community, track record of project delivery, value and existing funds are all examined before a grant is approved or rejected.

Six more grants showcase four-figure sums being given to applicants – two

were awarded for family fun days under community events funding.

Educate Congo Ireland received €3,800 for a fun day event while Clondalkin Tús Nua was provided with €1,350 for theirs.

Brittas Community Association Ltd was granted €3,000 for a community festival, while Women's Collective Ireland – Clondalkin Women's Network received €1,000 for a wellness workshop.

Tallaght Community Council and Fáilte Isteach Saggart received €1,000 each under the community development grant for running costs.

Cherrywood Residents Association and the Retired Active Men's Social (RAMs) got two grants each, with over €2,000 awarded across the four grants.

CRA received €1,471.87 for environmental improvement and running costs under the community development grant.

RAMs received €620 via two different categories for minor equipment and the hosting of an age-friendly Bealtaine event.

Rathcoole Community Council Ltd received €17.35 for a Christmas community celebration via the community events funding grant.

Corkagh Park allotments and Friends of the Camac were granted €492.49 and €336.00 for start-up costs and minor equipment respectively under the community development grant.

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme.



HIGHEST AMOUNT:
Perrystown
Community Centre

“ Impact on the local community, track record of project delivery, value and existing funds are all examined before a grant is approved or rejected

Health & Wellbeing in SDCC

4 week Active Age Programme (Age 55+)

Beginning week 3rd November

Free
Events!



Participating Community Centres

Fettercairn Youth & Community Centre	St. Finian's Community Hall
Ballyroan Community Centre	Dominic's Community Centre
Jobstown Community Centre	Glenasmole Community Centre
Bawnogue Community Centre	Greenhills Community Centre
Knockmitten Community Centre	St. Ronan's Community Centre
Saggart School House Community Centre	Esker Active Retirement Association

SDCC

Comhairle Contae South Dublin
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Healthier
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ROADS ACT 1993, SECTION 75

PROPOSED TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF L5257, OLD NANGOR ROAD CLONDALKIN DUBLIN 22

To facilitate Adwood Ltd. to carry out essential roadworks, drainage and lighting upgrade works at Kilcarbery Grange, South Dublin County Council propose to temporarily close a section of the following road:

Road Name: L5257 Old Nangor Road (from junction with Rowan Green Kilcarbery Grange to junction of St Cuthberts Road).

From: Monday 10th November 2025.

To: Sunday 7th December 2025.

Time of Closure: 24hrs daily.

Detour route: from the East side of the closure:

- Continue along the Old Nangor Road
- Turn right onto Corkagh Grange Avenue
- Turn right onto Ash Road
- Turn right onto Kilcarbery Grange Road,
- Turn Left onto Kilcarbery Grange Avenue
- Turn right onto Rowan Green
- Continue to end of the road.
- The above is reversed for traffic travelling from the West of the closure.

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

Any person interested may lodge an observation/submission in writing to the Senior Executive Officer, Land Use, Planning and Transportation, South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Tallaght, Dublin 24 or by email to seoroads@sdblincoco.ie no later than **5.00 p.m. on 3rd November 2025.**

Web: www.sdcc.ie



Developments continue on for modernising libraries in county

FOUR permanent libraries are currently being developed across the South Dublin region, including a large project in Citywest, reports James Roulston Mooney.

A new 1,700 square metre library is being constructed out in Citywest as part of the local authority's plans to develop libraries in the county.

On top of this, works in Rathcoole, Clondalkin and Adamstown are all at varying stages of

development.

Clondalkin's library is set to undergo a refurbishment that will also include an improvement to the library's accessibility.

These works are currently at a stage where detailed design is being undertaken, and more advanced parts of the process will come down the line.

The Rathcoole library project is at the initiation stage – the feasibility of the new location is set to

be evaluated.

The library earmarked for the strategic development zone of Adamstown is in a pre-planning stage.

The proposed new locations will complement six existing full-time branches and one part-time branch in the South Dublin region.

Libraries that are currently operating in South Dublin exist in Tallaght, Clondalkin and Lucan among other areas – the part-time branch is

located in Palmerstown.

On top of this, a mobile library service operates across the county, serving a catchment population of around 10,000 people.

No plans are currently in place for a location in Newcastle but analysis of coverage within South Dublin is ongoing so this may be subject to change.

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme.

RAMs celebrate 15 years of charity work and camaraderie

Since their formation the RAMs have raised about €50,000 a year for charity

By James Roulston Mooney
jamesrm@echo.ie

THE Retired Active Men's Social (RAMs) in Newcastle celebrated 15 years this October after a decade-and-a-half of camaraderie and charity work.

The RAMs celebrated their milestone on Friday, October 17 at the Louis Fitzgerald Hotel, five years after Covid brought an end to plans to commemorate a decade.

Secretary Matt Dowling noted that some of the members gawked at the five-year postponement of the plans at the time, but that it proved to be a brilliant evening.

Secretary Dowling said: "It was fantastic. We had about 50 people there – members, their wives and invited guests."

Several entities gave them funding ahead of their 15th anniversary, including the council and the local credit union among others.

The RAMs are well looked after by the South Dublin community, but they also ensure to look after the community as well.

They have gained a reputation in the local area for their fundraising, with an average of €50,000 raised every year according to Mr Dowling.

The gang sing and collect funds all across South Dublin to raise money for charities and organisations, some of which they are personally connected to.

"Our four main charities that we look after is Capuchin Daycare Centre, we look after the hospice in Harold's Cross, Down Syndrome Kildare – one of our members, recently deceased, his granddaughter has Down Syndrome, so we support them, every year we fundraise for them – and the local St Vincent De Paul here.

"So we fundraise for them in The Square, in Clondalkin Mill Centre, in Liffey Valley, in Whitewater in Newbridge.

"We go to Blanchardstown and fundraise there for St Francis Hospice – one of our members passed away recently, so we started fundraising for them."

The RAMs Secretary noted that they have raised over half a million for various aspects of the community in South Dublin and Kildare "in the 13 years" of fundraising that they



CELEBRATION: R.A.M.'s members at the Louis Fitzgerald Hotel
Photos by Paddy Barrett

have undertaken.

The group don't show any signs of stopping and have even taken on several immigrants who have moved into the community over the years to bolster their ranks.

At their peak, the Men's Social in Newcastle boasted a 65-strong membership list, a big step from the 20 that came together in St Finian's Community Hall in October 2010.

Plans to raise money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation and perform on St Valentine's Day are already in place for next year and the two annual trips are currently under consideration, although Dowling notes the team is running out of towns and breweries to discover.

Despite all the plans they make together, the journeys they experience and the losses they share, sometimes people in the RAMs don't see eye-to-eye.

But only sometimes, Dowling emphasised. He then compared the Newcastle group to another popular union.

"It's not always a happy marriage, but most days it's a happy marriage."



Mario, Matt, Minister Emer Higgins, Shane Moynahan TD and Paddy

The nominations are in for Person of the Year Awards

An opportunity to honour our local unsung heroes

MORE than 250 individuals, groups and businesses have been nominated for Tallaght Person of the Year Awards 2025. The much loved community led awards recognise and appreciate the power of the community heroes and volunteers in Tallaght – the individuals, groups, organisations, sports clubs and businesses that contribute positively to Tallaght, or the accomplishments of Tallaght natives on a national stage in their chosen field.

The 42nd awards run by Tallaght Community Council (TCC) ensure there is a strong and visible recognition of Tallaght locally and indeed nationally.

The awards ensure Tallaght stands tall and celebrates the many talented Tallaght natives and community champions.

A diverse selection of nominees has been put forward for the awards ceremony, which takes place in The Plaza Hotel Tallaght on Saturday, 22nd of November.

Liz Kennedy, Volunteer Chair of TCC 2025/26 said: "We were very pleased to receive over 350 nominations this year, for over 250 amazing, varied nominees. Our focus is not on quantity in our awards, but ensuring we shine a light across Tallaght to spotlight the very many who deserve to be acknowledged."

"We would like to thank everyone who took the time to nominate. In a busy world, it is important to stop, reflect and appreciate the person, club, team, coach or business in your part of Tallaght you admire and value."

A nomination is a practical but powerful way to show gratitude and acknowledgement to others.

"In our awards, the focus is on EVERY nominee. They all get recognised, receive a certificate of appreciation, are listed in the media, the awards brochure and from the stage on awards night. We hugely value every nominee of the 2025 awards."

"Tickets for the awards night are now on sale from the box office at 01 4685350 from Friday October 31 to Monday November 17, 10 am to 2 pm. Tickets are €49.50 per person."

The evening's celebrations will include a red carpet arrival, with prosecco reception followed by a fork buffet and live music from Thirsty Session before the awards ceremony.

The awards ceremony will be MCed by Sharon Keegan, a dynamic entrepreneur and innovator, with a proven track record of launching, scaling, and mentoring successful ventures. Our Award Ambassador this year is actor Stephen Jones.

The demand for tickets always exceeds supply, please don't be disappointed and miss out.

"The final word goes to our sponsors, who partner with us enabling us to host these awards. Thank you for your continued support to us and these very positive awards. Go raibh maith agaibh."

For further details visit www.tallaghtcommunitycouncil.ie

And the 2025 nominees are!

ARTS AND CULTURE AWARD

Tara Devine Pine Tree Grove
Denise Egan Ballycragh
Angel Brennan Killinenny
Maria Lane Choir Tallaght
Tallaght Choral Society Tallaght Village
St Maelruains Parish Tallaght Village
Culture Night Tours Ballycullen
Vidya Vivek Killinenny
Terry Clancy Killinenny
Sean McGuinness Killinenny
Ian Delaney Kilnamanagh
Jason Nagle Castle Park
"Tallaween" SDCC
Robert Webster Old Bawn
"Parthalán Place" SDCC
Tallaght Theatre Group Greenhills
Sharon Devlin Aylesbury
(Tallaght Community Arts)
Joseph Birchall Glenview
Bobby Keeley Tallaght Cross
John Mullen Springfield
Kingswood Choir Kingswood
Paul Kelly Tallaght Village

BUSINESS AWARD

Audrey Brown New Bawn
Caffee Duomo Firhouse
Mary Cummins Glenview
Mike Lamumba (Abz Fitness) St Dominics
Timeless Marketing Cookstown
Aon Sceal Cafe Tallaght Village
Xtreme Spin+Circuit Tallaght
Tallaght Sports Complex Balrothery
Nollaig Ryan Main St
Olly Nolan (Ollys Farm) Glenasmole
Graph Print Ballymount
Orla Murray Firhouse
Riyadh Abdelkader WorldQ
Animal Hospital Main Rd
Reprographic Services TUD Tallaght Campus
Cúl Brew Cafe Kiltipper Road
Exwell Medical Kiltipper Road
Darren Murray Kiltipper Road
& Leon Stankard DMPT Main Road
Shane Rowan (So Amazing) Ballymount
Rose Behan Glenview Park
Dublin Formal Wear Main Street
Mohammed Rashid Tallaght
The Square Dental Practice Tallaght
Pharmacy Hub Whitestown
Zoetis Ireland Airton
Naked Bakes Killinarden
Absolute Nutrition Belgard/Glenasmole
Amy Keatinge Partas
Ketts Kitchen Castletymon
Walkers Family Butchers Aylesbury
Arie Draey (Perios Grill) Belgard Square
Joyce Kavanagh (BK Deli) Fortunestown
Priory Market Tallaght Village
The Village Café Old Bawn Rd
AJs Foodstores Glenview
Ray Coghlan Shoemaker Main Street
Bill Guest (Guest Hardware) Bohernabreena
Mark Kennedy (Landscape Depot) Kiltipper
The Square Mgt Team Tallaght Town Centre
Dave Barnes (Apt Signs) Bohernabreena
Moran's Pharmacy Firhouse

SGT ANDREW CALLANAN COMMUNITY AWARD

David Oliver Tallaght Village
Jennifer Murray Main Street
Sarah Rowan Fortunestown
St Catherine's Counselling Service The Priory
Reggie Norman Old Bawn
Stephen Brennan Jobstown
Club Shop Team Thomas Davis Kiltipper
The Vine Group Fettercairn
Sophie Barrett Tallaght
Craig Wade Old Bawn
Lesley O'Reilly Kilnamanagh
Noleen Fulham Old Bawn
Nicola Keating Brookfield
Charlie O'Connor Springfield
Noel McEvoy Killinenny
Darren Lamont Killinenny
The Tea Party Girls Alderwood
Marie Mulligan Old Court
Mileaha McCarton Old Bawn

Rachel Ennis
Glenda Murphy Smullen
Frances McNulty
Jean Haas
Samantha Griffin
Scientology Community Centre
Mark Luttrell
Volunteer Coffee Shop
Mick Duff Trustus
Tallaght Community Table Ballycullen
Leigh Snedker Firhouse
St Aengus Holistic Tymon
Michelle Doyle Glenview Park
Suzanne Duggan Belgard
Bancroft Residents Association Bancroft
St Mark's Whist Club Springfield
Brian O'Neill Killinenny
John Warren Trustus
Hibah Aburwein Greenhills
Natasha Jordan Fettercairn
Anthony Wilson Fortunestown
Jimmy Wynne Balrothery
Noel Gavin Ballycragh
Dionne Blake - A Touch of Home Kilnamanagh
Imelda Hanratty Fortunestown
Terry Carty Aylesbury
Noel Fleming Aylesbury
St Dominics Parish Team Mountain Park
Kingswood Christmas Market Kingswood
Teresa Costello (Breast Friends) Old Bawn
Carmel McGinty Drysdale

MICHAEL DOOLEY ENVIRONMENT AWARD

Brendan Braddell Kilnamanagh
Mary Egan Bancroft
Niamh Walker Bancroft
Gavin Walker Old Bawn
Charlie Fox Old Bawn
Ken Harrington Springfield
Kilnamanagh Res Ass Kilnamanagh
Lisa McAuley Old Bawn
Sean Sherlock Aylesbury
Tymon North & St Aongus Tidy Towns Tymon North
Denise Delappe Old Bawn
Alex and Evan Whelan Bawnville
Elemental Living Lab & Garden TUD Tallaght
- Kylemore Catering TUD Tallaght
Elemental Living Lab & Garden TUD Tallaght
- John Heaney TUD Tallaght
Elemental Living Lab & Garden TUD Tallaght
- Linda Bennett TUD Tallaght
Patrick & Conor Malone Millbrook Lawns
Oisín Crenier Firhouse
Magda & Maia Tallaght Village Tidy Towns
Ahmed Browne Tallaght Village
Daniel Robinson Tallaght Village
Brendan Nolan Old Bawn
Fran Kane Seskin View
JJ Kane Seskin View
Maurice Kavanagh Old Court

HEART OF GOLD AWARD

Grace Donegan Kilnamanagh
Jack Dennehy Avonbeg
Ethan O'Connor Killinarden
Tommy and Grace Dickson Kiltipper Rd
Bobby O'Keefe Ellensborough
Eoin Finn Kiltipper Rd

LEARNING AND INNOVATION AWARD

John Kearns Main Road
Norma Merrick Jobstown
Liam Nugent Old Bawn
Sherin Abdelnaby Jobstown
David Maguire TU Dublin Tallaght
Gerard O'Meara Firhouse
Susan & Eoin Kennedy Bancroft
Women's Collective Ireland Brookfield
The Priory Institute Tallaght Village
Ursula Frawley Firhouse
Walk Service Old Bawn Road
Amanda Delaney Kilnamanagh
Toastmasters Tallaght Kilnamanagh
An Cosán Fortunestown
Health Matters Tallaght Village
Pat Daly Kiltown House
TUH & Amazon Hackathon Belgard Sq. North
Tegan Treats Firhouse
Work IQ Belgard Square North

JIM LAWLOR SPECIAL NEEDS AND CARERS AWARD

Una Ennis Tallaght
Vanessa Pontes Tallaght
Emer Loughrey Airton Rd
Sharon Mitchell The Belfry
Tess Bennett St Maelruan's Park
Maria Dennehy Avonbeg
Intensive Care Unit TUH
Emer Lamont Tallaght Garda Station
Olivia Luc Main St
Raymond Smyth Kilnamanagh
Threshold Training Network Main Rd
The Lost Boys
Walking Group C/O The Dragon Inn
Michelle O'Rourke Old Bawn
Dr Cantwell GP practice Old Bawn
Orla Murray Dodder Valley Park
Family Carers Ireland Citywest
Suzanne House Main Rd
Robert Mansfield Castle Park
Order of Malta Tallaght Kilnamanagh
Tallaght First Responders Tallaght Cross
Edel Boxwell (Nee O'Connor) Avonmore
Sjaan Byrne-Schunck Aylesbury

PHILIP PRESTON SPORT AWARD

Katie Sheldon Aylesbury
Aaron Johnson Kilnamanagh
Colin Brown Aylesbury
Derek Quinn Corbally
Eddie O'Connor Saggart Abbey
Hazel Hoban Tallaght Athletics Club
Melissa McGettigan Homelawn
Noel Gavin Ballycragh
South Side Jiu-Jitsu Academy Kilnamanagh
Glenda, Carmel & Noreen St Annes GAA & Thomas Davis
Mark Foley Old Bawn
Larry Brophy Springfield
Nadia Brophy Springfield
Tao Li Kilnamanagh
Fusion Twirlers Fettercairn
Hornets Darts Academy Fettercairn
Jobstown Celtic Jobstown
Brian Doherty Fettercairn
Stephen Heaney Springfield
Olivia Ferguson Homelawn
Edel Cummins Tallaght
Richie Byrne Jobstown
St Marks Celtic Fc
Lexi Fallon & Girls U14 team Springfield
Elaine Cummins Sundale
Erica Mooney Old Bawn
Sinead Gildea Tymon North
Tony Butler Ballycragh
Darren Murray Main Road
Adam Whelan Bawnville
Sean Kavanagh Belgard Rd
Karen Lumsden Quarryvale
Winter Festival Belgard
Tallaght Martial Arts Whitestown Way
Dylan Tobin Springfield
Guru Liam McDonald Tallaght
Philip Kennedy Fettercairn
Golden Cobra Boxing Club Jobstown
Aisling Kelly Jobstown
Pat Keatinge Sundale
Jake, Zak, Josh Riddell Kilnamanagh
Daniel's Voyage Team Radharc na hAbhainn
David Spain Firhouse
James Gray Jobstown
Lar Heffernan Verschoyle
Alan Merriman Tallaght Town FC
Tallaght Rockets Volleyball Club Firhouse
Shane Devlin Glenville
Tallaght Wheelers Airton Road
St Kevin's Knights Basketball Kilnamanagh
St Marks GAA Cookstown

MAURICE MCCONNELL YOUTH AWARD

Sacred Heart FC Killinarden
Mary McGuigan Tymon - 168th Scouts
Jackie Blanchfield
and Deirdre Halpin Milbrook Lawns
Sensory Fun with Friends YC Glenview
Codie Preston Kilnamanagh
Hide Out Youth Club Ballycragh
Down Syndrome Dublin Bowling Kilnamanagh
Pat Connell 24th Tallaght Scouts Bancroft
Kilnamanagh Baton Twirlers Kilnamanagh
Fettercairn Community Fettercairn
& Youth Centre Fettercairn
125th Scouts Old Bawn
168th Scouts Tymon North

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1984 to 2025

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Nominees correct as at 25.10.25, the final nominations are being processed. Certificates are still being issued and posted. For T&Cs, please see, <https://tallaghtcommunitycouncil.ie/tpoty-termsandconditions/>

Cherry Orchard Football Club submit plans to revamp Elmdale in ‘aspirational move

By James Roulston Mooney
jamesrm@echo.ie

“I SUPPOSE you wouldn’t be getting change out of €1 million, that’s for sure.”

Cherry Orchard Football Club have submitted plans to revamp their setup at Elmdale in an “aspirational” move that could cost the club a seven-figure sum.

New stands, gym facilities and floodlights are the highlights in a packed planning application.

Cherry Orchard FC Chairperson Tom Kennedy noted that “most of the infrastructure in the application is aspirational.”

The chairperson continued: “It is effectively a 10-year plan. Proposed funding will come from solidarity payments from players we have sent away, fundraising and sponsorship.”

Two new covered two tier stands with metal cladding finish are included in the development plans with 108 seats each with wheelchair access and are planned to be located on the North side of existing 11-a-side pitch.

Two new covered four tier stands with 50 seats each are planned for the South side of existing 11-a-side grass pitch as well as new floodlighting on both sides.

A new nine-a-side pitch is part of the plans with two new covered four tier stands with 50 seats each and floodlights all set for the west side of the pitch

The construction of new single-storey steel frame/cladded gym building on the South side of

existing 11-a-side grass pitch with associated male and female welfare facilities is also part of the plans.

Chairperson Kennedy stated: “Our priority would be firstly to get the current astro resurfaced. We need to get that done over the next couple of years.

“Also, we would like to put the gym in because we feel that would be a good move in relation to player recruitment and things like that.

“And obviously, health and strength and conditioning is one of the things that is big at the moment.”

Mr Kennedy noted that GAA clubs have taken on strength and conditioning and they aim to follow in their footsteps – the gym “is a copy of the one that Round Towers have up in Clondalkin.”

Also seen in the description of the proposed development are proposals for 21 new car parking spaces and a cycle shed with 10 spaces for bicycles.

A new generator shed with metal cladding finish and a new surface water drainage system with on-site attenuation storage system is included.

The surface water drainage system is intended to be connected to the public sewer system, as well as a wastewater system connected to the same.

Planned installation of pole lighting to the walking/exercise route around the perimeter of the existing 11-a-side grass pitch, a new pedestrian entrance gate and a new emergency vehicle gate.

“It’s a bigger picture that may not actually happen but, as I said, think big and see where you get.”

PLANS: Cherry Orchard have submitted plans to revamp Elmdale



TD calls for council to buy ‘vitally important’ 10-hectares at Coldcut

This would be important to the community as the loss of an amenity is at risk

By James Roulston Mooney
jamesrm@echo.ie

A LOCAL TD has called for the county council to purchase a “vitally important” 10-hectare site listed on Daft.

Dublin Mid-West TD Mark Ward has called on the local authority to buy land at Coldcut from members of Dublin City Services Sports and Social Club.

Deputy Ward underlined that this move would be important to the local community as the loss of an amenity is at risk.

The Deputy stated: “I am urging South Dublin County Council to purchase the land at the Coldcut that went on public sale last week.

“It is vitally important that these lands remain as an amenity for the people of North Clondalkin and Palmerstown.

“Many soccer clubs use the facility for matches and training. The all-weather pitches are always busy as is the pitch and putt course.

“There is also the opportunity to restore the GAA pitch, so GAA can be played in the area.”

The lands up for sale comprise of a former GAA pitch, a pitch and putt course and a mix of grass and astroturf playing fields.

The property’s price will be provided upon application and also includes a clubhouse with bar and function room together with a car park and a separate building used as



CAPTION: The 10-hectare site at Coldcut is for sale

changing facilities.

The lands benefit from road frontage onto the Coldcut Road, which also provides the main point of access for the site.

Deputy Ward noted that he was aware of the opportunity prior to the listing going live: “I had engaged with members of Dublin City Services Sports and Social Club prior to their decision to sell the land and had

already spoke with the Council about the opportunity.

“This site is over 10 hectares, straddled between North Clondalkin and Palmerstown. It is a natural extension of Collinstown Park and would fit perfectly with South Dublin County Council’s all-weather pitch strategy.”

The lands are bound by the M50 motorway to the east and residential

housing estates to the south and west.

The latest date for receipt of tenders on the property is 12pm on Thursday, November 27.

The TD for the region believes that this is a golden opportunity for the local authority, who could bring private land into public use.

“I have been advocating for a public all weather pitch in North Clondalkin/Palmerstown for a long

time and the area is crying out for one.

“Enough public land has been sold to private developers, this is a chance to purchase private land for public use.

“I have written to South Dublin County Council asking them to purchase this land so that this green space can become a public amenity for everyone to enjoy.”

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme.

Connect 4 Project raises awareness about dangers of bonfires



TREASURE: After a talk on fire safety the participants had to find different clues and complete the fire treasure hunt with the knowledge they had from the talk

Fire Safety Treasure Hunt to teach young people the do's and don'ts of fire safety

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

ONE Tallaght-based youth group have been raising awareness about the dangers of bonfires this Halloween season a little differently.

The Connect 4 Project, a street-work youth team based in Killinarden/Jobstown held a Fire Safety Treasure Hunt around Mac Uilliam Estate to teach young people the “do's and don'ts of fire safety through a fun-filled treasure hunt packed with clues, challenges and surprises”.

Laura Hanlon is a drug and alcohol street worker with Connect 4, which works with children and young people aged 10-24.

“We're on the streets looking for the children who are hard to reach in areas that aren't connecting with the Fogóire clubs or others, so the kids that aren't connecting them with services,” she explained.

The treasure hunt, held on Tuesday, October 21, was part of a safety exercise to educate children and young people living in Mac Uilliam Estate about the dangers of bonfires, particularly at this time of year, with a presentation on fire safety and what to do in case of a fire before the hunt.

“The idea was to go into Mac Uilliam estate where Bonfire Night and Halloween would be very dangerous,” Laura said.

“Before the fire hunt, we went through a fun

way of where your meeting point is, if there's a fire, where your fire exit is in your home, what to look for, if your fire alarm goes off what do you do, etc.

“We hid different clues around then and each clue led them to the next clue and so on so they were able to complete the fire treasure hunt by the knowledge of the talk we put on before.”

Laura estimated at least 12-15 kids took part in the hunt, ranging from age five up to 14, and the project collaborated with Bernardo's to provide pizza afterwards for all the participants and their parents.

“They really enjoyed it, it was great to see kids actually being kids,” Laura said.

Connect 4 also hosted a Halloween fancy dress bingo afternoon with around 15 kids at Barnardo's Garden in Mac Uilliam Estate on Tuesday afternoon, October 28, which Laura said was a “fantastic” success

“We had great engagements with the Traveller site over the back of Mac Uilliam, they brought the kids down in their fancy dress.”

“Just seeing them being kids in fancy dress, in an estate that you would never see a child be a child, we were in awe, it was brilliant,” she added.

The Connect 4 Project will host another fancy dress bingo afternoon on Thursday, October 30, from 4.30pm at Glenshane Community Resource Centre.

Man who assaulted two Gardai is sentenced to two years in prison

By **Niamh O'Donoghue**
news@echo.ie

A MAN who assaulted two gardai because “he was off his face on drugs” has been sentenced to two years in prison.

Daniel Ryan (24) of Melrose Grove, Clondalkin pleaded guilty at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court to two counts of assault causing harm on May 1, 2023. He also pleaded guilty to possession of cocaine for sale or supply on January 8, 2019, after his fingerprints were found on a discarded lunchbox containing the drugs.

Detective Garda Colin McElligott gave evidence the assault occurred five months after Ryan was charged with having the cocaine.

The court heard that in January 2019 two gardai on mobile patrol saw two males jump over a railing and take off on foot. Gardai exited the patrol van and Ryan made good his escape but a garda found a small clear plastic lunchbox and arrested the other suspect.

Gardaí returned to the area and a number of individually-wrapped deals were found comprising 24.6g of crack cocaine and heroin worth €3,408 in total.

DNA and fingerprint samples on the lunchbox were analysed and came back as a match for Ryan and he was arrested on October 7, 2021. He was later charged on December 12, 2022.

On May 1, 2023, gardaí stopped three occupants in Kia Sportage parked up on a footpath in Clondalkin. Gardai informed one of the occupants there were live bench warrants for his arrest.

Ryan shouted he would break Garda Mark Walsh's jaw. He punched him in his jaw with his right fist.

Ryan also punched Garda Grace Lumsden in the face. Garda Lumsden fell backwards and said she was in pain and her vision was blurred.

Garda Walsh also described pain as result of the punch. Neither garda received treatment and returned to duty the following day.

A search was conducted on the house and the vehicle was registered to Ryan. He was arrested again and denied punching both garda but was subsequently charged that day.

Derek Cooney BL, prosecuting, previously told the court a Section 3 assault or assault causing harm carries a maximum penalty of five years but a Section 19 assault of a garda has a penalty of seven years.

Ryan has 36 previous convictions for offences including aggravated burglary, burglary, assault causing harm, theft, money laundering and 20 road traffic offences. He also has one previous conviction for the obstruction of a police officer and public order, criminal damage and drugs possession offences.

When he punched the gardai, Ryan was

on bail. He is currently serving five and a half years and his sentence expires in November 2028.

Under cross-examination, Det Gda McElligott agreed with Keith Spencer BL, defending, that Ryan was “off his face on drugs” and denied he would hit a woman.

A psychological report highlighted addiction difficulties exposure and a difficult upbringing, counsel said.

Sentencing Ryan today/yesterday (Tuesday) Judge Pauline Codd imposed consecutive sentences totalling three and half years.

Judge Codd accepted that Ryan did not have a proprietary interest in the drugs but added he was involved in some way as his DNA was found on it.

She imposed a one year term in prison for the offence after accepting he has since engaged well with local services to rehabilitate and was “committed to perusing an alternative lifestyle”.

Judge Codd acknowledged Ryan's expression of remorse and pleas of guilty in relation to the assault case.

She imposed a sentence of two and half years on that case which Judge Codd ordered must be consecutive to the one-year term imposed for the drug case, imposing a total sentence of three and half years.

Judge Codd suspended the final 18 months of the term on strict conditions, including that Ryan engage with the Probation Service for 18 months.



Over four years jail for man who had €680k worth of illegal drugs

A MAN has been jailed for four years and five months after gardai found over €680,000 worth of illegal drugs in a storage unit, reports Eimear Dodd.

Valdas Sakinis (40) pleaded guilty to possession of cannabis and zopiclone tablets for sale or supply on June 29, 2024 at Mount Seskin Road, Tallaght.

Dublin Circuit Criminal Court heard that gardai on patrol noticed Sakinis standing at a storage unit wearing latex gloves.

The investigating garda told Edward Doocey BL, prosecuting, that Sakinis seemed nervous when he spoke to him.

Cannabis worth €200, which Sakinis later said was for personal use, was found on the defendant when he was searched.

Gardai found clingfilm, a small amount of ketamine in a hidden compartment and a key to a storage unit when they searched the van.

About 33.4kg of cannabis, valued at €668,000, and €12,600 worth of zopiclone tablets were found when the storage unit was searched.

Sakinis, of no fixed abode, told gardai he lived in Lithuania, but comes back and forth to Ireland.

He refused to say who owned the key to the storage unit.

He has three previous convictions for theft, criminal damage and trespass dating back to 2011.

The garda agreed with Michael Hourigan SC, defending, that his client entered an early guilty plea, provided access to his phone, has a work history in Ireland and is not a person of assets.

It was further accepted that Sakinis drew attention to himself, was a "gillie" and had run up large gambling debts.

Mr Hourigan submitted to the court his client is among the "class of person who are induced but are utterly dispensable" to those who organise this type of criminal activity.

He said his client was "a person operating with any degree of confidence or comfort" in this enterprise and a "gillie" who knows he is facing a prison sentence for this serious offending.

Counsel asked the court to take into account his client's early guilty plea, co-operation and a letter from Sakinis's priest in Lithuania.

Judge Martin Nolan said the court accepted Sakinis was at "the lower to middle end, though probably lower" of this offending, and not the owner of the drugs. He noted the mitigation and that time in custody can be more challenging for foreign nationals.

Teenager threw two airsoft grenades in car park for 'fun'

Garda station had to be evacuated after man brought the grenade to report the issue

By Sonya McLean

news@echo.ie

A TEENAGER who threw an airsoft grenade in an underground car park for "fun", leading to a garda station being temporarily evacuated, has been given a suspended nine-month sentence.

Patrick O'Brien (18) caused "a huge amount of inconvenience to gardai" when he threw two airsoft air grenades in the underground car park of the IBIS hotel in Clondalkin, Dublin, last February, Judge Martin Nolan said on Friday.

"He decided to have a bit of fun for himself," the judge said.

The judge noted O'Brien's young age at the time and said he was prepared to accept it was an "act of stupidity".

He handed down a nine-month sentence, suspending it on a number of conditions.

The court heard the airsoft grenades caused a bang and a flash, and that one was thrown in the direction of a man who came to investigate.

Garda Shane O'Brien told Patrick McCullough BL, prosecuting, that this man then picked up the grenade, wrapped it in a tissue and brought it to Clondalkin Garda Station to report the incident.

When the man turned up at the station, he told gardai that "a bomb had been thrown at him" and showed them the grenade.

He was instructed to place it in the middle of the floor, and the garda station was evacuated, and all surrounding roads were closed off.

The bomb disposal unit was called in to investigate, and they later concluded the grenade was safe.

It was described as a CO2 grenade, which is equipped with a gas or spring mechanism that stimulates an explosion when activated.

“ So he saw him and decided to annoy him and threw it at him

Clondalkin Garda Station



Garda O'Brien confirmed that it is used in airsoft games – described in court as something similar to paintball.

O'Brien, of Tir na nÓg, Peamount Road, Newcastle, Co Dublin, pleaded guilty at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court to possession of the grenade at the hotel on February 16, 2025. He has no previous convictions.

Garda O'Brien confirmed that the evacuation of Clondalkin Garda Station meant that all the people who were in cells at that time had to be moved to nearby Ballyfermot Garda Station.

When asked by Judge Martin Nolan why O'Brien had thrown the

grenade at the man, the garda replied that he seemed to have done it for a bit of fun.

"So he saw him and decided to annoy him and threw it at him," Judge Nolan asked.

Garda O'Brien confirmed that he believed this was the case and said he didn't believe that there had been anything more behind it.

He said O'Brien had parked there, thrown the first grenade, gone to the cinema and then returned to the car park.

When he returned to the car park, he was approached by the man who was looking into what had happened with

the first grenade, and that was when he threw it at him.

At a hearing earlier in the week, Judge Nolan asked Mark McMahon, BL defending, whether he should imprison his client "for stupidity" before he revoked his bail and remanded him in custody for sentence on Friday.

Garda O'Brien confirmed that O'Brien was identified after gardai established the registration of the car he was driving that night, having viewed CCTV footage from the car park.

The car was registered in O'Brien's father's name, and O'Brien later came

to the station himself for questioning.

He made full admissions and identified himself on the footage. It was confirmed that he had bought the grenades legitimately and had been using them to scare foxes. He said he brought them with him that night, intending to scare his friends.

Garda O'Brien agreed with a suggestion from Mr McMahon that O'Brien has since fully accepted that it was a stupid thing to do and had acknowledged that it would have been frightening for the man he threw it at.

He accepted that O'Brien had other airsoft items in his home when gardai came to search it.

Esker club boxing clever since moving into new home at new Lucan Leisure Centre



FIGHTING FIT: Members of Esker Boxing Club

For the first time in 13 years the 152-strong boxing club have secured a home

By James Roulston Mooney
jamesrm@echo.ie

ESKER Amateur Boxing Club has a permanent home for the first time in their 13-year history after they moved into the new Lucan Leisure Centre in September.

The 152-strong boxing club had spent years moving from place to place before they were finally able to secure a home in the Aura Leisure Centre.

The campaign for Esker to find a permanent clubhouse received backing from boxing legends, such as former world champion Ricky Hatton.

Club secretary Ed Griffin detailed the journey they went on to get to where they are today.

The club secretary said: “We were in a school first, then we were in an industrial estate, then we were back in a school then we were back in an industrial estate and that was crazy . . .

“ . . . There was a lot of stress trying to keep the club going. We’re still paying a good rent, a very big enough rent, but we’re able to save a little bit, so we’ll end up buying equipment, start looking forward to trips and stuff like that.”

Travelling to places like Tallaght and back every evening training was on after a full day of work tired out a lot of those involved, including Ed.

But, despite the strain, the club has enjoyed massive success over the years – three boxers that trained out of Esker

went professional in recent years.

Joe Mooney is one of the three and has enjoyed a very strong start to his boxing career with an unbeaten record tied to his name.

Esker not only has successfully prepared boxers for the next step, but has become a mirror for the diverse and multicultural community developing in South Dublin and has trained boxers who observe Ramadan during sessions.

“We have boxers from like 23 different national backgrounds. We have Somali, Nigerian, Ghanaian, Nigerian, Brazilian, Polish, Lithuanian, Iraqi, Algerian . . .

“ . . . About two or three years ago, we were training Shaz. Shaz is 22 now,

he’s been with us since he was nine. He was observing Ramadan – he was starving, water couldn’t touch his lips until sundown . . . that was an eye-opener.”

The club secretary stressed the importance of the boxing club as another form of community for its members.

The club is currently full with a growing waiting list and is filled with children eager to stay active in the evenings.

Ed stated that the ability to entertain those children and take them off the streets in the evenings is very important.

“It’s not even boxing, it’s everything. Come the dark nights now,

Saturday and all that, there’s loads of kids in town.

“If you’re walking down the street and see a gang of kids, especially for women on their own, you don’t know what’s gonna happen.

“So, the more facilities that are there to keep young people especially active at night, especially on winter nights and all.”

Griffin noted that there is still some work to be done in the clubhouse to have it fully set up, but added that they have begun training and sparring sessions.

Esker Boxing Club is hoping to have an official opening day around the start of December, with details yet to be finalised.

Research discovers a need for staff and patient education on living wills



FIRST STEP: Professor Brendan Kelly

NEW research carried out at TUH reveals a need for greater education among patients and staff about Advanced Healthcare Directives (AHDs or living wills). The findings coincide with the launch of a brand new guide on the topic for staff, the first of its kind in Ireland. The guide will help healthcare staff to think creatively to support patients making their own decisions and through AHDs making their choices known.

An AHD is a legal document that is used when a person loses the ability to make or communicate decisions about their care. It informs family members, carers, and healthcare professionals of the person’s preferences for treatment if they are no longer able to express them. For example, someone may choose not to be resuscitated if their heart stops or may refuse life support such as a ventilator. AHDs ensure that a person’s healthcare choices are respected, even when they are unable to voice them.

For this latest paper, researchers surveyed knowledge of and attitudes towards AHDs among 120 inpatients and 102 staff at TUH after it became clear they were rarely used due to a lack of understanding and awareness in care planning. The research began just one year after the new law on AHDs was first introduced in Ireland in April of 2023.

Consultant Psychiatrist at TUH & Trinity College Dublin, Professor Brendan Kelly said, “None of the patients we interviewed had created an Advanced Healthcare Directive, and only 11.7 per cent were even aware of them. However, two-thirds said they would be willing to make one if supported by their healthcare provider. We additionally found that the vast majority of staff (84.3 per cent) and patients (61.7 per cent) would

prefer an advance care plan that was not legally binding but included the patient’s will and preferences. We are not unique in Ireland; the need for greater knowledge about AHDs is common across many jurisdictions, among healthcare providers and patients. Our new guide for staff is an important first step in raising awareness.”

Of the patients who took part in this study, 65 were on surgical wards and 55 were on medical wards. The item that most patients wanted to include in AHDs was requests for specific medications or other treatments.

Of the 102 healthcare staff who participated in the study, 35 worked in surgical wards and 67 in medical wards. These included non-consultant hospital doctors (residents), staff nurses, student nurses, physiotherapists, speech and language therapists, dietitians, occupational therapists, and pharmacists.

Eighty-two staff had heard of AHDs, and eight staff had assisted a patient in making one, while 46 had cared for a patient with one. The item that most staff wanted to see included in AHDs was whether a refusal of treatment is to be respected, even if it means no further treatment for the patient other than ensuring they are comfortable.

Senior Social Worker and the Decision-Making Act Lead at TUH, Holly Canavan, said, “There is certainly a need for greater education about AHDs, which is why our hospital has produced a new guide for staff in line with the nine guiding principles of this important new legislation, called the Assisted Decision-Making Act. This will, in turn, help patients as healthcare providers become aware of their legal and ethical obligation to support decision making by patients rather than substitute it and to uphold each patient’s preferences if they later lose decision-making capacity.”



NEW GUIDE: Holly Canavan

Pressure from locals for pool renovation

DISUSED: The old Clondalkin swimming pool



Building closed for years 'has huge potential' for groups in locality

By James Roulston Mooney

jamesrm@echo.ie

"LONG-ESTABLISHED groups . . . are in desperate need of a permanent base for practice."

The old swimming pool in Clondalkin is set to be assessed after pressure from local groups to turn it into a community space.

The pool building has been closed for years and is one of the sites being examined and reviewed within the context of the formulation of the Local Area Plan.

Councillor Francis Timmons has fond memories of the place and hopes it can return to its old glory in a new form.

Cllr Timmons stated: "I am old enough to remember it

being built when the local community paid for a brick to build it – I also remember Clondalkin Community Radio being based there.

"It has huge potential to facilitate so many local groups looking for a home and also some of the storage issues many groups have."

Calls for the building once dubbed 'the baths' to be restored from a state of disrepair and returned to public use have been heard for over a decade.

Locals have taken to using the walls of the old pool for graffiti, with the street art being the most life the building has seen since its closure.

The work to revitalise the building has been described by the council as a long-term project in past years but progress towards repurposing the building has yet to be seen, despite years of advocacy in its favour from figures such as Cllr Timmons.

The Clondalkin councillor believes that several local groups could benefit greatly in the near future from having a home in the building.

"Long established groups like the Clondalkin Youth Band, Clondalkin Pipe Band and Clondalkin Drama Group are in desperate need of a permanent base for practice, storage and performance."

"Residents groups like Kilcronan and Cherrywood, along with Clondalkin Tidy Towns are in desperate need of storage."

"The local authority needs to continue to work with all these groups who are a huge part of our community and make our community a better place to live through entertainment, performances . . . enhancing our area through clean-ups, flower planting and other projects."

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme.

'Rubbish' outlook after wall removal

LOCALS in Bawnogue are upset at the removal of a boundary wall between the rear of shops and the green space nearby.

Residents of Alpine Heights have complained about the view caused by the removal of the rear wall at Bawnogue Shopping Centre and have asked for a replacement boundary to be placed in its stead.

With the wall gone, people can look out their window across the green space and have a clear view of rubbish bins located at the back of the centre and the rear of the building.

Councillor William Carey noted that this replacement boundary could take several forms.

Cllr Carey said: "The council has given a reply to us saying that it's all public property and, you know, there's no need for a boundary wall, so they don't want to put a boundary wall in."

"But we're looking for some sort of change in boundary treatment, whether it be through shrubbery or whatever it will take."

The Clondalkin councillor explained that residents across the green would have a view of the "more industrial side" of the shopping centre from their houses than a person who would catch a glimpse of it from the front.

He added that the council is set to bring in car-parking spaces and electric charging points at the back of Bawnogue Shopping Centre but added that it does not negate the need to separate the two contrasting but neighbouring locations.

"The bad appearance from the rear of the shops there form a visual aspect to the back of Alpine estate there – that's an issue that needs to be sorted."

"I do think we could still do with some hedges and some shrubbery along there to clearly define the break between the green and the units themselves."

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme.

Coeliac Society gets €20,000 from AIB €1 Million Fund

THE Coeliac Society of Ireland (CSI) received their €20,000 grant from the AIB €1 Million Community Fund after being announced as one of the winners earlier this year, reports James Roulston Mooney.

The AIB Community €1 Million Fund has supported 296 charities across Ireland in the last four years.

Earlier this year, AIB asked its customers, the wider public, and staff to again nominate registered charities, that connect with causes that matter most to them and their communities, in the AIB Community €1 Million Fund.

Clondalkin-based CSI was nominated and provided with a grant that aims to help diversify the delivery of its services for coeliacs.

CSI Sales and Marketing Team Lead Louise Ryan said: "We are thrilled to receive this funding from the AIB Community €1 Million Fund, which is crucial for maintaining the services we offer to our community in supporting them as they navigate this serious autoimmune disease."

"AIB's ongoing support for local organisations is invaluable, and we have witnessed the positive impact on other local groups that received funding last year."

"The public's nomination makes this particularly special. It shows that our efforts in the community are being acknowledged."

"Thank you to everyone who is involved in the Coeliac Society and a special thanks to AIB for setting up this important fund."

The CSI has a list of what it wishes to add to its app to provide more resources for their members.

Ryan noted that the existing app is phase one of the app-building process and phase two includes several potential changes, including upgrading their highly popular gluten-free shopping list.

The charity wants to add a forum feature that allows members to ask questions and answer other questions regarding foods and products as well as revamp some existing services.

AIB allocated €700,000 across the four provinces and a separate category for charities in the greater Dublin area, while €300,000 is set to be donated to charities chosen by employees.

AIB has partnered with Payzone to allow people to donate to the winning charities of this year's Community Fund through their mobile app.

Speaking about the Fund, AIB Managing Director Retail Banking,



GRANT: Trish Ledwidge, Coeliac Society of Ireland, Ger Nolan, AIB Branch Manager Clondalkin and Louise Ryan, Coeliac Society of Ireland
Photo by Aidan Oliver

Geraldine Casey said: "We are delighted once again this year to support over 66 charities through the AIB Community €1 Million Fund."

"AIB is deeply rooted in towns and villages across the country, and we are privileged to be able to provide much needed funding to those who are making such a powerful contribution to improving the lives of those who live in

these communities.

"I would like to thank our customers and the public for taking the time to nominate these very worthy charities."

For more information on the autoimmune disease log onto coeliac.ie or call +353 1 872 1471.

For more information on AIB's work in the community visit the community page on their website.

Pick up a copy of *The Echo* in your local shop* every Thursday or scan the QR code to subscribe online



Bus blockage at Bawnogue turn shows up problems

Many of the vehicles going to collect students will use the turn by Lealand Estate

By James Roulston Mooney
jamesrm@echo.ie

THE infamous Bawnogue junction added another chapter to its story on Thursday when a minibus got stuck attempting the turn.

The vehicle can be seen trapped on the kerb of the turn with a pile-up of traffic stuck behind it, including a double-decker bus.

The turn into Lealand Estate has already been deemed 'ridiculously sharp and dangerous' by residents of the area and crashes had taken place at the location previously.

Councillor Will Carey stated that the bus was a "school bus" and

believed that the problem was a "sign of things to come."

Cllr Carey said: "The wheels got caught in the soft ground because it's a long wheel-base and it couldn't make the turn.

"So that's a sign of things to come. There are clearly issues there that we have to get resolved with the council. They may have to go back there and have a look."

Residents of the estate have set up an online petition against the turn on my.uplift.ie to reduce the traffic-calming changes that were implemented there.

To date, the petition has received over 560 signatures and notes that both bin-lorry providers that service

the area have struggled to manoeuvre the turn without fault.

Measures were put in place to ensure there was some traffic flow while the issue was solved by men in orange hi-vis jackets.

The Clondalkin councillor noted that the area serves a lot of traffic, with two schools and lots of housing nearby.

Many of the vehicles going to pick up students from the school will make that turn by Leland.

"If those school buses can't make that turn, that's going to be a serious, serious problem as we move forward," he added."

Cllr Carey commended the workmanship on display at the turn



DANGEROUS: Residents say that the turn is ridiculously sharp

but noted that the specifications the council is working with have proven to be an issue and will only add more examples to back up that proof as time goes on.

As the local authority nears the end of the Bawnogue enhancement scheme, the councillor feels that a lack of "proper consideration" has been given to how sharp the corner is.

"They're coming close to the end of the project itself, but I think it may well mean that we have to revisit some of these [changes] – particularly that turn into Lealand Estate."

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme.

“ If those school buses can't make that turn, that's going to be a serious, serious problem as we move forward . . . it may well mean that we have to revisit some of these changes

Adamstown Care Centre opens in early new year

Facility will help ease growing demand

By James Roulston Mooney
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THE Adamstown Primary Care Centre is set to have its doors opened to the public in the first few months of 2026.

Work done to transition an existing building idle for almost two decades into the care centre began in 2024 and is now complete.

The next step is for the developer to complete the handover of the building to the HSE ahead of the expected opening date.

Former councillor and local representative Derren Ó Brádaigh welcomed the Primary Care Centre after partaking in a recent site visit.

Ó Brádaigh said: "For far too long, residents in Lucan, and in particular the 25,000 inhabitants of Adamstown, have been without essential healthcare services in the area.

"There has been an ongoing acute shortage of GPs and primary care services, so the delivery of this facility will help to ease the growing demand."

The building is designed to accommodate several forms of care, including two Primary Care Teams, one Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) and one GP practice.

Professionals and services available include

the public health nurse service, occupational therapist, dietetics, child psychology, social work and speech and language therapy.

The Primary Care Centre will have three floors dedicated to clinical use, with another floor used as a staff office, while 10 bookable clinic rooms will be made available.

Representative Ó Brádaigh noted that the location for the new centre was a "no-brainer" due to its existing layout.

"I have looked at this building lie idle for 18 years. It was originally designed as a marketing suite, so given its location and size, it really was a no-brainer that efforts to acquire this building within the Strategic Development Zone of Adamstown were pursued."

Approximately 40 people will operate within the centre – many of the staff set to relocate to the new building are moving from the Rossecourt Resource Centre.

Some clinicians based at the Acorn Unit in Cherry Orchard Hospital will also make the move.

"This is a good-news story for local people and their families, and I commend the developer, South Dublin County Council and the HSE for listening to the community and those of us who have kept the pressure on the Minister to deliver upon this vital facility."

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme.



GOOD NEWS: Adamstown Primary Care Centre

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

Bountiful Ivy



BENEFITS: A late season Hoverfly feeds on Ivy's rich pollen and nectar

SOME people see Ivy as an annoyance as it scrambles over trees, walls, and sheds.

Some believe that it lives like a parasite, sucking nutrients from the trunks of trees and causing them to die.

Other people like Ivy, seeing it as a living green covering for bare concrete walls, especially if the Ivy is one of the variegated yellow and green-coloured varieties.

Ivy is not a parasite. It has its own root system, and it draws its own nutrients from the soil.

It uses walls and trees merely as a scaffolding, as a base upon which it clings tightly so that it can bring its twining stems and leaves up into the sunlight.

Ivy provides a wide range of benefits to biodiversity.

Its dense leafy growth offers a home for many insects and spiders, while wrens, robins, and blackbirds will nest amongst its leafy branches.

Bats will also roost in ivy-clad trees in summertime.

Ivy is known as being an important 'stop-gap' plant, flowering and fruiting at a time of the year when most

wildflowers are long finished.

Its unusual-looking pom pom flowerheads bloom in autumn, from September to the end of October.

Because they are very rich in pollen and nectar, the tiny yellow flowers are very important for late season bees, hoverflies, wasps, and butterflies.

The wide availability of Ivy's abundant rich food helps these insects survive a little longer through autumn.

These insects, in turn, continue to be a food source for birds into early winter.

The insects pollinate the flowers as they feed, causing Ivy's purple berries to form.

These berries are a critical source of food for wild birds in the hungry gap of the year in January and February, when all other hedgerow berries are long gone.

A heavily laden Ivy bush can help birds survive until springtime when other food sources start to become available once again.

Ivy is therefore a bountiful plant, bringing a range of critical benefits to wildlife throughout the year.



BOUNTIFUL: Blackberries and flowering Ivy provide food for wildlife in the late autumn hedgerows



Showing the way for the 55 plus

The Older People's Council has citizen...

By James Roulston Mooney
jamesrm@echo.ie

THE South Dublin Older People's Council held their Annual General Meeting this month at the Maldron Hotel in Tallaght.

Older People's Council consist of citizens over 55 who advocate for the needs of the demographic within their local authorities.

The council meets once a month and discusses work plans ranging from one to five years in length that they create which help them to implement initiatives to support their age group.

OPC Programme Manager Joe Lumumba described the AGM as an information day which allows eligible locals to see what they do.

The Programme Manager stated: "I suppose the objective for that is to allow some of the older people in the county to know that there is an Older People's Council.

"To know what we do in terms of service delivery for the 55 plus derives from what we hear back from the OPC."

South Dublin was one of the first counties to establish an OPC and Mr Lumumba noted the success of the council over the years in its advocacy and implementation.

One of the council's biggest initiatives was the creation of a booklet which details all services available to those over the age of 55 in South Dublin.

"They've produced the 55 plus directory of services, which is a fantastic booklet containing all services for people that are 55 plus in the county.

"We've already distributed over 10,000 of those and demand is still very,

“ They've produced the 55 plus directory of services, which is a fantastic booklet containing all services for people that are 55 plus in the county. We've already distributed over 10,000 of those

Monthly Information Day
Council and AGM 2025



the way for population

ns who advocate to the local authority



very, very high.”

At the AGM, the second volume of the booklet was handed out to those who attended, which displays new services and omits any that may have ceased in the years in between.

Twenty active members sit on the OPC at any one time and those who wished to express interest in joining it in the future were able to do so via a form at the Maldron.

Members generally serve on the council for two years and several are set

to depart their roles in the coming months, paving the way for new members.

“It’s a big ask and people are doing this on a voluntary basis. So, a good few of them will be stepping down this year and that’s kind of promoted because, with new people that come on, you get new ideas and a new lease of energy . . .

“ . . . I think probably between six and 10 will be stepping down and there will probably be an influx of, again, between six and 10 members.”

TUHH talks

Tallaght
University
Hospital

Ospidéal
Ollscoil
Thamhlacht

An Academic Partner of Trinity College

People Care
for People
Live Better

Professor Seán
Kennelly

Winter is coming and with it the flu – did you know your flu vaccine might reduce your risk for dementia?

IN THIS month’s Let’s Talk About column from Tallaght University Hospital, Professor Seán Kennelly, Consultant Geriatrician in the hospital talks about the importance of the flu vaccine.

As the colder months approach, so does flu season, a time when viruses spread more easily and vulnerable members of our community face increased health risks. But here’s something you might not know: getting your annual flu jab doesn’t just protect you from the flu. It could also help safeguard your brain and heart.

Recent research shows that the flu vaccine offers powerful protection beyond fighting off infection. Studies involving millions of people have found that regular flu vaccination can significantly reduce the risk of developing dementia later in life.

In fact, consistent annual vaccination over several years may lower that risk by up to 44 per cent.

The benefits don’t stop there.

The flu vaccine has also been linked to a reduced risk of heart attack and stroke. Experts believe this is due to its ability to reduce inflammation and stabilise blood vessels, both key factors in maintaining

cardiovascular health.

Flu-related inflammation in the brain is associated with the build-up of proteins like amyloid and tau, which are linked to Alzheimer’s disease.

Vaccination helps reduce this inflammation, offering protection for both brain and heart.

While older adults and those with underlying conditions are often encouraged to get vaccinated, it’s important to remember that flu prevention is a collective effort. When more people are vaccinated, we create a protective shield around those who are most at risk, including children, the elderly, and people living with chronic illnesses like dementia.

People with dementia are especially vulnerable to severe flu complications.

For them, the vaccine is not just helpful, it’s essential.

So whether you are young, healthy, or somewhere in between, getting your flu vaccine is a simple act of care that protects you and those around you. It’s quick, safe, and available at your local GP or pharmacy.

Let’s look out for each other. Roll up your sleeve, and help keep our community healthy this winter.

“Recent research shows that the flu vaccine offers powerful protection beyond fighting off infection. Studies involving millions of people have found that regular flu vaccination can significantly reduce the risk of developing dementia later in life. In fact, consistent annual vaccination over several years may lower that risk by up to 44 per cent

Students and families show off their talent



ST RAPHAEL'S National School held a Pumpkin Patch Party on Wednesday to celebrate their latest addition, reports James Roulston Mooney.

Students and families were invited to carve and design pumpkins to help launch the school's new Heptagon Green House.

Greenhouses are a common sight in schools in the modern era, and Principal Caroline Larkin noted that the school was "blown away" by the success of the launch event.

The Principal continued: "The effort, talent and creativity in our school community is just incredible. We are incredibly proud.

"We had over 300 entries, so luckily the selection process was very democratic and anonymous as it would have been an impossible task.

Children, parents and staff were all able to vote on the day to decide the winner of the competition.

The winning pumpkin designed was inspired by Derpy the Tiger from the hit Netflix film 'KPop: Demon Hunters.'

The new greenhouse that ushered in the event will offer an opportunity to grow their own produce as well as provide chances for outdoor learning.

St. Raphael's plan to host many more events at the new location on school grounds

over the years and the principal exclaimed her excitement at the possibilities that lay ahead.

"Our first event in our heptagon house was very successful and enjoyed by the whole school community and we are looking forward to many more in conjunction with various committees within the school from our student council, our garden committee, our creative committee, green schools and our active committee.

"The heptagon house is providing us with many opportunities to enhance our outdoor learning, and we look forward to sharing it with our whole school community into the future."



FUN TIME: Pupils from St Raphael's



SHOWING OFF: Ethan Dean, Nathan Sako, Daniel Kennedy and Stephen Murphy

Thomp2 Socks has hired

By Ellen Gough

ellen@echo.ie

A TALLAGHT sock company is getting ready for the busy Christmas season by opening four pop-up shops around Dublin, with some very important new staff as well.

Thomp2 Socks, founded in 2019 by father and son duo Finbar and Thomas Barry, has hired four staff members with Down Syndrome to help staff their pop-ups this November.

Co-founder Thomas (39) was himself born with Down Syndrome as well as a host of other serious illnesses.

His dad Finbar, along with Thomas' nephew Shane, helped start Thomp2 Socks to fulfil his dream of getting a job.

Hiring other people with Down Syndrome was always a goal of the company, Shane told *The Echo*.

"That's one of our core values to help those people who are maybe struggling to find work due to their disabilities, it's one of the founding things we wanted to do," he said.

A training day for the four new staff members, Ethan, Nathan, Stephen and Daniel, took place on Wednesday, October 22, at the Work IQ innovation centre in Tallaght, where they learnt about the company, how to deal with customers and payments and of course, about the socks.

They were hired through an employment programme by Down Syndrome Ireland, that Shane approached for help.

"They actually advertise the role and then connected me with candidates, it's great that they have that service available for their members, they do pre-employment training to get the guys ready for work," he said, adding that they had also received great support from the South Dublin Local Enterprise Office.

Hiring these four is an incredibly proud moment for Shane in a particularly challenging year for Thomp2 Socks and the Barry family, after his granddad (and company founder) Finbar passed away in April of this year.

"He would have loved to see all this, the guys getting hired," he said.

"It's been quite a challenging year for us, but we're continuing his kind of legacy on you know, we know that he'd be really proud."

Ethan, Nathan, Stephen and Daniel will each work in one of the four Thomp2 Socks kiosks popping up this November in The Square Shopping Centre in Tallaght, Jervis and Stephen's Green shopping centres, and in Dunnes Stores on Henry Street.



Tallaght sock company opens up four new pop-up shops

four new staff members with Down Syndrome



SOCK IT TO THEM: Ethan Dean, Nathan Sako, Stephen Murphy, Daniel Kennedy, Peter Connolly (LEO) Shane Barry (Thomson Socks), and Daniel Halpin (Works IQ)

Pumpkins push the possibilities in passion for prizes



PIONEERING PUMPKINS: A pair of the pretty presentations for the St Peter NS Pumpkin competition

THE third annual St Peter Apostle Junior National School Pumpkin competition on Wednesday was a huge success across all classes, reports *James Roulston Mooney*.

Students and their parents worked together to make some incredible creations, based on local landmarks, comic book superheroes and more.

A teacher at St Peter Apostle noted their pleasure at the diverse range of pumpkins on display and their joy at the cooperation between students and their parents.

The teacher said: "We had a whole day of all the classes coming to view them, a competition and prizes for each stream, from our autism classes to second [class]."

Some of the creations include a

pumpkin dedicated to Clondalkin public library, a spider complete with legs and the plant from Little Shop of Horrors.

The best pumpkins were judged by the caretaker, the secretary and a member of staff on work experience to provide the fairest votes possible and the winners were awarded with Smyths' vouchers.

The teacher stated that the event filled the school with Halloween cheer and commended the effort put in by all those who took part.

"It was such a lovely, positive event that brought families together. It has become one of the highlights of our Halloween celebrations, and the creativity on display this year was incredible."



PRETTY: More examples of artistic license

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 community spirit across local areas. This week **Ken Doyle** meets Caroline Creaner, one of the founders of Café Memoir

LIFE CHANGING:
Caroline is a
believer in the
therapeutic
qualities of music



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



HAPPY: Caroline Creaner brings a bit of brightness into the lives of many

APOLOGIES for starting with a difficult topic this week but please bear with me, things are not as bleak as they may appear to be.

Dementia is a condition which is on the rise with around 11 thousand Irish people diagnosed in Ireland annually. This works out at approximately 30 per day, which is quite a sobering statistic in our little country.

This week I was delighted to speak to Caroline Creaner, a member of Kingswood Community Choir and one of the founders of the 'Memory Café' or 'Café Memoir' if you're fancy (and we are so that's what we'll call it). Along with her equally dedicated colleagues, Caroline is proving that there can be a ray of light shining through the awful dementia diagnosis.

Caroline is a Kingswood resident and has been for many years but her roots lie down the road in Dublin 12. "I'm originally from Drimnagh," she tells me, "And I went to school at Our Lady of Mercy on Mourne Road." I ask if she did third level and she says, "Not then, no. In fact I didn't do third level until my forties."

Like so many of her generation, Caroline finished school at 15, and in her case, she went straight into the rag trade.

"I worked for a few companies, learning as I went along. Eventually I became a pretty efficient machinist, but when I got married in 1983 my children came (Rob and Jen, married to Adelle and Daniel. Caroline now has two grandchildren, Evan and Alex, to dote on) not long after so I stayed at home to raise my family for the next few years. I did bits and pieces and some part-time work but I enjoyed that time with the kids and thought it was important to be there."

As the children grew and needed less looking after, Caroline started to get the itch to get back into work and as it turns out, her life was about to change hugely as a result of her next move.

"I looked around and decided to try a CE (community employment)

scheme and found one I liked the look of in a school and I then decided I was going to work in childcare. Soon enough the school secretary announced she was leaving and I applied, not thinking I'd get it, but lo and behold they gave me a chance and I was delighted."

Things progressed from there and Caroline gained her qualifications in Childcare followed by a sideways step into her current position as CE Supervisor based in the Oblates in Inchicore. Her natural propensity to be caring led her to establish a number of initiatives in the Inchicore community, with one particular project she was happy to tell me about.

"We have a great kitchen where I work and we used to have some local senior or vulnerable people in for their dinner every day. Then Covid hit and obviously we couldn't keep it running. I decided we'd roll with the punches and become a 'meals on wheels' service and it's been a great success. We now serve a daily meal to residents of LaTouche Court here in Inchicore a complex for senior citizens and it's been great getting to know all the people on the route. I've made so many friends here that I can't walk down the street without saying hello to 10 familiar faces. It's an immensely gratifying job and I'm really happy there."

So, Café Memoir and how it came to be. Before I relate the story, I'll tell you that Caroline is absolutely insistent on saying that it wasn't just her that got it going, it was her with two other friends from the choir, Pauline Dalton (once of these pages) and Sharon Kelly (watch this space).

"It all started with a conversation over coffee between Pauline and I. We had both lost a parent to Dementia, Pauline's dad with what is known as Lewy Body Dementia and my mam with Vascular Dementia. Those are two different conditions under the term 'Dementia.' Another, more well known form is Alzheimer's. We were speaking about it and what struck us most about the illness was the fact that

people lose their memories. We decided we should start a café for people affected by Dementia and call it the 'Memory Café,' or 'Café Memoir' as the French would say."

So, the ladies set to work with their first recruit being Sharon, who's described by Caroline as a brilliant organiser with a love for helping people. The trio then started putting the pieces together. Tallaght Library was kind enough to provide a room to host it and the girls proved extremely resourceful at getting all of the bits and pieces together and in practically no time, they were ready to host their first event in 2023.

"The icing on the cake, so to speak, was when we got a call from Professor Seán Kennelly, who is Consultant Physician in Geriatric and Stroke Medicine at Tallaght Hospital, wanting to get involved," Caroline

continues. "He was kind enough to officially open the Café and gave a speech on the day and he's been a great supporter of ours ever since."

The Memoir Café was thereafter open for business on the first Wednesday of every month. Caroline stresses the positive nature of what they're doing and the fact that a diagnosis is not 'the end' but merely an adjustment to human circumstances. People are still people, deserving of interaction and something to look forward to in their lives. Also it's important to remember their loved ones and carers also need this happy break every so often.

"We don't want to blow our own trumpets here," Caroline says, "but I believe we've really created something very special. We do the room up almost like your Granny's sitting room, with nice cushions, decor

and the good china. It's almost like an afternoon tea I suppose, more than a café. The people absolutely love it, they really do. When you see these people who suffer with an extraordinarily difficult condition, with big beaming smiles it's absolutely wonderful and I'd recommend it to anyone who needs a bit of brightness in their lives."

The initial genteel atmosphere of a fancy afternoon tea soon descends into a wonderful sing-song every time, Caroline says.

"That's the best bit. It becomes a fantastic bit of chaos, everyone lets their hair down and gets into the spirit. Obviously, that's a speciality for us, three being from the choir, but we're all true believers in the therapeutic quality of music."

"When we see everyone off every month they all tell us how they can't wait for the next one. We've started to spread the word to more and more people and we have people coming from all over Dublin to us now."

As great as the café is, it's even more astonishing that the girls make it free to all and even as they expand, they intend to keep it that way.

As Caroline says, a little donation would be nice but if it doesn't come, they'll still carry on. It's a joyous experience for her as much as the people who come to the café.

"I have to mention our team who help us every month and are so important to what we do. That'll be Hilary Meade-Dunne, Jackie Oliver, Joe Green, Eva Gill, Christy Leahy and Annie Murray-Sullivan. They're a brilliant gang and we'd be lost without them," Caroline makes sure to add.

Caroline's enthusiasm and love for Café Memoir comes across in full during our conversation and she assured me that anyone who'd like to come to the next one on the 5th of November in Tallaght Library would be very welcome.

For more information on Café Memoir, check out their Instagram page [cafememoirtallaght](https://www.instagram.com/cafememoirtallaght). Donations are always welcome.

DEDICATED: Caroline has an enthusiasm and love for Café Memoir



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

Genuine community engagement lacking

Dear Editor,
AS A RESIDENT of Greenhills I was deeply disappointed to read your recent article about the proposed synthetic pitch in Greenhills Park. The piece gives the impression that opposition to the plan stems from hostility towards local football clubs and this could not be further from the truth.

The residents of Greenhills have submitted concerns during the council's public consultation, and our objections are rooted in fairness, access, and environmental responsibility and not in opposition to sport or young people playing football. We have never once reached out to the local football clubs trying to "scaremonger" them, we have only tried our best by raising awareness through flyers and community meetings.

Greenhills Park is a small, much loved local green space used daily by families, walkers, and children and has been for many years. The council's proposal to fence off a large section of this public park for a pay-per-hour facility would transform an open, inclusive space into a restricted area accessible mainly to organised sports teams. That is not community development, that is privatisation of a public amenity.

We also have serious concerns about the environmental impact of installing an artificial

plastic surface, floodlights, and hard infrastructure in a small urban park. This plan runs directly counter to South Dublin County Council's own Climate Action Plan, which commits to protecting biodiversity, reducing emissions, and supporting nature-based solutions. A plastic pitch undermines those goals by eliminating natural grass, increasing runoff, and generating microplastic pollution. Not to mention that the floodlights are over 20m tall. If you look at the map I have attached you can see just how closely the houses bordering the park will be negatively affected.

Additional to the environmental impact, we are also concerned about the impact on local roads and parking. The streets surrounding Greenhills Park are already gridlocked on match days, with cars often abandoned on corners, footpaths, and blocking back lanes. The roads around here are old and not particularly very big so you can only imagine how hard it is for cars to get up or even emergency services. The current plan includes no parking provision whatsoever. If the "solution" later becomes paving over more of the park for a car park, then even more of our green space will be lost. The local community centre is already chock-a-block with events, classes, meetings and various religious gatherings. The car park only has

around 50-60 car-park spots if even and they are not designated to anybody in particular. It is a community car park and no car-park spots are allocated. The only other nearby car park is that of the shops across the road from the green. This is a very busy car park as people are visiting Centra to get their weekly shopping (we have a lot of elderly people in our area who drive to the shops to get their shopping). There is a barbers, a pub, a bookies and not to mention a whole block of apartments. There would be no additional room for the congestion that an Astro pitch of this size would bring.

We want to make it clear that we support the right of children and young adults to play sport. Our issue is not football, it's the loss of shared green space and the lack of genuine consultation with residents who live beside and use this park daily.

We urge both the media and the council to listen to all voices in this discussion, not just one side. Real community progress happens when local residents, sports groups, and councillors work together transparently, not when our public spaces are quietly repurposed for private use.

It's also important to highlight that local football clubs were consulted almost eleven

months before the wider community was even informed of this proposal. Residents living beside the park were only notified two weeks before the plans went live for public consultation.

This unequal engagement process is deeply concerning. It gave one group (the clubs) almost a full year to review, prepare, and collaborate with the council, while giving residents just days to respond to a major development that will directly affect their homes, daily use of the park, and quality of life.

If the council truly values community input, why were the very people who use and care for this park every day excluded until the final stage? This is not meaningful consultation and is, I believe, designed to tick a box rather than listen. Genuine community engagement means involving all stakeholders from the beginning, not informing them as an afterthought.

I really do hope that you take into account what I have outlined in my above email. We are disappointed and truly upset about the proposal and the lack of support that we have received as a small community from the council and the media.

Yours sincerely,
Gráinne Schley,
Concerned resident of Greenhills.



DEVASTATION: The garda van on fire during the violence in Citywest last week

Dear Editor,
TWO NIGHTS of protests outside a hub for processing asylum-seekers has ended peacefully after a number of hooded and masked protesters hurled missiles and fireworks at gardaí, vandalised a Luas stop and set a garda van on fire. Gardai were pelted with stones and fireworks in front of the Citywest facility which houses 2,400 immigrants fearful of sending their children to school.

The Citywest transit hub accommodates

460 adults seeking international protection. There are 800 asylum seekers, including 300 children, living in an IPAS centre in the nearby Citywest hotel.

Some 1,200 Ukrainian beneficiaries of temporary protection (BOTPs), and 350 families with children, reside in Citywest hotel, pursuant to the Department's 90-day policy, aiming to scale back support proffered to Ukrainian refugees.

Two gardaí were hospitalised, 23 objectors were arrested, after an alleged sexual assault of a 10-year-old girl occurred

in its vicinity.

A 26-year-old man, who cannot be named due to rules applying to all sexual assault cases, appeared in court charged over the alleged incident. Amid the raging disorder, gardai pledged a "robust response".

Justice minister Jim O'Callaghan said "many have been arrested" and "more will follow". Gardai responded professionally to "thuggish violence" and those in custody would be "charged, named and dealt with relentlessly" by the courts. Garda

commissioner Justin Kelly, who witnessed the turbulent scenes, was "determined", further protestors would be "brought before the courts to face justice".

He added: "This was violence with the intent to damage the Citywest building and intimidate those within." Orchestrated anti-immigration protests attempt to influence government policy on immigration. And piecemeal immigration policies are slow to implement.

Yours sincerely,
Gerry Coughlan, Kilnamanagh.

Thuggery at Citywest is unwarranted and unacceptable

Dear Editor,
I WANT to show my solidarity with asylum seekers and refugees at this time, the crime committed is unforgivable and that person is now in custody, but the thuggery outside Citywest is unwarranted and not acceptable. My thoughts are with the child.

Whether we have lived here all our lives or come here seeking safety, all who live in SDCC are absolutely horrified by what has happened. We all want our children and families to be safe. We will fight together for a community where every child is safe and cared for by systems that work, whether they live in care, in the community or are

seeking international protection.

The victim was in the care of the state when this happened – we must demand children in care are better supported and protected by Túsla. We must pressure this Government to act to ensure that children in care are given the full rights and protection they deserve. We need to be able to trust our services to keep children in care safe.

A small group of people want to use this horrendous incident for their own ends and to cause further harm to our community by whipping up anger and hate towards people seeking safety. They want to divide our communities over skin colour or where we were born, they aren't

concerned with our communities safety – only their own agenda.

The man in custody was not a resident in the Citywest Ipas centre where a group gathered to protest and set a garda van on fire.

The vast majority of people in the Citywest accommodation centre are themselves seeking safety, are living peacefully, and trying to build their lives within the community.

Everyone deserves safety no matter who they are or where we come from – nobody should be targeted or harassed because of the actions of one individual.

The behaviour and protest outside Citywest by

thugs should be utterly condemned. It's nothing but thuggery. The place to protest is outside the Dáil, not where people are living. I had people in Saggart contact me who are terrified by this behaviour. Burning a garda van, throwing missiles etc. is not a peaceful protest in any language. The good people of Saggart demand and deserve better. An innocent child is being forgotten in all this. Shame on anyone trying to use this for political gain or their hate and division campaign.

My thoughts are with the child.
Yours sincerely,
Cllr Francis Timmons,
Clondalkin.

Site for food production hub has been identified in county

Hub aims to support businesses and nurture the growth of a food cluster

By James Roulston Mooney
 jamesrm@echo.ie

A SITE for a new food production hub in South Dublin has been identified, and a design is set to be drafted in the coming months.

A food production hub is a location where food businesses can work from, with resources at their disposal to benefit their research and development.

The plans for the hub to be erected in South Dublin aim to support food businesses in the area and nurture the growth of a food cluster.

A design team with expertise in the creation of food production hubs has been hired to take on the task of creating a draft for South Dublin.

They will also provide South Dublin County Council with an order of magnitude costs for the development of the hub.

The work is set to be sufficiently

advanced before the end of the year to allow the local authority to review the feasibility of the proposal in detail.

Other food production hubs dotted around the country include the Ballybay Food Hub in Monaghan and the Boyne Valley Food Hub in Meath.

Enterprise Ireland is expected to be engaged with by SDCC in relation to funding of the development of the proposed facility.

If the council are satisfied with the draft design provided to them by the specialist team and the associated construction plan, it will then seek Part 8 approval to continue with the project.

Public consultation is expected to be implemented at this stage, with a report on the consultation made to councillors following its conclusion.

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme.



FOOD CLUSTER: A new food production hub in South Dublin has been identified

Permission granted for six new lighting columns on GAA pitches despite concerns

PLANNING permission has been granted for new lights and signage for a GAA pitch in Newcastle, reports Ellen Gough.

St Finian's GAA Club in Rathcreedan had applied for permission to erect six lighting columns for 15m tall pitch lights, and for the addition of a "non-illuminated flat board sponsor signage at the north boundary of the pitch area".

A number of oppositions to the lights and signage were raised during the planning process, such as concerns over anti-social behaviour, lightspill having a "negative impact on residential amenity" and noise pollution from the pitch causing "further disruption for elderly residents".

"The proposed advertising and floodlighting with activity all-year round up to 10pm will be an intensification of the approved use of the site, contrary to the grant of permission by An Bord Pleanála for 'a small-scale recreational purposes,'" one objection noted.

The council's planning department granted planning permission to St Finian's GAA for the development on October 16.

Restrictions ordering that the floodlights not be used past 9.30pm



PERMISSION: St Finian's GAA Club at Rathcreedan in Newcastle

during winter months were included in the conditions for the planning permission. The floodlights are not to be used "within the hour before and after sunset (so will vary depending on the daylight hours of each month), to facilitate the safe

emergence of bats from any roost in the vicinity, and then switched off by 9.30pm each night", as recommended by the council's Heritage Officer.

"It is noted that the submitted Bat Report states that this pitch is a

secondary site for the local GAA club, with frequency of use relatively limited in comparison to the active training and match grounds of a primary GAA club facility," the chief planners report stated.

"The recommended lighting

restrictions are therefore considered appropriate in order to sufficiently address the impact on bats while facilitating appropriate usage of the GAA facility."

Funded by The Local Democracy Reporting Scheme

Almost €5m granted in Power Up grant scheme

1,208 small and medium businesses availed of the €4,000 grant in South Dublin

By James Roulston Mooney

jamesrm@echo.ie

ALMOST € million was provided to local businesses in South Dublin under a new grant introduced by the Government last year.

1,208 small and medium businesses availed of the €4,000 grant provided under this scheme, totaling €4,832,000.

The Power Up grant was announced in Budget 2025 and was provided to small and medium enterprises in the hospitality, retail and beauty sectors.

€170 million was set aside in the Budget that year to be given to businesses under this grant.

The grant is intended to help businesses in these sectors deal with rising costs, especially electricity.

The grant was funded by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment and administered by local authorities.

Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment Peter Burke TD thanked local authorities for their help when announcing the grant: "I want to thank the Local Authorities for their tremendous work in administering these grants on behalf of my department.

"They are the closest arm of the state to many of our businesses and have direct links into businesses at a local level."

It required businesses to have received the second payment under the Increased Cost of Business scheme in order to qualify.

The ICOB scheme was a pre-existing grant scheme from the previous budget that allowed businesses of small and medium size to deal with the same issues the Power Up grant was brought in to tackle.

Minister of State for Business, Employment and Retail Emer Higgins TD noted that the ICOB and Power Up schemes added up to almost half a billion euro in the "government's direct support into small businesses."

South Dublin County Council began processing payments to small businesses who successfully applied for the Power Up grant in December 2024 and completed payments in February 2025.

Businesses who did not classify their business properly during the initial ICOB registration period had the opportunity to reapply earlier this year.

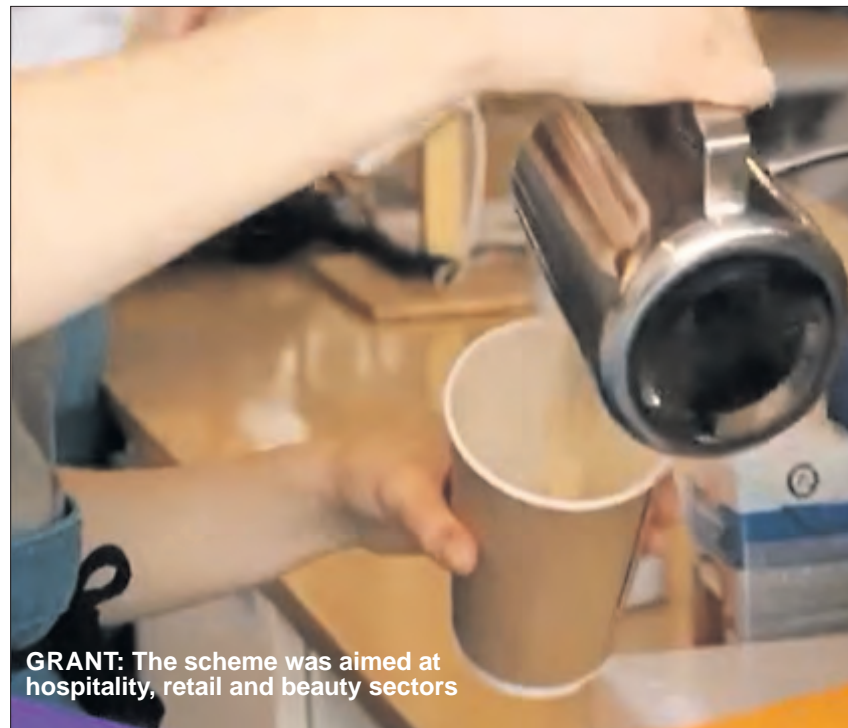
The reclassification appeal process allowed the businesses to make amends to their applications and register for these grants.

Appeals were accepted from July 24 to August 29 and saw 125 more businesses become eligible to receive the once-off payments.

A total of €500,000 in additional Power Up grants will be paid to small and medium enterprises, while €296,709 in further ICOB 2 grants is set to be provided also.

These further grant payments will be paid out to the successful applicants in the coming weeks.

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme.



GRANT: The scheme was aimed at hospitality, retail and beauty sectors

Leadership and learning recipients inspiring stories

A LOCAL leadership and learning celebration event took place this week in Ballyfermot, reports Maurice Garvey.

On Wednesday, October 22, the Cherry Orchard Implementation Board and Liffey Partnership hosted a celebration event for recipients of the Leaders in Learning Education and Training Grant, supporting people living in Cherry Orchard.

The event was held in St Ultan's School and featured delightful music by students from St Ultan's.

Four LIL recipients shared their inspiring stories of hope and achievement. Some spoke about the struggles and challenges they faced on their journeys, while others highlighted the valuable support they received from Liffey Partnership.

Among the recipients who spoke at the event was Cherry Orchard resident Nevaeh Flanagan, who is studying to be a barrister.

Ms Flanagan said she was grateful to receive the fund and wouldn't have been able to buy half the equipment she requires as a second-year law student at TUD without it.

"This grant and Liffey Partnership itself is so important to

me as in my opinion it helps to build the community and give everyone a chance to chase their dreams.

"Leadership can be as little as picking someone up when they're down. Showing people the light when they are in the dark. However, a key element of leadership for me is feeling the fear and doing it anyway. Let this grant give you the opportunity to push yourself everyday to be the best version of you," said Ms

Flanagan.

The Leaders in Learning education and training fund supports people who have returned to education or developed new skills.

Located on Drumfin Road in Ballyfermot, Liffey Partnership was set up in 1996 as a response to long-term unemployment and poverty in the area delivering a variety of programmes.

Cherry Orchard Implementation Board was established in

November 2022 by the Minister for Justice.

It subsequently invited senior representatives from state agencies including Dublin City Council, HSE, An Garda Síochána, TUSLA, Probation Service, CDYSB, Ballyfermot Chapelizod Partnership and St Ultan's Primary School amongst other professionals and local residents, to join the Board.

The Leaders in Learning Grant will open again in 2026.



LEADERSHIP: Recipients receive their certificates at the ceremony

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Following in family footsteps with opening of flower shop

Marie keeps family tradition alive with new store in Rathcoole Shopping Centre

By James Roulston Mooney
jamesrm@echo.ie

A NEW flower shop has opened in Rathcoole with a rich history to go along with the beautiful smells.

Florist Marie Kenny opened Kenny's Flowers two years after closing a store on the Naas Road that her grandparents had set up.

Marie's grandparents, the Karstels, immigrated from the Netherlands and brought the nation's love of flowers with them when they opened the store and Kenny is keeping that love alive.

The florist told the story of her grandparents: "They moved from Holland in the early 1950's and they started growing carnations – at the time, there wasn't really any flowers being grown in Ireland at all.

"So, they were actually kind of known for their carnations, the quality of them, in the 1950's.

"So, they had the walled gardens in Croke Park, they were growing stuff there and then bringing them into the market. Then in the 1970's, they bought the piece of land out on the Naas Road."

Marie's grandfather passed in 1977, and hands changed throughout the years from her grandmother to her father, to her mother.

The florist worked in the family-owned business throughout her

FLOWER POWER: Marie Kenny at the new store in Rathcoole



school years and beyond, eventually coming into charge.

She took over the store in 2014 and remained in charge until she had to close in 2023 as the land was sold.

Fast-forward to the present day, where Marie now operates from Rathcoole Shopping Centre, keeping the family connection to flowers alive.

However, she would not have seen too many plants in her grandparents' back garden growing up but does fondly remember the glasshouses where they nurtured their passions.

"My granny loved having a few plants in the garden, I suppose, but the glasshouses there, we had stuff growing – there were daisies, chrysanthemums, carnations there as well, roses."

Flowers are often bought for loved ones to celebrate milestones, occasions or just their presence in other people's lives.

They have the power to hold memories within them and the connections formed through them over the years are seldom forgotten.

As Marie works in the flower shop, she sometimes finds herself back in the glasshouses at her grandparents.

"Sometimes, you smell the carnations, and it brings you right back to it."

Kenny's Flowers are located at Unit 3, Rathcoole Shopping Centre and are open 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 2pm Saturdays.

IT apprenticeship programme aims to equip staff with skills to protect councils

IRELAND'S first tailored IT apprenticeship programme for county and city councils has been rolled out with Dublin City Council among the participating local authorities in the programme.

Up to 10 local authorities across Ireland have joined the initiative, which aims to equip staff with the skills and expertise to protect local government networks and data from cyber-attacks.

The Cybersecurity Apprenticeship Programme was officially launched this week by the Education Minister Marian Harkin and Housing Minister John Cummins in Dundalk.

Representatives from the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA), which has collaborated with FIT (Fastrack into Information Technology) to deliver the programme, also attended the launch.

The scheme features a 70:30 split between workplace learning and off-the-job training. This means the participants are applying the most up-to-date theoretical knowledge to IT practice in local authorities.

When completed, the programme will equip participants with the skills and knowledge to work in cybersecurity roles within the local government sector, and they will receive an Advanced Certificate in Cybersecurity (NFQ Level 6).

The first cohort of 14 participants began in June, serving their apprenticeships in 10



PROGRAMME: Advanced Manufacturing Training Centre of Excellence in Dundalk, where the launch took place

local authorities and the LGMA.

Minister Harkin said the apprenticeship is a "powerful example of how targeted education and training can support the evolving needs of our public sector."

Chief Executive Officer of the LGMA,

Pauline Mulligan added: "Upskilling current local authority employees is central to our digital transformation strategy, ensuring that they are equipped with the expertise needed to safeguard public services in an increasingly complex cyber landscape."

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€750,000 guide price for one acre site in Bohernabreena

DEVELOPMENT: The site in Bohernabreena

One acre site is zoned for residential use near the Dublin Mountains

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

A ONE acre “prime development” site zoned for residential use near the Dublin Mountains is now on the market with a guide price of €750,000.

Ideally located in Bohernabreena, the site benefits from its proximity to local amenities including sports clubs, schools and retail outlets.

While being close to the greater Dublin city amenities, this site is also situated just on the doorstep of the Dublin mountains, providing a perfect combination of city and countryside living.

This site is close to Old Bawn, Tallaght, providing a wealth of amenities in the surrounding area such as a community centre, shopping centre and eateries.

Further afield, but still within easy reach are the services of Firhouse and Tallaght, with amenities such as Tallaght University Hospital only a 10 minute drive away.

A range of outdoor experiences surround the

property, with Kiltipper Park, Bohernabreena Reservoir Park and a local Pitch and Putt club close by to name just a few.

The site is currently zoned as RES N' under the South Dublin County Development Plan 2022-2028, the objective of which is to provide for new residential communities in accordance with approved area plans.

The site has no planning permissions.

Planning granted for temporary ice rink tent in shopping centre car park

PLANNING permission has been granted for the next five years for an ice rink tent at The Square Shopping Centre, reports *Ellen Gough*.

The council have granted permission to the shopping centre's management for temporary use of part of the eastern carpark lands for the erection of a 1,315sqm temporary tent structure for use as an ice rink for a period not exceeding 3 months per year, from November to January.

According to their website, South Dublin On Ice “is set to transform Tallaght Square & host a magical festive celebration for South Dublin”.

The planning permission is valid for the next five winters, 2025-2029 inclusive.

Up to 48 car spaces will be out of use for the duration of the temporary ice rink, the application stated, at the car park to the east of The Square Shopping Centre.

The proposed opening hours for the rink will be from 8am to 10pm, according to the application.

Music will be played within the ice rink marquee “as background only” and will be managed so as not to “negatively impact the operation of the commercial centre or the general public”, the centre's management said.

The Square has over 2,400 parking spaces which will be available for the ice rink customers and will be marshalled during busy periods to ensure safe movement and to address potential congestion issues.

Permission for the temporary structure was granted on October 16 by South Dublin County Council's planning department.

South Dublin On Ice is due to open November 2025.

Funded by The Local Democracy Reporting Scheme

TEMPORARY: The ice rink tent is planned for the car park at The Square



Housing association loses appeal against conditions

Conditions at former An Post depot site include a reduction of apartments to 45

By Ellen Gough

ellen@echo.ie

A HOUSING association has lost an appeal they lodged against planning conditions on a residential development in Crumlin.

Cabhrú Housing Association were awarded permission in May this year for a five-storey development of 53 one-bed apartment units at the former An Post depot site on Saint Agnes Road.

All units in the development are “intended to provide housing for independent living for older residents (60 years plus)”, according to the original application from the developer, who are a voluntary organisation that helps older people in need of housing.

However, among the conditions attached by the Dublin City Council planner, the building has been reduced to just three storeys, with a “setback fourth storey” and the number of apartments to 45.

In their appeal to An Coimisiún Pleanála (formerly An Bord Pleanála), Cabhrú Housing Association said they “welcome the positive decision” from DCC to grant permission, but the “removal of the fourth floor (fifth storey) in its entirety... is considered wholly unnecessary”.

“The Dublin City Council Planner’s assessment focuses on the visual impact of the fourth floor (fifth storey) only and fails to acknowledge that it has been demonstrated at Planning Assessment Stage and Further Information Stage that the building height is considered to present no impact to the streetscape in the Crumlin Village Architectural Conservation Area,” the appeal, lodged on June 16 read.

Cabhrú Housing Association also contended that the fifth storey element “does not present any impact to neighbours in relation to overbearing, overshadowing or overlooking, specifically to the



CONDITIONS: An artist impression of the plans at the former An Post Depot site on St Agnes Road

houses along Windmill Road and Windmill Park”.

A separate third-party appeal was lodged just a day later with An Coimisiún Pleanála by a resident of Windmill Park who claimed that the development is “too high for the location where the prevailing height on all sides is two storeys”.

The separate appeal stated that the “insensitive height” of the proposed development would negatively impact those living in Windmill Road and Windmill Park, located to the north-east of the site, “with overbearing, overlooking and

overshadowing”, plus a loss of privacy due to each apartment having a private balcony.

In their decision published on October 15, An Coimisiún Pleanála upheld DCC’s decision to restrict the height of the development and cap the number of apartments at 45.

The fourth floor (i.e. fifth storey) shall be omitted in its entirety “to protect the visual amenities and character of Crumlin Village Architectural Conservation Area,” the report from ACP read.

The original decision from DCC stated that

occupation of the units would be restricted to people aged 55 or over and that they could not be “sold, let or otherwise transferred or conveyed without a prior grant of planning permission”.

The decision by ACP raised this restriction to “persons aged 60 years and older”.

“The proposed sheltered accommodation units shall not be sold to private individuals as habitable dwellings... to ensure occupation of the units is restricted to older persons/ occupants.”

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme

Asking price of €525k for unit in Newlands Cross Retail Centre

QUANTUM Property Consultants bring to the market “an excellent opportunity” to acquire Unit 2, Newlands Cross Retail Centre, reports Ellen Gough.

With an asking price of €525,000, this retail premises is located in a busy and vibrant location just off the N7 at Newlands Cross, one of the busiest arteries into Dublin City.

The double frontage shop front (with electric roller shutters for security) extends to approximately 2,065 sq. ft at ground floor level with the benefit of a mezzanine floor providing an additional 1,184 sq. ft of storage space.

The listing agent estimate that market rent for this property would be in the region of €50,000 to €60,000 per annum offering an attractive yield to the discerning purchaser looking to buy the property as an investment.

The premises is currently owned and occupied by a long-established office stationery company, operating from the premises for the past 20 years with many local schools and offices as high valued customers.

There is the option to buy the premises at the asking price of €525,000 and separately the business at the asking price of €120,000 for a total €645,000.

Business accounts are available on



OPPORTUNITY: The unit at Newlands Cross Retail Centre

request should there be an interested party looking to buy and continue to run the stationery business (without prejudice/subject to contract/contract denied).

Newlands Cross Retail Centre enjoys an exceptionally convenient location with easy access to major road networks,

ensuring high visibility and accessibility for customers.

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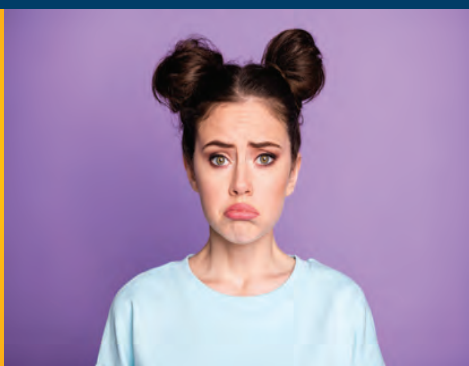
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Satirical comedy 'A Modest Proposal' comes to the Civic

By Ryan Butler
news@echo.ie

JOHNNY is excited. He's cracked a big problem, and now he wants to tell us about it. He and his high-powered agency team have come up with a solution to one of the most persistent and difficult social issues in one of the world's richest economies – that of ongoing child poverty in Ireland.

Where others have failed, Johnny has applied blue-sky thinking, shifted the mindset and has come up with a solution where everyone wins.

Armed with a Powerpoint deck he takes to the stage to present his modest, if unorthodox, proposal. Based on a 1729 essay by Jonathan Swift, 'A Modest Proposal' is a satirical comedy starring Jed Murray and directed by Andy Crook.

The production opened at the New Theatre, Dublin, in February 2024, where it garnered excellent reviews from audiences and critics alike and is now touring nationally.

This week, we sat down with writer David Quinn to discuss 'A Modest Proposal', which will be performed in the Civic Theatre from November 6 to 8 at 8.15pm; be sure to check the Civic website for more details.

What inspired you to write a stage adaptation of Jonathan Swift's essay 'A Modest Proposal'?

I've always been a fan of Jonathan Swift's short 1729 essay and pamphlet 'A Modest Proposal' ever since I first read it in college in the 1980s. The genius of the original piece is that he gets you to agree to something quite outrageous by making a very rational argument. It's a savage piece. Hard-hitting satire at its very best, and it has stayed with me ever since. In my view, it is one of the greatest pieces of writing in the English language and should be mandatory for every Leaving Cert student. It's only nine pages long but packs a real punch. When you finish reading it, you think to yourself – "I can't believe that I just went along with what he has just proposed." And of course, it's about child poverty – something that is still with us.

It all came back to me when I went on a guided tour of St Patrick's Cathedral in 2017 (If you haven't done that tour yet, then make it your business; it's a real gem). And as you probably already know, Jonathan Swift was the Dean there. The tour guide really brought him to life and put him in the context of his times. He was very politically active and campaigned on many of the social issues of the day. But what really came to light was that while Swift's congregation were the cream of Dublin society – the ultra-wealthy Anglo-Irish aristocracy –

right across the road were the slums of the Liberties, where most of the poor people lived at the time.

Child poverty was in the news back in 2017. It had just reached the 1000 mark – as in there were 1000 children living in homeless accommodation. There was the usual outcry in the media and political handwringing. This news angered me, and inspired by Swift, I sat down to write 'A Modest Proposal' for today.

How have you adapted the source material for a modern setting?

I work in advertising, and part of the job is making presentations and pitching ideas to clients, and I have always thought that it was inherently theatrical. I often thought to myself "what is the most outrageous idea that we could pitch?" These two strands came together, and this is the setup for my 'Modest Proposal'. It's a presentation complete with a PowerPoint deck, where the audience is the client (don't worry, there is no audience participation).

Brendan Murray and you have been working together for years to adapt this play; can you tell us more about that?

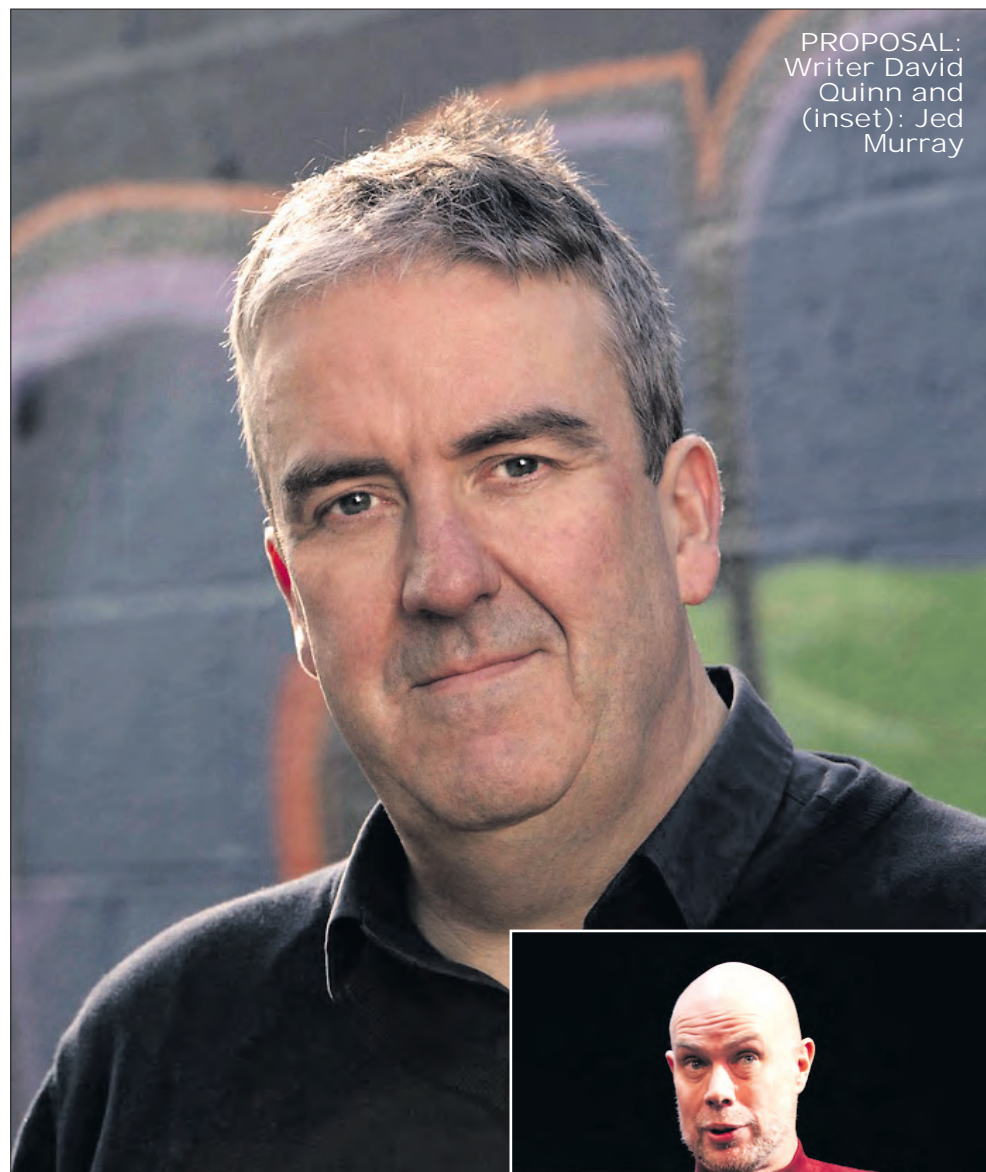
Brendan Murray, who, by the way, is a native of Clondalkin and a past pupil of Moyle Park, and I go back a long way. We used to work in Punchbag Theatre in Galway together many years ago. Punchbag was best known for the play 'Eclipsed', about the Magdalene Laundry, and for giving a young actor from Navan, by the name of Tommy Tiernan, his first big break. Brendan is now the Director of the Glens Arts Centre in Manorhamilton, County Leitrim (a long way from Clondalkin!), and he liked the play and wanted to produce it.

How did Andy Crook and Jed Murray come to be involved in this play?

Andy Crook – the director – and Jed Murray – the actor – came on board last year for its first run at The New Theatre in Temple Bar. It got a great reaction from both the public and the critics alike. I'm delighted that we are getting this opportunity to take it out on the road and tour it around Ireland so more people can see it.

Were there any highlights or challenges in writing this play?

One of the tragic bits of writing this play is that every year I have had to update the numbers. In the first third of the play, Jonny presents a picture of what life is like for a homeless child in Ireland today. For this section we use the real data as published by the government and other sources. As I mentioned, I wrote the first draft in 2017 when the number of homeless children reached 1000 for the first time and caused an outrage. A couple of months later, they reached 5000 for the first time and got a pretty muted response. Now that



PROPOSAL:
Writer David
Quinn and
(inset): Jed
Murray

is tragic.

What is next for you; do you have any more projects in the pipeline?

I am working away in the background on another idea, and I hope to finish the first draft of the script soon. It's nothing like 'A Modest Proposal', and who knows maybe we will get the chance to bring it to Tallaght again.

Who would you like to thank?

I would like to thank my friends and family, particularly Sophie, Oscar and Deirdre, for their support. Writing is something I have wanted to do for a long time.

A Modest Proposal

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Sharon and Abigail



Kelly Haas, Frankie James, Danny Haas, Jenny McGrath and Ciaran Higgins-Mroz



Derek and Lilian



Ingrid, Jess, Cass and Olwen



Pauline and Tony



Dylan and Jodie



Ciara, Cathy and Sharon



Abigail and Frankie

KIMS celebrating 10 years with musical filled with music and dance

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

"WE'RE delighted to be bringing to the stage our version of Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella," remarks Nikki, Public Relations Officer of Kilmainham Inchicore Musical Society.

This year, KIMS is celebrating 10 years as a musical society with a "wonderfully enchanting" musical that is filled with music, dance, laughter, true love and just a little bit of magic.

Back in 2015, a group of strangers gathered for the very first time in Inchicore, united by a shared love of musical theatre and a dream to bring 'Calamity Jane' to life and bring musical theatre back to Inchicore once more.

From the very start, there was an instant connection among the cast—a real sense of community and belonging that would become the heartbeat of KIMS and with a small cast of less than 30 people, "we took to the stage with gusto!" Everything was hands-on; from set to costumes, it was a real group effort.

Fast forward 10 years, KIMS now boasts over 60 members, dedicated stage and front-of-house crews, prop and costume managers, full production teams, a full orchestra, dance captains, chorus mistresses, custom-built sets, and even merchandise.

For their 10 year anniversary show, they wanted a really fun, feel-good, family-friendly show, so there was "no place else to go but Rodgers and Hammerstein!"

Rodgers and Hammerstein were an iconic American musical theatre duo whose partnership began with 'Oklahoma!'

However, they also created a string of well-known blockbusters like 'Carousel', 'South Pacific', 'The King and I', and 'The Sound of Music', earning numerous awards and a place in the "golden age" of musical theatre.

The 2013 Broadway version of Cinderella that KIMS will be performing adds new characters and twists while retaining the inspirational themes of the 1957 original show.

It was nominated for 5 Drama Desk awards as well as 9 Tony awards, winning 'Best Costume Design' in a Musical.



HANDS UP: The cast getting ready and (above) in rehearsals for the show

The production opens Wednesday October 29 and running nightly from 7.30pm in the Inchicore College of Further Education, until Saturday, November 1 (including a 2pm

Matinee on the 1st) Tickets can be purchased online at www.kims.ie/tickets, or a limited amount will be available at the door.

Soprano Celine Byrne was unique experience

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

"THE evening of our Masterclass with the world-famous Soprano Celine Byrne had finally come!" beams Ruth Grogan of North Clondalkin Community Choir.

She continues by remarking that it was "great" to see so many of their members, around 60, in total, arriving in good time to help with preparations at St Mary's Junior National School in Rowlagh, Clondalkin, on October 13.

Dublin Mid-West TD, Shane Moynihan, always a supporter of the choir, warmly welcomed them, saying how "we always have a friend in him, and it's inspiring how we always strive for excellence."

Their pianist for the evening was Damian

Gallagher, director of another choir, Arabella Voices. This gave their choir director, Noel, time to conduct them.

The atmosphere was electric as Celine walked into the room. "She immediately put us at ease as she made us laugh with her introductory greeting," followed by nearly an hour of hard work.

The choir have been practising two new songs since the start of their 2025/26 term—only a few weeks ago—and a few older songs from last year.

However, it was only when Celine started giving them "very helpful" tips on how to hold certain notes and pronounce some Latin words that they realised how complex their pieces were.

She worked with the choir's three sections, Sopranos, Altos and Tenors, separately. When Celine sang examples, her "stunning voice sent shivers down our spines."

When they then put it altogether; "what a difference! Perfect singing in perfect harmony!"

After nearly an hour of hard work it was time for Celine to leave, but not before being presented with a bouquet of yellow roses by one of the choir's long-term members, Eileen Meyler, and then the younger members gave her a basket arrangement.

"It was a unique experience," comments Ruth. Celine's encouragement has inspired the choir, and they anticipate even greater opportunities in the future.

They are already planning another trip to Italy next year, and they have been invited to sing at the Custom House in Dublin for the second time.



EXPERIENCE Celine Byrne



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Older People's Council

SOUTH DUBLIN AGE FRIENDLY INFORMATION DAY

Photos by Paddy Barrett

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Tallaght ICA



Roisin McKeon (Patient Advocacy Services)



Imelda (An Cosán)



Lucie Cunningham and Antoinette O'Reilly



Mark Doyle (Dublin Fire Brigade)



Martin, Adam and Liz



Angela Lyons, Paula Cullen, Mary Wynne and Elizabeth Lawlor



SDCC Committee

The Jacob Saga is a fantasy fiction series

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

"ABOUT nine-years-ago, I was in a very bad mood..." begins Crumlin-born author Eamon Blake, who has lived in Kingswood for the last 44 years. He tells the story of how, in September 2016, he was called into Arnott's because there was a problem with one of the stands.

Upon hearing the problem was fixed, he went to Temple Bar, where he saw an attractive young man leaning against the wall, with eight girls hanging around him.

"It was the biggest flirting session I've ever seen in my life, and I remember thinking to myself, 'There's a story there.'"

He began writing a story for a competition in a newspaper; over nine years, this story blossomed into a five-book series.

'The Jacob Saga' series is described as a fantasy fiction series that begins with a young man called Jacob being brought back 2000 years to Greece and becoming a god.

Eamon details the series, which includes 'Jacob's Journey of a God', 'Walk of the Messengers', 'War of the End Times', 'Children of the Gods', and 'Battle for Olympus'.

The series intertwines historical events with fantasy elements, covering a wide range of historical figures and events.

Eamon mentions that the series was initially targeted at young adults but has received positive feedback from older readers.

He self-published the books due to health issues in 2019, and has since launched all five books.

Some of the challenges of self-publishing for Eamon have included grammar and sentence construction.

He mentions the importance of research, including genealogy, and his love for historical and mythological research.

Eamon has also been working on a sixth novel, a crime novel called 'Milo's Quarry', which has received positive feedback from his writing group.

He would like to thank the support of his writing groups (the now-defunct 'Dublin Writers' Forum' and now the 'All About Writing' group) and friends who have listened to his stories and provided feedback.

Eamon also expresses his gratitude to Blake College and Blake Food Services for sponsoring his launch of all five books together at Kingswood Community & Leisure Centre, where he offered a promotional package for all five books.



LAUNCH: Eamon speaking at book launch



support: Eamon's nieces and grand niece Niamh, Caoimhe and Leanne



Rua Red holds annual open to support emerging and established talent



EXHIBITION: people at an exhibition in rua red

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

THE Annual Open serves as a platform to "support and encourage" emerging and established artists.

Each year Rua Red holds an annual open-call exhibition of fine and applied art and invites artists from all disciplines and career stages to submit their work.

The exhibition provides a chance to witness the diversity and vitality of contemporary art and uncover unanticipated connections.

This year, Rua Red has invited artists to submit work that responds to the theme 'Right Here, Right Now'. Work that speaks to the urgency of the present moment, reflects lived realities, challenges inherited systems and reimagines futures from the ground up.

Whether personal, political, poetic, or protest-driven, Rua Red welcomes work that is rooted in the "here and now"—work that speaks from within

communities, that is unapologetically human.

The winner of the 2025 Annual Open Judge's Choice Award, Conor Horgan, will be awarded a solo show in Gallery 2 at some point during the ensuing 12-month period.

Exhibiting artists include Reuben Brown, Dee Byrne, Geraldine Carton, Emanuela Carvisiglia, Rayleen Clancy, Beatrice O'Connell, Paddy Critchley, and Gemma Crowe, among many others.

The 'Right Here, Right Now' exhibition launched on October 3 in the Rua Red Art Gallery in Tallaght and is currently available to view until November 15, supported by the Arts Council and South Dublin County Arts Office.

Keep an eye out for Domnick Sorace's 'When Stars Collide' as well; Domnick was the recipient of the 2024 Annual Open Judge's Choice Award.

The gallery's opening hours are from 10am to 6pm, Monday to Saturday; all are welcome, and admission is free.

Harvest Festival

HELD BY THE VINE GROUP IN TALLAGHT

Photos by Paddy Barrett

Photos taken for *The Echo* are available to purchase. Email reception@echo.ie or call 01-4685350.

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Gail and Pauline



Fr John Skinnader and John Correa



Anagha, Iria, Anika, Julia, Tessa, Joseph, Leander, Nia and Alphonsa



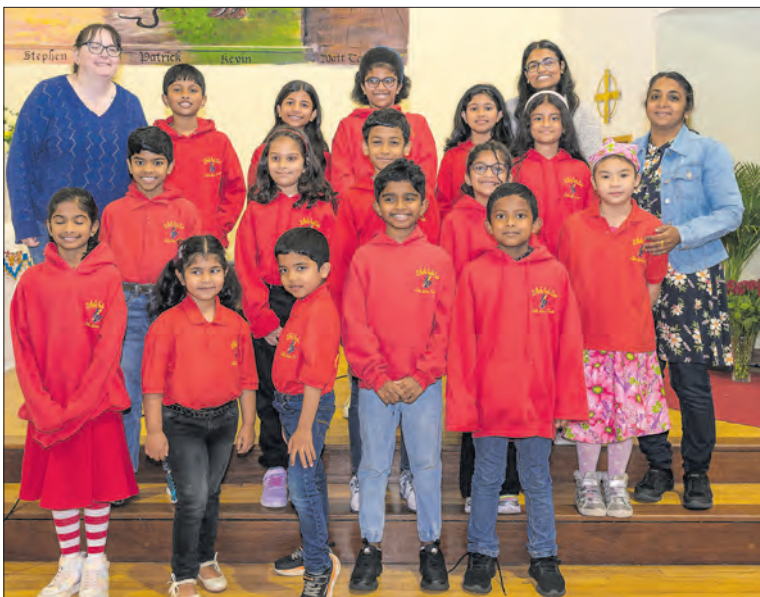
Olivia Fitzgerald and Justine Redmond



Anima Christi Choir



The Geoghegan Family



St Mark's Youth Choir



Pamela and Michael



Mary and Sheila

“ Winter blues are cured every time with a potato gratin paired with a roast chicken.

Alexandra
Guarnaschelli

Food with passion

SAGE & ONION ROAST CHICKEN MEATBALLS

by john paul kennedy / jpcooking@gmail.com



Caving a roast dinner but short on time? These sage and Onion roast chicken meatballs are your ultimate cheat's roast! with just a handful of ingredients and minimal prep, you'll have all the comforting flavours of a traditional roast, without the hours in the kitchen. Juicy chicken, herby sage, and sweet onion come together in golden meatballs that are quick to cook and absolutely delicious to eat. perfect for busy weeknights or lazy sundays!

Ingredients:

170g paxo sage and onion stuffing mix
450ml of boiling water
500g minced chicken breast
Teaspoon of fresh thyme
sea salt & ground black pepper to season

john paul kennedy is a self-Taught cook and an avid fan of collecting cookery books with a passion for good old-fashioned home cooking. his passion for proper family cooking stems from his two grandmothers, who were both excellent cooks, one of whom was a trained chef. jp promises to bring us plenty of family-inspired recipes and tasty treats while showing us how to get the basics right

Method:

1. preheat your oven to 180 degrees. in a large bowl place the stuffing mix with the boiling water, mix together and leave to set for 15 minutes.
2. mince your chicken breasts in a food processor then combine with the stuffing mix, add the thyme and season.
3. line a baking sheet with parchment paper. roll the mixture into meatballs, the recipe will make about 20 and place on the baking sheet.
4. bake for 35 minutes and serve with crunchy roast potatoes, maple roasted carrots and buttered cabbage and lashings of chicken gravy and enjoy!

These sage and Onion roast chicken meatballs are seriously delicious, comfort food at its finest with none of the fuss. They're perfect served with all your favourite roast dinner sides: think crispy roast potatoes, maple-glazed carrots, buttery cabbage, and a generous pour of rich chicken gravy. when i made them over the weekend, they went down an absolute storm - every bite packed with flavour and homely goodness. Trust me, this is one cheat's roast you'll want to make again and again! kids and all the family will love these!



Contact
jp on:

Twitter: @Jpkcooking
Email: Jpkcooking@gmail.com
Instagram: jpkennedy.kennedy

Halloween Walk

IN KNOCKMORE JUNIOR SCHOOL IN KILLINARDEN

Photos by Paddy Barrett

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Arlo, Gabriel, Hudson and Perrie



Cruagh, Henry, Kallie and Andrea



Evie, Hayley, Bogdan and Ryan



Logan, Faithe, Darcie and Croi



Bailey, Eila, Lylah and Preston



Bradlee, Dexter, Lily, Cora and Mary



Ollie, Kaden, Blake and Preston



Emmie-Mae, Sonnie, Kaycie and Anthony



Priya, Amelia, Damian and Axel

“ You cannot change your future, but you can change your habits, and surely your habits will change your future.

Abdul Kalam

Health & Fitness

THREE HABITS THAT SECRETLY SABOTAGE YOUR PROGRESS (AND HOW TO FIX THEM)

by Ursula Frawley / info@moveitfitness.ie



W

hen we think about habits, we usually think about the ones we want to build. But what about the sneaky habits that might already be holding us back? Sometimes it's not what we're doing, but what we don't even realise we're doing, that slows our progress the most.

Here are three common habits that can quietly derail your health and fitness goals, and some simple ways to turn them around.

1. Comparison

One of the things I love most about the weekly parkrun (held all over Ireland on Saturday mornings) is that it reminds us we're all running or walking our own race. It's not about being faster than anyone else. It's about showing up, doing your best, and maybe beating your own personal best from last week.

Comparison can drain your motivation faster than any workout. The moment you start focusing on what someone else can do, you take your focus away from your own progress. The fix? Start celebrating your wins, no matter how small. Progress is progress, and it belongs to you.

URSULA FRAWLEY IS A PERSONAL TRAINER AND OWNER OF MOVE IT FITNESS. HER ONLINE STRENGTH & FITNESS CLASSES, WHICH RUN LIVE SEVEN TIMES A WEEK, HAVE BEEN HELPING WOMEN TO FEEL STRONGER AND FITTER SINCE 2020. HER ONLINE AND IN-PERSON PROGRAMMES ARE FOCUSED ON MOTIVATING AND CHANGING A MINDSET TO ENJOYING THE FITNESS JOURNEY, WHILE FEELING EMPOWERED WITH A POSITIVE MINDSET. URSULA LIVES IN DUBLIN 24 WITH HER HUSBAND AND FOUR CHILDREN. GET MORE INFORMATION BY EMAILING HER AT INFO@MOVEITFITNESS.IE OR WWW.MOVEITFITNESS.IE

2. Lack of Sleep

Before you beat yourself up for skipping a workout, ask yourself this: did you get enough rest last night? Sleep is one of the most underrated parts of a fitness routine. Without it, your body doesn't recover properly, your energy dips, and your motivation disappears.

Try setting a goal that has nothing to do with workouts for a change. Go to bed an hour earlier. Turn off your screens before bed. Create a routine that lets your body recharge so that your workouts feel easier and more enjoyable.

3. The All or Nothing Mindset

This one is a big trap. You start off full of enthusiasm, commit to five classes a week, decide to start running, and add a daily walk on top. By week two, you're exhausted and burned out.

Consistency beats intensity every time. Start small. Add one class, a few walks, or a light jog. Build gradually. That way you create a rhythm you can actually maintain and enjoy.

And finally ...

If you recognise yourself in any of these, don't be too hard on yourself. Most of us are guilty of at least one. The first step is noticing the habit. The next step is making a small, positive change in the opposite direction.

Here's to a winter full of steady progress, better sleep, and celebrating every small win along the way!!

This article is not a substitute for medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Remember, always consult with your GP before embarking on any change in diet or new health & fitness regime.



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- ✓ Functions room capacity of 300 people
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Pumpkin Patch Party

IN ST RAPHAEL'S NATIONAL SCHOOL IN BALLYFERMOT

Photos by Paddy Barrett

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Bobby, Tadhg, Parker, Nicholas and Peter



Lauren, Felicia, Heidi, Callie-Mae and Lucy



Ella, Liam, Orla, Anastasia and Cole



Lucy and Felicia



Ruby, Evie, Axel, Ivan, Kennedy and Helena



Nick, Caitriona, Adele, Caroline, Dee, Maria and Katie (Staff)



Jackson, Emie, Laina and Parker

FLASH GORDON

I AM DR. HANS ZARKOV. I'M A SCIENTIST... AND ALSO THE REASON WE'RE STRANDED ON THIS PLANET.

WHEN I SEE FLASH AND DALE TOGETHER, IT ALMOST SEEMS WORTH IT.

THE CAVERNS OPEN UP TO THE GLEAMING CITY HOUSING KIRA'S ACADEMY ARCANA.

INFORMALLY KNOWN AS "MAGIC TOWN."

I SEE HESITATION IN BOK'S EYES. ANGER, AS WELL.

HIS KIND ARE SELDOM WELCOME HERE.

WE LOCATE A WARE SELLER WHO CAN PROVIDE A MAP OF THE SHIFTING PATH TO CASTLE SYK.

WHILE ABOVE, TWO STUDENTS HATCH A CRUEL PRANK -- THEY AIM TO USE KIRAN MAGIC TO SWAP BOK'S MIND WITH THE SELLER'S STEED.

BUT THESE TROLLS MAKE POOR ATHLETES. WHEN THEY TRY TO THROW THE PSYCHE TRANSPOSITION DEVICE AT BOK--

--THEY MISS.

F-FLASH...?

DALE?

NEXT: CHOP AND MIX

THE PHANTOM

CREATED BY LEE FALK

THE DAYS RUN TOGETHER ON THE TRAIL NORTH TO MOROCCO.

AT LAST...

THE PHANTOM AND THE SONGHAI SEEK AN ELUSIVE BATTLE STANDARD.

AT LAST...

THE PHANTOM AND THE SONGHAI SEEK AN ELUSIVE BATTLE STANDARD.

THE GIRL HEARS THE DISTANT FIRE OF AN ARQUEBUS.

BOOM

OTHER GUNS FOLLOW.

THE PHANTOM AND THE SONGHAI HAVE ENGAGED THE ENEMY.

Tony DePaul & Jeff Weigel 1-12-25

HER THOUGHTS ARE WITH THE MAN FROM THE EAST WHO HAS BEEN KIND TO HER.

HER THOUGHTS ARE WITH THE MAN FROM THE EAST WHO HAS BEEN KIND TO HER.

CRACK!

THIPP!

Foom!

THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS

POPEYE

BY RANDY MILHOLLAND

... I MEAN, I'M GLAD POPEYE AN' ME ARE STILL PALS. WE GO WAY BACK. BUT SOMETIMES I FEEL HE ONLY 'MEMBERS ME WHEN HE NEEDS HELP.

HEY, CAN WE SKIP TO THE PART WHERE I DROWN YOU IN A WATERY GRAVE?

NO ONE WANTS TO WORK FOR THEIR GOALS ANYMORE.

WHO DARES SUMMON D'YARDELPHIDAP SEEKER OF ETERNITY'S TRASH?

WE HAVE FOUND THE CHOSEN OFFERING WITH YOUR SIGIL, AS YOU TASKED OUR ANCESTORS TO DO!

Foom!

THE PEOPLE OF FIN'S SOUTH HAVE SUMMONED A COSMIC POSSUM BEING TO SACRIFICE OLIVE OYL TO REMOVE THEIR CURSE, MISTAKING HER RUB-ON TATTOO FOR THE ENTITY'S MARK.

WAIT, ARE YOU SERIOUS? WOW!

YOU SEEM SURPRISED.

I AM! I JUST GAVE THAT TO YOU ALL AS BUSY WORK SO YOU'D ALL QUIT SUMMONING ME TO CRY ABOUT THE CURSE.

I GUESS THIS IS WHEN I POINT OUT THE "MARK" IS JUST A TEMPORARY TATTOO.

YOUR FOLLOWERS STILL HAVEN'T FOUND YOUR SACRIFICE.

YOU DIDN'T EVEN VERIFY BEFORE DRAGGING ME ACROSS THE COSMOS?!

WE JUST ASSUMED--

YOU'RE ALL WITLESS TWITS.

IF THEY HAD WITS, THEY'D PROLLY NOT BE CULTISKS.

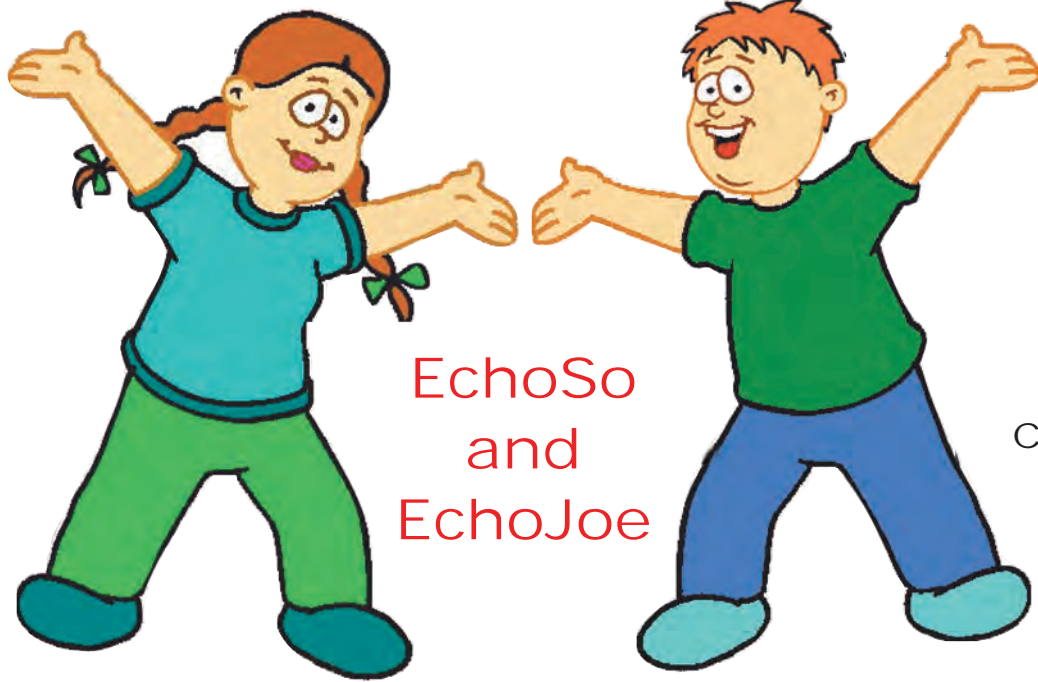
I LIKE THIS GUY! HE'S GOT SASS...

... AND SASS IS MY FAVORITE SPICE.

10-19

TASQ-ART

Hope you're all enjoying our **Colouring Competition**



EchoSo
and
EchoJoe



Colour in the birds picture on page 53, take a picture of it and **email it** to reception@echo.ie or **whatsapp it** to 083 0106275 and be in with a chance to win a **PRIZE**.

A Word with Echo So...

Mid Term Break



CLUBBERS,
HOW MANY WORDS
(TWO LETTERS OR MORE)
CAN YOU MAKE FROM
THE ABOVE WORDS?

5-20 pretty good! 21-35 excellent!
36 and over - you do realise these
have to be real words, don't you!

1	14	27
2	15	28
3	16	29
4	17	30
5	18	31
6	19	32
7	20	33
8	21	34
9	22	35
10	23	36
11	24	37
12	25	38
13	26	39

HALLOWEEN

word search

MUMMY	NIGHT	OWL	GHOST
VAMPIRE	CANDY	CAT	WEB
FALL	CROW	BAT	SCARY
COSTUME	ORANGE	FAIRY	PUMPKIN

M	F	Y	Z	R	A	Q	L	E	W	J	J	S	Y
L	S	A	S	C	G	G	M	F	A	I	R	Y	U
C	K	P	L	N	R	U	F	M	U	M	M	Y	T
A	O	H	L	L	T	O	P	V	P	S	S	A	U
N	Z	P	Q	S	O	S	W	N	N	E	C	Q	X
D	B	I	O	S	H	N	I	B	R	B	X	O	S
Y	R	C	E	P	D	K	Q	I	A	N	Z	R	X
D	E	V	Y	A	P	N	P	F	R	T	Z	A	W
L	S	H	J	M	D	M	I	I	Z	G	O	N	U
R	R	W	U	E	A	D	S	G	G	B	W	G	Q
K	X	P	S	V	B	B	J	T	H	L	L	E	Y
H	P	E	X	E	Y	W	M	C	O	T	C	R	G
G	Z	H	W	S	C	A	R	Y	S	S	K	O	F
Z	V	P	I	R	D	B	E	P	T	B	V	Z	S



These 2 EchoJoe pages of Awesome, Amazon,

Find the ten differences between the two pictures



COLOURING BOOK





5. MONS~~ER~~



1. GHO~~ST~~



4. DEV~~L~~



6. WIT~~CH~~



2. FAIR~~Y~~

1			H						
2			A						
3			L						
4			L						
			O						
			W						
7			E						
			E						
			N						



7. PIRAT~~E~~



8. MERMAI~~D~~



3. SKELE~~BON~~



9. KNIGH~~T~~

This week's winner!

Daniel Williams, aged 6, is this week's winner of the Echo Joe colouring competition. Daniel, 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!!

September
2025
Picture



GAA

GAA round-up

Camogie news

THE Dublin GAA Board has commenced a Strategic Review of its operation. The process embraces Camogie and the Review Group will hold discussions with the Camogie Board in this regard.

Part of the process of consultation involves an online survey of clubs, members, players and supporters. The multi-lingual questionnaire is available in English, Irish, French, Spanish and Polish and can be completed at www.dublincamogie.ie.

Best of luck to Ballyboden St Endas in the Leinster Senior Club Final against Oulart-the-Ballagh which will take place in Oulart-the-Ballagh on Saturday, October 30 at 3pm.

Juvenile Championship Final fixed for Naomh Bríd on 6/7 November. Details on website.

Important dates for your diary are as follows- Saturday Nov 6 Juv Championship Finals - Venue Nh Brid Sunday Nov. 7. Juv Championship Finals - Venue Nh Brid. Friday Nov. 26 Adult presentation night. Good Counsel GAA.

In addition to our awards we will run a fund raising event and further details will follow over the next couple of days.

Saturday, Nov 27 Annual Convention. Thomas Davis GAA. Sunday Nov 28 Juvenile presentation. Venue TBC shortly Tuesday Dec 28 Annual Dub Stars games. (Camogie/L Football)

Nomination papers for 'Player of the Year' awards will shortly be sent to all clubs and camogie secretaries are asked to encourage all club mentors to nominate players from the grades in which they play.

GAA fixtures

Saturday, October 30 (3pm unless otherwise stated)

SHC B Semi Final- Raheny/Erins Isle v Ballinteer St John's (O'Toole Park 2.30pm), Ballyboden St Enda's v Na Fianna (O'Toole Park 4pm).

AHL One Crumlin v Craobh Chiarain (Pearse Park), Ballyboden v Lucan (Sancta Maria), St Jude's v Kilmacud Crokes (Tymon North), St Vincent's v Faughs (PNU).

(AHL One Fixtures are subject to teams in SHC Final)

AHL Three Round Towers v St Mark's (Clondalkin Community Centre), Trinity Gaels v Commercials (Druimnigh), Thomas Davis v St Sylvester's (Kiltipper Road).

AHL Four St Jude's v Parnells (Tymon North). AIB Final- Templeogue Sygne Street v St Anne's (Dolphin Park).

Sunday, October 31 (11am unless stated) **SHC Final-** St Vincent's v Ballyboden (Parnell Park 3.15pm).

AHL Five Final- St Vincent's v Ballinteer St John's (PNU). **AHL Six Final-** St Brendan's v Faughs

(Grangegorman). **Corn Fogarty** Ballyboden St Enda's v Scoil Ui Chonaill (Ballycullen), Lucan Sarsfields v Faughs (12th Lock), Civil Service v Crumlin (Islandbridge).

Murphy Cup Final- AIB v St Anne's (DCU St Clares).

Duffy Cup Semi Final- Kilmacud Crokes v Thomas Davis (Silverpark). **MFC B Final-** Clontarf v St Patrick's (Balgriffin).

MFC C Final- Good Counsel v St Peregrine's (Kiltipper Road).

MFC D Final- Na Fianna v Crumlin/Kilmacud Crokes (O'Toole Park 11.45am).

MFC E Runner-up- St Vincent's v St Jude's (PNU).

MF Shield A1 Erins Isle v Lucan Sarsfields (Finglas), St Maur's v Ballinteer St John's (Rush).

MF Shield A2 St Sylvester's v St Anne's (Broomfield), Ballymun Kickhams v St Jude's (Pairc Ciceam).

MFB Shield St Mark's v O'Toole's (McGee Park).

MF Shield D St Oliver Plunkett's v Round Towers (Martin Savage Park).

Lucan Sarsfields' Inters complete a League and C'ship double

LUCAN Sarsfield's Intermediate Camogie Team secured the intermediate league title by beating Clan na Gael of Fontenoy on a scoreline of 4-11 to 2-01 on Sunday.

This is the team's second piece of silverware this season having already claimed the championship title which is an astonish-

ing achievement considering it is their first season in the intermediate division. To add to this the team also has a 100 per cent record for the season.

However, it looked as if things might have materialised differently as Clan na Gael seized the initiative early on in this game by going a goal up within

the first two minutes.

And it looked as if things would go from bad to worse for Sarsfields when the Ringsend side extended their lead with a second goal leaving the scoreline at 2-01 to 0-02.

But this was the last score Clan na Gael registered as Lucan increased the pressure and got onto

of their opponents.

Tara Keenan got Lucan back into the game with a well taken goal. Laura Murtagh nabbed their second shortly afterwards while Ailise Dowling's free taking left the score at 2-03 to 2-01 for Lucan at half time.

The second half was all one way traffic as Lucan's

superiority showed with a final scoreline of 4-11 to 2-01 capping of a magnificent season for the team. Vivienne Bacon, Siobhan Grimes and Clare Rigney worked their socks off in Lucan's halfback line while Roisin O'Grady secured vital supply to the forwards throughout the game.

Ballyboden's Joanne O'Sullivan sets up an attack for her team in Saturday's Leinster Senior Final against Timahoe



Boden' come up short in Leinster Senior Final



BALLYBODEN St Endas failed to secure the Leinster Senior A Football title as they went down 1-11 to 0-8 against a well drilled Timahoe side in Clane on Saturday.

The Firhouse Road side were searching for their 7th Leinster Club title but were up against it from the outset as defending champions Timahoe went for the jugular.

With 10 minutes gone, Ballyboden were trailing 0-4 to 0-0 following points from Gemma O'Connor, Martina Dunne (two frees) and Mary Casey.

The Dubliners took a while to get into the match and it was not until the 14th minute that they reg-

istered their first score through Natalia Hyland.

Although Timahoe had the lion's share of possession in the first half, Ballyboden were still well in the game. Points from Caroline Conway (free), Sarah Denvir and Edel Drury cut the gap to a single point by half time but three first half misses proved costly for Ballyboden.

Gráinne O'Malley, Aisling Farrelly and Rachel Nugent were very assured for Ballyboden in the full-back line as was Alice Gillen between the sticks.

Ballyboden started the brighter of the two sides in the second half as Natalia Hyland knocked over a point from a free in the

31st minute but three further scores from Timahoe gave them the edge.

The Firhouse Road side's reliance on Hyland for scores proved their undoing as they registered 10 wides throughout the course of the game compared to Timahoe's four.

On 39 minutes Hyland brought Ballyboden to within two points of their opponents only for the Laois side to further extend the lead shortly after.

Timahoe enlarged the deficit from a free before Hyland hit back with another superb point for Ballyboden.

But the game was put beyond Enda's reach with a Timahoe point three min-

utes from time. Ballyboden's fate was se-

Three points behind nearing the final whistle, Ballyboden's fate was se-

cured when Timahoe netted an injury time goal to put the result beyond doubt.

GAA

Towers capture Dunworth Cup in style



Dean O'Rourke of Towers and St Anne's David O'Keeffe take to the air to try and win a high ball during the Mick Dunworth Final in Clondalkin

ROUND Tower's Under 21's secured the Mick Dunworth Cup in convincing fashion with a 2-15 to 0-7 win against Tallaght side St Annes at Clondalkin Community Centre on Sunday.

ROUND TOWERS 2-15

ST ANNE'S 0-7

Although the scoreline suggests a very one sided contest Towers were made to work hard for their victory against their opponents as the Tallaght side had plenty of possession during the game, but were not clinical enough when scoring opportunities came their way, registering no less than 13 wides during the match.

The hosts, on the other hand, were merciless with their scoring opportunities when they arose and this proved the vital difference on the day.

With some 15 minutes gone in the game the home side made the vital breakthrough with a Tom Curran goal.

This came from a bursting run down the right by O'Keefe who laid off a neat pass for Curran to score.

Both sides continued to press each other in what was an end-to-end encounter.

Round Tower's Cianan Carr proved particularly accurate with his free taking continuing to notch up points. Manus Smith

and Dean O'Rourke led the line very well upfront.

Indeed the former scored Tower's second goal close to the end of the first half when the Clondalkin side won breaking ball in the midfield and Cianan Carr pumped a long ball forward for Smith to grab to help leave Towers led 2-6 to 0-3 up at half time.

Annes came out with the same passion and enthusiasm that they had shown in the first half and began the second very brightly, but were again were not clinical enough with scoring chances.

Tom Lyons in the Round Towers midfield played a pivotal role in breaking up the St Anne's attack. And each time the Bohernabreena side lost possession, Lyons was able to release quick ball to front men Sean Whelan and Dean O'Rourke.

Substitute half back Barry Keane made a very positive impression

when introduced with half an hour to go.

Getting up and down the line with ease he managed to score two

great points as the gap

in the scoreline continued to increase. Further points from Shane Byrne, Paddy Stynes and Tom Lyons put the game beyond reach.

Shane Cross and Sean O'Dhonnagain were very impressive at the back for Round Towers throughout the match and goalkeeper Dean Alford dealt with whatever was asked of him.

Standout performers for St Annes on the day were David Webster at half back and Mark Cumiskey at half forward.

Point scorers on the day for St Anne's included Craig McKee (0-1),

Scott Fulham (0-2), Dave Webster (0-1), Dave O'Keeffe (0-1) and Mark Cumiskey (0-1).

Scorers for Round Towers on the day were Manus Smith (1-4), Paddy Stynes (0-1), Shane Byrne (0-1), Cianan Carr (0-5) (0-4 were from frees/45s), Tom Curran (1-0), Barry Keane (0-2) and Tom Lyons (0-2)

St Annes coach Alan McNally acknowledged that this game was an eye-opener for him and gave him plenty of things to ponder ahead of the first round of their championship in the first week in November. Several players from St Anne's minor team also gained some valuable exposure to Under 21 foot-

ball which should stand them in good stead for future fixtures. All in all, Round Towers were well worth their win given their scoring prowess throughout the match.

ROUND TOWERS: D Alford, S Cross, J Kelly, S O'Dhonnagain, D Clarke, B Shaw, E Young, T Lyons, C McGrath, C Carr, O O'Keefe, D O'Rourke, T Curran, Sean Whelan, M Smith

SUBS: P Stynes, B Keane, C Reid, M Howard, S Byrne, J McMahon, C Kavanagh, D Murphy, S Leonard.

ST ANNES: D Dooley, M Quinn, J McMahon, P Ridge-way, D Webster, A Shanahan, D O'Keeffe, C LeStrange, S Cashman, M Cumiskey, C McKee, J Lysaght, S Fulham, S Stewart.

GAA round-up

Enda's march into SHC title match

BALLYBODEN St Endas advanced to the final of the Dublin Senior Hurling Championship with a convincing win 3-17 to 1-11 win over O'Tooles on Saturday at Parnell Park.

Both sides were equally matched for the opening 20 minutes of this contest as Paul Ryan's free taking kept the scoreboard ticking over for Ballyboden.

In the 21st minute Conor McCormack made the first significant breakthrough for Ballyboden as he scored a goal despite the best efforts of O'Tooles' goalkeeper Brendan McLoughlin to keep the ball out.

Following McCormack's goal Conal Keaney and James Doody registered magnificent scores for the Firhouse Road side. O'Tooles found some salvation towards half time with a fine goal from Andy Morris leaving the scoreline at 1-8 to 1-4 in favour of Ballyboden.

Ballyboden came out all guns blazing in the second half. Paul Ryan set them on their way with a bril-

liantly taken free that crashed into the top left hand corner of the O'Tooles' net opening up a comfortable lead.

The northsiders were finding it difficult to get any rhythm going in their play. Ballyboden took advantage of this and registered their third goal of the day on 41 minutes when Paul Ryan finished off a fine team move.

David Sweeney and Stephen Hiney both had fine games for Ballyboden with Hiney being selected as 'Man of the Match'.

Substitute Niall McMorrow impressed when called upon and made a breathtaking run before setting up Shane Durkin who pointed from all of 65 yards.

James Doody and Conal Keaney continued their fine form upfront registering scores that punished O'Tooles.

The emphatic 12-point victory now sets Ballyboden up to face a tough St Vincent's outfit in, what should be, a thrilling county final this coming Sunday in Parnell Park. The throw in is at 3.15pm.

U21 draw produces exciting fixtures

BOTH the Under 21 Football and Hurling Championship draws have thrown up some exciting fixtures.

In the A Football Championship St Jude's will take on Na Fianna while neighbours Ballyboden St Enda's will travel to St Oliver Plunketts/Eoghan Ruadh.

Lucan Sarsfields will meet Skerries Harps while in the B Championship Round Towers face Naomh Fionnbarra and Templeogue/Syngue Street meet Naomh Mearnog.

Also here Thomas Davis entertain Naomh Barrog while neighbouring rivals St Anne's lock horns with Kilmacud Crokes.

In the C Championship, Crumlin will be waiting on the preliminary round winner of Craobh Chiarain and St Sylvesters showdown while

Brigid's and O'Dwyers battle for the right to face Good Counsel.

St Patrick's St Mark's and St Mary's are also awaiting preliminary round winners.

In the Under 21 Hurling A Championship Ballyboden travel to Craobh Chiarain while Crumlin take on O'Tooles

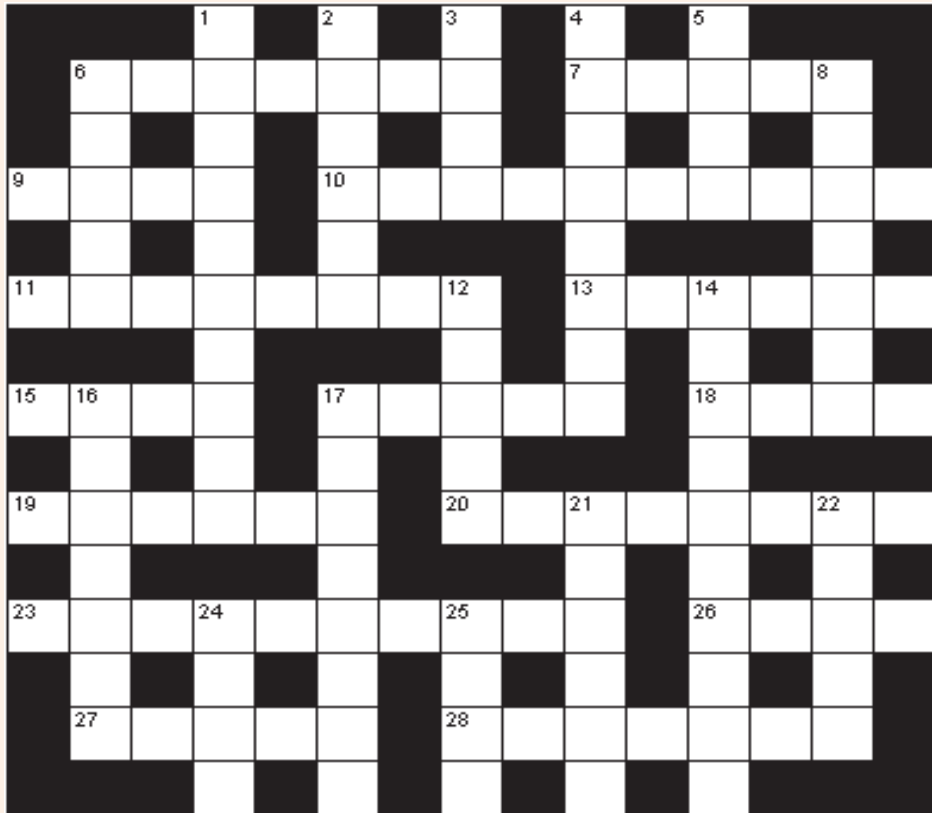
Faughs face off against St Vincents, while St Jude's play host to Cuala and neighbouring rivals St Patrick's and Lucan Sarsfields go head to head.

The Under 21 B Hurling Championship draw has pitched Round Towers against St Peregrine's.

The Preliminary phase of the C Hurling Championship will see the winner of Na Fianna and St Mark's progress to meet Naomh Olaf while Whitehall await the winner of the Clontarf

Johnny McMahon races into attack for St Anne's during their clash with Round Towers in the final of the Mick Dunworth Cup

echocrossquiz Q3010



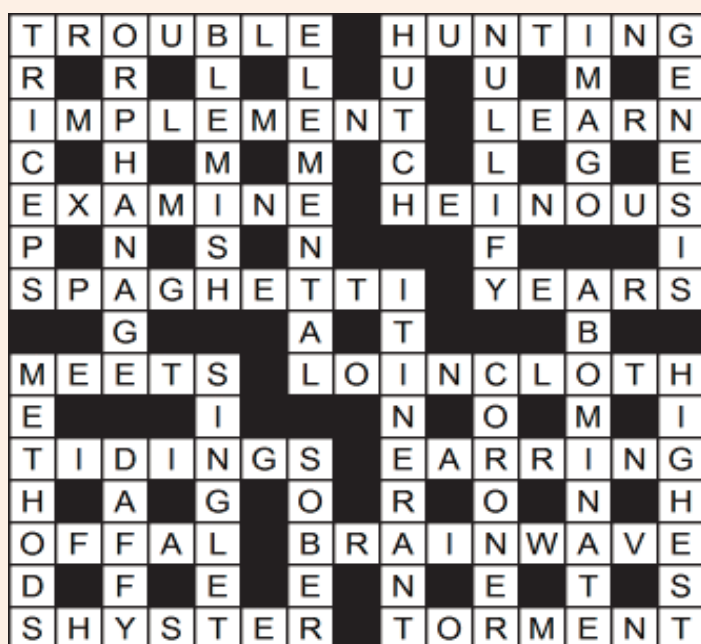
ACROSS

- 6. You put books on these (7)
- 7. Push (5)
- 9. Absent without leave (4)
- 10. A commissioned military officer (10)
- 11. Without a smell (8)
- 13. Delicate (6)
- 15. Skin irritation (4)
- 17. Cheerful (5)
- 18. Money (4)
- 19. Violet (6)
- 20. Mixtures of vinegar and oil (8)
- 23. Clicking uncontrollably (10)
- 26. Nile bird (4)
- 27. A highly-emotional play (5)
- 28. Tympanum (7)

DOWN

- 1. Franchise (10)
- 2. Slender (6)
- 3. Slave (4)
- 4. The date on which a person was born (8)
- 5. Not closed (4)
- 6. Scattered seed (5)
- 8. Durations (7)
- 12. Play a guitar (5)
- 14. A fire-starting bomb (10)
- 16. Affected emotionally (7)
- 17. Common (8)
- 21. Esteem (6)
- 22. A form of theological rationalism (5)
- 24. Rip (4)
- 25. Chilled (4)

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS 2310



CAN YOU BEAT THIS WEEK'S CROSSQUIZ?

SUDOKU 1

6			9	3				
	5		1			8	9	
			6				3	
7				2				
2				5	8			
5	9							
	1			8	7	4	6	
4		2			5			

UDOKU 2

		7		9	8			
	4					2		
				7	3		8	
7								
	9			8	5		7	
1		4					3	6
			9	7				1
				1				
2	8							

ANSWERS

6	9	7	6	3	4	7	6	9
4	6	7	4	8	5	9	3	5
1	8	2	1	9	6	7	8	2
6	3	8	5	9	6	7	8	2
3	9	6	7	2	9	5	3	6
7	5	2	3	4	6	9	1	8
9	2	1	4	7	3	6	8	5
8	4	3	6	5	1	2	9	7
5	6	7	2	9	8	1	4	3

SUDOKU 2

8	4	7	2	3	6	5	9	1
3	1	2	9	5	8	7	4	6
5	9	6	4	7	1	2	3	8
2	6	9	3	4	5	8	1	7
7	3	4	8	1	2	9	6	5
1	8	5	7	6	9	4	2	3
4	5	3	1	2	7	6	8	9
9	7	1	6	8	4	3	5	2
6	2	8	5	9	3	1	7	4

SUDOKU 1

Poet's Corner

IN THE DAY

by Gerard O'Keeffe



I moved to Tallaght 35 years ago and quickly came to love it. I've been writing poetry for almost 50 years. I'm now retired and I have five grandchildren – they mean the world to me.

Dublin in the day	rent
When everything was grand	Keep on top of bills
Neighbours were neighbours	Not many had cars
Lent a helping hand	House phones or tvs
Nobody had much	Most kids left school early
But the people were strong	Did well without degrees
Took what life threw at them	The pace of life was different
Always got along	To what it is today
Their needs were simple	No hustle or bustle
Food to feed the kids	Took the time to say good day
Money to pay the	

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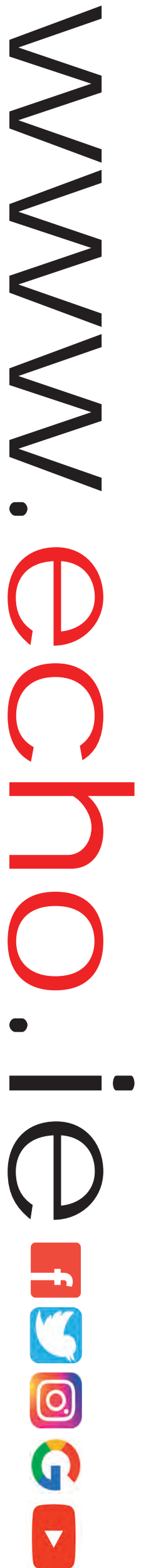
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ANNIVERSARY



McKeever, Pauline, Suzanne, Patrick & Carson
Pauline's Anniversary occurs 30th October, aged 32 years. Suzanne's Anniversary occurs 15th November, aged 6 years.

And remembering Patrick who died January 2009, aged 27 years.

And remembering Carson who died 22 July 2017, aged 5 months.

Remembering all four of you today and always. Late of Ballyfermot.

Also remembering Thomas McKeever & Maud Quinn at this time.

In Loving Memory of my Wife, Son and Daughter

In my eyes there is no one,
That can equal your beauty,
No words can describe,
How much you mean to me.
For all the times I forgot to thank you,

For all the efforts you put into our marriage,
For all the special things you did,
I need to say I love you forever and always.

I wish I could turn back time,
I would find you sooner,
And love you longer.

From your loving Husband and Daddy. xxx

In Loving Memory of our Mother, Sister and Brother

If roses grow in heaven,
Lord please pick a bunch for us,
Place them in our mother's arms,
And tell her they're from us.
Tell her we love her and miss her,
And when she turns to smile,
Place a kiss upon her cheek,
And hold her awhile.

Because remembering her is easy,
We do it every day,
But there's an ache within our hearts,
That will never go away.

From your loving Children, Brothers and Sisters. xxx

In Loving Memory of Carson McKeever

No one knows what we go through,
Every time we think of you.
The pain is so strong,
And so hard to bear,
Because all we do is wish you were here.

Missed by your Grandfather and Family. xxx

Falling tears and aching hearts,
Are things we had to bear,
But losing you, the way we did,
Will always seem unfair.
Will always seem unfair.

Sadly missed from John McKeever and Maud's Family.

ANNIVERSARY



O'Brien, Louise
Died 2nd November 2024.
One year has passed.

We are left with a beautiful memory,
Dearer than gold,
Of a dear daughter,
Whose worth can never be told.
There's a place in our hearts,
No one can fill,
We love and miss you,
And always will.

So sadly missed by her loving mam Nuala, husband Vincent, two sons Niall and Gary, Daughters-in-Law and Grandchildren.

ANNIVERSARY



Peters, Annie (Mauda) and Joseph
In loving memory of our mother Annie (Mauda) whose 12th Anniversary occurs 3rd November and our father Joe whose 16th Anniversary occurs 2nd November.

Mam and Dad live inside our laughter,
They are the place that we came from, our first home,

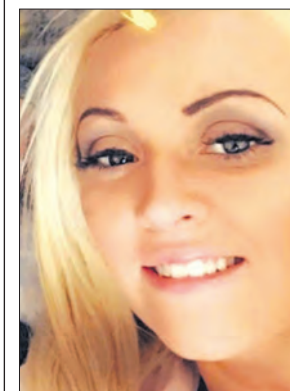
And the map we follow with every step we take.

They are our first loves, our first friends, even our first enemies,
But nothing on earth can separate us.

Not time, not space and not even death.

You are in our hearts and in our memories.
Sadly missed by Anne, Mick, Dessie, Bernie and all the Family.

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



Price, Jade
Happy Heavenly 36th Birthday Jade, occurs 1st November. 4th away from home.

Sadly missed by her mam Helen, son Johnny, daughter Alisha, Sisters, Niece, grandad Frank, Uncle, Aunts & Family.
Rest in Peace.

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. S.T.

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. S.R.

NOVENA

Novena to St. Clare

Ask St. Clare for 3 favours, 1 business, 2 impossible. Say 9 Hail Marys for 9 nights with lighted candle. Pray whether you believe or not. Publish on the ninth day. Powerful Novena. Say "May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, adored, glorified and loved, today and every day, throughout the whole world, AMEN". Say 6 times every day for 9 days. Your request will be granted, no matter how impossible it may seem. Publication must be promised. F.Y.

NOVENA

Novena to St. Clare

Ask St. Clare for 3 favours, 1 business, 2 impossible. Say 9 Hail Marys for 9 nights with lighted candle. Pray whether you believe or not. Publish on the ninth day. Powerful Novena. Say "May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, adored, glorified and loved, today and every day, throughout the whole world, AMEN". Say 6 times every day for 9 days. Your request will be granted, no matter how impossible it may seem. Publication must be promised. H.H.

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ANNIVERSARY



Callery, Niall (Captain)
6th Anniversary occurs 4th November.

Our Dearest Dad
Your needs in life were simple,
Your love for your family true,
As long as we were happy,
You were happy too.
You taught us many things in life,
Always good and true,
But you never told us how to cope,
With the pain of losing you.
No matter how life changes,
No matter what we do,
A special place within our hearts,
Is always kept for you.
No words can heal our heartache,
Or stop our fallen tears,
Or take away our memories,
Of a dad we loved so dear.
Too dearly loved to ever be forgotten, your heartbroken children Stuart, Niall, Barry, Julie, Carl, Alison, Tracy, Sons and Daughters-in-Law. xxxxx

Our Wonderful Grandad
How do we write on paper,
The feeling we have inside,
From your heartbroken Grandchildren,
Who have missed you since you died.
Our hearts still ache with sadness,
Our secret tears still flow,
For what it meant to lose you,
No one will ever know.
Call granddads name out softly,
Lord,
And when he looks your way,
Tell him that we love and miss him,
Every single day.
Forever in our hearts, your loving Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren. xxxxx

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



Wade, Jane
10th Birthday away from home occurs 5th November.

*Precious people are very few,
That's why there was only one of you,
Nothing on earth can ever replace,
The sound of your voice,
Or the smile on your face.
No verse or flowers,
No tears can say,
How much you are loved,
And missed each day.
You left us a memory,
We are so proud to own,
So treasure her lord,
In your garden of rest,
For when on earth,
She was simply the best.
Time may go, years will pass,
But memories will always last,
Send a whisper on a feather gently,
Let us know you hear us sending all our love.
Sadly missed by your loving husband Ben, Sons, Daughter, Grandkids, Great-Grandkids, Son-in-law and Daughters-in-law. "Always in our hearts forever"*

ANNIVERSARY



Glennon, Kevin
12th Anniversary away from home occurs 5th November.

*I lost my life's companion,
A life linked with my own,
And day by day I pray for you,
As I walk through life alone.
The home you left is lonely now,
And I am lonely too,
Those left behind are good and kind,
But no one replaces you.
To me you were someone special,
What more is there to say,
Except I wish with all my heart,
That you were here today.
Sadly missed, Love you always your wife Kay and family, Alan, Deborah, Tracy and Grandchildren.*

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. **P.N.**

ANNIVERSARY



Kennedy, Joseph (Joe)
38th Anniversary occurs 2nd November. Late of Mount Carmel Park, Firhouse.

*No matter how life changes,
No matter what we do,
A special place within our hearts,
Is always kept for you.
Your name is often spoken,
We talk about you still,
You haven't been forgotten,
You know you never will.
Sadly missed by your loving Family. xxxxxxxxxx*

NOVENA

Novena Heart of Jesus
Dear Heart of Jesus in the past I have asked for many favours I ask you for this very special one. Take it Dear Heart of Jesus and place it within your broken heart, where your Holy Father sees it then in his merciful eyes it will become your favour and not mine. Say this prayer for 3 days promise publication and favours will be granted never known to fail. Promise to publish, many thanks for favours received and about to be received. **A.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. **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. **M.M.**

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.H.**

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NOVENA

Thanksgiving Prayer
O mother of Perpetual help with grateful hearts, we join you in thanking God for all the wonderful things he has done for us. God our Creator we thank you for the gift of life and all the gifts of nature, our senses and faculties, our talents and abilities. We thank you for creating us in your own image and likeness and for giving us the earth to use and develop to rule and control. Despite our failures you continue to show your love for us by increasing the life of your spirit in us. Finally we thank you loving father for giving us Mary, the mother of your son to be our mother of Perpetual help. We are grateful for all past favours received through her intercession. We pray that these past favours may inspire us to greater confidence to seek the aid of our Mother of Perpetual help Amen. **G.T.**

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planning notices

All planning applications must be in before 5pm Monday

tel: 468 5350
email:reception@echo.ie

South Dublin County Council

I, Maria Batista, intend to apply for: Planning Permission at this site: 28 Abbeywood Ave, Lucan, Co. Dublin, K78K590
The development will consist of: Attic conversion for storage, including two rooflights to the front roof slope, a dormer and one rooflight to the rear, and two new gable windows to the side. 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.

Dublin City Council

I, Michelle Yang, intend to apply for: Planning Permission for development at this site: 26 Hardebeck Ave, Walkinstown, Dublin, D12 P8X6. The development will consist of: Attic conversion with raised gable to the side and dormer windows to the rear and front. New high-level window to the side at first-floor level. Part first-floor, part two-storey pitched-roof extension to the rear.

Single-storey pitched-roof extension to the rear with rooflight. Demolition of two existing garages to the rear and construction of a new single-storey, sloped-roof shed to the rear for use as a garden room and gym. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of Dublin City Council, Planning Department, Block 4, Ground Floor, Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin 8 during its public opening hours (9.00a.m.- 4.30p.m.). A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the Planning Authority on payment of the prescribed fee (€20.00) within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the Planning Authority of the application.

South Dublin County Council

Permission sought for detached two storey house, site entrance, sewage treatment facility and associated siteworks at Friarstown Lower, Bohernabreena, Dublin 24 for Ross Phibbs. The Planning application may be inspected or purchased at the offices of South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Town Centre, Tallaght, Dublin 24. During its public opening hours of Monday to Friday from 10.00am - 4.00pm, and may also be viewed on the council's website - www.sdcc.ie. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing

to South Dublin County Council on payment of a fee of (20.00 euro) within the 5 weeks of receipt of the application by South Dublin County Council and such submissions or observations will be considered by the Planning Authority in making a decision on the application. The Planning Authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions or may refuse to grant permission.

Dublin City Council

We, Denise and John Walsh are applying for PERMISSION at 65 Moeran Road, Walkinstown, Dublin 12, D12 P8X7 for Construction of a 2-storey extension to the side and a single storey extension to the front of existing dwelling. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of Dublin City Council during its public opening hours. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the planning authority on payment of the prescribed fee (€20.00) within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application, and such submissions or observations will be considered by the planning authority in making a decision on the application. The planning authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions, or may refuse to grant permission.

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL - LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) ACTS 1963 - LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) REGULATIONS 1977 TO 1994

PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 17, 2025

<p>SD25A/0089W 15 Oct 2025 Permission Additional Information Applicant: Stefania Borza Location: 83, Templeroan Avenue, Dublin 16 Description: Construction of a new two storey house and access onto Templeroan Downs and all associated site works</p>	<p>one of the permitted public open spaces within the development. The proposed amendments will not result in any change to the total number of units to be provided on site.</p>	<p>mounted solar photovoltaic panels in a linear array on Buildings DUB13 and DUB14, covering a total area of 3,298m²; six inverters; and all associated ancillary works and services.</p>
<p>SD25A/0107W 14 Oct 2025 Permission Additional Information Applicant: Michael Kavanagh Location: 132, Orwell Park View, Templeogue, Dublin 6W, D6W XV76. Description: The construction of a two-storey/part single-storey detached 4 bedroom dwelling including attic accommodation with a dormer window to the rear; a pedestrian entrance to be located at the front of the site; a vehicular entrance to provide off-street car parking to be located at the rear of the site and all associated site works including new boundary walls, all in the side garden.</p>	<p>SD19A/0319/EP/2 13 Oct 2025 Extension Of Duration Of Permission New Application Applicant: Ms. Bernie Dempsey Location: 42, Ballyboden Crescent, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16 Description: Two storey, two bedroom house together with associated site works and widening vehicular access by 400mm on site to side of property.</p>	<p>SD25A/0251W 14 Oct 2025 Permission New Application Applicant: Microsoft Ireland Operations Ltd. Location: Lands located at Castlebaggot, in the townland of Kilmactalway, Newcastle, Co. Dublin Description: The proposed development seeks to provide a temporary construction access road including entrance from Baldonnell Road to provide for the construction of a Regional Network Gateway (RNG) facility permitted under South Dublin County Council Reg. Ref. SD25A/0035W. The works will also involve the temporary provision of a security hut, security gate, vehicle set down area, associated fencing, lighting, civils, drainage, and landscaping works. The temporary works will be removed and lands reinstated to their former use when the construction of the RNG facility is complete.</p>
<p>SD25A/0176W 16 Oct 2025 Permission Additional Information Applicant: Josh Linton Location: 38, Rockfield Avenue, Perrystown, Dublin 12, D12EV22 Description: 1. Sub-division of existing site. 2. Erection of two storey (part single storey) 3 bedroomed detached dwelling house (109.9 sq.m.) with new vehicular entrance from public road. 3. Drainage and other associated works.</p>	<p>SD25A/0249W 13 Oct 2025 Permission and Retention New Application Applicant: Comoville Developments Ltd Location: Green Lane Manor, Including works to the roadway at Green Lane and to the roadway and open space at St Anne's Terrace, Rathcoole, Co.Dublin, D24RH2V Description: Retention permission is sought for amendments carried out to a now completed residential scheme at Green Lane Manor, Rathcoole, Co. Dublin, permitted under application reg. ref: SD17A/0356 & SD17A/0357. The development for which retention permission is sought comprise of: (a)Relocation from the permitted location of bin store and bicycle parking stand for apartment Block A (units 6-14), The Drive. (b)Amendment to parking bays provided to Apartment Block A, The Drive due to ESB requirement to accommodate mini-pillar, and resulting in an additional 3 no. car parking spaces. (c)Relocation from the permitted location of bin stores for houses 2, 3, 6, 7, 10 and 11 The Square, to avoid Irish Water wayleave. (d)Relocation from the permitted location of Bin Store and Bike Stand for Apartment Block B (Units 13-24, The Square). (e)Re-design of bin stores for houses 15, 17, 19, and 21 The Avenue due to location of ESB mini pillar. Planning permission is sought for the following: (a)Close and remove the pedestrian/cyclist path to the south end of the grassed area at St. Anne's Terrace and provide a vehicular turning head on St. Annes Terrace. (b)Remove the existing pedestrian/cyclist link between St. Anne's Terrace and Green Lane Manor. (c)Provide a pedestrian footpath on the northern side of the access road to Green Lane Manor from Green Lane, with the junction onto Green Lane providing footways on both sides of the access. (d)Provide a new footpath through the existing grassed area at St. Anne's Terrace. (e)Localised widening on the east side of Green Lane to facilitate a vehicle passing bay (f)All associated and ancillary works</p>	<p>SD25A/0252W 14 Oct 2025 Permission New Application Applicant: Degaamad? Developments Limited Location: Smiths Building Supplies, Greenhills Road, Dublin 12, D12NXV7 Description: The development consists of the construction of a new ambient storage warehouse and all associated site works</p>
<p>SD25B/0095W 15 Oct 2025 Retention Additional Information Applicant: Teresa Le Gear Keane Location: 12, Hillcrest, Templeogue Road, Templeogue, Dublin, D6WKP70 Description: Retention permission for modification to planning permission SD12B/0141 for the following: A) Ground floor apartment known as 12A and B) First Floor apartment known as 12B as part of the original 2 storey domestic extension to side (west) of property.</p>	<p>SD25A/0253W 15 Oct 2025 Retention New Application Applicant: Richard Naughton Location: Bridge House, Kiltipper, Dublin, D24X0H1 Description: Retention Permission to Retain Single Storey Gymnasium (25.9m²) to rear of Property at Bridge House, Klippert, Dublin D24 XOH1</p>	
<p>LRD25A/0007W 16 Oct 2025 Permission LRD3-Application Applicant: Rycroft SLR Limited Location: "St. Winnows", Stocking Lane, Rathfarnham, & Adjoining Lands, D16 H942. Description: Amendments to a previously approved Large-scale Residential Development (Register Reference LRD23A/0014; ABP Reference ABP-319353-24) consisting of minor modifications to the approved development to provide 9 no. additional surface car parking spaces and consequent minor modifications to the layout of</p>	<p>SD25A/0250W 14 Oct 2025 Permission New Application Applicant: Digital Netherlands VIII B.V. Location: DUB13 & DUB14, Profile Park, Grange Castle, Nangor Road, Dublin 22, D22 TY06 Description: The development will consist of installation of roof-</p>	<p>SD25A/0255 16 Oct 2025 Permission New Application Applicant: ESB Telecoms Ltd Location: ESB Telecoms Ltd Telecommunications Compound, ESBs Citywest 110kV Substation, Citywest Avenue, Citywest, Dublin Description: Permission to install a standby industrial diesel generator and solar panels. The generator will include a bunded fuel tank and be located within a mesh enclosure. The proposed solar panels will be attached to a steel frame to be erected adjacent to the generator (Covering an area of approximately 32 sq.m, to a maximum height of 4.8 meters above ground level). Works to include all ancillary development works, all located within an existing fenced compound.</p>

Contact **The Echo** to have a planning notification published
Call **468 5350** or email **reception@echo.ie**

Echo Sport

Deputy Sports Editor: William O'Connor

Thursday, October 30, 2025

Tallaght AC athletes compete in Dublin marathon

THE Dublin Marathon took place last Sunday with several runners from Tallaght AC taking part, reports Michael Howley.

Tallaght Athletic club athletes performed well in the Irish Life Dublin City Marathon on Sunday last after encountering heavy rain showers and winds, with Tomas Fitzpatrick the first to cross the finish line for the club in a time of 2:34.48, with Stephen Worth next in 2:45.23.

The two were followed by Ivan Kahumburuka (2:53.38), Gareth O'Keefe (2:55.19), Niall O'Connor (2:57.19), Fearghal O'Connor (3:02.33), Patricia Gerguson (3:03.35), Tara Darcy (3:07.34), Gerry Dore (3:10.09), Shaun McCarville (3:10.47), Michael Murphy (3:12.58), Susan Jones (3:22.48), Sean McCabe (3:28.26), Paul Murphy (3:28.41), Derek Colwell (3:28.59), Joe Pepper (3:29.49), Alan McCabe (3:37.32), Aleks Koreckij (3:59.12), Berta Quinonero (4:02.05), James Folan (4:12.22), Carol Murray (4:16.29), Sandro Giglione (4:19.23), Anna King (4:40.55), and the forever young Eddie Coyle (5:17.59).

Charlie wins bronze in European C'ships

Jobstown Boxing Club's Charlie Joyce Connolly fought in the U15 63kg weight class

CHARLIE Joyce Connolly of Jobstown Boxing Club picked up a bronze medal at the U15 European Championships last week in the 63kg weight class, reports Michael Howley.

He faced Lithuanian fighter Danas Sestakovas in the quarter final stage where he won a unanimous decision winning every round on the judges scorecard. He then progressed on to the semi final stage where he came up against English fighter Zidane Tazeem. Connolly fought admirably but would ultimately lose the bout via split decision. The fight was incredible close with Connolly just losing each round via split decision.

"He was [annoyed], but he put in a top performance and wasn't disheartened. We couldn't fault the performance. The boy was just a really tall awkward southpaw. He was a lot bigger than Charlie, Charlie is a big lad but we just found the opponent a bit awkward. He boxed exceptionally though it was split the whole way. If it had gone the other way they couldn't have complained either."

Connolly was selected for the Irish squad after putting in superb showings in the Cadet Championships earlier this year. Selected for further assessments he passed the checks regarding fitness, technique and capability and was chosen to travel to Montenegro to represent Ireland at the European championships.

In earning the Bronze medal he has become the sixth fighter from Jobstown



Charlie is met by supporters in Dublin Airport and (inset): Charlie has his hand raised as he wins

to medal at a European championships, a distinction the club is very proud to hold given its relatively short history. The club has the opportunity to add four more titles

to the collection with the under 23 European Championships taking place towards the end of November. Tiffany Spencer, Adam Olanyian, Ryan Jenkins

and Tadhg O'Donnell will all be taking part representing Ireland and hoping to bolster Jobstown's trophy cabinet even further.

Flock disappointed with Monza result

THE ninth and final round of the European Clio Cup Series was held in Monza, Italy last weekend, reports Michael Howley.

Daire Flock took part in the competition which is sometimes known as 'The Temple of Speed' due to the velocity cars reach when on the track.

While still having a couple of niggling problems with the car and limited track time heading into Saturday's qualifying session Daire was still confident in his qualifying position and the pace he would set. He did himself justice by finishing fourteenth out of 41 cars which put him in good stead ahead of the first race.

In race one Daire got off to a good start before his momentum was derailed by an appearance of the safety car. On the restart he lost several places and ended up at one stage in 18th position. He managed to fight back with what little time he had and achieve a 14th place finish.

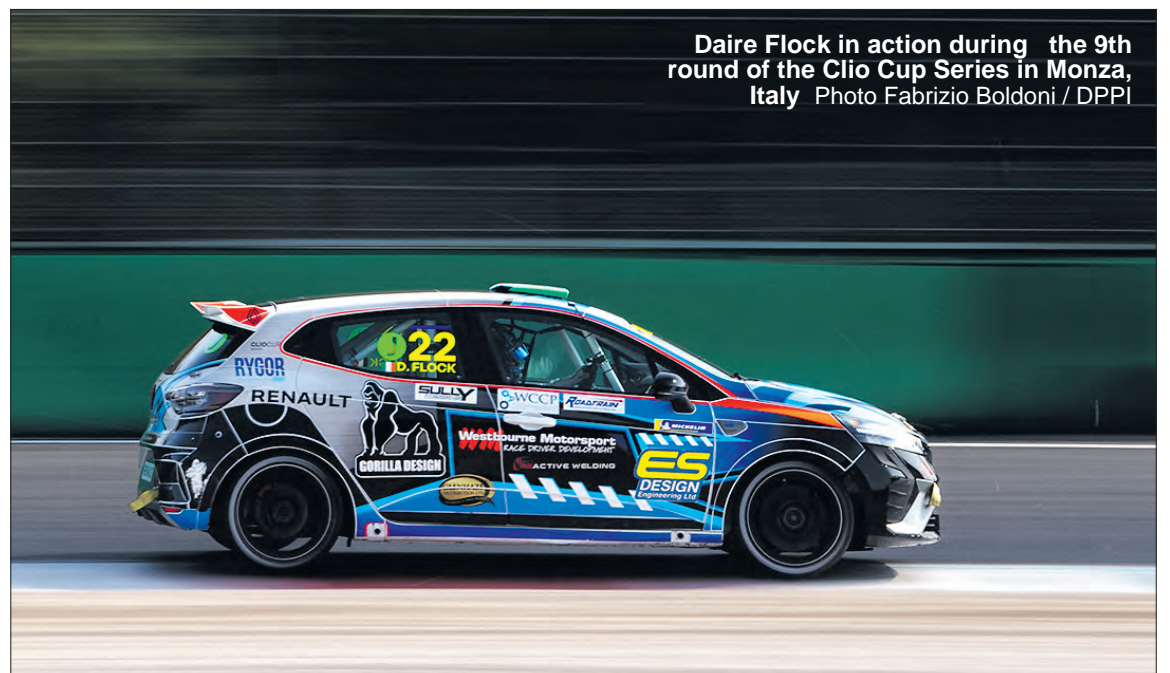
Qualifying on Sunday went even better than it had the previous day with Daire finishing in eighth position.

His eight place position wouldn't do

him much good in the race itself however, knowing that he had to push his speed to maintain position Flock was hit by an out of control car which knocked him into a gravel trap and prematurely ended his race.

Flock spoke on the performance afterwards.

"I'm disappointed with the 2nd race. I felt I had the pace for a top five finish especially being the last race of the season. The positive is, I knew I had the pace for a good result which I can take into next year's championship. Finishing 6th in the Juniors and 19th overall out of 61 competitors. I would like to thank my sponsors, Gorilla Design for attending Saturday and ES Design & Engineering for attending Sunday. This year would not have been possible with my sponsors Gorilla Design, ES Design & Engineering, Glanhaze Distribution, Rygor Autos, family and friends for giving me this opportunity to race in Europe. We now look forward to next season as we prepare for testing and the first race at Nagaro in France in April 2026."



Daire Flock in action during the 9th round of the Clio Cup Series in Monza, Italy. Photo Fabrizio Boldoni / DPPI



September Sports Star of the Month is Derek Tohill

DEREK Tohill was named the overall national rallycross champion for 2025 and has already started the 2026 season with a big performance at Mondello Park at the start of October.

The win this year was his ninth Irish title in a row and Tohill will be aiming to secure a decade worth of titles in 2026. Along with his success in the Irish championships, Tohill looks set to secure a prestigious British championship crown should he maintain his current form. The final two rounds of the British championship take place in two weeks time at Lydden Hill with Tohill currently possessing a 20 point lead over his nearest rival.

Tohill has also competed in the French and Nordic Championships this year but spoke on the need to finish the season strongly over the next few weeks.

“Big push and a big effort. All hands on the pump to try and win that [British Championships], we’ve tried a little bit of the French Championships this year and the Nordic Championships so it’s been absolutely flat out.

Hoping to end the season on a high with a big effort now in a couple of weeks with no stone left unturned.”

Scan the QR Code to watch the video with Derek



Derek Tohill receives the Active South Dublin Sport Star of the Month Award for September from Bernard Robinson, Active South Dublin Community Sports Officer, Bryan Malone, Sales and Marketing Manager, The Plaza Hotel and Emma Kennedy, MD, *The Echo*.

September Team of the Month

Shamrock Rovers U14s

SHAMROCK Rovers U14's side had an excellent month in September lifting the Eddie Wallace Cup. The win is the culmination of years of work which has seen the side develop into one of the most dominant underage teams in the country.

Coach Tom O'Reilly spoke on the team and its continued progression.

“It hasn't just been this year. I've been with the team five years now and it's been a slow and steady success. The last three years we've only lost one game in the league so to win something like the Eddie Wallace Cup was the icing on the cake.”

The team have done exceptionally well in their first season in the national league this year and let alone losing a game, the team only conceded a single goal on their route to the final of the Eddie Wallace Cup.

“When you look at the bigger picture, obviously winning the trophy was great but what we learned along the way, how the boys developed in getting to the final, I think that was the biggest thing. How they improved technically and tactically, stuff like that.”

The side have not just performed well domestically however with a trip to the UK recently showing they are able to compete on an international stage. Scan the QR Code to watch video.



Tom O'Reilly, Shamrock Rovers U14s coach receives the Active South Dublin Sport Team of the Month Award for September from Thos McDermott, Head of Active South Dublin, Bryan Malone, Sales and Marketing Manager, The Plaza Hotel and William O'Connor, news editor, *The Echo*

Basketball

Dublin Lions and Templeogue women suffer defeats

THERE was plenty of action in Women's Basketball over the weekend as Dublin Lions and Templeogue both saw action in Division 1, reports Michael Howley.

Unfortunately for the Dublin Lions they would lose to the Kilkenny Stars in what was another close defeat with a 55-63 scoreline going against them. The game marks the fourth defeat out of the season and leaves them on the bottom of the table with zero points. Despite the results not going their way, performances have not been terrible and games have been fairly close.

The game against Kilkenny was no different and saw a number of players put in impressive performances, just unfortunately not being able to drag the team over the line. Sinead Keane managed 16 points in the game while Makenzie Helms managed three assists while Rachel Brennan kept the Lions ticking over in possession with eight rebounds.

They will be hoping to achieve their first win of the season as they are next set to take on the Dublin Raiders this coming Saturday.

Templeogue also suffered a defeat as they lost narrowly to the Limerick Celtics 72-65. The defeat was their first of the season and they still find themselves on top of the table with a record of three wins and now one loss. They are on nine points in the league but now share the top spot with the Limerick Celtics and the Kilkenny Stars also on that same points tally.

Sofia Paskha continued her hugely impressive form since signing with the team managing 26 points, two assists and a huge 13 rebounds while Hannah Murphy contributed with 13 points, five rebounds and three assists. The team will now make the short trip to Swords next Saturday to take on Swords Thunder.

Martial Arts

Ljays fighters collect medals at Bristol Open

FOLLOWING their hugely successful show put on in Tallaght a couple of weeks ago, LJay's Elite Martial Arts found themselves in the UK last weekend as several of their fighters competed at the of the most prestigious UK kickboxing tournaments, The Bristol Open, reports Michael Howley.

Six fighters represented the club at the competition.

Jake Riddell fought in the senior -69kg light contact and kick light divisions medalling in both. He would win bronze in light contact and silver in kick light. Zak Riddell competed in the senior -63kg kick light and light contact divisions winning a silver in the former and a bronze in the latter. The other brother to compete, Josh Riddell took part in the senior -74kg light contact where he won a bronze medal and the kick light division where he took home a silver.

Other participants from the club included Ava Condren FitzPatrick who competed in the senior female -60kg light contact and kick light divisions and won bronze and silver respectively. Jack Lynch competed in the junior -63kg kick light and light contact divisions winning another bronze and silver combination. Emmanuel Chukwuneta competed in the senior male -84kg light contact and kick light where he would also receive a silver and bronze medal.

Jake, Zak and Josh also competed in the kick light-74kg tag team event where they won silver. The next fighting trip for the family will be back into the UK for November as Zak has a fight scheduled for then.



The Ljays entire club medal haul and (inset): the Riddell brothers

Swimming

Walshe smashes more records in Toronto

ELLEN Walshe has won even more medals in the final stretch of the Swimming World Cup which was held in Toronto last week, reports Michael Howley.

Walshe earned another silver medal in the 200m Butterfly after accomplishing the same the week previous. The Templeogue swimmer entered the final as the seventh seed and dropped over two seconds off her existing record finishing with a time of 2:02.73 setting a new Irish record in the process. The race also saw Walshe break the Irish record for the third consecutive week in a row with the current time being the 2:02.73 achieved in Toronto. Before this World Cup the Irish record was five seconds slower at 2:07.04 and had stood since 1997.

Walshe also had the opportunity to compete in the 100m Individual Medley final but opted out of the event in order to focus on the Butterfly.

Walshe would also pick up another gold medal to her tally with a victory in the 400m Individual Medley where she would destroy the Irish record that she had set just a week prior.

The Templeogue swimmer took the win with over a second to spare on her closest rival in a new Irish Record of 4:22.97, hacking over two seconds off the standard she set last week of 4:25.38. Walshe had owned the previous record of 4:26.52 from the World Aquatics World Championships (SC) in 2021 where she won a silver medal.



Ellen Walshe in action Photo by Simone Castrovillari

Second after the Butterfly and Backstroke legs, a monster Breaststroke swim, over a second faster than last weeks in 1:14.2, saw her take a lead she never relinquished, winning out over Canada's Mary Sophie Harvey (4:24.25) and Japan's Mio Narita

(4:26.43). The following day Walshe would improve her medal haul even further with another silver medal, this time in the 200m Individual Medley breaking her own 2024 Irish Record of 2:05.52 with a time of 2:04.75. This took her

total medal haul to seven over the past three weekends as well as breaking six Irish records in the process.

She will now be looking towards the European Championships which will be held in Lublin, Poland at the start of December.

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Bowling

Crumlin celebrates recent success



Crumlin Bowling President, Robert Toner, Lord Mayor, Ray McAdam, Sarah Kelly and ILB (Irish Lawn Bowls) President, John Hackett

CRUMLIN Bowling Club recently held a function at the Mansion House in order to celebrate the huge amount of success that the club has had in recent times, reports *Michael Howley*.

Perhaps the most notable individual in terms of accolades at the moment would have to go to Sarah Kelly who recently became the first woman to win four Irish Senior titles. Kelly has also seen success on an international stage and last year was crowned the British Isle Singles champion. There are competitions for Kelly on the horizon also as she is set to travel to Hong Kong next month to compete in another tournament representing Ireland.

The club has seen massive success however aside from the individual exploits of Sarah Kelly with the club winning all ten of the Dublin Bowls Championships, a truly unprecedented feat. With around 20 clubs present in the Dublin region to win even one or two championships would be an achievement worthy of recognition but to win ten is an outrageous level of dominance truly highlighting the highs that the club has been experiencing in recent times.

In terms of All Ireland honours this year the Ladies team won two out of a possible five All Ireland Championships, they also have several members who will be representing Ireland at the British Championships. The men's team managed to win four out of a possible five All Ireland Championships.

The future looks bright for the club also with 16 members set to travel to Scotland in 2026 to take part in the British Isle Championships.

The club is ever expanding with now approximately 140 members mainly coming from the Crumlin, Drimnagh and Walkinstown catchment area. The next ambitions for the club would be to add another playing green to the premises which would see the team able to practice through the winter with the current facility only usable throughout the drier summer and spring months.

Sailing

McNaughton to represent Ireland in youth c'ships

OLD BAWN native Cora McNaughton has been nominated by Irish Sailing to represent Ireland in the World Sailing Youth Championships this December. The event is seen as an equivalent to a Youth Olympics in sailing circles also, reports *Michael Howley*.

Each country can send up to sixteen sailors who compete across a variety of classes. These include 420 (2-person dinghy), iQfoil (wind surfing), ILCA 6 (one person dinghy), 29er (Skiff), Nacra 15 (Multihull) and Kite boarding (formula kite).

Ireland is sending 4 Sailors this year who managed to meet the International Standard. Two boats from the ILCA 6 Class and one boat from the 420 Class.

Cora is part of the two-person team representing the 420 Class. Cora and her long-standing crewmate Sean Cronin qualified Internationally at Kiel week in July.

Cronin unfortunately is unable to attend due to other commitments, so Cora managed to secure another crew for the Youth Worlds (Matt Mapplebeck from Royal Cork Yacht Club) and Irish Sailing accepted her crew change request.

Cora and Matt won the 420 Leinster Championships in

October which meant that they met the qualifying criteria.

This is also a significant achievement for the Irish 420 Class as it has been approximately 7 years since they have been represented at the Youth Worlds.

This is a good indicator of this high level achieved.

Cora has had a successful season so far winning the Irish Youth Nationals and the Connaught Championships with Sean, then the Leinster and Munster Championships with Matt and it is evident that from here on that her focus will be on the International scene.

This success was all the sweeter as Cora's qualification for the Youth Worlds in 2025 was more a dream than a goal and this achievement has elevated her to the next level of International sailing.

While Cora continues to break the glass ceiling for young females in sport, for Irish Sailing, for the Irish 420 Class and for Blessington Sailing Club, this will only be sustainable with funding. Cora needs financial support to train and attend International events in the build up to the Youth Worlds to achieve the best possible outcome.

Cora would like to reach out to companies who are in a position to give her



Cora McNaughton and her crewmate Sean Cronin

Sponsorship. "It takes a village to raise a child" and "The easy part is getting there, the hard part is staying there" are both

well-known terms in sport. Cora has climbed onto this platform with talent, skill and hard work, it is now a matter of

keeping her there.

Finally, the good news is that Cora is eligible (age wise) to qualify again in 2026.

Athletics

Donore Athletes compete in Dublin marathon and cross country events

DONORE Harriers had 52 athletes in the Dublin marathon, some stand out performances and many personal bests were set. Conditions were cool with misty rain and some wind in the latter miles, reports *Michael Howley*.

John Travers was the first man from the club to cross the finish line on his maiden voyage over the distance. Cramps stymied his pace in the latter miles but he put in a super strong performance securing a 2.23.20 finish.

He was followed in by Kane Collins who got a super pb of 2.23.56. Wayne Waldron our ultra marathoner was next in with a solid 2.30.17 and Chris Dorney not far behind in another excellent pb of 2.35.42, this closed our lead team which according to provisional results are 4th so far, Gavin Curtin was on pacing duty for the leading women while Bernard Geraghty on a storming run of 2.39 which earned him 5th in the M50 category.

Donore's women showcased elite times with three sub 3.10's in the camp, Amy Moriarty 3.08.17, Orinta Donele 3.08.20 and Emily Cunniffe 3.08.46. Ultra mountain star Sorcha Loughnane was happy to run with her sister this time in 3.18.23 and helped her along to a 6 minute pb also! The Fit4Life team took part too with Sarah O'Mahony the first in with a fantastic 3.49.36.

David Campbell led the Donore team of 60 plus volunteers at the drinks station.

In cross country, Adam Nason won individual bronze and the men's team won gold at the Leinster Novice XC in Gowran Kilkenny with the women's team finishing 9th

Two weeks before this at the Dublin Novice cross country in the Phoenix park, Adam Nason also won



Donore Harriers athletes at the cross country event

bronze but the men's team missed out on bronze by one point with the women's team 8th

The juveniles performed superbly in the Dublin even ages the same day, there was boys team gold in the U16 and U18 races. Adam Noone was outright winner of the U16 and it was 1-2-3 of Liam Morris, Callum Twomey and Rhys Johnson in the U18. The girls team won U18 gold and altogether from u10 up to u18. The club had over 60 boys and girls competing.

Donore Harriers also lost a club stalwart in recent weeks with the passing of Barry Potts. Barry was a Ballyfermot native born and reared in the area and was

an army veteran. He competed in army races and in his 25 years in Donore Harriers he competed over road and cross country and represented Ireland many times in the British and Irish Masters cross country. He also coached the Fit4Life group for many years and was much loved by his athletes. At his funeral in Ballyfermot, his Donore clubmates formed a guard of Honour before the funeral Mass. Rest in peace Barry.

We also saw the evergreen Ann Woodlock back in action at the age of 86 - she won gold in the W85 800m at the European Masters track and field championships in Madeira.

GAA



Faughs beat Ballyboden St Endas to win the Senior 2 Hurling Championship

FAUGHS won out against local rivals Ballyboden St Endas at O'Toole Park in the Senior 2 Hurling Championship final on Saturday afternoon, reports Michael Howley.

The thrilling match ended up being decided on penalties after the two sides could not be separated following extra time.

Eoghan McNamara would be the hero on the day as he saved four penalties for Faughs all the while converting one of his own to give Faughs a 2-1 on penalties. His save against Ballyboden's Eoghan O'Neill would be the final action of the match and give Faughs the title.

It was particularly unfortunate for O'Neill

given that the Ballyboden substitute had performed excellently throughout the match and had played a big role in keeping his side in contention with his goal in the second half of extra time leaving the two teams equal on 1-17 each.

The initial phase of the contest didn't have much to get excited about with both sides struggling to assert any influence on the pitch thanks to a heavy cross field breeze which greatly influenced each teams accuracy and precision. Jonathan O'Driscoll would level the tie for Boden in the last few moments of the game to bring the match to a 1-11 to 0-14

stalemate at the end of regular time.

James O'Brien played a huge role for Faughs throughout the match with his frees continuously keeping the scoreboard ticking over. Liam Mostyn and Conor Brennan would also contribute to the attack of Faughs and would leave them with a three point advantage at the interval with the scoreline reading 0-07 to 0-04.

Boden would start the second half well and reduce the deficit to one before Conor Brennan scored a goal to establish the lead for Faughs. Boden would not be shaken however and maintained their composure to continue their

positive second half form and would ultimately succeed in dragging the game to extra time.

After regrouping Faughs would come out with a vengeance for the first half of extra time. Endas would respond in turn for the second half of the game with scores of their own. Eoghan O'Neill would score in the opening minute of the second period to set the tone and a free from Jonathan O'Driscoll would see the match progress to penalties where Faughs would be the team to prevail with Eoghan McNamara saving penalties from Jonathan O'Driscoll, Kevin Desmond, James Roche and finally Eoghan O'Neill.

Commercials sweep aside Naomh Barrog

COMMERCIAL'S under 14 camogie side won their Division 3 championship last Sunday as they hosted Naomh Barrog at their home ground. The match would finish 5-4 to 2-2 in their favour, reports Michael Howley.

Similarly to their team in the Premier Intermediate Final last weekend, Commercials made their biggest impact in the first half where they managed to build a very healthy 4-02 to 1-01 lead by halftime with Barrog netting just before the interval to somewhat keep themselves in the game. The gap would be too large to bridge for the Coolock side and they would be unable to make up any lost ground as Commercials set in for an industrious second half performance.

This Commercials team have impressed greatly in recent years and have achieved quick promotions playing in Division 4 in 2024, they will now find

themselves playing in Division 2 for 2026 after finishing runner up in the league this year. The team has a very talented core of players including a number of individuals who are associated with the Dublin academy. These include Anna Kelly, Ella Rochford and Sophie Fagan with Fagan being named the player of the match for the final itself.

Coach Rob Moyles is one of the several mentors involved with the team and had nothing but praise for his players and their efforts.

"We had a very successful campaign, we finished runners up in the league over a seven game campaign. We were just getting better and better and improving throughout the whole of the season. When the draw came out for the championship, based on the league form and the games that we had played against all the teams previously

we thought we had a very good chance of winning the championship and that proved to be the case.

"It's an easy thing to say but it's a completely different thing to follow through and actually win it. It's the guts of two years of work gone into it since we started playing competitive camogie and it is brilliant."

"I think with Commercials we seriously punch above our weight. We aren't the biggest of clubs but what we do well is harness skills. We've a ball wall, state of the art all weather pitch facilities. It's a great fantastic family club. Everything about the club inspires."

The team has a big upcoming season with the likes of Feile and Division 2 championship and league ahead of them with the six mentors already making some initial preparations. The six mentors, Rob, Darren, Wayne, Ciara, Mia and Aoibheann are more than aware that they will need to be on top form to guide the team as best they can.

The club will be hoping that their recent winning streak within the Camogie section can continue over the next couple of weeks. With the adult side winning the Junior 3 Championship earlier this month and now the u14s winning theirs last weekend, the club will be hoping for a clean sweep as their u15 and u16 camogie sides line up in championship finals over the coming two weeks.



Ballyboden saw off Wild Geese to win the Division 6 final and (inset): captain Sophie Hannigan receiving trophy

Boden victorious in division 6 camogie final

BALLYBODEN St Endas managed to emerge victorious in their Camogie Under 14 Division 6 Championship final with a 1-04 to 0-04 victory against Wild Geese on Sunday afternoon, reports Michael Howley.

The game was extremely tight throughout with terrible conditions afflicting both teams. Wind and rain made it almost impossible to score from play with both sides managing only one from play in the first half. Boden would make better use of their frees, albeit still finding them hard to convert and head into halftime with the slight advantage.

"The girls had played really well in that first half, they'd done nothing wrong they just hadn't gotten those scores. From our point of view it was just a case of keep going doing what you're doing but be prepared for a big shift in the second half. In fairness to them in the first 15 minutes of the second half they got a goal and a point that set us up nicely for the

last 15 minutes." Owen Loughney - Boden manager

Boden's defence worked extremely hard in the second half and were able to limit Wild Geese's scoring despite the opposition now having the wind behind them. Big performances came from the likes of Hannah Lalor, Ruby Tosh, Megretu Gladney, Aoibhe Mention and captain Sophie Hannigan while Emily Vahey put in the most impressive of all at centre back earning herself a player of the match award in the process.

Coach Owen Loughney spoke on the upcoming jump in division that Boden will now face having won their championship.

"I definitely think we can compete if we can keep the team together, for sure. We'll give it a good shout. It'll be difficult to win anything but we're definitely a team that is capable of maintaining that level and staying in that division."



Commercial's u14's celebrate with the Division 3 trophy

Basketball

Templeogue beat Dublin Lions in local derby with Éanna also winning

THERE was plenty of men's basketball action over the weekend with a huge clash on Friday night seeing Templeogue play Dublin Lions in a local derby at TUD, reports Michael Howley.

It would be Templeogue who picked up the hugely important win in an extremely close game that went to overtime. The final score would see Templeogue just edge out the Lions by five points reading 113 - 108.

Key performers for Templeogue on the day included Evan Cook who managed a monstrous total of 41 points. Providing seven rebounds and six assists alongside the scoring output. Jake Mullins contributed 12 points, six rebounds and four assists. Millan Lopez managed 14 points, three rebounds and two assists while Eduardo Castano was the other high scorer for the team with 31 points, six rebounds and three assists. The result sees Templeogue in 12th position before taking on first place Drogheda Wolves next Saturday.

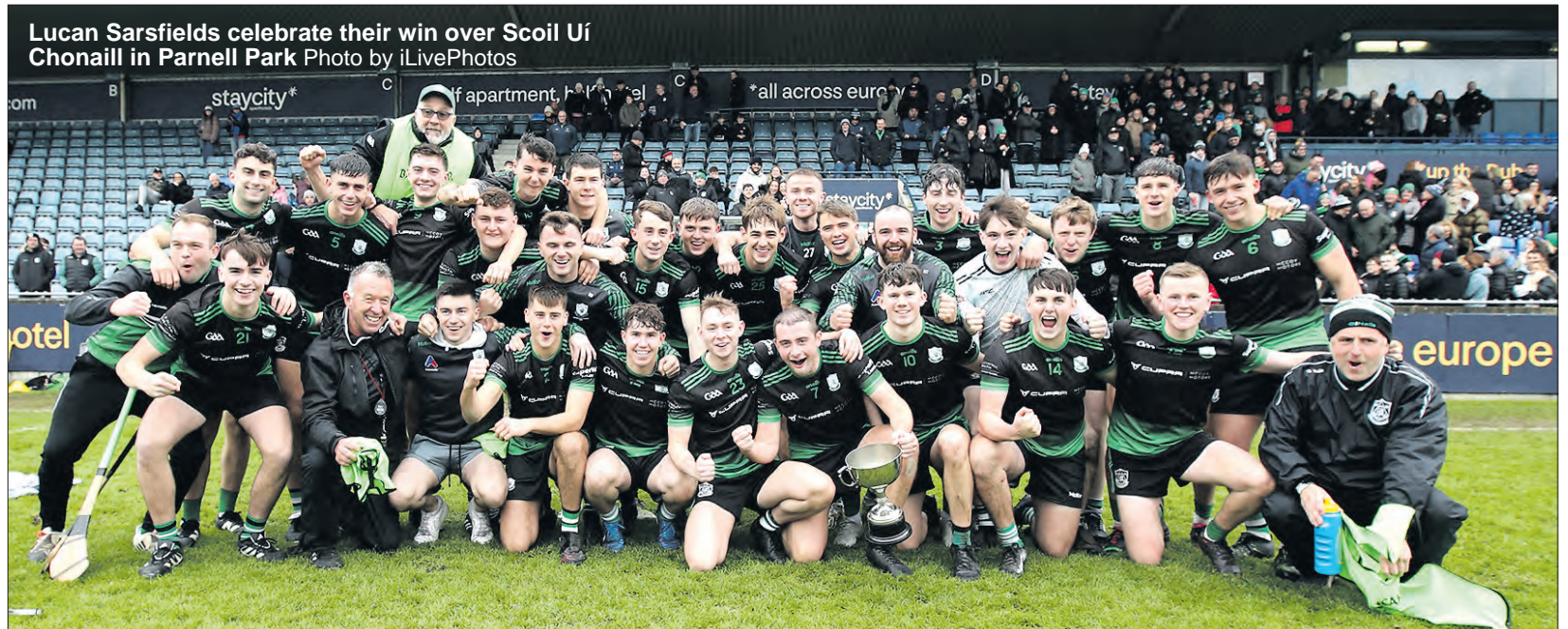
The Lions had no time to wallow in defeat as they were playing Malahide the next day and completed an impressive victory winning out by a healthy scoreline of 28 points to restore momentum following the defeat the day previously. Russ Marr was absolutely vital on the day managing 20 points, eight rebounds and four assists. He spoke after the win against Malahide.

"The win today was huge. We had a tough time yesterday, the loss in overtime was a heartbreaker. I'm super proud of the guys to come back after that and fight every second we were on the court today. That's a really big win." Dublin Lions now find themselves in 3rd place, albeit with an extra game played compared to most teams in the division. They will next play Moy Tolka Rovers.

In the Super League, Griffith College Eanna saw action with a big win over Neptune coming out on top with a 14 point victory winning 94-80. Top scorers for the side included Kiki Andabaka with 25 points, Mikah Blackwell scoring 23 and Stefan Desnica with 18. Eanna now sit in fourth place in the league having won three of their opening four games, losing just one. They will be hoping to make that four wins out of five with their next match against Sligo All Stars this coming weekend, currently sitting in 7th place Sligo appear to be a perfect middle of the pack team having won two and lost two of their opening four games.

GAA

Sarsfields emerge victorious in inter championship final



Lucan Sarsfields celebrate their win over Scoil Uí Chonaill in Parnell Park Photo by iLivePhotos

LUCAN Sarsfields overcame Scoil Uí Chonaill by nine points in the Intermediate Hurling Championship final in Parnell Park on Sunday afternoon after a dominant second half performance, reports Michael Howley.

Both teams had achieved their primary ambition of promotion to the Premier Intermediate Championship heading into the game

however the question remained as to who was the greater team between the two. A tight encounter was anticipated and certainly delivered in the first half at least with both teams sitting on 0-10 as the halftime whistle went.

Lucan goalkeeper Cathal Doody played a pivotal role in the game for his team with his first major action of the game

being a massive save in the 28th minute to deny Neil O'Flynn what looked to be a certain goal. This ensured the two sides went into the break level and Doody found himself called into action once again shortly after the restart.

Sarsfields found themselves with a penalty awarded against them however Doody was on hand to make an inspired save from Scoil Uí Chonaill's

Barry Cushen to keep his side well in the game and provide them with the inspiration to start some attacks of their own. He was the subject of further heroics just over 10 minutes later as he made two saves in quick succession to deny Jack Kennedy and then Fionn Daly goals.

At the other end attacker Joey Dunne had played a key role in getting Sarsfields a

healthy three point lead. Now with all the momentum behind them they ran amuck and added further to the score tally. Sean Langton was successful with a hugely impressive shot from serious range while Cian McHugh would put the contest beyond doubt with three scores in quick succession to ensure that Sarsfields would emerge as champions.

Towers beat Davis' in c'ship final

ROUND Tower U15's Camogie side emerged victorious in the Division 3 Championship final against Thomas Davis as they managed to pull off a seven point victory last Saturday in Abbottstown, reports Michael Howley.

Towers built their lead quickly in the first half with Sinead Gleeson proving to be hugely effective as they found themselves leading by 0-05 to 0-01 early on in the match. They were especially dominant in this first ten minute period and the scores that they made here would carry them through the game and would ultimately win them the match. Faye Doherty played a huge role in the game grabbing both of Tower's goals in

the second half.

Complementing the firepower up front is an impressive back six of players that ensure that Towers keep scores against them to a minimum. A key member of this defence is Laoise O'Sullivan who lines out for Dublin also.

The side had some incredibly impressive performances throughout the campaign winning the Feile and achieving promotion in the league. They felt that they had to perform in the championship this year, particularly given that they were knocked out of the Semi Final a year ago by Naomh Fionnbarra. Manager Fergal McDonagh touched on the ambitions of the squad

heading into the championship campaign.

"It was very much on our minds that we needed to win it. We won the feile and got promoted in the league so it was very much on our mind. We felt that we should have gone all the way last year and didn't, losing out in the semi final. We had a lot of strong performances throughout the year and a lot of big wins. We're very determined to get up into the top divisions."

Towers certainly delivered and would avenge their defeat the previous year by knocking out Fionnbarra this time around in a fairly one sided game. Along with the aforementioned firepower on

the team they were massively helped out by the likes of Rachel Thompson, Sarah Fagan, Alexa Long and Molly Nolan. The only game that Towers have lost this season was a league decider against Kevin's which stopped them from achieving a 100% unbeaten record.

McDonagh spoke on the upcoming jump to Division 2.

"It is a step up but I'd be fairly confident that we will be able to be competitive at that level. Whether we win it out or not but we'd be very confident that we can hold our own in Division 2. I think we will be okay though, we are backed up by a Division 1 14s team as well.



Round Tower claimed the Division 3 title after beating Thomas Davis in Abbottstown

GAA



Commercials crowned Premier Inter Champions

COMMERCIALS continued their fine form in the Premier Intermediate Championship to secure the victory in the championship final against St Sylvesters in Parnell Park on Saturday afternoon, reports Michael Howley.

Both teams will be playing in Senior 2 next year but it will be Commercials entering into the competitions as champions having not lost a single championship game for the entire season.

A huge first half display from Commercials saw the game essentially over by half time as they built up a huge 1-19 to 0-03 lead heading in at the interval. They made the most of the breeze behind their backs for the first half and got off to the scoremark early with Diarmaid O Dulaing grabbing the first point of his 1-14 total tally within the first 60 seconds of the match.

Commercials stamped their authority early on in the game. Adam Drewett along with O Dulaing would continue to add to the scoreline with Conor Cleary also contributing. However, Commercials were able to truly dominate from the 23rd minute onward when St Sylvesters' player Killian

O'Flynn was shown a red card for a high tackle on Tadhg Morris. The miserable first half start for Sylvesters' concluded with O Dulaing netting placing a low shot beyond the reach of David Kennedy just before halftime giving them a nineteen point lead.

Sylvesters' performed much better in the second half despite being a man down. Still the lead was already far too great and despite their scoring from the likes of Eamonn, Ciaran & Darragh McLoughney and Cian Whitney they still found themselves down by a 13 point deficit.

Ultimately the task was too much for them and they would be unable to get themselves back into the game despite an impressive performance in the second half. The game would finish 1-22 to 0-13 with Commercials winning by a 12 point margin.

While they did not keep the pressure on throughout the game, that first half by Commercials showed exactly how dangerous they are as a team and will give them even more confidence heading into the Senior 2 Championship next year when they will find themselves competing at a higher level.

St Marks claim victory in both camogie finals

ST MARKS emerged victorious in two Camogie finals over the weekend with their Under 15 and Under 14 sides picking up a championship and a shield win respectively, reports Michael Howley.

The u15s played Cuala in the final of the Division 10 championship and won out by a large margin. The match concluded a dominant championship campaign for St Marks which saw them remain undefeated throughout the group stage and go on to win it all. The two sides actually played each other in the group stage and while Marks still came out on top it was a far more competitive game than their championship final encounter.

A number of players performed admirably for Marks with Layla Murphy being named player of the match after scoring two goals. Sophie Jennings was another player who managed two goals while Cora McCarthy got the final goal on the day for St Marks. Grace Green and captain Caoimhe Dunne were relentless throughout the match while Cora McCarthy played a key role in shoring up the backline and totally shutting down any incoming Cuala attack.

The u14s side also emerged victorious in their shield final when they played Setanta in Ballymun in the Division 5 championship. After facing adversity throughout the first half a strong second half showing would be enough to secure them the win as they ran

out winners with a 1-4 to 3-3 scoreline in their favour.

Led by captain Amber Sexton, goalkeeper Chloe Jennings would win player of the match for her excellent performance in goal which kept her side in the game. Other players that played a key role for St Marks in the match included the likes of Ruby Wilson and Ava Pierce who were instrumental in getting Marks over the line.

Camogie has been something that has been worked on in St Marks over the years with the section seeing massive growth in a relatively short space of time.

U15s coach Erika McLoughlin spoke on the recent relationship between St Marks and camogie.

"100% [on whether the camogie section has

grown in St Marks], when I stopped playing that's when I said I'd take this team on. So I've had all these girls since they were 6 or 7 years old all the way through. There was a lull for a while before that, we didn't have any juvenile teams. Now we've got adults, minors, u15s, u14s, u12s, u10s and u9s. We've put a lot of effort in with a lot of senior players coming on board looking to give back to the club. We wanted the same experience for the girls coming through that we had when we were younger."



St Marks u14's beat Setanta in the Shield



St Marks u15's beat Cuala in the final



Round Towers beat Raheny in the final

Towers victorious in u14 Division two championship

ROUND Tower Clondalkin Under 14s emerged victorious in their Division 2 Championship final after they defeated Raheny 2-10 to 2-04 with the match being played in Towers home ground last Sunday afternoon, reports Michael Howley.

The game was redemption for Clondalkin who had previously been beaten by Raheny earlier on in the season by a goal. The game was extremely even throughout the first half with both teams struggling to combat the harsh conditions. Towers pulled away in the second half of the game and managed to accrue an eventual six point lead that would win them the game. Scorers include Saoirse O'Connor, Lily Flood, Roisin Higgins, KB Sherwin with Alissa Rooney and Sherwin also netting goals.

Manager Dermot Breslin spoke on the mindset the team had coming into the championship.

"Yeah we were pretty confident as we finished on top of the league after a final clincher match against Erins Isle. We'd also beaten teams that Raheny had lost against which added to our confidence."

Isles and Towers had established themselves as the two dominant sides in the league and they would play each other again in the championship with Erins Isle getting the nod this time. Towers

would win the remainder of their group games however as well as a semi final against St Judes and were expecting to end up playing Erins Isle once again in the final before Raheny managed to cause a big upset in the semi final and beat the Finglas side by a point.

There would be several big performances on the day with Saoirse O'Connor being the one to earn the Player of the Match award, though there were many on the day that could have competed for that honour. This Towers squad has an extremely strong Dublin contingent making up its spine with Roisin Higgins, Roisin Byrne, Saoirse O'Connor, Sadhbh Ward and Aoife Breslin.

Now playing in Division 1 next season Breslin spoke on the jump that his team will be making.

"Yeah look it's a big challenge ahead. You're playing the best teams in Dublin basically. You've got all the usuals in there. Serious challenge ahead in Division 1. We entered Division 2 the exact same way hoping we'd finish middle of the table with the aim of not getting hockeyed off the pitch and keeping games tight. Low and behold we won the league and the cup. I'm not saying that's going to happen this year. Playing Division 1 standard at u15s for the club is amazing."

GAA

Last minute heartache for Sarsfields



Lucan Sarsfields lose out to Na Fianna by a point

NA FIANNA defeated Lucan Sarsfields in their third successive Go-Ahead Ireland Dublin Senior 1 Hurling Championship title as they overcame Lucan Sarsfields by a point at Parnell Park on Saturday evening, reports Michael Howley.

It would be Sean Currie who scored the final point of the game to secure a win for the side from Glasnevin to ensure that the match did not go to extra time.

Sarsfields started the match well with Charlie Keher opening the scoring for them in the third minute. Lucan were more precise than the

reigning champions and picked up solid points from the likes of Cathal Kennedy and Colm Walsh with the side showing their versatility with their first six scores all coming from different individuals.

While Lucan did suffer an unfortunate nine minute period where they found themselves unable to get any scores on the board they impressed throughout the first half of the game. Playing against the breeze, they would head into the interval just a single point behind Na Fianna with a 0-11 to 0-10 scoreline.

While Na Fianna would fire strongly with

the likes of the Curries brothers and AJ Murphy, Sarsfields would always have a response with the likes of Ben Coffey, Donal Flannery and Paul Crummey keeping them well within the game. It would be Dublin captain Chris Crummey who grabbed the point just before the break to keep them within a single score of Na Fianna.

The second half saw Lucan quickly take the lead courtesy of two Ben Coffey frees and they would showcase their talent, competing and at times outplaying Na Fianna. Na Fianna would be offered an opportune chance to get back into

the game in the 39th minute however when they were awarded a penalty. Donal Burke slotted home and now they had momentum behind them with Murphy and Colin Currie scoring to restore the narrow lead of Na Fianna and put them back in front.

Lucan battled on and three consecutive scores would see them take the lead again with only eight minutes left in the game however they would be unable to hold onto this lead and would suffer that last minute heartbreak with Sean Currie rescuing the game for Na Fianna right at the death.

Lucan Sarfields players try to win back possession
Photos by Joseph Barrett



Action from the Senior 1 Hurling Championship final between Lucan Sarsfields and Na Fianna

Faughs u14's claim Division 4 c'ship



Faughs U14 camogie team are Division 4 champions

FAUGHS GAA U14 Camogie side emerged victorious in the final of the u14 division 4 championship. They played Cuala in the final of the competition and won out by a scoreline of 7-3 to 4-4 on the day, reports Michael Howley.

The match saw Faughs overcome major adversity when Cuala managed to score three goals in the opening 15 minutes of the game. The team managed to battle back and claw their way back into the game where they would ultimately come away with a major victory. Faugh's goalscoring ability was on full display and standout performances from the likes of Julia Quinn (3-0), Abbey Donohue (1-2) and Mary Brennan (3-1) ensured that Faughs had the power to get over the line.

Emily Ward, Clodagh O'Brien, Maedbh Gannon and Laura Dunn were rock solid in defence, keeping possession under pressure and distributing the ball with intelligence, keeping the Cuala attack from repeating their impressive goalscoring form from the first 15 minutes of the game. Manager Tara Brereton spoke on the improvement that the squad had managed to make in the last year.

"I think Thomas Davis and Cuala probably thought they were going to beat us. Last year we were struggling to get 13 out to play the matches so we really have come back. We've built it massively from

within the club. We wanted to try and build back up the u14 squad. It was huge that the girls now really trusted each other. Last year they would have been showing up at matches and they didn't know who anybody was or how they'd play on the pitch. Now they have faith in each other and they can read the game. They know if they pass their teammate will be able to do something with it."

Faughs faced adversity heading into the game however when two of their key players found themselves ruled out with injury. Captain Alannah O'Connor played a massive role in the team throughout the campaign and suffered a dislocated shoulder during training while Tara Hewitt also found herself unable to play, afflicted with injury. They showed their strength in depth with Lucy Quinn coming in to replace Hewitt in the backline and putting in an admirable performance. Cheered on by their captain from the sideline Faughs put in a heroic effort which ensured that they would be crowned champions of Division 4.

It was not to be for Faughs u16 side unfortunately with the team being narrowly beaten by Clontarf in their Division 1 Championship final with a score of 0-04 to 0-08. Still with a league win and a second place finish in the Championship to their name they can be proud of themselves after a successful season.

Faughs U14 camogie team celebrate their victory over Cuala



Soccer

Pat's put dent in European qualification hopes

ST PATRICK'S Athletic played host to Waterford last Friday night where they achieved a not so satisfactory final result of 1-1 which puts a slight dent in their European qualification campaign, reports Michael Howley.

The contest marked the final goal Mason Melia will score at Richmond Park in what was the youngster's final appearance at Pats stadium before he heads to Tottenham Hotspur in just a few months time. The 18 year old netted his 14th goal of the season in the 40th minute of the game to give Pats a 1-0 lead before Waterford equalised only minutes later in injury time of the first half.

The game would ultimately finish level with manager Stephen Kenny rueing the opportunities missed in the game.

"We didn't get the win that we needed. We played some great football in the first half and deservedly took the lead. Even though Waterford were tough, we were still a threat. The concession of the goal right on half-time was a kick in the teeth.

"It gave them a huge lift going in and coming out again. We had a lot of chances in the second half but we missed some good chances. They were a threat as well. It was end-to-end. They were fighting for their lives. We were disappointed we couldn't find a winner."

"We still have to go and win. We have a chance of finishing in the top four if we beat Shelbourne next week. We have to give ourselves every chance to do that."

As alluded to by Kenny, Pat's last game of the season will be against Shelbourne and is now essentially a must win game for Pats if they have any hope of finishing in fourth place with a possible European spot at stake. The point however will be a huge boost to Waterford who currently find themselves in a battle at the other end of the table as they are in a relegation play off scrape with Galway and Sligo with all three teams now sitting on 38 points.

Katie helps Ireland secure crucial result on historic night

By James Roulston Mooney

jamesrm@echo.ie

TALLAGHT star Katie McCabe helped the Republic of Ireland down Belgium away from home on her 100th cap for country in a massive international tie.

The Centurion played a crucial role in Ireland's two victories over the Red Devils to secure their status as a top-tier UEFA Nations League team.

Captain McCabe put on a thrilling performance in the second half of Tuesday night's second leg, untethered by defensive duty thanks to the presence of Chloe Mustaki at left centre-back.

This was complemented by a brace in Dublin on Friday night when Carla Ward's side winded the Devils in the first leg.

Katie McCabe said after the game: "We need to be out of our comfort zone and playing up against the best in order to develop.

"Playing Belgium, we've learned so much from these games over the last two legs. Over the course of the two games, I'm very proud of how we reacted. We just want to keep building.

"I think for so long, there's been talk of us not being good enough on the ball going forward.

"I hope we've showed the fans and people watching (that's not the case). It's something we're constantly wanting to improve.

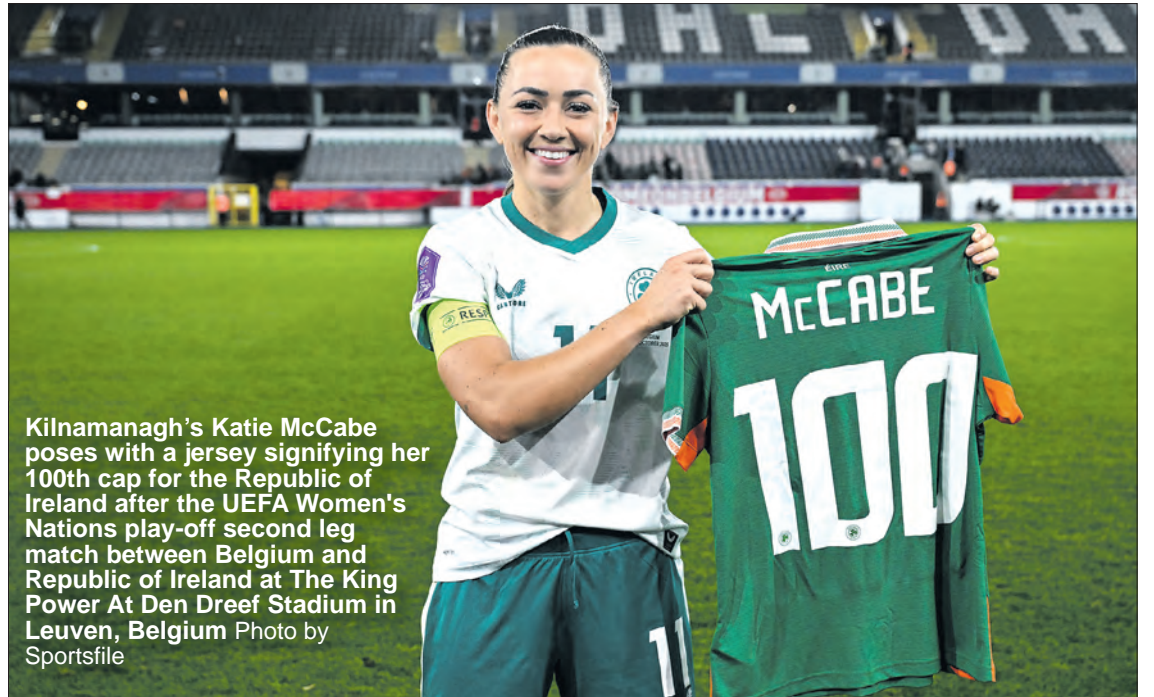
"I'm looking forward to enjoying the celebrations with my teammates. It's full focus now because we're back in with the club and Arsenal."

Abbie Larkin netted the winner for the Republic of Ireland in the dying minutes in Leuven, confirming their top-dog status in the next Nations League.

The national side will now have the chance to face the likes of England and Spain, with the next instalment set to take place in 2027.

Another one of McCabe's milestones was achieved at the Den Dreef Stadium with a better result tied to it this time.

"I made my 50th here and we lost 1-0 so I'm happy to be making my 100th now and taking the win home,"



Kilnamanagh's Katie McCabe poses with a jersey signifying her 100th cap for the Republic of Ireland after the UEFA Women's Nations play-off second leg match between Belgium and Republic of Ireland at The King Power At Den Dreef Stadium in Leuven, Belgium Photo by Sportsfile

McCabe told RTÉ.

The Republic of Ireland captain also had praise for manager Carla Ward and the system she has implemented.

McCabe's freedom in the wing-back role has allowed her to threaten more in an Ireland shirt and the two Belgium matches underline this.

Speaking after the match, McCabe stated: "I think since Carla's come in, she's come into our team, our culture, we've wanted to understand what she wants to do and she wants to understand what playing for Ireland is all about.

"I think one of the strengths of her as a manager is

how open she is. She's not afraid to reflect and come away from looking at games and saying she got it wrong at times.

"Especially in that Nations League, I think we could have maybe been better as a team in terms of possession and going into games.

"She's not afraid to reflect and look back and tweak a few things. We all want to play pretty football and win games and score pretty goals, but it's just not like that sometimes.

"Sometimes the game is there for something else, and we roll our sleeves up and have to fight for every inch."

Five star Old Bawn cruise to victory

OLD BAWN Athletic's good run of form in the UCFL Division 2 section continued last Saturday, when they were comfortable 5-0 winners of lowly AGP FC in Sean Walsh Park, reports John Mooney.

From their opening goal in the first minute the Bawn never looked back, and the win will only add to their confidence when they face one of the two unbeaten sides in the Division this Saturday, Fatima Rangers.

For AGP it could well turn out to be a long season as they more or less came together at the last minute, have a mix of young and older players and have lost their first three games.

However, last weekend they showed glimpses of what they can do so the sooner they get points on the board the better.

But the Bawn were never going to show any kind of sympathy and when they opened their account inside the first minute, as Ian Doyle planted home a header from a Michael Lovett corner, you could only fear for the visitors.

They battled away and created half chances but the home side always looked dangerous and the only surprise was that their second didn't arrive until the 20th minute, Doyle again with a carbon copy of the first from another Lovett corner.

Aaron Breslin then popped up with number three on 44 minutes, meaning Old Bawn could afford to relax a bit and take their foot off the gas as we headed into the break.

An uphill battle for the visitors to get back into this game and on 58 minutes it got even worse, as Roan Demsey unfortunately put the ball into his own net to give the Bawn a 4-0 lead.

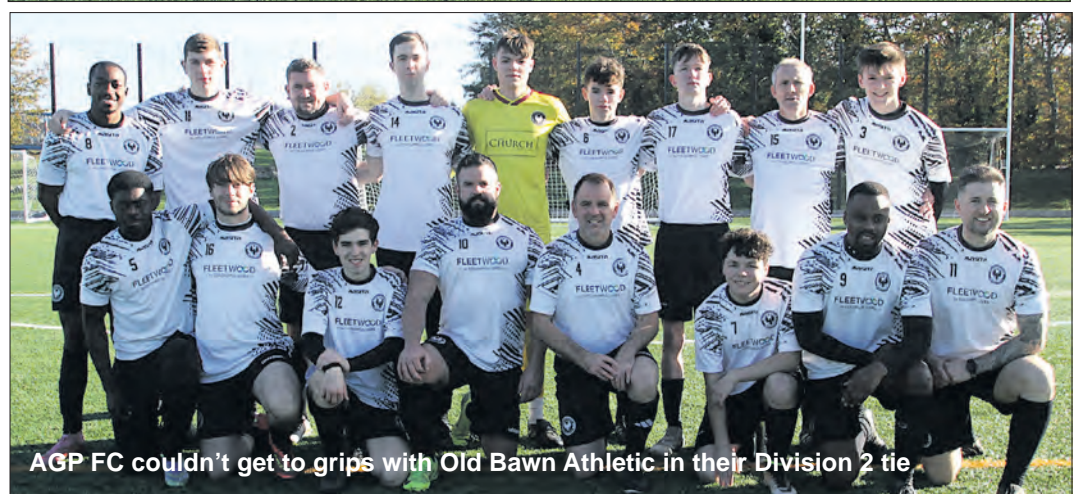
However, despite the scoreline the visitors attempted to create chances but it was the home side were always going to add to the their score, and the final goal of this encounter came from Cian Bates with 12 minute remaining to set the lads up nicely for their big encounter with Fatima on Saturday.

OLDBAWN ATHLETIC: C. Keating, K. Glass, J. Ryan, I. Doyle, G. Perry, A. Breslin, F. Ptak, C. Bates, S. Egan, M. Lovett, S. Doran, B. Thorpe, K. Doran, C. Melligan, B. Prout.

AGPFC: R. Dempsey, E. Murtagh, D. Sweeney, H. McAteer, R. Adelakun, A. Villena, E. Lutete, S. Mayanja, A. O'Kearney, S. Brown, A. O'Kearney, A. Molloy, C. Redmond, O. Kelly, J. Dragomir, A. Quinn.



Old Bawn Athletic were comfortable 5-0 winners over AGP FC Photos by John Mooney



AGP FC couldn't get to grips with Old Bawn Athletic in their Division 2 tie

Soccer

Rovers players make u17 world cup squad

THE Irish U17 squad has been named for the upcoming World Cup which is set to begin next week, reports Michael Howley.

The squad includes numerous players of Shamrock Rovers with four features. These of course include high flying pair Michael Noonan and Kiltipper native Victor Ozhianvuna. Noonan has firmly established himself in the first team squad at Rovers and is considered to be among the brightest prospects in the league while Ozhianvuna recently broke the Irish transfer record for a €2 million move to Arsenal. While he has not featured regularly for Rovers this year he will not move to London before 2027 so expect to see him regularly a part of the Rovers squad next season.

Alex Noonan and Max Kovalevskis are the other two who will be travelling to Qatar. The timing of the World Cup means that the players will not be available to play in Rover's FAI Cup Final against Cork City. While Rovers have the right to contest this decision they have not done so and FAI U17 boss Colin O'Brien spoke on their leniency.

"While clubs have the right to object, none of them have. They have been as good as gold, recognising what a unique opportunity this is. Like, a World Cup. How many Ireland teams have ever been to the World Cups?"

The team will be the first ever U17 Irish squad to play in a World Cup with their first game on Wednesday 5 November. They will play Panama in the opening game before going against Uzbekistan and Paraguay in the days after. Should they do enough to qualify out of their group they will be in the knockout stages playing on November 14th.

Rovers lose out in UEFA Conference League tie

SHAMROCK Rovers took on NK Celje Thursday evening in a UEFA Conference League match up, reports Michael Howley.

The game was a repeat of their Europa League Qualifier encounter last season where Stephen Bradley's men won out after an impressive home performance in the second leg which saw them win 3-1 after the game entered extra time.

Celje dominated proceedings for much of the early first half. While Rovers showed glimpses of attacking threat through the likes of Rory Gaffney and Dylan Watts. Celje were slick in possession. Croatian striker Kovacevic would score with a beautiful individual goal just after the half hour mark, skillfully moving past the Rovers defence.

The Croatian made it 2-0 only minutes later, getting on the end of a cross by Lukasz Bejger to head into an empty net at the back post. Rovers would be unable to break down the Celje defence for the remainder of the half and would head into the interval 2-0 down.

Rovers started off somewhat brightly in the second half with more of a dogged determination out of them. The best chance fell to Rory Gaffney who had a prime opportunity to pull one back following a Dylan Watts cross but was denied by an excellent save from Zan-Luk Leban in the 47th minute. Neither side came particularly close after with Celje looking like the more threatening of the two if you had to pick as the game lulled for the next half hour.

Pico Lopes broke the monotony in the 75th minute with a flick on that nearly found its way past keeper Zan Luk Leban but ultimately the keeper was up to the challenge. 2-0 would be the final score of the game with Rovers unable to find that cutting edge that allowed them to compete with the team from Slovenia.

After previous words ahead of last year's Europa

Rory Gaffney carries the ball forward for Rovers



Pico Lopes tries to stop a NK Celje attack on Thursday night
Photos by Darren Kearns

League tie, Bradley and Celje boss Riera have made up since then as evidenced by the press conference after the match.

Riera made comments on Shamrock Rovers after the match and Bradley's seeming disrespect towards him a year prior.

"We didn't even have one coffee and anyway I will not give him the chance to have a coffee with me because after one year, still didn't apologise and this I will not accept. How you respect me, I will respect you.

"I can say that Shamrock [Rovers] didn't surprise me at all. We are far away from the level [from Shamrock Rovers]. Playing in a really average second half we could even score more goals. We let them have some chances but in general, we show in 90 minutes that we have a better level than them. And so we won."

To cap it off Riera made reference to Bradley's nine years in charge at Rovers, seemingly implying that he was not able to move to a higher standard of football.

"Even winning here in this country, and you stay in this country still. And not coming anyone from abroad, I think this means something."

When asked to respond to these comments Bradley pointed out his personal circumstances over the last number of years.

"If [Riera] did his homework, he would see my personal situation the last few years and what my priority was the last few years, so he obviously hasn't done his homework and he hasn't spoken to people around football or over this side of the world and that's fine. That's his ignorance and that sums him up. That's the lack of class the man has."

Rovers wait for the title continues

SHAMROCK Rovers failed once again to put an official stamp on the league season after losing to Derry City at the Brandywell Stadium on Sunday afternoon, reports Michael Howley.

Rovers have been disoriented in recent weeks, seemingly preoccupied with a European campaign and knowing that the league has essentially already been won, they have lost their last four games in all competitions.

They started the match without manager Stephen Bradley on the

sidelines. The Rovers boss was running the Dublin Marathon the same day in aid of the Oscar's Kids charity and would arrive ten minutes into the game after taking a helicopter to the Brandywell.

While Graham Burke did threaten the Derry goal six minutes into the match, forcing Brian Maher to make a save neither team looked particularly like scoring and Derry's goal could be considered fortuitous when they finally did break the deadlock.

Brandon Fleming's attempted cross curled its way over the head of Ed McGinty and into the back of the net to give the home side a 1-0 advantage in the 25th minute. While Rovers huffed and puffed with Burke and Michael Noonan looking lively they failed to produce any meaningful chance.

Early in the second half saw Josh Honohan go close to scoring with the Corkman's shot saved by Brian Maher. Derry would threaten themselves however with Michael Duffy and

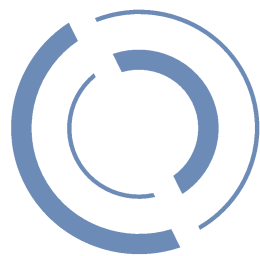
Sadou Diallo both testing McGinty and the two would combine in the 87th minute to double Derry's lead and put the game to bed, ending any chance of a possible Rovers comeback. Rory Gaffney would score a consolation goal in stoppage time for the Hoops but it would be too little too late.

Stephen Bradley spoke on the three defeats in the league and the upcoming fixtures.

"Forget all of that. It's the little, like I said, we need to focus on what we've

been good at and what we need to improve on. We'll move on to Galway. We've lost the last three in the league, which is very unlike us and it's something that doesn't sit well with us, something we don't like and we have a chance on Wednesday to try and put that right and that'll be our aim."

The champions will have to wait until Wednesday night for the opportunity to be officially crowned as they take on Galway United at Tallaght Stadium with an 8pm kick off.



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