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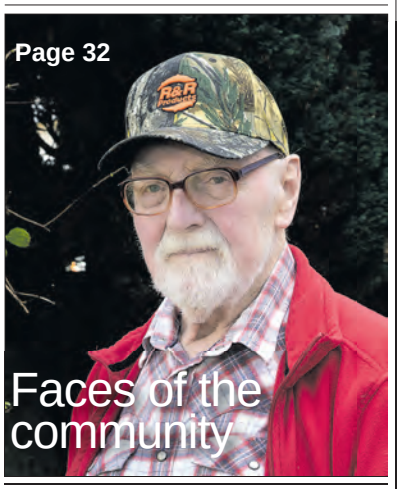
READ IT, BELIEVE IT, REAL LOCAL NEWS FROM CLONDALKIN, BALLYFERMOT AND LUCAN – BE PART OF THE STORY


Life & Social

Nature Boys is Seán's personal journey recording Irish birdsong

James (19) speaks at United Nations General Assembly page 16

Three new parks approved for Clonburris page 38





Ómós to Michael D

A VERY special event was held in Áras Chrónáin, Clondalkin, in tribute to the President of Ireland, Mícheál D Ó hUigínn, and his wife Sabina. See pages 30 and 50.

UACHTARÁN PRAISED FOR HIS VISION AND ADVOCACY OF IRISH LANGUAGE

Development will include 88 three-bed houses and 18 three-bed duplexes

137 affordable homes granted for Cherry Orchard site

PLANNING permission has been granted for over 130 affordable purchase homes in Cherry Orchard, *reports Ellen Gough.* See page 39

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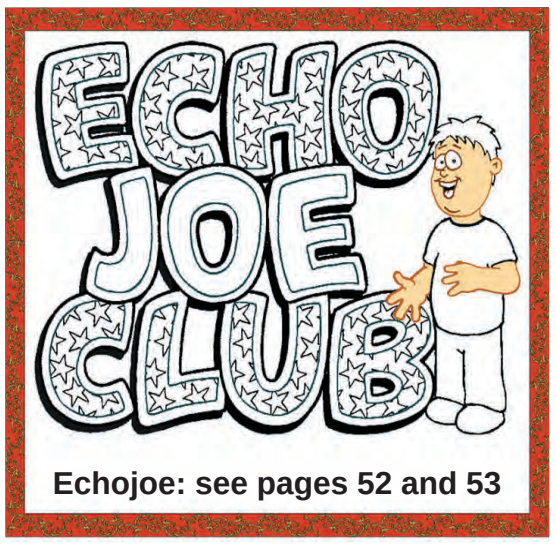
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Next Edition

The next edition of ***The Echo*** in the shops from Thursday, Oct 16, 2025. **Don't miss it!**



Echojoe: see pages 52 and 53

Infant boy tragically dies after fatal road traffic incident

AN INFANT boy has tragically died following a fatal road traffic incident outside a house in Tallaght on Tuesday afternoon.

Emergency services including Dublin Fire Brigade rushed to the scene in Rathmintin in Jobstown at around 2pm.

The boy was was transferred from the scene to Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Crumlin, where he was subsequently pronounced deceased.

A statement released by gardai said: "Gardaí and emergency services attended the scene of a fatal road traffic incident outside a residence in Rathmintin, Jobstown, Dublin 24 that occurred at approximately 2:00pm this afternoon, Tuesday, 7th October 2025.

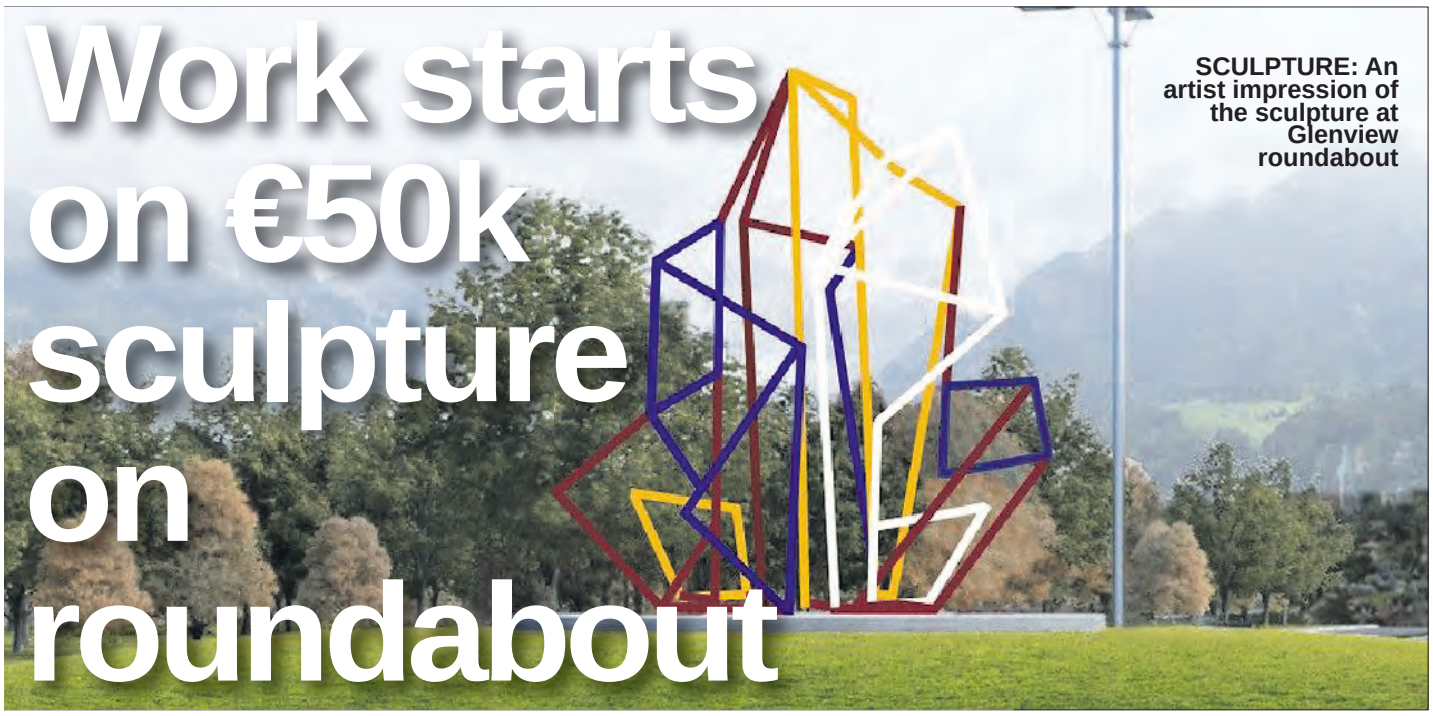
"A male infant was transferred from the scene to Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Crumlin, where he was subsequently pronounced deceased.

"A Family Liaison Officer (FLO) has being appointed to support the family at this time".

Gardai say a technical examination by Forensic Collision Investigators has since been conducted.

No further information is being made available.

Work starts on €50k sculpture on roundabout



SCULPTURE: An artist impression of the sculpture at Glenview roundabout

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

INSTALLATION has begun for a €50,000 steel sculpture on a roundabout on the Tallaght Bypass.

The installation of the new sculpture, constructed from painted steel, on the Glenview Roundabout on the N81 began on Monday morning, October 6, along with the necessary civils works.

"This project is part of the N81 landscape scheme, approved by the Council under Part 8 of the Planning and Development Act," South Dublin County Council said.

The sculpture, designed by Liam O'Callaghan, is an "artwork in coloured steel that references the spire of St Maelruain's Church in Tallaght, the buildings and housing that have grown up around it in the wider area of Tallaght and the diversity of the communities in the area," they said, and will be brought to life by Clonmel Enterprises Ltd.

An artist's impression of the sculpture posted on the council's social media has drawn mixed reactions.

"Looks like a monkey bars in a playground," one person noted, with others expressing concerns about children trying to cross the busy N81 to climb it.

"It would be great if SDCC did have some future sculptures and the submissions were voted on by residents of Tallaght," another person commented.



WORKS: Construction workers on the roundabout on Wednesday morning

"No offence meant against the designer of this sculpture, I do wonder if there was a brief to be met or who actually picked this sculpture as the 'winner'," they continued.

"This piece wouldn't stick in my mind and rather reminds me of the 'UFOs' on the N7... you look at them and say 'hmmm' but they don't stand out in my mind like WOW, that's amazing."

At the time of the sculpture being commissioned, the council gave an "estimated timeline of seven months for production and installation", though no indication has been given yet for how long the actual installation will take.

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme

Teenager injured during shooting incident 'unacceptable and should never happened'

A TEENAGER was injured in a shooting incident in Bluebell on Monday evening at around 8.15pm.

The shooting occurred outside a house in the south-west suburb, and the injured teen was transported to St James's Hospital to receive treatment for non-life-threatening injuries.

Ballyfermot-Drimnagh Councillor Daithí Doolan has said that the shooting in Bluebell was an attack on the whole community.

Cllr. Doolan said: "Tonight's shooting in Bluebell was an attack on the whole community. I want to wish the victim a full and speedy recovery.

"It was totally unacceptable and should not have happened. Those involved must face justice.

"The Minister for Justice, Jim O'Callaghan, must fully resource Gardaí to make our communities safe.

"These attacks will only end once the government takes gun crime seriously in our city.

"I strongly encourage anyone with information to contact Garda."

Anyone with information is urged to contact Kilmainham Garda Station at 01 666 9700 or the Garda Confidential Line at 1800 666 111.

545 social homes under construction with 79 expected this year in Lucan

545 social homes are under construction in the Lucan/Palmerstown area, with 79 expected to be delivered before the end of the year, *reports James Roulston Mooney.*

A further 181 are scheduled for delivery in 2026, with 26 additional affordable purchase homes set to be advertised for sale in the coming calendar year as well.

438 new cost-rental homes are also scheduled to be delivered from now until the end of 2026.

All of these homes under construction are being delivered under South Dublin County Council's delivery programme via direct build, Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 or in partnership with Approved Housing Bodies.

Part V allows the State to capture a portion of the increase in land value resulting from the granting of planning permission for residential development.

This then provides for local authorities to acquire 20% of land at existing use value and deliver homes on this land to those households who qualify for social and affordable housing support.

According to SDCC's Housing Delivery Action Plan 2022-2026, Lucan is expected to receive 406 social homes in 2025 and 2026 while Palmerstown-Fonthill can expect 352.

SDCC encourage applications for their social housing scheme via their online housing system 'Housing Online – SDCC.'

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme.

Alan celebrates working 50 years in Des Kelly Interiors

Colleagues held a surprise event for longest-serving employee with the company

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



MILESTONE: Alan Tooney (centre front) celebrating with his work colleagues

Local man Alan Tooney celebrated a huge milestone on Wednesday as he passed 50 years at Des Kelly Interiors.

Mr Tooney has worked at the well-known furniture shop since 1975, only five years after the first store in Cross Guns Bridge was opened.

Alan's colleagues held an event for the longest-serving employee at the company, and he noted his surprise that his milestone was recognised in such a way.

"I felt embarrassed at first walking in and there's all the guys I work with in there cheering me on and all the rest.

"But at the same time really flattered that they acknowledged my 50 years and appreciated them."

The celebrations included cake and champagne, and attendees told stories of days gone by, reminiscing on past memories shared with Alan.

A half-century at one place of employment is an uncommon sight these days, with Alan becoming the first to cross that threshold in his workplace.

The Clondalkin resident noted that this kind of longevity may be rare to see in this day and age but it is not uncommon in his family.

"My father worked in a different corporation for 43 years, so it must run in the family!"

He has seen the Des Kelly brand take off to become a well-known name nationwide in the carpet and furniture industry, with 12 stores spread around Dublin in places such as Tallaght and Walkinstown.

Colleague Paul is six years back from Alan's ongoing record and has known him for the entirety of his own career with the iconic Dublin store.

Alan's colleague stated: "He's a lovely bloke, both as a colleague and as a friend. We're very close friends down through the years. He's just a nice guy, you know.

"He's good to be around at work, he's good to be around outside of work, he has a great sense of humour and he's just a decent, ordinary guy."

Since Alan's first day, Des Kelly Interiors has grown to include a dedicated logistics section, IT department and customer service department.

Alan has been there to see it all grow and Paul noted that his friend and colleague played an important role throughout, seen as "key to the growth of the company."

Mr Tooney does not plan to stop at 50, having no thoughts of retirement at the moment.

Alan stated: "I am not planning that far ahead. I know I've been there 50 years, I know I'm not going to be there another 50 years. But I do feel at this moment in time, I've no reason to quit."

Overhanging vegetation is responsibility of landowners

THE overhanging vegetation near the Le Fanu Road car park in Ballyfermot is the responsibility of the landowners and not that of the council.

As of September 1, landowners can carry out the maintenance of their land, including keeping trees or bushes on their property from spilling onto public roads and footpaths.

Councillor Vincent Jackson described the site as one that is filled with "disgraceful filth" and underlined the importance of the issue being resolved as soon as possible.

Cllr Jackson exclaimed in his question to Dublin City Council: "The brambles growing from private property are becoming a real danger here."

Landowners are expected to carry out essential maintenance of their land, including cutting, felling, lopping, trimming or removing a tree, shrub, hedge or other vegetation on their land.

They are expected to do this to stop private plants becoming a hazard for those using public thoroughfare.

The Roads Maintenance Station are expected to engage with the owners of the properties on Le Fanu Road regarding this issue.

Waste Management Services and the Litter Management Office have previously been engaged with regarding illegal dumping at the site, which is a continuous occurrence.

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme.


BLESSING: A large crowd gathered at the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Clondalkin on Sunday


WELLNESS: The blessing was a huge success

Blessing of the Animals brings ‘a little bit of wellness for your dog’

Around 60 dogs turn up for blessing at The Church of the Immaculate Conception

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

STORM Amy threatened a rough day for The Blessing of the Dogs, but this year’s event turned out to be a huge success on Sunday afternoon in Clondalkin.

Around 60 dogs were in attendance, with a few cats brought along as well, to receive a blessing at The Church of the Immaculate Conception.

The blessing is part of the celebrations held around St Francis of Assisi day, who is known to have had a strong connection to animals and nature, and was sponsored by Brian McElroy Funeral Directors.

Father Shan Ó Cuiv was present to provide the blessings to the animals, who were accompanied by their owners.

Co-organiser Father Eddie Byrne lauded praise on Fr Ó Cuiv for the time he spent with each animal when he blessed them.

Fr Byrne said: “He spent a huge amount of time with each couple. And if he saw a bit of a challenge going on with the handlers, he’d deal with that as well,”

Worries about attendance following the reign of Storm Amy in the clouds were quashed by five past three as the church’s car park was packed with pets and parents alike.

Treats were provided for the dogs and there was also some food available for the humans in attendance.

Turkey, ham and fruitcake were available for those in attendance, with the fruitcake fed with cognac going down a treat.

“All the ladies and the lads asked me for the recipe, and it was absolutely stunning, the flavour of it. You couldn’t kind of taste the brandy, but you knew there was something going on in the background.”

Fr Byrne noted that the blessing is welcome to all animals, no matter if their owner is religious or not.

The outdoors nature of the event allows those who are not religious to evade the feeling of “being hounded into a church.”

“If you see that as a blessing, that’s fine. If you see it as a little bit of wellness for your dog…it’s all trying to get a good feeling, however you achieve it.

“And if you accept that, you can be blessed.”


CELEBRATION: Father Shan Ó Cuiv during the blessing

New school buildings in Lucan and Clondalkin will ‘bring vibrant life’

MINISTER for Education and Youth Helen McEntee paid a visit to new school buildings in Clondalkin and Lucan at the end of September, *reports James Roulston Mooney.*

Minster McEntee visited the site of the new school building at Griffeen Community College and attended the official opening of the Collinstown Park Community College special education autism suite.

The Minister spoke at her visit to both schools and noted that Griffeen’s rise is worthy of the school’s motto: ‘Learn with pride and progress with confidence’.

Minister McEntee stated: “Since its establishment in 2017, with a mere 16 students, Griffeen Community College has already made an enormous contribution to the educational life of Lucan.

“In a relatively short space of time, it has built a reputation where young people ‘learn with pride and progress with confidence.”

The new school building at Kishoge Cross will be able to hold 1,000 pupils with accommodation built as part of the project.

The project is part of the Department of Education and Youth’s Design and Build Programme.

The Department has invested €1.6 billion into school building projects across the country since 2020.

Valued at €41.9 million, the Griffeen project is expected to be delivered by August 2026, according to contractor JJ Rhatigan.

“It is the teachers and staff who will bring value to the bricks and mortar. It is the students who be the heartbeat and bring vibrant life to the building.”

Four classrooms will be built at the new Griffeen Community College building with special educational needs in mind.

Minister McEntee also paid a visit to Collinstown Park Community College to officially open their new autism suite.

The plans for the Clondalkin school’s suite were approved in 2021 and the suite comprises of two classrooms, activity spaces, a toilet and shower area, two small ‘safe place’ areas, a multi-sensory room, a practical activity room, a daily living skills room, a staff toilet, storage and office space.

The Education and Youth Minister praised Collinstown at the official opening: “You have always been proactive in our progression of an inclusive education system for all and have a proven track record of showing innovation, being resourceful and remaining open minded when it comes to special education.”

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme

Residents concerned about the permeability of estates

Proposed laneways through estates has potential for 'escape routes' on e-scooters

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

"I WOULD never have purchased a house at a laneway and the fact that the estate was a cul de sac made it more appealing."

Concerns about the permeability of estates have dominated the reaction to the draft Clondalkin Local Planning Framework.

Residents of local cul-de-sacs and estates are worried that the connecting of their neighbourhoods to other areas in the vicinity will lead to a rise in anti-social behaviour.

Homeowners provided generally disgruntled reactions to the draft document's proposals via the South Dublin County Council consultation portal.

One submission reads: "Do SDCC planners expect me to have to wash down the entrance to my driveway and home each morning and especially over weekends so that my children don't have to walk through other people's urine?"

Worries noted about the proposed laneways through estates included the potential to see more alcohol and drug paraphernalia, the use of them as "escape routes" and the use of e-scooters.

E-scooters have been seen in many parts of Clondalkin in recent months, and some residents feel these openings would invite them into their residential areas.

Several other vehicle-related submissions were recorded - narrower junctions, lane reductions and cycle lanes took centre stage

A business owner stated: "The narrowing of the junctions and roads for cycle lanes is a clear attempt to prevent people accessing the village and as a business owner in the village of the last 40 years and resident I find this extremely worrying and stressful.

"This will only add to the increase of emissions from cars stuck in traffic."



FRAMEWORK: The Round Tower in Clondalkin

One response called for better facilities to accommodate bicycles, like secure lock-up locations, so that people would be encouraged to use the lanes suggested.

Negative reactions dominated this aspect of the document as well, but some made clear their positive thoughts on more sustainable transport options.

A submission called for more "common sense" on the issue of sustainable movement: "The future of Clondalkin depends on policies that prioritise people, safe mobility, and community infrastructure—not oversized vehicles."

Other chapters of the draft local planning framework for the village saw more praise, such as the sections that discussed green infrastructure and conservation.

Submissions welcomed the work being done towards more green spaces and conservation of local heritage sites.

One submission welcomed the proposal for integrated constructed wetlands at the Camac River and others were grateful for the plans laid out to conserve Clondalkin's heritage sites.

However, several also noted that there was still work to be done – some who responded to the green infrastructure chapter decried the removal of hedgerows at the Seven Mills development and asked for more protection of established greenery.

One response asked for "further on-the-ground input" for the conservation of heritage spaces to be satisfactory.

The overall reaction appears to be one of dissatisfaction with the 124-page document at this stage in its life.

The submissions are expected to shape the next iteration of the Clondalkin Local Planning Framework.

Funded by The Local Democracy Reporting Scheme

Busy road will get slow markings after concerns about speeding in the area

TWO slow road markings will be placed on the approaches to Bunting Park and Bunting Road after concerns were raised about speeding in the area, *reports James Roulston Mooney.*

The new markings were recommended following an assessment of the two roads in Walkinstown.

Councillor Ray Cunningham noted that the area in question is a busy one, with a park used regularly by a local GAA club among other things.

Many children who attend the training with St James Gaels have to cross Bunting Road to enter the park.

"They do a lot of kids training, especially on Saturday, Cllr Cunningham noted. "There isn't any proper pedestrian crossing points on the road."

Houses also line the length of the road with many families living in the local area.

The new road markings will supplement the existing 30 kilometres per hour slow zone signage on either end of Bunting Road.

The new measures are only short-term solutions for the problem, with pedestrian crossings marked to come in soon.


SPEEDING: Road markings will be placed on Bunting Road

The road is expected to be redeveloped under the BusConnects programme in the coming years – a move that will see the addition of cycle lanes on each side of the tarmac.

BusConnects is an initiative by the National Transport Authority that aims to make transport more sustainable, improve access to public transport and lower private vehicle use in busy areas.

However, the timeframe for the Bunting Road plan is not set in stone and Dublin City Council do not wish to make large-scale improvements when the long-term fix is still expected to come.

"We're not sure when that work is going to happen – it could be next year, or it could be later.

"So, in the meantime, this is going to help. It's not a full solution, but it is going to help while we're waiting for that longer-term thing…the councillors don't really want to be doing more serious work on the road because they don't want to put in something that could be taken out."

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme.

Bike Lockers set to be removed

A NUMBER of bike lockers that are no longer operational are set to be removed from their location in Rathfarnham.

The Cyc-Lok bicycle parking units on Grange Road were installed in March 2020 and could be operated by using the company's app.

Cyc-Lok is an Irish based company and has been providing their secure locker system to the public since 2014, however their website and app are no longer operational.

In response to a query from Cllr Justin Sinnott (SD), South Dublin County Council said they will look into removing the lockers on Grange Road as they "are not in operation".

Cllr Sinnott said he had asked the council to review the bike lockers and the possibility of replacing them with regular bike racks as "the facility is not being used for some time".

"Their removal will be examined to see if they can be replaced with simple cycle parking stands," the reply from senior engineer Andrew O'Mullane to Cllr Sinnott read.

"A programme can then be developed to see if a replacement cycle locker would be feasible."

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme

Student (25) attacked by youths with a metal pole

Man returning from cinema suffers two broken teeth and head injury

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

A MOROCCAN student fell victim to a 'racist attack' at the Grange View bus stop in Clondalkin from a group of youths after travelling home on Thursday evening.

25-year-old Youness was attacked by five youths with a metal pole after being asked where he was from when he got off the bus.

The student had been to the cinema and had taken the 13 bus to the stop before his night took a turn.

Youness' friend Ilias described the attack: "They asked him where he was from, and he simply replied that he was from Morocco and walked away.

Tragically, instead of leaving him alone, they attacked him. One of them struck him with a metal pole, breaking two of his teeth and causing a serious head injury."

Gardaí were notified of the incident shortly after it took place and Youness was taken to the emergency department of Tallaght University Hospital.

The 25-year-old required urgent medical treatment for his injuries and underwent head scans when he was admitted.

Ilias noted: "This was a traumatic experience for my friend and has left him both physically injured and emotionally shaken.

"Incidents like this raise very serious concerns about public safety in Dublin and the increasing risk of racially motivated violence."

Ilias stated that this was not the first time that not the first time that one of his friends had been attacked in Dublin.

Another friend of his had been surrounded by a gang of teenagers and kicked in recent weeks and Ilias noted that these events have unsettled him.

"As a Moroccan, this has made me increasingly concerned for my safety as well.

"We strongly believe this story should be highlighted to raise awareness and to encourage swift action from the authorities to prevent such incidents from happening to others."



ATTACK: Youness suffered two broken teeth





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court reports

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Former boxing champion started smoking cannabis after car accident

A FORMER national boxing champion started smoking cannabis after a serious car accident derailed his career, Tallaght District Court heard.

Jamie Edwards (24), with an address of Killinarden Estate, Tallaght, appeared in court pleading guilty to two possession charges of cannabis.

The court heard that on February 27, 2025, gardai were called to an address at Deerpark Place, Tallaght, where the accused was arrested after he was found to have cannabis in his possession.

Mr Edwards has 11 previous convictions.

Defence solicitor Michael Hennessy said his client was a former boxer who won national championships and looked like he was going to go professional until a car accident saw his right arm and wrist broken, making progress in the sport extremely difficult.

Mr Hennesy said his client started smoking cannabis and has had problems with it "an old story unfortunately."

Judge Patricia McNamara took into account the guilty plea and personal circumstances, recommending 100 hours of community service in lieu of a five-month sentence.

A probation report for suitability for community service was put back to November 7 at Tallaght District Court.

Gardai stop man in car with fraudulent driving licence

Man (34) was stopped accused for using a mobile phone while driving



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

A MAN who was driving with a fraudulent driving licence was ordered to engage in a restorative justice programme.

Mohammed Djafer (34), with an address of Oak House, Glennamuck, Dublin 18, appeared before Tallaght District Court facing a section 26 theft and fraud offence.

Garda Dillon O'Malley told the court that on July 6, 2022, at M50 Southbound Junction 11, Tallaght, gardai stopped the accused for using a mobile phone while driving.

Mr Djafer had learner permits and produced a driver licence to gardai that was false.

The court heard he had no previous convictions in Ireland.

Defence solicitor Eddie O'Connor said his client came to Ireland from Algeria in 2017, had an Algerian licence, and that his friend told him to send off for an international licence to a site in America where it will be "translated."

The court heard it is a Florida-based site that provides fraudulent documents and unofficial translation in nine Arabic languages.

"Now he has a full licence. If he had produced his learner permit he wouldn't be here today," said Mr O'Connor.

The court heard the fake licence was not used to get insurance and that Djafer is working as a bus driver for the last two months. Judge Patricia McNamara said there should not be a message going out there for people to contact this site and get false documents.

Judge McNamara accepted Djafer had not come to garda attention since, now has a legitimate licence, and recommended a restorative justice programme.

The case was remanded on continuing bail for restorative justice list in Tallaght District Court December 12.

'Do not drive any vehicle without full insurance'

A DELIVERY driver is appealing a disqualification from driving at Tallaght District Court.

Jiao Jian (33), of Avonbeg Park, Tallaght, appeared before court charged with having no motor vehicle insurance.

Garda Neil O'Reilly told the court that on March 17, 2025 that he stopped a vehicle on Avonbeg Road and the accused failed to produce insurance.

Defence solicitor Eddie O'Connor said his client works for a Chinese takeaway doing deliveries, has a Chinese driver's licence, and bought a car which had an English registration at the time.

Judge Patricia McNamara found it difficult to believe that the defendant got a car with an English registration and was just driving it to charge the battery.

Judge McNamara disqualified Mr Jian from driving for six months and fined him €450 with five months to pay.

"Do not drive any vehicle without full insurance. When you are a provisional learner you need a full licence," said the Judge.

Mr Jian, who appeared with the aid of an interpreter, is appealing the decision.

A recognisance of €200 was lodged with the court.

'Think of your grandchild the next time' judge tells man

A MAN received a four-year driving disqualification which gives him "hope" when he gets out of prison.

Hugh Boylan (45), with an address Knockmore Green, Tallaght, appeared before Tallaght District Court, pleading guilty to driving without insurance.

Garda Adrian O'Sullivan told the court that on February 2, 2022, Mr Boylan was stopped in a vehicle at Cheeverstown Road, Tallaght, and failed to produce car insurance or a driver licence.

The court heard he has four previous convictions for no insurance, the most recent a five-year disqualification in 2023.

Mr Boylan appeared in custody, serving a separate sentence since January 2025 for causing harm, and is due out on October 25.

Defence solicitor Ethan Foley said his client is a father of three and recently became a grandfather, who is "doing quite well" in custody.

Mr Foley said his client has taken mathematics and business courses while in prison, is a plasterer by trade and has work set up in the industry when he is released.

Mr Foley appealed for leniency to keep his client on the "straight and narrow" as he prepares to get back to civil society.

Judge Patricia McNamara took into account the personal circumstances and guilty plea of the defendant.

"I will leave the disqualification at four years minimum to give him hope," said the Judge.

"Think of your grandchild the next time you are tempted to get into a car without insurance otherwise you are facing five months imprisonment."

Voice for Hope ‘was a really moving evening’ remembering loved ones


PERFORMANCE: The Recovery Choir sang at Voices for Hope

Uplifting event remembers people in community who lost their lives to suicide

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

LOVED ones gathered at North Clondalkin Library on Thursday evening to remember and celebrate those they lost to suicide with music and the spoken word.

‘Voices For Hope’ featured intimate talks from Susan Doyle and Shane McDonald, members of the community who lost close family members.

The Clondalkin Recovery Choir, made up of people who have experienced addiction issues either personally or through close relatives or friends, were also present to sing some songs on the evening.

Library Area Manager Rosena Hand stated: “It was a really moving evening and a really brilliant event.”

It was the first time that NCL had held the event and over 30 people attended the inaugural edition.

The library printed off love hearts using a 3D printer in the building’s maker space and gave them to attendees.

One of these was placed on each seat for the receiver to keep, while extras were added to the scenery of the event.

The event was held after normal operating hours at the library, so that those who took part could have the time and space to reflect.

“It can get quite noisy in here with kids at times, so we said ‘no, we want it to be for reflection.

“We held it at half eight, we normally close at eight o’clock, just to give people the time and the space to get here, I suppose, and the campus to reflect.”

Rosie Hand praised the Clondalkin Recovery Choir’s performance on the night, noting that several popular renditions were done to great effect.

Bill Withers ‘Lean on Me’ and The Beatles’ ‘Hey Jude’ were among the five songs the Choir blessed the crowd with on Thursday evening.

The standout rendition went to their cover of Aslan’s ‘Crazy World’ which was accompanied with a room-wide singalong.

Hand felt that the “absolutuely phenomenal” group offered an uplifting finale to a heavy night, leaving those at ‘Voices For Hope’ with a smile.

“They’re really uplifting and, you know, it really ended on a positive note, I suppose, because it was quite a sad and reflective time.”

Samaritans Ireland run a 24-hour helpline for those who need to talk at 116 123.

Donation ‘such a boost’ for community first responders

18 people have been trained twice a month since group was formed only in July

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


FIRST RESPONDERS: Volunteers in training

“IT’S NOT a charity…it’s a life-saving thing.”

The Clondalkin Community First Responders Unit is set to be given a substantial donation from a local business.

Community First Responders are volunteers trained to attend several kinds of emergency calls in the local area.

SuperValu Rowlagh has donated €1,000 to the CFR unit, the largest donation they have received to date.

Co-founder Mary Conlan described the donation as a huge boost to the unit’s hopes to become active in July.

“It was just such a shot in the arm, such a boost to get this money,” Conlan stated.

The money is set to go towards valuable equipment for Clondalkin’s CFR team while they continue their training and jump over the necessary hurdles.

Automated External Defibrilators, suitable clothing, hi-vis jackets, bags, gloves, masks and more are on the list.

18 people have been trained twice a month by a member of the National Ambulance Service since the unit’s inception in July, less than 12 weeks ago.

But the team still have a long way to go until they are ready – steps like Garda vetting are still to come.

“We’re not ready to go live yet because we don’t have the money to fund us, and there’s plenty more training that we have to do.”

The team initially planned to launch in January but pushed the date back to July 26 in their latest bi-monthly meeting at Knockmitten Youth and Community Centre.

Patience is a virtue, as they say, and the support the team has received despite the necessary wait has reinforced this.

Local councillors such as Councillor Francis Timmons, continue to lend their support and Conlan hopes that SuperValu’s generosity will lead to more business taking note of their work.

Just under 50,000 people live in Clondalkin – a much larger area than the likes of Kill, who have their own active CFR unit which Mary’s son is a part of.

“Kill would be a much smaller place than Clondalkin and he said it would be quite busy and Tallaght, I heard, are very busy as well.”

Conlon noted that the Clondalkin CFR unit will undertake several fundraising events over the coming months to help raise money to keep the initiative going.

The team will be backpacking in Dunnes Stores in Clondalkin on the weekend of October 17 and will do another event in Liffey Valley on Sunday, December 7.

The co-founder said that the unit paid out over €400 in insurance among other forms of expenditure recently.

The “soul-crushing” pitches to business have been mostly in vain and Conlon hopes SuperValu will help potential donors see the importance of what they are doing.

“The big thing is to get funds in, and it would be great if local companies or businesses would sponsor us, because we’re not doing this for ourselves.”

Man drove ‘like a maniac’ under the influence of variety of illicit substances

A MAN who drove "like a maniac" around Dublin while under the influence of a variety of illicit substances has been jailed for 15 months, *reports Isabel Hayes.*

A concerned passerby thought James Colton (43) was dead when she came across him passed out in the driver seat of his car in Crumlin at 8.40am in the morning in September 2022.

However, shortly after she roused him out of concern for his health, Colton took off in his car at speed and drove "like a maniac", Dublin Circuit Criminal Court heard on Tuesday.

He drove at high speed around the areas of Crumlin and Sundrive before eventually crashing into a van, Joe Mulrean BL, prosecuting, told the court.

Colton, of Fortunestown Close, Tallaght, pleaded guilty to three counts of dangerous driving, one count of driving without a licence, one count of criminal damage and one count of failing to report a traffic incident on September 29, 2022.

He has 76 previous convictions and was disqualified from driving at the time of the incident.

The court heard Colton, who has a lengthy addiction history, was under the influence of intoxicants on the morning in question.

A woman who was on her way shopping noticed he was passed out in his parked car and that he looked extremely white.

She saw there were vodka bottles in the car and that Colton seemed out of it.

When she roused him, Colton intially got out of his car before he returned to it and took off at speed.

The woman then contacted gardaí to alert them.

The court heard that Colton drove at speeds in excess of 100 km/h around the residential area, that he drove on the wrong side of the road and mounted the kerb.

He narrowly missed knocking down a cyclist, the court heard.

The incident ended when Colton crashed into a parked van, causing €11,150 of damage to it, before walking away from the scene. He was arrested a short time later.

John Griffin BL, defending, said his client has a long-standing drug addiction.

Sentencing Colton on Tuesday, Judge Martin Nolan said Colton had been taking intoxicants and appeared dead to the passerby on the day in question.

"It seems he wasn't dead and he spurted to life and drove off in his car in a dangerous and reckless way," the judge said.

Taking into account mitigating factors, the judge noted Colton was co-operative with gardaí and entered guilty pleas.

He sentenced him to 15 months' imprisonment and disqualified him from driving for a period of five years.

New aircraft to play important role at Casement Aerodrome

Airbus C-295 is the third aircraft acquired by the Air Corps worth €300 million

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

A NEW aircraft was welcomed to Casement Aerodrome by Tánaiste and Minister of Defence Simon Harris TD and Irish Air Corps Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Rossa Mulcahy.

The new Airbus C-295 is the third of its kind delivered to the Irish Air Corps in the last two years.

The three aircrafts acquired for the Air Corps have cost the Government a total of approximately €300 million to acquire.

Tánaiste Harris stated that the figure represents “the largest equipment acquisition project ever undertaken for the Defence Forces.”

The Tánaiste continued: “This significant investment is an indication of the Government’s ongoing commitment to ensuring that all branches of the Defence Forces continue to retain a range of flexible conventional military capabilities to meet the roles assigned.

The Airbus C-295 is a tactical transport aircraft of medium size that can be utilised for troop transport, medical transfers and other forms of airlift.

70 people can be carried on one of these crafts or eight tonnes of payload, according to the Airbus website.

Chief of Staff, Lt. Gen Rossa Mulcahy welcomed the new aircraft and noted its flexibility.

The Chief of Staff said: “The continued development of the Air Corps’ capabilities through the transport variant of the C295 will offer a flexibility to not only the Defence Forces both at home and overseas, through troop transport and logistics movement, but also the Irish state and citizens by providing services such as medical transfers or non-combat evacuations should the need arise.”

Another aircraft has been procured by the Government and is set to be delivered before the end of the year.

The Dassault Falcon 6X strategic reach aircraft will add just below €53 million excluding VAT to the investment sum noted above.


ACQUIRED: The new Airbus C-295

Described as a long-range business jet, the Falcon 6X can hold 14 people and is able to travel at a maximum range of over 5,000 nautical miles, reaching destinations like the West Coast, USA.

The Minister for Defence proclaimed: “These aircraft are destined to play a very important role here in Casement Aerodrome over the next quarter of a century, supporting the men and women of the Air Corps and the wider Defence Forces in performing the roles assigned to them by government.”

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme.

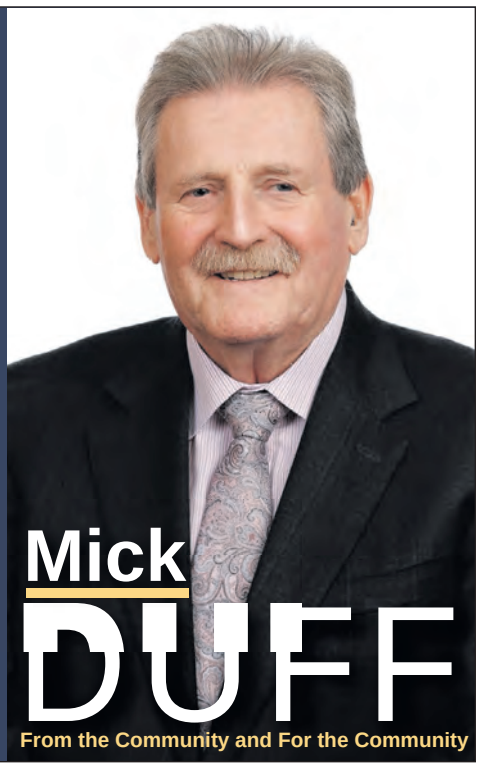
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Youth band ‘biggest ever fundraising event’

THE Clondalkin Youth Band are hosting their "biggest ever fundraising event" according to Tara Christopher, featuring 30 performers across 13 acts, each emulating a legendary performer.

Each act will take on the persona of a legendary performer, and the event will feature a full professional setup, including choreography, a professional compare, and three judges.

The event aims to raise as much money as possible through sponsorships, both corporate and small amounts, and will feature a mix of performers ranging from age 16 to retirement age.

The band is fundraising to cover the costs of running the band, including new uniforms and replacing older instruments.

The event will feature a group act where all acts will perform together, which Tara describes as "fantastic" and a highlight of the event.

The stressful part of organizing the event is managing the finances, but the rehearsals and group performances are enjoyable.

Tara discusses the various fundraising strategies, including corporate sponsorship, sponsorship cards for performers, and local door-to-door fundraising.

The finalists for the event will be determined by the amount of sponsorship each performer raises, with the top three fundraisers competing in the final judged by the judges.

The band is also selling advertising space in the programme for the evening to raise additional funds.

Tara emphasises the importance of making the event as successful as possible to support the band's activities and keep tuition costs low.

She reveals that the next event will be a concert in November involving the Clondalkin Youth band, St Joseph's Pipe band, and Lucan Concert Band.

The concert will feature each band playing separately and some pieces where all three bands will play together.

Tara thanks all the sponsors and performers for their support and contributions to the event, highlighting the importance of their efforts to make it special.

'Lip Sync Legends' takes place on October 11 at the Green Isle Hotel; doors open at 7pm and the show starts at 8pm.

Tickets are available on Eventbrite, and acts can be sponsored at idonate.ie.

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€9.4bn budget will 'invest in our future'

Budget is heavily criticised by opposition parties

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



MEASURES: The budget will increase overall spending to €9.4 billion

OF THE increased spend of almost €10 billion in this year's budget, much of it is set aside for capital investment versus one-off measures for ordinary people.

Budget 2026, announced this Tuesday, October 7, will increase overall government spending by €9.4 billion, most of which will "invest in our future", according to Minister for Finance Paschal Donohoe.

It's been heavily criticised by the opposition parties for doing "nothing" for workers and for being "out of touch" with the cost-of-living crisis.

The only surprise was a new derelict property tax, while hotels and B&Bs have been left out of the VAT rate cut for hospitality, down from 13.5% to 9% for food-led hospitality businesses (including multinational corporations) and hairdressers.

The lower VAT rate on gas and electricity bills, plus the rent tax credit and mortgage interest tax relief, are all being extended beyond yearly measures to 2028 and 2030.

A promised cut to college fees has been delivered of just €500, meaning students will have to pay more based on last year's temporary reductions, plus a weekly increase and the usual Christmas double payment for those on social welfare.

There are also the usuals such as the 50c hike on the price of cigarettes and 65c raise on the minimum wage, bringing it to €14.15 from January 2026.

The big winners of Budget 2026 are developers who scored a reduction in the VAT rate on the sale of completed new apartment sales from 13.5% to 9%, a whooping tax break to supposedly help address the housing crisis.

With no changes to the 20% and 40% tax bands for personal income tax, and none of the one-off measures that have characterised previous budgets, this one has left ordinary workers with very little to show.

Opposition parties have reacted strongly to the government's decisions, saying they have "chosen Ronald McDonald over Joe and Joan Murphy, your man from Supermac's over the man who gets up early in the morning".

"The Hamburglar from the 1980s McDonald's ad is back in town swiping hundreds of millions in his swag bag from PAYE workers," said Labour's finance spokesperson Ged Nash.

Tallaght's People Before Profit-Solidarity TD Paul Murphy called the budget "austerity in a time of plenty".

"This government promised action on the cost of living and housing crises, but once again they've delivered for their real friends: developers, landlords, and corporate lobbyists," he said.

"Despite sitting on €20 billion in sovereign wealth funds, they refuse to use it to tackle the crises ordinary people face."

Reactions have been lukewarm elsewhere too.

Chief Executive of South Dublin Chamber Peter Byrne welcomed commitments on infrastructure and housing, but some questions have been left unanswered for the business community.

"There are several measures that have the potential to unlock stalled projects and breathe new life into our urban centres," he said.

"We welcome the emphasis on high-density housing developments and the new measures to incentivise appropriate development such as the Derelict Property Tax.

"Most businesses won't experience any direct benefit from today's measures, instead they are dependent on the trickle-down impact of critical infrastructure delivery," he continued.

"Their future competitiveness is also increasingly reliant on a growing number of 'Action Plans' but these must be converted into delivery mechanisms."

Aontas Mac Léinn in Éirinn, the national students union, said they welcomed the reduction in college fees but said "students will experience this budget as an effective €500 increase".

"The withdrawal of the cost-of-living payments introduced in last year's budget will have a significantly negative impact on student welfare," they said in a statement.

"We of course welcome the announced permanent reduction in fees, for which we have lobbied for years, but repeat that the effect on students will be felt as an increase in fees."

Echoopinion...

Mixed reaction to budget 2026

BUDGET 2026 doesn't inspire raucous applause, but it could be huge for families who need the supports most.

College students will suffer as rising fees won't be calmed by a mere €500 from the government but better welfare payments are a welcome sight, especially for those with low incomes or without a second pair of hands to help.

Rental credits and allowances like fuel will prove to be very important for low-income families without one-off payments they could rely on last year.

Some units might end up only being a tad worse off than last year but changes to the budgeting of a family on any level always lead to readjustment.

The rise in the price of cigarettes and vapes will also harm families as parents (and teenagers) who smoke will commit more to their habit.

Some families will find themselves just above the threshold for many of the benefits seen in this budget and, depending on their circumstances could struggle.

Many low-income families will find this to be a welcome budget, but families who are in better financial positions will not be too satisfied.

However, this may be worthwhile, but only as long as other services in Ireland are as looked after as the billions promised for them make it seem – will the Government finally put their people at the forefront of policy?

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'I believe deeply in this country, its dreams its hope and above all its people'

Jim Gavin ends his presidential campaign in dramatic style after alleged rental dispute



ERROR: Jim Gavin with Taoiseach Micheal Martin
Photo by Damien Eagers

CLONDALKIN'S Jim Gavin ended his Presidential campaign on Sunday night after several events piled on the pressure, *reports James Roulston Mooney.*

The former Dublin football GAA manager stepped away from the race after an alleged rental dispute from 2009 was revealed.

Gavin failed to return €3,300 to his tenant after a standing order caused issues following the occupant's exit.

The former Presidential candidate said: "I believe deeply in this country, its dreams, its hopes and above all its people. The office of Uachtarán na hÉireann is the highest in the land and the pinnacle of public service. It is an office that must be untainted by controversy or distraction.

"I always knew the campaign would be robust and challenging and anyone who knows me knows that I have never shirked from a contest. I have always sought to act in honour and good faith. However recent days have given me cause to reflect.

"I have also thought long and hard about the potential impact of the ongoing campaign on the wellbeing of my family and friends.

"Taking all these considerations on board, I have decided to withdraw from the presidential election contest with immediate effect and return to the arms of my family.

Gavin was chosen as the Fianna Fáil candidate for the 2025 Presidential election, beating out Billy Kelleher MEP in a party vote.

Since then, the Chief Operations Officer of the Irish Aviation Authority failed to make his mark on the nationwide electorate, running third in the polls before announcing his decision.

A failure to close a gate in an agriculture-targeted video and use of an unlicenced drone during a park run were picked up by the media and social spheres.

Taoiseach Micheal Martin said: "Jim has accepted that he made an error in relation to an issue that has arisen in recent days.

"He himself has said the office of Uachtarán na hÉireann is the highest in the land and the pinnacle of public service. He is clear that he does not want to bring controversy onto this office.

"This has been a very difficult decision for Jim given his commitment to public service. I wish him well. I have no doubt that he will continue to make a significant contribution to Irish life and society".

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme.

Gesture of friendship and respect towards our Indian neighbours

Representatives from Christian congregations pay solidarity visit following attacks

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

REPRESENTATIVES from Christian congregations in Tallaght paid a "solidarity visit" to members of the areas Indian community, in the wake of racially motivated attacks in Dublin.

Canon William Deverell, Rector of St Maelruain's Church of Ireland Parish in Tallaght, and Fr Frank Drescher, Vicar Forane for the Tallaght Deanery and Parish Priest of St Kevin's and St Kilian's in Kilnamanagh-Castleview, visited the Ireland Vinayaka Temple (IVT) in Kingswood on Wednesday, October 1.

Canon Deverell and Fr Drescher underlined that the visit was a gesture of friendship and respect towards their Indian neighbours, many of whom live, work, and worship in the Tallaght area and across Dublin.

Both highlighted the diversity within their own congregations, where Christians from India, including families from Goa, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, as well as from Nigeria, the Philippines, Ukraine, and other countries, are a visible and valued part of parish life.

"As someone who has made Ireland my home thirteen years ago, I understand what it means to arrive as a stranger and be welcomed," Fr Drescher said, who is originally from Germany and himself an immigrant serving in the Archdiocese of Dublin.

"The Indian community brings great richness to our parishes and our wider society: through their culture, their respectful spirit, their dedication in work and family life, and through their strong Christian witness and devotion.

"I also wish to acknowledge the contribution of our Hindu neighbours, whose presence strengthens the fabric of our local community," Fr Drescher continued.

"It is vital that we, as faith leaders, stand alongside all who face racism, and help to build a society marked by welcome and respect."

Canon Deverell, who represents a small and diverse Protestant community in Tallaght, added that the "Christian response to hatred is solidarity, compassion, and love".

"By standing with our Indian neighbours, we affirm that diversity is a blessing, not a threat," he said.

"When one part of the community suffers, we all suffer, but when we walk together in respect and friendship, the whole of our country is enriched."

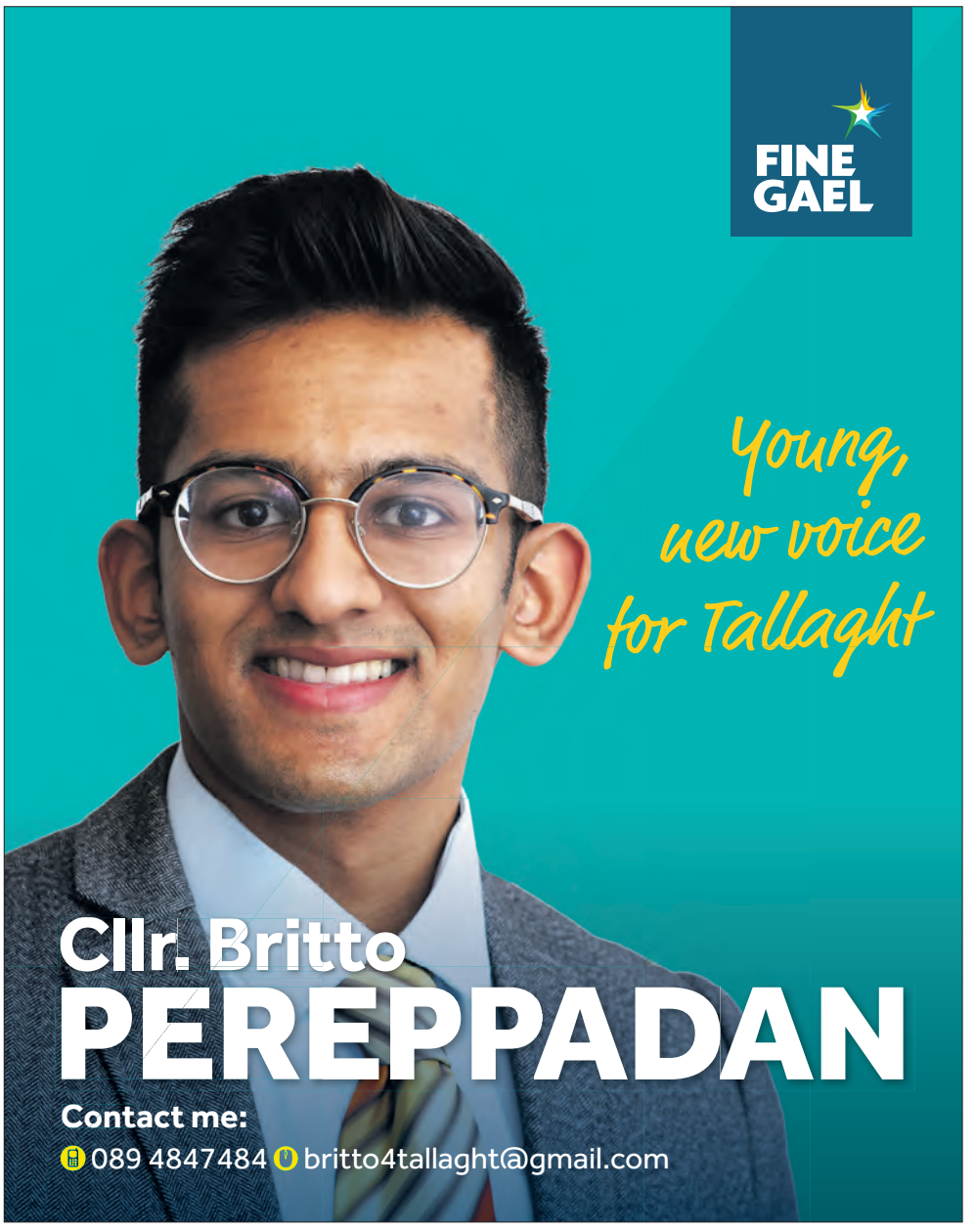
During the meeting at the temple, Fr Drescher presented a letter from the Archbishop of Dublin, Dermot Farrell, to the Temple Priest, Siva Sri Muthukumarasamy Gurukul, which strongly condemned recent racial violence.

Both Fr Drescher and Canon Deverell expressed gratitude for the contributions of Indian families in schools, healthcare, business, and parish life, and pledged to continue fostering dialogue and cooperation across faith traditions.

They called on all people of goodwill in Tallaght to reject racial prejudice and to work together for peace and justice.



RESPECT: Canon William Deverell; Fr Frank Drescher; Siva Sri Muthukumarasamy Gurukul, Temple Priest of the Ireland Vinayaka Temple (IVT); Tom Lillis, Director and Founding Member of the Kingswood Community & Leisure Centre; Bhanu Prakash Darbha, Board and Executive Committee Member of IVT





Actor Stephen Jones named ambassador for awards night

IFTA nominee says awards night is ‘cool way for people to be recognised’

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

NOMINATIONS are now open for the Tallaght Person of the Year 2025.

The 42nd Tallaght Person of the Year Awards was officially launched by Tallaght Community Council (TCC) on Saturday, September 27, at Priory Market in Tallaght Village.

IFTA nominated Glenview actor and playwright Stephen Jones, is the ambassador for this year’s awards.

He was put forward for the role by a friend who is on the Tallaght Community Council.

“He reached out and said, Listen, there's a few names floating around for the role of ambassador, and I'd love to put you forward,” Stephen told *The Echo.*

While he has “nothing super official” to do with his role, he plans to spend the next few weeks highlighting Tallaght and the awards to get people involved, as well as his pride in being a Tallaght person.

“It’s an opportunity to show that inspiration for people can come in really small ways and in quiet ways too,” he said.

“If you had someone who was a famous sports person or musician or actor or something like that from an area, then it's easy to point to that person and say, look how they can inspire younger people.

“I also think that within your own community, people who are not famous or well known, who haven't done something that's really, really big and dramatic, if it's just keeping an estate clean for a year, maybe they get to have a night where they're a hero for that night, and they're recognized for what they've done, across lots of different categories, which is really cool, too.”

The nominations process is open until Friday, October 24, and can be for a person, an organisation, club, team or association, or for a business or a not-for-profit group.

There are nine different categories and special awards for people to be nominated for, and there are no limits on how many people you nominate.

All valid nominees will get a certificate of appreciation and will be listed and celebrated in the Roll of Honour for 2025 and at the awards ceremony in November in The Plaza Hotel.

“Even if someone's just put forward their name will be called out on the night, I just think it's a really cool, cool way for people to be recognised for different actions that they've undertaken to kind of help out their community,” Stephen added.

He’s encouraging everyone to nominate someone, though he hasn’t nominated anyone himself, yet.

“I don’t know, can I nominate myself?” he says with a laugh.

“This is something I'm gonna have to get on to my family and friends to rectify that.

“I had all the jokes about ‘why aren’t you nominating me’ from my dad and some of my friends, so I haven't nominated anybody yet, but I will.”

Nominations for Tallaght Person of the Year are open on tallaghtcommunitycouncil.ie until Friday, October 24.



THAT’S MY BOY: Stephen Jones with his dad Paul at the launch of the Tallaght Person on the Year 2025

> “It’s an opportunity to show that inspiration for people can come in really small ways and in quiet ways too.



Plans approved to demoloish and rebuild health centre



PERMISSION: The health centre on the Curlew Road

THE HSE have been granted planning permission to demolish and rebuild a health centre in Crumlin, *reports Ellen Gough.*

Dublin City Council approved the planning application to demolish the existing structures that house the Curlew Road Health Centre, the Mother McAuley Day Care Centre and Alzheimer's Society of Ireland, at Curlew Road, Dublin 12.

The HSE plan to build a new 1-3 storey building in their place for the following uses: Primary Care Centre (HSE), a creche and daycare centre (Mother McAuley Centre) and daycare centre (Alzheimer's Society of Ireland) with a total gross internal area of c. 4,041 sq.m and associated landscaped courtyards and roof terraces.

The application also includes permissions for a new public space at the south-east and south-west corner of the site with direct access to the Primary Care Centre and Creche entrances, and a new consolidated car park providing 55 car parking spaces, three van spaces for the Mother McAuley Centre and Alzheimer's Society of Ireland and two set down areas, plus three motorcycle parking spaces and 18 sheltered bicycle parking and 18 uncovered bicycle parking spaces to serve the proposed development.

There is also a proposal for a handball alley within the site, which the council stated must be "linked to the opening hours of the primary care centre, and Day Care Centres to clarify its use, and to ensure residential amenity of the surrounding properties is protected".

Vehicular access onto Curlew Road is to be relocated via a new gate at the western site boundary, and the addition of a gate to the existing vehicular entrance to the eastern boundary.

The council granted permission for the development on September 24.

Funded by The Local Democracy Reporting Scheme

Poet fired several shots into house where there was a child

Man pleased guilty to possession of a firearm has since done 'a 360-degree turnaround'

A CONVICTED criminal, who fired several shots into a house where there was a child, has been given a 10-year prison sentence at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court, *reports Natasha Reid and Niamh O'Donoghue.*

Ian Maloney (38), who is now a poet, contacted gardaí to confess several months later because he was haunted by guilt.

Having entered crime at a young age because he blamed gardaí for the death of his brother, Maloney has since done 'a 360-degree turnaround' and published three books of poetry for charity.

Maloney of Cashel Road, Crumlin in Dublin, pleaded guilty to possession of a 9mm semi-automatic firearm with intent to endanger life on February 10 2022 at Downpatrick Road, Crumlin. He has 109 previous convictions.

On Monday, Judge Sarah Berkeley handed down a 10-year sentence with the final 18 months suspended and backdated to last March for time spent in custody.

Evidence in the case was heard last March when the judge remanded him in custody and directed a probation report.

On that date, Garda Ian Ward told the court that several rounds of 9mm-calibre ammunition were fired at the house, where the occupants at the time included a couple, their adult children and a child.

The householder was one of a number of people who contacted the gardaí to say shots had been fired through a door and window. On arrival, gardaí found the front door and window and a car in the driveway were damaged with bullets.

The couple had been watching TV when they noticed something happening at the window, before a bullet came through the blind.

The man later saw that bullets had lodged inside the house, including in a fridge.



The defendant became a person of interest due to social media posts showing that he was in an ongoing feud with one of the occupants of the house. He was arrested and interviewed seven times over a number of days, but made no admissions.

However, he was in custody in Cloverhill Prison in December of that year, when his solicitor contacted gardaí to say he wished to make a statement about the shooting.

"I was the male who fired the shots through the front door, bottom windows, top windows and cars," he told them.

"You said there was a little girl in the house," he continued. "I did not know… I have three little girls myself… I'm sorry… I regret it."

He was asked why he was telling them now.

"I think it's the right thing to do," he replied.

Garda Ward said that he had two relevant previous convictions, including for a robbery in 2008 in which €1.2m worth of jewellery was stolen from a shop in Dundrum after a shot gun was produced to staff. He was sentenced to 12 years with the last two suspended for that crime.

He also received a four-year sentence for an assault causing harm that he carried out in 2009, and he was on bail for a number of offences, including trespassing at a garda station, when he carried out the Crumlin attack.

Gda Ward explained that the occupants of the house had declined to make a victim impact statement.

He agreed with Michael O'Higgins SC, defending, that gardaí accepted that it was 'a reckless discharge' rather than something he set out to do.

He agreed that he had seen a psychological report, which explained that Maloney's brother had died when he was 16, and this had a significant impact on him.

Mr O'Higgins explained that the two brothers had gone camping, but that the deceased had been due in court, and he was arrested on a warrant when he returned from camping.

He was found with injuries in a laneway near Rathfarnham Garda Station a short time after being released from there, and he died in hospital. Mr Maloney blamed the gardaí and himself for bringing him on the camping trip. He had a hatred of the gardaí afterwards, said Mr O'Higgins.

Gda Ward agreed that it was unusual for someone with Maloney's background to ask his solicitor to contact the gardaí to tell them he had committed a crime because it was the right thing to do.

Counsel said that he was seeking a probation report for his client, which was unusual when there were such significant previous convictions.

"But it's unusual that he self-reported to the guards because it was the right thing to do," he said. "He has completely changed his view of things and has done a 360-degree turnaround in terms of his conduct."

Mr O'Higgins handed in a number of character references, including one from a publisher, whom the defendant had approached about publishing books of his poetry for a children's charity.

She had been wary of him at first, but had since published three of his books.

The barrister then read out a letter Maloney had written to the family, whose house he had targeted.

"I was reckless," he wrote. "I've been haunted by guilt. I made the statement because I couldn't live with myself."

In a letter to the court, he said that he was 'no-longer that person', and has done voluntary work here and abroad.

"I've distanced myself from my past," he said. "I'm still under pressure. My house has been attacked by people trying to provoke me."

Mr O'Higgins said that his guilt, anger, and deep-seated resentment at the gardaí over the death of his brother were what had provoked him to get involved in crime. However, now he felt enormous guilt, he said.

In sentencing, Judge Berkeley said the offences attracted a pre-mitigation sentence of 14 to 15 years. The judge said Maloney's most significant mitigating factor was his early plea and his voluntary statement.

The judge noted the accused lost his brother 17 years ago. She also noted he suffers from uncontrollable anger and was taking illicit substances.

Maloney was sent to prison for robbery in 2011 which was "a very difficult time for him," said the judge and he began to write poetry.

The judge said he left Ireland after he was sent a video of threats.

The judge said Maloney contended he was told there was no child in the house.

He acted erratically, mental health issues and suffered childhood trauma and he has elevated levels of anxiety and anger.

His poetry books were published to raise money for charity and he has turned his back on criminality.

‘Decision makers need to make room for people with disabilities’

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

LUCAN activist James Casserly spoke at the United Nations General Assembly in New York as part of the World Programme of Action for Youth at 30 event.

The 19-year-old travelled to America as the Sightsavers Ireland Equal World Global Youth Champion and called for young people with disabilities to be empowered to lead.

Casserly has cerebral palsy and juvenile arthritis and has amassed over 15,000 followers on Twitter and Instagram combined, where he raises awareness for wheelchair users.

At the UN event, Casserly told the attendees: “One thing young people, particularly young people with disabilities will say is that global leaders do not provide enough opportunities for the voices of young people to be heard in spaces where global leaders are present.”

The son of Lucan Councillor Vicki Casserly has had a storied career in activism so far, winning awards and appearing at other global events across the world.

In April, James spoke at the Global Disability Summit in Berlin and was previously in New York last year for Summit of the Future.

He has tested public transport, cafés and restaurants for their accessibility and has travelled all 32 counties of Ireland to spread awareness.

Before appearing at the General Assembly, Casserly stated: “Decision-makers need to make room for people with disabilities and give our voices equal weighting.

“We get to make our own decisions and not just have other people make decisions on our behalf. People with lived experiences need to lead on decisions.

“Where is the legitimacy when you speak about disability without consulting us? As we always say ‘Nothing about us without us.”



VOICE: Activist James Casserly spoke at the United Nations General Assembly in New York

Cayden’s and his family life has been changed completely

Nine-year-old appeared on The Big Build was born with a condition called arthrogryposis

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

THE lives of a Killinarden boy with a rare condition and his family have been changed completely after their family home was renovated by RTÉ’s DIY SOS: The Big Build Ireland.

The series, presented by Baz Ashmawy, rebuilds people’s lives by rebuilding their homes and returned to RTÉ One last Sunday night, October 5.

Episode one of the new series focuses on nine-year-old Cayden O’Connor, from Killinarden, who was born with a condition called arthrogryposis which affects his hands and feet.

Cayden also suffers from scoliosis and needs surgery every few months to lengthen and replace rods in his spine.

The episode, filmed in late July/early August, showed an army of volunteers descending on the O’Connors family home from across Killinarden, Tallaght and the country to help adapt it to Cayden’s needs, giving him a downstairs bedroom and bathroom, and more space to move about in his wheelchair.

Eight weeks into living in their new home, his mother Sinead Coughlan is still pinching herself.

“It’s amazing, it’s made life so much easier with Cayden” she told *The Echo*.

“Like simple things, you know, just brushing his teeth and washing his hands, he can just do that himself, it just feels like home now.”

It was a family friend and SNA from Cayden’s school, Karen, who had first suggested the family, including dad Ron and 15-year-old big brother Ethan, apply to DIY SOS for help adapting their three-bed terrace home for their needs.

“I was like you’re mad, I wouldn’t go on telly,” Sinead said with a laugh.

However, after Cayden had surgery on his legs last year, an occupational therapist recommended they adapt the house to bring his bedroom downstairs after hearing that Sinead and her husband Ron had to carry him up and down the stairs.

After several rounds of applications and interviews, the O’Connors had a final Zoom interview with the show’s producers the day before Christmas Eve 2024.

“Then they called us and told us the news that we got it, it was the best Christmas present for the whole family,” she said.

While Cayden still needs help with feeding and other tasks, the renovations to the house mean he has so much more independence, especially getting in and out of the house.

“The ramp, oh the ramp!” Sinead exclaimed, delighted that Cayden can now head out to the back garden out on the road to play as he pleases.

“He loves just being independent, as soon as he got his wheelchair he was a very different little boy.”

Sinead said the response from the community in Killinarden when it was first announced that the family would be on the show was incredible.

“The amount of people that were stopping us and said that they were going to sign up and volunteer, we were just blown away.

“A lot of my neighbours are elderly, and they said it was like going back to when the kids were younger, there was so many people out on the road, they loved it,” she continued.

The renovations couldn’t have come at a better time either, as Cayden is set to celebrate his tenth birthday on October 14.

“I’ll have the family all around, and a few of his friends to celebrate his birthday.

“I have room for people now!” Sinead said delightedly.



AMAZING: Cayden (9) with mam Sinead, dad Ronald, brother Ethan (15) outside their home


SAMHAIN
IN SOUTH DUBLIN
Tallaween
SPOOKDALKIN
SCAN ME
IF YOU DARE
Tallaween
Friday 31st October
Parthalán Place, Tallaght
Spookdalkin
Sunday 2nd November
Brú Chrónáin, The Round Tower
Clondalkin
SDCC
Comhairle Contae
Átha Cliath Theas
South Dublin
County Council

court reports

Funded by the Local Courts Reporting Scheme

Man smeared his name in excrement at garda station

A MAN who was in a "manic state" and smeared his name in excrement at a garda station, has turned his life around, Blanchardstown District Court heard.

Jack Doyle (26), with an address of Stanaway Road, Crumlin, pleaded guilty to criminal damage at Clondalkin garda station on June 20, 2020.

The court heard gardai responded to reports of a man interfering with a vehicle at Lealand Avenue in Clondalkin.

On arrival, gardai searched a defendant who matched the description at Lindisfarne Grove, and discovered a screwdriver, €57 in coins, a silver Rolex, a perfume tester bottle, and a pair of female runners.

After he was conveyed to Clondalkin Garda Station, the defendant smeared excrement in his name on a cell wall.

He was removed from the cell, and it cost a cleaning company €49 to clean the cell.

Defence solicitor Oscar Banahan said his client was "all over the place" at the time of the offence with drug addiction, following the deaths of two of his grandparents and a close friend, but had since sobered up and had been sober for two years.

His client had a "foggy recollection" of the night in question and was "extremely apologetic."

Mr Banahan said his client is linked in with an addiction programme in Crumlin, and working in fulltime employment as a crane operator. Judge Peter White ordered Doyle to complete 40 hours of community service in lieu of three months in prison.

Man allegedly threatened to kill escort and her family

Gardai were called by the woman who said the man was outside her building

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



A MAN who allegedly threatened to kill an escort and her family has been refused bail at Tallaght District Court.

The court heard that the man was in a short-term relationship with the Tallaght-based woman.

Taking to the stand the man denied making any such threats and said that they had a close relationship, despite the woman securing a safety order against him earlier this year.

Gardai were called by the woman on October 1, who said the man was outside her building allegedly making threats to "kill her, kill her family and himself" and calling her a "bitch slut."

The matter was brought to court for breach of the safety order and potential interference of a potential witness.

Taking to the stand, the woman, a Romanian national who has two young kids aged 6 and 4 in Romania, said she first met the man two years ago and that they were in a relationship for about two months.

"He started to be jealous, insult me, push me. A few months ago he bit me very bad. I am scared of him. When he become crazy you don't know what he will do. He look like he have two personality. I think he have sick mind," said the woman.

Defence solicitor Eddie O'Connor said that his client is going to say that you "work as an escort."

"I can work whatever I want," said the woman.

Taking to the stand the man denied making the threats, and said he called her on the day in question to ask what food she wanted from a shop.

"She said she is in fear, I picked her up from airport last week, and another time brought her mates to Athlone, this is my life we are talking about," said the man.

"Two/three days ago when I slept with her she wasn't in fear, there is cameras there. Last night I said I'm coming over, she is standing outside the Polish shop, then she said 'I don't want your fucking food stick it up your arse.'

"We went clubbing last week, we do everything together, why is she abusing the safety order? She has messed with my life sometimes I feel suicidal. Lies that I threatened her family. I bought jerseys for her kids. I was homeless for a few months, my family kicked me out. Now I live in a homeless shelter, its better but not great," said the man.

Asked by Judge Patricia McNamara if he was still in contact with the woman despite the safety order, the man said "nearly everyday, she sends pics and I do same."

The court heard the man, who lives in Cabra, is happy to stay away from the woman.

Judge McNamara acknowledged the difficulty in assessing if the threats were "real or not" and that the two seem to be in contact all the time despite the safety order.

"The fear that [the man] will interfere is a real possibility, therefore I refuse bail in the matter," said Judge McNamara.

The man was remanded to appear at Cloverhill via video link on October 7.

Legal aid was assigned to Mr Eddie O'Connor.

Student fined €500 for possession of cannabis

A STUDENT was fined €500 for being in possession of €500 worth of cannabis.

Benjamin Akinbote (24), with an address of Lindisfarne Park, Clondlakin, appeared before Blanchardstown District Court, pleading guilty to the charge.

The court heard the gardai discovered the defendant with €500 worth of cannabis in small deals and €1,200 in cash on September 28, 2020.

Defence solicitor Ciaran MacLoughlin said his client was 19-years old at the time of the offence, smoking cannabis and working as a cleaner.

He is living with his mother and is now doing a business course in college said Mr MacLoughlin, asking for leniency.

Judge Aine Clancy fined the defendant €500 with six months to pay.

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Telling the whole story
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Man (27) fined and disqualified for quad collision with car carrying three children

A QUAD collision with a car led to a man being disqualified and fined at Tallaght District Court, *reports Maurice Garvey.*

Gary Brogan (27), with an address of Donomore Crescent, Tallaght, appeared before court, pleading guilty to road traffic charges.

Garda Shane Greene said that on August 18, 2023, at approximately 6.14pm, there was a road traffic collision involving a Nissan quad bike and a car.

The court heard the four-wheel quad bike was turning from Killinarden Heights onto Knockmore Avenue and collided with a car driven by a woman who was carrying three kids in the vehicle.

There was no injuries to the woman or the kids but Mr Brogan, who gardai identified at the scene as the quad driver, had "serious injuries of his own" and had to be taken to Tallaght Hospital.

Sample results from the defendant revealed 27 milligrammes of alcohol per 100 millilitres of urine.

The defendant acknowledged he was going too fast at the time of the collision.

Defence solicitor Michael Hennessy said his client was co-operative with gardai, accepted he had been careless, provided a blood sample while on a trolley in hospital and had been "knocked out cold."

Judge Patricia McNamara considered a restorative driving programme but said the defendant's lucky escape is "hopefully enough of a shock for you."

Mr Brogan was disqualified from driving for three years and fined €500 for drink driving and fined €350 for having no insurance.

TUH first acute hospital to buy treatment for severe dysphagia

Dysphagia is a serious condition that leads to chest infections and pneumonia

TALLAGHT University Hospital (TUH) has become the first acute hospital in Ireland to purchase and implement Phagenyx, an innovative treatment for severe dysphagia (difficulty swallowing) among acute stroke and critical care patients.

'Dysphagia is a serious condition that can lead to chest infections, pneumonia, malnutrition, dehydration, increased mortality and reduced quality of life'.

It can significantly prolong hospital stays, which impacts patient recovery and places additional pressure on bed availability, a critical issue for hospitals like TUH working to meet growing demand.

The initiative, led by the Speech & Language Therapy (SLT) Department, is being showcased at a major European conference European Society for Swallowing Disorders (ESSD), marking a significant milestone in TUH's commitment to pioneering healthcare solutions.

In 2023, TUHF introduced the 'Ignite for Impact' initiative with the aim of recognising and promoting innovative healthcare projects within TUH.

The funding support provided through this initiative proved instrumental in advancing this pioneering project and enabled the Hospital to acquire the Phagenyx system, which uses targeted electrical stimulation to promote neuroplastic recovery in the brain and restore safe swallowing function, with staff undergoing training in the delivery of the treatment.

The treatment is delivered via a dual-function catheter that also serves as a nasogastric feeding tube.

Patients receive ten-minute sessions over three to six days.

Most importantly, the treatment does not require active patient participation, making it suitable for individuals who may be sedated, receiving respiratory support, or unable to engage in traditional rehabilitation due to cognitive or neurological impairments.

This means treatment for a patient's recovery can start in the intensive care or hyper-acute stroke setting, where timely treatment can be critical to recovery.

During the pilot, nine patients were treated. Eight were unable to safely consume any food or fluids before the treatment started.

Post-treatment results were striking: Aspiration (food/fluids entering the lungs) rates dropped from 89% to 33%;



INITIATIVE: Julie Keane and Sarah Rowland Clinical Specialist Speech & Language Therapists who led out on the development of this new initiative.

77% of patients returned to full oral intake by discharge; AND NG/RIG feeding tubes were removed in 77% of cases

TUH's Head of Innovation Dr. Natalie Cole, commented: "This is a prime example of how patients benefit directly from scientific advances, while our staff led the way in shaping the future of healthcare, both within TUH and across the wider hospital network."

"It is incredibly rewarding to see the tangible impact of Ignite funding in action.

"This project is making a real difference in the lives of patients, and it exemplifies exactly what we hoped to achieve when we launched the programme, supporting innovation that transforms care and delivers lasting change" commented Douglas Collins, CEO of the Tallaght University Hospital Foundation.

Kelly Crowley, TUHF Head of Development, added: "TUHF is delighted to support the acquisition of the Phagenyx system through our "Ignite for Impact" grants initiative. It is only with the generosity of our donors that we can continue to support Tallaght University Hospital to innovate healthcare and create meaningful impact for our patients."



Steps taken towards reducing the level of environmental noise

The N4 has been a primary concern for many residents with noise monitor picking up high levels

STEPS have been taken towards reducing the level of environmental noise heard in the Lucan area, *reports James Roulston Mooney.*

Lucan had been identified as a high priority action area due to its environmental noise, and a pilot acoustic project was carried out to see what could be done about it.

The N4 has been the primary concern for many residents, with a noise monitor picking up consistently high levels.

Councillor Caroline Brady echoed the residents' concerns and noted that many people are affected by the high levels.

Cllr Brady stated: "There are a number of estates obviously bordering on the N4 and it would be quite noisy.

"So, for example, Hillcrest, Weston and then as you go back in towards town, the Esker Lane - both sides, you know.

"So it can be quite loud, obviously from the road, and that's even given that there's a wall and there's trees and all of that kind of thing."

Cllr Brady told *The Echo* that she is able to hear the noise from the N4 in her house at night and that it must be more prevalent for those living closer to the national road.

"You can imagine what it's like for people living in Hillcrest or Weston or Esker Park or Esker Lane. You can imagine that it's quite noisy."

The pilot acoustic project was carried out as part of the Dublin Agglomeration Noise Action Plan 2024-2028.

Noise levels were calculated for two scenarios – the resurfacing of the N4 and the lowering of the speed limit to 50km/h.

Cllr Brady noted that some of these tests could be carried out as soon as possible: "You could probably test the speed limit – that could be tested without doing anything to the road surface."

These mitigation scenarios were found to be beneficial, but any proper implementation of tests by South Dublin County Council will need to be done in conjunction with Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

The TII are the body responsible for the maintenance and upgrade of all major roads in Ireland.

A working group has been set up to work through any drawbacks or knock-on effects, such as an impact on traffic flow.

"There's a lot of ideas, but there's a lot of planning and thinking that needs to go into it before they decide.

But there are things that can be done."

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme.



CONCERNS: The N4 has been a concern for residents

'It can be a very isolating grief because their is no life experience'

Father shares his story during Baby Loss Awareness Week on his loss that shaped their lives

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

"WE WERE lost for a long time, didn't know, you know. Losing a baby is such a tragic thing."

Templeogue residents Pat and Bríd Egan welcomed their third child, Liam, in 1998, and got to know him for two-and-a-half days before having to remember him forever.

The left side of Liam's heart hadn't developed properly, and his parents were left lost and unable to reconcile with their grief.

For Baby Loss Awareness Week this year, Liam Egan's father shared his story and how his loss shaped their lives.

"It was the excitement of any other child coming along but the innocence, really, when we discovered that something was wrong and how something can go from very high excitement to very low, being bereft, being helpless, being alone.

"We often thought that, when an older person or even an older child dies, their life has been shared with a lot of different people with a lot of memories.

"But when a baby dies, nobody has any memories of the baby, so there isn't the same loss to the larger community, but it stays in the heart of the parents."

After struggling for a while, someone provided the Egan's with a number for the A Little Lifetime Foundation, then called the Irish Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Society.

The Chairperson came out to meet them and invited them to a meeting involving other people going through similar situations.

"There we met a lot of parents who experienced similar experiences and, I suppose, listening to their experiences and sharing our experiences of our boy, we kind of normalised it a bit.

"We kept going to the meetings, we got great support from the group."

The pair now volunteer with the foundation – Pat speaks to recently bereaved dads alongside a bereavement councillor while Bríd does group sessions with couples who have lost their baby.

The memory of Liam remains strong within them and Pat noted how natural it can be to imagine his life as the mark for milestones such as Holy Communion pass them by.

"The life that would have been is mapped out in front of you – first day at school, holy communion, confirmation, secondary school, debs, exams – all that passage of life is mapped out in the parents' minds forever…

"…We held him as a baby, we held him as a live baby so that image as a baby stays with us, but we do, at the same time without a shadow of a doubt map out [his life].

"At family occasions, there's always a kind of forlornness about what might've been."

The Egans are grateful for the support network they found, and Pat noted that the difficulty of tackling the death of a baby alone is why supports like A Little Lifetime are so important.

Other support groups exist within the foundation, such as one for bereaved parents who are expecting again.

Fun days and craft sessions are also held by the society to help foster a community of support for parents.

Zoom allows the group to offer support globally in locations such as Amsterdam and Los Angeles, with volunteers available nationwide in Ireland.

Pat encouraged other parents who went through what Bríd and he did to get in touch with foundations like A Little Lifetime to help navigate their grief.

"It can be a very isolating grief because there's no life experience to be shared so the couple can feel very isolated.

"And it's only through talking with like-minded people who have experienced something similar…that healing can happen."



AWARENESS WEEK: Pat and Bríd Egan

Age Friendly SOUTH DUBLIN

South Dublin Older People's Council - AGM & Age Friendly Information Day 2025

Friday 17th October - Agenda

Venue: The Maldron Hotel, Tallaght, Dublin 24 (opposite Tallaght Stadium)

- **9.00am-10.00am**: Registration and Information Stands*
- **10.00am-10.10am**: Mayor Pamela Kearns
- **10.10am-10.20am**: Introduction from Mary Fitzsimons, AFI Regional Programme Manager
- **10.20am-10.30am**: Joe Lumumba, South Dublin Programme Manager
- **10.30am-11.00am**: Comfort Break
- **11.00-am-11.30am**: **GUEST SPEAKER** - Dr. Paul McElwaine, MB MRCPI, Consultant Geriatrician – Specialising in Falls Prevention and Neurovascular Health
- **11.30am-12.00pm**: Mary Lyons, OPC Chair
- **12.00pm-1.00pm:** Information Stands*
- **1.00pm-2.00pm**: Lunch

If you would like to attend please RSVP by Wednesday the 15th of October to: community@sdublincoco.ie

*The Information Stands include representatives from the HSE, An Garda Síochána, Engaging Dementia and many other services concerned with the provision of Age Friendly Initiatives.

In partnership with SDCC

Woman arrested after €30k worth of drugs seized

A WOMAN in her 50s was arrested after Gardaí seized €30,000 worth of drugs in St Cuthbert's Park, Clondalkin on Friday, *reports James Roulston Mooney.*

During a search of a house in Clondalkin, Gardaí recovered cocaine with an estimated street value of €15,000 as well as €11,000 worth of cannabis and Alprazolam tablets worth €4,000.

Alongside the contraband, two Surron electric scramblers and a Honda Civic were also seized in the search, as well as €7,400 in cash.

The seizure was part of an ongoing operation targeting anti-social behaviour and drug offences.

The woman in her 50s was detained at a Garda station in the Dublin Metropolitan Region.

She was charged and bailed and is set to appear before Blanchardstown District Court at a future date.

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme.



SEIZURE: The drugs worth €30,000 seized by gardai Photo by An Garda Siochana

Work begins on digitisation of burial records

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

WORK on the digitisation of burial records in the South Dublin region is currently underway.

The digitisation is intended to create a public facility whereby members of the public and historians can access burial information.

The plans come in the form of a cloud-based integrated cemetery management system to map out the plots in all cemeteries under the remit of South Dublin County Council.

Councillor Caroline Brady welcomed the news that digitisation of records is underway and noted that it will be easier for people to trace family trees now.

Cllr Brady said: "To have those records available to search for people, it's really important…I think it's really important for people to know where they came from and to be able to find that information."

The system is expected to include photographs, record management and an online payment system.

The process will involve the careful cataloguing, scanning, and indexing of existing records to ensure they are accessible in a secure and user-friendly digital format.

Cllr Brady noted that she is a genealogy enthusiast and traced back her family tree to the 1800s during Covid.

"I searched through every census that was available…old birth certs and marriage certs."

Cllr Brady explained that the erosion of headstones and paper records of graves over time can make this search tougher.

Burial sites at St Finian's Church and the Old and New Esker Cemeteries in Lucan are all set to be included in this digitisation programme.

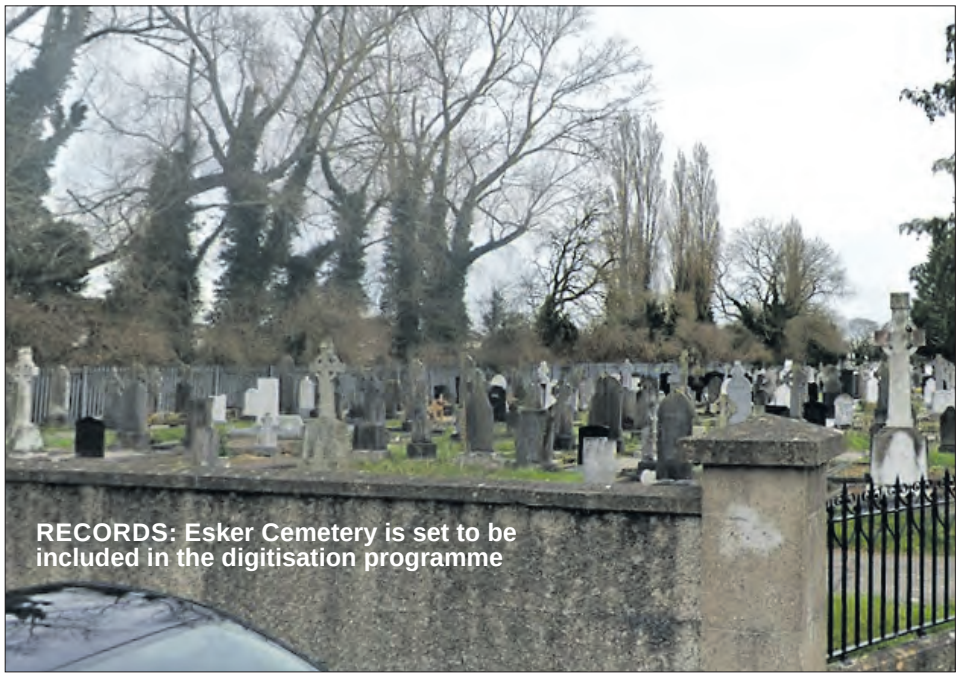
Digitisation of these records will allow South Dublin County Council to focus on handling tougher tasks in person, while those who wish to search their lineage in the area can do so.

"I would be very much in favour of putting everything, as much as we can, [through] digitised processes, you know, because it makes it more efficient.

"And it also means then that, in terms of running that process, that if you can get kind of the 80/20 rule.

If you can get 80% of all your queries and questions in online, which this will do, that means then that you can really resource the harder things…it frees up the time for doing that really good work."

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme.



RECORDS: Esker Cemetery is set to be included in the digitisation programme



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New routes launching on the 19th of October

- 24 HOUR **F1** Ballymun (IKEA) – Finglas – City Centre – Tallaght (The Square)
- 24 HOUR **F2** Charlestown Shopping Centre – City Centre – Rossmore
- **F3** Charlestown Shopping Centre – City Centre – Greenhills
- **23** Charlestown Shopping Centre – Finglas – Merrion Square
- **24** Dublin Airport – Botanic Gardens – Merrion Square
- **73** Marino – Thomas Street – Walkinstown
- 24 HOUR **80** Dartry – Usher's Quay – Liffey Valley
- **82** Kiltipper – St. Stephen's Green – Poolbeg
- **L89** Rivermeade – Finglas – Broombridge

Scan for timetable, route and service information.
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Warning after man arrested following reports of break-ins

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

RESIDENTS in Springfield in Tallaght are being urged to ensure their cars are locked, after a man was arrested on Monday following reports of a car being broken into.

Gardaí on patrol in Tallaght arrested a man in the early hours of Monday, October 6, when "they were alerted to a report of criminal damage to a vehicle outside a residence in Maplewood Park at approximately 12:40am and attended the scene".

"A male in his 20s was subsequently arrested by Gardaí and detained at a Garda station in Dublin under Section 4 of the Criminal Justice Act, 1984," a garda spokesperson said.

"He has since been charged in connection with this investigation and appeared before Tallaght District Court on Monday morning, October 6.

"As this matter is now before the courts, An Garda Síochána is not in a position to comment further at this time," they added.

Ken Harrington, chair of the Springfield Neighbourhood Residents Association, has urged residents in the area to make sure that their cars are locked, especially at night.

He said while there have been "isolated incidents", there have still been around "six or seven" incidents of items being taken from people's cars in the area.

"There's very few cars being smashed into, but where they're left open, they're rife," he said.

'Words cannot explain the impact that Sherrill had in our school'

Devoted mother and special needs assistant was adored by staff and pupils

MANY tributes have been paid to a Kilnamanagh special needs assistant who was laid to last Tuesday and has been remembered as "a lovely friendly woman with a kind word for everyone", *reports Ellen Gough.*

Sherrill Shattock (née McCallen), late of Kilnamanagh, Tallaght and formerly of Fintona, Co. Tyrone, died unexpectedly at her home on Wednesday, September 24 just shy of her 57th birthday.

"Beloved wife and best friend" to her husband Trevor and loving and devoted mam to Anthony and Andrea, Sherrill was well known around Kilnamanagh through her work as a special needs assistant at St Kevin's Girls National School.

"Words cannot explain the impact that Sherrill had in our school on a daily basis," deputy principal Marie Linehan said.

"The children adored her, the staff depended on her and we are all better for having known her.

"Sherrill had an innate instinct for spotting the children who needed her support and built those children up in a way that didn't draw attention or seek acknowledgment.

"Many children's lives have been changed because of her, she was a legend, a lady, a laugh, a genuine friend and kind to her core," she continued.

"I feel lucky to have worked with her as she made me feel welcome and supported in the school, she is simply irreplaceable."

Many more staff and parents also paid tribute to Sherrill, describing her as a gentle soul with a kind heart who was "a mammy to all the children in her care".

"Sherrill was not only an ally but also a true source of support for our family," parents Dearbhla and Brendan said, whose daughter Matilda is a pupil at St Kevin's.

"The warmth, kindness, and care she showed to our daughter went far beyond duty.

"Her reassurance, guidance, and counsel gave Matilda the space to grow and flourish, while offering us, as parents, comfort and peace of mind during challenging moments."

"We will miss her greatly. Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you all," they said.

Sherrill was laid to rest on Tuesday, September 30, at Newlands Cross Cemetery, after a service at in the Church of St Kevin's, Kilnamanagh.

She will be forever loved and very sadly missed by her loving family, husband, children, brothers Gerard and Justin, sisters Julie and Walburga, her adored godchildren Mark and Mia, sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, nieces, nephews, extended family, friends, especially Assumpta, Noeleen Bernie, Annette and Siobhan and everyone in St. Kevin's Girls School.

> **"I feel lucky to have worked with her as she made me feel welcome and supported in the school, she is simply irreplaceable**



ADORED: The late Sherrill Shattock who sadly passed away last week

Maria Lane Choir celebrates 10 year's since founded with concert

"TALLAGHT Cancer Support Group was founded in 2007 by Margaret Dennehy", explains Frances McNulty, chairperson of the group, who also run the Maria Lane Choir, *reports Ryan Butler.*

The choir came to be when a client named Maria Lane came to one of the Support Group's sessions and came up with the idea to start a choir.

One night, she had the group performing a drama class where they were reenacting their experiences in the waiting room in the breast cancer clinic.

"It was very funny", Frances fondly reminsces, "I can still remember us all laughing!".

After Maria's passing in January 2015, her sister Angela set up a benefit night and from there, the Maria Lane Choir officially began.

The choir's first performance was with The Firhouse Singers, conducted by Ray Ryan, in October for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Now, they have a concert coming up this Sunday, October 12, to commemorate 10 years since the choir was first formed.

It will be held at the Kilnamanagh Family Recreation Centre; doors open at 6:30pm and the concert starts at 7:30pm.

They will be supported by the music of special guests 'The Metabollix' (featuring Prof. Luke O'Neill and his band), as well as The Firhouse Singers.

This event will commemorate a decade of activity for the Maria Lane Choir, who have previously performed in libraries, nursing homes, and even UCD.

Future plans include Christmas performances and a potential trip to Liverpool, with new Musical Director Michael Fay at the helm.

Frances would like to thank *The Echo*, the choir members, the volunteers, and the Kilnamanagh Recreation Centre for their support in organising this concert.

Tickets are available on Eventbrite; be sure to get some before they sell out.

New chapter for Citywise with launch of campus expansion

Major expansion for campus that includes outdoor sports and recreation area and building

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

A NEW chapter "for Citywise and Tallaght" was launched at the Citywise education centre in Jobstown on Friday afternoon.

More than 100 people gathered at Citywise Education youth centre to mark the launch of Phase 1 of the Citywise Education Climate, Science & Language Centre.

The launch was attended by local community leaders, educators, and young people from the area.

The new centre represents the beginning of a major expansion of Citywise's campus.

The development includes a new outdoor sports and recreation area (Phase 1, now underway) and a new sustainable education building, designed to meet future climate standards and aligned with international 2030 climate targets.

When complete, the expanded campus will allow Citywise to increase its capacity from 500 to 800 young people weekly, while also setting a national benchmark for sustainable community buildings.

The building will be designed with the ambition of achieving whole-life carbon zero, guided by the Irish Green Building Council's framework.

At the launch, a "turning of the sod" ceremony took place to commence construction of the multi-use games area (MUGA).

Speaking at the launch, Daire Hennessy, CEO of Citywise Education, said "our work in Citywise is so important because it helps to break cycles of disadvantage, and we've been doing that for over 25 years".

"That work wouldn't be possible without our amazing staff, volunteers and young leaders that make Citywise so special.

"It's great to reach this important milestone with our new facilities allowing us to grow our reach from 500 to 800 young people per week," he continued.

Citywise Education works in underserved communities, raising young people's educational aspirations and supporting them to reach their full potential.

Each year, Citywise serves over 2,000 young people with personal development, STEAM, and academic programmes, complementing the important work done in schools.

Their Fast Track Academy has achieved progression rates to third-level education of over 80% in recent years, driving a positive knock-on effect for local communities.

"Our new facility will allow us to scale our impact in West Tallaght and to other disadvantaged communities as it will become a centre of excellence in Ireland," Mr Hennessy added.

"Importantly, we'll show that scaling our community services can be done in an environmentally sustainable way and also send a message that we can have the best of the best in Tallaght, as much as any other community."



MILESTONE: At the turning of the sod of the Citywise Education Centre Campus. See more photos on page 44

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Memorial bench dedicted to all in the community



MEMORIAL BENCH Mary Betty Whelan (Chair), Fr Donal Sweeney and Cllr Louise Dunne in Dominic's Community Centre

DOMINIC'S Community Centre in Tallaght have unveiled a touching memorial remembering members of their community that have passed on.

The memorial bench, set just outside the entrance to the community centre in Avonbeg, honours all members and former users of the centre that have since passed on.

According to community centre team leader Niamh Valentine, the bench isn't dedicated to "anybody in particular", but rather to all members of the community.

"We have a huge Active Age contingent here, and the preschool, the after school, and over the last number of years we've lost a lot of people who use the centre, members of the board, and even people who use the centre have lost partners and stuff like that," she explained.

"So we just thought that it would be nice to have something here in memory of all those people, something general to remember everybody.

"We funded it ourselves as a way of giving something back to people," she added.

The bench, unveiled in a ceremony on Tuesday, September 30, sits just outside the front door of the centre, allowing all who come and go from the centre to take a moment and remember their loved ones. *See more photos on page 42*

'How angry we are' over playground fire

Communinity frustrated and angry over fire deliberatly set in playground

THERE is huge anger and frustration within the community after part of Kilnamanagh playground was deliberately set alight on Monday night, *reports Ellen Gough.*

The slide in the playground, located in the Treepark Road/Treepark Avenue corner of Kilnamanagh Park, was set on fire and badly damaged some time on Monday evening, October 6.

Speaking to *The Echo*, a local resident said it was "hard to put into words just how strongly we feel, how angry we are, at this".

"Somewhere along the line, parents are going to have to start taking responsibility for what their kids are doing when they're out at night," they said, speaking to *The Echo* on condition of anonymity.

The playground had been a welcome and "positive contribution" to the Kilnamanagh neighbourhood and is widely used by local schools and playgroups.

As Halloween looms, Kilnamanagh is one of many communities across south Dublin bracing themselves every year for bonfire season and the destruction it brings.

Just a few days before the fire in the playground, another incident took place on the green space beside the playground on Friday, October 3.



ANGER: The playground damaged from the fire in Kilnamanagh

This year, the local resident said, the dynamic attached to bonfire season "is much more toxic than other years".

"We dread Halloween," they said.

"It's a small number of dysfunctional youths, the problem here is they know there's nothing can be done, and they're pushing out the boundaries to see what they can get away with.

The resident said they and others have been engaging with South Dublin County Council, An Garda Síochána and politicians at local and national levels to try to prevent incidents such as this.

"The residents don't have any powers, all the powers on this are with the council, with the guards, and with the politicians," they said.

"The guards will go down, they talk to them in the schools, but we need guards on the ground, bringing these kids home to their parents and making it real for them that this is what your family are doing."

The council issued a statement on Tuesday, October 7 following the incident, calling it "extremely disappointing that vandals would target a children's playground in this way".

"The Public Realm team are working to repair the damage as soon as possible, and we are in contact with An Garda Síochána regarding the incident," they said.

The rest of the playground, which was undamaged in the fire, remains open, with the swing cordoned off.

Anyone with information on this incident should contact the Tallaght Garda Station on 01 666 6000 or the Garda Confidential Line on 1800 666 111.

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme



Scheme plans to transform Tallaght Village



SCHEME: Proposals to make village more attractive and a people friendly environment

Community urged to attend a series of public consulations on village

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

PLANS for an enhancement scheme to transform Tallaght Village into a "lively, welcoming, and flourishing destination" are being fast tracked by the council.

The first in a series of public consultations will be held next Monday and Tuesday, October 13-14, for the public to contribute and share their views on making Tallaght Village "a true centre piece for the community".

The scheme aims to "create a safer, more attractive, and people friendly environment by improving traffic flow, improving walking and cycling connections, and creating a high-quality public space", according to South Dublin County Council.

"By prioritising public realm, the project seeks to deliver a village centre that is easily accessible, refreshing, and capable of supporting local businesses, and community activity."

According SDCC senior engineer Gary Walsh, the scheme for Tallaght has had to "jump the queue in terms of village enhancements in South Dublin", due to the upcoming BusConnects Dublin - Tallaght/Clondalkin to City Centre.

"The village is a little bit tired and it's very disjointed," he said.

"It's just been delivered haphazardly and all of a sudden we've just ended up with a mishmash of schemes and designs.

"We just want to take a step back and see what we could deliver and do a plan that ties it all in together and actually looks right at the end."

There will be two presentations and workshops from 6pm on Monday, October 13 and 11am on Tuesday, October 14, at Priory Market in Tallaght.

Tallaght residents are invited to drop in and discuss the scheme from 1pm to 6pm on Tuesday, followed by a final presentation and workshop at 6pm that evening.

Anyone wishing to attend please email TalVES@sdublincoco.ie with your preferred time.

The council plan to take the feedback from the public from the consultations being held in the Priory Market on October 13-14 and develop it into five different plans, which Gary described as a "do nothing" plan to a "very extreme, pedestrianise everything" plan, and others in between.

They then plan to workshop these five plans with another series of public consultations in mid-November this year, with a view to getting a Part 8 consultation "to be fully approved by councillors in Q1 of next year".

Despite the ambitiously short timeline, Gary said the council will not be "cutting corners" on the scheme.

"We want to get the word out [with the public consultation] and get people involved and engaged, because the worst thing is when people come to a scheme too late in the day to change anything," he said.

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme

30% increase in garda numbers at Tallaght Garda Station in last 10 years

THERE'S been a 30% increase in garda numbers at Tallaght Garda Station in the last ten years, *reports Ellen Gough.*

There are currently 230 members of the force working out of Tallaght, according to Dublin South West TD John Lahart (FF).

Deputy Lahart said that this is 30% increase "on where they were in 2016", adding that "the emphasis in government is on continuous recruitment of more gardaí.

The numbers at Tallaght make up almost half of the total garda numbers stationed across the South Dublin Metropolitan Region.

A total of 545 members are stationed across the four DMR South stations, including Tallaght, Terenure, Rathfarnham and Crumlin.

"People like to see community policing, they like to see visible patrols on foot or on bike in their areas and I support the public very much in that," Deputy Lahart added.

Community policing is in limbo in south Dublin and across the country, as the new Local Community Safety Partnerships (LCSP) have yet to be established.



RECRUITMENT: Tallaght Garda Station

Set to be made up of local councillors, local authority officials, An Garda Síochána, representatives from the HSE and the Child and Family Agency Tusla, the LCSPs are to expand on and replace the former Joint Policing Committees.

Though the regulations for establishing LCSPs was signed by Justice Minister Jim O'Callaghan on June 30, no timeline has been given for when the meetings will start.

The last Joint Policing Committee met in South Dublin in May of last year.

Delays in the establishment of LCSPs and the lack of JPCs is "leaving a dangerous vacuum in our communities, preventing the ability to address ongoing concerns for crime," according to Sinn Fein's Dublin West TD Mark Ward earlier this year.

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme

Grade bands positive impact for Junior Cert students

REVISED Junior Certificate grade bands have led to more students earning the highest marks.

73,336 students will get their Junior Cert grades , with over 55,000 distinction grades set to be awarded to students across all subjects, according to the State Examinations Commission.

The figure is more than double last year's amount, with less than 23,500 students achieving the highest possible grade in 2024.

Revised Junior Cycle grade bands have been introduced this year following the announcement by the Minster for Education and Youth Helen McEntee TD in April 2025.

Minister McEntee said at the time: "With the top four grade bands now becoming evenly distributed, this will have a positive impact on students, ensuring their grades are more reflective of their work and effort, as well as of the work of our teachers.

"It can be expected that higher numbers of students will achieve Distinction and Higher Merit grades with this change."

Distinction grades were given to students who achieved a result of 85 per cent or higher, five per cent less than last year's parameters, while Higher Merit and Merit were also adjusted with the aim of more of these positive grades being seen on papers.

Higher merit now ranges from 70 to 85 per cent while merit kicks in at 55 per cent, with the changes seeing over 30,000 more higher merits handed out and some 70,000 less merits given.

One question on English papers, the subject tied to the lowest number of distinctions in the country, stumped students.

Exam takers were asked about a short story they had studied throughout their Junior Cycles, but the responses from students were poor.

The SEC note in a statement concerning the results that a "significant number of candidates" answered the specific question poorly or skipped it.

"In order to be as fair as possible to candidates, the SEC addressed this by awarding all candidates a minimum of 10 marks (out of 15) with a scaled marking approach used to award higher marks based on the standard of the candidate response.

"This approach has ensured fairness to those candidates who answered the question while ensuring that those candidates who did not respond to the question are not disadvantaged."

A circular letter issued by the Department of Education and Youth tells schools that short stories must be studied as part of the Junior Cert curriculum.

Applications for rechecks can only be made through the School Authority with a fee of €32 refunded if an upgrade is given.

Schools must return their applications by 5pm on Tuesday, October 14.

The official marking schemes will be put on the SEC website on Thursday, October 9.

Harvest Songs of Praise

ST MAELRUAIN'S Church of Ireland will host a Harvest Songs of Praise on Sunday, October 12 at 3.30pm.

The event is in aid of St Maelruain's and a harvest supper will take place afterwards.

‘One step further’ for Archie seeking life-saving treatment

Eight-year-old expected to undergo more tests as part of next stage of process

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

TALLAGHT youngster Archie Ennis has passed his first test on the international road to treatment for his Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.

The eight-year-old has been in the United States in the past few weeks as he attempts to get on to a clinical trial and receive life-altering gene therapy treatment.

Archie has been unable to avail of treatment at home in Ireland following his diagnosis in December.

His mother, Úna Ennis, shared the news on her social media: “The results are in. He passed and does not have the antibodies.”

Archie is now expected to undergo more tests at the turn of the year in December and January as part of the next stage of the process.

The family have raised seven figures worth in aid of Archie and content creator Chris Connolly is currently undertaking running the length of the United Kingdom to add a quarter of a million more to the total.

According to Children’s Health Ireland, DMD is a rare neuromuscular disease that results in progressive deterioration in muscle strength and premature death.

Approximately 10 boys are diagnosed with the condition in Ireland every year.

The muscle degeneration disease is caused by gene mutations that affect a protein called dystrophin, which plays a critical role in muscle cell structure and function.

Archie has had to go through a lot at a young age and his parents have done their best to ensure he enjoys his time Stateside.

The young boy has visited the likes of Universal Nintendo World and a Gator Golf establishment, as well as enjoyed some Crumbl cookies.

His mother said in a post on Thursday: “It’s been a lot for him to process — from long travels to endless hospital visits and blood tests, it’s a lot for anyone, let alone a young boy.”

If successful in his following tests, Archie will be able to take necessary medication that he has been lacking since diagnosis.

Una noted that the Ennis family and Archie still have some distance to go before he’s in the clear.

“But today is a good day,” Úna stated on Monday. “One step closer.”



RESULTS: Brave Archie with his mother Una

> “It’s been a lot for him to process - from long travels to endless hospital visits and blood tests, it’s a lot for anyone, let alone a young boy



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

Purple sloes



BLOOM: In early spring, Blackthorn's flowers bloom before its leaves

THE fruit of the Blackthorn is the sloe, a small purple-black berry about 1cm in size.

These are visible in hedgerows and around field margins at the moment, where they grow in small clumps along the shrub's branches.

Blackthorn's Latin name is Prunus spinosa, where 'spinosa' refers to the sharp dagger-like thorns along its twigs and branches. These thorns, along with the dark colour of its bark, gave rise to its English name of Blackthorn.

The cattle-proof nature of these thorny bushes also made it a very useful plant to grow in hedgerows around grazing pastures.

In springtime, the Blackthorn is one of the first of the hedgerow species to send out its blossoms in early March.

Its pretty white flowers bloom before its leaves, and because it blooms so early, Blackthorn is an important source of pollen and nectar for early bees and butterflies in springtime.

These early insects are important pollinators of the bush's flowers.

By autumntime, the flowers have been replaced by the fruit of the Blackthorn, the purple-black berry referred to as the sloe.

As sloes mature, they develop a light blue powdery substance on the skin.

This is a naturally occurring yeast, similar to that which grows on bunches of grapes.

This washes off eventually with the rain to reveal the dark purple colour of the sloe underneath.

Sloes contain a large seed kernel inside, and while they taste very bitter to us, they are highly sought after by birds like Thrushes and Blackbirds.

The berries contain good levels of Vitamin C, Vitamin E, potassium, calcium and magnesium.

The shrub's bark and flowers, also contain high levels of antioxidants and other compounds that are said to offer health benefits.

In the past, these were all used to treat coughs, colds, and bronchitis.

The juice of the sloe was also once used as a dye for cloth, which initially appears as a red colour, but which is said to wash out to a light shade of blue.



POWDERY BLUE: Maturing sloes are covered in a powdery blue 'bloom' of natural yeasts



Brave faces of cancer awaren

Survivors stories demonstrate the imp

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

THREE women, from Rathfarnham, Tallaght and Ballyfermot, are among six cancer survivors that are the face of a new breast cancer awareness campaign for October.

Breast Cancer Ireland, Ireland's leading breast cancer charity, have launched Breast Cancer KNOW MORE, a bold, survivor-led awareness campaign marking Breast Cancer Awareness Month this October.

This first-of-its-kind campaign puts survivors bravely into the spotlight where their voices, their stories, and their bodies demonstrate the importance of checking for breast cancer's 8 signs and symptoms, while driving home the life-saving message of early detection.

The campaign, which is supported by Novartis, comes on foot of stark results from the charity's most recent research into self-checking habits, and awareness of the symptoms.

Despite the disease being the number one most common invasive cancer affecting women in Ireland, only 25% of women regularly check their breasts.

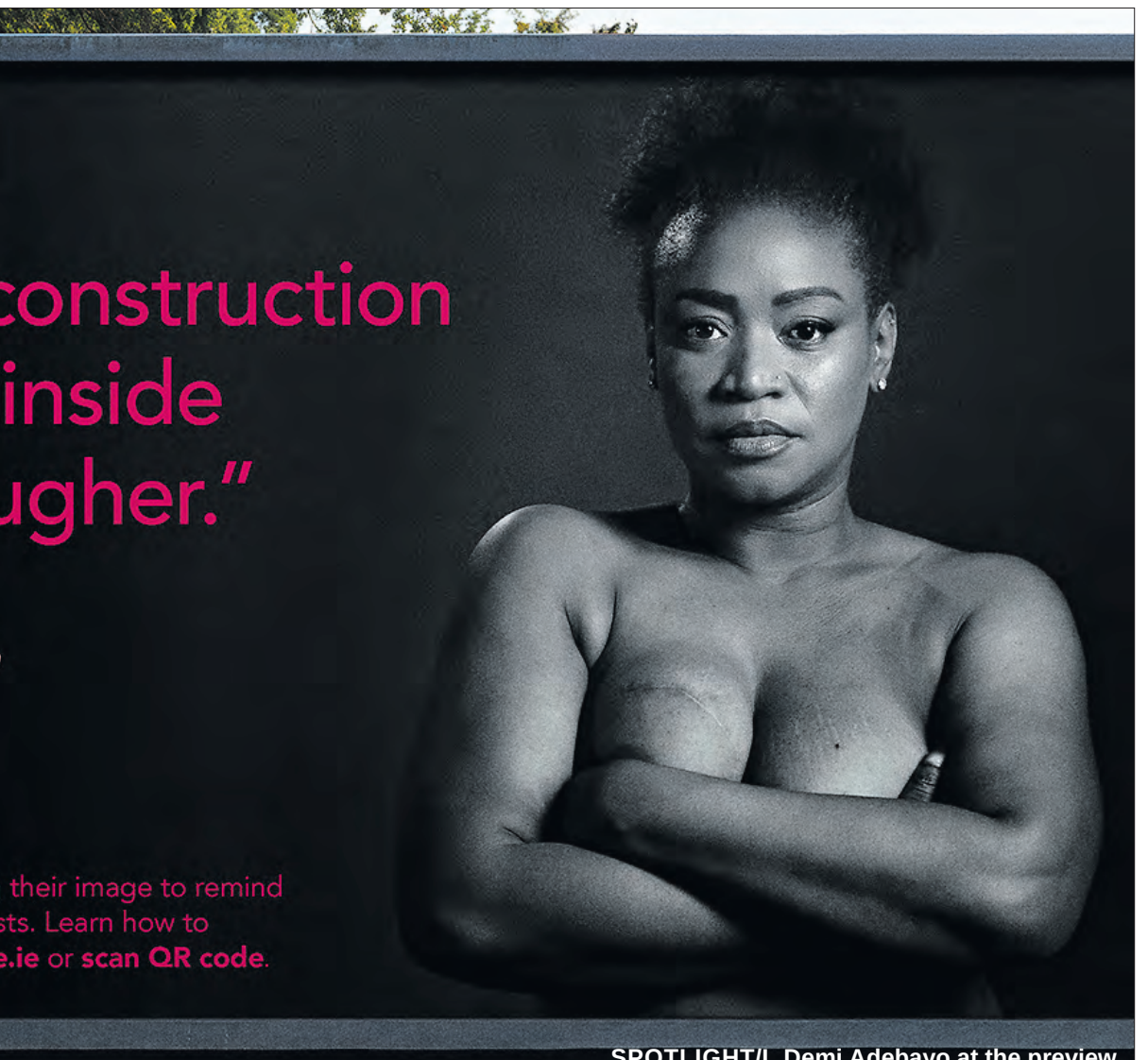
Only 15% of young women aged 18-34 are self-checking on a regular basis, and only 36% of all women say they are aware of the signs and symptoms of the disease.

At the centre of the campaign are highly evocative, stark, but beautifully shot black-and-white portraits accompanied by powerful videos of five female and one male breast cancer survivor.

Among the survivors featured in the campaign are Demi Adebayo (42) from Ballyfermot, who found a lump in her breast in 2020.

As it was during Covid, her appointment was cancelled twice and

"I remember reading and listening to stories of other survivors and that gave me so much hope it still does. I know my cancer can't be cured, but what I can do is use my voice to make others don't ....



SPOTLIGHT/L Demi Adebayo at the preview screening in the Mayson Hotel of 'Breast Cancer KNOW MORE' - Ireland's first survivor-led breast cancer awareness campaign, developed by Breast Cancer Ireland



CAMPAIGN: Breast cancer survivor, 31-year old Niamh Noonan from Rathfarnham pictured at the launch of 'Breast Cancer KNOW MORE'

f new breast
ness campaign

portance of checking for breast cancer

she eventually went for her follow-up in November 2020, five months after discovering the lump.

In February 2021, she received her official diagnosis of breast cancer and has undergone four months of chemotherapy and 16 sessions of radiotherapy.

By sharing her story, Demi hopes to spread awareness, especially amongst her community.

She is originally from Nigeria and has found that not a lot of Nigerian women in Ireland are aware of the signs and symptoms of breast cancer or how to check themselves for it.

She hopes to change this and encourage others to talk about it more.

Vanessa Pontes from Tallaght, who was 34 when she was diagnosed with incurable breast cancer last year, is sharing her story as she found reading other people's stories helpful during her treatment.

"In February 2024, whilst in the shower, I found a soft, moveable, round lump in my left breast," she said.

Vanessa was referred to a breast specialist at Beacon Hospital where tests confirmed she had cancer in both breasts as well as lesions on her liver.

She underwent five months of chemo to treat her cancer, plus a double mastectomy, and still takes Herceptin, a targeted therapy for treating breast cancer as her cancer is "treatable but not curable".

"Getting the news that I was potentially stage 4 at the age of 34, I was devastated and in complete shock," she said.

"I remember reading and listening to stories of other survivors and that gave me so much hope – it still does.

"I know my cancer can't be cured, but what I can do is use my voice to make sure others don't end up where I am."

Niamh Noonan from Rathfarnham was diagnosed with Stage 3 triple positive breast cancer two days after her 30th birthday.

"I never imagined I would face breast cancer so early in life, she said, adding that she still finds it hard to look in the mirror and to see her scars.

"It's a victory scar – not a victim scar - that's how I see it now – and that's why I'm determined to speak out, empower others and to highlight the symptoms of this dreadful disease because no one is ever too young to be affected, and knowing the signs could save your life."

The nationwide campaign will be supported by a heavyweight mix of TV, digital, PR, print, and out of home advertising, ensuring the message reaches every corner of the country.

It is supported by Novartis, whose partnership reflects a shared commitment to driving awareness and education around early detection in breast cancer.



SCREENING: Vanessa Pontes from Tallaght at the preview screening in the Mayson Hotel of 'Breast Cancer KNOW MORE' - Ireland's first survivor-led breast cancer awareness campaign, developed by Breast Cancer Ireland, and supported by Novartis, to mark Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Photos by Marc O'Sullivan



NEW FLOOR: Sandra Keegan (Bookings Manager), Glenda Murphy Smullen Tallaght Person of the Year, Elaine Byrne (Creche) & Rhonda Byrne (Duty Manager)

New floor in sport complex unveiled

TALLAGHT Sports Complex unveiled its new state -of-the-art floor this week.

The funding for the complex came from the Sports Capital Grant scheme in 2023 to replace the old worn sports hall floor.

The work on the new floor began in August and was completed at the end of September.

The floor is a new 9mm sprung all sports hall floor.

The floor is marked for Basketball, Football five-a-side, Badminton, Olympic Handball and Volleyball.

Open-access duct network to be installed in county

AN OPEN-access duct network is set to be installed across South Dublin in the next 12 months, *reports James Roulston Mooney.*

The new duct network is expected to provide digital connectivity for hard-to-reach areas in the region and enhance South Dublin's attractiveness to businesses.

The project is set to be funded by a blend of public investment, private capital, and potential government digital infrastructure grants.

Multiple service operators will be able to avail themselves of the upcoming network as South Dublin County Council hope that the installation will lead to a reduction in average broadband deployment time and cost.

The works also aim to ensure SDCC can control and facilitate the delivery of the high bandwidth requirements of Data Centres.

Many data centres exist in South Dublin at business parks such as Grange Castle, with more set to be opened.

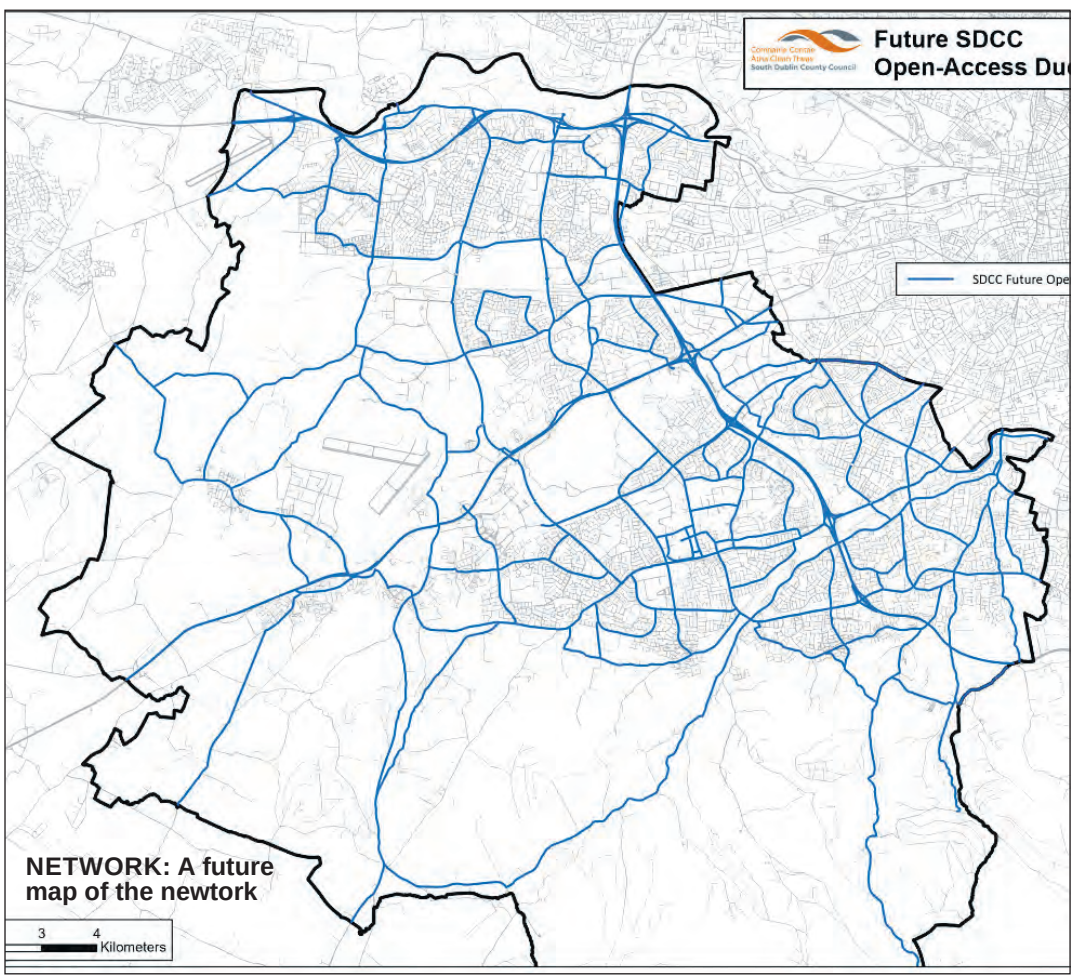
Works are expected to begin with priority zones, such as business parks, new housing, and regeneration areas and then expand region wide.

Existing ducts will be mapped and coordination with pre-existing public works projects like BusConnects is set to take place to avoid maximum disruption and cost.

This will also be done with the hopes of providing a more environmentally friendly approach and reduce the potential carbon impact of multiple projects.

Third party works will also be leveraged in the creation and rollout of the new duct network.

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme.



NETWORK: A future map of the newtork



BRONNADH OMOS: Brian Ó Gáibhín (Áras Chrónáin), Uachtarán na hÉireann Mícheál D. Ó hUigínn, Meadhbh Ní Cheallaigh (Cathaoirleach Muintir Chrónáin), Sabina Ní Uigínn, Louise Pedreschi (Muintir Chrónáin) agus Mayor Pamela Kearns) and Uachtarán na hÉireann Mícheál D. Ó hUigínn. **See photos on page 50**

Very sp to expre

Uachtarán Míche

ON SATURDAY a very special event was held in Áras Chrónáin, Clondalkin, in Tribute to the President of Ireland, Mícheál D. Ó hUigínn, and his wife Sabina.

An event organised by Muintir Chrónáin, with the assistance of South Dublin County Council, to express the public's gratitude to the President, Mícheál D. Ó hUigínn, for all that he did for the Irish Language, Heritage, and the Arts during his political career and his time as President of Ireland.

Hundreds of people were present as Mayor Pamela Kearns and Muintir Chrónáin welcomed the President.

The evening began with a lovely warm welcome and a special thank you to the President from the Chairperson of Muintir Chrónáin, Meadhbh Ní Cheallaigh.

Meadhbh spoke about the history of Muintir Chrónáin and the challenge that Mícheál D gave them back in 1993 when he was Minister for Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht, 'They are about to have a Gaeltacht of their own, the first Gaeltacht in the Capital'.

A challenge that Muintir Chrónáin achieved in 2021 when the Village



ecial event held in Aras Chrónáin ess mBuíochas to President Higgins

ál D Ó hUigínn praised for his vision and advocacy on behalf of the Irish language

of Clondalkin was awarded official Irish Language Network status 'Líonra Gaeilge', for the first time in Irish history.

Local poet, Barry Currivan, read a poem he had written especially for the occasion 'Of Stars, Of Dust, Of Grit'.

This was followed by a beautiful song performed by Edel Ní Arrachtáin, 'The Tricoloured Ribbon'.

Both pieces touched the hearts of the President, his wife Sabina, and all in attendance.

Brian Ó Gáibhín, from Áras Chrónáin, who was the host and MC for the night, explained the background behind the special album 'Ómós' commissioned by the band KILA on behalf of Mícheál D. Ó hUigínn from Muintir Chrónáin and the Community of Áras Chrónáin, Clondalkin.

'The community of Muintir Chrónáin wish to express ár mbuíochas to Uachtarán Mícheál D. Ó hUigínn for his vision, leadership and advocacy on behalf of the Irish Language, Arts and Culture throughout his political life.

An Ghaeilge and our Culture are in a much better standing now, thanks to Mícheál'.

Meadhbh Ní Cheallaigh presented the album 'Ómós' to President Mícheál D. Ó hUigínn, and Louise Pedreschi presented Sabina with a beautiful bouquet of flowers.

Everyone listened to a track from the album of a poem written by Mícheál D Ó hUigínn, 'Stardust', read by actor Stephen Rea and accompanied by new music composed by KILA.

Then the band KILA took to the stage and performed 8 new pieces of music they specially composed in Tribute to the President.

Everyone in attendance really enjoyed the special historic celebration in Áras Chrónáin.

There is no doubt that President Mícheál D Ó hHiggins and Sabina thoroughly enjoyed the event.

The event was a source of pride for the President and his family, for Muintir Chrónáin, for the people of Áras Chrónáin, for the community of Clondalkin, for South Dublin County Council and for everyone who was present.

A big Go raibh míle maith agat agus buíochas goes to everyone who was involved in the organisation and presentation of the event.

Ar an Satharn 4ú Deireadh Fómhair 2025 bhí ócáid an-speisialta in Áras Chrónáin, i gCluain Dolcáin, in Ómós d'Uachtarán na hÉireann Mícheál D. Ó hUigínn agus a bhean chéile, Sabina.

Ócáid a d'eagraigh Muintir Chrónáin le cabhair ó Chomhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas chun buíochas an phobail a chur in iúl don Uachtarán, Mícheál D. Ó hUigínn, as gach ní atá déanta aige ar son na Gaeilge, na hOidhreachta, agus na n-Ealaíon le linn a shaol polaitiúil agus a thréimhse mar Uachtarán na hÉireann.

Bhí na céadta daoine i láthair nuair a chuir Méara, Pamela Kearns, agus Muintir Chrónáin fáilte roimh an Uachtarán.

Thosaigh an oíche le fáilte álainn ó chroí agus buíochas speisialta don Uachtarán ó Chathaoirleach Mhuintir Chrónáin, Meadhbh Ní Cheallaigh.

Labhair Meadhbh faoi stair Mhuintir Chrónáin agus an dúshlán a thug Mícheál D. dóibh siar i 1993 agus é mar Aire Ealaíon, Cultúir agus Gaeltachta, 'Is gar go mbeidh Gaeltacht dár gcuid féin acu, an chéad Ghaeltacht san Ardchathair'. Dúshlán a bhain Muintir Chrónáin amach sa bhliain 2021, nuair a bronnadh an stádas oifigiúil Líonra Gaeilge ar Shráidbhaile Chluain Dolcáin, an chéad uair i stair na hÉireann.

Léigh file áitiúil, Barry Currivan, dán a chum sé go speisialta don ócáid 'Of Stars, Of Dust, Of Grit'. I ndiaidh sin bhí amhrán álainn ó Edel Ní Arrachtáin, 'The Tricoloured Ribbon'. Chuaigh an dá phíosa go mór i gcroí an Uachtaráin, a bhean chéile, Sabina, agus gach duine a bhí i láthair.

Mhínigh Brian Ó Gáibhín ó Áras Chrónáin, a bhí mar fhear a tí ar an oíche, an cúlra taobh thiar den cheirnín speisialta 'Ómós' a bhí coimisiúnaithe ag an mbanna ceoil KILA ar son Mícheál D. Ó hUigínn ó Mhuintir Chrónáin agus Pobal Áras Chrónáin, Cluain Dolcáin.

'Is mian le Muintir Chrónáin an ceirnín ÓMÓS a bhronnadh ar Uachtarán na hÉireann, Mícheál D. Ó hUigínn, chun ár mbuíochas a ghabháil leis as a chuid físe, ceannaireachta agus abhcóideachta ar son na Gaeilge, na nEalaíon agus an Chultúir le linn a shaoil polaitiúil.

Tá seasamh níos treise ag an nGaeilge agus ár gcultúr anois, a bhuíochas le Mícheál'.

Bhronn Meadhbh Ní Cheallaigh an ceirnín 'Ómós' ar an Uachtarán, Mícheál D. Ó hUigínn, agus bhronn Louise Pedreschi bláthanna álainn ar Sabina.

D'éist gach duine le track ón gceirnín den dán a scríobh Mícheál D Ó hUigínn, 'Stardust', á léamh ag an aisteoir Stephen Rea agus le ceol úr nua KILA tríd.

Ansin tháinig an banna ceoil KILA ar an stáitse agus chás siad 8 bpíosa úr nua a scríobh siad in Ómós don Uachtarán.

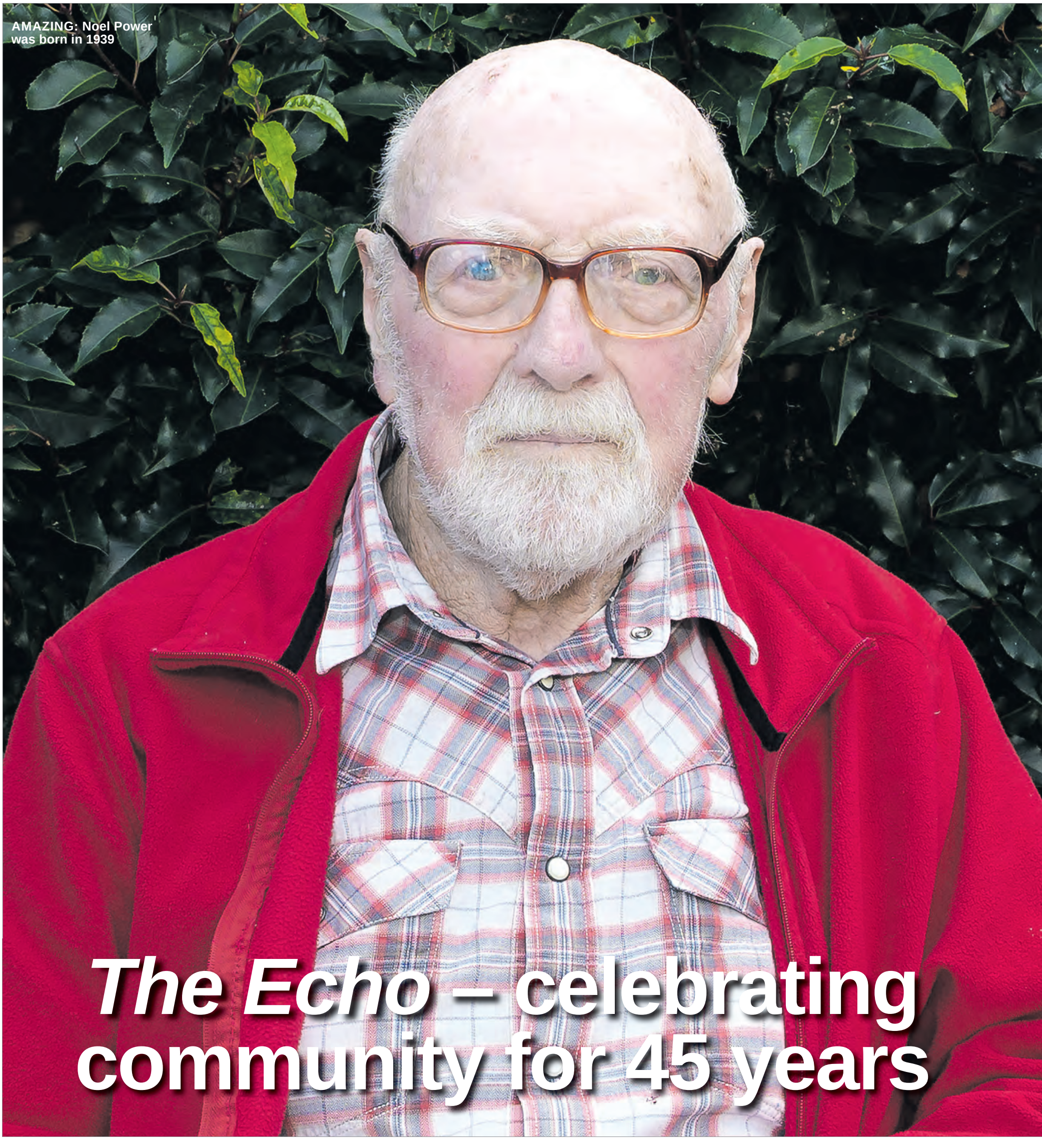
Bhain gach aon duine a bhí i láthair an-sult as an gceiliúradh speisialta, stairiúla seo in Áras Chrónáin.

Níl dabht ar bith gur bhain an tUachtáran, Mícheál D Ó hUigínn, agus Sabina an-taitneamh as an ócáid.

Ba chúis bhród í an ócáid, don Uachtarán agus a chlann, do Mhuintir Chrónáin, do Phobal Chluain Dolcáin, do Chomhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas agus do gach aon duine a bhí i láthair. Moladh mór ag dul do gach aon duine a bhí páirteach in eagrú agus cur i láthair na hócáide.

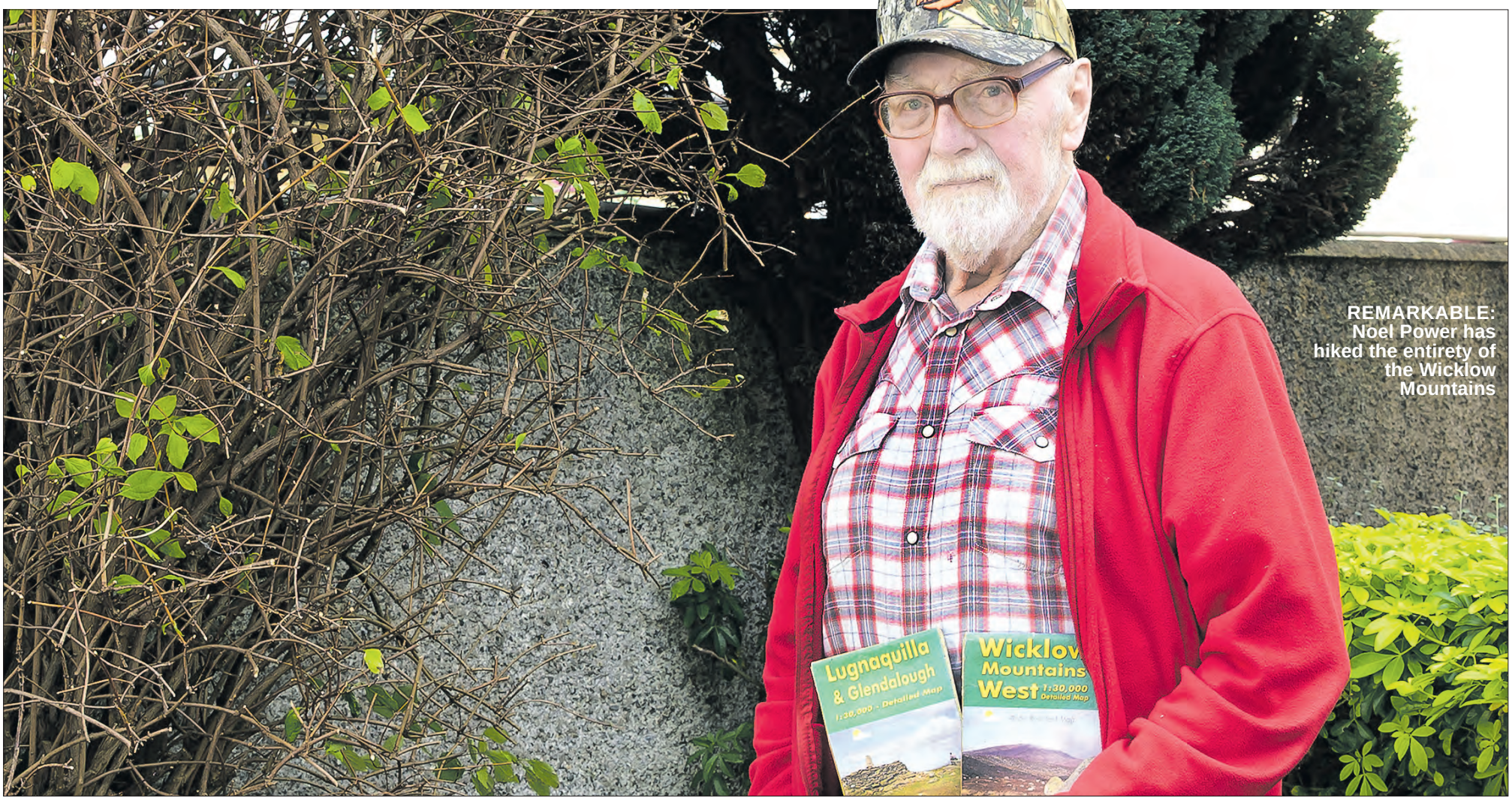
Tá an ceirnín teoranta 'Ómós' ar fáil ag https://lnk.fuga.com/omos

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 Noel Power, who turns 86 this month and hikes fives times a week.



AMAZING: Noel Power was born in 1939

The Echo – celebrating community for 45 years



REMARKABLE: Noel Power has hiked the entirety of the Wicklow Mountains

TALLAGHT resident Noel Power is a remarkable man. Noel has hiked the entirety of the Wicklow mountains more times than I've had hot dinners and believe me, that's a few as my waistline would confirm.

As Noel approaches his 86th birthday in October, he still hikes five times a week and he recently stayed in the one place long enough to talk to *The Echo* and tell us all about a life spent largely amongst the the amazing natural wonders we're lucky enough to have on our doorstep.

Born in 1939, Noel spent his formative years in Terenure and he attended the National School there. He left school at 14, as so many did in those days and for the first few years, he did a bit of everything, including a milk round and working as a mechanic's assistant.

His future career was about to present itself, as Noel tells me, "I had done various jobs since I left school and after a while, I was offered a job at Brown and Nolan printers. It was a good number and they used to print a lot of school books amongst other things. I was just a general worker in the beginning but they saw something in me, and put me forward to study at Bolton Street Tech. I qualified as a Lithographer when I was 21 and worked in the print business for the rest of my working life."

Whilst Noel was a grafter and a diligent man at the printing press, it's fair to say that the print business wasn't his true passion.

"When I was a young fella, I got involved with the St John's Ambulance and volunteered for them for a few years, working at various events and learning first aid as I went. This led to me joining the FCA Medical Corps at 18 and becoming an expert in Field Craft. As part of our training in the FCA we did plenty of hiking and I suppose that's where the love affair began."

Life for Noel as a young man in the FCA wasn't always smooth sailing. He recalls some difficult posts, including at the border during the troubles.

"There's a few things that stick in my head around those days. I remember one lady who lived in a beautiful little house, this picturesque cottage out in the country. We were out walking on duty and she launched a tirade of abuse at us, saying we should be volunteers with the IRA, and fighting with them. There was a lot of anti-army sentiment even towards us in those days."

"We were stationed in Castleblayney and the nearest big town was Dundalk. Whenever we got a bit of downtime and leave for a night out we were warned in no uncertain terms that although there was around 50 pubs in Dundalk, there was only three of them that we could drink in as soldiers. It was a very tense time."

Subsequently, Noel was stationed back in Glenmalure in the Wicklow mountains, a move which was much more his cup of tea. Amongst the many memories of this time, one particular one occurs to Noel.

"When we in Glenmalure, we used to march to Mass on a Sunday, which was quite a long distance. When we got to the church, a group of girls began to sing the song 'Morning has Broken' and suddenly there was one male voice soaring above the others. It belonged to our leader, one Sergeant Brophy. None of us had any clue he could sing but he could have given Pavarotti a run for his money! At the end of the song, there was a stunned silence and I'd imagine if it hadn't been a church, roars and cheers would have rung out. He was amazing."

The story has a tragic PostScript as Noel tells me, "poor Sgt Brophy actually died of cancer at the age of 36. That was a huge blow personally as he was a great friend and inspiration to me. He had a full military funeral so he got the appropriate send-off."

"Aside from some dodgy moments, I have to say I loved my time with the FCA. I did 25 years and I have so many memories of great days and nights with the Corps. And if course, it cemented my love for the mountains and the outdoor life in general."

In many ways, the mountains became an even bigger part of Noel's life after he left the FCA. He started hiking recreationally in his spare time and that only increased when he retired from work in his 60s.

"There's not a blade of grass on the Dublin and Wicklow mountains that I don't know," he says. I've hiked every mountain umpteen times and in 1995, I'm proud to say I did the 'Lug Walk' between Bohernabreena and the top of Lugnaquilla mountain, taking in 26 other mountain summits before finally ending in Seskin in the Glen of Imaal. It's a hell of a challenge and it usually takes about 15 hours to complete."

Noel now goes hiking with members of the local community along trails he has designed himself. These walks are for everyone he says, and if anyone is interested in going along, he tells them to meet in the car park of Scholars pub in Ballycullen at 10am sharp, any weekend. "There's no charge," Noel says, "but they really need to wear a proper pair of boots and bring waterproofs."

One surprising thing I learned about Noel is that he's a late in life feminist. He insists that women are by far better hikers than men, a point hammered home by the fact that his weekend regular group is almost entirely female.

"When I started realising that women were generally better on the hikes, I started thinking about how hard the women had things in the old days. A man just had to go to work where a woman has all of the jobs in the household, including cooking, cleaning and rearing the kids. It took me a while to get there but yes, I guess you could call me a feminist now," he laughs.

This sentiment doesn't come out of nowhere because as he says, he "Married well." He's been hitched to the saintly Kathleen (universally known as Kay) for no fewer than 64 years. Together they raised ten children. Four boys, Willie, Greg, Karl and Aengus (who incidentally did the 'Lug Walk' with his Dad at 13) and six girls, Terri, Miriam, Audrey (another mad keen hiker who's climbed Kilimanjaro), Julie, Kathy and Joan.

Naturally, Noel's enthusiasm for the great outdoors was passed on to all ten of the Power kids. "We used to have such great holidays when they were younger. I had a camper van and five tents and we'd just all pile in and go off somewhere whenever we got a chance to. I felt like I really got to know my family on those trips. There's no conversation like the one you have gathered round the fire under the stars. I really treasure those memories."



ENTHUSIASM: Noel Power says women are far better hikers than men

Noel and Kay almost have more grandchildren and great-grandchildren than they can count and they're a source of tremendous pleasure for them. Kay herself is incredibly active, being a great gardener, jam maker and baker so there's a pair of them in it!

Noel is truly a remarkable and inspirational man. He yearly takes a group from the Nina For Life suicide awareness charity on a hike and is as generous of spirit as they come. He makes sure he acknowledges his friend and sometime fellow hiker Philip Williams as a great person in his life.

To be a man in his mid-eighties (having survived a heart attack some years ago) still yomping up hill and down dale on an almost daily basis is great enough, but he's also a genuine lifesaver.

As we conclude, I'll let Noel tell the story.

"It's a few years ago now but I was out for a hike up Fable Mountain with my friend Donal. It was winter time and freezing cold. As we got to the summit, we came across a young girl in tears sitting on the ground. The people she went walking with left her behind and said they'd come back for her. She didn't have the proper gear on and I could see, through my training, that she was in the early stages of hypothermia."

"I knew that no one was coming up behind us and it was a good hour and a half walk to get down to the car park. We managed to get a fleece top on and a hot drink into her before gently easing her back down the mountain. This fella eventually arrived at the car park and I verbally tore into him. That girl would have died because of the actions of this fool."

"Eventually she was okay and she went off in the car with him. I never did get her name and I always wondered how she was afterwards. It was sheer, blind luck that Donal and I found her when we did."

So there you go readers. If you know that lady or if you are that lady, please get in touch with *The Echo*. Your knight in shining armour Noel Power would love to hear from you.



CLOSED: The Liffey Promenade

Promenade closed due to anti-social behaviour

Disappointment after damage was done to some of the newer aspects of scheme

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

A LOCAL councillor has expressed disappointment after the Liffey Promenade was closed due to antisocial behaviour.

Works are ongoing in the area as part of the Lucan Village Enhancement Scheme – the Promenade was closed after damage was done to some of the newer aspects of the location.

Councillor Caroline Brady expressed her disappointment at the forced closure of the Weir.

Cllr Brady said: "A lot of thought has gone into making that place accessible…and, you know, uplift that whole area so the people of Lucan can enjoy it.

"So it's disappointing when something like that happens."

The Promenade is set to remain closed until works are completed in November, but the Lucan Councillor hopes that the area will open temporarily for the Liffey Descent.

This year's instalment of the Liffey Descent is set to take place on Saturday, October 18 and Cllr Brady feels it would dampen the festivities if the Promenade was not open as a viewing point for spectators.

Cllr Brady recalled fond memories of her uncle partaking in the canoe marathon race when she was younger and has enjoyed the event ever since.

"I have contacted the council about whether that will be possible to open it for that day, but we just have to wait and see."

She has also called for more investment in youth services to combat the recent string of anti-social activity in South Dublin.

Concerns have been raised in recent months by several locals and public figures about anti-social presence in the region.

Arson damage done to playground structures, including one in Adamstown, have made headlines in the news.

Cllr Brady does not know who did damage to the Liffey Promenade but feels that investment into youth facilities will help to combat this type of behaviour in the long run.

"At this stage, what we need is more investments in youth workers, and we need more investment in activities.

"And I suppose the good news is that, with the Community Recognition Fund and council money has been allocated towards those things, and what we need to do now is get on it."

On top of this, the Lucan councillor believes there needs to be stronger enforcement of laws to help stamp out activity.

She noted that she would not like to see young people criminalised and feels that support is more important, noting that those who commit anti-social actions are in the minority.

Cllr Brady believes that the use of CCTV could be examined in order to find more effective ways of utilising it to identify perpetrators and a "stronger law and order approach" overall.

"I do think it's very worrying that there is a certain, you know, small minority of people who don't, whether it's young people or old people, who don't seem to think, you know, that there are any consequences to what they do.

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme.

Work on protective roof at Waterstown House expected to start next year

WORK on a new protective roof at Waterstown House is expected to begin in 2026 following the completion of an assessment, *reports James Roulston Mooney.*

The assessment of the Lucan heritage site led to a roof construction detail being drawn up by a Consulting Engineer.

Councillor Alan Hayes welcomed the news and voiced the frustrations of the local area, who have been waiting since late 2022 for the roof to be installed.

Cllr Hayes stated: "We're limping along is kind of what I feel. I know it's not a huge priority and there are competing interests, but the money was set aside."

Waterstown House, also known as Old Harris' House, is an 18th-century farmhouse located in Waterstown Park.

Calls to repair the dilapidated site have been ongoing for years, with Cllr Hayes stating in 2020 that he wished to see it reopened as a public amenity.

The park it is located within has several other amenities available, such as a children's playground, a fenced dog area and trails used for walking, running and cycling.

Tender documents are being prepared to invite companies to quote for the construction of the roof.

A contractor is expected to be appointed before the year ends to work on the issue from next year.

However, South Dublin County Council were unable to confirm when in 2026 these works are projected to start, highlighting a reliance on tender returns and the appointing of a successful contractor.

Cllr Hayes underlined the importance of this process moving forward without delay and hopes it will be done with care, as locals do not feel previous works were completed at the highest quality possible.

"There was an element of frustration to the work that was done, and particularly to the front, the façade of the building, the new steel frames that were put in the windows which have started to rust, and the big iron fencing is still around the house.

"There's a feeling among people who mention it to me that the work has stalled."

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme.



PROTECTIVE: Waterstown House is an 18th century farmhouse

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€19m Cookstown Quarter reaches its full occupancy

Tenant line-up at facility includes Uisce Éireann, House of Padel and WH Scott

By **Maurice Garvey**
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M7 REAL Estate Ireland has reached full occupancy at Cookstown Quarter in Tallaght, following a substantial investment in the 2.87-hectare (7.1-acre) estate's industrial and commercial units.

In a statement, the group, a subsidiary of the pan-European investor, M7 Real Estate, said that the site, which it paid €19 million for in 2022, was repositioned with modern occupier expectations.

The mixed-use site was formerly known as the Cookstown Collection and the tenant line-up includes Howdens, Uisce Éireann, CEF, FBT Gyms, House of Padel, Hunt Office Supplies, WH Scott and Kearys of Belgard.

The units taken range in size from 780sq m (8,396sq ft) to 2,573sq m (27,697sq ft), with rents achieved in excess of €11 per sq ft on long-term full repairing and insuring (FRI) leases.

M7 undertook an extensive refurbishment programme which included the removal of more than 100 tonnes of asbestos, installation of new insulated panels, the overcladding and renewal of elevations, replacement of obsolete electrics, the modernisation of office space, and the installation of new windows and LED lighting.

Nicola Gilleece of Cushman & Wakefield, who acted on behalf of M7, said: "I'm delighted that we have now reached 100 per cent occupancy. Tallaght continues to be a prime location for industrial and trade-counter occupiers."

James Smith, director at M7 Ireland, said: "We are delighted to complete what has been a comprehensive and significant asset management plan. We have established a destination for trade-counter occupiers; positioning an obsolete and former showroom-service centre block into a multiple-use facility that includes a vehicle service centre, a company HQ and leisure uses that include a gym and padel courts."



FULL OCCUPANCY: Cookstown Quarter in Tallaght was bought for €19m in 2022

Planning for 402 apartments at former Good Counsel lands upheld after appeals

PLANNING permission for 402 apartments on the former Good Counsel lands in Ballyboden has been upheld following appeals, *reports Ellen Gough.*

Permission was granted in 2023 for the new large-scale residential development (LRD) comprising of 402 apartments on the site at Taylors Lane and Edmondstown in Ballyboden.

However, appeals were lodged with An Coimisiún Pleanála in June 2023 by Moyville Residents Association and Ballyboden Tidy Towns against the development.

The existing former institutional buildings and associated outbuildings on the former Good Counsel lands and former pitch and putt course are to be demolished by Lucan-based developer Shannon Homes Dublin Unlimited Company to make way for the three apartment blocks, ranging in height from two-to-five storeys over basement to lower ground floor.

The 402 apartments proposed in the development are made up of 39 one-beds, 302 two-beds and 61 three-beds across the three blocks, along with a creche and two retail units all located within Block A, and an internal residential communal space located in Block C.



LARGE-SCALE: An artist impression of the former Good Counsel lands in Ballyboden

The development will also include the provision of a new public park in the north of the site along Taylor's Lane, plus 290 car parking spaces and 1,054 cycle parking spaces provided at basement/surface level.

Both appeals raised similar concerns to An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) over the height and density of the new development, public transport and other infrastructure for Ballyboden, a lack of any town, district or village centre in the area and "a missed opportunity to contribute to the creation of a village centre for Ballyboden".

The planning authority issued a decision in October 2023 to uphold the council's initial decision to grant permission, however this was subject to a judicial review.

By order of the High Court in March this year, that decision was quashed and "remitted back to the Board for reconsideration in accordance with law", after which ACP issued a further information request to both appellants and the developer.

In their decision, published on September 22 this year, ACP said they considered that the proposed development would "make a positive contribution to the delivery of new housing which would be served by an appropriate level of public transport, social and community infrastructure," and would not result in any "unacceptable" ecological, biodiversity or visual impacts.

They upheld the original decision from South Dublin County Council to grant permission for the development.

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme

E business

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CRH sees its market value reach record high with unrivalled growth

Building material giant is preparing to invest significantly over next five years

By **Maurice Garvey**
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BUILDING materials giant CRH saw its market value reach a record high this week amid plans to invest €34 billion on investment and cash returns to shareholders over the next five years.

Business is booming for the group, who have a headquarters in Belgard Castle.

"With €35bn of financial capacity over the next five years, our superior strategy, enabled by our unmatched scale and connected portfolio, positions us to execute on unrivalled growth opportunities," said chief executive Jim Mintern.

Mr Mintern, a company veteran of more than two decades, said earlier this year that he will continue the group's recent trend of selling off unwanted assets as it remains committed to pursuing acquisitions. However, there will be a greater emphasis on construction innovation under his leadership, he said at the time.

CRH is preparing to invest significantly over the next five years on mergers and acquisitions and capital expenditure.

Mintern told an audience of analysts and investors in New York that he was targeting annual revenue growth of 7-9 per cent out to 2030.

He is aiming for the group to post adjusted earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (Ebitda) margins of 22-24 per cent over the period.

The margin goal would mark a step up from the rate of 19.5 per cent posted last year.

CRH's focus is on four key areas: aggregates, cement and sustainable alternatives, roads and water.



MARKET VALUE: CRH is based at Belgard Castle

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Novo Nordisk planning job cuts at Irish operation

DANISH pharmaceutical company Novo Nordisk is planning job cuts at its Irish operation.

The firm has not confirmed the number of planned layoffs but the Department of Enterprise said it received a collective redundancy notification from the company earlier this month.

Such a notification is required in cases of 30 or more proposed redundancies.

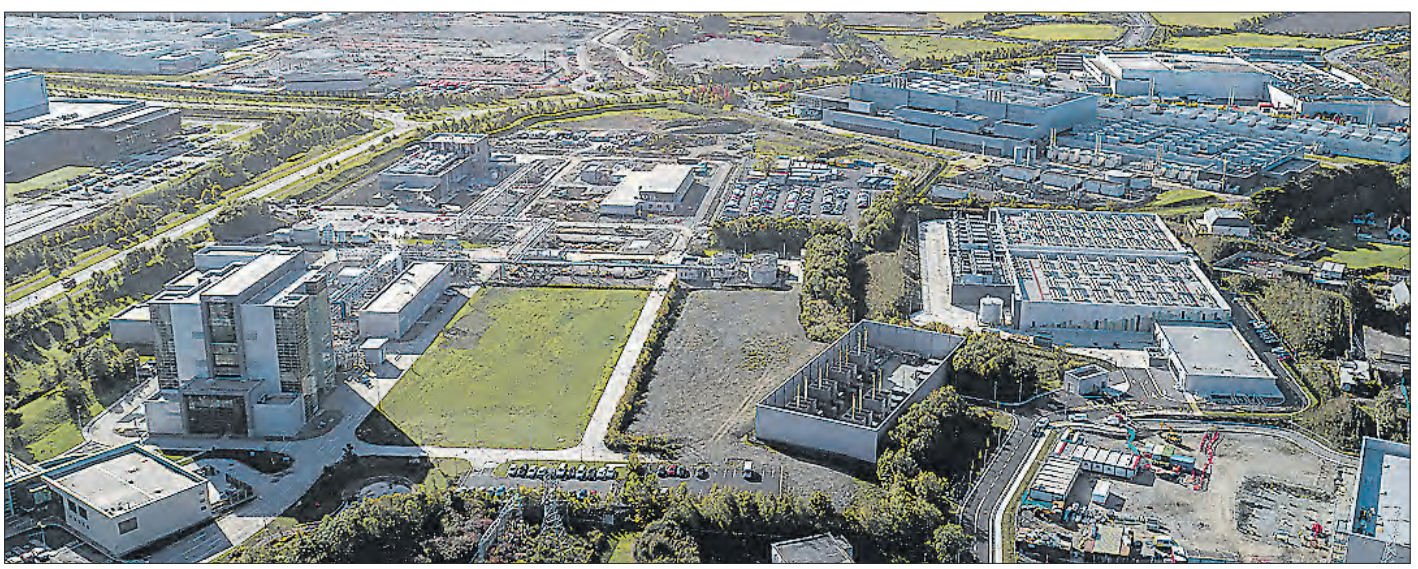
The Westmeath Independent has reported that staff at the Novo Nordisk facility in Monksland, Athlone, were informed that the company is planning to make around 75 workers redundant.

This would be in addition to around 40 voluntary redundancies that were announced at the Athlone facility in recent weeks.

A spokesperson for Novo Nordisk said it has announced plans to reduce its global workforce by around 9,000 and would not be sharing additional details about individual sites or areas.

"This process takes time, and our highest priority is to support our employees," the spokesperson said.

The pharmaceutical company Novo Nordisk withdrew its planning application to build a plant in Grange Castle last year.Plans included for the site containing 85 acres of land at Grange Castle West was worth around €51 million.



OPERATIONS: Novo Nordisk withdrew its plans for Grange Castle last year

E business

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Nutgrove Retail Centre bought for €11.9 million

French investor purchases retail centre which has a current rent of €842k

FRENCH investor Atland Voisin has bought Nutgrove Retail Centre for €11.9m.

Property agents Cushman & Wakefield had been guiding the sale when it brought the scheme to the market in May of this year for €11.8 million for Clarendon Properties.

Clarendon had acquired the centre for its part in 2015 along with the mixed-use Beacon South Quarter in Sandyford for a total of €12.8 million.

News of Atland Voisin's purchase of Nutgrove Retail Centre comes just over one month after it completed its first Irish industrial investment, paying €7.2 million for a premises at Parkmore West Business Park in Galway.

The Nutgrove scheme, which is located adjacent to Nutgrove Shopping Centre, is fully occupied.

It comprises four interconnected retail warehouse units and is anchored by Home Store & More. Other occupiers include Dealz, Pet World and Pat McDonnell Paints.

The total current rent achievable is €842,934 inclusive of top-ups.



SCHEME: Nutgrove Retail Centre was purchased for €11.9 million

Sinead awarded for her exceptional leadership and people-first approach

"SINEAD'S award is a testament to her exceptional leadership, resilience and people-first approach." Says Dinny Crowe, the Vice President of ABM,whose Irish headquarters are based in Muirfield Drive, Dublin 12, *reports Aine McEnroe.*

Sinead Grogan, Senior Operations Manager, has won the Best Operations Leadership Award at the Women in FM Awards 2025.

This award acknowledges Sineads exceptional leadership in healthcare facilities management, where she has successfully mobilised some of Ireland's largest and most complex contracts.

Over 25 years in her career, Sinead has consistently raised operational standards, empowered teams and built trusted client relationships in some of the country's most challenging healthcare environments.

Among her recent achievements is leading the mobilisation of ABM's largest ever healthcare contract at University Hospital Galway, transitioning more than 350 staff seamlessly across eight facilities.



AWARD: ABM's Senior Operations Manager Sinead Grogan receiving the Best Operations Leadership Award at the Women in FM Awards 2025 from Trevor Smyth, Regional Workplace Service Property Manager at Google

Crowe continues, "She has been pivotal in delivering world-class operations for ABM while supporting and inspiring those around her. We are incredibly proud to see her achievements recognised at the Women in FM Awards."

The Women in FM Awards recognise the outstanding achievements of women shaping the future of facilities management in Ireland.

They celebrate leaders who are driving innovation, advancing workplace diversity, and inspiring the next generation of FM professionals.

ABM continues to grow strongly in the Irish market, employing over 2,600 people and delivering integrated facility, engineering and infrastructure solutions across healthcare, transport, life sciences, aviation, manufacturing and commercial sectors.

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FEATURE: An artist impression of the parks planned for Clonburris

Three new parks in Clonburris approved

Numbers of conditions comes with approval for parks built for 23,000 people

By **Ellen Gough**

ellen@echo.ie

PLANNING permission has been granted for three new public parks in south county Dublin, as part of the Clonburris planned town for up to 23,000 people being built between Lucan and Clondalkin.

The three parks will also include facilities such as pitches, tennis courts, basketball courts and play areas, as well as pedestrian and cycling links, according to the planning application lodged with South Dublin County Council by developers Clonburris Infrastructure Ltd.

Permission was granted for all three parks by the council, with a number of conditions attached.

These conditions include restricting the use of proposed all-weather pitches and associated floodlighting from 9am to 10pm, Monday to Sunday, and to ensure no overhang of any part of the development over nearby rail lines is to be allowed.

As the Clonburris development will be bordered to the north by the main intercity line out of Dublin, the planning decision also said that "no deciduous trees are to be planted directly along the railway boundary, as they can impair the vision of train drivers or their views of signals", the danger posed by leaf litter on the rail lines.

The Griffeen Valley Park extension, to the west of the Outer Ring Road, will be a public park of c.15.94 hectares, on two parcels of land north and south of the Clonburris Southern Link Street and will feature an all-weather GAA pitch, two natural soccer pitches, three tennis courts and a padel court, play areas, a basketball court, cricket fields, allotment areas and coach parking set down area including 27 no. car parking spaces & 78 bicycle spaces, as well as pedestrian access points to Haydens Lane.

The Grand Canal Park will be situated on 7.32 hectares to the north of Lockview Road, west of the Fonthill Road and south of the Grand Canal, within the townlands of Clonburris Great and Kilmahuddrick, and will feature two soccer pitches, play areas and alloments, plus 66 bicycle spaces.

The third park, called Na Cluainte Park South will be located within the Clonburris Little townland and to the north of the Grand Canal, will comprise of landscaped areas, attenuation ponds, a floodlit soccer all weather pitch and a natural soccer pitch, two basketball courts, play areas, two cricket practice creases, and a multi-sports pitch.

The parks are part of the promised 90 hectares of public open space included in the Clonburris development plan, to "cater to every outdoor enthusiast with playgrounds, outdoor gym equipment, playing pitches and allotments".

Funded by The Local Democracy Reporting Scheme

Plans lodged to convert cottage for new padel tennis courts and coffee shop

A PLANNING application has been submitted to convert a cottage on the Turnpike Road to a coffee shop and reception area for new padel tennis courts.

The application, submitted on September 22 by Brightway Properties Ltd, will see existing outbuildings demolished on the site near the Red Cow to make way for three fully enclosed padel tennis courts.

The development will also see partial demolition of the cottage and change of use from residential to commercial to provide "a reception area, coffee shop, multi-purpose studio, changing rooms and associated facilities".

The proposal site extends to approximately 0.22 hectares and is situated on the western side of Turnpike Road on the edge of the wider Ballymount Industrial Estate, with a single storey residential property and a single storey commercial workshop.

According to the planning report in the application, this development will "repurpose and enhance the site through the provision of high-quality recreational facilities and associated amenities", by replacing the existing "low-grade commercial and residential uses with a modern leisure use that contributes positively to the surrounding industrial and residential interface".

Padel tennis is one of the fastest growing sports in the world, with the number of padel players in Ireland "continuing to grow at an impressive rate", according to the governing body, Padel Federation of Ireland.

The three purpose-built padel courts "designed to international standards" will each have an individual playing area of around 200 sq.m, enclosed within two single-storey structures to the rear of existing cottage.

Up to 17 car parking spaces (including one accessible space) and 15 "secure and covered" bicycle parking spaces will be provided in the development.

The final date for third party observations and submissions relating to this proposed development on the council's planning portal is Tuesday, October 28.

A decision is due from South Dublin County Council's planning department by November 16 this year.

Funded by The Local Democracy reporting Scheme



RECREATIONAL: An artist impression of the plans in Ballymount

property

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137 affordable purchase homes approved for Cherry Orchard

Development will include 141 car parking spaces and 306 bicycle parking spaces

PLANNING permission has been granted for over 130 affordable purchase homes in Cherry Orchard.

The 137 new homes are part of a joint development from Dubin City Council (DCC) and the Land Development Agency (LDA).

Part of Phase 2 of the Cherry Orchard Point residential development, which the LDA and DCC are seeking to deliver on 13.01 hectares of land owned by the local authority, the proposed plans include 13 two-bed houses, 88 three-bed houses, 18 two-bed duplexes and 18 three-bed duplexes.

The development will include a new access road connecting to the entrance point at Park West Avenue as approved under the Phase 1 scheme, new internal streets, landscaped public and communal open space, a new pedestrian connection to Cloverhill Road, and all associated site and development works.

The proposed development will also involve the provision of 141car parking spaces, with seven accessible spaces and 71 Electric Vehicle charging points (representing 50% of the total parking spaces, plus a total of 306 bicycle parking spaces and seven motorbike parking spaces.

In total, and subject to planning permission, the LDA and DCC are planning to deliver about 1,131 cost rental, affordable purchase and social homes, a creche, and up to 23,400 square metres of retail space over four phases at Cherry Orchard Point.

Phase 1 and Phase 2 involve the planned development of a 11.41-hectare site located next to Park West & Cherry Orchard Railway Station.

The proposed homes will be adjacent to the M50 and within easy reach of a host of businesses and major employers, including those located at Park West Business Park.

The overall development will deliver a vibrant and sustainable community with Phase 1 including a series of amenities and facilities including a proposed supermarket, commercial/retail units, internal and external community and cultural spaces and a childcare facility.

Once complete, Cherry Orchard Point will also feature landscaped open spaces, including a plaza, multipurpose amenity lawn, outdoor fitness trail, multipurpose games area and a playground.

A network of parks and civic spaces will be connected by tree-lined streets while residents will benefit from high quality integrated and accessible public transport and a safe and permeable environment that promotes sustainable travel modes.

The plans to develop new homes at Cherry Orchard Point are proposed to integrate with other public projects planned locally by DCC and included in the Park West-Cherry Orchard Local Area Plan, which was voted on and approved by Dublin city councillors in October 2019.

Funded by The Local Democracy reporting Scheme



APROVED: Cherry Orchard Point development

Proposals for 12 new apartments on vacant store site and garage



DEVELOPMENT: A photomontage of the plans on the old lucan road Palmerstown

A PLANNING application has been filed for 12 new apartments on a site in Palmerstown.

Perelisa Management Ltd have submitted proposals to demolish an "existing vacant single store structure and associated garage structure" on a site beside Mr Price and Aldi on the Old Lucan Road to make way for the new mixed-use development.

The development will comprise a 94sqm commercial/retail unit on the ground floor, with seven one-bed, three two-bed, and two three-bed apartments in a four-storey building.

"Each apartment will be provided with private amenity space in the form of a balcony/terrace space and communal open space will be provided at ground and roof levels," the proposal submitted on September 19 read.

The development will also include six car parking spaces, including one accessible space, 42 internal and two external bike parking spaces, and set-down area for servicing and deliveries at surface level.

A decision is due from South Dublin County Council planning department by November 13.

Funded by The Local Democracy reporting Scheme

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Nature Boys is Seán's personal journey recording Irish birdsong

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

COMING to The Civic in October, as part of a nationwise sell-out show – 'Nature Boy' is a theatre talk by ornithologist Seán Ronayne about his personal journey recording Irish birdsong and his quest to document the country's biodiversity.

Cork-born ornithologist, wildlife sound-recordist, and award-winning author Seán Ronayne has devoted his life to nature.

After studying Zoology and Marine Biology at UCC, and later specialising in ornithology, Seán began recording the sounds of birds and wildlife: a passion that has since become his life's work.

In 2021 he set out to record the vocalisations of every Irish bird species. With almost 200 to capture, the project highlights the fragile state of Irish ecology, with 63% of birds now at risk of extinction.

To date, Seán has gathered over 12,000 recordings, with just three species left to find.

In this sound-packed, illustrative talk, Seán will bring audiences on a journey through Irish birds, sharing their sounds, stories and struggles.

Along the way they will get to know Seán, whose hypersensitivity to sound has proven both a struggle and a strength.

This week, *The Echo* sat down with Sean to discuss 'Nature Boy', coming to the Civic on October 14 at 7pm; the show is 60 minutes long with an interval and a 1-hour Q & A at the end.

Books will be available to purchase before and after the show.

What made you want to become an ornithologist?

It was in my blood, and was always meant to be. My father's father, 'Pops', was a wonderfully gentle soul who loved spending time out in nature, and my father is the same. He took me out there from the get-go and passed on the generational love for birds to me. My mother was very much on board too, and although she wasn't an outdoorsy person, she listened to my gushing stories of the birds I'd seen, she bought me bird books and optics, and she just encouraged it all. I cherished every moment out there, and one thing led to another. I studied Zoology in UCC, and specialised in ornithology, and the same was true of my two Masters.

What inspired 'Nature Boy'?

Nothing really inspired it, assuming you're referring to the title of my book, and not me as a person! It was my peer-appointed nickname, afterall. It's my life story, and I felt like I had something I could give, I guess. My life has been a rollercoaster ride. I've had some very difficult moments, at least from my perspective - a childhood of finding it hard to fit in, a very close call with death, and a struggle in adulthood to find my place in the world. But nature was there for me always. So it's a story of not giving up, and how nature is vital for us all, whether we realise that or not.

What has been your favourite part of working on this project and why?

The freedom of following my absolute passion in life. For me, immersing myself in the sounds of nature is the most beautiful thing I could ever do. I can be me out there, and block out the stresses of the world. No pressure, no deadlines, no corporate silly talk. Just raw life. I value all of that so much. I've worked some really soul-sucking jobs. They were pretty meaningless, pressured days. But now I get to be out in the air, capturing the beauty of nature's orchestra, and I get to share them with others, and see them smile too. I heard a brilliant quote, which sums it all up. Happiness is only real when shared. And boy is that true.

Have there been any challenges or struggles of working on this project; if so, how have you navigated them?

Well, it required a lot of work. I had to stay up until 2/3am each night (morning?) for a few years. I drank a lot of coffee, and didn't get too much proper sleep. But I was buzzing with the excitement of the project and the results. Speaking in front of crowds, believe it or not, has always been my biggest fear, also. Alba helped me overcome that. She encouraged me to do it. Every talk I do I'm terrified right up until the moment I walk out there. Then something very strange happens to me. I mentally black out, and something in me takes over. I go on a journey and I take the audience with me. I become enraptured by it all, and I relive it on stage. How can I be nervous when I'm back out there in nature, even if it's only in my mind. I often find that I don't remember my shows and I have to ask Alba how it all went! I have a few shows yet to go - audience members - know that when you're sitting in your seats waiting for the show to start, I am absolutely right behind that screen or curtain pacing up and down talking myself up!

What was it about the Civic Theatre that drew your eye as a potential venue for this show?

It's a large, spacious, modern venue, and the Dubs are always a great crowd! Ye can't get rid of me, sure wasn't my daughter born there, somewhat unexpectedly!



NATURE BOY: Sean Ronayne with Brendan O'Connor

What is next for you: do you have any more projects in the pipeline?

Of course! But I can't be telling you that! I'll be taking a back seat for a few months (from the public eye, that is) and I'll be back with several projects to present to you all. I'll be looking at another talking tour for the end of next year, also. A new talk, based around the adventures and projects I'm working on.

Who would you like to thank for helping you with 'Nature Boy'?

Look, I've been very lucky to get the support I have gotten. My partner Alba is a saint. She's changed my life in so many ways. She's so giving, so patient, and so supportive. She's my everything, and I really mean that. Of course she also brought our wonderful little Laia into the world, and the book is dedicated to her. I'm fighting to protect Irish nature so that Laia can live in a rich, healthy, biodiverse world, full of wonder and beauty. My parents of course, started and nourished it all. Hachette and team were brilliant to work with on the book, and Kathleen Harris, Ross Whitaker, and team were just amazing for the film. And of course there are all of the supporters out there who have come to my shows. It's really been so beautiful. This is turning into an Oscars speech now, so I'll not rattle on any further. I'll see ye soon anyway!



Memorial Bench

UNVEILED AT DOMINIC'S COMMUNITY CENTRE

Photos by Paddy Barrett

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Mark, Michelle, Kim, Nicola, Niamh and Denis (Staff)



Children from Young Explorers Preschool, Cllr Niamh Whelan, Niamh Valintine, Mary Betty Whelan (Chair) and Cllr Louise Dunne



Eileen Keogh and Pat Dunne



Mick Dever, Terry Frayne and Liam Hennessy



Mona Harte and Ann Kennedy



Mary Betty Whelan (Chair), Fr Donal Sweeney and Cllr Louise Dunne



Charlie O'Connor, Cllr Niamh Whelan and Evie, Cllr Louise Dunne and Sean Crowe, TD



Fr Donal Sweeney

‘There was so much to see and admire’ Rambling along the Royal Canal

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

"WALKING the Royal Canal from the Liffey to the Shannon was something that I had longed to do for years." explains Ballyfermot-born writer Tom Dredge.

A new book, 'Rambling Along the Royal Canal' by Tom Dredge was launched in the Teachers’ Club, Dublin, in June and is now available in most bookshops and from the Liffey Press website.

Tom was reared in Ballyfermot and now lives in Leixlip. He was interviewed about his book by Éanna Ní Lamhna on the RTE Radio One show ‘Mooney Goes Wild’ on September 1.

The interview can be listened to on RTE Radio One Player.

Tom has always kept a diary while travelling so when he finally got the chance to fulfil his desire in 2015, he set off with a notebook and camera.

"There was so much to see and admire," and he had spoken to so many "interesting" people over the ten non-consecutive days of walking that his notebook began to fill up quickly.

Having finished the walk, he began to research much of what he had seen. However, it would be another two years before the sheer amount of notes prompted him to attempt writing a book.

The information in his book came from multiple sources, such as books, magazines, the internet, talking to people, and his knowledge and memory.

In 2019 he walked the route again, this time with his wife, Helen, allowing him to "explore the hinterland in more detail" and also to have some further chats with characters along the way.

He cites the walk itself as his favourite part of the process though "it’s difficult to separate it from the research as one led on to the other."

Walking along the aqueduct that carries the canal over the M50 Motorway was a "surreal" experience. Walking through the Begnagh Bog was "fascinating" and he enjoyed reading later about how a raised bog is formed and the variety of flora and fauna that thrive there.


EXPLORE: Tom Dredge signing a copy of his book for Éanna Ni Lamhna

In 2023 he applied for and was accepted into the National Mentoring Programme. Working with his mentor, the writer and journalist, Alannah Hopkin, was a "joyful and educational" experience.

Tom used the bus and train transport as much as was possible. Occasionally he had to rely on a lift from his wife either to or from a location.

If there was a B&B at the end of a day’s trek, he would stay overnight and in fact for the last three nights this is what he did.

He has some readings from his book lined up; the most recent one as of writing was on Thursday, September 25 at the Swift Cultural Centre in Trim. Be sure to keep an eye out for more readings to come.

He has recently returned to writing poetry again and hopes to have a book of poetry out over the next couple of years.

Tom would like to thank Alannah Hopkin, writer, journalist and his "wonderful" mentor, and his wife Helen, a "marvellous" editor; and the Irish Writers Centre for the mentorship; and David Givens and the Liffey Press for publishing the book.

Poems of Life & Love inspires Martin’s book

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

"THIS book, titled 'Poems of Life & Love', was inspired by the moments that shaped my life and the expression of the emotions arising from these experiences, relating to love, loss and the human condition."

This is what Citywest author Martin Duffe has to say regarding his recently published book of poetry.

He cites observation as a process he goes through as a writer: "Poetry involves the use of observation of situations and interactions in the creation of imagery that forms the word pictures in writing."

Experiencing the moment is another important aspect of Martin's writing, as for him the poetic theme is created based on the interpretation of real-life experiences that lends itself to evoke enduring images, emotions and memories

He goes on to identify emotional processing as his final step in writing, as poetry is "essentially the identification of the emotions arising from any given situation."

He continues by acknowledging the transference of those emotions to thoughts, which ultimately "find their meaning" in words.

Martin goes on to state that 'My Friend, My Brother' is his favourite poem from the collection, as its theme can "relate to anybody at some point in their life", though there are a number of poems he could consider his favourite.

When asked about the challenges he faced when writing, Martin reflects on trying to find a suitable place to write without empty noise or distractions: "Creativity flows best in silence."

He remarks that he can best describe writing by comparing it to creating a sculpture: "The more you sculpt it, the more you step back and self-criticise."

Martin overcame this challenge by realising that "nothing in life is perfect" and through understanding that art is "an interpretation by the human spirit."

He would like to thank his wife, Meyre, for giving him "endless" inspiration, and to whom the book is dedicated.

Be sure to keep an eye out for 'Poems of Life & Love' in bookshops, as well as an upcoming volume of poetry titled 'Poems of the Heart & Soul', which Martin is currently working on and is hoping will be published next year.



iNsPiRED: Citywest author Martin Duffe with his recently published book

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John Keogh (Citywise), Deirdre Mortell (Rethink Ireland) and Eugene Hillery



Laura Breen (NIBRT) and Eugene Ryan (Volunteer)



Marie Corr (Citywise Board Member) and Leah Keogh (Social Worker)



Thos McDermott, Darragh Conway and Don Russell



Annaleah Murray, Sophia Flynn, Sophie Cullen, Aoife O'Shea and Emily Burke



Sarah Majchrzak



Joe Lumumba (Administrative Officer, SDCC) and Cllr Adam Smyth



Blake with Staff at the turning of the sod

Choral Connections celebrates inclusion recovery and joy

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

"CHORAL Connections is more than a concert – it's a celebration of the human spirit." begins Carmen Bryce, Communications Manager of Mental Health Ireland.

Music has the power to connect, to heal, and to give voice to lived experience. This World Mental Health Day, Friday, October 10, four Dublin-based choirs, including Tallaght-based Maria Lane Choir will come together for Choral Connections.

This is a unique one-night community concert that celebrates inclusion, recovery, and the joy of singing together.

The event will feature choirs whose missions reflect the heart of community connection and resilience:

Maria Lane Choir (Tallaght Cancer Support) is a community choir of cancer survivors and supporters, whose performances are a testament to resilience, peer support, and life beyond illness.

Rising Voices from Finglas is an inclusive choir for people living with dementia and memory loss, along with their families, friends, and carers.

Their performances shine a light on the role of music in memory, connection, and dignity.

High Hopes Choir is Ireland's first choir formed with people affected by homelessness. Through song, members find confidence, solidarity, and a shared voice that has inspired audiences across the country.

DFAT Choir is a staff choir from the Department of Foreign Affairs, reflecting Ireland's public service ethos and global cultural engagement.

Fionnuala Moran, Irish broadcaster, sustainability influencer, and DJ, will host the evening. With her warmth, energy, and ability to connect with audiences, Fionnuala will guide them through an uplifting night of music and storytelling.

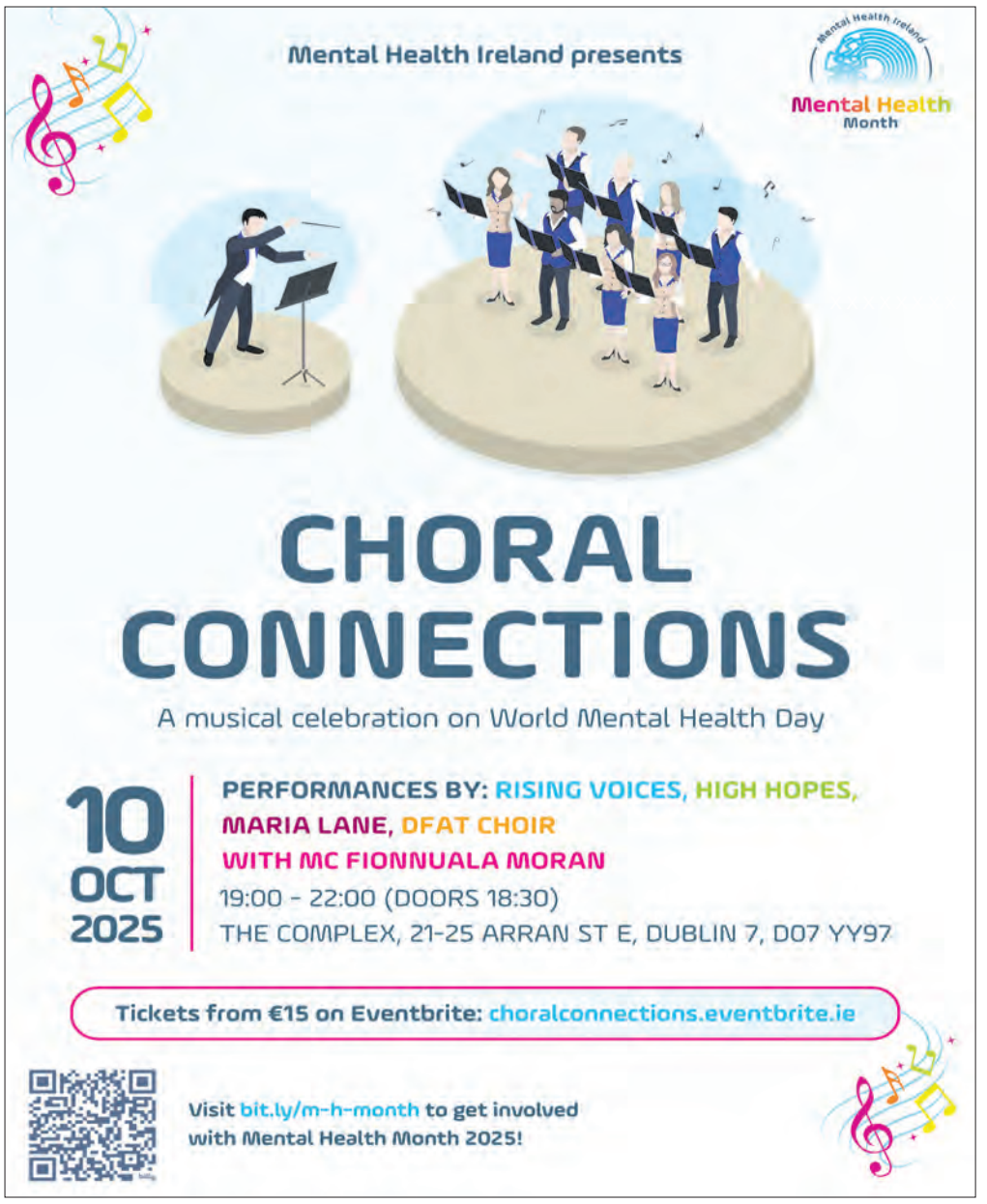
Best known for her work on Virgin Media's The Six O'Clock Show and RTÉ 2FM, she advocates for accessible, practical approaches to sustainable living and brings that same inclusive ethos to her work as an MC.

Speaking ahead of the concert, Carmen Bryce made the following points regarding the event:

"Each choir tells a story of courage, care, and community. On World Mental Health Day, we invite the public to experience the joy of voices raised together, reminding us that connection is at the heart of mental health and wellbeing."

'Choral Connections' takes place in The Complex on Arran Street East on October 10 from 7pm to 10pm (doors open at 6:30pm).

Tickets are available from Eventbrite.



Women's shed provides activities and opportunities for recreation


ACTIVITIES: Valerie Lynch Kelly, Cllr Lynn McCrave, Moira Harkin, Frances Fitzgerald, Anne Cogan and Irene Byrne

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

"WE'VE just started back after the summer recess," explains Rathfarnham Village Women's Shed Chairperson Lynn McCrave, who founded the committee three years ago during COVID to bring women together.

The Women's Shed provides many activities and opportunities for recreation, including bridge on Mondays, which requires a partner, from 10:30am to 12:00 at the Church of Ireland Parish centre in Rathfarnham beside the AIB bank.

Thursday activities start with Maggie's line dancing from 10:30 to 11:30, followed by a speaker at the Church of the Annunciation Parish Centre on Willbrook Road.

The Friday schedule includes Ursula's chair aerobics at 10am and a guest speaker at 11am at the Church of Ireland Parish Centre in Rathfarnham Village.

Events include a hospice coffee morning that took place on Thursday, September 25, and upcoming activities include working on stained glass windows, baking, and taking a trip to the Dail.

The group also organises outings, trips to the mill theater, and visits to the local cinema in the Nutgrove shopping centre.

Christmas outings are also part of the schedule, and the group is described as a bubbly and exciting community.

The group has over 90 members as of writing and communicates through a group chat on WhatsApp; they take a break around Halloween and for two weeks over Christmas.

The annual fee for line dancing and chair aerobics is €20, with an additional €5 per day for participation.

The fee includes tea and coffee, and the group is open to women of all ages.

For help with organizing the Women's Shed and their events, Lynn would like to thank the Rathfarnham Village Women's Shed committee, mentioning the secretary Maura Harkin.

Blessing of the Animals

HELD IN ST KEVIN'S CHURCH IN KILNAMANAGH

Photos by Paddy Barrett

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Mary, Laoise, Tara and Maisie



Ray and Dolores Hurley with Millie



Canon William Deverell, Hilda O'Sullivan, Fr Frank and Charlie



The Devereux family with Bella (dog) and Toby (cat)



Louise, Killian and Daire with Cody the dog



The Downer Family and Millie



Pauline and Roxy



Sheila, Betty, Teresa, Phyllis and Jess the dog



Donna, Claudia and Mason with Kobe and Rusty



Hilda O'Sullivan, Adrian O'Brien and Benji

> The only thing I like better than talking about food is eating.
>
> *John Walters*

Food with passion

MOUTH-WATERING MEATLOAF



by john paul kennedy / jpcooking@gmail.com

There is nothing more mouth-watering and comforting that a superior quality meatloaf made with top quality ingredients, lightened up with some seasonal flavours. great for feeding a crowd, this meatloaf is quick and easy to prepare, is super moist and flavoursome. i would always recommend sourcing excellent quality meat from your local butchers, i find its always better quality! when this comes out of the oven it is a real feast for the eyes, coupled with the most delicious smells; served with mash potato and some seasonal greens and you have a winning dish that all the family will love. my brother barry enjoyed this so much he went back for third helpings – it is that good!

Ingredients: (serves six, if making for more double the recipe)

1lb minced beef.
1lb minced pork.
One carrot finely diced.
One onion finely diced.
½ celery stick finely chopped
Tablespoon each of fresh Thyme or sage and rosemary finely chopped.
One ball of fresh mozzarella – chopped into small pieces.
One tablespoon of tomato puree
400ml of hot chicken stock
Twelve pieces of smoked streaky bacon
One egg
100g fresh breadcrumbs'
One teaspoon of whole grain mustard
One teaspoon of dijon mustard
dash of Olive oil
sea salt and cracked black pepper.













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 the oven to 190 degrees /350f. in a large casserole / cast-iron dish drizzle in some olive oil and on a medium heat fry off the carrot, onions, celery, and half of the chopped fresh herbs and cook off for about 10 minutes.
2. in a large mixing bowl combine the cooked carrots, onions and celery with the meats, mozzarella cheese, tomato puree, wholegrain mustard, egg, breadcrumbs, remaining herbs and a grinding of salt and pepper and mix well until everything is well combined.
3. in a large baking dish, mould into a loaf shape and cover with the streaky bacon in a criss-cross design. cover with tinfoil and roast for 30 minutes.
4. after 30 minutes remove the foil and mix the hot chicken stock with the dijon mustard and pour over and around the meatloaf. cook for another 45- 55 minutes until the bacon is nice and crispy.
5. serve with creamy mashed potato and season greens, peas, broccoli or cabbage and a generous drizzle of stock from the bottom of the pan and enjoy – comfort food heaven.

at this time of year, everyone craves perfect comfort seasonal food. stews, casseroles, and this meatloaf are perfect one pot / pan dishes that go a long way. This meatloaf is incredibly moist, light, and flavoursome and served with the perfect accompaniments such as mash and greens, for me is the ultimate comfort food bowl as the nights get darker and colder. This is a new favourite in my household, and i am sure if you give this recipe a go it will become a family favourite in yours too

Contact jp on:
Twitter: @Jpkcooking
Email: Jpkcooking@gmail.com
Instagram: jpkennedy.kennedy

FLASH GORDON

LOWLAND STATION.
A STORM HAS TRAPPED A GROUP OF TRAVELERS IN THE KOMOK'S BRIDE PUB...
...WHERE SIX STRANGERS SHARE THEIR ENCOUNTERS WITH THE ALIEN WARRIOR
...ONE OF WHOM IS SPRINGING A TRAP OF HER OWN.

SUDDENLY, THE BARTENDER CLAPS A MAGNA-CUFF ON WILDA'S WRIST.
BECAUSE SHE ISN'T A BARTENDER AT ALL.

SHE'S THE CAPTAIN OF A DEATH PATROL, OUT TO FINALLY CATCH THIS WARTIME DESERTER.
THEY'RE STILL FOLLOWING MING'S ORDERS...

...BUT MING ISN'T IN CHARGE ANYMORE, IS HE?
THE PEOPLE OF MONGO UNITED AGAINST HIM.

IT WENT A LITTLE SOMETHING LIKE THIS.

DAY BREAKS. THE STRANGERS CONTINUE ON THEIR SEPARATE JOURNEYS.
DAN SCHKADE 3-30-25
NOTHING IN COMMON BETWEEN THEM...

...EXCEPT THAT THEY ALL ONCE MET A MAN FROM ANOTHER WORLD.
AND A WORLD IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT.
NEXT: INTO THE JAWS OF KIRA

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THE PHANTOM™

CREATED BY LEE FALK

IN THE MORNING, SURVIVORS MOVE DEEPER INTO THE RIVER COUNTRY.
THEIR ARMY DEFEATED, THEY VOW TO WAGE AN INSURRECTIONARY WAR OF MANY YEARS, IF NECESSARY, AGAINST THE SULTAN OF MOROCCO.

TIME FOR PARTING...
THE WOUNDED CAPTAIN FOR HOME, HIS SOLDIERS FOR THE NORTH.

THE GIRL'S HEART, BE SHE SERVANT OR SLAVE, IS WITH THE RESCUE.

HER MISTRESS REBUKES HER FOR BEING SLOW TO FOLLOW, BUT THE PHANTOM KNOWS THE GIRL IS RIGHT...

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IF SHE ISN'T THERE, THE CHILD WILL BE AS TERRIFIED OF HER RESCUE AS OF HER ABDUCTION.
Tony DePaul & Jeff Weigel 12-22-24

www.thephantomcomics.com

POPEYE

THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS
BY RANDY MILHOLLAND

THIS INN IS THE OLDEST PLACE IN TOWN.
DON'T WORRY. I PROMISE IT'S NOT HAUNTED.

IMAGINE THINKING "OUR TOWN IS SO AWFUL, OUR DEAD ALWAYS MOVE ON" IS A SELLING POINT.
ARF! ARF!

THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS
"SHADOW OVER FIN'S SOUTH"
PART 7
AFTER GETTING A TEMPORARY TATTOO OF A POSSUM AND THEIR BOAT DESTROYED IN A MAGICAL STORM, OLIVE AND POPEYE ARE STUCK "ENJOYING" THE HOSPITALITY OF THE PEOPLE OF FIN'S SOUTH, BUT SOMETHING IS OFF....
AND HERE'S YOUR ROOM! BEST SUITE IN THE INN!
KIN WE GIT—
GOODNIGHT!

IT'S FINALLY TIME!

EVERYTHIN' OKAY, BOSS?
AS GOOD AS IT CAN BE. OUR GUESTS ARE RESTING.

TH' SUMMONIN' ALTAR IS READY.
GREAT! GATHER THE OTHERS!

DOOM SHALL COME FOR OUR GUESTS BEFORE THEY EVEN KNOW WHAT HIT THEM!

... AND NOW HE'S LIGHTING THE PYRE— NO. HE ACCIDENTALLY IGNITED HIS SCARF.
WELL, IF WE'S GOTSTA DEAL WIT' A CULT, AT LEASK IT'S NOT A SMART CULT.

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popeye.com

TASQ-ART

WWW.TASQART.COM

"Exercise should be regarded as tribute to the heart.

Gene Tunney

Health & Fitness

8 EVERYDAY ACTIVITIES THAT TOTALLY COUNT AS EXERCISE (YES, REALLY!)

by Ursula Frawley / info@moveitfitness.ie



When most people hear the word exercise, they picture sweaty gym sessions, early morning runs, or hiking up hills. But here's the thing. You might be moving your body more than you think!

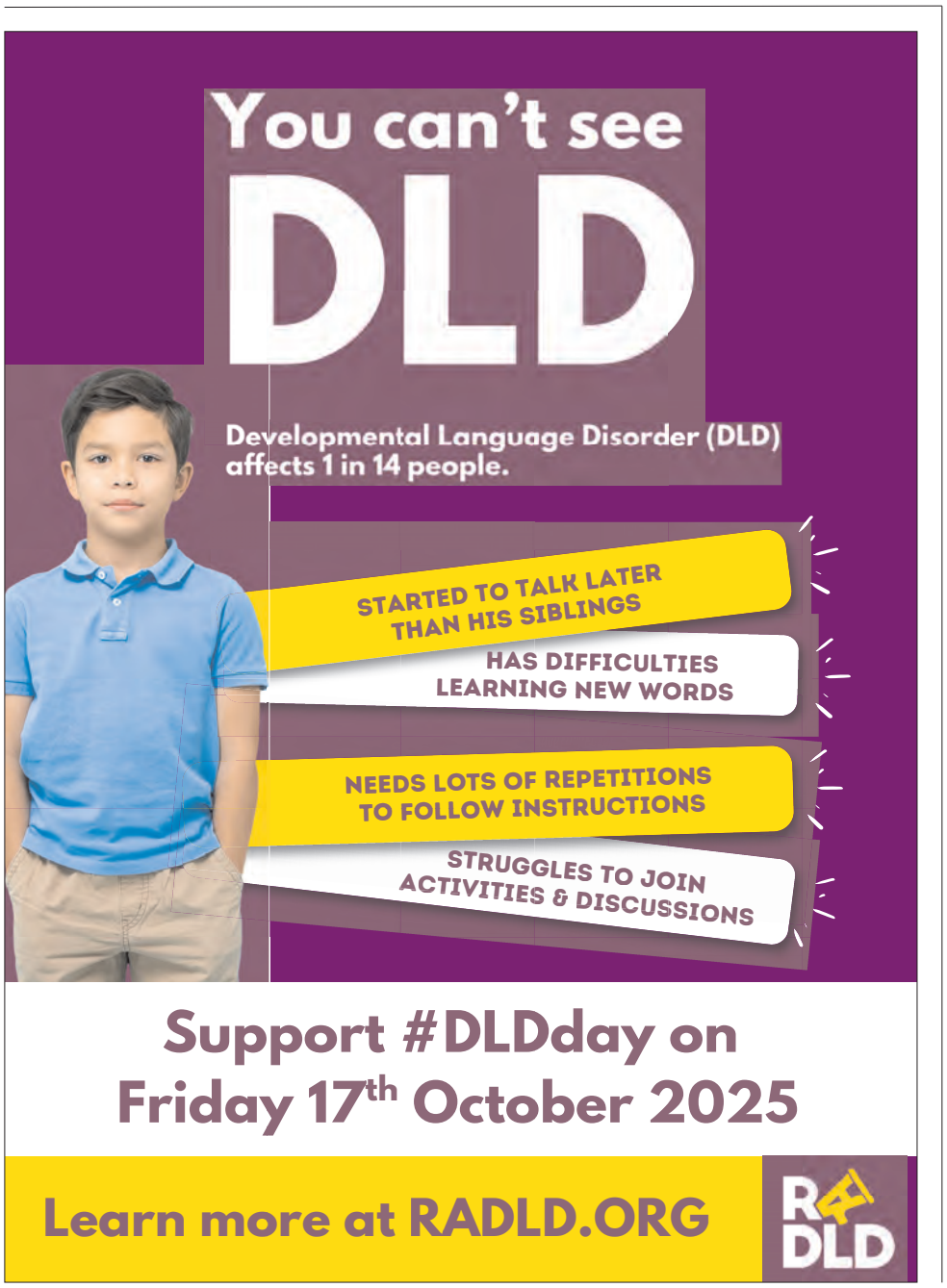
I've had so many clients say, "I don't really exercise." But when we chat about their day-to-day life, I point out that they're already doing quite a bit. It just doesn't look like traditional exercise.

So if you've ever felt like you're not doing "enough," here are 8 everyday activities that absolutely count as exercise and you might be doing them already.

1. Gardening

Think it's just about flowers? Think again. Between digging, weeding, mowing and lifting bags of compost, gardening is a full-body workout in disguise. Plus, you get the added bonus of fresh air and feel-good endorphins.

URSUla FRaWlEY IS A PeRSOnAl TRAIneR And OWneR Of MOve IT fITneSS. HeR OnlIne STRenGTH & fITneSS ClASSeS, WHICH Run llve 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 llveS In duBlIn 24 WITH HeR HuSBAnd And fOuR CHIldRen. GeT MORe InfORMATIOn BY eMAIlInG HeR AT InfO@MOveITfITneSS.Ie OR WWW.MOveITfITneSS.Ie



2. Taking the Stairs

Those daily trips up and down the stairs add up. Climbing stairs is brilliant for your heart, legs and lungs. Skip the lift and give yourself credit for every step.

3. Chasing Kids (or Grandkids)

Running after toddlers, picking them up, loading them into the car is a workout and a half. If you're doing this daily, you're already strength training and doing cardio.

4. Dancing

Whether it's on a night out or dancing around your kitchen, if you've ever come home sweaty and exhausted after a good bop, that's because you just smashed a cardio session.

5. Housework

Hoovering, mopping, wiping counters, scrubbing - it all gets your body moving, especially when you do it with a bit of energy. Bonus points for music!!

6. Playing With Your Pet

Running around after your dog, throwing a ball, bending down, walking around the park – it all gets the heart rate up. Your dog's not the only one getting a workout.

7. Running Errands

Walking from shop to shop, carrying bags, parking a little further away than usual sneaks extra steps and movement into your day.

8. Washing the Car

By the time you've scrubbed, hoovered, wiped and shined, your arms, legs and core have had a great session. And your car looks fabulous too!!

Research shows that regular, everyday movement has a massive impact on your health. So next time you feel like you "haven't done much," take a look at your day and give yourself some credit.

Movement is movement and it all counts. Keep going, keep moving, and remember that the little things make a big difference.

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.

Muintir Chrónáin express

GRATITUDE TO UACHTARÁN NA hÉIREANN MICHAEL D Ó hUIGÍNN

Photos by Tony Gavin

Photos taken for *The Echo* are available to purchase. Email **reception@echo.ie** or call 01-4685350.
You can view *The Echo* Photography Policy on ***echo.ie***



Bord Mhuintir Chrónáin L-R: Leo Mac Tiarnáin, Gearóid Ó Cathain, Oisín Mac Tiarnáin, Meadhbh Ní Cheallaigh, Uachtarán na hÉireann Mícheál D. Ó hUigínn, Sabina Ní Uigínn, Brian Ó Gáibhín, Cilliain Mac Tiarnáin, Don de Harpúr, Tommie Ó Ceallaigh, Edel Ní Arrachtáin.



Poet Barry Currivan



Dave Hingerty, Brian Hogan, Colm Ó Snodaigh, James Mahon, Rossa O Snodaigh, Uachtarán na hÉireann Mícheál D. Ó hUigínn, Rónán Ó Snodaigh, Sabina Ní Uigínn, Senan Brennan, Tom Skerrit Front L-R: Brian Ó Gáibhín (Áras Chrónáin), Seamie Séan (Mac le Senan), Ceallach McAdhaimh (Muintir Chrónáin)



Mayor Pamela Kearns, Uachtarán na hÉireann Mícheál D. Ó hUigínn, Sabina Ní Uigínn agus Colm Ward CEO of South Dublin County Council



Uachtarán na hÉireann Mícheál D Ó hUigínn Brian Ó Gáibhín (Áras Chrónáin)



Kila performing on the night in Áras Chrónáin



Mayor Pamela Kearns, Brian Ó Gáibhín (Áras Chrónáin), Meadhbh Ní Cheallaigh (Cathaoirleach Mhuintir Chrónáin), Uachtarán na hÉireann Mícheál D Ó hUigínn

Health Fair Day

HELD IN KINGSWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE ON TUESDAY

Photos by Paddy Barrett

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Elaine and Keith (AADI)



Jean, Lynda and Anne (NINA)



Adam (Community Rep), Jacqueline (Health Prevention Education Worker (IDATF) and Sinéad (Community Food and Nutrition Worker)



Glenda, Elaine and Isla (Dog)



Róisín and Mia (Foróige)



Imelda (An Cosan)



Elaine and Phil (Saoirse)



Danielle, Barry and Miriam (Jigsaw)

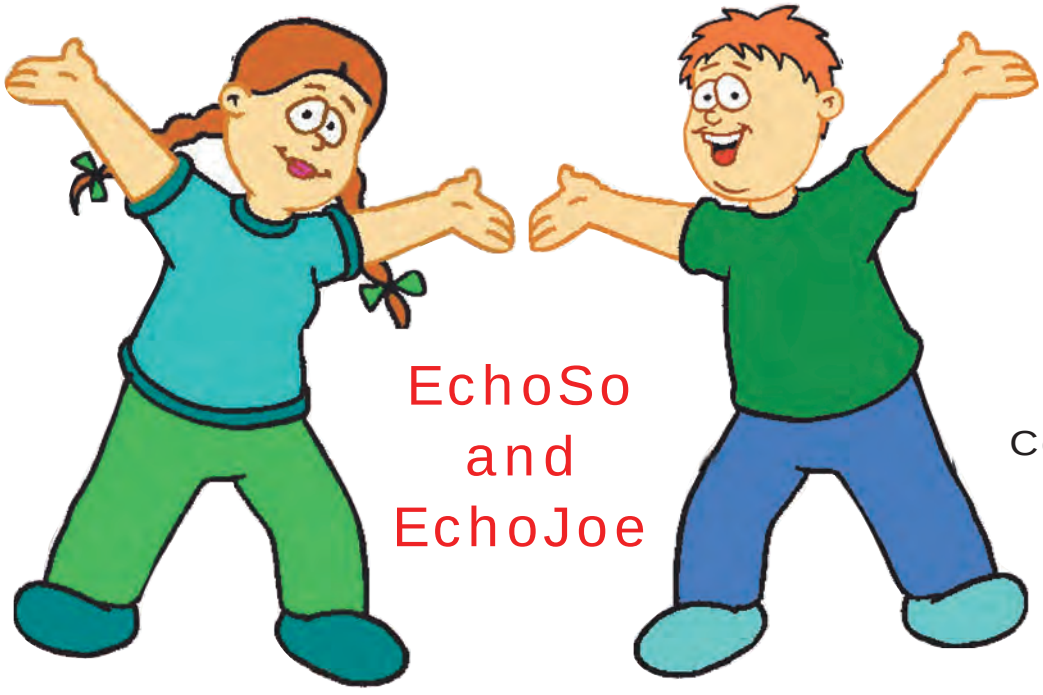


AJ and Sweety (TUH)



Julie and Tanya (TRP)

Hope you're all enjoying our Colouring Competition

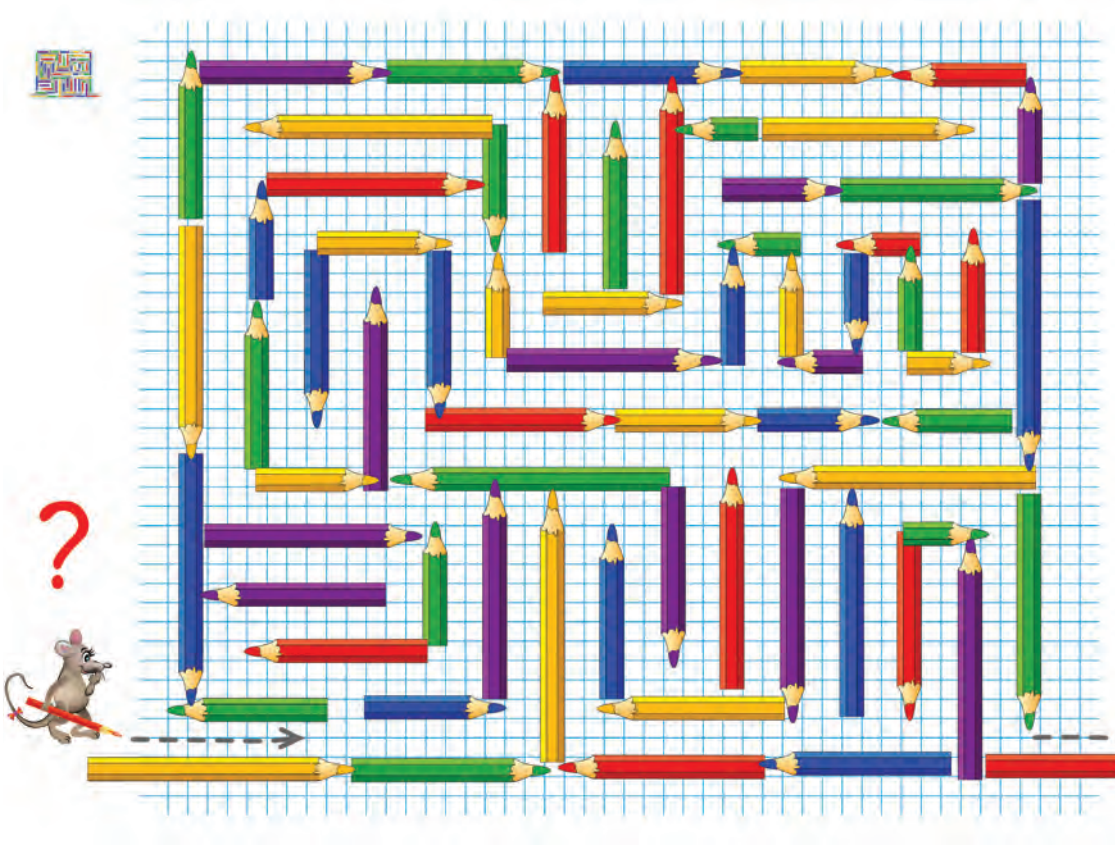


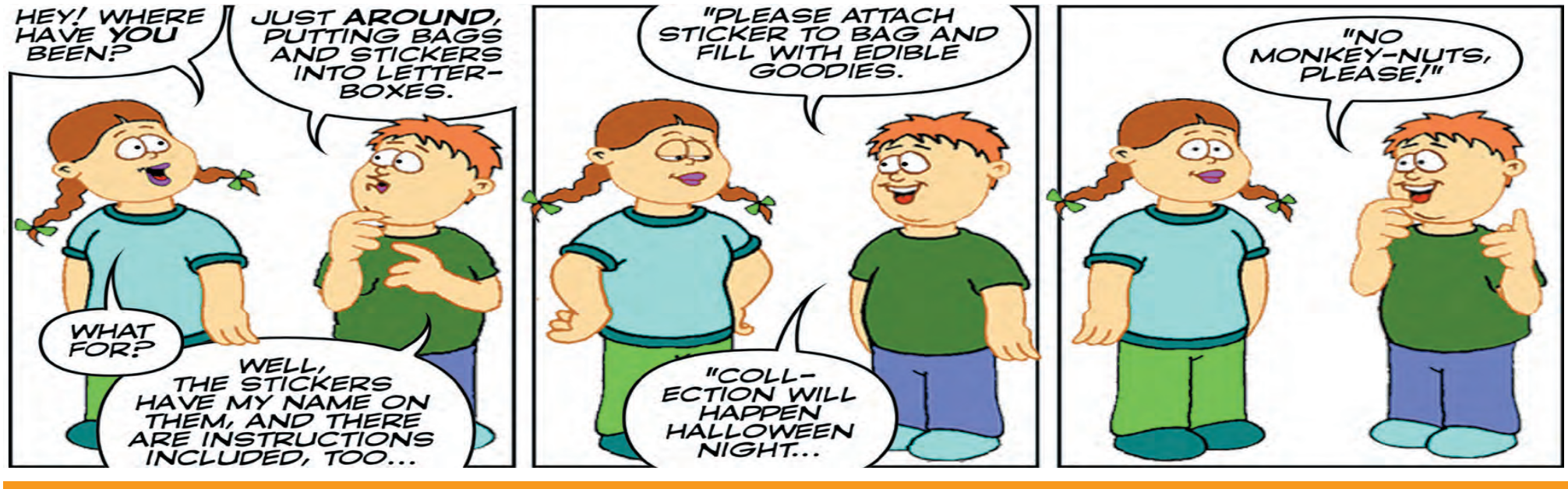
EchoSo and EchoJoe



Colour in the birds picture on page 55, take a picture of it and email it to reception@echo.ie or whatsapp it to 083 0106275 and be in with a chance to win a PRIZE.



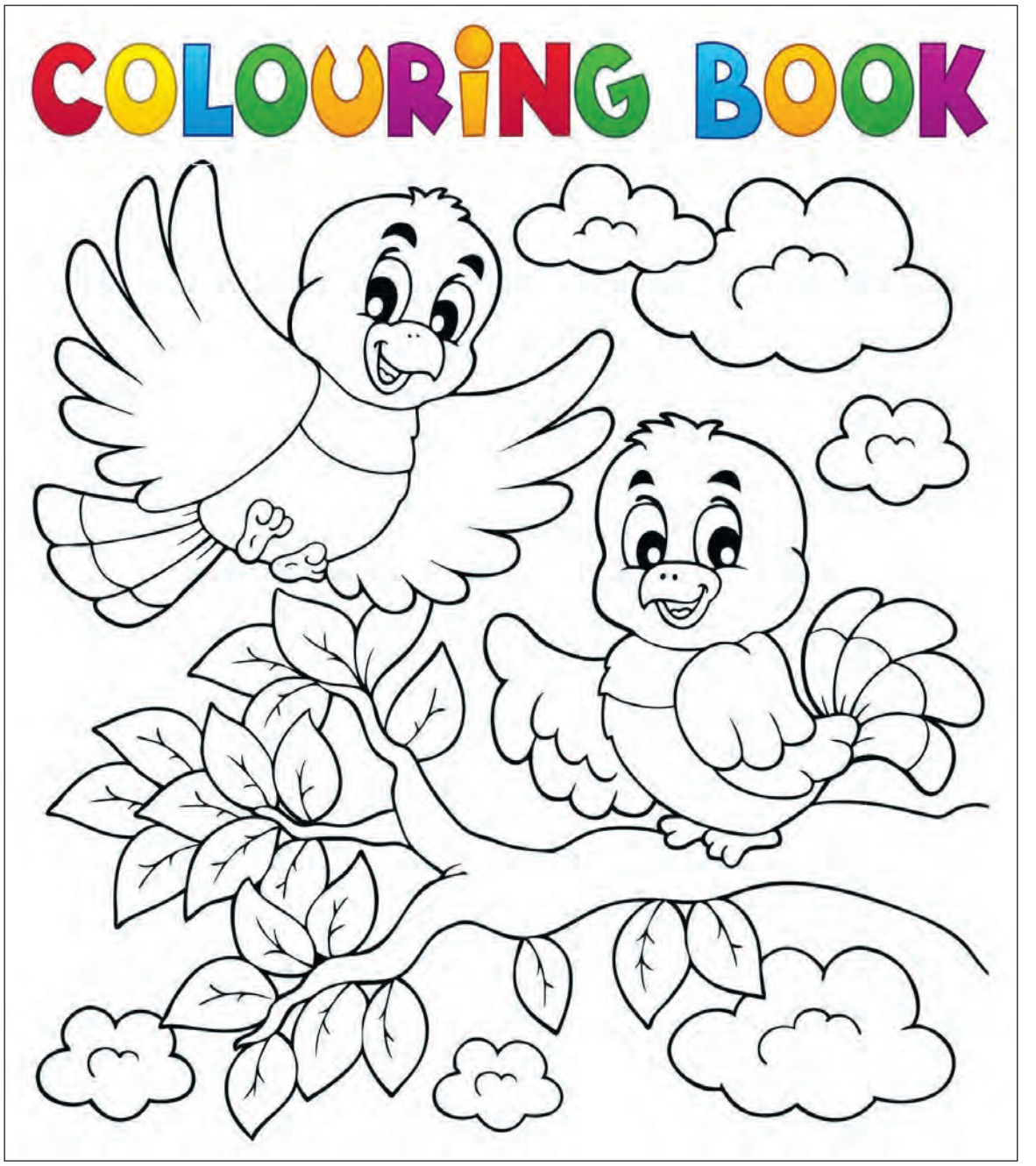


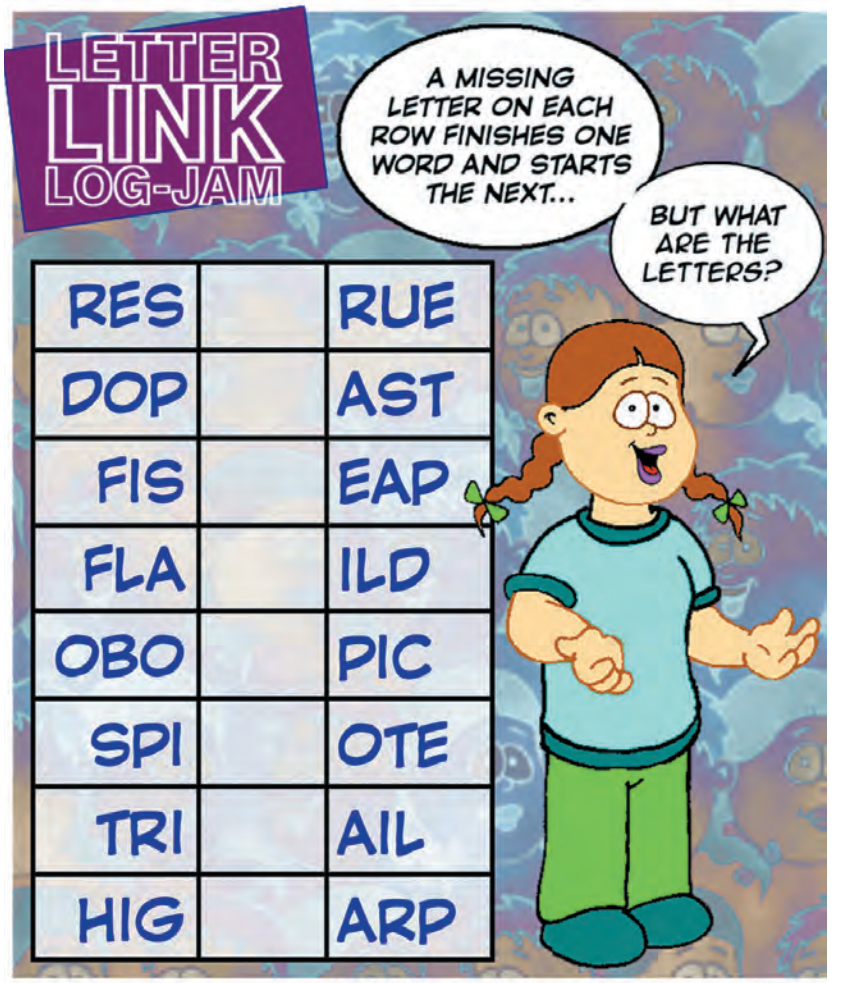


These 2 EchoJoe pages of Awesome, Amazon,

Find the ten differences between the two pictures





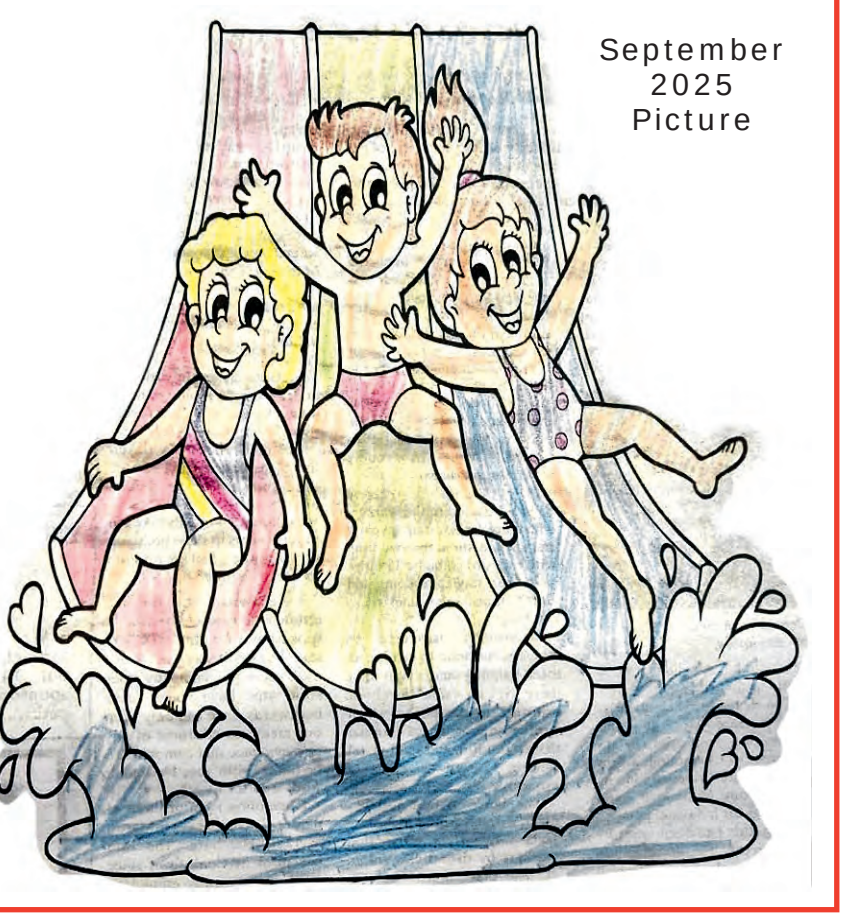


the missing letters: T, E, H, G, E, N, M, H.

This week's winner!

Anna Ryder, aged 7, is this week's winner of the Echo Joe colouring competition. Anna, 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

Activities are kindly sponsored by amazon

€350m sale of Liffey Valley close

THE Liffey Valley Shopping Centre is set to be sold within the next few weeks, it has emerged.

It has been reported that two investment funds based in the UK are to pay in the region of €350 million for the shopping complex, as well as a large adjoining site that has received planning permission with 'town centre' status.

The two funds have been named as FC Reit Asset Management and Area Property Partners.

The centre, which is currently fully occupied, is estimated to be earning €30 million in annual rents, although that sum is expected to rise to €34 million when new rent deals have been agreed.

The Vue Cinema Complex now pays €2 million per annum in rent. Other major tenants include Boots and Next, which are each paying €1 million.

Owners Morley Fund Management and the Duke of Westminster's Grosvenor Estates first put Liffey Valley on the market, along with an adjoining site of 17.3 acres, in July 2003.

At that stage, the potential sale attracted offers of €300 million and €400 million for a 50 per cent stake.

Earlier this year, South Dublin County Council granted planning permission for a 62,000sq m mixed-use extension to the centre with an 8,000 sq m civic square.

It is understood that the extension will include a large supermarket for Tesco, two department stores, 60 retail units, as well as two multi storey car parks with capacity for more than 2,000 cars.

If the sale goes ahead it would be the largest property transaction since the summer of 2006, when Eircom Pension Fund sold the Pavilions shopping centre in Swords for €575 million.

The sale of Liffey Valley is being handled by estate agents Savills and DTZ Sherry FitzGerald.

Siobhan wins pressure test



DELIGHT: Siobhan Hartigan receiving her Teacher's Training Diploma in ICT Skills from Dolores James, Ballyfermot IT centre manager

MS sufferer worked hard for her diploma

By **Lynda O'Donoghue**

PEAMOUNT resident Siobhan Hartigan has collected her computer teaching qualification after two years of "intense work and high pressure".

But the 36 year old, a wheelchair user who was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in 1997, was "delighted" to see her hard work pay off.

Siobhan and volunteer Paula Hayes decided to do the JEB course at Ballyfermot College after they successfully qualified with an ECDL three years ago.

Siobhan told *The Echo*: "It's a big achievement for me. It was a condensed two-year course, it was intense and high pressure but myself and Paula studied together."

Now Siobhan says she would like to use her qualification to teach other adults how to become computer-savvy.

She revealed: "I hope to get into adult education in Lucan. I'm definitely going to go and do something with [the qualification] but I would prefer one on one tutoring."

She also revealed that one of the coordinators at Peamount, Mary Lee Tully, encouraged her to further her education.

She said: "She informed me of the course and gave me one hell of a push and I landed on my head.

"I would encourage anyone to go for it, I would recommend it to anybody."

Teenage issue talks kick off this month



LECTURES: The series of talks will take place in the County Library in Tallaght

EXPERTS on issues affecting teenagers such as drugs and mental health will soon deliver a series of lectures at the County Library in Tallaght.

The series of seven lectures on various topics to the parents of teenagers will take place on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm, starting on October 27.

The talks are primarily for parents but are also relevant and appropriate for teachers and anyone who works with young people.

The opening lecture of the series will address parenting and building positive relationships with teenagers with Ms Martina Newe, Director of HelpMe2Parent.

Ms Newe said she will talk to parents about the importance of maintaining close bonds with their teenagers.

She explained: "I will be talking about the importance of building positive connections and keeping those connections with their children and particularly when they get to their teenage years.

"Families are very nuclear now and a lot of couples don't have the luxury of living near their extended family.

"Parents are very very isolated in their parenting role and couple that with all the extra influences that are on kids like TV, the internet and mobile phones and they have a lot more input and interference in teenagers lives that you had years ago.

"There is a lot of challenges for parents."

Other subjects which will be discussed during the series include suicide, drugs and eating disorders while cyber safety will be addressed by the National Parents Council.

In addition, the current and controversial issue of teenage mental health will be covered by Dr Claire Flahavan, Registrar in Child and Adolescent Mental Health at the Lucena Foundation.

The series will conclude with a positive lecture on how to help young people. It will be delivered by Dr Tony Bates, a senior clinical psychologist and one of the authors of the National Mental Health Policy – a Vision for Change.

Lectures are free but booking is essential. For further information and to book your place, please telephone 4620073 or email tablib@sdublincoco.ie.



This advertisement is no longer active

GAA

Towers ladies secure league title

IT WAS all smiles for Round Tower senior ladies football team who clinched the Division Two league crown.

The Clondalkin delivered a big team performance as they easily overcame the challenge of Kilmacud Crokes 1-19 to 2-7 in Newcastle.

This was a well deserved victory for Towers with their forward line putting in big display to see them past the line.

Emily Hamill was superb for the Clondalkin side, accounting for a goal and 10 points from full forward while they had many big performances on the day.

Dublin senior 'B' keeper Hannah Tyrell played at centre forward for the winners and put in a solid show while she ably assisted by Andrea Bowe, Amanda Murray and Ruth Collins.

Dublin senior player Maria Kavanagh, who returned to club training the Wednesday after Dublin's All-Ireland success, also played her part in Towers successful run.Towers enjoyed a remarkable run in the league, winning all of their seven games including wins over Kilmacud Crokes, St Peregrine's, Lucan Sarsfields, Skerries Harps, Croí Ró-Naofa and Ballinteer St John's.

While Towers are still unbeaten in the league, they still have one game left to play against Raheny.

In the championship this year, Towers were beaten by Ballinteer St John's at the quarter-final stages.

However they have top flight league football to look forward to next season and with plenty of talent on board, Towers should hold their own in this division.



Round Towers senior ladies football team secured the Division Two league crown last week

Joy for Gaels U16s in hurling c'ship

LIFFEY Gaels U16 hurlers turned in a strong second half performance as they raised the Juvenile 'C' Championship crown on Saturday.

Six points in arrears at the interval, the Ballyfermot side came storming back in the second half to see off Round Towers 1-14 to 2-7 in St Peregrine's.

This was certainly a game of two halves with Towers enjoying the better of the opening half exchanges and this showed on the scoreboard with a couple of fine scores.

However Gaels corner forward Brian Gregg kept his team in contention when he fired over three points, but it was Towers that went in leading 1-6 to 0-3 at the interval after registering good scores.

What ever was said at half time certainly worked as the Ballyfermot outfit came storming back with a string of points.

Inspired by midfielder Mark Ryan and forward Brian Gregg, the Ballyfermot side piled on the pressure and it paid off.

Gregg chipped in with eight points in total, seven from frees as he punished the Towers defence.

With Chris Mooney and Adam Balfe tightening up in the Gaels defence, the Clondalkin boys found it difficult to chalk up the scores as they were held to a goal and a point in the second half.

Stephen Byrne knocked over two points for the winners while Balfe and Andy Conway chipped in with scores.

With 10 minutes remaining on the clock, Mark Ryan broke through for a goal to bring his tally to a goal and two points.

It rounded off a great week for the Sarsfield Road side who also won their football league to complete the double.

The team is also in the hunt for the hurling league title, requiring just one point from two games to make sure of the title.



Liffey Gaels U16 hurlers secured the 'C' Championship title on Saturday



Members of the Dublin ladies football team brought the Brendan Martin All-Ireland trophy around the city last week

St Jude's U13 hurlers lift league title in style

ST JUDE'S U13 hurlers were rewarded for a fine season last weekend when they were crowned Division Two league champions.

The Templeogue boys made sure of the title when they saw off Craobh Chiarain 9-5 to 2-8 in Tymon Park.

Jude's knew going into the match that a win would secure them the title while a win for Craobh would have eased their relegation worries.

Jude's got off to a superb start when Colm Hayes grabbed a goal five minutes in a fter a solo run from 60 yards out.

He added a second goal in the ninth minute with a great goal from a free from just outside the 20metre line.

The hosts seemed to be cruising at this stage but the Doneycarney side had other ideas and they matched Jude's for the remainder of the half, with Jude's leading 3-2 to 1-5 at the break. Mark Maguire scored the Jude's third goal.

Jude's however upped a gear in the second period with Robert Fitzgerald registering one of his trademark goals.

By the 10th minute, Jude's were eleven points in the clear while Conor Power in defence along with Mark Maguire and Pierce Moran put in big shows.

With Jude's forwards impressing with Fitzgerald adding another couple of scores, the hosts held out a vital victory.

Boden are sent packing from c'ship

BALLYBODEN St Enda's senior footballers were sent packing from the championship last week.

The defending champions went down to St Vincent's 2-9 to 0-13 in Parnell Park in a well contested match in Parnell Park.

Two second half goals from Tiernan Diamond and Dubs star Tomas Quinn proved the difference at the finish.

The opening quarter of this game was evenly balanced and at the break Boden were two up with Declan O'Mahoney, Conal Keaney and Michael Darragh McAuley firing over points.

Diamond scored a goal directly after the break, but Enda's hit back in style with Keaney striking over the next four points.

But Quinn responded for Vincent's with a couple of frees and then he scored the crucial second goal 10 minutes from time.

Keaney scored eight points for Boden while Andrew Kerins, Michael Darragh McAuley, Declan O'Mahoney and Mark McCabe landed points.

The team will now be concentrating on holding their own in the Division One league this season.

Synger U16s secure cup title

TEMPLEOGUE/Synge Street's U16 footballers had plenty to celebrate on Saturday when they claimed the cup title.

The Templeogue side put together a superb team performance as they got the better of St Sylvester's 2-16 to 2-6 in Bushy Park.

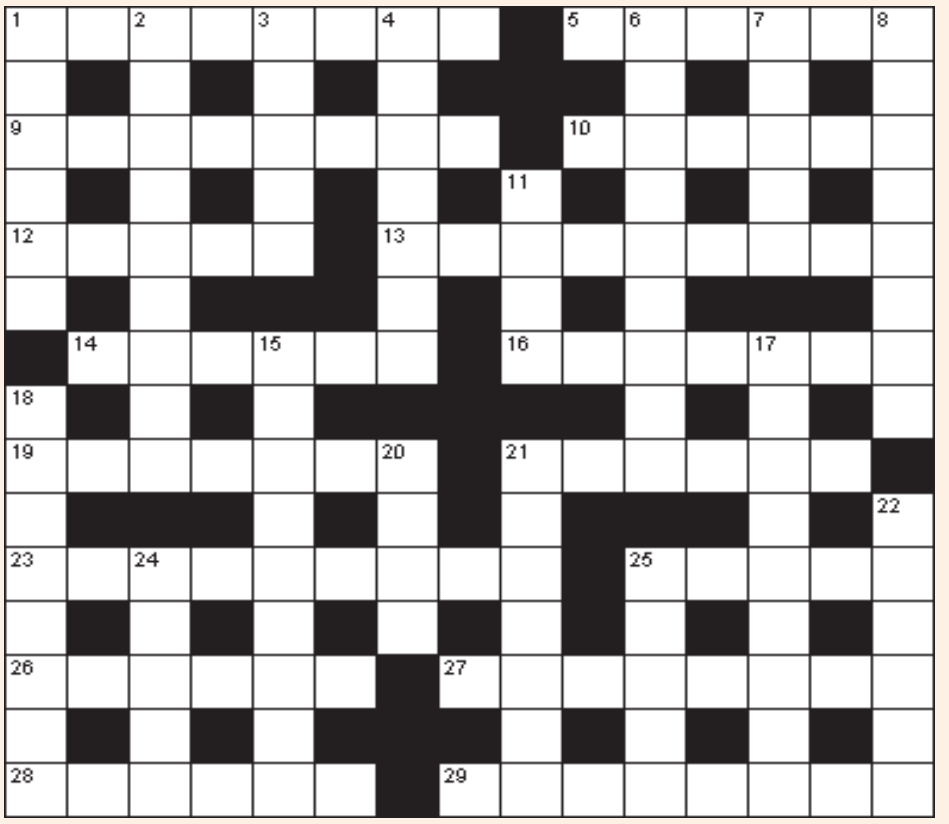
The home side were full value for their victory with their forward line clocking up crucial scores.

By the break, Templeogue were moving in the right direction and were 1-8 to 0-5 to the good.

Dean Clarke hammered home a goal for Templeogue while Jack Lawlor also found the Sylvester's net.

Niall Scully, Jack Swaine, Cillian O'Gara and Andy Donohue were also on target for the winners.

echocrossquiz Q0910



ACROSS
1. A thick plaid blanket (8)
5. Relating to Moses (6)
9. Banter (8)
10. Take into confinement (6)
12. Precise (5)
13. A sedimentary rock (9)
14. A system of measurement (6)
16. Without ceasing (7)
19. A shipping receipt (7)
21. Not ours (6)
23. It might sell The Times (9)
25. Liberates (5)
26. Criminal (6)
27. A raised horizontal surface (8)
28. A spring that discharges hot water and steam (6)
29. Reformer (8)

DOWN
1. Milestone (6)
2. Trickery (9)
3. Part of a body of water (5)
4. A glassy thermoplastic (7)
6. The act of obeying (9)
7. San Antonio fort (5)
8. Disdain (8)
11. Ends a prayer (4)
15. Restore (9)
17. Treble (9)
18. A final performance or effort (8)
20. Not fat (4)
21. Tot (7)
22. Chemical cousin (6)
24. Humorous (5)
25. An unborn baby (5)

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS 0210



CAN YOU BEAT THIS WEEK'S CROSSQUIZ?

SUDOKU 1

		5		8		9		7
8		6		4	2			
			1				4	
		4	8	5				2
							8	
9	8					7		
								9
3		2			1	5		
				2	3			

SUDOKU 2

			8		7			
	4							
5	1				2	3		
				1		8	5	
9	8				5			7
					4			
1				6		5		2
		5					6	
				4		1	3	

ANSWERS

6	7	2	5	4	9	1	3	8
8	3	5	2	7	1	9	6	4
1	9	4	3	6	8	5	7	2
7	5	1	9	8	4	6	2	3
9	8	3	6	2	5	4	1	7
4	2	6	7	1	3	8	5	9
5	1	7	4	9	2	3	8	6
2	4	8	1	3	6	7	9	5
3	6	9	8	5	7	2	4	1

SUDOKU 2

4	1	6	3	2	5	8	9	7
8	7	5	1	9	4	2	6	3
9	3	2	8	7	6	1	5	4
5	6	7	4	1	2	3	8	9
1	8	4	9	3	6	7	2	5
2	9	3	7	5	8	4	1	6
6	4	8	5	7	1	9	3	2
3	2	9	6	4	7	5	8	1
7	5	1	2	8	9	6	4	3

SUDOKU 1

Poet's Corner

TREASURES

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.

How did they do it
Those women of times long gone
No mod cons to help them
They just carried on
Washing clothes by hand
Some cooking on the fire
No hovers
Or fridges
Never heard of a dryer
The often went without
So the children could be fed
Worked from dawn to dusk
Exhausted going to bed
They were warriors and mothers
Their likes we will see no more
Loved by all that knew them
Treasures that's for sure

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ANNIVERSARY



Mountaine, Noel
2nd Anniversary away from home occurs 11th October 2025. Late of Rowlagh, Clondalkin, Dublin 22.

I lost my life's companion,
A life linked with my own,
Day by day I yearn for you,
As I walk through life alone.
You were someone I could talk to,
On whom I could depend,
You were more than just my husband,
You were also my best friend.
When your beautiful heart stopped beating,
My heart just broke in two,
Knowing there will never be,
Another one like you.
They say that hearts don't really break,
Sweet Jesus, that's not true,
So if you see me crying Noel,
It's because I'm missing you.
Deeply loved and greatly missed by your loving wife Helen.

Dad, Grandad
If we had all the world to give,
We would give it yes and more,
To hear your voice and see your smile,
And greet you at the door.
But all we can do Dear Dad,
Is go to tend your grave,
And leave behind tokens of love,
To the best dad God has made.
All our love forever Dad & Grandad from your daughters Leona, Aislinn & Helen, sons-in-law Alan & Colum and grandsons Luke, Eoighan, Jack, Alex & Callum.

NOVENA

Thanksgiving Prayer
O mother of Perpetual help with grateful hearts, we join you in thanking God for all the wonderful things he has done for us. God our Creator we thank you for the gift of life and all the gifts of nature, our senses and faculties, our talents and abilities. We thank you for creating us in your own image and likeness and for giving us the earth to use and develop to rule and control. Despite our failures you continue to show your love for us by increasing the life of your spirit in us. Finally we thank you loving father for giving us Mary, the mother of your son to be our mother of Perpetual help. We are grateful for all past favours received through her intercession. We pray that these past favours may inspire us to greater confidence to seek the aid of our Mother of Perpetual help Amen. **P.P.**

ANNIVERSARY



Mountaine, Tony
15th Anniversary occurs 13th October.

A golden heart stopped beating,
Hard working hands at rest,
It broke our hearts to see you go,
God only takes the best,
They say that memories are golden,
Well maybe that is true,
But we never wanted memories,
We only wanted you,
Your life was love and labour,
Your love for your family true,
You did your best for all of us,
We will always remember you,
We sat beside your bedside,
Our hearts were crushed and sore,
We did our duty to the end,
'Til we could do no more,
In tears we watched you sinking,
We watched you fade away,
And though our hearts were breaking,
We knew you could not stay,
Our lips cannot speak how we loved you,
Our hearts cannot tell what to say,
But God only knows how we miss you,
In our home that is lonely today.
Sadly missed by your heartbroken wife Muriel, loving son Tony, daughters Joyce & Amanda, daughter-in-law Teresa, sons-in-law Tony & Derek, grandchildren Jessica, Ross, Ryan, Rebecca, Rowan & Sarah and great-grandchildren Mia, Myles & Theo.

NOVENA

9 Day Novena to St. Anthony.
St. Anthony, I resort to thy protection and aid, as proof of my affection and faith, I offer this candle which shall burn every day. Please comfort me in my difficulties and through thy living in the house of my Saviour, intercede for me and all those I love so that we may always hold God in our hearts and be provided for in our necessities, I beseech thee, St. Anthony, to have infinite pity in regard to the favour I ask of thee (here mention your favour). Please help me to overcome all difficulties which I now leave at thy feet. 3 Our Fathers, 3 Hail Mary's, 3 Glory Be to the Father's. This novena should be said for 9 days in succession. Each day a candle should be lit and a copy of this prayer left in the Church to help another soul in distress and to increase devotion to St. Anthony. This miraculous Saint grants everything no matter how difficult and before the termination of the nine days. But even if your request is granted, the Novena must be fulfilled. Holy St. Anthony pray for us. **B.B.**

BIRTHDAY REMEMRBANCE



O'Reilly, Rosaleen
2nd Birthday away from home.

To our beautiful mam on her 77th birthday,
A big Happy Birthday in heaven.
You're with dad now,
It will never be the same without you,
We are all heartbroken,
And you are loved and missed so much.
Love from your heartbroken children Sharon, Thomas, Joanne, Amanda, Andrea and Donna, your sister Ann, all of your Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren. xxx

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. **R.R.**

ANNIVERSARY



Kelly, Trish
7th Anniversary away from home occurs 14th October. Also remembering her Birthday which occurred 1st October.

We miss her love and cheery ways,
With her we spent our happiest days.
In memory we see her the same,
As long as we live, we'll cherish her name.
Love you always from Pat, sons Stuart & Philip, Amanda & Amy and grandchildren Erin, Ordhán & Jake.

BIRTHDAY REMEMRBANCE



Smith, Jason (Jay)
15th Birthday away from home occurs on the 14th October. Late of Castlepark.

Happy Heavenly Birthday Jay.
Love and miss you always, love from Mam, Dad, Jade and all the Family. xxx

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.M.**

NOVENA

Prayer to Our Lady of Mount Carmel
O, most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, Fruit of the Vine, splendorous of Heaven. Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this my necessity. O, Star of the Sea, help me and show herein you are my mother. O, Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succour me in my necessity. There are none that can withstand your power, O, show me here you are my mother. O, Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee. Sweet Mother, I place this cause in your hands. Amen. **E.K.**

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ANNIVERSARY



Lynch, Anthony
2nd Anniversary away from home occurs 13th October.

You had a smile for everyone,
You had a heart of gold,
You left the sweetest memories,
The world could ever hold.
To us, you were someone special,
Someone kind and true,
You will never be forgotten,
For we thought the world of you.
Deeply missed by your loving Mam and Dad. xxx

We little knew that morning,
That god would call your name,
In life we loved you dearly,
In death we do the same.
It broke our hearts to lose you,
You did not go alone,
For part of us went with you,
The day god called you home.
You left us wonderful memories,
Your love is still our guide,
And though we cannot see you,
You are always by our sides.
Our family chain is broken,
And nothing seems the same,
But as god calls us one by one,
The chain will link again.
Forever missed by your sister Elaine, nephew Ryan, nieces Kayla and Saoirse. xxx

Today your memory is quietly kept,
No needs for words,
We will never forget.
Each one of us, in our own way,
Have special thoughts of you today,
Forever in our hearts you will always stay,
Loved and remembered, every day.
Sadly missed by your sister Lauren. xxxx

ANNIVERSARY



Campbell, Noeleen
15th Anniversary away from home occurs 10th October. Late of Donomore Crescent. Also remembering our Dad/Grandad/Great-Grandad Douglas Campbell who died in January 2016.

There are 2 people in heaven,
So precious & so rare,
Those people are my parents,
The best beyond compare.
Sleep peacefully dear Mam & Dad,
You have earned your rest,
Take care of them Lord,
They were the best.
Missing you both always from Barbara, Alan, Nicole, Jazmine & great-granddaughter Paisley, Sue and Family and great-grandson Cade, Michelle and Family, Jonathan and Family, Lyndsey, Jason and Family and great-grandson Daniel. xxxx

BIRTHDAY REMEMRBANCE



Corcoran, Jean-Ann
Sunrise 29-09-1972
Sunset 13-10-2015
Late of Bawnville Drive.
9th Birthday away from home.

We are sending a dove to heaven,
With a parcel on its wings,
Be careful when you open it,
It's full of beautiful things,
Inside are a million kisses,
Wrapped up in a million hugs,
To say how much we miss you,
And send you all our love.
Sé you are in heaven now with Jean-Ann,
So put your arms around her,
And tell her happy birthday.
From all of us missing you both beyond words.
From your heartbroken Mam and all the Family. Forever in our hearts.

BIRTHDAY REMEMRBANCE



Walker, John Jerard 'The Tank'
Our beautiful boy, John Jerard 'The Tank' Walker on his 17th Birthday, 1st Birthday away from home.

Missed beyond words and loved beyond measure.
Our hearts will be forever broken until our family chain is reunited again in heaven.
Love you always Mum, Dad and your brothers Luke, Michael, Jamie and Bobby. xxxxx

BIRTHDAY REMEMRBANCE



Walker, John Jerard ' The Tank'
To my darling grandson, John Jerard 'The Tank' Walker. Happy Heavenly 17th Birthday.

Missing you every minute of every day. You were our heart and soul. You'll always live on in our memories and prayers.
Never forgotten.
Love you always Nanny and Grandad. xxx

ANNIVERSARY

Quinn, Peter
4th Anniversary occurs 9th October. Late of Cushlawn Walk.

Along the road of suffering,
You found a little lane,
That took you up to heaven,
And ended all your pain,
You may be out of sight,
We may be worlds apart,
But you are always in our prayers,
And forever in our hearts.
Sadly missed by his loving wife Catherine, sons Craig and Ian, daughter Katelyn, daughter-in-law Eurika, father Peter, sister Samantha, grandchildren Joshua, Elysia and Renesmee & also a large circle of Family and Friends.

NOVENA

Angel Of Portugal
Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore you profoundly. I offer you the most precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges and indifference by which he is offended. And, through the infinite merits of his Most Sacred Heart, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. I beg of You the conversion of poor sinners. **T.G.**

NOVENA

Prayer to Our Lady of Mount Carmel
O, most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, Fruit of the Vine, splendorous of Heaven. Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this my necessity. O, Star of the Sea, help me and show herein you are my mother. O, Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succour me in my necessity. There are none that can withstand your power, O, show me here you are my mother. O, Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee. Sweet Mother, I place this cause in your hands. Amen. **E.K.**

NOVENA

Thanksgiving Prayer
O mother of Perpetual help with grateful hearts, we join you in thanking God for all the wonderful things he has done for us. God our Creator we thank you for the gift of life and all the gifts of nature, our senses and faculties, our talents and abilities. We thank you for creating us in your own image and likeness and for giving us the earth to use and develop to rule and control. Despite our failures you continue to show your love for us by increasing the life of your spirit in us. Finally we thank you loving father for giving us Mary, the mother of your son to be our mother of Perpetual help. We are grateful for all past favours received through her intercession. We pray that these past favours may inspire us to greater confidence to seek the aid of our Mother of Perpetual help Amen.
R.R.

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All planning applications must be in before 5pm Monday

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South Dublin County Council
We, Ballyfermot Sports Complex Ltd intend to apply for Planning Permission at this site Gurteen Road, Ballyfermot, Dublin D10 H394. The development will consist of a two storey entrance and single storey extension to existing building incorporating a new sports & wellness communal space above existing single storey building. Retention is also sought for existing single storey pitched roof storage shed. New extensions and existing storage shed are located to the west/rear of existing sports complex. The Planning application may be inspected or purchased at the offices of South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Town Centre, Tallaght, Dublin 24. During its public opening hours of Monday to Friday from 10.00am - 4.00pm, and may also be viewed on the council's website - www.sdcc.ie. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to South Dublin County Council on payment of a fee of (20.00 euro) within the 5 weeks of receipt of the application by South Dublin County Council and such submissions or observations will be considered by the Planning Authority in making a decision on the application. The Planning Authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions or may refuse to grant permission.

South Dublin County Council
I, Cody Farrell, intend to apply for: Planning Permission at this site: 22 Foxdene Park, Lucan, Co. Dublin, K78 AH56
The development will consist of: Construction of a two-storey flat-roof extension to the side and rear of the existing dwelling, incorporating new side access door and new side and front-facing windows at ground and first floor levels. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at the offices of South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Town Centre, Tallaght, Dublin 24 during its public opening hours of Monday to Friday from 9:00am to 4:00pm, and may also be viewed on the Council's website – www.sdcc.ie. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to South Dublin County Council on payment of a fee of €20 within 5 weeks of receipt of the application by South Dublin County Council.

South Dublin County Council
I Graham Mooney, C/o Daniel Keane, RIAI (Arch Tech), 20 Church St., Portlaoise, Co. Laois, intend to apply for Retention Permission for development at 14 Rossmore Grove, Templeogue, Dublin 6W. D6W PY99. This application will consist of permission to retain amendments to dwelling house including changes to elevations, replacement of roof from a hipped roof to a Dutch Gable structure, conversion of attic to study. This application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of South Dublin County Council during its public opening hours of 10am - 4pm, Mon-Fri, and a submission or observation may be made to South Dublin County Council in writing and on payment of the prescribed fee (€20.00) within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by South Dublin County Council of the application.

South Dublin County Council
We, Makki Trust intend to apply for Planning Retention Permission for change of use of Residential Dwelling to Youth Support and Rehabilitation and Single Storey Extension to the rear of existing unit within a Strategic Development Zone At 6 Castlegate Court, Lucan, County Dublin, K78 VV87. This application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of South Dublin County Council during its public opening hours of 10am - 4pm, Mon-Fri, and a submission or observation may be made to South Dublin County Council in writing and on payment of the prescribed fee (€20.00) within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by South Dublin County Council of the application.

South Dublin County Council
We Padraic Dolan & Michelle Clancy are applying for Retention Permission for Timber fence to boundary of front driveway. Front facade first floor windows size & flat roof shelter/canopy over ground floor front entrance area at 40D Dargle Wood, Knocklyon, Dublin 16 D16DP86. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of South Dublin County Council during its public opening hours (9am-4pm, Mon-Fri) and a submission or observation in relation to the application can be made in writing to South Dublin County Council on payment of the prescribed fee (20 Euro) within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by South Dublin County Council of the application.

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL - LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) ACTS 1963 - LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) REGULATIONS 1977 TO 1994

PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 26, 2025

SD25A/0037W 25 Sep 2025 Permission Additional Information
Applicant: Joe Walsh Motors
Location: Ballymount Road Upper, Dublin 24, Co. Dublin, D24 NC56
Description: The development will consist of an extension to existing garage premises, of approximately 90 sq. metres.

SD25A/0126W 25 Sep 2025 Permission Additional Information
Applicant: Board of Management Divine Word National School, Marley Grange
Location: Divine Word National School, Marley Grange, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16, D16 FF62
Description: The development will consist of the provision of a sport wall (19m in length and 5m in height) located to the north of the existing school buildings, and all associated site development works.

SD25A/0144W 24 Sep 2025 Permission Additional Information
Applicant: Uisce Eireann
Location: Unit 81 A&B, Cookstown Estate Road, Cookstown Industrial Estate, Tallaght, Dublin 24, D24 YC0F
Description: Change of use, and associated internal works, of part of the existing building (167 sq.m. approx.) from warehouse to part workshop/light industrial (89 sq.m. approx.) and part water sampling hub (78 sq.m. approx.) to facilitate the overall use of the building as an Uisce Eireann Operations Centre; the provision of a window and security shutter on the north eastern fa?ade of the building; the provision of a wash bay and 4 No. materials bunkers in external yard area; 2 No. replacement vehicular gates; a new pedestrian gate; Uisce Eireann signage on front (southwest) elevation; external air handling unit on northwestern side of building; and associated site development and drainage works.

SDZ25A/0021W 26 Sep 2025 SDZ Application Additional Information
Applicant: Independent Site Management Limited
Location: Shackelton Court, Gollierstown, Lucan, County Dublin, K78 N8C4
Description: The installation of 12 no. telecommunication antennas, together with 3 no. dishes, 2 no. equipment cabinets and all associated equipment on the building's rooftop. The development will provide high speed wireless data and broadband services for all 3 of Irelands mobile operators, namely Three Ireland and Vodafone Ireland. This application relates to part of the lands within Adamstown Strategic Development Zone.

SD20A/0092/EP 24 Sep 2025 Extension Of Duration Of Permission New Application
Applicant: Frank O'Gorman
Location: Greyfort, Cruagh, Rockbrook, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16
Description: Change of house plans from those that were previously granted under Planning file: SD15A/0251 with detached garage and septic tank and percolation area with all ancillary site works.

SD25A/0233W 22 Sep 2025 Permission New Application
Applicant: Brightway Properties Ltd.
Location: 484, Ballymount Cottages, Turnpike Road, Dublin 22, D22 WF57.
Description: (i) Demolition of existing ancillary outbuildings and removal of front boundary treatment to Turnpike Road; (ii) alterations to existing single-storey cottage including demolition of existing front porch, partial demolition to the side/south of the original building, partial demolition of non-original rear extension and replacement of rear pitched roof with a flat roof; (iii) change of use of the cottage from residential to commercial use providing a reception area, coffee shop, multi-purpose studio, changing rooms and associated facilities; (iv) construction of 3 no. enclosed padel courts within 2 no. single-storey structures to the rear of existing cottage; (v) provision of 17 no. car parking spaces (including 1 no. accessible space), 15 no. bicycle parking spaces and refuse/storage facilities; (vi) provision of a new 6.0m wide vehicular entrance via Turnpike Road; and, (vii) all associated works, including new boundary treatments, landscaping, SuDS and drainage necessary to facilitate the development.'

SD25A/0234W 23 Sep 2025 Permission and Retention New Application
Applicant: Ard Services Limited
Location: Circle K City Avenue Service Station, Citywest Road, Citywest Business Campus, Dublin 24
Description: The development comprises of permission for new signage elements and site development works. As well as retention permission for various minor amendments to the development permitted under South Dublin County Council Planning Reference SD22A/0282. Specifically, 3no additional high power electric vehicle charging units, bollards, and 6no parking spaces, relocation of existing light column and previously approved substation, and all associated site development works.

SD25A/0236W 24 Sep 2025 Permission New Application
Applicant: Partas
Location: Partas, Priory Market, Tallaght Enterprise Centre, Main Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24
Description: A solar panel canopy to outdoor seating area at the west side/front of Priory Market

SD25A/0237W 25 Sep 2025 Permission New Application
Applicant: Malcolm Banks
Location: Site N, Jordanstown Road, Aerodrome Business Park, Rathcoole, Co. Dublin
Description: Alterations to existing granted Planning Permissions (Reg. Ref. SD23A/0317 & SD24A/0140) for development at Site N, Jordanstown Road, Aerodrome Business Park, Rathcoole, Co. Dublin. The subject alteration proposal incorporates the following: Alteration at Ground Floor Plan as follows: Change of Use of 12m2 of Ancillary Office area to Staff Facilities area. Alterations at First Floor Plan as follows: Change of use of 34m2 of Ancillary Office area to Staff Facilities area. Mezzanine Plant Area increased by 252m2. Addition of 62m2 of External Plant Area. Overall building height reduced from 13m to 9.8m due to clear internal headroom reducing from 10m to 6.8m plus roof lights now omitted from Roof Plan. Building elevation revisions due to the related layout changes. Relocation of ESB Substation (total area of 32.95m2) on the site. Site Plan and associated drainage updates based on all the above adjustments. NOTE: All other previously granted elements remain as per existing granted Planning Permissions described above.

SD25A/0238W 26 Sep 2025 Permission New Application
Applicant: Roche Products (Ireland) Limited
Location: 3030, Lake Drive, Brownsbarn, Dublin 24, D24KX6Y
Description: The installation of an external Air Handling Unit, to be housed in a new timber and metal clad enclosure adjacent to Unit 3030, Lake Drive and the installation of a Heat Pump Unit to be installed within an existing plant enclosure, with additional cladding proposed, in the north east corner of the carpark of Unit 3030 and all ancillary engineering and landscape works necessary to facilitate the development at Unit 3030 Lake Drive, Browns barn, Dublin 24 D24 KX6Y. (Previous planning reference SD25A/0185W)

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Find us on

Echo Sport

Deputy Sports Editor: William O'Connor

Thursday, October 9, 2025

Katie helps Ireland to second World Darts title

21-year-old darts player is delighted to win title for a second time

TALLAGHT native Katie Sheldon was a part of the recent Irish darts World Cup Team that won their second world championship in South Korea at the end of September, *reports Michael Howley.*

Ireland came on top of their group at the competition defeating New Zealand 9-1, Turkey 9-2 and Lithuania 9-1 with a dominant display throughout the group stage of the tournament. Eight groups would contest the tournament with the top two of each making their way into the last 16.

The last 16 would be their most competitive game as they came up against the Welsh with the match going down to the wire, Ireland just managed to get the nod with a 9-8 victory. Consecutive 9-3 victories over the Netherlands and the Philippines respectively would ensure Ireland a spot in the final where they faced Australia. Ireland would showcase their dominance and cruise to victory with a 9-1 victory and the World Cup.

Sheldon spoke about the momentum that the team had after the win against Wales.

"I think whatever was on our side that day we just got that extra bit of luck which was great. We also put ourselves in the position. We're playing so much ourselves and we're used to being in these nerve wracking conditions. Once we got that we thought right that's our chance. It's ours to lose now. We don't want to put ourselves back into a position where it goes that close again and after that I think we settled a bit more. We weren't as nervous or worried and once we got a lead and felt comfortable we just kept going and going."

Now a two time World Champion at the age of 21, Sheldon reflected on the feeling of being a double champ at such an early age of her career and dealing with the pressure.

"I think I was even happier this time than I was last time, as I said it's great doing something once but doing it twice is just magnificent. The nerves are always there in the background but you're playing at such a level that the nerves have to be put to one side and you just have to keep winning. If you let the nerves take over that's when things might start falling down. Nerves aren't a bad thing, they mean you care and that you want to do well. Winning it this second time was just class to be honest."

Sheldon's routine does not stop however despite her status as world champion. She plays every night except Thursday at various venues around Dublin and was taking part in an Irish competition in Ballina last weekend.

"We'll enjoy having two [titles] for a time and doing interviews and showing our trophy off, come two years time in Egypt 2027 we'll definitely be gunning for three."



Katie Sheldon with the trophy and (inset) with her Ireland team mates

Osam names his U17 Irish squad

THE FAI have announced their U17 squad that will be taking part in several European Qualifiers this week, *reports Michael Howley.*

Led by Paul Osam, this squad primarily consists of players that will not be playing in the U17 World Cup being held in Qatar in November with that squad being prepped by U17 Head Coach Colin O'Brien ahead of the upcoming tournament. This means that regular inclusions such as Michael Noonan and Victor Ozhianvuna will not be taking part in any of these upcoming qualification games.

The games include Kosovo on Wednesday, Faroe Islands on Saturday with the last match coming next Tuesday against Austria, with all matches being played within Austria itself.

There will be a plethora of talent from local clubs representing Ireland. In goal we see Darragh Brunton of St Patrick's Athletic. The defence will be made up of Danny Burke (Shamrock Rovers), Tadgh Prizeman (Shamrock Rovers) and Josh O'Connor (St. Patrick's Athletic).

The majority of the midfield will also see talent from Rovers and Pats be involved with Josh O'Dwyer (Shamrock Rovers), Ryan Sheridan (St. Patrick's Athletic), Jason Spelman (St. Patrick's Athletic), Niall Sullivan (St. Patrick's Athletic) & Kian Quigley (St. Patrick's Athletic) all being involved.

Up front will consist of Joe Byrne (St Patrick's Athletic), Ben Mahon (Shamrock Rovers) & Archie Quinn (Shamrock Rovers).

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Crunch games in World Cup qualifiers

THE Republic of Ireland Men's Senior team is back in action this weekend as well as early next week for the next round of World Cup Qualifiers, *reports Michael Howley.*

They will be hoping for redemption after an absolutely shambolic prior round of fixtures which saw them manage a draw with Hungary in the Aviva and an atrocious defeat against Armenia in a loss which has been described by many as among the worst in Irish sporting history.

They will face a tall order this Saturday evening as they take on Cristiano Ronaldo and co in Portugal with the squad being released last Friday.

Tallaght native Gavin Bazunu is called back into the fold despite having a somewhat difficult beginning to the campaign with Southampton in the Championship. The keeper was their number one at the start of the season but has seen himself be dropped in the pecking order for recent fixtures in favour of veteran goalkeeper Alex McCarthy. At one point the clear number one for Ireland he has been dislodged in favour of Caoimhin Kelleher and it is hard to see how he gets in ahead of the current Brentford number one who has been one of Ireland's only bright lights in recent games.

Also returning to the fold are former Cherry Orchard player Nathan Collins and Templeogue native Dara O'Shea. Collins is captain for both club and country though has been in poor form in recent international games giving away the penalty that granted Armenia their first goal. It's the same story for Dara O'Shea who has been Collins partner at centre back with the pair both committing defensive errors in the games against Hungary and Armenia that led to goals.

Still on paper they are our two best options with both being consistent Premier League level defenders, particularly Collins who is apparently the subject of interest of several Premier League clubs at the moment reportedly including Tottenham Hotspur, Manchester United and Liverpool.

The Boys in Green return to action this Saturday as they play Portgual away with a 7:45pm kick off before hosting Armenia the following Tuesday at the same time in a game that they simply must win, if only for national pride.

Basketball

Mixed results for basketball teams

THE Men and Women's National Basketball League kicked off last weekend with multiple teams from South West Dublin kicking off their season, *reports Michael Howley.*

The men's Dublin Lion teams faced a long journey as they travelled to Letterkenny to take on Team North West. The trip would not be done in vain however as they would cruise to a decisive victory winning by an 88-55 scoreline to kick off their campaign with a win. The result was huge for the Lions who are under the guidance of Robbie White, with much of the squad being overhauled during the summer. Key performers included Russle Marr who led in both points and assists with 31 and 13 respectively. Liam Osinuga was another player who had a huge game managing ten rebounds in the match. They will next play NUIG Maree this Saturday.

The women's side got to stay in Dublin as they hosted Tolka Rovers. An extremely competitive game saw them come just short and would ultimately lose by a 68-81 scoreline.

Despite the loss there were a number of impressive performances on the day. Makenzie Helms managed 22 points and five assists while Rachel Brennan impressed getting nine rebounds.

They will travel to Swords this weekend to take on Swords Thunder on Saturday.

Templeogue men's team narrowly lost their first game of the season at home to the Carrick Cruisers. The final score would see them just get pipped, losing out on a 71-79 scoreline.

The performance was impressive however and showed promise with a number of players having excellent showings.

Evan Cook was a serious scoring threat throughout the game notching 16 points, five rebounds and three assists.

Wilfred Omorusi impressed on his debut scoring 13 points, 11 rebounds and three blocks. They travel down to Tipperary next week as they take on the Tipp Talons.

The women's team fared better in their game and dominated to pick up a decisive win against Dublin Raiders with a 78-38.

New signing Sofia Paska impressed on her debut for the team scoring 26 points, six rebounds and notching three assists.

Hannah Murphy also had a big impact on the game getting 10 points, five rebounds and three assists. They next host Tolka Rovers this Saturday.

Griffith College Eanna would come up short in their opening game of the season as they were defeated by UCD Marian at the UCD Sports Complex. Ireland international Sean Jenkins had an excellent game for Eanna scoring 25 points but despite that they were not able to defeat UCD Marian who would win by a healthy margin 101-79.

They will look for their first win this weekend as they take on Killester this Saturday.

Motorsport

Mondello hosts two rounds of Irish Rallycross C'ship

THE opening two rounds of the PartsforCars.ie Irish Rallycross Championship took place at Mondello Park last weekend, *reports Michael Howley.*

The event also served as a counting round for the Motorsport UK British Rallycross Championship which saw a welcome return of the top UK drivers who love coming across and battling it out with their Irish counterparts.

The premier class in rallycross are the Supercars where Terenure's Derek Tohill currently reigns supreme.

His chief competition across the weekend would be Ollie'Donovan. Tohill was looking to progress in the British Championship as well as defend his Irish title. Tallaght's Peter McGarry would be taking part as would the Coyne brothers, Michael and Willie both also from Tallaght.

The weather certainly played an impact on the first day of the tournament with the effects of Storm Amy lingering. In the supercars the heats saw wins for William Carey, Derek Tohill and Ollie O'Donovan overall on times.

As the day wore on the weather improved and the track dried but the odd shower of rain kept making setup and tyre choice difficult. Both Tohill and O'Donovan would find themselves in Saturday's final with O'Donovan actually getting the first place finish, though O'Donovan was not competing for the Irish title so Tohill achieved maximum points for that category despite finishing in second.

Yeah, a solid result for round one, didnt, get the win today but Ollie drove well. You have to get through a lot of races to get to a final in Irish Rallycross but I'm delighted to start off the new campaign with a win." - Derek Tohill after the conclusion of Round 1 on Saturday.

Tallaght's Willie Coyne would finish in second place in the modified class on Saturday.



Terenure's Derek Tohill and (inset): Willie Coyne
Photos by Barry Cregg

Sunday saw improved conditions, it was imperative for Tohill to win the final today if he was to keep his hopes of a British Championship alive. He raced expertly and it would come down to himself and O'Donovan on the final stretch just as it had the day before. Tohill learned from his mistakes the previous day and maintained his lead throughout the race not allowing O'Donovan to overtake him, securing first place and winning maximum points.

Speaking after the race Tohill was very pleased with his performance.

"I knew I had to win that race so I threw the kitchen sink and everything else at it. It was really important for the championship and also for the Irish too, making it a double is a great way to start the season".

In the modified class it would be Tallaght's Peter McGarry who took first place in Round Two on Sunday. He was delighted with the result after failing to make the final of the previous round on Saturday following damage to his vehicle in the semi final. Willie Coyne also from Tallaght would finish third.

Martial Arts

Ljay's host kickboxing competition

FAMILY run Kickboxing club LJay's Elite Martial Arts held their first ever kickboxing competition recently in the Kilnamanagh Family Recreation Centre.

Called 'The Way of The Warrior' the event attracted clubs from all over the country to compete and over 40 fights took place with competitors from various different ages as well as skill levels competing and representing themselves and their clubs.

LJay's Elite Martial Arts has been a presence in Kilnamanagh for over a decade now. Run by Lorraine Riddell as head coach alongside her sons. This was the first time that they had ever held a show anywhere near the scale of The Way of the Warrior and the event was unique as it showcased those who were fighting for perhaps the first time along with National Elite level fights and fighters towards the end of the evening.

Lorraine's eldest son Jake is a head coach in the club and an accomplished fighter in his own right representing Ireland in numerous international tournaments and picking up various accolades along the way. He highlighted the magnitude of holding the show in Kilnamanagh and the benefit that the participants hopefully gained from getting involved.

"I've been training in kickboxing for nearly 25 years now and I've never been able to fight on a show like that in Kilnamanagh or in Tallaght. I've fought on shows all around the world and I've brought friends and family with me but I've never been able to do it here. I wasn't competing on this show because I was running it but that was a big thing for me. As a kid starting out I would've loved to be able to show people and perform. Especially for a sport like kickboxing which isn't as mainstream or visible as team sports or boxing."

"Learning is way more valuable than the result. You can be beaten and learn so much whether it's kickboxing related or it's about yourself. There were fighters that went home and learned a lot about themselves. Maybe they were braver than they thought they were or maybe in a kickboxing sense about techniques etc. That's what kickboxing is about, improving, becoming better and challenging yourself."

"I definitely wouldn't be the person I am now without kickboxing and I am speaking for my brothers as well as myself saying that. Kickboxing might not be the way that all people get there but that can happen, facing a challenge can lead to you becoming more resilient and stronger in yourself."

Overall the event was a massive success with the club hoping to organise a similar event next year, in the meantime the club's next important date on the calendar will be in two weekends time as members travel to the United Kingdom to take part in the Bristol Open from October 17th -19th, the competition is one of the biggest kickboxing events in the U.K.



The Riddell Family

Hockey

Glenanne men see off Three Rock

GLENANNE Men's 2nd team faced off against Three Rock Rovers in an exciting game last Saturday that ended 3-1 in their favour, *reports Michael Howley.*

Glenanne showed a real intent with attacking from the very first whistle, pressing high and effectively moving the ball quickly through the midfield. Ben Coughlan was a standout performer for the side and netted two excellent goals.

One coming from a ruthless counter attack while the other being the end result of an outstanding team move. Killian Hurley would score Glenanne's third goal of the day sealing the win with a composed finish.

It was not only Glenanne's attacking line that was in fine form however, the team showed immense defensive prowess throughout the game. Wade Jacob was a presence in goal and pulled off several outstanding saves throughout the game, keeping Glenanne comfortably ahead even when Three Rock launched several dangerous attacks.

His composure and reactions gave the team confidence that strengthened the entire spine of the team.

Dave O'Malloy was another key member of the Glenanne backline. With sharp and accurate passing he was able to launch counterattacks from the heart of Glenanne's defensive line.

Overall while the team's performance as a whole was certainly positive there were areas for improvement that can be worked on for future games. The build up play was not an issue and Glenanne looked brilliant when on the ball but their accuracy is something that can certainly get better.

The team broke into the D on several occasions and passed the Three Rock defence but time and time again failed to convert these promising opportunities into goals. While they did manage three they could easily have added a couple more onto their tally.

Despite the slight critiques, the team showed excellent teamwork, energy and defensive discipline that and well earned their victory. The performance gives them an extremely positive foundation to build on moving forward.

Glens women battle back to earn a draw with UCD

DESPITE the storm Glenanne Women's second team were able to get a run out as they came up against UCD last weekend, *reports Michael Howley.*

UCD started the game with high intensity from the get go and caught Glenanne off guard. This fast paced start allowed them to break through Glenanne's midfield leaving the defence outnumbered and unable to prevent the first goal from going in only minutes into the opening quarter. This would soon be followed up by a second with Glenanne finding themselves 2-0 by the end of the first quarter.

The shaky start seemed to serve as a wake up call for Glenanne and after a quick regroup, reorganised themselves and performed much better at the opening of the second quarter. The team gathered momentum and utitlised a solid structure to work their way back into the game. A free from midfield saw Ana Gayubo and Isabel Angel work the ball towards forward Síne Finn who slipped the ball under the keeper's foot bringing the score to 2-1 as the teams broke for half time.

Now with both teams suffering setbacks throughout the first half, they both had woken up and were playing excellent hockey. Still managing to survive through the relentless UCD pressure, Glenanne dug their heels in and held out with their defensive shape. Showing composure, patience and discipline they managed to win the ball back from UCD and quickly get it to the other end of the pitch where Síne Finn was on hand once again to stick it into the back of the net making the game 2-2.



Glenanne Women's second team came from behind against UCD to draw their match 2-2

The match would ultimately finish with that scoreline, the two teams sharing the spoils. Special mention to Fiona Hanaphy for umpiring, the amazing Glenanne supporters on the sideline with their constant cheering and encouragement, and a massive well done to goal-keeper Karen Dunne on her countless saves that earned her Player of the Match.

Rugby

Good start for Tallaght rugby women's

TALLAGHT Rugby Club women's team played their opening match of the season last weekend against the Three Saints. Three Saints are made of an amalgamation of players from St Mary's, Guinness and DLSP. The pitch at Tymon Park was deemed unplayable by the council so the match was moved to St Mary's ground at Templeville Road, *reports Michael Howley.*

The Saints would dominate the first quarter of the game as Tallaght struggled to make it out of their half as they played into a strong wind. Luckily the defence held out well and prevented the Saints from generating any major lead. Megan McGuinness produced a fantastic cover tackle to prevent what seemed a certain try. The only luck The Saints would have would be converting a penalty which gave them a 3-0 lead.

Slowly Tallaght started to come into the game themselves however with Adriana Silvela, Martina Fitzpatrick and Samantha Ledden all making strong ball carries and generating some forward momentum. Megan McGuinness would be on hand again to produce a magic moment after a move from Louise Leonard-Flood, Abbie Keeley and Aisling Pyke left her open and in space to score the first try of the game giving Tallaght a 5-3 lead.

Tallaght would double this lead shortly after this time through Louise Leonard Flood. Abbie Keeley would kick an excellent conversion to give Tallaght a 12-3 lead at halftime.

The Saints would try to regain some momentum in the start of the second half but Tallaght held firm with Eileen Shanahan and Kim Littlefield working overtime in the tackle count. Full back Sorca Burns was constantly forced to field long kicks but she ran them back bravely. Niamh Moore came on and put in her usual hard hits making her presence known.

Still The Saints were competing well and looked like they were threatening to score a try until a clever interception from Lousie Leonard-Flood. She moved the ball up the pitch trapping The Saints inside their own half for the final ten minutes of the game.

Eventually the pressure became too much and Grainne Leonard-Flood would score a try under the posts, scoring the conversion herself to secure a 19-3 victory for Tallaght.

Tallaght head coach Adam Nolan was delighted for his team to start the season with a win. "We weren't able to play a preseason game so after a slow start today, we really started to play and secured a good win. We worked very hard on both sides of the ball and, though there are areas to improve, it was an excellent all round performance for the first run-out of the season."



Tallaght rugby women's had a good start to the season with a win over Three Saints

Martial Arts

South Dublin Taekwondo impress at Riga Open



Dyzile, Evelina, Yeva and Leroy

SOUTH Dublin Taekwondo's youth female athletes attending the Riga Open were in top form each achieving podium finishes at the World Taekwondo sparring event.

The event in Latvia which attracted 148 teams from 46 countries has become an annual event for SDTKD who have attended for many years.

Topping the podium were Dyzile Chin Estrada in her -42kg Junior female division seeing off Danish opposition in the final.

Also on the top step of the podium was Yeva Kovalchuk who added to the gold medals winning in her final of -37kg cadet against Swedish Opposition.

In a day of firsts for the team where both Dyzile and Yeva secured their first European Ranking gold medals, their teammate Evelina Paulauskaite secured her first ranking medal finishing in the semi-finals of her -68kg division taking home bronze.

The trio were joined by South Dublin Taekwondo coach and athlete Leroy Nsulu Dilandu who himself is no stranger to the podium in Riga having won his first international World Ranking Medal in Riga in 2022.

BMA Clondalkin Fighters Shine at EKS 5 Showcase



BMA Clondalkin team, Head Coach Ilija Salerno, Cayden Derwin, Fionn Kelly, Donny Caren and Robert Barrett

BMA Clondalkin were represented at the EKS 5 Fight Night Showcase on Saturday in Clontarf, where three of the club's talented young athletes stepped inside the ropes against tough opposition from across Ireland.

Cayden Derwin continued his impressive run of form with a commanding performance in the K1 -69kg division.

Facing Al Sapas of Sanda Kickboxing Club, Derwin dominated the bout from the opening bell and sealed victory with a clinical second-round stoppage, showcasing his composure, timing, and sharp finishing skills.

Donny Caren produced a thrilling contest against Josh Harpur of Combat Hub Wexford. In what proved to be one of the most competitive bouts of the night, Caren lost the opening round but roared back to take the second, pushing the fight down to the narrowest of margins. The judges' scorecards split 2–1 in favour of Harpur, leaving Caren just a couple of points shy of the win after a courageous and high-tempo display.

Fionn Kelly also battled through a three-round war against Alan Burzcik of CCC/KKC. Kelly started cautiously, allowing his taller and more experienced opponent to edge the opener. The Clondalkin fighter rallied brilliantly in the second round and carried momentum into the third, but Burzcik's ring craft and reach advantage were just enough to swing the scorecards in his favour, with another close 2–1 split decision loss.

Senior Coach Robert Barrett, who has taken charge of training Clondalkin's elite team, praised the fighters' discipline and application:

"The trio stuck to the game plans perfectly. Sometimes fights don't all play out the way we prepare, but for sure it was an excellent performance by all three."

Head Coach Ilija Salerno also commended the team, noting that while Derwin's stoppage win was a highlight, both Caren and Kelly showed grit, skill, and determination in their narrow defeats, underlining the depth of talent emerging from BMA Clondalkin.

Attention now turns to the Senior World Championships in Abu Dhabi this November, where BMA athletes Jenny Mullins, Kym Fitzgerald, and Ciara Douglas will compete on the biggest stage of all. The event is set to be the largest kickboxing championship ever staged in the UAE, and the club's fighters are preparing intensively to fly the Irish flag with pride.

Athletics

Hundreds participate in the Schools Athletics League

CLOSE to four hundred young athletes from schools all over west Dublin took part in the opening round of the MHC Donore Harriers Schools Athletics League held at Eamonn Ceannt Park in Crumlin last week.

Races for boys and girls in the minor, junior and intermediate age groups took place, with the first six from each school scoring for their team.

Dominating the girls' races with team wins in all three age groups was Coláiste Bhríde, although the Clondalkin school certainly didn't have it all its own way.

In the inter girls' 2km, Agata Rychlik from Cabra Community College held off the challenge of Molly Nolan and Carol Whiting Byrne both from Coláiste Bhríde. Kylemore College Ballyfermot finished second team followed closely by Colaiste Eoin.

In the junior race, which proved the closest of the day, Coláiste Bríde was chased hard only beating local school Clogher Road by two points, with Oliwia Bardowska of Clogher Road the individual winner.

Biggest girls race of the day was the minor girls with sixty-three finishers. In this, Coláiste Bhríde clear winners ahead of Kylemore College and Clogher Road, with St Seton's Ballyfermot not too far behind.

Topping the boys' table with two wins and and a fourth place was St Declan's with Charlie Franzani and Lucien Dollett McCann finished first and second in the inter race for the school. Drimnagh Castle finished second and CBS James's Street third.

St Declan's came out on top in the minor race, followed by Clogher Road and Kylemore College, with O'Connell's School fourth.

In the boys' junior race, the biggest of the day with eighty-seven starters, Drimnagh Castle packed well for team victory with Cathal Downes of Coláiste Éoin the individual winner. Second team was Mercy Inchicore followed closely by Clogher Road.

Just two points behind St Declan's on the overall table is Drimnagh Castle, with Clogher Road lying third. Although Coláiste Bhríde, with three wins and seventy students lining out, is clearly the team to beat among the girls, all could change over the next two rounds of the league, with Kylemore College currently in second place and Clogher Road third.

'The Bogies' : or John Paul II Park in Cabra to give it its formal name, is the venue for the next round of the league on Wednesday November 5, which is a road relay. A two-day track and field meet at the Donore Harriers 300m track on March 5 and 12 will conclude the league, after which the top girl's school will receive the Ann Woodlock Trophy and the top boy's school the Cyril White Trophy.

The MHC Donore Harriers league is supported by the Dublin City Sports and Wellbeing Partnership.



Students from Coláiste Bríde participating

GAA

Boden meet Lucan in c'ship semis

THE Dublin Senior Hurling Championship semi finals take place this weekend with Kilmacud Crokes taking on Na Fianna, but more importantly Ballyboden St Endas are taking on Lucan Sarsfields in Parnell Park this Sunday afternoon, *reports Michael Howley.*

The two teams have been somewhat surprise packages with Lucan in particular impressing with their performances throughout the campaign. They finished second place in their group only behind the All Ireland Champions and fellow semi finalists Na Fianna who have also inflicted their only defeat of the competition so far, losing by a narrow four point margin.

Lucan have bested all other challengers who have attempted to defeat them throughout the championship and are coming off the back of an impressive win in the quarter finals of the tournament where they defeated St Brigids by nine points. Paul Crummey and Charlie Keher played an instrumental role for Sarsfields on the day.

Ballyboden St Endas found themselves in a group stage with both Na Fianna and Lucan Sarsfields in their group and by the end of the phase were firmly sat in an unassuming third place after losing to both of the previously mentioned teams.

Sarsfields and Ballyboden's first championship encounter took place back in July and saw Lucan get a narrow win at 12th lock with a 2-19 to 0-21 result taking them over the line on the day. Speaking after the match that day, Lucan manager Charlie Carty spoke about the toughness of Ballyboden and recognised that his opposition were a top calibre team.

They certainly have shown that calibre in the rest of their games and while Boden lost to Lucan and Na Fianna by four and three points respectively, they showed that they were the best of the rest in the group with decisive victories against Naomh Barrog, Craobh Chiarain and St Judes making them more than deserving of a place in the knockout stages of the tournament.

That quarter final game against St Vincents was among their toughest tests of the competition and after the match went to extra time, a huge performance from the likes of Darragh Kenny and Niall Ryan was enough to book them a place in the last four along with two of their companions back in the group stages of the tournament and the only two teams to beat them so far, Lucan Sarsfields and Na Fianna.

Delight for Commercials after securing camogie c'ship crown

COMMERCIALS GAA have won the Junior Three Camogie Championship after emerging victorious in the final against Kilmacud Crokes last Sunday morning after a close game in Abbottstown, *reports Michael Howley.*

The game against Crokes was by far Commercials toughest of the championship. After establishing a lead in the first half courtesy of two goals, they would then allow Crokes back into the game scoring two goals of their own. Now left to fend off the waves of pressure coming from the Crokes offensive, Commercials were successful in holding onto the lead and securing themselves victory in the match. As alluded to by Commercials coach Martin Clohessy in an interview after the game, the side normally averaged around between 18-24 scores in their other matches played throughout the championship however they were kept to nine scores and a narrow three point win in the final with the result being 2-09 to 2-06 in their favour.

Commercials came through what was a hazardous game full of adversity which pleased their management team who were delighted that their side was able to weather the storm of Crokes and able to keep composure even when the game was not going in their favour, one of the only times that they have not had their own way this season.

"When Crokes got the goals I thought we responded very well. After they got a goal we would respond with a score and so on."

Commercials have performed superbly throughout the season suffering just one defeat across all competitions which was to St Vincents in the league. Undefeated throughout the championship campaign they have relied on stellar performances from all of their squad in achieving their accomplishments.

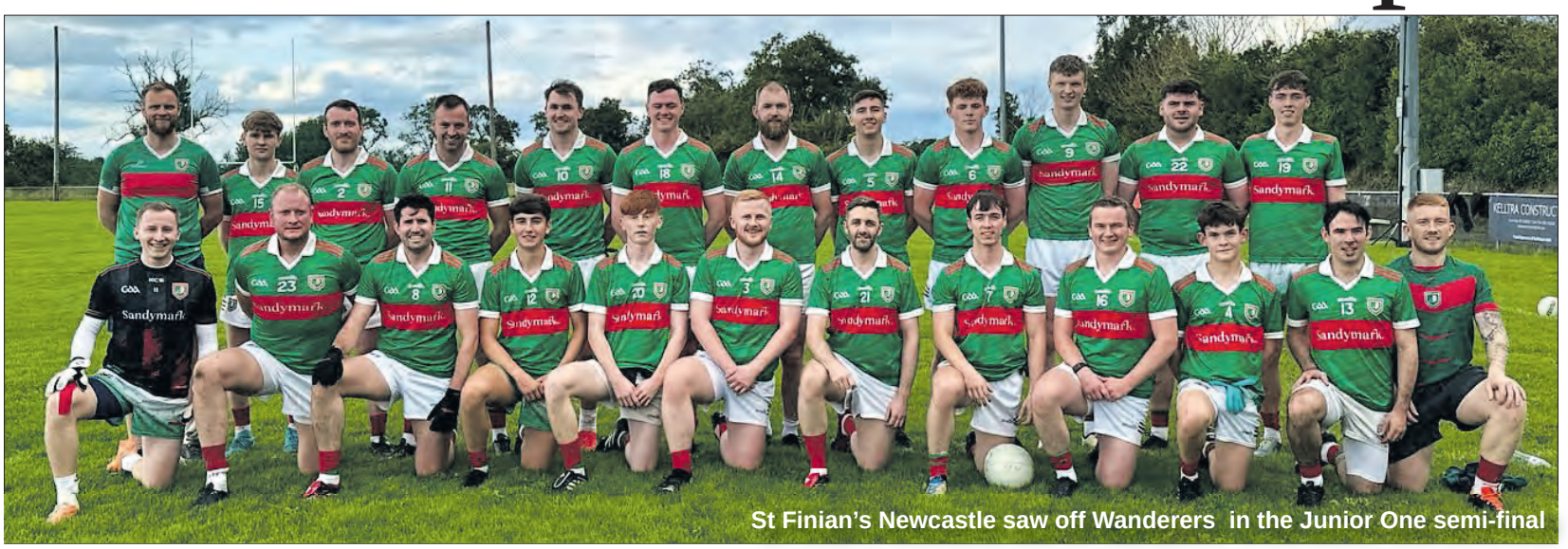

Commercials celebrate their Junior Three Camogie Championship win

Aoife Doyle has been an immense presence in the backline, captain of the team and formerly a forward she has been brilliant throughout the campaign and even won player of the match in the final against Crokes. Roisin Doyle at half back has also been a pivotal member of the team as has Davina Strumble, Orla Keane and Grace Hughes. Eirinn Caverly and Aoibheann Coughlin have played a pivotal role as scorers for the side, forming part of the attacking forward line along with Ruby Treacy.

Coach Martin Clohessy remains optimistic about the future, confident that the club can continue to produce high grade players using Ella O Loughlin as a prime example. Arriving from the club's underage setup, O Loughlin has gone from being a rotation player at the start of the year to being an integral part of the starting line up by the time that the championship rolled around and is perhaps the best example of consistency and effort being rewarded within the side. On jumping up to the Junior 2 Championship next year he remains optimistic.

"It will certainly be a higher standard against higher grade opposition, faster and tougher and more commitment and effort will be expected from the girls as a result of that. In saying that, I think the performances this year have shown that we are able to compete at that level."

St Finian's book a final spot


St Finian's Newcastle saw off Wanderers in the Junior One semi-final

THE Junior One semi-finals took place over the weekend with St Finian's Newcastle finding themselves up against Wanderers GAA, *reports Michael Howley.*

The two had previously met in the group stages of the championship with St Finians picking up the win in their first game.

Finians would prevail on top of their group as they went undefeated with big wins over St Marks as well as St James Gaels an Caislean. Going unbeaten in the group stage would secure them a place in the quarter finals as they took on Civil Service Football and would pick up a five point victory after a close game saw the final score end at 2-13 to 2-08.

Wanderers found themselves on a more complicated route to the semi final as they were also in the same group as St Finians with the two playing each other in the group stage. It was a very close game with Finians picking up a narrow two point victory, far closer than their other games. Still Wanderers were unable to get a win against St James Gaels An Caislean and had to settle for a draw with a 0-08 to 0-08 scoreline. They were able to get a big seven point victory over St Marks however which assured them a spot in the quarter finals.

Once in the quarter finals they came up against Stars of Erin and a very scrappy game saw Wanderers get the win by two points with a final score of 0-06 to 0-08. This led them to a semi final against St Finians.

It proved equally tight as their first game in O'Toole Park as St Finian's Newcastle recovered from an eight-point deficit with twenty minutes remaining to defeat Wanderers by 2-13 to 3-8.

One of the key performers for the winners was Aidan Burke, who joined the attack from wing-back to telling effect with a personal tally of 1-2.

His scores and those of midfielder Sean O'Reilly who managed 1-1, allowed St Finian's to close the gap as the contest evolved with Mark Molloy and Aaron Molloy chipping in with points in the final quarter to secure their final berth.

St Finian's Newcastle will now take on St Finnian's Swords in the championship final which will be held on Sunday October, 19 in Parnell Park.

GAA

Jude's and Lucan into camogie semis

THE final round of group games have occurred in the Senior Camogie championship with teams booking their place in the final four of the competition, *reports Michael Howley*.

In group A St Jude's finished in the top spot securing their position with a victory over Na Fianna on Sunday morning picking up victory via a nine point margin.

Jude's have preformed extremely well so far in the competition and have established themselves among the favourites of the tournament with decisive performances against all opponents.

That nine point victory against Na Fianna had been preceded with a seven point win against Kilmacud Crokes and a victory against Lucan Sarsfields in the opening match of the championship by a narrow three point margin.

They have finished on top of their group securing a semi final against second place in Group B who happen to be St Vincents with the two teams set to play each other this coming Saturday.

Lucan Sarsfields managed to scrape into the semi-final on points difference despite losing two of their three group stage games in the championship. They would lose the opening fixture to St Judes narrowly before a six point win against Na Fianna appeared to put them back on track. However last weekend they were met with another narrow defeat when Kilmacud Crokes defeated them by three points.

Still as Crokes had lost to both Judes and Na Fianna previously all teams aside from Judes found themselves on a single win in the championship campaign with Sarsfields points difference being exactly zero, it was enough for them to make a semi final against Ballyboden St Endas.

Ballyboden dominated their own group winning all three of their matches and while the game against St Vincent's ran fairly close, with just four points separating the two teams, Boden delivered comprehensive and decisive victories against Cuala and St Olivers Plunketts/Eoghan Rua, beating the former by 12 points and the latter by 14.

They will fancy themselves against a Lucan side who have already been bested twice in this competition so far.

In the Senior 2 Championship Faughs Celtic have secured the top position in their group following a 2-12 to 2-04 victory against St Peregrines.

They have now booked themselves a championship semi final against Ballinteer St John's set for this Sunday.

Boden topple All-Ireland champions



Firhouse Road side tops in semi-final thriller

BALLYBODEN St Enda's defeated the reigning All Ireland Champions in the All Ireland Senior 1 Football Championship semi-final in Parnell Park last Sunday, *reports Michael Howley.*

After a thrilling game, Boden would get the victory thanks to a slender two point margin.

Cuala world initially put their stamp on the game in the opening half following a second minute point from Niall O'Callaghan which was followed shortly after by another score from Charlie McMorrow.

Though Boden would equalise with a two pointed score through Ryan Basquel Cuala continued to prevail with the O'Callaghan brothers both getting themselves on the scoresheet before Con O'Callaghan preformed a brilliant interception, passing the ball into Conor O'Brien who scored the opening goal of the game in the tenth minute.

Now seven points down St Enda's had their backs against the wall, however they would slowly gain ground in the midfield and James Madden, Ryan O'Dwyer, Daire Sweeney and Colm Basquel all played a part in reducing their deficit to just a single score by the 18th minute.

St Enda's found themselves unable to get their noses in front throughout the first half and Cuala would extend upon their lead again, building it back up to six points by half time. The scoreline read 1-14 to 0-11 at the interval.

While St Enda's impressed on the restart with Daire Sweeney and Ross McGarry getting involved in the scoring the brilliance of Con O'Callaghan would stop them from taking total control as he scored three points at the other end of the pitch for Cuala.

Boden appeared to be offered a lifeline in the 40th minute as Colm Basquel finished off a well worked move to leave just three points separating the teams.

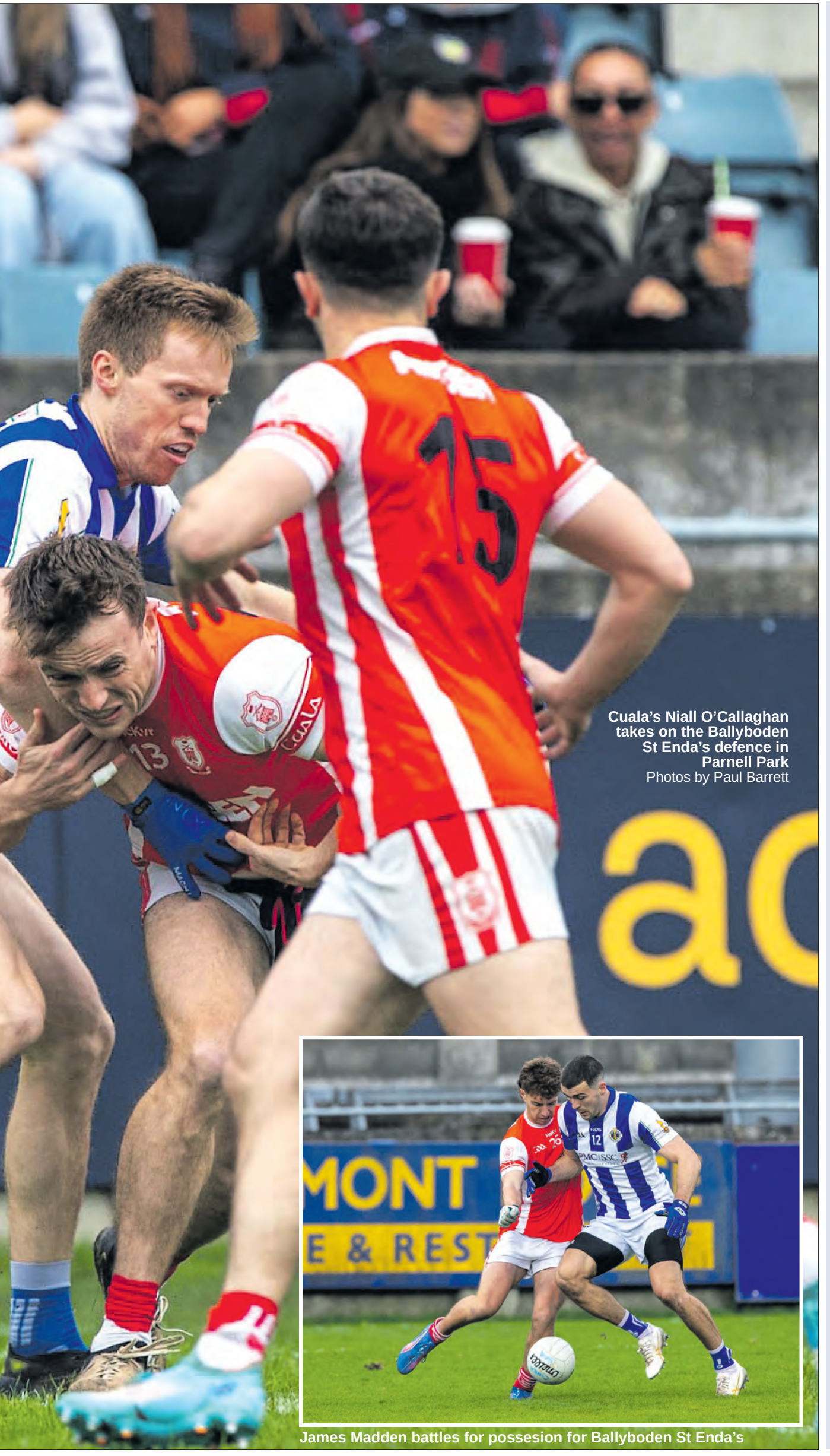
Any momentum that the goal generated however was quickly vanquished as All Star Nominee Peadar O Cofaigh Byrne bundled home an attempt at the other end scoring Cuala's second goal of the game.

Cuala looked well set for a victory here as they were seven points ahead by the 55th minute however late drama would ensue that Boden would be the ones to emerge victorious on the day.

Daire Sweeney kept Enda's in the game with a couple of fisted scores before really upping the ante with a brilliant goal that left Cuala keeper Darragh O'Dowd with no chance. This brought the margin to just four points between the teams and Ross McGarry and Calum O'Dwyer would bring that down further to just two points immediately after.

O'Dwyer would play a pivotal part in the conclusion of the match as a mazy run unlocked the Cuala defence and allowed him to play the ball into none other than Daire Sweeney who scored home his second of the day and took Boden two points in front of Cuala, the only time they actually led the contest throughout the match.

Now through to the final Boden will prepare for a match against Na Fianna who narrowly defeated Kilmacud Crokes in their own semi-final that same day.



Cuala's Niall O'Callaghan takes on the Ballyboden St Enda's defence in Parnell Park
Photos by Paul Barrett

James Madden battles for possesion for Ballyboden St Enda's

Ladies teams reach finals

THERE was a wide range of action in the Ladies Gaelic Football Championship with a variety of championship, shield and cup finals being played across various venues last Wednesday on October 1st, *reports Michael Howley.*

In one of the new non finals, Ballyboden St Enda's saw themselves eliminated from the Senior B Championship as they lost their semi final to Castleknock by just four points, being on the wrong end of a 5-12 to 4-11 scoreline.

In a game that was forced to go to extra time, St Jude's managed to win the Intermediate Shield final by beating Ballinteer St John's by a single point after a closely contested game finished 3-20 to 4-16. They had reached the final after a dominant performance against Foxrock Cabinteely in the semis which they won by 13 points and a 3-14 to 1-07 scoreline.

Ballyboden St Endas B team were defeated in their shield final losing to Clanna Gael Fontenoy 4-10 to 1-11.

Round Towers Clondalkin were defeated in the Adult Cup Division 5a final by Castleknock with the final score of the game being 3-18 to 5-07.

St Anne's A team emerged victorious in the Adult Cup Div 6A final where they decisively beat Trinity Gaels by a score of 3-06 to 0-08. Their B team was not as fortunate however as they lost out to local rivals St Marys Saggart in the Division 9A Final being beaten 4-11 to 0-08.

Round Towers Clondalkin B team were defeated in the Division 11a Cup Final by Na Gaeil Aeracha 5-15 to 3-07.

Mary's survive as Tower's fall

THE Senior 2 Football relegation play-offs took place over the weekend with Clondalkin Round Towers and St Marys Saggart both fighting to keep their place in Senior 2 Football after finishing bottom of their groups in this year's championship, *reports Michael Howley.*

St Marys Saggart were drawn to play against Naomh Olaf with the match taking place in Stepaside. Marys would ultimately have too much for Olaf to handle particularly with their goalscoring as they cruised to a healthy victory emerging on the positive end of a 4-15 to 0-18 scoreline. They were inspired to their first victory of the championship campaign by a huge performance from Jamie McCarville who scored 3-3 on the day with a Blaine Kelly the icing on the cake as they ensured their place in the Senior 2 championship ahead of next year.

The result concludes what has been an incredibly frustrating season for St Marys who can count themselves as somewhat unlucky that they even found themselves in the relegation play offs to begin with. Far from being dominated by the other teams in their group, St Marys gave each team extremely competitive games and would lose each of their matches purely by way of very fine margins.

Their opening fixture saw them come up against Fingallians who managed to beat them by a point after an very hard fought contest with the final score being 0-15 to 0-16.Their next game against Naomh Barrog would again see them lose by just a point with the final scoring ending up 1-17 to 1-16. Finally in their last group game of the championship they would play Championship semi finalists Erins Isle where they would lose by their biggest margin, still a close three point game. Clearly St Mary's had the skill and talent to compete with teams this year and were just unable to get results over the line when it mattered most.

The same could unfortunately not be said of Round Tower Clondalkin. They were beaten by Poball Parnell 1-17 to 0-12 in their relegation playoff and will find themselves in Intermediate football for next season.

Unlike St Marys, Towers have looked somewhat out of sorts throughout this campaign and have failed to mount any real threat against much of their opposition throughout. An opening day 21 point defeat to St Patrick's Donabate was a sign of things to come for the club and they would follow that performance up with a 20 point defeat to Fingal Ravens in their next game. Their final group match against Scoil Ui Chonaill would be a far closer affair with Towers coming up short by just a point, despite the valiant performance it would not be enough to save them for a relegation play off and an eight point defeat to Poball Parnell has condemned them to Intermediate Football for next year's Championship.

GAA

Davis and Mark's come up short

THOMAS Davis would come up short in their Junior 1 camogie campaign after reaching the final this year. They played Kilmacud Crokes last weekend in a losing effort.

Davis had done well to reach the final and had picked up several big wins throughout the group phase of the campaign. They had finished on top of their group with a total clean sweep throughout the initial phase of the competition. Raheny were beaten by a seven point margin, Judes were beaten by eight. The most impressive of their group victories came against local rivals Faughs Celtic who Davis managed to beat via an impressive 2-18 to 0-09 scoreline.

This put them in a great position heading into their championship semi-final against Ballinteer St John's where they showed why they were one of the strongest teams in the competition. Ballinteer had no chance throughout the game as Davis put a serious beating on the side. Sarah Cullen alone managed to accumulate a very impressive 1-12 points tally and she was just one of many scorers for the team on the day.

The game against Kilmacud Crokes did not go how they would have planned unfortunately and Davis found themselves on the receiving end of a ten point defeat on Sunday afternoon in Abbottstown. In all fairness Crokes had been considered to be the overall favourite heading into the competition, Davis also found themselves without one of their key players with Sinead Dixon playing her last game of the year for the side against Ballinteer.

Another local team that fell unfortunately short in a final was St Mark's in a Junior 6 Shield Final against Beann Eadair. The final score read 1-06 to 1-03 in favour of Beann Eadair.

Faughs junior camogie tops in shield showdown

FAUGHS GAA emerged victorious in their shield final last weekend as they took on Castleknock, *reports Michael Howley.*

Faughs actually found themselves down by several points in the first half and it was certainly an uphill battle throughout the game for them to prevail after they conceded a goal also. A goal by Cora Hogan shortly before halftime rallied their spirits as did the performance of their goalkeeper Elaine Waters who pulled off several vital saves before the interval to stop Castleknock from increasing their lead any further.

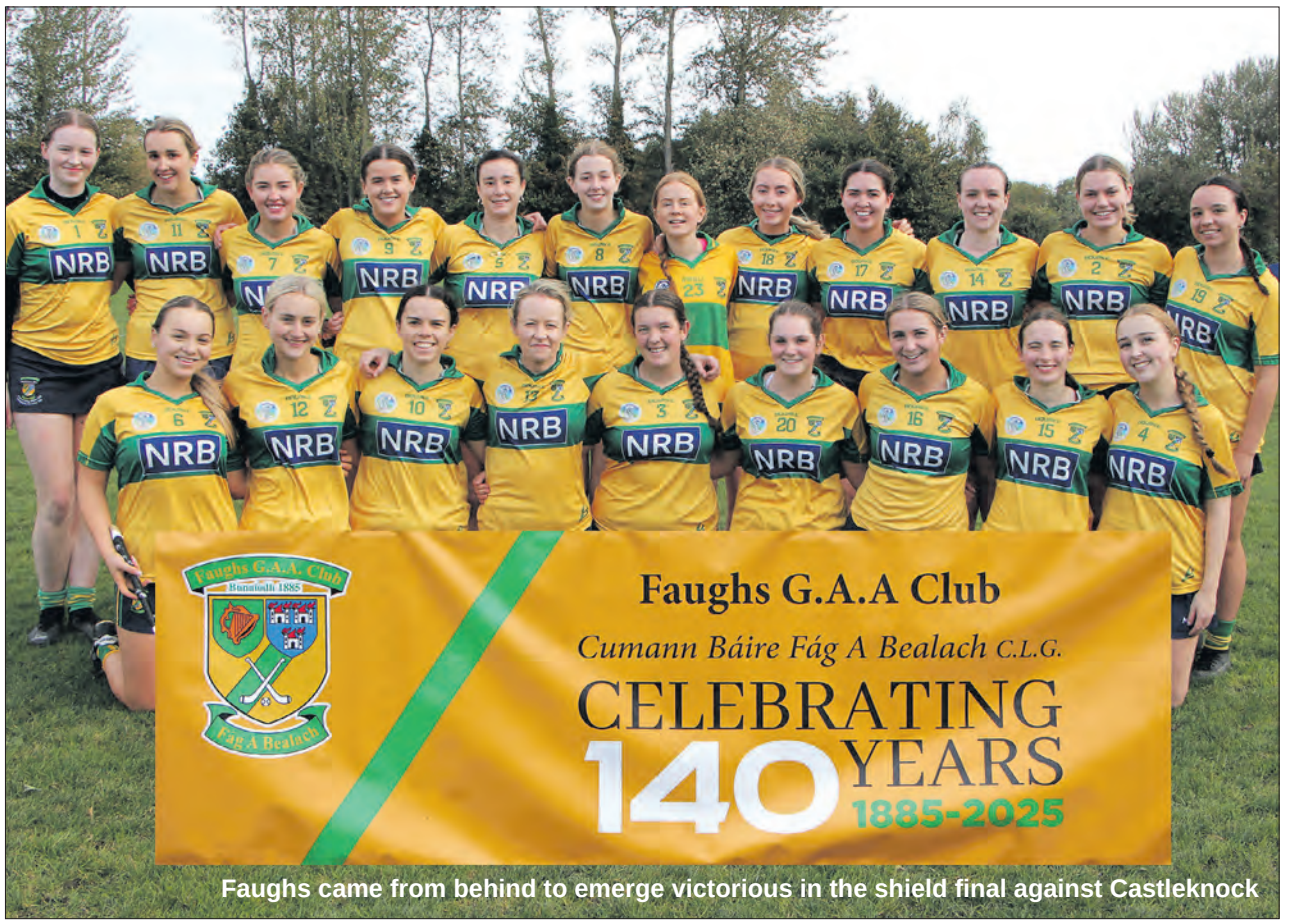
The first fifteen minutes of the second half would follow a similar pattern but eventually Faughs would find themselves on top after Emma Lucy and Sally O'Grady both scored in quick succession. Grace Duffy added on to the tally with two late points towards the end of the game to ensure that Faughs found themselves with a fairly comfortable lead by the time the final whistle was blown. The final score read 3-9 to 1-9 in Faughs favour.

Captained by Orlaith Martin the team did enough to overcome the adversity faced in the first half and did more than enough to emerge winners by a healthy six point margin.

The championship campaign had been a mixed bag for Faughs.

A win over Jude's in the opening game of the competition put them in a positive place however they were unlucky in losing to Raheny in their next game by an extremely competitive 3-12 to 2-13 scoreline.

They had led for a decent portion of the game and just allowed the northside team to get themselves back in the match towards the end of the game. This was followed by a match against Thomas Davis where they were decisively beaten with Davis themselves reaching the final of this year's championship.



Faughs came from behind to emerge victorious in the shield final against Castleknock

The team is integrating the youth talent well and look to build onto the future.

They are already finding performances in the championship improving since arriving up from Junior 2 two years ago.

The side are confident that they can improve on this performance even further next year and are delighted to pick up a piece of silverware to end the campaign on a high note.

Anne's inters march into decider

ST ANNE'S have qualified for the Intermediate Final following an excellent win over Naomh Fionnbarra last Saturday, *reports Michael Howley*.

The semi final was played at O'Toole Park and proved to be a tight game as was expected. It would ultimately be St Anne's goalscoring prowess that allowed them to get over the line and make the final scoreline comfortably in their favour.

Nipper McNally's side had taken a long route to the finals but now find themselves as very worthy participants. A long campaign has seen them go unbeaten throughout the group stage and of course in the knockout phase of the competition also.

Still it looked like it could have been anyone's game heading into the matchup against Naomh Fionnbarra, both teams had been unbeaten though both had challenged throughout.

It would be the side from Cabra who would have the initial period of dominance throughout the game and would have been disappointed at half time to only be leading by three points with the score being 0-06 to 0-03 in their favour,


St Anne's and Naomh Fionnbarra battle for possession
Photos Grace Hilliard


Action from St Anne's and Naomh Fionnbarra in O'Toole Park

particularly as they were benefitting from a strong wind. However, the tide turned after the break as the Bohernabreena side gained the ascendancy through strong defensive displays by Sean Walsh, Craig Conroy and Sean Delappe.

Sean McCahill impressed with his performance in the midfield in the second half as St Anne's poured forward and managed to score the important goals which brought them ahead in the tie with Luke Perry and Scott Fulham having the green flag raised.

Perry added two points for good measure with the likes of Darragh Fulham, Sean Stewart, Aaron McGrath, Jamie O'Neill and Eoin Kennedy all chipping in with crucial scores by the final whistle.

Ultimately St Annes would have enough to prevail past Naomh Fionnbarra answering any questions as to who was the better team, two goals gave them the edge in the contest that would finish 2-09 to 0-07 in their favour.

They will be playing Round Towers Lusk in the final of the Intermediate championship. Lusk had a semi-final of their own in Naul on Saturday as they took on Ballyboughal. Lusk would cruise to a victory as they came out on the right side of a 3-13 to 2-8 scoreline booking themselves in as St Anne's opponents in the final.

Soccer

Crawford's U21s in Euro action in Slovakia

THE Ireland U21s find themselves back in action in the 2027 Euro Qualification campaign as they take on Slovakia this Friday, *reports Michael Howley.*

The team has gotten the campaign off to a good start with wins against Moldova and Andorra last month with Mason Melia and Michael Noonan both showing goalscoring form and netting for their country.

Tallaght native Jim Crawford released his squad selection for the upcoming game against Slovakia last Thursday with some familiar faces making the cut.

Of course, St Patrick's Athletic Mason Melia and Shamrock Rovers Michael Noonan have been included.

Former Cherry Orchard and St Pats youth product James Abankwah has been included into the team. Currently playing for Watford in the Championship alongside international teammate Rocco Vata, Abankwah has become a regular addition to U21 squads and received his first call up to the senior squad earlier this year.

An unfortunate omission from the squad is Tallaght native Cian Dillon.

The Shamrock Rovers youth product joined QPR earlier this year and featured regularly for the sides U21 side as well as getting a two month loan spell in the National League South last season at Enfield and has just recently joined Torquay United on loan for the next month, making his debut in last weekend's match against Salisbury.

The chance to play Senior football may change Crawford's opinion as he currently seems to favour the likes of Mason Melia and Michael Noonan upfront who are both playing senior football regularly scoring and participating in European competition.

Dillon may want to do the same and leave behind the U21 set up.

Talented Victor moves to Arsenal in €2m deal

SHAMROCK Rovers have confirmed the transfer of young star Victor Ozhianvuna to Arsenal for a fee reportedly believed to be around the €2 million mark making him the most expensive player signed from a League of Ireland team, breaking the record previously set by Mason Melia when his move to Tottenham Hotspur was announced earlier this year, *reports Michael Howley.*

Victor will remain with Shamrock Rovers until the age of 18 and then make the move to north London in January 2027. Ozhianvuna has been with Shamrock Rovers since the age of 6, growing up within the club's Academy and this transfer is a reflection on the player as well as the academy of Shamrock Rovers.

Born 10 January 2009, Ozhianvuna began his playing days with Firhouse United but it was at Shamrock Rovers that he excelled having joined the Hoops at the age of six.

Playing on the same team as Joel McPhail, Brody Collins, and a host of very talented young players, Ozhianvuna stood out playing up front and all across the middle of the park. He was on the team that pulled off a remarkable SFAI Cup double success in 2022 in both the Under 13 and Under 14 competitions in the same season. The team was managed by Graham Barrett.

Rovers boss Stephen Bradley commented on the signing hailing Ozhianvuna and Mason Melia as examples to follow and warning young players of being influenced by agents.

"Victor trusts us, which is important," said Bradley. "The family trusts us. So as a club, he could have went to any club at 16 around Europe. I think they've shown us the respect, they signed a professional deal. If that and Mason aren't the template for young players in this country, I don't know what it is. You go for X amount of money, which Victor's gone for, straight away you're respected when you're in the building."

"Parents are being brainwashed by having to go to Europe at 16. It's nonsense. It's absolutely nonsense. They are being sold a dream. It's a conversation for a different day but I've had so many players that have left at 16 ringing me the last few months. Can we meet for a coffee? Can we come in and train?"

"And it's wrong. Like I said, there's too many agents just looking to push players at the first opportunity out of this country. It's the wrong move. History tells you that the ones that come late are the better ones. You'll always get the Robbies (Keane), the Damiens (Duff), the ones, Evan Ferguson, who are just ready. But in the majority, players need to stay here, trust the clubs, play first-team football and go at a later date. It's great. Stephen McPhail (sporting director) and Ciarán (Medlar) chairman have worked extremely hard with Arsenal the last few months to get it done."



Victor Ozhianvuna training schoolboy players at Shamrock Rovers during the summer
Photo by Robert Goggins

Knockmitten O35s are going strong

KNOCKMITTEN United have seen a resurgence in their over 35 team this season after an extended absence which saw the club without a team representing the age group, *reports Michael Howley.*

After finishing in second place following the conclusion of their inaugural season it appears to be back healthier than ever with plans to improve in future.

James McGuirk was a key figure in getting the team reestablished in the club. McGuirk spoke about the difficulty in actual fielding a team for the club as well as the huge amount of signings that were needed in order to make the team with circa 30 players arriving over the course of the season and then dealing with inevitably many of those players being unable to fulfill a long term commitment to the team.

The team competes in the Amateur Football League, which are a series of leagues and divisions dedicated to Over 35 football in Dublin. Despite the amateur tagline the leagues are extremely competitive even at the lower divisions with some higher division teams having former League of Ireland players and Leinster Senior level players are common throughout the leagues.

McGuirk hopes that the implementation of a over 35s team will allow players to keep being involved with the club throughout their lives even if they are past their physical prime and no longer able to play for the senior side any longer. He spoke about his own experiences in this regard, coming from a family involved with Knockmitten United for several decades, he himself ended up playing a season for Palmerstown as there was no team currently active in the club that would have catered to individuals such as himself. He is more than happy to be back in familiar surroundings with Knockmitten United and hopes that the Over 35s side can continue to grow from strength to strength.



Knockmitten United have seen a resurgence in their over 35 team

"We have players from under 8s all the way through so we're hoping that it can keep ticking on. We should always have a supply of players coming in and able to play. It's great to keep playing when you love the sport. It's just great to be out with the lads, playing ball and having a bit of craic. It gets you out of the house."

Soccer

Rovers women hold out to secure win in Cork

STEPHANIE Zambra's Shamrock Rovers travelled to Turner's Cross over the weekend where they took on Cork City, *reports Michael Howley.*

Katie O'Reilly threatened early on with a volley towards the near post however the Cork keeper rose to the challenge and made a comfortable save. Only minutes later Rovers would stick the ball in the back of the net. A fantastic cross by Mia Dodd into the box was initially met by Aine O Gorman and after the Cork defender and goalkeeper failed to clear their lines, O Gorman was able to stick out an outstretched foot, kicking the ball behind her and into the empty goal.

A second goal would arise for Rovers only ten minutes later. Katie O'Reilly was the driving force behind the goal. Cork attempted to play out from the back and O'Reilly intercepted a pass from one of their centre backs, she brought the ball to the edge of the area before laying it off to Jamie Thompson who floated in a first time strike over the opposing keeper's head and into the back of the net to make it 2-0.

Thompson would go close again only five minutes later but on this occasion the keeper would rise to the challenge. Katie O'Reilly would also try before the halftime mark but Katie Irwin in goal would deny her to ensure that the deficit was kept to just two goals for Cork going into the break.

Something that Rovers will certainly not be happy with is the defensive error that allowed Cork to score almost immediately into the second half, a backpass from Maria Reynolds fell short as it made its way to Summer Lawless and the hurried clearance from the Rovers goalkeeper was struck off of the Cork forward deflecting into the goal making the score 2-1 and offering Cork a possible lifeline.

Rovers would continue to dominate the majority of the possession and chance creation for the remainder of the half however. The day would go from bad to worse for Maria Reynolds who picked up a second yellow card in the 85th minute earning herself a red.

Even down to 10 players however Rovers were able to hold out and pick up a valuable 2-1 victory. While the result is certainly a positive one, there are still areas of improvement to be made in that Rovers side and no doubt Zambra will be hoping for an improved performance heading into the last game of the season against Shelbourne.

Peamount women topple league leaders Athlone

Newcastle side's impressive run of form moves them into fifth spot

PEAMOUNT United women team are on a tremendous run of form at the minute and have only extended their winning ways following last weekend's game against league leaders Athlone Town, *reports Michael Howley.*

Heading into this game there were some questions to be asked of Peamount following the 3-0 defeat that they suffered the last time the two sides met. Yet because of the recent run of form which has seen them lose just one of their last seven games they had reason to be confident heading into the fixture.

It took about 15 minutes for the action to really get underway in the match with Isabel Ryan hitting the post for Athlone early on. Peamount would respond shortly after with Aishling Spillane broke through the defence of Athlone with a powerful run, her shot was saved handily however by Megan Plaschko in goal.

Peamount received the best chance of the game in the 30th minute when Sadhbh Doyle found herself one on one with the keeper after being played through by Ellen Dolan. She was denied by Plaschko who has proven her worth numerous times in goal for Athlone this season.

Peamount had further attempts to score by the end of that half and Sorcha Melia will be disappointed she did not convert at least one of her chances before half time. While they headed into the interval scoreless, Peamount deserved to have at least one goal to their name,

Sorcha Melia's bad luck would continue and after the resumption of the second half a long range effort from her clip off the post after making its way past Plaschko in goal. Peamount would finally get the ball into the back of the net with 15 minutes left in the game with Eleanor Ryan Doyle getting on the end of a Sadhbh Doyle cross, her effort however would be ruled out as offside.

Finally, saving Peamount from what would have been an incredibly frustrating draw, Eleanor Ryan Doyle found the target with only three minutes left in the game. One on one with the keeper she made no mistake as Plaschko was finally beaten with no offside flag coming to the rescue.

The result has pushed Peamount into 5th place and truly highlights the progress they have made in recent weeks. It took until the penultimate game of the season but league leaders Athlone have finally been beaten and will not achieve the coveted 'invincible' season.



Peamount's Eleanor Ryan Doyle in action at the weekend
Photo Bartley Ramsay

Five-star show from Old Bawn

OLD BAWN Athletic sailed into round two of the UCFL Challenge Cup when they met Clondalkin Celtic, in Sean Walsh Park last Saturday, and ran out comfortable 5-0 winners, *reports John Mooney.*

Despite the strong wind and driving rain sweeping in from the Dublin mountains this was a really good game of football, even if it was a huge disappointment for Clondalkin.

The Celts have been doing well in Division 3C, then again they did have to switch venue due to the weather and Old Bawn, from Division 2, took full advantage with their five star performance.

They wasted no time in settling into the game and on 13 minutes went in front through Aaron Breslin, when he ran onto a through ball from Lewis Talbot and slotted home.

At the half hour mark it was 2-0, this time after Ciaran Melligan chased a long ball from Sean Doran and made no mistake when presented with the chance.

Now, if Clondalkin had thoughts of tightening up in the second half and snatching a quick goal, that was totally undone within two minutes as Breslin struck his second in the 47th minute from a Melligan pass.

An uphill struggle for the visitors but, in fairness, they didn't drop their heads and carried the game forward.

But, as usual, chasing a game means leaving gaps at the back and the Bawn were only too happy to fill those gaps.

Two more in the space of five minutes put the gloss on a great performance, as Cian Bates bagged two for himself after being set up on both occasions by Breslin on 73 and 78 minutes.

Clondalkin manager David Gilligan commented "We were well beaten by a very good Old Bawn team and just couldn't get to grips at all with the game.

We made some changes and grew into the game a little but they sat back, and were never in any danger. However, I am happy our lads dug in and kept going till the final whistle".

CLONDALKIN CELTIC: T. Byrne, G. Greene, E. Murray, C. Forte, S. Bermingham, D. Daly, C. Dobbyns, D. Mitchel, M. Gibson, E. McCusker, D. Brennan.

OLD BAWN AFC: C. Keating, K. Glass, J. Ryan, C. Lyons, S. Doran, G. Perry, A. Breslin, F. Ptak, C. Bates, C. Milligan, L. Talbot, M. Lovett, C. Casey, K. Doran, B. Prout.



Old Bawn Athletic cruised in to round two of the cup with a 5-0 win over Clondalkin Celtic



Clondalkin Celtic were well beaten but dug in and kept going until the end

Soccer

Hoops find the going tough in Europe

SHAMROCK Rovers faced defeat last night in their first UEFA Conference League group phase game as they took on Sparta Prague in Czechia, *reports Michael Howley.*

Despite Rovers excellent form throughout the domestic campaign as well as in the Conference League qualifiers the contest served as a reminder to the levels that exist within football. Rovers found themselves unable to produce their usual style of play and found themselves on the backfoot for the majority of the game.

The real damage was done in between the 30th and 50th minutes of the match with Sparta scoring two goals before the end of the first half and scoring another only minutes after the second half resumed. There were several reasons for this including defensive errors made across Rovers backline, higher quality of play from the home side along with an approach to the game from Stephen Bradley that with hindsight may be viewed as the incorrect one.

Rovers would wait until the last ten minutes of the game to register their first shot of the day and shortly after they would take their second with Danny Mandriou producing a sublime finish to make the score 3-1. The spell shortly after would see Rovers more productive than they had been for the previous 80 minutes as they were willing to attack and push up the pitch.

They would be punished for their misadventure however with Sparta catching them with a counter attack to make it 4-1 right before the full time whistle.

Bradley made several changes to the team that beat Bohemians last Friday and Graham Burke, Danny Mandriou and Dylan Watts were among those who did not start. It's possible a different starting line up or approach to the game could have seen them benefit. Though perhaps the last minute goal for Sparta is an indicator of what would have happened had Rovers tried to play more attacking 'total' football throughout the match.

Manager Stephen Bradley spoke on his side's performance and his own team selection.

"Sparta were the better team but we're really disappointed with the goals we gave away, especially the two corners, they were really poor. Up to that point they did not create any opportunities so we were really disappointed to concede the goals we did. Especially the one before half-time. You go in 1-0, make your subs and it can become a different game."

"But the goals we gave away were really soft, really poor. We were sloppy in our decision making. We are experienced enough to know at this level that if you switch off and don't do your job, you get punished and we got punished."

"Sunday is a really important game for us and you have got to understand it's about the players' loads and trying to even out over the few weeks. With Thursday and then Sunday we knew tonight was going to be a lot of defensive work and the subs that came in, if you start them it's a heavy load with Sunday in mind. Sunday had a big bearing on it."

Rovers remain on course to complete the double

SHAMROCK Rovers have reached the FAI Cup final following a comprehensive victory over Kerry FC with a 6-1 scoreline last Sunday evening in Tallaght Stadium, *reports Michael Howley.*

The first ever competitive clash between the clubs, Graham Burke would establish a clear lead for Rovers within the opening 25 minutes, netting twice in quick succession to produce a 2-0 lead for the soon to be league champions.

He would soon be involved in an off the ball incident with Kerry's Joe Adams which has caused quite the stir online however escaped any disciplinary action from the referee during the game.

A further brace from Michael Noonan along with goals from Dylan Watts and Cian Barrett sealed the victory for Rovers with a Kerry penalty in the 56th minute scored by Joe Adams amounting to little more than a consolation goal.

Bradley spoke on his side's dominating performance throughout the game.

"Kerry are an extremely honest group, They work extremely hard for each other, so we had to be patient at times and wait for the opportunities. But some of the play was really, really good and I'm really happy that when we had them [struggling to defend] we kept going. We experienced that on Thursday night. When good teams have you on the ropes, they go for you so that was really pleasing."



Michael Noonan takes on the Kerry defence during the semi-final clash in Tallaght Stadium on Sunday
Photos by George Kelly

"I knew they'd be well-organised, I knew they'd have a game plan to frustrate us and it was just about being patient. When it's 0-0, 1-0, they'll always believe and they'll always keep working when they have something to aim for, but we just had to be patient and find the openings and we did."

The result brings Rovers one step closer to completing a domestic double, a feat that would be their first since 1987. Bradley is all too conscious of the fact.

"We knew that before the game, I was well aware of that. Going back to Thursday [the loss to Sparta Prague and resting players], this was always our aim, to give ourselves the chance of doing the double. It would be something that would be remembered forever. We've given ourselves that chance now by reaching the final and we'll do everything to make it happen."



Shamrock Rovers Graham Burke on the ball against Kerry

'Hugely disappointing' as St Pat's are sent packing from FAI Cup after defeat to Cork

CORK City pulled off a huge upset last Friday night as they carried out a significant victory against St Pat's in the FAI Cup Semi Final at Turner's Cross, *reports Michael Howley.*

Joseph Anang was called into action early in the Pats goal making a big save in the fourth minute as Cork attacked with a tenacity that they have rarely shown throughout this season. He would be partly at fault for the first goal of the evening only minutes later however, rushing out of his goal he was unable to beat Seanie Maguire to the ball who took the ball around Anang with a deft flick. Sliding the ball past Joe Redmond and ahead of Gritvoski the goal was easily taken by the former Ireland international.

Pats threatened throughout the rest of the half however failed to create any meaningful chances with their consistent pressure and possession unable to generate a goal with the likes of Mason Melia and Jay McClelland both proving to be wasteful in front of goal.

Things would go from bad to worse for Pats in the second half of the game as Cork would score a second in the 70th minute after Pats again found themselves unable to do anything with their possession for the opening 25 minutes of the half. The lead would be added onto less than a minute later as Cork scored a third with a swift counter attack and excellent hold up play from Seanie Maguire allowed Evan McLoughlin to score his second of the game. The match would finish 3-0 with Pats exiting the cup with a whimper.

Stephen Kenny spoke after the game about the opening goal within the first few minutes and overall performance.

""Obviously Joe misjudged it and he [Maguire] finished it. It's not like Joe, Joe's been brilliant for us, he's been pretty consistent," he said. "It was our own downfall by giving the goal away that we did, because once you give a team the lead then they can play like that and then it's on the counter. So we're disappointed with ourselves.

"It was a hugely disappointing night for us, there's no getting away from that. We just gave away a couple of really poor goals. The first goal obviously is a mistake from our point of view. We gave Cork a lead by doing that and then they defended in numbers. We had a lot of possession, but we struggled to create clear-cut chances from our approach play."

"We put Conor Carty on as the second striker and then a couple of minutes later we conceded. We were pretty disjointed at the back for that goal and then conceded straight after. It was hard to believe, really, but it was a great strike from Evan McLaughlin and we can have no complaints. It's a really bad night for us because we really wanted to win and there's no getting away from that. We definitely wanted it but on the night we didn't do enough to merit it."

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