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Inquest into teen death after attending rave in 3Arena page 6

Ballyfermot school campus unacceptable and chaotic page 3

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Faces of the community



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GREAT DAY FOR THE PARISH

THERE was a huge turnout at parades in Clondalkin, Lucan and the Four Districts as thousands in the community came out to celebrate St Patrick's Day on Tuesday, reports *James Roulston Mooney*. See pages 4, 5, 46, 47, 50 and 51

COMMUNITY COMES OUT IN FORCE IN CLONDALKIN AND LUCAN

1,306 submissions received by council over plans to rezone 157.5 hectares for housing

Major opposition against plans to rezone land

THERE has been overwhelming public opposition to the council's plans to rezone a number of sites around the county including Clondalkin, Lucan and Citywest to make way for more residential development, reports *Ellen Gough*. See pages 14 & 15

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Next Edition

The next edition of *The Echo*
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March 26, 2026. **Don't miss it!**

Stadium pitch staff suspended

COMPLAINT: The alleged incident
occurred before Shamrock Rovers
match with Dundalk in February

Pitch was allegedly watered during heavy rain ahead of match

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

THREE council staff members responsible for maintaining the pitch at Tallaght Stadium have been suspended after a complaint it was watered during heavy rain in February, which led to the first Shamrock Rovers fixture of the year being postponed.

It's understood that South Dublin County Council are investigating the complaint that the pitch was allegedly watered ahead of a fixture between Shamrock Rovers and Dundalk on Friday, February 6, which was then postponed due to a waterlogged pitch.

Watering on the pitch was allegedly carried out ahead of the fixture despite record-breaking levels of rainfall that week, during the wettest February in Dublin on record.

Tallaght Stadium is owned by SDCC and typically maintained by members of the council's Public Realm department, with Shamrock Rovers as the anchor tenants.

It's understood the club complained to SDCC about the pitch following a review of CCTV footage.

The council have now engaged private contractors to maintain the pitch instead while the investigation is ongoing.

However, this has led to a separate action by union representatives for the Public Realm team, who say that other staff members should have been redeployed to take over the maintenance, not private contractors.

This dispute was brought before the Workplace Relations Commission on Friday, March 13, for mediation but no resolution was reached.

Jimmy Quinn, a SIPTU representative for the council's Public Realm staff, said that there was "no willingness" from senior council staff to work with them on the matter.

"That work has always been done by public realm staff, but they told us they couldn't redeploy them for various reasons," he told *The Echo*.

He said that despite an offer from SIPTU to

have their members work with the contractors, the council "insisted that while the investigation was going on, the contractors would remain in situ in the stadium for the foreseeable future".

This matter has now been referred to the Labour Court.

An FAI spokesperson said that the League of Ireland "are currently reviewing a complaint received in relation to the postponement of Shamrock Rovers v Dundalk in the SSE Airtricity Men's Premier Division on Friday, February 6, 2026".

"Upon receipt of this complaint, the League of Ireland has engaged with Tallaght Stadium and Shamrock Rovers and will provide further information if appropriate after this process" they said in a statement to *The Echo*.

South Dublin County Council were also approached for comment but said they had none to "issue on this matter at this time".

The fixture between Shamrock Rovers and Dundalk was rescheduled and played at Tallaght Stadium on Monday, February 23, with a 1-1 result.

11,656 inspections have been carried out on rental properties

OVER 11,500 inspections of private rental properties have been carried out in Tallaght, Clondalkin, Lucan and other areas of the county since September 2023, reports James Roulston Mooney.

11,656 inspections of rental properties have been carried out in postcode areas related to South Dublin since the council appointed an external contractor in September 2023, and almost 10,000 of these come from Tallaght, Clondalkin, Lucan and nearby areas.

Just over 8,300 improvement letters have been issued to landlords as a result of these inspections, which have been aided by the appointment of an in-house inspector at the local council who was appointed in September 2025.

The Residential Tenancies Board's reporting system "does not support the breakdown of information by Local Electoral Area", according to South Dublin County Council, so the data was provided by postcode.

Listed in postcodes, the D24 area, including Tallaght, Jobstown and Old Bawn, stands out as most inspected part of South Dublin with 4,371 inspections, as well as the area with largest amount of improvement letters issued at 3,282 – likely due to population and housing stock status.

There are ten specific legal breaches that the RTB can investigate and sanction landlords for, named Regulation 4 all the way up to Regulation 13.

Most of the failed inspections in D24 related to Regulations 4 and 10, surrounding the structural condition and fire safety of a property.

The regulations relate to minimum standards



and others cover utilities provided, information given by the landlord, ventilation and heating to name a few.

The typical inspection cycle carried out includes a first inspection and one re-inspection. Where breaches are identified, an improvement letter is issued to the landlord with noted violations and a timeframe for completion of works.

The structural condition of private rental properties was the primary reason for the largest single chunk of all 11,000 inspections.

The D22 area involving Clondalkin, Neilstown and Bawnogue saw the highest number of failures relating to Regulation 11 – refuse facilities, with 15. It is the only area to have 10 or more of these failures in the two and a half years of inspections.

The Lucan (K78) area received the second-

highest number of inspections from the external contractor and outperformed all other postcodes when it came to Regulation 12, concerning gas, oil and electricity installations at properties.

Most other post codes inspected have a large amount of area covered by another local authority, but some surprising numbers cropped up nonetheless.

South Dublin's patch of D14, an area cut up by three local authorities, has seen more Regulation 12 failures (139) than D16 (95), which it shares Rathfarnham with.

Where there is continued non-compliance on completion of the inspection cycle, properties are escalated to the Environmental Health Office for follow up, with the view to achieving compliance.

The Environmental Health Officers actively work with landlords to achieve compliance with the regulations and they can issue further warnings, such as improvement notices, prohibition notices and if all else fails, initiate legal proceedings against a non-compliant landlord.

Since appointment of the contractor in September 2023, 22 improvement notices and two prohibition notices have been served on landlords operating in South Dublin.

Legal proceedings have been initiated against the landlord of three properties, which are at various stages of progression with SDCC's Law Department.

The potential outcome of legal proceedings is a fine of up to €1,270 and/or a criminal conviction.

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme.

Number of solar bins to be doubled

THE council plans to double the number of solar bins across South Dublin over the next two years, *reports Ellen Gough.*

Over 100 solar compactor bins have been installed in the first phase of South Dublin County Council's roll out of the units across the county, which supports "reducing the council's daily operational carbon footprint".

"To date, SDCC operates 102 solar compactor bins," the council's director of climate action Teresa Walsh stated in a written reply to a question at the March full council meeting.

She was responding to a question from Cllr Niamh Fennell (SF) on "how many solar bins are expected to be further delivered in phase two of this initiative, broken down by Local Electoral Areas".

"The first phase of the provision of solar compactor bins has been completed with installations of over 100 units across Tallaght, Rathfarnham, Clondalkin in quarter three of 2025 and more recently in Lucan," Ms Walsh said.

"The three-year capital programme 2026 - 2028, has provided additional funding of €500,000 (€250,000 in 2026 and €250,000 in 2027) for the continuation of the phased roll out of solar compactor bins," she continued.

Approximately 50 units are set to be installed in village centres in Rathcoole, Saggart, Palmerstown and Templeogue during 2026 as part of the second phase of the project.

These additional installations will be targeted at high-footfall areas such as town/village/district centres and busy park entrances, with the location of units for each village "being finalised and an update to councillors will issue shortly," Ms Walsh said.

"A further 50 units will be installed in 2027 as part of the third phase, with locations to be determined based on the operational demands of the existing bin provision within the county."

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme

1,000 student school campus 'unacceptable'

Calls to move forward with plans for permanent building for St Seton's

By James Roulston Mooney
jamesrm@echo.ie

THE Minister for Education has been urged to prioritise a new building for a DEIS Band 1 school in Ballyfermot as their current two-campus home is "unacceptable."

Minister for Education and Youth Hildegard Naughton TD has been urged to move forward with a plan to build a permanent building for St Seton's Secondary School on Le Fanu Road, Ballyfermot, who are currently operating out of two campuses.

The planned building would see the school operate out of one campus that would cater for 1,000 students and also provide accommodation, including six classrooms for children with special educational needs.

Councillor Daithí Doolan described the school's two-campus set-up since its establishment in 2022 as "chaotic" for all involved.

Cllr Doolan said: "The ongoing issues with St Seton's school is absolutely unacceptable. For a community like Ballyfermot to have a secondary school on two different sites, on two different campuses.

"It is chaotic for pupils, for staff and for parents and it wouldn't be acceptable in other areas of Dublin



CHAOTIC: The Minister has been urged to move forward with a new building for St Seton's in Ballyfermot

or indeed across the country.

"So, what we're asking the government to do is step up to the challenge, and as promised, put one state-of-the-art modern secondary school on the site on Le Fanu Road.

"Because what we have at the moment is two schools out of date, not fit for purpose, cold, damp,

unwelcoming schools, of which children in Ballyfermot have to be educated in, and it's wrong.

Parents and pupils, as well as teachers and faculty members, have to drive from one site to another, which the Ballyfermot councillor noted only added to the "traffic chaos" in the area.

A lack of sports facilities available to the school in their current setup and the driveway and courtyard has become adorned with multiple potholes with a temporary fix out of reach.

The councillor added that the current situation is harming the school's chances to ensure that a strong sense of community is created and maintained.

Minister Naughton stated in a response to a parliamentary question recently that the school building project is currently planned to be delivered as part of Phase 2 of the Department's ADAPT 4 Programme - Programme Innovate.

The ADAPT 4 Programme Innovate comprises the development of Post Primary, Primary and Special Schools across various sites including numerous campus projects.

St Seton's was not included in the 105 schools listed for Phase 1 of the programme set to proceed to construction or tender in 2026 and 2027.

Cllr Doolan noted that this "clearly shows how out of touch this Minister for Education is."

"You cannot help but visit that school and realise that it needs to be dealt with as a matter of urgency."

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Over 20,000 attend Tallaght St Patrick's Day celebrations



ON YOUR BIKE: Gardai enjoying the day

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

DESPITE some threatening clouds, it was perfect St Patrick's Day weather for the parade through Tallaght this March 17.

Main Street was packed on both sides with people waving flags and cheering for the bands, dance groups, community organisations and sports teams that took part in the 2026 Tallaght St Patrick's Day parade.

The festivities on Tuesday kicked off with the annual 5K Road Race at 12.15pm, delivered in partnership with Tallaght Athletics Club, with over 700 participants.

The parade, which started a little after 1.30pm, was led by this year's Grand Marshal, former TD and councillor Charlie O'Connor, in an open top car, followed closely by the Tallaght Marching Band and 38 other groups.

There were also activities on Old Greenhills Road throughout the morning, with face painting, music and street entertainment, as well as a sensory play area.

A family fun area with inflatable games and a big screen viewing point for the parade was located at the Greenhills Road gate to TUD Tallaght.

The 2026 parade was organised by South Dublin County Council for the

second year in a row.

There had been no St Patrick's Day Parade in Tallaght village since 2019, due to Covid restrictions and the disbanding of the volunteer committee that had organised previous Tallaght parades in 2023.

Joe Lumumba, the council's project manager for the St Patrick's Day Festival, said it was "a good day".

"We actually thought it was a better spectacle this year than it was last year, we had more floats and we still want to have more floats again going forward, it's something that we're going to keep building up on," he told *The Echo*.

He said council staff were able to learn from and build on running last year's festival.

"We had the additional neurodiversity station, and we increased then the wheelchair accessibility area, which was a lot bigger this year based on the demand for that space last year.

While a full number hasn't been finalised, Joe estimated that 23,000 people attended the festival this year, an increase on last year's attendance of 20,000.

"There were more people than last year, we know that for a fact," he said.

"We had anticipated that there would be more people, and the weather was obviously nice on Tuesday and that always induces passersby as well."



CELEBRATIONS: Cllr Emma Murphy with Oisín and Tara de Buitlear



IN FINE: Clondalkin Youth Band at the St Patrick's Day Parade

Fantastic day with thousands taking to the streets

ST PATRICK'S Day celebrations took place all over the county on Tuesday as thousands took to the streets of Clondalkin, Lucan, Saggart and Rathcoole, reports *James Roulston Mooney*.

16,000 came out to Clondalkin to view the St Patrick's Day Parade with the weather giving them some grace for the day that was in it.

Organiser Francis Timmons noted that the crowd that came out to see the festivities was beyond expectation.

Francis said: "The Clondalkin parade was the biggest crowd ever with an estimated 16,000 people coming out to view the parade, the weather helped bring the crowds out."

"We had just shy of 40 groups with over 1,000 people taking part, it was a fantastic day to celebrate the best of our Clondalkin community."

The route for the parade saw the large gathering begin at the Clondalkin Sports and Leisure Centre and travel along the Old Nangor Road, Tower Road, Orchard Road, Main Street and back to the Sports Centre via Tower Road and the Old Nangor Road.

Sports clubs such as Round Towers GAA and North Clondalkin Running Club were part of the marchers while musical tunes serenaded the avid watchers, courtesy of Clondalkin Youth Band and St Joseph's Pipe Band.

Grand Marshal Enya Martin led the party on the day and was full of praise for all who took part, describing them as "the heart of Clondalkin."

The Neilstown comedian was "blown away" by the masses that came to celebrate alongside them.

Enya said at the parade: "It's getting bigger and better every year. If it wasn't for Clondalkin, I wouldn't be who I am today – it's in my DNA."

"I'm delighted to be here today. I remember coming here as a kid many years ago and to actually be in the parade is a massive honour."

Over in Lucan, the turnout was in its thousands as well as they celebrated the 35th anniversary of their St Patrick's Day Parade.

The numbers at the starting point helped the parade to get off to a brilliant start as the sun blessed the 1,000 marchers throughout their journey.

Organiser Caroline Brady was delighted with the way things went on the day and noted the strong audience all along this year's route, which was only focused on Lucan Village when the parade began back in 1991.

Caroline said: "The route was packed the whole way from Hillcrest, all the way down the Dodsboro Road under the N4, past the Lucan Demesne and McDonald's, all the way down to the Ball Alley."

"It was just jammed, absolutely jammed and everyone was having a great time."

Several members of this year's parade in Lucan had been part of the start of it all back in 1991.

Grand Marshal Liam Cullen has been key to the parade's success as a member of the Red Cross and was given the honour of leading the line this year.

In full dress uniform, Cullen saluted the Irish flag in a poignant moment before the party set off on their merry way.

Members of Lucan United and other sports teams, scouts dens and marching bands wowed the observers as they made their journey through Lucan.

Caroline noted the joy on kids faces as they walked the route flanked by spectators on either side.

"The children coming through, that's the reason we do it. When you see the little kids in their football gear or in their dancing gear and they're so happy to be able to march or to be able to perform or sing or do their club yell – that's why I do it."

The communities of Rathcoole, Saggart, Newcastle, Brittas and Citywest all got in on the act as well at the Four Districts Parade.

The route was set from Rathlawns, Rathcoole near the Holy Family Community School and saw the parade move down the Main Street, past Avoca and the Fitzmaurice Road, into Springbank and Mill Road and then on into Saggart before finishing at St Mary's GAA club.

Organiser Sharon Redmond said that there was a very strong turnout filled with community spirit.

Sharon said: "I don't think I've ever seen Rathcoole and Saggart so busy, all along the route...sports clubs, communities and schools all came together."

"It was really buzzing, the whole atmosphere – everyone was in good form, and it went off really well."

400 took part in the march as the streets were lined from Rathlawns all the way down to St Mary's GAA with thousands of onlookers celebrating their community on a big day.

Longtime parade advocate Christy McDonald stood at the front of the marchers as the Grand Marshal of the parade in its 18th year.

The RAMS in Rhythm were in full force outside the Old Courthouse in Rathcoole and the singing and dancing was continued by the party as their 'Animal Mania' theme came to life.

Music on the day was the standout for Sharon as the parade shot adrenaline up high and provided a nice soft landing for the finale.

"I always love the pipe band coming up the Mill Road in Saggart. It's probably because I know that it's gone well, we're nearly there"



Biggest crowds ever at parades



GIZ A LAUGH: Clondalkin Grand Marshal Enya Martin at the start of the parade



HONOUR: Lucan Grand Marshal Liam Cullen

the streets in Clondalkin and Lucan during St Patrick's Day celebrations

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‘It would be sad to see any more children lost in the same way’

A CORONER is to write to the organisers of events at the 3Arena in Dublin to share the concerns of a mother whose teenage daughter collapsed and died after attending a rave at the venue on St Patrick’s Night two years ago, *reports Seán McCárthaigh*.

Aoibhe Martin-Quinn (17) from Willow Drive, Clondalkin, Dublin 22, died shortly after midnight on March 18, 2024 at the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital where she had been rushed by ambulance after becoming unresponsive after leaving a concert by techno DJ, blk., just before 11pm.

An inquest into her death at Dublin District Coroner’s Court heard the results of a postmortem showed the teenager died from acute MDMA (ecstasy) toxicity which had triggered a fatal cardiac arrest.

It heard how several friends of Aoibhe, ranging from 14 to 17 years, told gardai how they had consumed a variety of drugs including ecstasy, ketamine and fast gas (nitrous oxide) as well as alcohol over several hours before and during the concert.

Evidence was heard that the teenager had brought drugs into the venue, concealed in her bra.

Aoibhe’s mother, Sarah Quinn, expressed concern at the hearing on Thursday that there had been no change in the organisation of such events at the 3Arena since her daughter’s death.

Ms Quinn said she had been contacted recently by another woman whose son had died after attending the same venue.

“It would be sad to see any more children lost in the same way when that could be prevented,” she told coroner, Aisling Gannon.

Her comments followed evidence from a senior garda who described the scene outside the 3Arena before the blk. rave, which was attended by

thousands of teenagers, as “chaotic”. Detective Inspector Ken Hoare said staffing levels by the event organisers “may not have been quite appropriate.”

Sergeant Brian Clerkin, said gardai had been briefed in advance of policing the concert that there had been several incidents at similar events in the 3Arena previously with people trying to force their way into the venue and some others jumping between levels inside in the arena.

Outside the venue, Sgt Clerkin recalled seeing one security supervisor becoming “irate and aggressive” as she dealt with a large group of teenagers waiting to get into the venue with some jumping over barriers to avoid the queue.

“It appeared she was becoming overwhelmed by the situation,” said Sgt Clerkin.

He gave evidence that gardai outside the venue, which included members of the public order unit, had to intervene on several occasions to prevent “a crush situation” as the queue was “not being managed well.”

Sgt Clerkin noted that several concert goers had tried to storm a door that would get them access to the building.

After the rave was over, he described coming across a girl, whom he now knew was the deceased, lying on a footpath and helping her to sit up.

Sgt Clerkin said Aoibhe and another girl with her had both declined medical assistance.

After they were joined by other friends, he said he left the group but had advised Aoibhe that she should seek medical help if her condition changed.

Written depositions from Aoibhe’s friends, which were read out by a court registrar, detailed how the group had pre-planned the drugs they were going to consume on the day of the concert.



INQUEST: Aoibhe Martin-Quinn collapsed and died after attending a rave at the 3Arena

Members of the group described how they met up in one of their homes from around midday where some, including the deceased, inhaled some “fast gas” from balloons and took some ketamine as well as drinking cans of Four Loko before taking ecstasy later that evening.

The inquest heard they had bought the ketamine from an online contact who met them in Bawnogue, Clondalkin while the group had travelled into the city centre two days before the rave to buy 10 ecstasy tablets for €50 though an Instagram account with a dealer handing over the drugs to them near the ILAC centre.

One teenager recalled how Aoife complained of feeling warm and sick inside the 3 Arena before she vomited behind her seat.

However, he said she did “not look in a bad way at all” the last time he saw her before they got separated leaving the concert.

He told gardai that the group of friends had all agreed that they would

never take drugs again after hearing Aoibhe had died.

Another friend described how she had immediately flushed the drugs she still had down a drain after hearing the tragic news.

Another teenager said she had left the concert with Aoibhe who fell down outside and could not get up and was “not making sense.”

The inquest heard she was attended by Order of Malta volunteers before paramedics arrived on the scene and began CPR before placing her in an ambulance.

In reply to questions from the coroner, Det Insp Hoare, said gardai had arrested a suspect for selling the ecstasy tablets to the group.

However, Det Insp Hoare said the DPP had directed there should be no criminal prosecution due to insufficient evidence.

He said gardai had not received any information that there was any particular risk with that batch of the drug.

Det Insp Hoare said gardai had not identified the supplier of the ketamine, while nitrous oxide is not an illegal drug as it is sold for other purposes.

Asked about the management of the concert, he said gardai had subsequently raised with the management of the 3Arena the appropriateness of hosting an event which would attract up to 10,000 young people on St Patrick’s Night.

He pointed out that Garda resources are already stretched on what is traditionally their busiest day of the year when people have been celebrating throughout the day.

However, Det Insp Hoare acknowledged that gardai do not have a veto over what events are held at the venue or any role in staffing levels at the 3Arena.

He told the coroner he was unsure if gardai had a role over the licensing of such concerts.

However, Det Insp Hoare said gardai had made it “quite clear” to the 3Arena management the difficulties posed from a policing perspective in holding such events on St Patrick’s Night.

He praised Aoibhe’s friends for their candour in assisting gardai before adding: “They’re a good bunch of kids and it was a terrible tragedy.”

Aoife’s body was formally identified to gardai in the Mater by her father, Garrett Martin, who died last April in a second tragedy for her family.

Recording a verdict of death by misadventure, Ms Gannon said she would write to the management of the 3Arena “in a neutral way” to draw their attention to the concerns raised by Ms Martin.

The coroner said she was glad the inquest was able to be concluded just before Aoibhe’s second anniversary and offered her condolences to the teenager’s relatives who attended the inquest.

Review of county boundary and branding being piloted by NTA

A REVIEW of county boundary and branding is currently being piloted by the National Transport Authority as people travel from South Dublin to Dublin City and beyond, *reports James Roulston Mooney*.

The NTA is currently undertaking a review of county boundary and branding matters as patrons cross from South Dublin to Dublin City or Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown administrative area through new greenways.

The Dodder Greenway was noted as one of the active travel paths that could benefit from the outcome of this review.

SDCC Executive Engineer for Active Travel Ronan Carroll stated that clear parameters must be established regarding the advertising of commercial facilities in relation to Fáilte Ireland and the Dodder Greenway and this is under review.

The Dodder Greenway will provide approximately 20km of

walking and cycling facilities along the Dodder River linking Sir John Rogerson’s Quay in the City Centre to the entrance to the Bohernabreena reservoirs at Glenasmole.

The planned greenway will travel through three local government areas from one end of the path to the other.

South Dublin County Council are responsible for 14km of the scheme from the Bohernabreena Reservoir to Orwell Park in Rathfarnham.

€400,000 was recently allocated by the NTA towards design work and sections of the Dodder Greenway project from Firhouse Road to Butterfield Avenue and from Kiltipper Road to Old Bawn Road.

Mr Carroll noted that as the project remains a work in progress, progression is expected to be gradual given the scale and traversal of multiple local authority boundaries.

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme.



ACTIVE TRAVEL: €400,000 was allocated by the NTA towards design work and sections of the Dodder Greenway project to the entrance of Bohernabreena Reservoir



Draft strategic urban regeneration framework will provide detailed guidance

By **James Roulston Mooney**

jamesrm@echo.ie

A DRAFT strategic urban regeneration framework for CityEdge is expected to go on public display in April as plans may provide 40,000 units and 75,000 jobs in South Dublin.

The SURF will provide a statutory basis including detailed guidance to direct the planning of the area over the short to medium term, covering from now until approximately 2042, and the general public will be able to view it from mid-April.

CityEdge is a 700-hectare joint initiative between South Dublin County Council and Dublin City Council to create a new urban quarter – Naas Road, Ballymount, and Park West areas.

Up to 40,000 homes, 80,000 population and 75,000 jobs are set to be created through the 700-hectare project, the largest in Ireland.

Three Priority Development Areas in the project have been identified within the South Dublin County Council boundary; Red Cow and Cherry Orchard, Long Mile and Greenhills.

Each PDA is likely to be developed by 2042, and the three within the South Dublin boundary are estimated to deliver 10,000 units and 8,650

jobs each.

SDCC Senior Planner for Forward Planning and Policy Development Stephen Willoughby noted the intention of PDAs would be to retain existing employment levels and then supplement them.

Urban design layouts and guidance have been prepared for them all and consist of land use mix, residential and employment capacity, indicative locations for community facilities, blue and green infrastructure, public transport links and hubs and townscape strategy.

Local councillors in South Dublin will be briefed on the framework in the first week of

April before it goes on public display.

The consultation portal for the SURF will go up in May and will be available to post submissions on for a four-week period.

A feasibility study has been completed for the undergrounding of over head lines in the area as well as a transport modelling report via Systra.

A strategic environmental assessment scoping report has been passed on to environmental authorities.

A draft of the SURF is expected to be publicly viewable in April.

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme.

Funding approved to progress to the design stage for primary care centre

FUNDING has been included in the HSE's Capital Plan to progress the design stage of the proposed Drimnagh Primary Care Centre, reports *James Roulston Mooney*.

Planning permission for the development at Curlew Road, Drimnagh was granted by Dublin City Council in October 2025.

The DCC planning portal shows applications as far back as 2007 for the development of a primary care centre in the suburb.

The Curlew Road Health Centre that currently exists at the site is expected to be demolished as part of the plans and the new centre built in its absence.

The centre currently caters for the HSE, as well as the Alzheimer's Society of Ireland and the Mother McAuley Day Care Centre.

The HSE stated that they are reviewing the planning conditions and project costs associated with the development while ensuring it is tailored to meet the area's needs.

Dublin South Central TD Catherine Ardagh welcomed the confirmation of the care centre's location and stated that it is "a step forward" for the local community in Drimnagh and the wider Dublin 12 area.

Deputy Ardagh said: "This is an important step forward for the community and for the many families in Dublin 12 who need greater access to primary healthcare services close to home..."

"...Primary care centres play a vital role in



delivering healthcare in the community, bringing together services such as GP care, nursing, physiotherapy and mental health supports under one roof.

"This is exactly the kind of integrated healthcare facility that a growing community like Drimnagh and the wider Dublin 12 area requires."

Plans include a one-to-three-storey building to act as a primary care centre, a crèche and daycare centre (Mother McAuley Centre) and daycare centre (Alzheimer's Society of Ireland) with a total gross internal area of about 4,041 sqm 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 Crèche 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.

The HSE's development plans for St James's Hospital had caused concerns among the public about the future of the planned care centre.

The HSE stated that their site on the Davitt Road in Drimnagh is being considered as part of the St James's Hospital Master Plan.

They are working in collaboration with the hospital and the HSE Community Services department among others to develop this masterplan.

"I am aware that there have been concerns locally that, with the ongoing development of plans for the wider St James's Hospital campus and the Davitt Road site, the Drimnagh Primary Care Centre could potentially be sidelined."

"It is important that this does not happen."
Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme.

court reports



tel: 4685350 email: news@echo.ie

Caught climbing from growhouse window

Man (51) jailed for six years claimed he dropped in for 'cup of tea'

By Isabel Hayes
news@echo.ie

A BOAT yard worker who was caught trying to climb out the bathroom window of a "sophisticated" cannabis grow house has been jailed for six years.

Niall Smith (51) claimed to gardai he had simply popped into the house at Killinarden Heights, Tallaght, for a "cup of tea" with a friend and didn't notice the smell of drugs in the home, which had been converted upstairs to grow cannabis in all three bedrooms.

A total of €68,149 worth of cannabis in the form of both plants and seeds were seized by gardai after they prevented Smith from jumping out of the upstairs window in May 2023.

Smith told gardai he had gone upstairs to use the bathroom while having tea with his friend – the co-accused in the case – and that he didn't notice the smell of any drugs, which gardai described in court as "overpowering". He said he tried to jump out the window when gardai arrived "due to panic", the court heard.

Along with three bedrooms being used to grow plants, gardai found gardening paraphernalia and other equipment. They found about €2155 cash in Smith's car and more cash when they searched his home, along with a drug ticklist.

The co-accused was the owner of the house and he had bypassed the electricity meter so the ESB would not be alerted to the high levels of electricity required to cultivate the cannabis, Judge Jonathan Dunphy was told. It was a "sophisticated system", the court heard.

Smith's accomplice was handed a five-year sentence with the final 12 months suspended after he entered an early guilty plea.

Smith, of Limekiln Road, Greenhills, pleaded guilty to one count of cultivating cannabis at the Killinarden address on May 3, 2023 on the first day of his trial last week. A more serious



charge of possessing it for sale or supply under section 15A of the Misuse of Drugs Act was dropped by the prosecution.

Smith has five previous convictions, including one for cultivating cannabis in 2013 at a house in Co. Wexford. He was given a seven-year suspended sentence for this offence, which expired in February 2022, one year before this offending occurred.

Sentencing him on Thursday, Judge Dunphy said the scale and sophistication of the growing system were aggravating as well as the value of the drugs found in the house.

He also noted the role Smith played in the operation. He said Smith was an experienced cultivator based on his previous conviction for cultivation and someone who was "clearly trusted" in his role.

The judge said there was "zero

evidence" before the court that Smith was vulnerable or put under pressure by others.

Referring to Smith's previous conviction, he said this pointed to the fact that he "knew what he was getting into" and the potential consequences of becoming involved.

He set a headline sentence of nine years, which he reduced to seven years having considered the mitigation.

Judge Dunphy said there was a "very strong argument" that the court would be justified in refusing to suspend any portion of the sentence, as Smith had previously received the benefit of a fully suspended sentence and was back before the court again.

However, the judge said he would suspend the final 12 months of the sentence for two years to incentivise Smith's rehabilitation and to facilitate his re-integration into society upon his

release from custody.

Giollaíosa Ó Lideadha SC, defending, said his client suffered a stroke in November 2022 and has some health issues. He previously worked as a taxi driver and more recently as a boat yard worker, the court heard.

A number of testimonials were handed into court describing Smith as a loving father and a father figure to his sister's children.

Defence counsel noted that Smith's co-accused was jailed for four years for a more serious section 15a charge, although he conceded this man did not have a similar previous conviction like Smith does.

He said unlike many who come before the court on similar charges, Smith has "made a significant contribution to the lives of other people" and he asked the court to take this into account.

Man fined €500 for breaching condition of safety order

A MAN was fined €500 for breaching conditions of a safety order with his ex-partner, asking her to drop charges against him, *reports Maurice Garvey.*

At Tallaght District Court, gardai said the man had asked his ex-partner in an email if it would be possible for her to "ring police and drop charges."

The court heard that the man told the ex-partner that he was at risk of losing his job "due to court cases" and that he was "missing out on too much money by taking days off work."

In the email the man said that there was a communion coming up for one of their kids and that he was worried he "won't have money to pay maintenance."

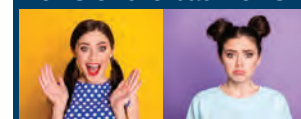
The court heard there was one alleged breach before this matter.

Defence solicitor Jeremiah Breen said his client was a 32-year-old construction worker with four kids, and that he was fully aware of the conditions of the order.

Judge Brendan O'Reilly warned the man that if he breaches the order again he will be "going away."

Judge O'Reilly imposed a three-month suspended sentence and fined the man €500 with three months to pay. *Funded by the Local Courts Reporting Scheme*

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Carer defrauded state of €110k claiming Deserted Wife's Benefit while cohabiting

A CARER defrauded the State of over €110,000 by claiming Deserted Wife's Benefit while cohabiting, a court has heard, *reports Niamh O'Donoghue.*

Deirdre Buttner (67) of Winterwood, Kilmactalway, Newcastle, Dublin pleaded guilty to three counts of deception at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court on dates between 2014 and 2021. She has no previous convictions.

The court heard there were 29 counts of deception on the indictment and the case was to be dealt with on a full facts basis.

Garda Anna Masterson told the court Buttner was in receipt of

Deserted Wife's Benefit since she separated from her husband in 1985. She is also caring for a person with additional needs and was claiming Carer's Allowance.

In July 2019 an investigator from the Department of Social Protection, Ms Tracey Talbot, called out to Buttner's address in Newcastle, Co. Dublin but she previously lived at an address in Tallaght.

Buttner said she was living in a property owned by her landlord but the spare room looked like it was being lived in. The landlord's sister, who was living in the US and is now deceased, had pictures of Buttner and the man she was living with on her

social media account and it was established they were in a romantic relationship, the court was told.

Certain expenditures were being shared by Buttner and her partner including holidays and the court heard they had travelled abroad quite frequently. The court was told you cannot be in a cohabiting relationship while on Deserted Wife's Benefit.

Furthermore Carer's Allowance is means tested and a partner's income would have to be assessed. Buttner had not declared to the department that she had been cohabiting.

A warrant for the Newcastle address was obtained and Buttner's partner was asked if anyone else was

in the house and he replied "yes, my partner". She was arrested and said it was a landlord/tenant relationship.

The prosecuting garda agreed with Garret McCormack SC, defending, the total loss in both welfare payments was €112,000 and that half that amount was present in court. A payment plan for the further €56,000 was to be put in place for a repayment of €50 a week but it would take 20 years to complete.

A document outlining the repayment plan and the proposed future payments was handed to the court on a previous hearing date last month.

Mr McCormack said Buttner was

in a platonic relationship with the man she was living with and that he had paid the €56,000 that had been repaid. "Any period of incarceration would have catastrophic effects," because of her role as a carer, counsel said.

Judge Orla Crowe noted that a €50 a week repayment plan would take 20 years to complete according to Mr McCormack's calculations.

"This is a very serious matter – it's the taking of funds from the public purse," said Judge Crowe.

Adjourning sentencing for a year, the judge said it was "a very unusual case" and remanded Buttner on continuing bail.

Family raise €20,000 for hospice in memory of their mother Lorraine

A CLONDALKIN family who raised €20,000 in honour of a loved one said that they plan to continue to fundraise for Our Lady's Hospice in Harold's Cross, *reports James Roulston Mooney.*

The Moody's of Monastery, Clondalkin raised €20,000 for Our Lady's Hospice and Care Services in memory of wife, mother and grandmother, Lorraine, who passed away after a short battle with gastric cancer.

The fundraising began as a coffee morning in the Moody household after the month's mind mass.

It soon became more with a range of fundraising activities done over the past few months to honour Lorraine and give back to the hospice, as well as a way for members of the family to confront their own grief.

Daughter Karla said: "I'm proud of the amount that we've raised. It's given my Dad [John] a real focus – that's kind of been his main focus."

"Different generations deal with things in different ways, but it's definitely been a way for him to keep focused and to keep motivated through his grief..."

"...I think it's shown him how loved my Mam was, and just seeing the amount of money and how the community have rallied around him and supported him, I think he feels very proud and he's delighted that that many people have stepped up in honour of my Mam."

The annual Christmas celebrations in the local estate was done in aid of the hospice in Harold's Cross this past year.

Tommy Marr was singled out by the family as a key part of the celebrations every year, having set them up three decades ago, and a special thanks was given to Marr and Francis Timmons for their help in this year's festivities.

An idonate page was set up for the Christmas fundraiser and had the family very close to their total before they hit their goal of €20k at the beginning of February and then presented the cheque to Our Lady's Hospice in Harold's Cross at the end of the month.

Karla said that the staff at the hospice were brilliant but that they were dealing with a lack of facilities compared to the public demand, with only a 38-bed unit to work out of and 30 of those fit for use.

"My mom was waiting for a couple of days from the time that the decision was made that that's where she wanted to go, and we were waiting for about four or five days for a bed to become available."



HONOUR: The cheque was presented by the Moody Family John, Karla and Gemma to Our Lady's Hospice representative Ann Julian

"And I suppose when you're not knowing how many days you have, it's just awful to think of families whose loved one wants to pass away in Harold's Cross and, unfortunately, there isn't a bed for them."

Lorraine's daughter stated how the staff would go above and beyond to provide for patients and their families, with private courtyards and an always open kitchen allowing space and flexibility in schedules.

Karla said that her mother fought a "very short, but intense illness" in gastric cancer, which had set off in March of last year and saw her in hospital by the next month.

It took five weeks for her diagnosis to be confirmed, and the family were told that a full recovery would be expected.

Lorraine completed her first round of chemotherapy and was expected to have surgery to remove her stomach and rested at home before the surgery on July 24, 2025, but the preliminary

PET scan changed things.

"He basically pulled the plug on the surgery three days before it was supposed to happen, and told us that it was palliative, and if she accepted palliative chemo, she might have about a year."

"So, that was obviously a very difficult day. One of the worst days of the whole thing. She said that she would accept the palliative chemo, because she never refused any of the treatments."

"She would have done anything to get an extra week."

The situation worsened with further complications before Lorraine was admitted into the hospice and passed away at the end of August after a week in the hospice.

The Moody's have gone above and beyond to remember their matriarch and the community has rallied behind them.

They wish to thank their neighbours in Monastery for their help throughout the fundraising process and their grief, and Karla

stated that she does not expect the work to end there, with the Mini Marathon later this year cited as a potential opportunity to continue.

"I do think as well like that, because we raised so much money in such a short amount of time, I can't see that being the end of the fundraising."

"Like, I can't see that being the end of the fundraising, either, to be honest, like there's, I think there will be more opportunities, yeah, for us to do different things."

In 2025, Our Lady's Hospice and Care Services provided care to 5,331 patients through 700 staff and 400 volunteers.

They stated that they need to raise a minimum of €5.5 million each and every year to ensure that they continue to provide their services at Harold's Cross, Blackrock and Wicklow.

To make a donation to Our Lady's Hospice and Care Services, visit their personal donation webpage and fill out the form, call on 01 491 1072 or email fundraising@olh.ie.

€700,000 allocated for pothole works

By James Roulston Mooney

jamesrm@echo.ie

THE number of pothole reports in Tallaght, Clondalkin and Rathfarnham are increasing on an annual basis, according to the council.

Senior Engineer of Road Maintenance at South Dublin County Council, Gary Walsh told elected members at a recent meeting that pothole reports made to the council are rising every year.

€700,000 was allocated to pothole works in the county in the latest budget and the storm only worsened the conditions of the South Dublin roads.

Mr Walsh said: "The number of reports is increasing but the number of customer queries we're getting is increasing at probably the same rate as the potholes."

"I don't know whether the potholes are increasing or the number of reports are increasing."

The Senior Engineer described the issue as "heartbreaking" as he stated that no matter how many the council fill in, there will always be more.

He noted that the storm that began at the end of January caused setbacks to the road plans this year.

The Greenhills Road is on the local authority's road works programme for this year

but faced further damage due to the bad weather.

"We actually had a contractor appointed to resurface this road and he's waiting on a geogrid, and it was kind of delaying the works."

"You're kind of tearing your hair out because then you have to invest money in the temporary repair and then also invest money in the permanent repair in the year."

"It's really difficult. It sounds like such an easy thing to resolve but we're trying to really balance out the approach to doing it, to spend our money the best."

"I think we're doing a pretty good job; we're learning every year on it."

Councillor Justin Sinnott described the issues the areas of Rathfarnham, Templeogue, Firhouse and Bohernabreena have suffered consistently.

Cllr Sinnott noted that a lot of recent potholes causing issues in the areas are "a renewal of emergency repairs" carried out.

He had sent in four from the Grange Road recently, which were four that he had sent in a year previous that were repaired within a month.

"They're like baby dinosaur footprints. But if you look at them, you go 'that looks like three or four in a row'...if you leave them, they get worse, and actually the repair will cost a lot more money the longer you leave it."

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme.



SETBACKS: The number of potholes like these in Clondalkin Village are increasing on an annual basis



Calls made to increase capacity due to commuters experiencing overcrowding

By **James Roulston Mooney**

jamesrm@echo.ie

IARNRÓD Éireann has indicated that capacity on trains serving Clondalkin, Palmerstown and Adamstown will increase in 2027 after calls from politicians and the public.

Calls were made on all levels to increase the capacity of trains servicing areas in South Dublin as commuters are currently experiencing overcrowding during peak hours on the Adamstown to Heuston route.

The national rail service noted that their passenger demand in 2025 had reached a record high of 55 million and that they expect it to grow further.

Iarnród Éireann stated: “285 carriages have

already been ordered for the Greater Dublin Area.

“These will begin entering service from Q2 2027 onwards, with 50 carriages expected to enter service in 2027 and the remainder in 2028 and 2029, and we intend to place subsequent orders of this fleet.”

Dublin Mid-West TD Mark Ward called for the expected date to be brought forward upon receiving this information.

Deputy Ward noted that the overcrowding on the busy route has caused people to be late for work as they are unable to board.

He noted that the Drogheda-Dublin line is expected to receive the first batch of extra carriages and some of the current carriages will be moved to the local line, but he noted that capacity should have increased earlier and the

timeline given is “not good enough.”

“With housing developments like Clonburris, there is an increased demand for public transport.

“The government have put the cart before the horse in terms of increase transport options.

“Increased train capacity should have been delivered alongside the increase in housing.”

The deployment of extra carriages will be subject to review with and the approval of the National Transport Authority, as well as subject to demand and infrastructure capacity at the time.

This process will be repeated with the introduction of a further 90 battery-electric carriages, freeing up existing trains, while the remaining 100 electric carriages will ultimately replace the original DART fleet, which has been in operation since 1984.

Iarnród Éireann stated: “We currently operate all available trains on a daily basis, outside of required maintenance cycles to ensure fleet reliability and any repair works which may be taking place.

“We are maximising use of our rolling stock to meet demand and will continue to monitor passenger loadings.

“We recognise that this is creating pressure on our capacity on some services at the busiest times at present.

“While our trains are busy, they are designed to safely accommodate full loading at our busiest times, though we appreciate this can be uncomfortable.”

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme.

Boomin' Crumlin Orchard Project to give away native trees on sixth anniversary

A VOLUNTEER-run group based in Crumlin is hosting its largest annual giveaway to date at the Pearse College of Further Education on Saturday, March 21 at 11am, *reports James Roulston Mooney.*

Boomin' Crumlin's Orchard Project is celebrating its sixth anniversary by giving away native trees, fruit trees and shrubs, and herbs to over 750 locals at Pearse College on the Clogher Road, Crumlin from 11am to 1pm on Saturday.

Bloomin' Crumlin is a volunteer-led community project established in 2020 that is committed to enhancing local green spaces, parks, and verges in the Crumlin and Kimmage areas.

Bloomin' Crumlin stated: “The aim is simple: help people plant something that will grow, flourish and make our neighbourhood a little greener for years to come.

“The giveaway has become a real community moment each year, with a fantastic turnout and plenty of enthusiasm from people who want to play a part in improving the local

environment and supporting biodiversity.”

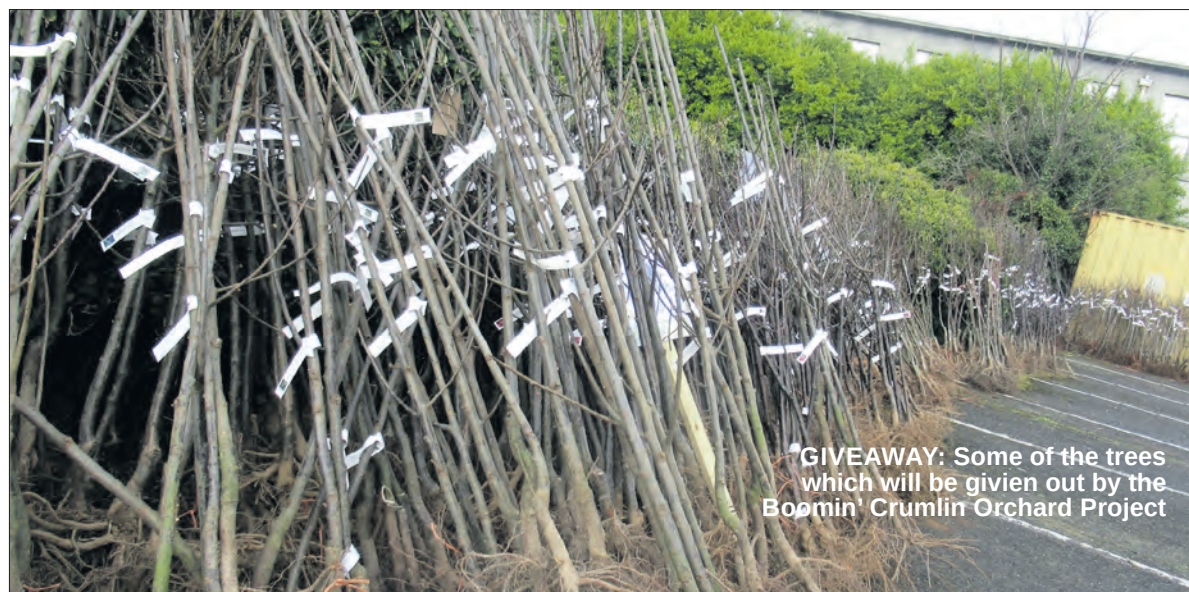
Over 7,000 free trees, shrubs, bushes, and herbs have been provided to residents, with the aim of making a difference to the environment and local greening effort.

Residents can collect their trees and plants and meet with planting experts, and the event will also include a free bike clinic, live music and tea and coffee.

The Orchard Project has provided native and fruit trees, shrubs, and bushes to residents who want to play an active role in boosting local biodiversity.

The event has grown into a highly anticipated annual tradition, with Bloomin' Crumlin volunteers coming together to distribute free plants to local residents, supporting the ongoing greening of Crumlin.

The initiative focuses on promoting biodiversity by encouraging people to plant trees and shrubs in their gardens, creating a more vibrant, sustainable environment.



GIVEAWAY: Some of the trees which will be given out by the Boomin' Crumlin Orchard Project

The encouragement given to residents to add more green to the area aims to improve the ecological health

of the area.

This year's project is funded by Canada Life Reinsurance, Community

Foundation Ireland, Government of Ireland, and Dublin City Council through the Climate Action Fund.

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'It was fantastic to see our son win his third Oscar'

THAT'S OUR BOY: Richard Baneham with his wife Aisling and parents Michael and Noeleen

Baneham family celebrate a 'hat-trick' of Oscars for Richard

By James Roulston Mooney

jamesrm@echo.ie

The Baneham family celebrated through the night after Richard scored his "hat-trick" of Oscars on Sunday evening in Los Angeles.

Three generations of the Tallaght family were present at the Oscars this year as Richard took home the prize of Best Visual Effects for his work on James Cameron's 'Avatar: Fire and Ash' at the Dolby Theatre on Hollywood Boulevard.

Parents of the Avatar Visual Effects Supervisor, Noeleen and Michael travelled across the Atlantic to be there to share the moment with their son.

Michael told *The Echo* of their joy at being able to celebrate their son's success with him on his big night.

He said: "It was fantastic to see our son achieve the third Oscar win, so that's a hat-trick for it.

"We had brilliant parties after it, so great

celebrations. Richard's wife [Aisling] and children were with us as well, so it was a great family get-together.

"It couldn't have been better."

The family attended the 2026 Governor's Ball following the end of the ceremony where all the stars came out to add a little sparkle to their shine.

The Oscar statues, as rare as they come, were not in short supply there, as the film industry came together to pop the champagne cork off a year of work.

The ceremony itself was one of the standouts of the evening for Michael, who met countless people on the night, but of course, the central part of Noeleen and Michael's joy was seeing their son on the stage with the new gold statuette in hand.

"We had a great time, Noeleen, I, Richard and all the lads. It was a great night and we were very, very proud to see our son getting up to receive his third Oscar, after his third BAFTA.

"We're so proud and we're delighted...it's a great thing, a great achievement. It's really surreal."

Congratulations are also in order for the other half of Richie's family from Inchicore who have strong links to Liffey Gaels GAA Club.

A huge congratulations to Aisling's clan, the O'Gorman family, who have supported Richard throughout the years and are no doubt celebrating too – "to George, Mary and the family," from Michael and the Banehams.

As for what's next, Richard will have his eyes set on the next instalment of the Avatar series, the planned fourth of the franchise.

For Michael and Noeleen, the journey home will come soon, and with it some new ink for Richie's dad.

The upper left arm of the Tallaght resident is decorated with two commemorative Avatar tattoos to celebrate the previous Oscar wins, and a third has been confirmed.

"I will have number three done when I get home."

Echoopinion...

Drivers need to slow down and stay vigilant

DRIVERS in Ireland are not taking road safety seriously and new figures from the recent Bank Holiday weekend only underline that, with reckless speeds in local zones.

Irish drivers have spent years disregarding the advice given by Gardaí and continue to cause chaos on our roads, with one driver in the county going as fast as 137km/h in an 80 km/h zone.

That particular speed was recorded on the N4 in Ballydowd, Lucan and shows how rash some motorists can be, even when they know it's a busy period of the year.

A 97km/h speed was recorded on the Firhouse Road and 82km/hr was recorded on the Davitt Road, both in zones where people are not expected to pass 50km/hr.

This type of driving will only cause problems for people and the driver and passengers are not the only people hurt by such offences.

Pedestrians and cyclists are at risk of harm when motorists take actions like these and it seems as if the people who speed so dangerously will only see this danger in their decisions when they are already faced with the consequences.

Three people are known to have passed away on the roads during the long bank holiday weekend this year and, unless advice is listened to, more will lose their lives at the hands of wreckless drivers.

All drivers need to take extra care when on the road, slow down, stay vigilant and give your driving your full attention.

Gardaí arrest man in relation to murder of Eoin

GARDAÍ have arrested a man in connection with the murder of a Clondalkin man Eoin McCarthy 21 years ago.

Gardaí investigating the murder of Eoin McCarthy of Ashwood Park, Clondalkin arrested a man in his 40s in relation to this investigation on Wednesday evening.

The male who was arrested in relation to this investigation has since been released without charge.

McCarthy's remains were found on November 4, 2005, in Ballinagee, Hollywood, Co. Wicklow.

A file will be prepared for the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Gardaí say investigations are ongoing.

'This is everything - truly, truly everything' says Richard on winning his third Oscar

TALLAGHT'S Richard Baneham won his third Oscar as the 'Avatar: Fire and Ash' team picked up the gong for Best Visual Effects at Sunday night's ceremony, reports James Roulston Mooney.

Old Bawn's Baneham added his latest Academy Award to the two he had won in 2010 and 2023 for his work on the previous entries in James Cameron's 'Avatar' series.

The Visual Effects Supervisor picked up the award as part of a quartet alongside Joe Letteri, Eric Saindon and Daniel Barrett.

In his acceptance speech, Baneham thanked those close to the quartet for their "love and support."

"First and foremost, thank you to our families. Honestly, the love and support, our wives, our partners.

"There's 2,200 artists, this is a massive, massive collaboration on the VFX side. We also overlap with everybody on the

movie, so to all our families, this is everything – truly, truly everything."

Richard's family, including mother and father Noeleen and Michael, were in LA for the event with wife Aisling and their three sons.

Aisling's family from Inchicore were at home, the O'Gormans, who tog the three sons out in Liffey Gaels gear when they're in town, were thanked from the stage.

He also said "go raibh mile maith agat" to James Cameron for his work and support of theirs through making the film.

Baneham adds his latest Oscar to a shelf to one that also includes three BAFTA's for his work on the same film series entries.

The Tallaght man received praise from several political figures in the country following his latest milestone.

President Catherine Connolly noted that this win reflected Baneham's position as one of the leading people in his field.

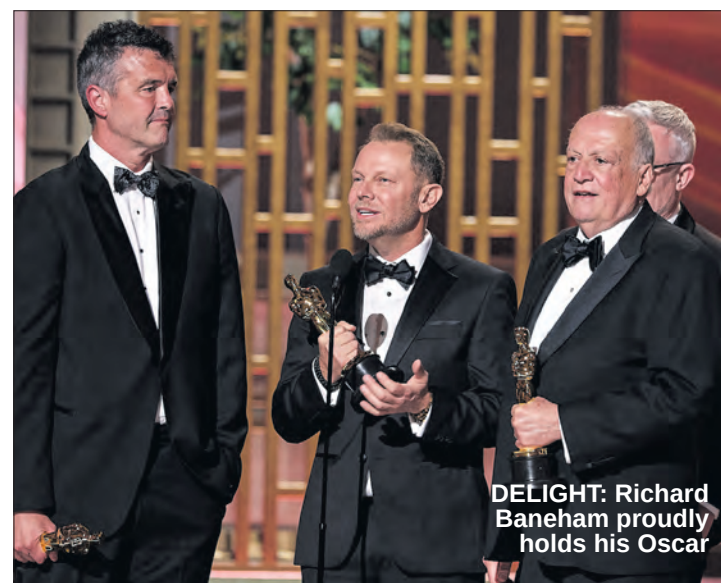
President Connolly said: "The award of a third Oscar to Richard Baneham for Visual Effects is a truly remarkable achievement following his previous Oscars in 2010 and 2023 and reflects his standing as one of the outstanding technicians in his field."

Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport, Patrick O'Donovan TD congratulated Baneham on his win.

The Minister complimented his work on 'Avatar: Fire and Ash' is an example of "world-class" offering Irish artists have given the world.

Minister O'Donovan said: "Richard Baneham's win tonight, his third, is a testament to his extraordinary expertise and his leadership in one of the most technically advanced areas of global filmmaking.

"His work on Avatar: Fire and Ash demonstrates the world class contribution Irish artists are making to major international productions."



DELIGHT: Richard Baneham proudly holds his Oscar

Ballyboden Tidy Towns planning appeal fails

A PLANNING appeal by Ballyboden Tidy Towns against a development of almost 500 homes in Ballycullen has failed, reports Ellen Gough.

An Coimisiún Pleanála has upheld South Dublin County Council’s decision to grant permission for Lagan Homes to build a mixture of 494 houses and apartments on land at Woodtown, Ballycullen in October last year.

The Belfast-based developer had originally proposed 502 homes – 197 two-storey houses, and 305 apartments spread across 28 three- and four-storey apartment blocks – on the 10.41 hectare site, but this number was reduced to 494 following requests for further information by the local authority.

The development will also include a creche, public open space, 550 car parking spaces, bicycle parking, bicycle storage structures and lockers, bin stores, and eight ESB substations.

Ballyboden Tidy Towns lodged an appeal against the council’s decision with An Coimisiún Pleanála in November 2025, stating that the “design will be incongruous and will negatively impact adjoining residential amenity as well as the green infrastructure of, and surrounding the site”.

Their appeal raised a number of concerns that were raised during the application process, such as density and overdevelopment, as well as the height of the development on an inclined site and how it will overlook existing residential areas, public space provision, and strain on public transport infrastructure.

In their decision, An Coimisiún Pleanála stated that the site is “not highly visible from the surrounding area... and the proposed development would have no significant direct or indirect effects on the landscape, visual amenity of the area or on any protected view”.

They also stated the development “will provide additional critical mass to support existing public transport services and bus routes”, and that overall, the layout and design of the development has been “fully assessed by the Commission and determined to constitute a high quality of residential scheme which is fully in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area”.

Man (37) jailed for stabbing of Jordan

Nine years in prison for the manslaughter of 20-year-old

A MAN has been sentenced to nine years in jail for the manslaughter of a 20-year-old in Tallaght in July 2024.

37-year-old Patrick Murphy of Drumcairn Parade, Tallaght has been sentenced to nine years in prison for the manslaughter of Jordan Ronan on Drumcairn Avenue after Murphy stabbed him in the heart in July 2024.

Mr Murphy admitted to killing Mr Ronan but claimed it was in defence of his family and property.

A doorbell camera recorded Mr Murphy telling his partner that Mr Ronan had attempted to break into their car and that he had “stabbed him to bits” – this doorbell was removed and hidden before being found by Gardaí inside the house.

Mr Ronan had been spotted on CCTV getting into the van and car outside the residence in Drumcairn Parade at around 3am on the morning of July 26, 2024, and Mr Murphy left his house with a kitchen knife and stabbed him in the chest, causing an 18cm wound.

The 20-year-old attempted to flee but hit a lamppost and collapsed, and Mr Murphy went back to his home and did not call emergency services.

Last month, the court heard that Mr Murphy had racked up 31 previous convictions including convictions for possessions of knives, possession of drugs and stolen property.

Jordan Ronan was transported to hospital by paramedics where he was pronounced dead at 4.40am that day.



MANSLAUGHTER: Jordan Ronan passed away in July 2024 following the incident

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Major opposition to plans to rezone 157.5 hectares of land

By Ellen Gough
ellen@echo.ie

THERE has been major public opposition to council plans to rezone up to 157.5 hectares of land across South Dublin for residential development.

South Dublin County Council's public consultation on the proposed variation to the South Dublin County Development Plan 2022-28 closed on Friday, March 13, with over 1,300 submissions and objections lodged.

Over-development, loss of open green spaces, strain on existing infrastructure such as schools, roads, and public transport and conflict with existing zoning objectives are just some of the issues raised in the 1,306 submissions on the council's online portal.

The majority of submissions were in relation to sites around Lucan, including the site proposed within the grounds of St Edmundsbury Hospital which was the subject of 676 submissions – over half of the total amount.

Many of the objections against rezoning the St Edmundsbury site highlighted its significance as a green space within the Lucan area, and the fact that it is currently zoned as "High Amenity - Liffey Valley (HA-LV) to protect the area's special landscape, enhance the Liffey Valley, and to preserve ecologically sensitive areas from intensive development".

Many called for the site to be preserved as "green lungs and space for relief and wellbeing in an increasingly built-up part of Lucan" with one submission calling for the creation of a "Liffey Valley National Park".

The submissions for St Edmundsbury also highlighted the already "significant pressure on infrastructure and public services" within Lucan.

Another Lucan site that was the subject of a significant number of objections are lands adjacent to the Foxhunter pub on the N4, which received 107 submissions.

Many of these noted that two previous County Development Plans had kept the zoning of the 1.18ha site as Retail Warehousing "because this land and the road infrastructure surrounding it isn't suitable for residential development".

"Maintaining a zoning of Retail Warehousing on this land offers future employment opportunities within Lucan, negating the need for long commutes outside of Lucan," a number of them said.

Many of the 88 submissions that were tagged as General Comments also focused on the fact that sites in Lucan account for 64% of the proposed sites, and concerns that the area would become over-developed, as it "has borne a substantial share of housing delivery for the entire county".

The former hotel grounds and golf course at Finnstown Castle was also the subject of over 15%

of the total submissions, with 197 objections raised.

Many called for the 17.94ha site (with the potential for over 1,000 homes) to instead be rezoned as High Amenity to protect "essential green space in this densely populated and traffic congested area".

There were also a number of objections to proposals to remove specific zoning that designates a small site at Stocking Avenue, Ballycullen as a school, and rezone it as residential to provide just 90 housing units.

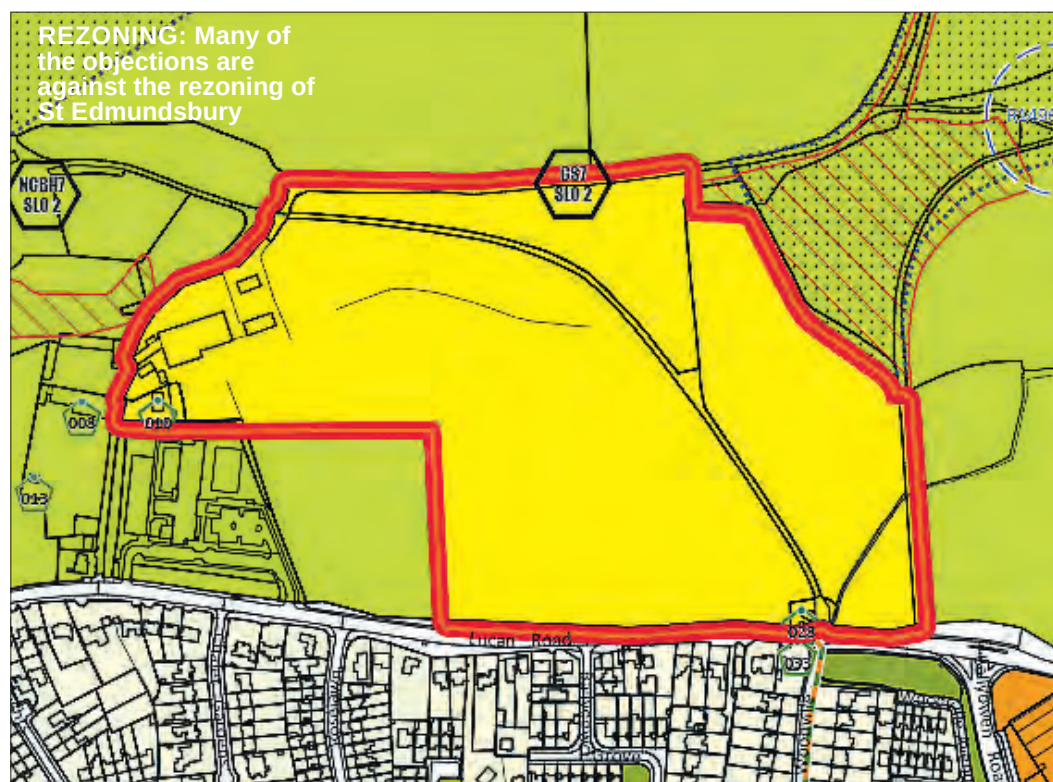
"While we recognise the need to provide housing, this level of development must be accompanied by the necessary social and community infrastructure to support sustainable communities," one of the 32 objections relating to this site read, also highlighting an "acute shortage of school places" in the Ballycullen area.

A handful of submissions marked as General Comments also appear to be from developers who had suggested their sites for rezoning during SDCC's original callout to "the public, landowners and homebuilders" for potential sites in October 2025, but had not been included by the council on the final list.

These submissions re-suggested their sites be included on the list to be rezoned as residential, and include a site in Lucan Hills Industrial Estate, agricultural lands in Blessington and Robin Hill in Kiltipper, and a rural site to the north of Newcastle village.

All submissions will now be reviewed and subject to a Chief Executive's report, which will be shared with councillors and voted on at a special meeting of South Dublin County Council in the coming months.

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme



15 sites would provide

By Ellen Gough
ellen@echo.ie

THERE has been overwhelming public opposition to the council's plans to rezone a number of sites around the county to make way for more residential development.

The 15 sites included in the public consultation make up a total potential of 157.5 hectares of new residential lands and could provide up to 7,453 new units of housing.

South Dublin County Council say they must rezone these lands as residential to meet housing needs in the county.

The proposal requires a variation to the South Dublin County Development Plan 2022-28 to address new housing targets sent out by the government in 2025, facilitate short/medium-term housing delivery and "to strategically prepare for the housing delivery for the county to 2040 and beyond".

Seven other sites were also included in the proposal to be "further detailed analysis to inform a future rezoning proposal" under the next county development plan in 2029, and for rezoning to support local infrastructure such as parks and transport links.

The public consultation for the proposed variation, which ran from February 13 to Friday, March 13, received 1,306 submissions.

Over half of these were in relation to an 18.01ha section of the grounds of St Edmundsbury Hospital in

Number of objections lodged against an application not 'a determining factor'

THE number of objections lodged against a planning application is not "a determining factor" in the council's decision to grant or refuse permission, reports Ellen Gough.

South Dublin County Council's director of planning Eoin Burke said that any public submissions are only "assessed on the basis of the material planning considerations raised".

He was responding to a question submitted by Cllr Linda de Courcy (II) at the full council meeting on Monday, March 9, about "what weight is given to objections submitted by members of the public to planning applications where it is clear from the volume of objections that the proposed development is largely unwelcome in the area".

Cllr de Courcy also asked Mr Burke to "explain why these objections may be disregarded".

"The planning authority does not disregard submissions or observations made by members of the public," he said in his written reply to Cllr de Courcy.

He said they are required to have regard to all written submissions and observations received and that "all submissions are considered, the planning issues raised are summarised in the Chief Executives Order, and matters that are relevant to the assessment of the application are addressed as part of the decision-making process".

Mr Burke also stated that all planning decisions must solely be based "on the proper planning and sustainable development of the area".

"In this context, the number or volume of objections received, or the

extent of local opposition, is not of itself a determining factor," he added.

"Submissions are assessed on the basis of the material planning considerations raised and matters that do not relate to planning and sustainable development cannot be afforded determining weight in the decision on a planning application."

Cllr de Courcy also submitted a second question to Mr Burke's department asking whether they "investigate and take account of potential previous breaches of enforcement when reviewing new applications".

In his written response to this question, he stated that any assessment of a planning application examines the whole history of the proposed site, including "extant planning permissions and any enforcement notices recorded on the register".

He also noted that any alleged or unproven potential breaches of planning "cannot be relied upon" during assessments as refusal of permission must be based on relevant and substantiated planning grounds that are "capable of being defended on appeal or before the courts".

"However, where a proposed development would facilitate or support the continuation or intensification of an unauthorised use or development, this may constitute a relevant planning consideration in the assessment of the application," he added.

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“Where no motion is proposed in respect of a particular amendment, the recommendation of the Chief Executive as set out in the report will stand



up to 7,453 new housing units on 157.5 hectares of new residential lands

Lucan, which received 676 submissions, mostly opposing the rezoning on grounds of over-development and traffic over-congestion in Lucan village.

Other sites that saw heavy opposition were the former Citywest Golf Course in Saggart, which received 128 objections, the former hotel grounds and golf course at Finnstown Castle which received almost 200 submissions, and 24.27ha of agricultural lands extending to the west from Adamstown Strategic Development Zone, which received 117 submissions.

A report on the submissions received during the public consultation will be prepared by SDCC's chief executive Colm Ward, with recommendations for each site, and will be shared with councillors in advance of a Special Meeting of the Council in May.

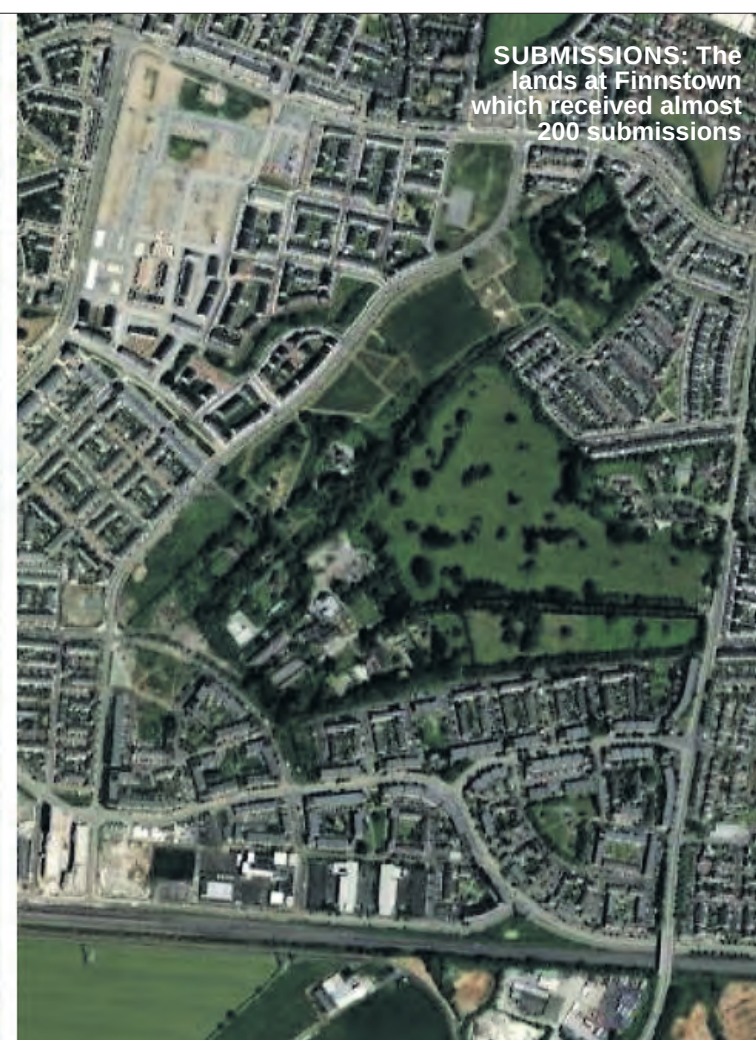
At that meeting, councillors will be required to make decisions having considered the Proposed Variation and the report, with each site considered as a specific amendment to the County Development Plan.

In response to a question from Cllr Helen Farrell at the March council meeting, SDCC's director of planning Eoin Burke said that the consideration of the proposed variation will "proceed in amendment order" and that decisions will be made "on the basis of motions put forward by the elected members".

"Where no motion is proposed in respect of a particular amendment, the recommendation of the Chief Executive as set out in the report will stand," he said.

There also may have to be further public consultation if "decisions of the elected members give rise to material alterations to the proposed variation", he added.

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SUBMISSIONS: The lands at Finnstown which received almost 200 submissions

Digital resources designed to help those with dementia

Resources comprise animated educational videos that demonstrate communication strategies

TALLAGHT University Hospital (TUH) has launched two new digital communication resources designed to support patients attending its Regional Specialist Memory Clinic who are experiencing communication difficulties associated with language led dementias or mild cognitive impairment.

Developed by Megan Ryan in the Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) team within the Institute of Memory & Cognition, the resources comprise animated educational videos that demonstrate practical communication strategies using clear visuals, simple language, and evidence-based guidance.

These resources serve as a first-line intervention for patients who have recently received a diagnosis and need support in understanding and managing communication changes.

They also serve as a valuable reinforcement of the information provided during Speech & Language Therapy appointments.

This initiative was made possible through input from patients, families, and caregivers, generous support from the Innovate Health Programme and the Adelaide Health Foundation's New Initiatives Fund, and collaboration with the Hospitals Communications team.

Speaking about the project, Megan Ryan, Clinical Specialist Speech & Language Therapist, said: "Communication changes can be one of the most distressing aspects of dementia for both patients and their families. These resources were created to give people accessible, practical strategies they can use straight away. With the support of the Adelaide Health Foundation and the invaluable



RESOURCES:
The memory and speech graphic and (inset) Megan Ryan developed the resources

Cognitive Decline



feedback from patients and caregivers, we have developed tools that can improve understanding, reduce frustration, and help people stay connected with those who matter most."

The resources are designed to help patients better interpret communication cues, express themselves more effectively, and engage more confidently in conversations. Improved communication is closely linked with enhanced emotional well-being, reduced frustration, and greater social participation.

For families and caregivers, the resources offer guidance on how to adapt communication approaches, creating a more supportive and empathetic environment. As online resources, they are also valuable tools for those working in healthcare, supporting continuous learning and reflective practice.

As a teaching hospital, providing accessible, evidence based educational materials is central to our mission and to the development of future healthcare professionals.

Commenting on their support for the initiative, Niamh Gavin, CEO of the Adelaide Health Foundation, said: "We are proud to support innovative projects that improve patient experience and remove barriers to care. These digital resources demonstrate how thoughtful, evidence based tools can make a meaningful difference to patients, families, and healthcare professionals alike."

Controlled parcel delivery of cannabis valued at €210,000 carried out by gardai

Cllr Mick Duff

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Mick DUFF

From the Community and For the Community

GARDAI carried out a controlled delivery of a parcel of cannabis valued at over €210,000 after it was intercepted by customs, Dublin Circuit Criminal Court heard, *reports Fiona Ferguson.*

Sunday Onwukaike (49) arranged to accept delivery of the parcel, which had come from South Africa, and was arrested once he had signed for it.

Onwukaike, of Drury Park, Saggart, Dublin, pleaded guilty to possession of drugs for sale or supply at an address in Lucan on July 27, 2024 when they had a market value of €13,000 or more.

The offence comes with a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years' imprisonment, which a judge can depart from in exceptional circumstances. It has a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

Onwukaike, who was on Monday jailed for two and a half years, has two previous convictions for road traffic offences and previously worked as a security guard.

An investigating garda told Jane McGowan BL, prosecuting, that gardai arranged a controlled delivery of the parcel after it was intercepted by customs. At the address in Lucan, Onwukaike asked the gardai if they had a parcel for him and signed for the parcel.

He was arrested and indicated that he had been asked to pick up the parcel by another person. He was to receive €1,000 for his role. He believed that the parcel would be smaller and said he needed the money as he was not working.

The court heard the parcel contained 11kg of cannabis with a street value of €211,910.

The garda agreed with Garnet Orange SC, defending, that Onwukaike's role was to collect the parcel and pass it on.

Mr Orange said his client sincerely apologises for his involvement in the offending and had written a letter to that effect. A letter from his wife speaking highly of him and outlining his remorse was also handed into court.

He said the couple had a child with significant difficulties and complex needs, which required the care of both parents. He handed in documentation relating to the "brutal reality" of his child's care and maintenance.

Mr Orange submitted that the court can impose a suspended sentence in cases of this kind in rare and exceptional cases, depending on the circumstances of the offender.

He asked the court to also take into account his client's cooperation in relation to his own role and his early guilty plea.

Passing sentence, Judge Elma Sheahan said the court could depart from the mandatory minimum sentence in the circumstances of this case. She said in relation to the application for a suspended sentence the test of exceptional circumstances was not met.

The judge took into account the seriousness of the offending, as well as his guilty plea, lack of prior convictions, his family circumstances and his remorse.

Judge Sheahan set a headline sentence of five years imprisonment and, considering the mitigating circumstances imposed a sentence of three years imprisonment.

She suspended the final six months of the sentence on strict conditions.



People have huge trust in the task forces and the community service because they know them

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

CONCERNS have been raised about the future of local task forces in areas like Ballyfermot and Clondalkin after the draft National Drug Strategy was made public.

Calls have been made to clarify the role of local and regional task forces across Ireland after the draft National Drug Strategy made little mention of the groups in the draft document that outlines the Government’s plans for their new national drug strategy.

Councillor and drug rehabilitation project worker Daithí Doolan noted that the task forces, introduced in 1997 to help combat the rise of heroin use, were “reduced to a footnote” in the draft and questioned their future role in areas like Ballyfermot.

Cllr Doolan: “They’re not as central to the drafting the strategy nor the delivery of the strategy, nor the funding.

“In fact, in the National Drug Strategy itself, it states that they’re going to centralise funding and decision-making back to the HSE, and that’s a very regressive step.

“This is a throwback to the dark days of the 80s and 90s when health boards controlled the funding and the strategy around tackling addiction and the drugs crisis and it failed, and it would fail again because they’re not in touch with the reality on the ground.”

Local and regional task forces were set up to provide services for the whole country, with regional services available for the likes of Donegal, Sligo and Leitrim and local forces in key areas in Dublin and other highly populated parts of Ireland.

Ballyfermot, Clondalkin, Cherry Orchard and Crumlin are among the areas that benefit from a local drug and alcohol task force.

Vincent Jackson is the Chairperson of the Ballyfermot Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force.

Despite limited resources, the task force has done a lot for the local community and some of

the services provided have been essential to some.

Multiple projects in the local area are funded by the task force, including Ballyfermot Advance and Blue Door based in Cherry Orchard.

Chairperson Jackson noted that users of services funded by the local task force in Ballyfermot had thought favourably of those they worked alongside.

The Chairperson of the local task force shared his hopes that the new strategy will improve services but also added his feeling that the Government has “taken their eye off the ball.”

He said: “There has been consistent cuts in local drug and alcohol task forces, and we lost a number of key people over those years...”

“...We seem to be going to a very centralized system now. I think a lot of the autonomy that the task force has had seems to be slowly but surely being taken away.”

Funding was recently slashed in Budget 2026 for task forces nationwide, down from €11.6m to €8.7m, and Cllr Doolan called for security for

their place in communities as the country is dealing with a rise in cocaine use.

Councillor Doolan vouched for the task forces and noted their understanding of the communities within which they work and that the trust placed in these services is stronger than the bond that the HSE could have with those in need.

“People have huge trust in task forces and the community service because they know them, they’re part of them...there’s a unique trust there that doesn’t exist with the HSE, with the Department of Health.

“That is important when you’re dealing with a sensitive issue like addiction, which is often linked in with mental health issues, intimidation, the support of families and children, all those are important when you’re dealing with tackling the drugs crisis.

“The task forces are best placed to respond to those needs quickly, in an understanding way.”

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme.

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Allowed bank accounts to be used to defraud

Man (46) jailed for one year for allowing his accounts be used in scheme

By Niamh O'Donoghue
news@echo.ie

A SECURITY guard who allowed his bank accounts to be used as part of a scheme to defraud a man out of €49,000 in a romance scam has been jailed for one year.

Edward Evbagharu (46) of Shackleton Exchange, Shackleton Drive, Lucan, pleaded guilty at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court to money laundering on dates between February 12, 2021 and June 9, 2021. He has 11 previous convictions.

Detective Garda Barry Brennan of Store Street Garda Station told the court that the injured party, a French national, met a woman on an online dating site, who said she was from Saudi Arabia but was a refugee in Texas in the United States.

She told him that her father was wealthy but because of her asylum status she could not access €5 million she had in an Irish bank account. Believing her to be genuine, the injured party agreed to liaise with the woman's lawyers who asked him to make a number of payments over six months.

The court heard the total amount taken was €49,188, none of which was recovered. The court also heard that €31,000 of that was paid through three of Evbagharu's accounts with An Post, Ria Money Transfer, and TransferWise but these were controlled by two co-accused.

The injured party became suspicious and spoke to a solicitor in France to say he thought he was the victim of an online fraud. He then reported it to the gardai.

The injured party, who was in court, prepared a victim impact statement, which was handed in to the judge but not read aloud.

Pat O'Sullivan BL defending said it was "quite an elaborate scam". "I didn't think it would be possible for anyone to fall for it, but they did," said Mr O'Sullivan.

Mr O'Sullivan said his client is working for a security company for the past 16 years and paying income tax and social security.

"He is a contributing member of society" and "wants to continue his work", he said. He said his client was very anxious and would like to do



community service.

He said his client, who is from Nigeria, moved here in 2009 and became an Irish citizen in 2013. He has four children from his marriage and another two children from his relationship of nine years.

Counsel said his client was adamant he had not made any financial gain and the only reason he got involved was because a gentleman he knew said he did not have a bank account.

Det Gda Brennan did not agree and said Evbagharu failed to come back to gardai with documentation to corroborate that story.

Evbagharu accepts that his accounts were used but it was "reckless".

Judge Dara Hayes handed down a two-year sentence and suspended the final year of it.

The judge said there was no evidence Evbagharu defrauded the injured party but he was facilitating.

He noted Evbagharu has 11 previous convictions including one for handling stolen property and 10 for road traffic offences.

The judge noted Evbagharu was not on bail at the time of this offence and accepted he was civil with gardai.

The judge noted a substantial amount was transferred through his account.

He noted the victim impact report, which explained consequent health issues, both mental and physical, and that he now relies on state support in France.

The judge also noted the victim suffered deep anxiety and depression, is under the care of a psychiatrist in

France since May 2023 and is medicated in respect of his psychiatric issues.

The injured party also suffers from cardiac problems.

The judge noted the victim said his life is "turned upside-down" and he "is a shadow of a man he used to be" but is hoping to rebuild his life.

The judge said he accepted Evbagharu had not committed a fraud but was facilitating the use of the money.

He said the aggravating factors were the sophisticated duration and that it was paid in over a number of months.

He noted his early plea and had not come to attention of gardai before or since.

He also noted his good work history and personal circumstances.

Man giving back to the community

A PROBATION welfare report was ordered for a man who has "battled addiction for a long time" but is giving back to the community via his work with a local project, reports Maurice Garvey.

Paul McCarton (56), with an address of Knockmore Avenue, Tallaght and also of Russell Drive, Fortunestown, appeared before Tallaght District Court, facing a number of charges from dates in 2023 and 2024.

The court heard that on September 18, 2023, gardai responded to a male parked on Main Street, Tallaght, and discovered the accused with two bags containing a hammer, screwdriver, gloves, and a Go Ahead Ireland bag with a number of documents inside.

There was a public order charge stemming from an incident on August 5, 2024 at Circle K, Brownsbarn Drive, Citywest, where the accused was intoxicated in a public place and was aggressive with gardai who asked him to leave.

On February 24, 2024, gardai found a Stanley blade on Mr McCarton, at Fortunestown Road Tallaght, who could provide "no excuse" for having it on him.

A theft charge from October 22, 2024, at Circle K Blessington Road Tallaght, was read out with the defendant accused of taking goods worth €33 without paying for them.

The court heard McCarton has eight previous convictions.

Defence solicitor Noah Rossiter, said his client has been battling addiction for a long time, and noted that the charges stemmed from a period in 2023-2024 when his client was struggling, but he has since turned things around.

Mr Rossiter said eight convictions were a low number for someone of his client's age and background with addiction, that his client is a carpenter who is effectively working fulltime with the JADD project in Tallaght for the last couple of years, engaged in carpentry workshops, bicycle repairs for vulnerable kids and essentially "upskilling in a way."

Judge Aine Shannon ordered a probation welfare report before sentencing on May 29 at Tallaght District Court.

Funded by the Local Courts Reporting Scheme

Man fined €5k and disqualified for one month for road traffic charges

A MAN in court for road traffic charges received a one-month disqualification, a suspended sentence and €5,000 in fines, reports Maurice Garvey.

Ahmet Ramic (26), Brookview Court, Tallaght, appeared before Tallaght District Court, to face charges of driving while disqualified on January 22, 2025 at Killakee Road, and driving in a manner deemed to be dangerous.

The court heard that Ramic was in a Toyota rental car and drove past an unmarked garda car at speed on Ballycullen Road.

Gardai followed the car, lost sight of it due to its speed for about 30 seconds, and when gardai caught up with Ramic, he had been involved in a single vehicle collision on Kilakee Road.

Nobody was injured.

The court heard Ramic has three previous

convictions, including two for driving without insurance and one for money laundering.

Defence solicitor Sean Osborne said his client had panicked, immediately put his hands up, was co-operative at all times and aware he was in the wrong.

Ramic was working in the motor industry, has turned a corner in life and losing his licence would affect his employment, said Mr Osborne.

Judge Brendan O'Reilly could not ignore the actions of Ramic which led to a collision at speed.

Judge O'Reilly fined him €1,000 for driving without insurance, disqualified him for one month and sentenced him to four months in prison suspended for two years.

For the Section 53 offence (dangerous driving), Judge O'Reilly fined Ramic €4,000. Funded by the Local Courts Reporting Scheme

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‘We need a tougher clamp down on scramblers and e-scooters’

There has been an increase in high powered e-scooters and quad bike seizures

By James Roulston Mooney
jamesrm@echo.ie

CALLS have been made to increase powers to seize scramblers and e-scooters and take them off streets in Clondalkin, Tallaght and other areas.

Stronger powers for Gardaí to seize scramblers and e-scooters have been requested after reports claimed a larger haul this year than the entirety of last year.

Dublin Mid-West TD Mark Ward noted that the reported increase reflects the extra powers awarded to An Garda Síochána recently, and called for even more to ensure a safer environment for people.

Deputy Ward claimed that many of the seizures this year so far have been of stationary vehicles and requested powers to carry out seizures of mobile machines.

The local TD said: “There have been reports of an increase in scrambler, high powered e-scooter, and quad bike seizures in 2026...

“...It is easy to point to such an increase when little powers were given to gardaí to seize scramblers and e-scooters before this year.

“The vehicles that are being seized are mostly stationary, often as an incidental finding during a different search.

“People are not being stopped while they drive these dangerously.”

Deputy Ward also called for a regulation of the sale of high-powered e-scooters to ensure that they do not have the capability to easily go beyond speed restrictions.

He described the recent passing of 16-year-old Grace Lynch as



POWERS: Tougher action is needed on scramblers and e-scooters

something that is still “very raw” and called for better resources to ensure tragedies such as this do not continue to occur.

Tragedy has struck closer to home as well with the death of a teenager in Citywest last April when his scrambler collided with a car.

Deputy Ward urged the Government to “get serious” on the issue and ensure safety in local communities.

“I back the calls to regulate the sale of high-powered e-scooters, ensuring that they cannot easily bypass speed restrictions. This is a

safety issue for both the driver, other road users and pedestrians.

“We need a tougher clamp down on scramblers. The tragic death of Grace Lynch is still very raw.

“Gardaí need to be resourced so that they are present in our communities and so that they can pursue the criminal and antisocial elements associated with scrambler and high-powered e-scooter use.

“Government needs to get serious about safety in our communities. This needs to happen sooner rather than later.”

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme.

€165,000 spent by local authority to clean up mess after 157 bonfires

ILLEGAL bonfires were lit in over 150 locations around south Dublin during Halloween 2025, according to the council, *reports Ellen Gough.*

Figures released by South Dublin County Council’s Public Realm team showed that the total costs to the council after Halloween last year was approximately €165,000.

In response to a request from Cllr Adam Smyth (FF) for a breakdown of Halloween clean-up costs in 2025, the Public Realm team said they “identified approximately 210 individual bonfires, across 157 locations” in the county.

A breakdown of the locations per electoral areas showed just three bonfires in Firhouse-Bohernabreena, six across Lucan, nine in Rathfarnham-Templeogue and ten in Tallaght Central.

The most bonfire locations identified was 56 in the Palmerstown-Fonthill area, with 39 in Tallaght South and 34 around Clondalkin.

“The total cost for the collection of all waste and the necessary repairs and reinstatement of grass areas, resulting from Halloween 2025, is approximately €165,000,” SDCC’s director of climate action Teresa Walsh said in the written reply.

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme

COSTS: The remains of a bonfire in Kilnamanagh



SDCC
Comhairle Contae South Dublin
Atha Cliath Theas County Council

NOTICE OF THE MAKING BY SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL OF A COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER UNDER SECTION 76 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1966 AND THE THIRD SCHEDULE THERETO AS EXTENDED BY SECTION 10 (INSERTED BY SECTION 86 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1966) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (NO.2) ACT, 1960, AS AMENDED BY SECTION 222 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2000, AND PART IX (INCLUDING S.167) AND PART XIV (INCLUDING SS.212-213) OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000, AS AMENDED.

PUBLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 4(A) OF THE THIRD SCHEDULE OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1966

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL COMPULSORY PURCHASE (CLONBURRIS SOUTH LINK STREET) ORDER, 2026

South Dublin County Council (hereinafter referred to as “the Local Authority”) in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by, inter alia, Section 76 of the Housing Act, 1966, and the Third Schedule thereto, as extended by Section 10 (inserted by Section 86 of the Housing Act, 1966) of the Local Government (No. 2) Act, 1960 as amended by Section 222 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 and Part IX (including s.167) and Part XIV (including ss.212-213) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, have made an Order entitled as above which is about to be submitted to An Coimisiún Pleanála for confirmation.

An Oral Hearing may be held at the absolute discretion of the An Coimisiún Pleanála.

If confirmed, the Order will authorise the Local Authority to acquire compulsorily the land described in the First Schedule hereto for the purposes of the provision of a site for the completion of the Clonburris South Link Street within the Clonburris Strategic Development Zone.

Owners, lessees and occupiers of the land described in the Schedule will receive individual written Notice.

Any objection to the Order must state, in writing, the grounds of objection and be sent addressed to **An Coimisiún Pleanála at 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1**, so as to reach the said Commission **before 5.30 p.m. on 30th April 2026.**

A copy of the Order and of the Map referred to in it may be seen at all reasonable hours at the offices of South Dublin County Council, Town Centre, Tallaght, Dublin 24. A copy of the Order and Map is also available on the South Dublin County Council Website www.sdcc.ie.

Schedule Part I & II

Land other than land consisting of a house or houses unfit for human habitation and not capable of being rendered fit for human habitation at reasonable expense.

The land to which the Order relates is west of the R136 – Outer Ring Road, south of Lynche’s Land and north of the Grand Canal.

Dated this 19th day March 2026.

Signed: A/Senior Executive Officer, Economic Development.

Web: www.sdcc.ie





OBJECTIONS:
Residents in
Corbally have
lodged
objections to
the plans

Strong objections by residents citing 'intensive overdevelopment' in the Saggart area

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

LOCAL residents have lodged a number of appeals after planning permission was granted for a large-scale development of over 600 homes in Saggart.

Evra Developments and Kelland Homes submitted a joint planning application for a Large-scale Residential Development (LRD) for 611 new dwellings on two adjoining sites in Boherboy.

South Dublin County Council's planning

department granted permission for the development on February 13, 2026.

However, strong objections were lodged during the planning process by residents in surrounding estates over the plans, citing "intensive residential" overdevelopment in the Saggart area over the past number of years, as well as traffic concerns over plans to open the Corbally Heath cul-de-sac into an access road for the proposed development.

Three separate appeals were lodged with An Coimisiún Pleanála by three separate groups of residents on Friday, March 6.

"While we recognise the need for additional housing, this proposal raises serious concerns

about safety, cumulative impact, and the protection of the established character of Corbally Heath," one appeal stated.

All three appeals all raised concerns that opening Corbally Heath into a throughway for the new development would turn the formerly quiet cul-de-sac into a "rat run" between the N81 and N7 and "overload an estate never designed for distributor-road functions".

They also highlighted South Dublin County Council's proposal to rezone major land banks around the county as residential, including sites in Citywest and Saggart that would bring even more residential developments to the area and therefore potentially even more traffic through

Corbally Heath.

The appeals have asked An Coimisiún Pleanála to reverse the council's decision to grant planning permission, or at the very least to remove permission for creating the throughway into Corbally Heath.

"We are not opposed to housing or development," one appeal stated.

"What we object to are unsafe, inappropriate, and poorly planned access arrangements that place an unfair and disproportionate burden on existing communities."

A decision on this case is due from An Coimisiún Pleanála by June 25, 2026.

Uisce Éireann to meet with traders association to discuss plans for village

UISCE Éireann are expected to meet with the Rathfarnham Traders Association members and local councillors to discuss their plans for the Village, reports *James Roulston Mooney*.

Ireland's national water utility is expected to meet with delegates from the local Traders Association in Rathfarnham and local councillors in the area to inform them how they plan to carry out the upcoming works involving a new watermain set to impact the village.

Uisce Éireann had met with the Senior Engineer for Roads Maintenance at South Dublin County Council, Gary Walsh last Monday, who stressed to them the importance of speeding up their delivery programme.

He noted that the possibility of an April start date cannot be confirmed but that the upcoming meeting will allow councillors to learn as much as possible from those carrying out the works.

Mr Walsh noted that the council hopes to attend the meeting as well to ensure that "we are all hearing the same thing."

Councillor Yvonne Collins welcomed the possibility of an April start date and noted the necessity of the general public to be informed of the process and remain informed throughout.

Cllr Collins said: "There's a number of concerns as you can imagine locally because we have people who live on the Main Street in the village.

"So, we have the residents, we have the traders, we have members of the general public who are in and out of the village on a regular basis.

"There's a crèche, there's all sorts of businesses there including my own. At this point, given that it appears that it's going to be significant works that are going to take place, it is important that we know when they're going to start, how long they're going to last and what will be done to alleviate the effects."

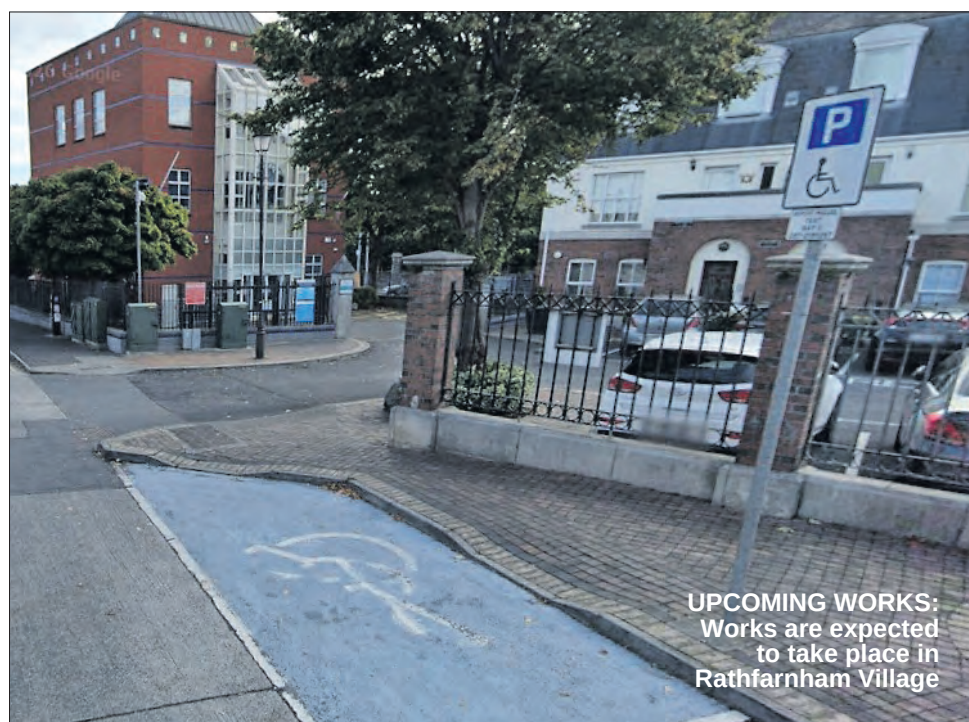
Cllr Collins also called for repairs to be carried out on Main Street in Rathfarnham after the completion of other works by the national water utility.

She described a pair of steel covers that were fixed recently that left "a lip" in the sidewalk the way they were set down and may cause a "trip hazard" as a result for pedestrians.

The Rathfarnham councillor was concerned that people may "fall through it" as they walk over it on a daily basis or that a car could as well, given that they tend to park on that pavement.

She called for the identical cover beside it to receive the same attention and was told by the work crew who fixed the previous one when they were carrying out that order that the second repair would fall under "a different work order" which would take "at least four weeks."

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme.



UPCOMING WORKS:
Works are expected
to take place in
Rathfarnham Village

Old Tanning Factory site not listed on Derelict List Register

Local authority say they are in conversation with the owners and investigations continue

By James Roulston Mooney

jamesrm@echo.ie

THE council is engaging with the owner of Old Tanning Factory in Bohernabreena but it has yet to be listed on their Derelict Sites Register.

The local authority has been in contact with the owner of the derelict Old Tanning Factory, located on the Bohernabreena Road near St Anne's GAA Club, but it has yet to be added to their list of derelict sites in South Dublin.

Under Section 3 of Derelict Site Act 1990, the council monitors sites in the county that may meet the criteria of a 'derelict site' which are not entered on the register until such time as investigations are completed and a determination made that the site is derelict.

Providing an update on the status of the old factory, South Dublin County Council noted they are in conversation with the owner of the site as investigations continue.

The council said: "This particular location in question is not currently listed on the Derelict Sites Register.

"While investigations are ongoing with sites not currently listed on the register, SDCC is unable to provide specific information but can inform that we are engaging with the owner under the provisions of the Derelict Sites Act."



INVESTIGATION: The Old Tanning Factory site on Bohernabreena Road close to the pitch and putt and St Anne's GAA Club

When a report of a potential derelict site is received, a new file is opened, and an inspection is carried out by the Senior Clerk of Works.

The Senior Clerk of Works completes an inspection report and then an ownership check is carried out. Once finalised, a Section 11 Notice

is served where in the opinion of the local authority it is necessary to do so, to prevent land in their remit from becoming or continuing to be derelict.

A Section 11 Notice outlines the measures the council deems necessary in order to ensure the site does not become or does not remain derelict

and specifies a time period within which the owner of the site must take these measures.

"SDCC maintains regular communication with registered owners of properties subject to investigation under the Derelict Sites Act 1990 and actively monitors the progress of

works required to be carried out to prevent continuing dereliction.

"Should required works not develop as stated, SDCC [will continue] to take all actions available under the Derelict Sites Act 1990."

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme.

Park wardens will be assigned to Dodder Valley Park to monitor dog behaviour

By James Roulston Mooney

jamesrm@echo.ie

THE number of dog wardens operating in South Dublin is set to rise and two extra park wardens will be assigned to Dodder Valley Park to monitor dog behaviour.

The amount of dog wardens active in South Dublin will rise from two to three while two extra park wardens will be stationed at Dodder Valley Park to ensure pets act appropriately in the park and that owners are responsible.

Park wardens will have an enhanced education role, which also includes public engagement on climate and environmental awareness.

South Dublin County Council noted that dogs have been exercised off-lead in the park and hope that the extra monitoring will lead to less instances of this, as well as dog fouling and other issues.

Councillor Emma Murphy had previously described Dodder Valley Park as "one of the most problematic areas in the county in terms of dogs off leads" in the county.

Provision has been made for a dog run adjacent to the Speaker Conolly entrance to the park on the Firhouse Road.

The dog run would allow a designated area for these pets to enjoy the outdoor space without being at risk of a complaint.

The council currently provides off-leash dog runs in six South Dublin parks – Sean Walsh Park, Jobstown Park,

Tymon Park, Corkagh Park, Griffeen Valley Park and Ballymount Park.

The area within the new dog run at Dodder Valley Park will be kept in a "natural long-grass condition so dogs can explore and move freely through it", according to SDCC Senior Engineer for Environment and Public Realm, Damien McNulty.

A full review and refresh of park signage is underway across South Dublin. This will include rebranding and clearer messaging, particularly around responsible dog ownership, dog fouling, leash requirements, and appropriate use of dog run areas.

The review reflects the significant increase in park usage and activities over the past 10–15 years in the county and aims to promote responsible behaviour by all park users.

The new dog run at Dodder Valley Park would move dogs and their owners away from the grass running track used by local clubs, who have raised concerns of the use of the facility.

Parks and Landscape Officer at South Dublin County Council Brendan Redmond noted in January that the council are conscious of the use of tracks and pitches in the park as "informal dog runs."

Mr Redmond said: "We're conscious there's an awful lot of pitches that people are using as informal dog runs in Dodder Valley and we're trying to create a space where we can allow people to exercise and have fun with their dogs."

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme.



MONITOR: Dodder Valley Park has been described as one of the most problematic areas in the county



ALLOCATION: The majority of allotments are in Friarstown

‘It’s cheaper than therapy’ growing your own vegetables and reducing emissions

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

THE introduction of public allotments to Lucan has been requested following the success of those in Bohernabreena and Clondalkin.

Calls have been made to allocate public land for the creation of a provision of public allotments in Lucan to add to the almost 450 available across the South Dublin region.

443 allotments are currently managed by the council and available to the public, with the majority based in Friarstown, Bohernabreena.

312 allotments are available in Friarstown, with 72 at Mill Lane in Palmerstown, 42 based in Corkagh, Clondalkin and 15 in Tymon Park.

A new allotment site with almost thirty plots will be open to community groups and individuals living in Newcastle this year, with 29 more plots, bringing the total to 472.

The possibility of Lucan receiving an allocation of plots will likely take the number

over half a thousand.

Councillor Helen Farrell has an allotment with her brother and detailed the benefits it has had on their mental health.

Cllr Farrell said: “My brother and I thought it was amusing. Like when he first started going to the allotment, an older gentleman asked him how he was enjoying it.

“My brother said ‘yeah, it was great’ and he said, ‘well son, it’s cheaper than therapy.’

“Both of us found it was hugely positive in terms of getting out there, getting into the fresh air and getting into the sunshine.”

Approximately 154 people from the Lucan electoral area have expressed interest in the operation of an allotment and South Dublin County Council currently manage a waiting list for spaces.

Cllr Farrell urged the council to advertise the allotment waiting list more to ensure that the opportunity to grow produce can be achieved by everyone who wishes to.

Those who wish to have an allotment in

South Dublin can apply for it through an application form linked on SDCC’s allotments page on their website.

All council-provided allotments are accessible to the public either on foot or via existing public transport services, with only short walking distances required from the nearest bus stops.

Councillor Alan Hayes, who also has an allotment, encouraged the council to bring one to the Lucan area to ensure that people are not travelling too far just to avail of the spaces in Friarstown and other spots.

Cllr Hayes said: “Mill Lane is where mine is in Palmerstown and it’s perfect for me because it’s local, and there’s plenty of local people who have one.

“There probably is 154 people locally who would use one and when there’s people having to traverse the county, which they are – there are people from Lucan, Palmerstown and North Clondalkin who travel to Friarstown to get an allotment – and that kind of defeats part

of the purpose of the allotments - grow your own and reducing our emissions, reliance on fertilisers for their fruit and vegetables.”

Cllr Farrell also urged the local authority to provide parking spaces in the plan for any allotment in the Lucan area as she noted that a vehicle is necessary in some cases.

The Lucan councillor stated that equipment and a change of clothes are likely needed to be stored or brought along as it is “dirty work” working at the allotments.

Cllr Hayes noted that having allotments available to people locally, rather than having them travel a distance to reach them, would also benefit security.

He said: “They aren’t secure units by their nature; they’re out in the open. There’s an electric gate, sure, but you need to store equipment there and so, if we’re serious about encouraging more people to engage in that, we need to have them locally.”

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme.

‘Dismay’ as councillors vote down review of rent increases

‘DISAPPOINTMENT and dismay’ was expressed after councillors voted down a review of rent increases in South Dublin, reports James Roulston Mooney.

The motion to review the increases was voted down by a difference of one, with 16 voting against and 15 voting for.

The current differential rent is weekly based on 10 per cent of the household’s income plus three euro and a minimum weekly rent of €26.20.

The increases have led to concerning situations for several constituents in the county and Councillor Will Carey noted this has doubled the rent of some.

Cllr Carey said: “Nobody is arguing that people who are earning a living or collecting social welfare payment should not be paying rent.

“It is simply that each of these should be assessed as an individual in the home and treated as such.

“It should also be noted that any failure to collect these rents invariably leads to arrears placed upon the main tenant who ends up carrying this debt.”

A report on local authority differential rent schemes and rent reviews from the Value For Money Unit of the Local Government Audit Service is expected to be completed soon.

Cllr Carey added that the rent

increase has severely affected young adults still living at home.

He noted that as their income is added jointly to the family income then they are assessed at a rate of 20 per cent.

This has seen some household rents within council properties exceed private market rates. In some instances, as much as €1600 per month, according to the Clondalkin councillor.

“This has led to a lot of tension and consternation within families as parents are forced to demand 20% of income from family members towards rent.

“This at a time when these young people are trying to find their way into the world. In many cases these people are earning minimum wage or just above but are being treated as high earners in society.”

SDCC Director of Housing Elaine Leech noted that the average rent charged by the council is lower than other local authorities in Dublin.

SDCC Chief Executive Colm Ward noted that the current system was introduced to manage maintenance costs and balance the books.

However, Cllr Carey feels that some renters are being “exponentially” hit by increases and noted that the council has “made a mistake.”

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme.



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



Dancing Daffodils



DANCING: A host of dancing Daffodils

THE yellow Daffodil is a very characteristic plant of springtime gardens and parks, blooming as early as late January.

The main burst of colour, however, is normally between the end of February and the middle of April.

Experts are unsure if Daffodils are native to Ireland. While clumps are sometimes found growing wild in the countryside, some suggest that Daffodils were in fact introduced to Ireland at some point in the past. Over time they then ‘escaped’ from their garden homes into the countryside to become naturalised in the wild.

Originally, Daffodils were plants of deciduous woodland, blooming early in spring before the woodland floor is shaded by new leaf growth on the trees above.

The wild form is smaller and simpler than the cultivated Daffodils of today, with drooping heads comprising of yellow petals and darker yellow trumpets.

After flowering, the work of the Daffodil is not yet finished. Its long green leaves continue to make food for several more weeks. This food is returned to the underground bulbs where it builds up the store of

energy that the plant will need for the next spring’s growth and flowering.

It could be expected that Daffodil’s fleshy green leaves might attract grazing animals like deer or rabbits.

Daffodil leaves, however, contain a strong chemical compound that can be poisonous for grazing animals.

This alkaloid compound also occurs in the plant’s underground bulbs, where it helps to protect the plant’s food store from burrowing insect larvae. The alkaloid can also be harmful for humans if eaten.

Many of today’s cultivated Daffodil varieties have been highly bred to produce different colour combinations and multi-petalled flowers.

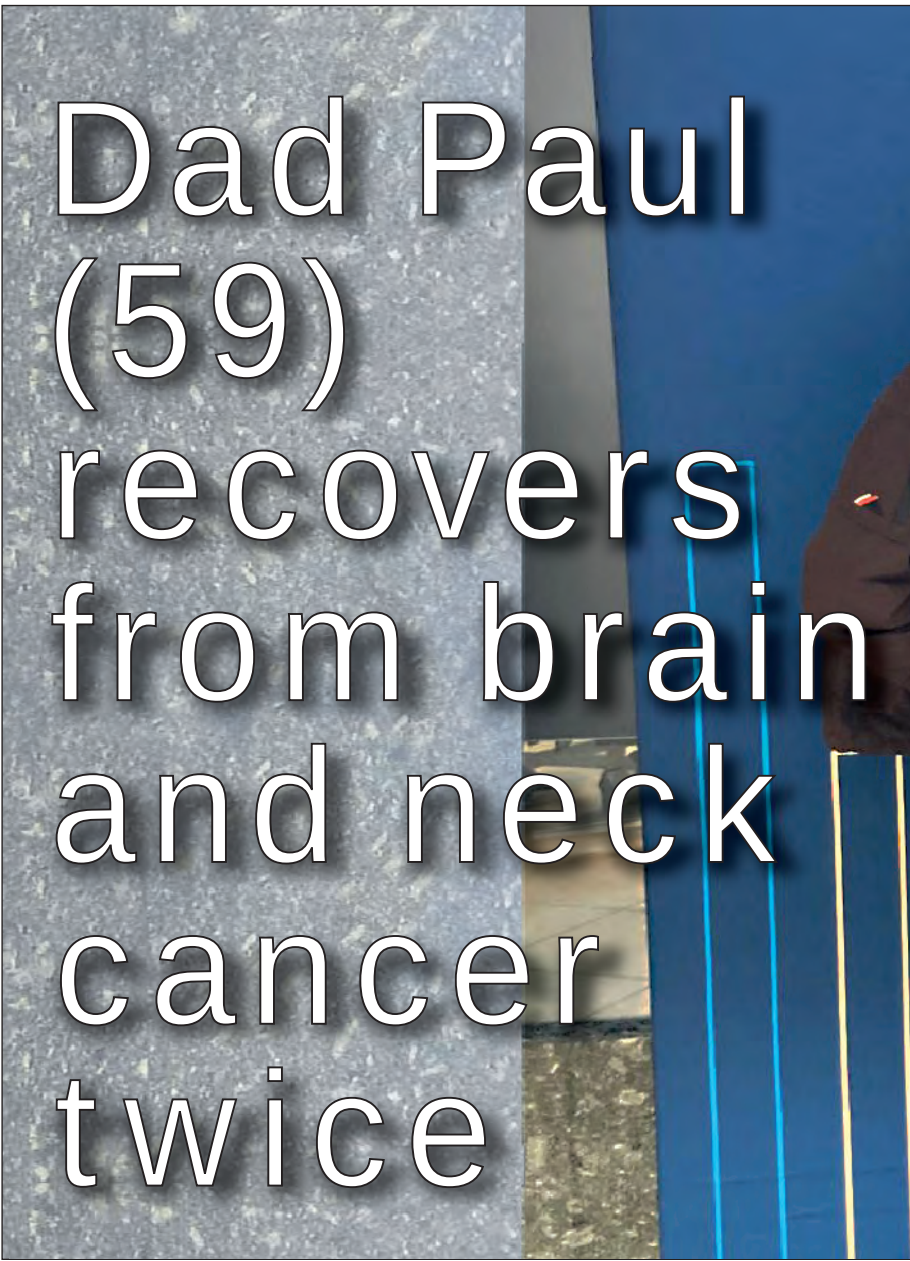
This enormous variety comes at a cost to the plants, however, and many varieties do not produce pollen or nectar.

While insects might still come to investigate, they receive little or no reward from these varieties, and they waste crucial energy early in the season when few other flowers are open.

In Irish, Daffodils are called Lus an Chromchinn, which translates as ‘plant with the drooping head’.



COLOURS: There are many different colour combinations of Daffodils available



By James Roulston Mooney
jamesrm@echo.ie

PAUL Mooney is a retired postman and three-time survivor of cancer who knows how to keep getting back up when he’s been knocked down.

The Echo spoke with Paul from Lucan ahead of Daffodil Day on Friday, March 20 and he told the story of his last seven years.

The 59-year-old father was diagnosed with head and neck cancer twice, first in 2019 and again in 2023, and in September 2025, they discovered he had three brain tumours.

Paul was successfully treated for each of his cancers and has been through many ups-and-downs throughout but has remained determined to ‘stay busy living.’

He said: “I’m naive, but I’ll take naivety. Sometimes, it has a great way of kind of burying your head in the sand and getting on with it, rather than dawdling on about the bad things...”

“...It’s not easy, but everyone has their cross the bear, so you just get on with it. It’s going to be hard finding something to do to keep yourself pretty occupied.”

He described periods of 10-day spells during chemotherapy appointments where he would feel awful and struggle to motivate himself to do anything other than lie in bed.

The Lucan man has suffered a collapsed lung, pneumonia and Covid on top of his cancer bouts but has fought them off every time and is getting back on his feet.

He noted that his battles with cancer have been tiring and almost feels as if he has been playing a twisted game.

“It’s like Whack-A-Mole. It’s like Whack-A-Mole with the cancer. You kill it in one place, and it comes back in another.”

Paul’s recoveries have led to intermittent stretches over the last seven

years where he has reached a point in his recovery that he can go out and enjoy himself once more.

A trip to see Simple Minds at Trinity College Dublin in July was one of these moments, two months prior to the discovery of the brain tumours.

However, his health battles have led to him having to give up his job as a postman - he is currently on invalidity pension – and have led to many different struggles, but he stated that he wouldn’t be able to deal with it without the support of loved ones, his doctors and the Irish Cancer Society.

An estimated 44,000 people in Ireland get cancer each year, made up of invasive and non-invasive tumours – invasive tumours are the ones that can spread.

The most recent research available shows that there are now more than 24,200 invasive cases diagnosed each year.

Paul couldn’t stop seeing the Irish Cancer Society in places after his first diagnosis, much like when you buy a new car and see the same model all over town.

He read a booklet from the national cancer charity when he was first diagnosed with head and neck cancer in 2019 and they have been a strong support network for him since through their Daffodil Centre at the Mater Hospital.

“The cancer society make things easier. Although I haven’t used counselling sessions, I have friends that listen to me problems, and whinging and moaning.”

“But having teams, like there in the Mater, they were able to provide assistance with my medical card at the time, it makes such a big, big difference...I couldn’t urge people enough to donate.”

To donate to the Irish Cancer Society for Daffodil Day, visit cancer.ie/daffodilday, call the fundraising team for free on 0818 10 20 30 or give to volunteers in your local area.



Retired postman has since discovered he has three brain tumours



Powerful programme of learning and connecting



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

BALLYFERMOT Youth Service recently hosted its first International Women's Week Youth Workers Mobility Programme through the Erasmus+ initiative.

The youth service has a history of working through the Erasmus+ initiative and brought youth workers from across Europe to Ballyfermot for a powerful and inspiring week of learning, connection and celebration.

'Healthy, Happy & A Little Bit Fierce' welcomed participants from Italy, Spain, Malta, Poland, Romania, Spain and Croatia, alongside local youth workers from BYS and coincided with International Women's Day.

The local youth service noted that it provided "a meaningful opportunity to recognise the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women, while also acknowledging the ongoing struggles women face locally, nationally and across Europe."

A diverse programme of activities took place throughout the week, including wellbeing workshops, self-care sessions, peer learning exchanges and panel discussions.

Women's health expert Dr. Aoife Nic Shanagharain hosted a workshop in Ballyfermot Library which explored topics including endometriosis and menopause.

There was also a panel discussion with influential women from the local community, including Mary Daly, Rita Fagan, community Gardaí, Marian McCarthy and Mary Farrell, who shared their experiences, leadership journeys and their reflections on supporting women locally.

BYS also welcomed several local facilitators who shared their expertise and energy with the group.

These included Lorraine from Zumba Ireland, Krissy, who led a rejuvenating yoga workshop, Christine from Rejuvenate by Christine and Tracey from OM Reiki Healing.

BYS stated: "The training programme focused on empowering women working in youth services to prioritise their health and wellbeing while

strengthening confidence, assertiveness and resilience.

"Rooted in honest conversations and practical learning, the week encouraged participants to be healthy in their bodies, happy in their minds and fierce in their voices."

The international participants also visited local women's projects including The Bungalow at Cherry Orchard Family Resource Centre and Inchicore Women's Outreach Centre.

The participants learned about the work these organisations do for women and families in the area.

The participants finished their programme at the Garden of Ireland in Wicklow and also took part in a Women of the Revolution Walking Tour led by the Dublin City Council Historian-in-Residence, Liz Gillis.

The local youth service stated their "pride" in hosting the event which included participants from across the continent.

"The programme was a powerful reminder that when women come together to learn, support and uplift one another, they create stronger communities, locally, nationally and internationally."



Enhancement Scheme will drive people out of the village

No access plans for general traffic to the Main Street from Greenhills Road junction

By Ellen Gough
ellen@echo.ie

“GRAVE concerns” have been raised that the proposed Tallaght Village Enhancement Scheme “will drive residents and businesses out of the village”.

The scheme “aims to create a safer, more attractive, and people-friendly environment in Tallaght Village” by improving traffic flow, improving walking and cycling connections, and creating a high-quality public space.

The scheme was proposed by South Dublin County Council to be pushed through ahead of upcoming BusConnects services due to be rolled out this year, with informal workshops taking place in October and November 2025.

The Part 8 public consultation which opened on February 11 is what has emerged from those informal workshops “as the preferred option”, according to South Dublin County Council.

It proposes a new public plaza area at the junction of Main Street and Old Bawn Road, as well as no access for general traffic “to or from Main Street from The Greenhills Road/Main Street Junction” and a bus gate at the Greenhills Road junction to filter westbound traffic and improve bus reliability, according to proposal documents.

Access for residents, local businesses, deliveries, and visitors to the village and to St. Mary's Priory will be maintained, the proposal states.

However, residents and businesses, along with groups such as Tallaght Community Council, say

the plan will be “a failure”.

While Tallaght Community Council said that the initial announcement of a village enhancement scheme last year had been “was music to our ears” and that they “dove right in” to the informal consultations and workshops, the resulting proposal in the Part 8 consultation would amount to just “a traffic engineering project to exclusively favour the bus”.

They also noted that the “current 40+ on-street parking bays will be completely removed under this concept”, meaning all village residents and businesses would have to pay for private car parking.

“Why should residents, some third generation in Tallaght village, lose on-street parking after having it for over 60 years,” they asked, a question echoed by Tallaght resident Paul Kelly, who said the proposal would cause “untold disruption for residents”.

“The main thing for me is it doesn't take into consideration for access to parking beside our house,” he told *The Echo*.

“That's really going to have a terrible detrimental effect and affect the value of our properties, and probably increase our current insurance premiums, because God knows where we're going to park,” he added.

A business owner who also spoke to *The Echo* stated their view that the bus-only proposal would “cut the village off totally”.

“We want a community spirit, and we want a win, win situation for everybody, but if this is not handled properly and right, there will be



failures, and that's not something anybody wants,” they added.

Tallaght Community Council also highlighted that the “community awareness of the actual traffic changes in real terms is still low”, and that Tallaght needs an “increasing range of amenities to attract people into the village by all modes of transport”.

The Tallaght Village Enhancement Scheme Part 8 public consultation is open until March 25, 2026, on South Dublin County Council's consultation portal, and public submissions can be made through the portal at consult.sdblincoco.ie, in writing to the council's planning and transport department or by email to talves@sdblincoco.ie for attention of Senior Executive Officer, Planning and Transport, South Dublin County Council.

For additional feedback members of the public can also fill out the Tallaght Village Enhancement Scheme survey, published on the consultation portal consult.sdblincoco.ie.

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme

SCHEME: An artist impression for the plans for Tallaght Village



SDCC
Comhairle Contae South Dublin
Átha Cliath Theas County Council

PUBLIC NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF VARIATION NO 1 TO THE SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-2028

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 13 (8) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, that the Elected Members of South Dublin County Council made Variation No. 1 to the South Dublin County Development Plan 2022-2028: The Clondalkin Local Planning Framework at the Council Meeting on 9th March 2026. The variation has immediate effect and will be integrated into the County Development Plan as Appendix 13.

Variation No. 1 delivers on QDP14 Objective 3 of the South Dublin County Development Plan 2022-2028 and includes an Urban Design Strategy for the Clondalkin Local Planning Framework Area including objectives around conservation and built heritage, sustainable movement and green infrastructure providing a framework for future development within the plan area. Separately, Character Appraisals for each of the designated Clondalkin Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA's) have also been prepared and include conservation safeguarding recommendations.

A copy of the Development Plan as varied may be inspected at the Council's offices during normal working hours at County Hall Tallaght, Dublin 24, D24 A3XC and on the Council's website: <https://www.sdcc.ie/en/devplan2022/>

Web: www.sdcc.ie



SDCC
Comhairle Contae South Dublin
Átha Cliath Theas County Council

CISTE BONNEAGAIR POBAIL 2026

Glacfar le hiarratais ar Chiste Bonneagar Pobail Chomhairle Contae Bhaile Átha Cliath Theas ón Déardaoin, an 12 Márta 2026. An spriocdháta d'fhoirmeacha iarratais ar líne atá comhlánaithe ina n-íomláine ná: Déardaoin 16 Aibreán ar 4i.n.

Is ciste de €450,000 é an Ciste Bonneagar Pobail lena gcuirtear deis ar fáil do Ghrúpaí Pobail (lena n-áirítear Clubanna Spóirt) cur isteach ar mhaoiniú, chun cabhrú leo an costas a bhaineann le tógáil Áiseanna Pobail nó áitribh atá ann cheana féin a nuachóiriú agus/nó a shíneadh.

Is féidir iarratais a dhéanamh ar líne ag <https://sdcc.ie/ga/seirbhisi/pobail/maoiniu-agus-tacaiocht/ciste-bonneagair-pobail/>

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE FUND 2026

The Community Infrastructure Fund 2026 is now open for online applications. Deadline for completed applications is Thursday 16th April at 4pm.

The Community Infrastructure Fund is a fund of €450,000 which offers Community Groups (including Sports Clubs) the opportunity to apply for funding, to assist with costs of either constructing new Community Facilities or for the modernisation and/or expansion of existing premises.

For more information and to apply, go to <https://sdcc.ie/en/services/community/funding-and-support/community-infrastructure-fund/community-infrastructure-fund.html>

Web: www.sdcc.ie



Caretaker Martin (70) was the friendly face at the gate

Martin retires as caretaker at Scoil Aonghusa junior and senior and St Rose's schools

By **Ellen Gough**

ellen@echo.ie

PUPILS and staff at three Tallaght schools bid a fond farewell to their beloved caretaker as he locked the school gates for the last time on Friday.

Martin Kelly served as the caretaker for the campus shared by Scoil Aonghusa Senior, Scoil Aonghusa Junior and St Rose's National School in Castle Park for ten years before retiring on Friday, March 13.

Anne Marie Kealy, Principal at St Rose's, said that Mr Kelly has been an important figure in the school's community for the last few years, and part of the "welcoming community" to greet the pupils each day.

"There's some children who might not be that keen to come in in the morning, but we have a friendly face at the gate, and Martin always provided that for them," Ms Kealy said.

"There were children hanging onto his legs saying don't go, because every morning, Martin's at the gate and all the children come in and have a big welcome for him."

Each of the three schools on the shared campus threw a special lunch for Martin during his last week of work, and he received cards from all the pupils too, before the final big



GUARD OF HONOUR: Fr Pat Lucey with Martin Kelly who served as caretaker for 10 years

“ At two o’clock all the children, all the staff, the bus drivers, the SNA’s all lined up outside and had a guard of honour at the gates

gathering on his last Friday, March 13.

"At two o'clock all the children, all the staff, the bus drivers, the SNAs all lined up outside and had a guard of honour at the gates," Ms Kealy explained.

"We had two big leprechauns, for

the week that was in it, then Martin did his final lock up at the gate," she said.

Martin, from Springfield, said the last ten years have “all been amazing”, while working at the schools.

The 70-year-old has no plans yet for

his retirement but is planning to take it easy and “go with the flow,” he told *The Echo*.

While the schools are already advertising for a replacement, whoever gets the job will have large shoes to fill indeed.

Weekend Special 2 Night Stay For 2 For Only €300

Indulge in a tranquil 2-night getaway with breakfast included by the Atlantic Ocean. Comfort, style, and great value all for €300.

Deal applies to Friday and Saturday or Saturday and Sunday.

Book your offer at www.bellbridgehotelclare.com

Enjoy a
further 5% OFF
and a bottle
of prosecco during
your stay with
Discount code
SPRING26

An advertisement for AA Hello Tallaght. At the top, the AA logo (a yellow square with 'AA' in black) is next to the text 'Hello Tallaght' in a large, white, sans-serif font. Below this, the text 'FREE WINDSCREEN WIPERS*' is in yellow, followed by 'with any Full Car Service' in white. Underneath, it says 'Scan QR code to Book' in white. In the center is a large QR code with the AA logo in the middle. Below the QR code, the text 'You don't need to be a member, everyone is welcome' is in white. At the bottom, there are two yellow diagonal banners with the text 'AA TALLAGHT' repeated in black. The background is dark grey.

Leaves block storm drains at junction of estates



FLOODING:
Whitechurch
Abbey

THE removal of trees at estates in Rathfarnham would not have changed the outcome of Storm Chandra due to the high amount of rainfall, reports James Roulston Mooney.

Leaves from the trees by Whitechurch Abbey and Grange Park, Rathfarnham were understood to have blocked a storm drain at the junction of the estates at the time of the flooding, but the council noted that the removal of these trees would not have prevented events.

Councillor Paddy Cosgrave had asked for the current trees to be removed and shorter trees to be planted in their place, with the potential for less leaf shredding noted.

South Dublin County Council looks after more than 80,000 street trees within their remit in accordance with their Living With Trees 2026-2031 tree management policy.

Cllr Cosgrave stated his belief that the trees in place near the storm drain are not "suitable."

He said: "I believe that the trees aren't suitable for a road like this and especially with the leaves at present."

"I called up there a few weeks ago and all the small twigs fall off that tree in the winter, and that's now blocking up the drain."

He described the drain as a "very important" one and felt that it would have to be cleaned out weekly from the Autumn due to the high amount of leaves

and twigs shredded in the harsher weather.

The council had inspected the eight trees in question and found that there were no grounds for removal.

According to the council and their current tree policy, tree removal is only carried out "only when there is clear arboricultural justification, such as structural defect, disease, safety risk or essential infrastructure conflict."

No such cases were identified upon inspection of trees in the area, though one is noted to be in private ownership and is described as the largest.

Councillor Yvonne Collins suggested that other procedures could be carried out to mitigate the effects of the trees on the drain.

Cllr Collins: "Maybe just put them in line for some significant pruning and also have an increase on the mechanical sweeping schedule."

Councillor Alan Edge warned that if the council deviated from their policy to benefit one estate, then more cases would follow and the policy would only be undermined.

Cllr Edge added that removing trees is not the solution when it comes to flood alleviation in the area.

He said: "Back in the day, you could simply get on to your councillor and say, 'I want that tree gone' and it'd be gone in the morning – that's not how the council operates and rightly so these days."

Upgrade works to be carried out on Ballycullen roundabout

UPGRADE works set to be carried out on a roundabout in Ballycullen will see the road fixture adorned with improved landscaping, like the inclusion of bee-friendly plants, reports James Roulston Mooney.

The roundabout at the junction of Woodstown and Ballycullen Road is set to be upgraded under the council's public works programme for this year, and landscaping improvements are set to be delivered, such as new pollinator-friendly planting.

The proposed works relate to landscaping only and no drawings are available of the proposed vision for the roundabout as a contractor has yet to be appointed to the project.

The council noted that is also proposed to improve the presentation at

the pedestrian central ghost islands on the Ballycullen Road arms of the roundabout. This may be flexi-bollards or bolt-down traffic islands.

This proposed improvement comes after the completion of the recent Active Travel Scheme on the road.

Once a contractor is assigned to the project and the design of the roundabout's landscape upgrade is finalised, the layout will be shared with councillors.

Subject to procurement, works are expected to take place after the bird nesting season, likely in Q3/Q4 2026.

The duration of works will be confirmed once the contractor is in place.

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme.



STUCK IN THE LOOP:
Pupils from Firhouse
Educate Together
Secondary School

Young people share in their communities

Schools participate in the Young Social Innovators

By James Roulston Mooney
jamesrm@echo.ie

TWO local schools took part in the Young Social Innovators Speak Out Tour at the Mansion House in Dublin where they advocate for change issues close to their hearts.

St Paul's Secondary School in Greenhills and Firhouse Educate Together Secondary School took part in the event in Dublin City, which is part of a nationwide tour where partaking students address a mix of social, environmental and health-related topics.

Two teams from St Paul's took part and made presentations on overfishing and male privilege.

Students from the Firhouse school on Ballycullen Drive discussed the modern issue of being 'Stuck in the Loop' with commentary on social media usage in day-to-day lives.

Lord Mayor of Dublin, Cllr Ray McAdam, said: "The energy in the room is a powerful reminder that young people are not simply the leaders of tomorrow."

"They are already shaping change in their communities today. Through their ideas,

SPEAK OUT: Pupils from St Paul's
Secondary School in Greenhills





aping change ities today

Speak Out Tour in the Mansion House



innovation and determination, they are tackling some of the most important social challenges facing our society.

“From equality and accessibility to participation and housing, these young people are showing what active citizenship looks like in practice.

“Events like the YSI Speak Out Tour provide an important platform for young voices to be heard and for bold ideas to be shared.

“Dublin is proud to host an event that celebrates youth leadership and reminds us that real and lasting change often begins with the courage to speak out.”

Teams also raised awareness about topics like endometriosis, poverty, inclusion, and the impact of discrimination in communities and highlighting the importance of environmental responsibility and sustainable practices.

Their projects combined research, creativity, and action, with many teams already implementing local initiatives in their schools and communities.

The event showcased the passion, intelligence, and determination of Dublin’s young changemakers, each delivering a compelling short presentation to peers and panel members.

The Speak Out Tour continues across Ireland this month, celebrating youth leadership and social innovation.

TUH talks The importance of Hand Hygiene

IT MAY not sound very exciting or particularly high-tech, but as a doctor, one of the most important things I can do in the hospital to prevent patients from developing infections is practising good “hand hygiene”, that is, cleaning my hands before and after coming into contact with them.

Patients are encouraged that “it’s ok to ask” their doctors or nurses if they have cleaned their hands before examining them, and this is part of keeping everyone safe.

Outside of the hospital setting, good hand hygiene is an important daily practice.

Regularly cleaning our hands is one of the simplest and most effective ways to reduce the spread of common infections such as colds, flus, and stomach bugs.

Our hands frequently come into contact with many surfaces at home and when we are out and about—for example, door handles, phones, keyboards and shopping trolleys.

These surfaces come in contact with hands from many different people who will have various bacteria, viruses, and other bugs on their hands, which end up on these surfaces.

Most of these may be harmless, but some may cause illness.

When we touch our eyes, nose, mouth, or food with unwashed hands, these germs can easily enter the body.

This is particularly important during the winter months when respiratory viruses, such as flu, and stomach bugs are circulating.

We all remember during COVID the messages about this and how widely available alcohol hand gel was for hand cleaning.

If your hands look clean, then generally alcohol hand gels are as effective for general use as soap and water.

So, ‘Can I catch an infection from a toilet seat?’

The simple answer here is ‘it’s unlikely’.

Many people are concerned about this, particularly when using public toilets. In fact, some studies have shown that our phones are dirtier than toilet seats – when did you last clean your phone??

Most disease-causing bugs cannot survive for long on the surface of a toilet seat.

Healthy, intact skin acts as a natural barrier that prevents many germs from entering the body.

However, if a toilet looks obviously contaminated with urine, faeces or blood, it is best to avoid it unless there is no other option!

The greater risk in public bathrooms comes from surfaces such as flush handles, taps, door handles, and soap dispensers that are touched frequently by many people.

If hands are not washed properly after using the toilet, germs can easily spread to these surfaces and



HAND HYGIENE: Tallaght Native and Consultant Microbiologist at TUH, Anna Rose Prior

then to other people when they touch those surfaces.

Good hand hygiene after using the toilet and touching these surfaces greatly reduces this risk.

Washing your hands thoroughly with soap and water removes many of the germs that may have been picked up from bathroom surfaces.

It is more difficult if someone at home is sick with an infection that is causing vomiting and diarrhoea. In this case, the toilet and surrounding area may be heavily contaminated.

It may not be possible to use separate toilets. Still, careful handwashing with soap and water – particularly after using the toilet or cleaning up after someone who is sick – is extremely important.

Hand hygiene is a simple habit that protects both the individual

and the wider community.

During the winter season, when there are many viruses such as colds, flus and stomach bugs circulating, this is when hand hygiene plays a crucial role

It is also important to be mindful of your skin health.

Frequent hand washing or hand gel use can sometimes irritate the skin and lead to conditions such as dermatitis, and advice from your GP should be sought if this becomes problematic.

And finally, while good hand hygiene is important, it should not be a source of excessive worry or anxiety.

If concerns about acquiring infections and contamination of your hands are causing significant stress, you may need to get support from your GP.



DAILY PRACTICE: Regularly cleaning our hands is one of the simplest and most effective ways to reduce the spread of common infections

AS PART of *The Echo* celebrating 45 years, we're celebrating you, and local faces and places. Over the last four years we've shared the stories of local people, and remind ourselves of the great community spirit alive across local areas. This week, **Ken Doyle** talks to Stephen Brett, principal of Lucan Community School.



PROUD: Stephen Brett is principal of Lucan Community School



IF YOU do something you love, you'll never work a day in your life.' Confucius said that. Either him or some equally brainy chap like Isaac Asimov or Brian Clough did anyway.

The point is, nobody you could meet embodies that phrase more than the endlessly enthusiastic and committed Principal of Lucan Community School Stephen Brett.

Stephen was kind enough to agree to be this week's 'Faces of the Community' star and take it from me, the man is truly obsessed with his job and the well-being of the 970 pupils and 100ish staff on the school's books. He's a dynamic and progressive figure and, as he will never tire of telling you, he's just a part of the team.

The youngest of four children born to Mary and Ivo Brett, Stephen grew up in Blanchardstown with sister Fiona and brothers John and Ivo junior. Ivo is an unusual name and Stephen puts it down to an Eastern European ancestor somewhere down the line. Forgive the digression but your correspondent believes it to be a very cool moniker and if I was still in the children-having business I'd strongly consider it for my own issue.

Educated at Coolmine College, Stephen recalls his career path first appearing to him in those halls. "My favourite classes at school were always PE and Geography and my teachers in those subjects, Mr Des Rogers and Mr Cyril Langran respectively were so engaging and breathed such life into the subjects that they were really inspiring. In fact I remember at the end of one school year I was running for the school at an athletics meeting in Tullamore when the subject of how we were all going to spend the summer. Mr Rogers joined in and told us he was going to spend the following three months doing a bit of hiking and a bit of travelling and I thought I fancy a bit of that as a career, and I never really aspired to be anything but a teacher from then on."

So, with his mind set on a career in teaching, Stephen set about making it a reality. "I studied at Bedford College of Physical Education in England and absolutely loved it. I graduated in 1998 in Phys. Ed and Geography and upon doing so, took on a position as a PE teacher with a school in Birmingham. The school was located in a fairly down-at-heel catchment area and there were a lot of socio-economic problems the people I dealt with had to face before they came to school but I think that it was a great place for me to learn to think on my

feet and develop strategies and solutions for kids who needed them. Put it this way, when I came home two years later I felt ready for anything."

So it was that some 26 years ago, Stephen applied for, and got a job as a PE and Geography teacher at Lucan Community School, and a love affair with the place started.

"I settled in straight away and it just felt right for me for some reason. I've always had the same approach to teaching which is to get the kids to find joy in learning and give them all of the tools necessary to reach their true potential. Obviously everyone has different strengths and weaknesses and I always want to capitalise on those strengths as much as possible. I get as much of a buzz from a former pupil doing well having done an apprenticeship as I do from one of our own getting a First in Classics at Trinity."

As the years went on, Stephen climbed the ladder in the school, becoming Subject Co-ordinator for English and Geography in the School, then onto becoming a Deputy Head. Then came the big one, just last year, white smoke rose from the Lucan chimney and Stephen was given the position Principal of the school. Lesser men might let such an honour go to their heads, if anything, it made Stephen even more modest!

"I try to be as visible as possible around the place. As a team, the staff try and engineer an atmosphere where the students know we are there for them and we are approachable at all times. We don't want to be figures of fear, we want to be the standard setters for a genuinely welcoming, inclusive and supportive space for the students to achieve their goals, whatever they may be."

"As I said before, I'm just a cog on a wheel and it takes a very big team of teachers and auxiliary staff to make the place run effectively. I'm extremely lucky in that respect because I'm surrounded by wonderful colleagues. I also want to be there for them when I'm needed and I hope I manage to be that trusted colleague to them too."

We all have our favourite words. Mine, for example, is cinnamon. I can't say the word without giggling like a little kid. Stephen's is somewhat different. His is 'Neuroplasticity' which the internet tells me means the brain's lifelong ability to reorganise its structure, functions, and neural connections in response to learning, experience, or injury. It enables the

brain to form new pathways, strengthen existing ones, and prune unnecessary ones. It's a concept Stephen believes in utterly and I guess that's one reason he's Principal of a large Secondary School and I'm a third rate hack with a mediocre Leaving Cert.

On the odd occasion, Stephen does manage to tear himself away from his beloved school, he has a very happy home life. He's been married to the saintly Ruth for 18 years and together they have two children, Mia who is 17 and was National U17 Indoor Champion in the 400m last year! Then there's 13 year old Noah, who is a very promising karate practitioner. His son and daughter didn't lick their athletic abilities off a brick either as Stephen is a lifelong runner and athlete. He still runs

competitively now in the Masters category and is a proud member of Metro St Brigid's Athletics Club.

Stephen, of course gets the last word. "Once again, I love my job and wouldn't want to be doing anything else in the world. I'm immensely proud of the work we do and Lucan Community College is proud to be part of our patron DDLETB'S 31 second-level community colleges serving over 20,000 students across the county."

With the first phase of a rebuild and refurbishment at the school due to open in September '26, Stephen looks to have plenty on the docket for the foreseeable future. We wish him all the luck and success in the world with it.



ATHLETIC: Stephen Brett is a member of St Brigid's Athletics Club

Seachtain na Gaeilge

Aisteoirí Thamhlachta to bring Uaigneas an Ghleanna back to the stage on Saturday at the new Irish-language theatre



Filleann Aisteoirí Thamhlachta le Uaigneas an Ghleanna in An Sciobóil

TAR ÉIS léiriú thar a bheith rathúil níos luaithe i mbliana, tá Aisteoirí Thamhlachta ar bís chun Uaigneas an Ghleanna a thabhairt ar ais ar an ardán oíche Shathairn, an 21 Márta, in An Sciobóil, an t-ionad nua amharclannaíochta Gaeilge atá suite ar chúl Aon Scéal? Café, 518 Príomhshráid Thamhlachta.

Osclófar na doirse ag 6.40pm, agus moltar don lucht féachana teacht go luath le haghaidh oíche speisialta drámaíochta agus ceoil.

Is aistriúchán Gaeilge é an léiriú seo ar an dráma clúiteach aonghnímh le J.M. Synge, *The Shadow of the Glen*, saothar ceannródaíoch i stair na hamharclannaíochta in Éirinn a cuireadh ar an stáitse den chéad uair sa bhliain 1903.

Suite i dteach uaigneach i gcnocáin Chill Mhantáin, insíonn an dráma scéal Nóra de Búrca, bean óg uaigneach atá gafa i bpósadh míshona le fear i bhfad níos sine ná í.

Nuair a thagann siúlach mistéireach chuig an teach, cuirtear tús le scéal cumhachtach a phléann uaigneas, saoirse, dualgas agus an dúil atá ag an duine saol níos iomláine a bhaint amach.

Lena theanga fhileata, a theannas mothúchánach agus a théamaí síoraí, tá an dráma chomh hábhartha agus chomh mealltach inniu is a bhí sé nuair a chuir sé cor sa saol

breis agus céad bliain ó shin.

Tá Sinéad Silva, Nollaig Ó Sceallaigh, Tomás Ó Maoilréanaí agus Pól Ó Meadhra sa chliar, agus tugann siad fuinneamh agus fogaireacht don léiriú dlúth, machnamhach seo.

Is é Ciaran McMahon, as Gleann an Smóil ar imeall Shléibhte Chill Mhantáin, atá i mbun na stiúrtóireachta. Tá cáil air ní hamháin mar stiúrtóir cumasach ach mar aisteoir éirimiúil chomh maith, agus é tar éis páirt a ghlacadh i roinnt docudrámaí ar TG4 thar na blianta.

Cuirfidh an ceol beo ó Lorcán Mac Mathúna agus Éamon Galldubh go mór le hatmaisféar na hoíche, rud a chruthóidh eispéireas cultúrtha saibhir i suíomh uathúil An Sciobóil.

Cuireadh an dráma ar stáitse den chéad uair san amharclann nua i mí Feabhra seo caite, agus de bharr an éilimh mhóir atá air, tá Aisteoirí Thamhlachta thar a bheith sásta é a chur os comhair an phobail arís dóibh siúd a chaill é an chéad uair—nó dóibh siúd ar mhaith leo blaiseadh eile de.

Tá ticéid ar fáil anois ar Eventbrite. Le tuilleadh eolais a fháil faoin dráma agus faoi shaothar Aisteoirí Thamhlachta, lean Aisteoirí Thamhlachta agus Gaelphobal Thamhlachta ar Instagram, Facebook agus X (Twitter).



Aisteoirí Thamhlachta return with Uaigneas an Ghleanna at An Sciobóil

Following a highly successful performance earlier this year, Aisteoirí

Thamhlachta are delighted to bring Uaigneas an Ghleanna back to the stage on Saturday evening, 21 March, at the new Irish-language theatre An Sciobóil, located to the rear of Aon Scéal? Café, 518 Main Street, Tallaght Village.

Doors open at 6.40pm, and audiences are encouraged to arrive early to enjoy what promises to be a memorable evening of drama and music.

This special production is an Irish translation of J.M. Synge's classic one-act play *The Shadow of the Glen*, a landmark work of Irish theatre first performed in 1903.

Set in a remote cottage in the Wicklow hills, the play tells the story of Nora Burke, a lonely young woman, in an unhappy marriage to an older husband.

When a mysterious tramp arrives at her home, the encounter sparks a powerful exploration of isolation, freedom, duty and the longing for a fuller life.

With its poetic language, emotional tension and timeless themes, the play remains as compelling today as when it first performed for audiences over a century ago.

The cast features Sinéad Silva, Nollaig Ó Sceallaigh, Tomás Ó Maoilréanaí and Pól

Ó Meadhra, who bring great energy and sensitivity to this intimate and thought-provoking drama. Direction is by Ciaran McMahon, a native of Glenasmole, an historic area located at the foot of the Wicklow Mountains, who is well known not only for his strong theatrical vision but also as an accomplished actor in his own right, having appeared in several TG4 docudramas over the years.

Adding to the atmosphere of the evening will be accompanying live music from Lorcán Mac Mathúna and Éamon Galldubh, helping to create a rich cultural experience in the unique surroundings of An Sciobóil.

The play was initially staged last February in the new theatre and, due to popular demand, Aisteoirí Thamhlachta are thrilled to present it once again for audiences who may have missed it the first time—or who simply wish to experience it again.

Tickets are available now on Eventbrite. For more information about the play and the work of Aisteoirí Thamhlachta, follow Aisteoirí Thamhlachta and Gaelphobal Thamhlachta on Instagram, Facebook and X (Twitter).



CULTÚRTHA: The drama takes place at the new Irish-language theatre An Sciobóil, located to the rear of Aon Scéal

Dr Torun named Female Entrepreneur of the Year

PASSION: Dr Elif Torun



Practice supports more than 6,000 patients is recognised for contribution to healthcare

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

FOUNDER of Tallaght-based Dr Torun's Clinic, Dr Elif Torun, has been named Female Entrepreneur of the Year 2026 by the Local Enterprise Office South Dublin.

Dr Torun received the award during Local Enterprise Week celebrations, recognising her contribution to healthcare and entrepreneurship in the area.

The practice in Old Bawn supports more than 6,000 patients in the community.

Speaking after receiving the award, Dr Torun

said the recognition was both emotional and meaningful.

"It was a very proud moment for me," she said.

"My greatest passion has always been caring for my patients and serving the community here in South Dublin. Being recognised for that work means a lot to me."

Dr Torun, who is of Turkish descent, emphasised that her approach to medicine has always focused on personalised care.

"For me, patients are never numbers. Every person who comes through our doors has their own story and their own health journey. I strongly believe in providing personalised care where people feel listened to, supported and

respected."

Dr Torun says her philosophy is also shaped by her multicultural perspective.

"Respecting people's different backgrounds and life experiences is very important to me. That understanding helps create stronger connections between doctors and patients."

Dr Torun also highlighted the importance of organisations that support women in business.

"I am very grateful to the Local Enterprise Office South Dublin for the support they provide to women entrepreneurs. Their encouragement helps many people grow their ideas and contribute to their communities."

In addition to her work as a doctor, Dr Torun is also a member of the South Dublin Chamber,

where she connects with other local businesses and entrepreneurs.

She also expressed gratitude to her father for "raising me with strong values", her sister Fatima and family and friends who have supported her.

Alongside general medical care, Dr Torun's Clinic also offers medically supervised IV infusion treatments, including iron infusions, glutathione antioxidant drips, vitamin infusions and Myers' Cocktail therapy, delivered in a clinical setting.

Patients can contact Dr Torun's Clinic in South Dublin for appointments, and online booking is now available for consultations through the clinic's website.

McEvoy's pub site goes on market with permission for 13 apartments

THE site of a former pub with planning permission for up to 13 apartments close to the centre of Newcastle village is now on the market, reports *Ellen Gough*.

The one-acre site is located in Newcastle, county Dublin at the key crossroads of the R405 and Main Street Upper, placing it at the heart of this vibrant and rapidly evolving commuter town.

Bound by residential properties to the north and east and with extensive road frontage onto the Hazelhatch Road, the site currently accommodates the former McEvoy's public house, now derelict, and associated

outbuildings.

Most of the subject site is zoned Existing Residential (RES) under the South Dublin County Council Development Plan 2022-28 and comes with full planning approval for 13 residential apartments in a two-storey block.

Newcastle village provides a range of local amenities including shops, schools, cafés, pubs and services, with convenient connections to major road networks.

Situated within easy reach of the M4 and M7 motorways and with strong transport links to Dublin city and the wider region, while the site is just

4.5km from Hazelhatch Train Station, a short walk to bus stops and the Luas Citywest is also nearby.

Many large employers have established their base nearby in Greenogue Business Park, a major industrial hub, located just 1.5km away, which hosts approx. 450 companies and roughly 7,000 employees.

Key employers include major logistics, manufacturing, and distribution firms such as Amazon, Liebherr, Lucey Transport, Zeus Packaging, Fannin Healthcare, and Univar.

Price is available on application, and viewings available by appointment only.



VIBRANT: The former McEvoy's pub in Newcastle

K Factory commended at small business awards

Clondalkin company proud to be recognised at awards ceremony

By Maurice Garvey

maurice@echo.ie

CLONDALKIN print and embroidery solutions company The K Factory was named 'Highly Commended' at the SFA National Small Business Awards.

The awards, which took place at the RDS on March 5, celebrate the achievements of small businesses across the country.

K Factory, led by founder Krystyna Wittbrodt, was nominated in the Manufacturing category (up to 50 employees).

Based at Ace Enterprise Centre in Clondalkin, the company provides versatile print and embroidery solutions to a wide variety of customers—including corporate clients, non-profits, crèches, schools, and colleges.

Krystyna was "delighted" with the recognition at the awards, which "effectively place us among the best manufacturing companies in Ireland."

"It was a fantastic evening recognising Irish entrepreneurship and innovation," said Ms Wittbrodt.

"We are incredibly proud that our small South Dublin business was acknowledged on a national stage. It is a huge milestone for our team at K Factory. We believe this is a significant achievement and a proud recognition not only for our company, but also for Clondalkin and the broader community."

Originally from Poland, Krystyna established K Factory five years ago and has seen the initiative go from strength to strength.

Two additional staff were recently added to the team, making it seven staff in total, but they will be adding to that number as the business evolves.

"We print and embroider on any type of textile," Krystyna previously told *The Echo*.

"We are a Guaranteed Irish brand, providing employment and supporting the local community."

Krystyna previously won Business Woman of the Year with the Local Enterprise Awards in 2024 and oversaw a Network Ireland award for K Factory.



COMMENDED: K Factory receive their SFA Award

ExamRevision delight with Enterprise Award

TERENURE-based company ExamRevision was announced this week as the winner of the Peter Sheridan Dublin City Enterprise Award 2026, reports Maurice Garvey.

The prize involves a €5,000 investment in the company and sees it advance to the National Enterprise Award 2026 ceremony to represent Dublin City in June at the Mansion House.

ExamRevision was launched six years ago by secondary school teachers Keith Walsh, Aine Devlin and Paddy Ward, to make revision easier for students while giving teachers better tools in the classroom.

They describe it as Ireland's fastest-growing teaching and learning platform for Irish secondary schools aka "the 21st Century Textbook" containing bite sized video tutorials, self-correcting quizzes, powerpoint presentations, notes, exam papers

and teacher dashboards for assigning and monitoring student progress.

Accepting the award, Keith Walsh, Co-founder of ExamRevision, said: "We are incredibly proud and delighted to be awarded the Peter Sheridan Dublin City Enterprise Award for 2026. At ExamRevision, we are like the 21st-century textbook and aim to support all types of learners in accessing their Junior and Senior Cycle curricula through our wide variety of high-quality resources, such as video tutorials, presentations, quizzes and more. Opportunities like this help push us forward to continue developing, growing our business and supporting students. The ongoing support from the Local Enterprise Office Dublin City has been invaluable throughout our journey."

Since 2025, the Dublin City Enterprise Award has been



AWARD: ExamRevision receive their award from Lord Mayor of Dublin Ray McAdam

dedicated to Peter Sheridan, a long standing mentor at LEO Dublin City who sadly passed away in April 2024.

Sheridan was a champion of small and start-up businesses, at LEO Dublin City.

At the National Enterprise

Awards, ExamRevision will be competing against 30 other finalists from every local authority area across the country for a share of the €63,000 prize fund.

The overall national winner receives a cash prize of €10,000.

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Ciara's creative life at her school is recognised

Rathfarnham student set up mini-company selling handmade cards

CIARA NÍ Rothláin from Gaelcholáiste an Phiarsaigh in Rathfarnham has been recognised as Creative of the Year at the 2026 TrailblazHER Awards at TU Dublin Concert Hall for her outstanding contribution to the creative life of her school.

Ciara created a detailed portrait to honour her retiring principal, designed the 2024/25 yearbook cover, and developed the official ticket artwork for the school musical.

She also completed work experience at the Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA) and independently entered the Texaco Children's Art Competition, demonstrating initiative and artistic ambition beyond the classroom.

Through her mini-company selling handmade cards at the TY Christmas Market and her involvement in set design and wellbeing space planning, Ciara has used her creativity to enhance school culture and foster stronger connections among students.

Her artistic vision, dedication, and ability to inspire others exemplify the spirit of the TrailblazHER Awards, recognising young leaders who make a meaningful impact both in and beyond their schools.

The 2026 TY TrailblazHER Awards ceremony at TU Dublin's Grangegorman campus brought together students, teachers and families to celebrate a generation already creating positive change.



CREATIVE OF THE YEAR: Ciara Ní Rothláin, Gaelcholáiste an Phiarsaigh, Co. Dublin, with Award Presenter Chloe Ní Mhurchú, Producing and Programming Assistant, Gate Theatre.

AbbVie named as one of the best places to work

GLOBAL biopharmaceutical leader, AbbVie, has once again been named as one of Ireland's best places to work at the 2026 Great Place to Work Awards.

This recognition marks the 13th consecutive year AbbVie has featured among Ireland's top employers. AbbVie remains the highest placed company in the biopharmaceutical / pharmaceutical industry across all categories.

Employing approximately 2,900 talented individuals across six locations in Ireland, including Dublin, AbbVie was ranked No. 3 Super Large Organisation in Ireland.

Great Place to Work Institute assesses the policies and practices in place in organisations under nine key areas including employee development, hiring practices, employee achievement recognition, and communication. It then benchmarks these against other organisations in each country.

The organisation publishes five different lists at its annual awards, including the Best Super Large Workplaces in Ireland (more than 550 employees). AbbVie was joined by 20 other companies on this roll call.

Great Place to Work has also recently recognised AbbVie as a Best Workplace for Women for the eighth consecutive year.

"This recognition is a tribute to the collaborative spirit and commitment of our people in building a truly inclusive culture at AbbVie," said Dana Kendall, General Manager at AbbVie Ireland in Citywest. "AbbVie Ireland is a Great Place to Work not only because of our focus on development, well-being and teamwork, but due to our shared purpose—making a real difference for patients across Ireland. I am immensely proud of our team and grateful for the way we work together to create impact every day."

Jim Flynn, CEO of Great Place to Work® Ireland, added: "I am delighted to congratulate AbbVie on being recognised as one of the Best Workplaces in Ireland 2026. This recognition acknowledges the consistent effort put into creating an engaging, high-performing workplace, where people feel valued. Being named a Best Workplace is a huge accomplishment, underpinned by trusted leadership, a clear commitment to people, and a genuine focus on sustainable organisational success. I commend AbbVie on this well-earned honour."

RECOGNITION:
Dana Kendall,
General
Manager,
AbbVie Ireland
in Citywest



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TUD win appeal not to pay €12,000 contribution for bike storage unit

CONTRIBUTION: TUD Tallaght

Planning was granted for storage unit to accommodate 75 bicycles at Tallaght campus

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

A CONDITION requiring TUD Tallaght to pay a €12,000 contribution to construct a bike storage unit on campus has been overturned by An Coimisiún Pleanála.

South Dublin County Council had granted planning permission for the 101 sqm "bicycle storage unit to accommodate 75 no. bicycles", located within the Blessington Road campus, in July 2025.

However, a condition attached to the council's decision set out that TUD Tallaght pay a financial contribution of €12,071.52 because the

"provision of such facilities will facilitate the proposed development".

The university lodged an appeal against this condition in August, on the grounds that they are a registered charity and therefore exempt from such contributions, and that because the approved development will only "cater for existing staff and student population", no "financial gain or profit will be derived from the installation".

The council's response to this appeal stated that while there is a list of developments set out in Article 11 of the South Dublin County Council Development Contribution Scheme (DCS), 2021-25 which are deemed to be exempt from development contributions, Article 12 of the

DCS goes on to list developments to which Article 11 exemptions do not apply, which includes third level institutions.

The inspectors report, carried out by a Coimisiún Pleanála inspector in January this year, recommended that the commission retain the condition for the financial contribution.

"Having regard to the nature of the proposed bicycle storage unit... the South Dublin County Council DCS 2021-25, and notwithstanding the Charitable Status of the Applicant, it is my opinion that the proposed development is not exempt from a requirement to pay a development contribution," the planning inspector stated.

However, in spite of this report, An Coimisiún

Pleanála ordered SDCC to remove the condition from the planning approval in their decision published on March 4.

They considered "the specific development proposed does not fit within any class listed" in the South Dublin County Council DCS 2021-25 "specifically noting that it is not industrial or commercial in nature".

"The Commission, therefore, determined that the terms of the scheme had not been correctly applied in respect of the proposed development and that a development contribution condition should not be attached in this instance".

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme

Old Schoolhouse on market for €725k which can be converted to apartments

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

A FORMER Montessori in Lucan with full planning permission to be converted to apartments is now on the market for €725,000.

McDonald Property "are delighted to present" The Old Schoolhouse, ideally positioned within the mature and leafy setting of The Spa Hotel Grounds in Lucan.

Formerly operating as a Montessori/childcare facility at ground floor level, the detached two-storey property is now vacant and offers excellent flexibility for a range of future uses.

The first floor comprises a well-presented two-bedroom apartment with an open plan kitchen/living room with fully

fitted kitchen and its own separate entrance and is in very good condition throughout.

There is full planning permission (file number SD24A/0272W) for the extension of the ground floor accommodation and its conversion into two 2-bedroom residential apartments.

The existing ground floor space can also continue to be used for childcare or educational purposes or adapted for other commercial uses (subject to planning permission).

A more substantial redevelopment of the whole site may also be considered, subject to the necessary planning consents.

The property occupies a generous site with ample outdoor space, including a front garden area with car parking, a substantial rear garden

incorporating an enclosed play area and additional lawned garden with mature trees.

The overall setting is particularly attractive, offering a peaceful and established environment while remaining within easy reach of all amenities in Lucan Village, including shops, schools, cafés, and public transport services.

The property is also conveniently located just a one-minute drive from the N4, providing easy access to Dublin City Centre and surrounding areas.

This is a rare opportunity to acquire a versatile property with strong residential and commercial potential in a highly desirable and convenient location.

Viewings by appointment, contact McDonald Property for more information.

OPPORTUNITY: The Old Schoolhouse in Lucan is for sale for €725,000



Green light to restore derelict house into a medical centre

Plans approved at Airlie House will see renovation of historic period house

By Ellen Gough

ellen@echo.ie

PLANS to restore the derelict Airlie House in Lucan and convert it into a medical clinic have been approved by county planners.

The planning application submitted in January 2026 will see the renovation of the historic period house, including the demolition of some later extensions added to the house over the years, and the addition of a new two-storey side extension, as well as permission for change of use “of the remaining structure from use of existing dwelling to medical use”.

Internal “modifications and renovations” will convert the original house into consultation rooms, treatment rooms, storage, and a nursing station, while the new two-storey extension would accommodate the main reception, administration rooms, staff room, storerooms, consultation rooms, and other ancillary rooms.

Site development works and landscaping works will include the provision of “public open space, boundary treatment” and 26 car parking spaces with a set-down area in front of the new extension.

According to the architectural and built heritage assessment report attached to the planning application, noted that Airlie House, which dates from the 1840s, is “an example of South County Dublin’s 19th century architectural heritage” despite lying derelict and being vandalised “for a considerable number of years”, with



RENOVATION: An artist impression of Airlie House

many of the original interior and exterior features now destroyed.

“It will be of considerable value to have the building reused,” the report said.

Granting permission on March 5, the

planning authority stated that the proposed development “would not seriously injure the amenities of the area or of property in the vicinity and would, therefore, be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable

development of the area”.

Conditions attached to the decision require that a “suitably qualified Conservation Architect/Conservation specialist should be engaged throughout the project to supervise opening

up/enabling works and the conservation works of the project”, and plans for how the “protected structure and original fabric and associated architectural features/elements will be safeguarded during the proposed works”.

Two homes planned for Cottages site

PROPOSALS: The site in Dodsborough

PLANNING applications have been submitted for four new homes on two separate sites in the heart of Lucan, reports Ellen Gough.

The two proposals would see demolition of existing sheds and subdivision of sites at both No 20 and No 51 Dodsborough Cottages, Lucan, to make way for “two new double-storey with loft five-bedroom semidetached houses” at each address.

Both owned by the same individual, the new houses will be known as 20A and 20B, and 51A and 51B Dodsborough Cottages respectively.

The pair of houses proposed for No 20 will “measure 158.5m²” each and will have “two new site access points from the private laneway to the rear facing Lucan

United Football club”.

A letter from Lucan United FC, submitted as part of the application for No 20, said the club “fully support” the new builds and that “our neighbours are a vital part of our club and community”.

The houses at No 51 will each measure 217.7m² and have two new site access points from “the private laneway to the rear south side of the site known as Shackleton Way”.

The owners have applied for a Part V Exemption for the two homes on this site.

Under current planning laws, the council may issue certificates of exemption to applicants/developers for smaller residential developments which are excluded from social and affordable

housing requirements.

Section 97(3) of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) states that stand alone developments involving the building of up to four houses, or development of housing on land of 0.1 hectares or less, will be exempt from the requirement to transfer lands to the Local Authority for social or affordable housing.

All four houses will each have space for two onsite car parking bays to the front of the properties.

Members of the public can submit observations on both of these planning applications through the South Dublin planning portal until March 30, 2026.

A decision is due from the council’s planning department by April 20.

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Anthony to release his latest short film 'Unattended'

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

INDEPENDENT Clondalkin filmmaker Anthony O'Reilly is set to release his latest short film, 'Unattended', a quiet and emotional story that explores family, memory, and the moments in life that stay with us long after they've passed.

The film centres around Jack, a man sitting alone at his kitchen table late at night. As the silence of the room settles in, memories from his past begin to surface, bringing him back through moments of family life that once filled the house with warmth and noise.

What follows is a deeply reflective look at how quickly life can change and how the smallest moments can stay with us forever.

'Unattended' focuses heavily on atmosphere and visual storytelling, allowing the audience to experience the emotions of the characters through expressions, silence, and carefully composed imagery rather than relying on large amounts of dialogue.

The film moves between past and present, gradually revealing pieces of Jack's life and the memories that continue to surround him.

What can you tell us about this film without giving too much away? What messages are you hoping viewers will take from it?

'Unattended' is a quiet, emotional story that explores grief, connection and the moments in life we often overlook. Without revealing too much, it centres on a character at a point of isolation, and how a small, unexpected interaction begins to shift something internally. The film looks at the weight people carry silently. More than anything, I hope audiences leave with a reminder that everyone is fighting their own battles, and that simply being present for someone can matter more than we realise.

What has been your favourite part of working on it so far, and why?

The most rewarding part has been collaboration. At this stage, what excites me most is seeing a script grow once other people step into it. Watching actors find truth in a scene and bring their own interpretation to a character is always special. When something on screen feels more honest than what you first imagined, that's when you know the work is paying off.

What have been some of the biggest challenges you have encountered in this production, and how have you navigated them?

Like most independent films, time and budget are always challenges. Scheduling, locations and coordinating everyone's availability can quickly become complicated. We've navigated it through careful planning and by building a team that

genuinely believes in the story. Independent filmmaking relies heavily on trust and goodwill, and that spirit has carried this production forward.

This is your ninth short film; would you say that filming and production get easier with each new project?

I wouldn't say it gets easier, but you definitely grow more confident. Experience teaches you how to problem-solve quickly and stay calm when things don't go to plan. You learn to trust your instincts and make clearer decisions. Each project still presents new challenges, but you approach them with a stronger foundation behind you.

When your first short film came out in 2018, could you have imagined reaching this point?

Honestly, no. When I made my first short in 2018, the goal was simply to complete it and learn. I didn't think this far ahead. I just wanted to keep telling stories and improving. Looking back now, it feels surreal. It shows what consistency and persistence can build over time. **You are planning to shoot a feature film in Dublin this year. What differences do you expect compared to a short film?**

No, not this year. I still have to get funding before stepping into something like that, but, I'm keeping most of the story details under wraps, but I'm hoping it will be shot in Mullingar and remain character-driven. The biggest difference is scale. A short film feels like a sprint; a feature is a marathon. It requires more preparation, longer schedules and sustained creative focus. It's a bigger responsibility, but one I'm ready for. **Who would you like to thank for helping you with this production?**

Independent films don't happen without good people. I've been lucky to work with a cast and crew who have fully committed to 'Unattended'. Zac Lee, who plays Jack, brought honesty and depth to a complex role. Jemma Curran, as Aoife, delivers a subtle yet powerful performance that anchors the emotional core of the story. Carmen Kane, who plays Sophie, brings a natural presence that adds real authenticity to the family dynamic. A special thank you goes to my cinematographer and close friend Craig Johnston, who has shot most of my films. After years of working together, we share a creative shorthand and trust that's hard to replicate. He understands how I see a scene and elevates it visually every time. I'm also grateful for my wife, Nicola O'Reilly who helped me produce, and to my family and friends who continue to support the journey. Every film is a team effort, and 'Unattended' is no exception. We shot this short film over two days, with a budget of the price of lunch.



EMOTIONAL STORY: Clondalkin Filmmaker Anthony O'Reilly and (inset): the official poster for his latest short film 'Unattended'

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“My mother and my grandmother would make an apple tart in different styles, and I had one per day. Every day I would eat one full apple tart . . .

Eric Ripert

Food with Passion

IRISH APPLE TART

by John Paul Kennedy / jpkennedy.kennedy@gmail.com



This recipe for the perfect Irish apple tart is hard to beat. It was inspired by the Saturday evening treat in my Nanny Rena's house in Firhouse.

Every Saturday she would make two of her delicious apple tarts, one was for Saturday tea and the other one was for whichever one of the family she visited the next day for Sunday lunch.

How we all loved when it was our Sunday to have her up for dinner, knowing that it was our turn to have her beautiful apple tart. I don't think anything will ever top it, but this recipe certainly comes close.

This is the perfect time of year to make this tart as Bramley cooking apples are at their very best. I've made this for the past two Sundays for dessert and it was out of this world. Top tip – buy loose cooking apples, not prepacked ones. Feel the apple – if it has sticky residue then you know it's nice and ripe; perfect for baking in a tart. I find the dough is easier to work with if made the night before and refrigerated. Take out from the fridge about 10 minutes before rolling out.

Ingredients

Pastry

350g plain flour
55g castor sugar
2 eggs
225g fridge-cold unsalted butter
Pinch of sea salt

Filling

4 large Bramley cooking apples
150g castor sugar
½ tsp of cinnamon
2 tablespoons plain flour
Pinch of sea salt
1 beaten egg (for glazing)



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 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. Cream the butter and sugar together in a large mixing bowl then add the eggs one by one until combined.
2. Add in the flour and pinch of sea salt and combine until it forms a dough.
3. Wrap in cling-film and place in the fridge for one hour minimum, or overnight if you have time.
4. Preheat your oven to 170°Celsius. Peel core and chop the Bramley cooking apples and pop into a large mixing bowl.
5. Add the sugar, flour, cinnamon and pinch of sea salt and mix well until the apples are evenly coated in the sugar mixture.
6. Cut your dough into two pieces. Dust your work surface lightly in flour and your rolling pin and roll out the dough in a circular shape that will cover a round dinner plate.
7. Using your rolling pin, lift and place the dough over the plate and place the apple mixture on top.
8. Roll out the second piece of dough and place over the top of your tart. Trim off the edges and using a fork lightly press all around the edges to seal the tart.
9. Cut a small cross on the top and, using a pastry brush, lightly brush evenly with beaten egg.
10. Place in a preheated oven for 45–55 minutes. The tart should be nice and golden and the apples nice and soft inside.
11. Serve warm with whipped cream and enjoy.

All of my family adore this tart. Some enjoy it so much they ask me to keep the scraps of uncooked pastry to nibble on while the tart is cooling – namely my sister Sonya and my Aunt Brenda. This always evokes the warmest memories every time I bake it. Served warm with cream for me is sheer heaven. I always make my pastry the night before – I find it easier to roll and work it. The tart once baked will keep in the fridge for 3–4 days but I guarantee you it won't last that long. Happy Baking!

Contact
JP on:

Twitter: @JPKCooking
Email: JPKCooking@gmail.com
Instagram: jpkennedy.kennedy

HISTORICAL M.103F

FOR CENTURIES, HISTORIANS HAVE DEBATED THE EXACT NATURE OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EMPRESS AURA THE FIRST AND THE ALIEN WARRIOR.

FLASH GORDON.

IT IS KNOWN SHE DEFIED HER IMPERIAL FATHER TO SAVE GORDON'S LIFE.

IT IS KNOWN GORDON LONG DEFENDED HER INTERESTS, EVENTUALLY AT A GREAT COST.

BUT WHAT WERE THEY TO EACH OTHER, IN THEIR PRIVATE MOMENTS?

EXPERTS REMAIN DIVIDED.

HISTORICAL M.92A

SIX WEEKS BEFORE THE 125TH TOURNAMENT OF MONGO, EMPRESS AURA CALLED ONCE AGAIN UPON FLASH GORDON OF EARTH.

SOON THE THRONES OF MONGO WOULD JOURNEY TO THE ARENA MONGOTHIC--

--EACH ESCORTING THEIR NATION'S CHAMPION.

BUT AURA WAS PLAYING A MORE SUBTLE GAME.

FOR HER SPYMASTERS ASSURED HER THAT QUEEN FRIA WOULD ATTEND IN PERSON.

FRIA, ONCE AURA'S COUSIN BY MARRIAGE, NOW MARSHALED FORCES AGAINST HER.

BUT UNDER THE AMNESTY OF THE TOURNAMENT, THEY COULD QUIETLY, PEACEABLY NEGOTIATE.

SO THE EMPRESS ASKED FLASH GORDON TO USE HIS MARTIAL SKILLS TO PROLONG THE CONTEST FOR AS MANY DAYS AS SHE MIGHT REQUIRE...

...TO MAKE PEACE WITH QUEEN FRIA.

AND FORESTALL THE CALAMITY AURA BOTH FEARED AND PREDICTED.

NEXT: GATES OPEN

THE PHANTOM

CREATED BY LEE FALK

SEEN FROM THE SAFETY OF THE WAMBESI VILLAGE, AN AIRBORNE FIRE TURNS ITS NIGHTLY CIRCLES IN THE SKY OVER A FORBIDDEN LAND.

SOON, IT PLUNGES TOWARD THE EARTH AND VANISHES FROM VIEW.

WHOA!!! STEADY, HERO! EASY, BIG FELLA!

BEST SEAT IN THE HOUSE!!

W-W-W-W-WHOOOOOSSSHHH!!!

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Tony DePaul & Jeff Weigel 5-18-25

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POPEYE

BY RANDY MILHOLLAND

AT LAST, MY EVIL MACHINATIONS ARE ABOUT TO COME TO FRUITION!

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THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS

OYL BARRELS PART 2

SEA HAG'S SISTER HAS DECIDED TO END POPEYE SO SHE CAN PROVE SHE'S THE GREATER VILLAIN... NOW SHE JUST NEEDS THE PERFECT BAIT FOR HER TRAP.

HOW DO YOU LIKE LIVING IN SWEETHAVEN SO FAR, QUEENIE?

IT'S OKAY, BUT EVERY TIME I THINK I'VE MADE A NEW FRIEND...

... THEY VANISH ON ME.

WHAT THE HECK? WHERE AM I?!

YOUR FINAL RESTING PLACE, MS. OYL!

IT'S NOTHING PERSONAL. I JUST HAVE TO END YOUR BOYFRIEND TO PROVE I'M MORE EVIL THAN MY SISTER! THANK YOU FOR BEING MY LURE. HA!

GAR! RETURN TO THE THRONE ROOM!

YOU CAN FIT THROUGH THE BARS?!

YOU CAN SEE ME THROUGH THAT THING! GOOD. MY RUDE HAND GESTURES WON'T GO TO WASTE!

‘The King of All Birds’ a gig for voice and vocoder

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

"I GREW up in Tallaght but spent a lot of my summers in the west of Ireland, where my mam's side of the family is from," explains Martha Knight, who is presenting 'The King of All Birds' in the Civic Theatre next week.

This is a gig for voice and vocoder. It picks apart our shared history with the sky: the years when it remained untouched, those first ventures into it, and now, our endless climbing: "up, and up, and up."

'The King of All Birds' was inspired by the aerial photos that Martha saw displayed in homes in rural Ireland when she was growing up.

She was fascinated with these photos, who took them and who sold them to so many people around Ireland.

This fascination developed into an interest in the history of Ireland from the sky, including questions like, "who was the first person to see Ireland from above?"

She ended up doing much research into early Irish aviation, as well as ancient Irish mythology about flying creatures and mad kings.

She also did a lot of research into who and what is watching Ireland from above in the current day, with the sharp rise of satellite surveillance and drone technology. These stories became the basis for the show.

She has worked on many projects over the years, both as a theatre maker and sound designer/composer, over the last number of years.

Her most recent sound design/composition work includes 'Three Sisters' in the Gaiety Theatre as part of the Dublin Theatre Festival and 'Uncle Vanya' in Smock Alley Theatre.

In Tallaght, she works as a theatre artist with Freshly Ground Theatre, SoloSIRENs and Tallaght Community Arts.

She also mentors young sound designers through the Civic's Tenderfoot programme.

Martha remarks that "the best thing about my work is how varied it is, and I really love being busy and creative and working with such a variety of different creative people."

So far, her highlight has been taking this show to Toronto with the Canada Ireland Foundation as part of their inaugural 'Bealtaine' festival.

It was "so exciting" to perform the show for a totally new audience in Toronto and to see how people connected to it.

It was "so interesting" to have people with no connection to Ireland find some part of themselves in it, in the humour, the music, the history, or the themes of technology, connection to the land, and the passage of time.

The biggest challenge was the very beginning, trying to shape these stories into a show that made sense to people and that

people could connect with.

"We learned that the way to do it is through tongue-in-cheek humour, and also through music and song," explains Martha.

Music and song are a big part of the show, as she brings the audience on a musical journey from folk instruments to electronic instruments, effects and live looping.

Martha is currently working as a sound designer on 'Do You Come From Gomorrah?', a new play by Frank McGuinness that will premiere in the Peacock at the Abbey Theatre in April.

She is also simultaneously developing a brand new show that is in its very early stages but focuses on the theory that humans are evolutionarily descended from fish.

As well as that, she and her crew are also still scheming the future of 'The King of All Birds', especially bringing it international again.

Martha would like to thank her team who have helped bring this from a wild idea to a real thing and accompanied her around the world with this show.

She would also love to thank all the programmers who have taken this show into their venues; the shows at the Civic mark the end of a small national tour.

She would love to thank Donal, Sandra, Niamh, Dermot and all the gang at the Civic for their support of not just this show but her work for so many years.

The Dublin Fringe, Project Arts Centre, field:arts, Smock Alley, and the Arts Council all provided invaluable support in the creation of the show in 2023. Lastly, Martha would like to thank the whole arts community in Tallaght – "I would be nowhere without it – it really is such a family, and I'm so lucky to be part of it."



CREATURES: Martha Knight in 'The King of All Birds'

'The King of All Birds' performs in the Civic Theatre on March 25 and 26 across three performances, including an 8.15pm performance each night, as well as a 1pm performance on the latter date.

It is presented by Martha, produced by Ois O'Donoghue, with lighting design by Jess Fitzsimmons, costume and set design by Jack Rogers, and drone operation by Phillip Jebb.

Be sure to check for more details and book your tickets on the Civic website.

Scoil Aonghusa Got Talent Show

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

BALROTHERY-based Scoil Aonghusa Senior held its annual Scoil Aonghusa's Got Talent show (SAGT!) last week. It all began in 2019 and has grown from strength to strength over the years.

Over 70 children auditioned, and 18 acts



TALENT: Stephen Jones, Junior Winner Erin Keelan, SJ Quigley and Lea Carroll

made it through to the final. The talent on display ranged from singing, dancing, gymnastics, bodhrán, guitar, drumming and baton twirling.

There was an audience of around 240 (students and staff) at the final, plus around 50 finalists' family and 50 pupils from neighbouring junior schools and St Roses at the dress rehearsal the day before.

Joining resident judges SJ Quigley (Curtain's Up Drama School) and Lea Carroll (Leap Academy of Acrodance) this year was acclaimed playwright, actor and past pupil Stephen Jones.

IFTA-nominated Stephen Jones is most well-known for writing and starring in the TV series 'Northern Lights', as well as featuring in the legendary Love/Hate and 'Kin'.

Scoil Aonghusa was "absolutely delighted" to welcome back a past pupil to inspire the next generation.

They had the incredibly difficult job of deciding who would win the coveted SAGT! 2026 trophy. There were two trophies up for grabs: a Junior winner and a Senior winner.

A huge congratulations must be extended to 3rd class pupil Erin Keelan for winning the Junior Trophy for her jazz dance and to the Senior Trophy winners, drummer Lucas Merriman and guitarist Maya Bosco, for their rendition of 'Smells Like Teen Spirit' by Nirvana.

Check out the school's podcast "Ag Caint, Let's Talk" on Spotify to get the inside scoop on all things SAGT plus a few audio clips of some of the finalists' performances.



ANNUAL SHOW: The SAGT 2026 finalists, MC's and stagehands



Lucan St Patrick's Day

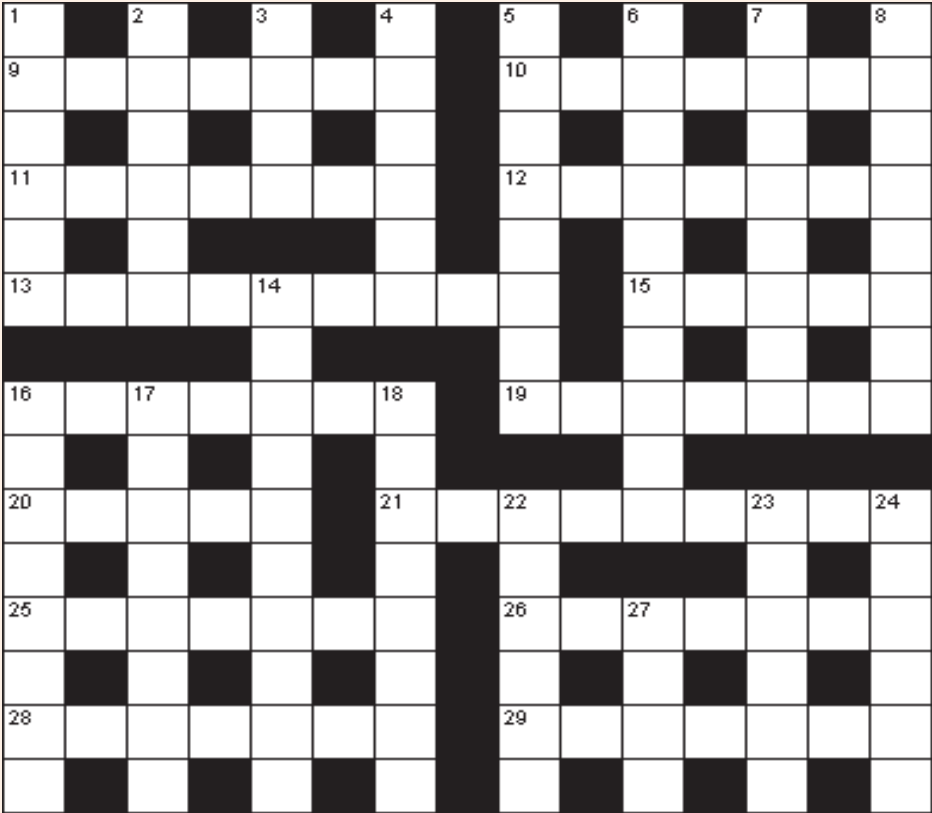
COMMUNITY GROUPS COME OUT IN FORCE

Photos by **Paul Butler**

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



echocrossquiz Q1903



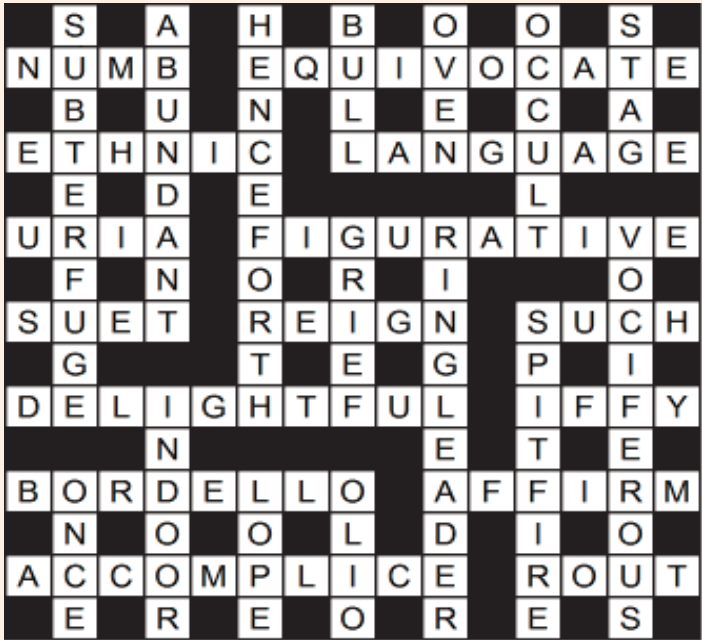
ACROSS

- 9. Embarrassed (7)
- 10. Exasperate (7)
- 11. Simulate (7)
- 12. Similar to water (7)
- 13. Amount by which something increases (9)
- 15. Ballroom dance (5)
- 16. Fortification consisting of a low wall (7)
- 19. Similitude (7)
- 20. Scoundrel (5)
- 21. Dry up (9)
- 25. An implement (7)
- 26. A glassy thermoplastic (7)
- 28. Bring to a destination (7)
- 29. Implore (7)

DOWN

- 1. American elk (6)
- 2. Cassava starch (6)
- 3. Stop for a horse (4)
- 4. Stick (6)
- 5. Mammoth (8)
- 6. Habitual (10)
- 7. An inability to sleep (8)
- 8. Mainstay (8)
- 14. Characterized by expression (10)
- 16. Cajole (8)
- 17. In a robust or sturdy manner (8)
- 18. Infants (8)
- 22. The abode of God (6)
- 23. Napping (6)
- 24. Stimulate (6)
- 27. Rodents (4)

LAST
WEEK'S
ANSWERS
1203



CAN YOU BEAT THIS WEEK'S CROSSQUIZ?

SUDOKU 1SUDOKU 2

	8	4		7				5
						9		
		2	1		8			
2	7					6		3
								1
		3		9				
1		7	3					
			8	6			7	
	5							4

				2	1		5
						8	
			9	5			6
	6	5			4		7
		7		6			3
	4						
		3	1			9	
				8	7		6
		2				5	4

ANSWERS

4	5	7	3	6	9	2	8	1
1	6	3	7	8	2	9	5	4
8	9	2	5	4	1	3	7	6
9	2	6	7	1	5	8	4	3
3	4	5	6	9	8	7	1	2
7	1	8	2	4	3	5	6	9
6	3	4	8	5	9	1	2	7
2	8	6	9	1	7	4	3	5
5	7	1	3	2	4	6	9	8

4	3	1	6	2	7	9	5	8
2	7	5	1	6	8	9	3	4
9	6	8	5	4	3	7	2	1
8	5	4	7	9	2	3	1	6
1	2	7	3	8	5	6	4	9
3	9	6	4	1	5	8	7	2
6	4	3	8	5	1	2	9	7
7	8	6	2	3	4	1	9	5
5	7	1	3	2	4	6	9	8

SUDOKU 2

SUDOKU 1

Poet's CornerTHE TALLAGHT PARADE

by Gavin Bourke

Took a shortcut downtown
hopped over a cul-de-sac wall
landing hard on the wet ground.
Wore the badges over our hearts
waved flags with the crowds
coming around the corners
everyone on their way to the
parade
starting at two-o'clock in the
afternoon.
Children with painted faces
others with sprayed green hair
and plastic staffs
like Saint Patrick himself.
Sat on the wall waiting and
waiting,
it was on route from beyond the
village.
The sound of the drums, pipes,
trumpets
and marching bands
waving from flotillas and from
the backs
of trucks and vans.

Ice-cream, crisps, plastic-
bags, masks, performances
from groups
breaking-wood high in the
air,
unicycles, hula-hoops, and
plenty of laughter
and cheering
until the whole parade had
passed by
on its way
to the other side of the
village.
Then it was time to go home
when the roads were empty
again
save for some litter on the
concrete.
That would be it
for another full year.
The whole entourage passed
by
in the blink of an eye.
Never to be repeated
exactly the same way.
Never to be experienced
exactly the same way,
through the same eyes
full of wonder and awe
at that age,
again.

“ Breathing well means breathing more slowly and deeply. Relax, feel your breathing, and breathe comfortably. Once aware, it naturally becomes deeper and slower

Ilchi Lee

Health & Fitness

INTENTIONAL BREATHING. WHAT DOES THE SCIENCE SAY?

by **Ursula Frawley** / info@moveitfitness.ie



Breathing is something we do every moment of every day without even thinking about it. It keeps us alive and fuels every cell in our body. But what many people do not realise is that the way we breathe can also influence how we feel, how we think, and how our body responds to stress.

Researchers and health experts are increasingly looking at the power of intentional breathing. By slowing down and paying attention to your inhale and exhale, you can gently guide your body into a calmer and more balanced state. The simple act of breathing with intention can help regulate your nervous system and create a stronger sense of wellbeing.

So, what does the science say? Here are three powerful outcomes that have been supported by research and some ways you can try this yourself!

Nervous system regulation

Intentional breathing can help calm the nervous system and bring the body out of a stressed state. One technique many people find helpful is the 4 7 8 breathing method. Inhale through your nose for four seconds, hold that breath for seven seconds, and then slowly exhale for eight seconds. This slower pattern of breathing sends signals to the body that it is safe to relax, allowing tension to ease and calm to return.

Lower blood pressure

Research has shown that controlled breathing can support lower blood pressure when practised regularly. Techniques such as box breathing encourage the body to shift into a calmer state by activating the parasympathetic nervous system. To practise box breathing, inhale for four seconds, hold the breath for four seconds, exhale for four seconds, and hold again for another four seconds. While breathing techniques are not a replacement for medical treatment, they can be a helpful addition to a healthy lifestyle and stress management routine.

Reduced panic and anxiety

The pace of your breathing has a powerful effect on your emotional state. Slower breathing helps the body settle and can be especially useful when you feel anxious or overwhelmed. A very simple technique is to focus on a long, slow exhale. Sigh gently as you breathe out and allow your shoulders and jaw to relax. With each breath out, the body releases a little more tension.

URSULA FRAWLEY IS A PERSONAL TRAINER AND OWNER OF MOVE IT FITNESS. HER ONLINE STRENGTH & FITNESS CLASSES, WHICH RUN LIVE SEVEN TIMES A WEEK, HAVE BEEN HELPING WOMEN TO FEEL STRONGER AND FITTER SINCE 2020. HER ONLINE AND IN-PERSON PROGRAMMES ARE FOCUSED ON MOTIVATING AND CHANGING A MINDSET TO ENJOYING THE FITNESS JOURNEY, WHILE FEELING EMPOWERED WITH A POSITIVE MINDSET. URSULA LIVES IN DUBLIN 24 WITH HER HUSBAND AND FOUR CHILDREN. GET MORE INFORMATION BY EMAILING HER AT info@moveitfitness.ie OR [WWW.MOVEITFITNESS.IE](http://www.moveitfitness.ie)

Let's try a simple breathing exercise together. Take a slow breath in through your nose and fill your lungs comfortably. When they feel full, gently take one more small inhale. Then breathe out slowly through your mouth and relax your body as the air leaves your lungs. Continue to exhale until your lungs feel empty, then repeat the process again.

Practising intentional breathing for just five minutes each day can bring noticeable benefits. Over time you may find yourself feeling calmer, more focused, and better equipped to handle the challenges of a busy day. Sometimes the most powerful wellness tools are the simplest ones we already carry with us. Your breath is always there, ready to help you reset and begin again.

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.





Clondalkin St Patrick's Day

VILLAGE TURNS GREEN FOR THE 11TH YEAR OF PARADE

Photos by **Paddy Barrett**

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Four Districts Parade

GREAT DAY AT THE ST PATRICK’S DAY PARADE IN RATHCOOLE

Photos by **Paddy Barrett**
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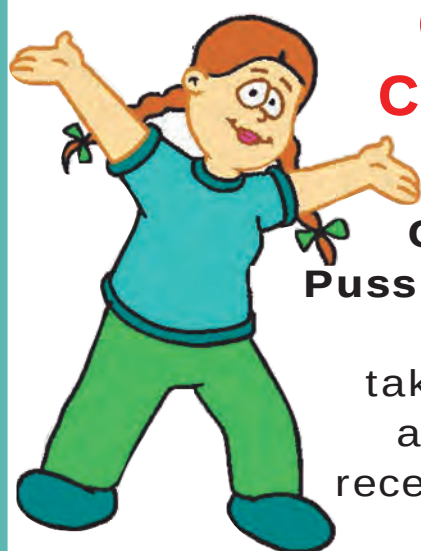
Hope you're all enjoying our

Colouring Competition 2026

Colour in the
Puss-in-boots 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.**



A Word with Echo So...

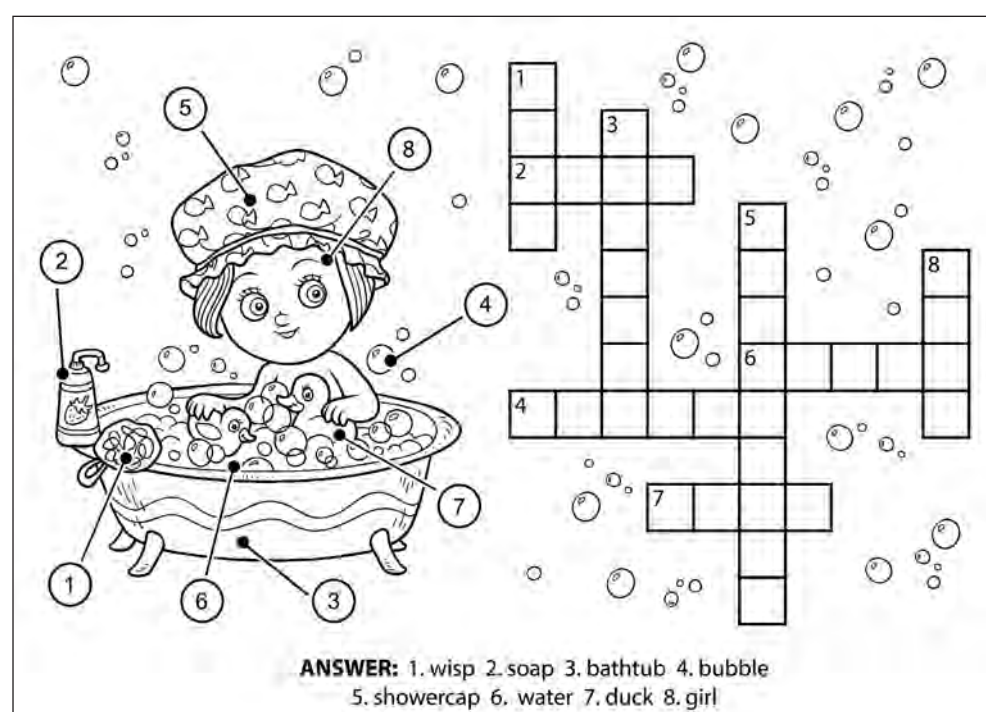
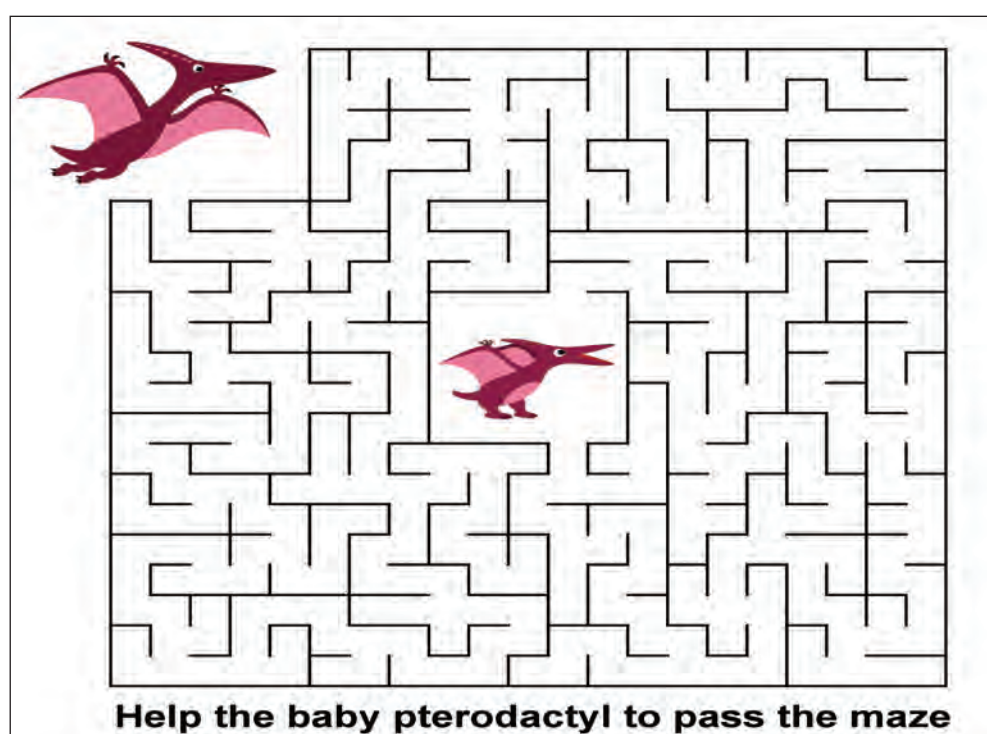
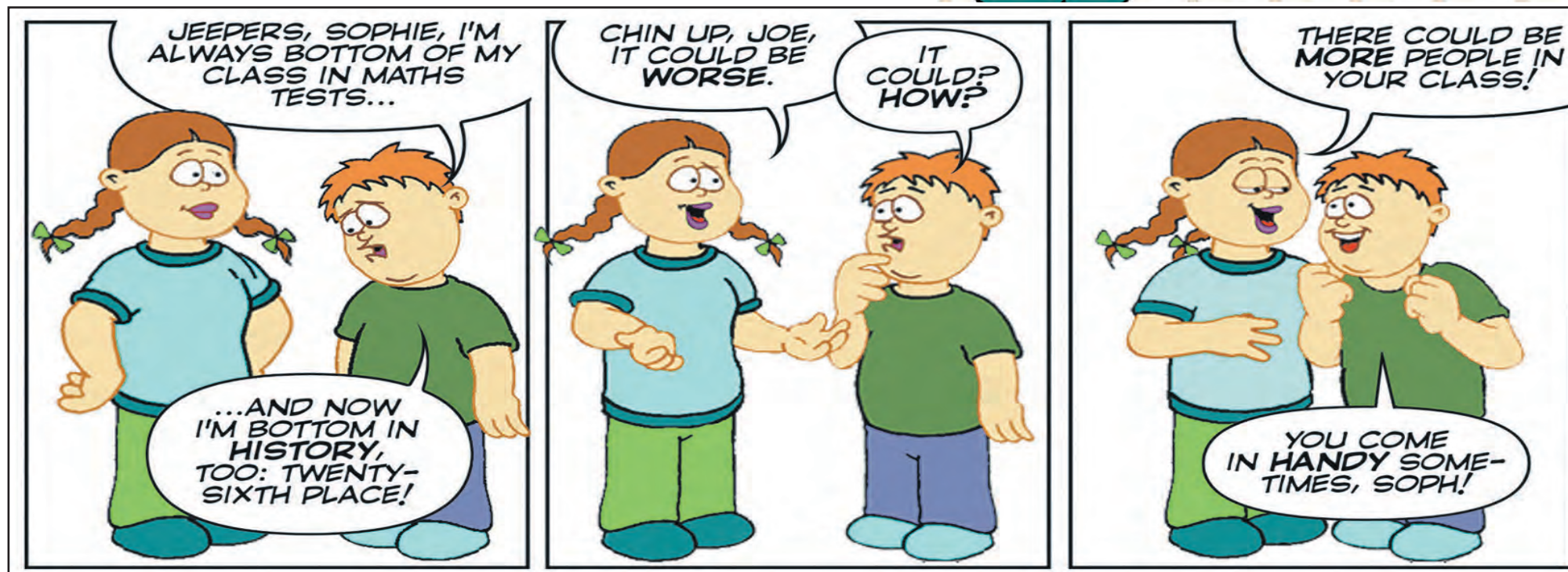
Spring Flowers



CLUBBERS,
HOW MANY WORDS
(TWO LETTERS OR MORE)
CAN YOU MAKE FROM
THE ABOVE WORDS?

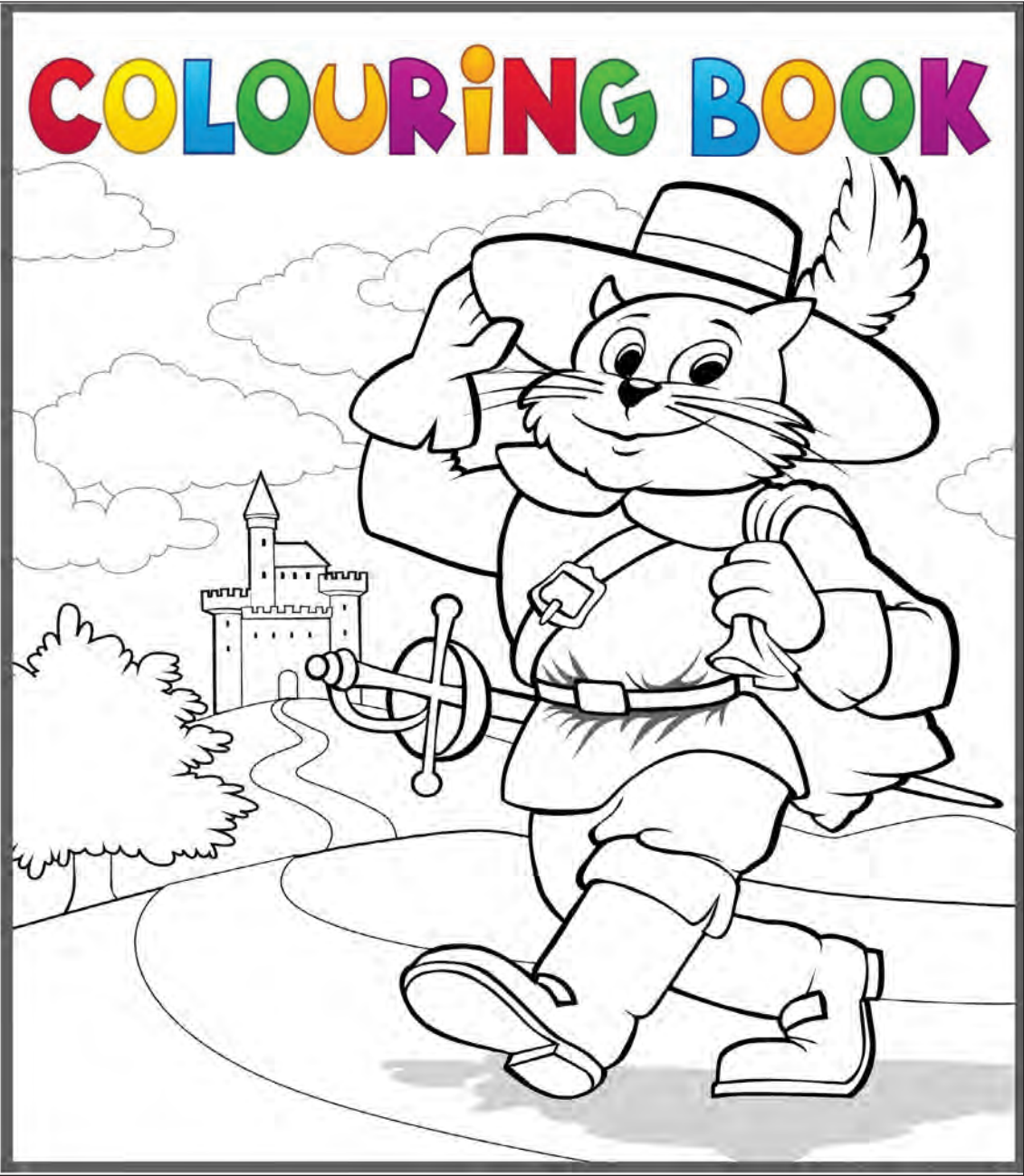
5-20 pretty good! 21-35 excellent!
36 and over - you do realise these
have to be real words, don't you!

1	14	27
2	15	28
3	16	29
4	17	30
5	18	31
6	19	32
7	20	33
8	21	34
9	22	35
10	23	36
11	24	37
12	25	38
13	26	39



These 2 EchoJoe pages of Awesome, Amazon,

Spot the 10 differences



LETTER LINK LOG-JAM

A MISSING LETTER ON EACH ROW FINISHES ONE WORD AND STARTS THE NEXT...

BUT WHAT ARE THE LETTERS?

FIN		ATE
SOU		OOT
FAK		DGE
LOA		ORM
SLO		UCK
LOO		ILT
FOL		ANK
ELS		NVY

the missing letters: D, R, E, F, T, K, D, E.

This week's winner!

Mila age 7, is this week's winner of the Echo Joe colouring competition. Mila, 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!!

February 2026 Picture

family notices

Important Notice
Items for publication for memorial pages must be in by 1pm Friday for next Thursday's paper

Tel: 468 5350
email: reception@echo.ie

ANNIVERSARY



Connolly, David
19th Anniversary away from home occurs 25th March. Late of Millbrook Lawns and Baltinglass.

*We hear your laughter and see your face,
Your eyes lit up with dreams and joy,
We journey back to where we've been.
Our sweet and precious boy,
To the world you were just another kid,
But to us you were our future, son,
Testing the universe for where to soar.
So full of life, so full of hope,
So full of adventure and abundant fun,
How could we know, why would we know,
Just how fragile your life was, our son.
Take your wings and soar up high,
Higher than death, sorrow and pain,
Please go higher than grief and tears,
So high where only life remains.
Losing you, our dear young son,
Our precious child, our love, our joy,
No greater trial of tragedy, than losing you, our precious boy.
Love and miss you always
David, from your heartbroken Mam and Dad.*
xxx

*If there's a garden in heaven,
Please pull a rose for me,
Give it to my brother,
And tell him it's from me.
Tell him that I love him,
And when he turns to smile,
Place a kiss upon his cheek,
And hug him for a while.
Love & miss you so much
David, from Jess, Harry and nephews Zach & Theo.*
xx

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



Dunne, Jason (Jay)
50th Birthday Remembrance occurs 24th March. Late of Cherry Orchard Drive, Ballyfermot.

Happy Heavenly 50th Birthday Jay
*I send this wish up to the sky,
A birthday thought that's just for you,
No candles here no cake to share,
Just whispered love and heartfelt prayer,
You're gone but never truly far,
My brother still, wherever you are.
Loved and missed always,
your brother Patrick.*

Jay
*You would be 50 years old today,
What a party we would have had,
Room full of cheer,
For you were so loved.
I know that you will celebrate your big 50th as now Sharon is there,
And will give you the best party.
My birthday wishes now have to be carried on the wind,
My heart forever aches that your light on this earth has dimmed.
Happy 50th Birthday Jay.
Loved and missed always,
your sis Mandy.* xx

Uncle Jay
*We're wishing you a Happy 50th Birthday today.
Always in our thoughts,
Nadine, Jake & Kingsley.* xx

ANNIVERSARY



Anderson, Daniel (Danny)
10th Anniversary away from home occurs 25th March.

In Memory of a Special Dad
*I'm holding back the tears today,
Remembering anew,
Those wonderful and precious years,
Spent happily with you.
And I can't think of anything,
That meant so much to me.
Just to spend a day with you,
And laugh with you again,
For since you've been gone dad,
Life's never been the same.
Missed every day, always talked about and never forgotten, your loving son Alan and daughter-in-law Andrea.* xx

Missing You Always Grandad
*Every time I look at the stars,
I know that's where you'll be,
Shining like you always do,
And watching over me.
Always in my heart, your grandson Kian.* x

NOVENA

Thanksgiving Prayer
O mother of Perpetual help with grateful hearts, we join you in thanking God for all the wonderful things he has done for us. God our Creator we thank you for the gift of life and all the gifts of nature, our senses and faculties, our talents and abilities. We thank you for creating us in your own image and likeness and for giving us the earth to use and develop to rule and control. Despite our failures you continue to show your love for us by increasing the life of your spirit in us. Finally we thank you loving father for giving us Mary, the mother of your son to be our mother of Perpetual help. We are grateful for all past favours received through her intercession. We pray that these past favours may inspire us to greater confidence to seek the aid of our Mother of Perpetual help Amen.
G.T.

ANNIVERSARY



Hayes Jnr, David
15th Anniversary occurs 19th March. One more year away from home.

*On your 15th anniversary,
I choose to honour your memory, my son,
By embracing the love and joy,
You brought into my life.
Your spirit lives on,
Through the memories we shared,
Over the years we were together.
From your heartbroken Dad.*
xxxxxx

ANNIVERSARY



Donovan, Elizabeth (Betty)
1st Anniversary occurs 23rd March.

Mam
*A year feels so long ago yet also like yesterday.
I miss our chats and all the laughter.
Time cannot erase the bond we share.
Love and miss you every day.
Your daughter Elaine, Allan, and granddaughter Ailish.*

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. F.C.

Dear Echo customers

The Echo reception opening hours are 10am-2pm Monday to Friday.

You can still contact our team up to 5pm every weekday via email:

General queries: reception@echo.ie

News & Entertainment: news@echo.ie

Sport: sport@echo.ie

Advertising: emma@echo.ie

You can also submit all queries, Memorials and Plannings through echo.ie

Cut-off times are now:

Memorials 1pm on the Friday prior to publication

Plannings 1pm on Tuesday prior to publication

Phone: 01-4685350

Mobile Text/Whats App/Phone: 0830106275

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

*The Echo is on sale in local stores from Thursday to Monday each week, please ask in-store if it is not on shop shelves



NOVENA

Novena to St. Jude
Most Holy Apostle, St. Jude, faithful servant and friend of Jesus, the Church honours and invokes you universally, as the patron of hopeless cases, of things almost despaired of. Pray for me, I am so helpless and alone. Make use I implore, you, of that particular privilege given to you, to bring visible and speedy help where help is almost despaired of. Come to my assistance in this great need, that I may receive the consolation and help of Heaven in all my necessities, tribulations and sufferings, particularly, (here make your request) and that I may praise God with you and all the elect forever, I promise O Blessed St. Jude, to be ever mindful of this great you as my special and powerful patron, and to gratefully encourage devotion to you.
F.O.N.

NOVENA

Novena to St. Jude
Most Holy Apostle, St. Jude, faithful servant and friend of Jesus, the Church honours and invokes you universally, as the patron of hopeless cases, of things almost despaired of. Pray for me, I am so helpless and alone. Make use I implore, you, of that particular privilege given to you, to bring visible and speedy help where help is almost despaired of. Come to my assistance in this great need, that I may receive the consolation and help of Heaven in all my necessities, tribulations and sufferings, particularly, (here make your request) and that I may praise God with you and all the elect forever, I promise O Blessed St. Jude, to be ever mindful of this great you as my special and powerful patron, and to gratefully encourage devotion to you.
M.O.N.

family notices

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ANNIVERSARY



Burke, Christopher (Christy)
8th Anniversary occurs 22nd March.

Christy
*I miss you today,
I will miss you tomorrow,
Tears in my eyes,
And a heart full of sorrow.
I hold onto the memories,
Of the great times we had,
I grieve for what I lost,
But I am grateful for what I had.
Memories of times we shared,
Are the light that shines in my heart forever.*
Your loving wife Lorraine.

Dad
For our Dad in heaven
*They say there is a reason,
They say time will heal,
Neither time or reason,
Will change how we feel.
Gone are the days we used to share,
But in our hearts, you are always there.
The gates of memories will never close,
We miss you more than anyone knows.*
Always missed Glenn, Leah & Jamie.

Grandad
*Gentle Jesus up above,
Give my grandad a great big hug x*
Your granddaughter Éada.

My Best Friend Christy
*You're never more than a thought away,
The heartache of losing you,
Will never go away,
Loved and missed every day.*
**Missed beyond words,
Catherine & Family.**

ANNIVERSARY



Burke, Christopher (Christy)
8th Anniversary away from home.

Son
*In the silence of our broken hearts,
Where no one else can see,
Your face your smile your memory,
Are kept so tenderly.
Sometimes with a smile,
Sometimes with a tear,
But always with love,
Despite the passing years.
Play his favourite music lord,
And when you see him smile,
Tell Christy how much we love him,
And miss him all the time.
Although we cannot see you Christy,
Your love has kept us strong,
So stay beside us always,
And help us carry on.
Will those who think of him today,
A little prayer to Jesus say.
**Loved always and forever,
your heartbroken Mam & Dad.**
Rest In Peace.*

Burke, Christy
8th Anniversary
*You maybe out of sight Christy,
We maybe worlds apart,
But you are always on our minds,
And forever in our hearts.*
Dearly loved and sadly missed, Aunty Mary & Family.

Christy
Forever in our hearts and prayers.
Christy, Lorraine & Family.

ANNIVERSARY



Burke, Christy
8th Anniversary away from home.

Brother Christy
*Your presence we miss,
Your memory we treasure,
Loving you always,
Forgetting you never,
No farewell words were spoken,
No time to say goodbye,
You were gone before we knew it,
And only God can tell our broken hearts why.
Your memory we carry forever,
We tell our girls you're the brightest star in the sky,
They look for you every night to say hi,
It's hard to believe it's 8 years since you gained your wings.
Our lives changed forever.
**Always loved, forever missed,
David, Theresa, Katie-Rose & Amy.***

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. T.R.

ANNIVERSARY



Burke, Christy
8th Anniversary away from home.

*I often sit and think about,
The years that have passed by,
And of the happiness and joy,
That was shared by you and I.
I think of all the laughter,
The smiles and all the fun,
And before I even know it,
My tears have once again begun.
For although it brings me comfort,
To walk down memory lane,
It reminds me how, without you,
Life has never been the same.
**Loved and missed by Paul,
Linda and Family. x***

NOVENA

Novena Heart of Jesus
Dear Heart of Jesus in the past I have asked for many favours I ask you for this very special one. Take it Dear Heart of Jesus and place it within your broken heart, where your Holy Father sees it then in his merciful eyes it will become your favour and not mine. Say this prayer for 3 days promise publication and favours will be granted never known to fail. Promise to publish, many thanks for favours received and about to be received. P.M.

ANNIVERSARY



Cummins, Therese
9th Anniversary away from home occurs 22nd March.

*Sadly our lives go on without you,
However nothing has been the same,
We have to hide our heartache,
When someone speaks your name.
Silent are the tears that fall,
Living without you is the hardest part of all.
You did so many things for us,
Your heart was so kind and true,
And when we needed someone,
We could always count on you.
The special years will not return,
When we were all together,
But the love in our hearts for you,
Will stay with us forever.
**We are heartbroken without you Mam. Love Janice,
Jonny and Caroline,
daughter-in-law Caroline,
son-in-law John and grandchildren Conor,
Lauren, Dylan, Shane, Ryan,
Evan, Olly & Harry.***

ANNIVERSARY



Comerford, Patrick (Paddy)
Remembering a loving Husband, Dad & Grandad on his 90th Birthday, occurs 20th March 2026.

*Instead of a card,
We send our love,
Instead of a gift, a prayer,
To the one we thought the world of,
And miss beyond compare.*
Also remembering our loving mother Eileen and their son-in-law Emmett. Loved and missed every day, Sandra, Martina, Brenda, Sean & Sinead, John, Damien, Paul & Sharon, Grandchildren & Great-Grandchildren.

NOVENA

Novena Heart of Jesus
Dear Heart of Jesus in the past I have asked for many favours I ask you for this very special one. Take it Dear Heart of Jesus and place it within your broken heart, where your Holy Father sees it then in his merciful eyes it will become your favour and not mine. Say this prayer for 3 days promise publication and favours will be granted never known to fail. Promise to publish, many thanks for favours received and about to be received. H.J.

NOVENA

Thanksgiving Prayer
O mother of Perpetual help with grateful hearts, we join you in thanking God for all the wonderful things he has done for us. God our Creator we thank you for the gift of life and all the gifts of nature, our senses and faculties, our talents and abilities. We thank you for creating us in your own image and likeness and for giving us the earth to use and develop to rule and control. Despite our failures you continue to show your love for us by increasing the life of your spirit in us. Finally we thank you loving father for giving us Mary, the mother of your son to be our mother of Perpetual help. We are grateful for all past favours received through her intercession. We pray that these past favours may inspire us to greater confidence to seek the aid of our Mother of Perpetual help Amen. G.T.

NOVENA

9 Day Novena to St. Anthony.
St. Anthony, I resort to thy protection and aid, as proof of my affection and faith, I offer this candle which shall burn every day. Please comfort me in my difficulties and through thy living in the house of my Saviour, intercede for me and all those I love so that we may always hold God in our hearts and be provided for in our necessities, I beseech thee, St. Anthony, to have infinite pity in regard to the favour I ask of thee (here mention your favour). Please help me to overcome all difficulties which I now leave at thy feet. 3 Our Fathers, 3 Hail Mary's, 3 Glory Be to the Father's. This novena should be said for 9 days in succession. Each day a candle should be lit and a copy of this prayer left in the Church to help another soul in distress and to increase devotion to St. Anthony. This miraculous Saint grants everything no matter how difficult and before the termination of the nine days. But even if your request is granted, the Novena must be fulfilled. Holy St. Anthony pray for us. B.B.

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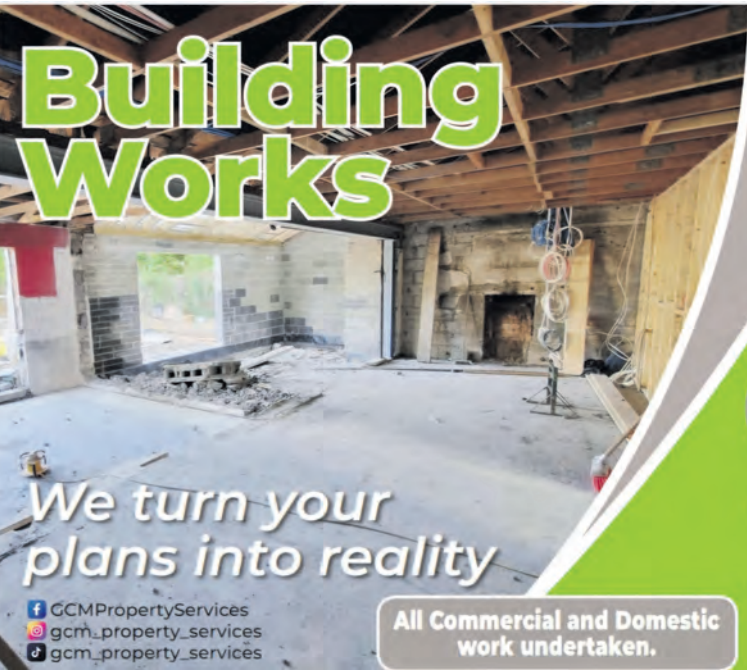
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planning notices

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South Dublin County Council
We, Christopher and Linda Dooley, intend to apply for permission for an attic conversion for storage, adding a dormer roof to the rear, and all ancillary works necessary to facilitate the development at 24 Ballyroan Crescent, Rathfarnham, Dublin, D16 X5R2. This application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of South Dublin County Council during its public opening hours of 9am – 4pm, Mon-Fri and a submission or observation may be made to South Dublin County Council in writing and on payment of the prescribed fee (€20.00) within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by South Dublin County Council of the application.

South Dublin County Council
I, Andrew Skelly intend to apply for planning permission for a development at this site, 46 Pineview Rise, Oldbawn, Dublin 24, D24 V3WK. The development consists of Removal of existing Velux window to rear at attic level and conversion of existing attic storage room to include a new flat roof dormer to rear for storage purposes. 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
We Gloria Rooney & Jason Duggan intend to apply for planning permission for conversion of attic for storage and dormer window to rear of 5 Killakee Drive, Greenhills, Dublin 12. 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
We, Tom Beatty & Zelma Hession, intend to apply for permission to construct a single-storey rear extension, an attic conversion for storage purposes, a raised side gable with a Dutch-hipped roof and new side window, a rear dormer roof, roof lights to the front, and all ancillary works necessary to facilitate the development at 5 Johnsbridge Green, Lucan, Dublin, K78 TK49. This application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of South Dublin County Council during its public opening hours of 9am – 4pm, Mon-Fri and a submission or observation may be made to South Dublin County Council in writing and on payment of the prescribed fee (€20.00) within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by South Dublin County Council of the application.

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL - LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) ACTS 1963 - LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) REGULATIONS 1977 TO 1994

PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED WEEK ENDING MARCH 6, 2026

SD25A/0223W Information Applicant: Greenacre Residential DAC Location: Cuil Duin Avenue, Citywest, Co. Dublin Description: The proposed development will consist of modifications to the elevational design and floor plan layout of the previously permitted 3 storey creche/ community centre building (approved under Reg. Ref. SD22A/0398) resulting in a reduction in overall floorspace from1610sqm to 1596.8sqm. Revisions are proposed to the approved site layout plan including: removal of the pedestrian bridge and relocation of the external play space area from the open space located to the west of the stream to an outdoor deck play space adjacent (west) of the main building and an enclosed play space at ground floor level on the southern elevation. Permission is also sought for modifications to adjoining cycle track and set down car parking spaces; revised hard and soft landscaping, bin storage and cycle parking and all associated site and development works	06 Mar 2026	Permission Additional	to the existing end of terrace, 2 storey house are for residential purposes.	PT8SD359 New Application Applicant: South Dublin County Council Location: Proposed Social and Affordable Mixed Tenure Housing Development, on SDCC land at Castlefield Avenue, Old Knocklyon Road, Dublin 16. Description: The proposed development is comprised of 29 homes and all associated open spaces and all site and development works necessary to facilitate the proposed development and will include: i. Construction of 8 No. three-storey, three-bedroom houses in two terraced buildings. ii. Construction of 4 No. two-bedroom apartments in a two-storey building. iii. Construction of a two and three-storey apartment building which will comprise: 1 No. studio apartment, 8 No. one-bedroom apartments, 4 No. two-bedroom apartments and 4 No. three-bedroom apartments. iv. New boundary treatment to adjoining properties and roads. Associated upgrading of roadways and paths, provision of car and cycle parking spaces. All hard and soft landscape works, lighting, boundary structures and all associated ancillary buildings, infrastructure to include a pumping station, and all site and development works necessary to facilitate the proposed development. The proposal has undergone Screening for Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and Screening for Environmental Impact Assessment under the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU. In accordance with Article 81 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001, as amended, the Planning Authority has made a determination and concluded that: (a) The proposed development, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, is not likely to have a significant effect on any European site(s) and therefore a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not required. (b) There is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development and that the proposed development is not of a class set out under Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, and therefore does not require an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). Any person may, within 4 weeks from the date of publication of this notice, apply to An Coimisi�n Plean�la for a screening determination as to whether the development would be likely to have significant effects on the environment. The plans and particulars of the proposed development are available for inspection online on the council's public consultation portal website (http://consult.sdublincoco.ie) during the period from 5th of March 2026 to 21st of April 2026. Printed plans and particulars of the proposed development are available for inspection or purchase at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at County Hall, Tallaght, Dublin 24, during office hours from 5th of March 2026 to 7th of April 2026. Submissions: Submissions or observations with respect to the proposed development dealing with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which the proposed development will be situated may be made in writing up to 21st of April 2026 and may be submitted as follows; � On South Dublin County Council's public consultation portal website http://consult.sdublincoco.ie, under Consultation by 11:59pm on 21st of April 2026.	
SD25A/0271W Additional Information Applicant: Blenders Ltd Location: Blenders, Whitestown, Tallaght, Dublin 24, D24 VY75 Description: Blenders intend to apply for Retention Permission and Permission for development on lands at Blenders, Whitestown, Tallaght, Dublin 24, D24 VY75. The development for which retention permission is sought consists of minor works arising from deviations to the permitted finished goods warehouse associated with SD23A/0277 as follows: 1.Single storey office, staircase and utility rooms (1 no. panel room and 1 no. fire hose reel pump room) to the north-west of the finished goods warehouse with roof plant over. 2. Standalone bicycle shed to the north east corner of the site. 3. Widening of the internal road in the southwest corner of the site to accommodate additional HGV staging spaces. 4. Relocation of pedestrian walkway to the front of car parking spaces to the north-west of the site. 5. Associated lighting, landscaping, retaining gabion wall and drainage arrangements. Planning permission is sought for: � alterations to the existing entrance to the south of the site in order to prevent HGVs striking the ground surface on entry/exit along with replacement gates and fencing. �new landscaping (including additional planting) �omission of permitted sprinkler tank and meter room from that permitted under SD23A/0277 All associated site works.	03 Mar 2026	Permission and Retention	SD25B/0682W Information Applicant: Deborah Sheridan Location: 1, Glendale Park, Dublin 12, D12P04C Description: The demolition of the existing porch, garage door to the front elevation, roof covering to the side access, chimney stack and tiled roof to the rear of the existing dwelling. Permission for single storey extension to the rear and side of the existing dwelling with flat roofs, roof lights, internal alterations, attic conversion to habitable status with a dormer roof, roof light to front elevation, doors to garage entrance, new driveway, widening of the vehicular driveway entrance, dishing of the public footpath, grass verge, kerb, alterations to front boundary wall and all ancillary works necessary to facilitate the development.	02 Mar 2026	Permission Additional
			SDZ25A/0031W Additional Information Applicant: Shreya Thakur and Purshottam Clonia Location: A site located between property named Airlie View and 66 Dodsborough Cottages, Tandy's Lane, Adamstown, Lucan, Co. Dublin Description: A detached 2-storey dormer style dwelling with vehicular access to front and all related works, within a Strategic Development Zone.	03 Mar 2026	SDZ Application
			SD25A/0164 of Additional Information Applicant: Leo Sweeney Location: 35, Muckcross Green, Perrystown, Dublin 12 Description: The development shall consist of 2 No.two storey semidi detached dwelling houses in side garden of existing dwelling house, new entrance and reconfiguration of entrance to existing house, together with all associated site works and services	04 Mar 2026	Permission Clarification
			SDZ26A/0007 Application Applicant: Ray & Leanne Moran Location: 10, Somerton Lawns, Newcastle Road, Lucan, Co Dublin, K78 X8VO Description: The Construction of a single storey rear extension incorporating an extended kitchen/dining/living space, plus all associated site works.	03 Mar 2026	Permission New
SD25B/0650 Information Applicant: David Cummins & Audrey Dooley Location: 1, Hillsbrook Drive, Perrystown, Dublin 12 Description: A) The construction of a single storey extension to the front. B) The replacement of existing roof and conversion of existing single storey garage to side. C) The replacement of existing single storey glazed/conservatory roof to rear with tiled lean-to roof and D) The construction of new garden wall (1800mm high) to side of existing driveway. All these works	05 Mar 2026	Permission Additional	FUN26/0001 9 New Application Applicant: K&G Funfair Location: Tuthills Car Park, Clondalkin, Dublin 22 Description: Clondalkin St Patricks day parade 17/3/26.	02 Mar 2026	Application under Article

Echo Sport

Deputy Sports Editor: William O'Connor

Thursday, March 19, 2026

National indoor success for Tallaght athletes



Uche Disu

Gloria Oigbochie

SEVERAL Tallaght athletes were successful at the recent National Indoor U20/U23 and Master Championships that were held in the TUS International Arena in Athlone last weekend.

Indeed, Uche Disu was in excellent form on Saturday when winning both the U23 60m and 200m titles with personal best times of 7.59 and 24:46 seconds respectively. This followed on from the silver medal she won at the National Universities Indoor Championships a week earlier.

Gloria Oigbochie was also in great form when taking bronze in the U20 60m final in a time of 7.56 seconds and silver in the 200m with a time of 24.63.

Others who competed on the day in the U20 Championships were Abdullahi Adeleke who finished 5th in the U20 200m final with a time of 22.85 seconds, after winning his earlier qualifying heat with a time of 22.76, and Khaled Kourrini who contested the U20 800m.

The following day at the Masters Championships, Patrick Curran cleared 2.6m to claim the M45 Pole Vault Title, while Sean Bolger claimed silver in the M35 200m with a time of 24.56 seconds, after finishing 4th in the 60m earlier in the day when he recorded a time of 7.62, and Sarah Doyle also claimed silver in her M35 200m with a time of 27.66.

Fifteen of the Tallaght juveniles are set to contest the National Juvenile Championships at the same venue at the end of the month and on the 11th of April after qualifying at the Dublin Indoor Championships in February.

Dublin Lions qualify for league play-offs

Clondalkin side battle it out for a place in the SuperLeague

THE Dublin Lions have finished top of Men's Division 1 and have qualified for the play-offs following a 90-70 victory against Ulster University, reports Michael Howley.

Unfortunately they are not assured to go up despite the league win and now must battle for a place in the SuperLeague in the upcoming play-offs.

Lions had a brilliant run of form throughout the regular season this year as they won 18 out of 22 games and did not lose a single league match at home all season, their sole defeat at Colaiste Bride coming in cup competition.

The league finish is even more impressive considering that the team would not have been favourites at all coming into the campaign and previously would have been battling at the other end of the table.

Plenty of new players were signed ahead of the start of this season and under the coaching of Rob White and Martin O'Keeffe they have turned into a formidable force.

O'Keeffe spoke on team performance so far this year.

"The progress we've



Dublin Lions finished top of Division One

made this season has been huge. We were taking over a team that had a poor run the previous season. We were in threat of relegation last year. We took our time over the summer and got in some really good players.

"The lads gelled really well. There were a couple

of early losses that we weren't really happy with but we got the show on the road then. We honestly didn't think at the start of the season we would be in this position. It's all credit to the lads, they have been hugely committed and really bought into what we

were trying to do this season and it's shown in the games."

The club now turns its attention to this weekend as they take on the first of their play off games coming up against Titans.

One benefit that they get for winning the league is

that they have home court advantage in the play offs up until the semi final stage.

Titans finished fourth in the southern conference while Lions finished first in the northern.

The game is set for Colaiste Bride this Saturday with a 5.30pm start.

Big year ahead for Dublin Strikers bowling team

DUBLIN Strikers Special Olympics Bowling team will be holding a fundraiser this Friday in Tallaght Leisureplex ahead of a big 2026 for the club, reports Michael Howley.

Christened the Rock'N'Bowl each athlete from the club will have a partner, bowling together with disco music also being present.

Funds will be raised for the club through sponsorship of athletes.

The last fundraiser that the club did was 20 years ago but the club has grown since and will benefit from some local sponsorship with local businesses getting involved in the project.

The club is organising this fundraiser as they require much needed funds. Athletes need to pay to play bowling each week and the club also has four athletes competing in the Special Olympics Ireland games, along with a

chaperone which will cost €525 per person.

The games will feature a number of Irish athletes battling it out in various different sports and venues across the islands for a chance to compete at the World Special Olympic games which will be held in Santiago, Chile.

The club is also hoping to organise a trip in May to Belfast where they will meet with another Special Olympics group.

Set up 28 years ago the club has become a permanent fixture of Tallaght Leisureplex each Friday evening hosting training sessions for its members.

With 44 members the club is a valuable community resource and longtime volunteer with the organisation Sile Mason touched on the importance of bowling in particular for Special Olympics clubs and why it is such an

integral sport for people to get involved with.

"There comes a time when you can't run races or play basketball anymore but for bowling it is for all ages. We have an age range of 19 up to 75 years of age and everyone is catered for regardless. My brother's ability has declined over the last number of years but for him it's the most important night of the week. He still can go and it's done at his pace. Coaches have adapted to him so that he can still participate. That's the same for everybody. Everyone gets the same treatment."

"What we've been trying to tell this to parents as well, when they get to 40 they can't play basketball anymore. This is where they need to be and this is where they can come till whenever. We have had athletes who've stayed with us since they passed away.



Members of Dublin Strikers Special Olympics Bowling team

Pitch & Putt



New Lady Captain Anna Minogue



New Men's Captain Terry O'Leary

Glenville Pitch and Putt Club announce new captains for upcoming season

Photos by Paddy Barrett



Aaron, Terry and Antoinette O'Leary



Glenville President Donal Moody

GLENVILLE Pitch and Putt Club kick off their new year with their incoming Captains drive-in, reports Michael Howley.

Terry O'Leary has been named as club captain while Anna Minogue is the ladies captain.

O'Leary is a member of the club for 23 years while Minogue joined in 1999. The captain's main duties include representing the club in various different manners.

This includes representing the club when hosting tournaments with other clubs visiting the grounds as well as visits from other bodies such as school groups. The club hosts its own in-house competitions every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday with the Pitch and Putt season just

kicking off now.

Glenville also expects to host some larger scale tournaments or at least qualifying rounds throughout 2026 though the schedule for that has not currently been finalised.

The club also maintains its role as a social hub for the community by getting involved with local schools with primary school children set to visit on March 23 with various schools from Old Bawn bringing their fifth and sixth classes to try out pitch and putt.

This work with schools is part of ongoing aims within the club to expand and maintain a healthy juvenile section with last year the club having 45-50 registered new members.



Bertie Byrne (Chair), Donal Moody (President), Joyce Keane (Secretary) and Bill Coughlan (Vice Chair)



Ben and Anna Minogue



Terry, Anna and Bertie



Anna Minogue and Ann Kilduff



Piper Joe O'Donnell

Hockey

Loreto women regain top spot

THERE was plenty of action in the EY Hockey League across both men and women's divisions last weekend, *reports Michael Howley.*

Loreto regained their place at the top of the table with a 2-1 victory against Portadown.

With several members of the squad recently involved with the Irish national team's exploits in Chile, Loreto got back to business domestically with a 2-1 win thanks to goals from Siofra O'Brien and Christina Hamill.

The win puts them on top of the division with 33 points while Railway Union sit three points behind with the two sides battling it out for the top spot.

Three Rock Rovers battled it out to earn a draw with reigning champions Lisnagarvey.

Rovers went behind in the game on three separate occasions but would not roll over and accept defeat.

Goals from James Walker, Alastair Haughton and a Ben Johnson brace were enough to earn a 4-4 draw.

Lisnagarvey would ultimately win the following shootout however 9-8 earning themselves a bonus point in the process.

The result leaves Three Rock Rovers in fourth place on 20 points.

They are nine points behind league leaders Banbridge, six behind Lisnagarvey and just two behind third place Monkstown.

They face opposition from not only those three but also teams below them however as Pembroke Wanderers sit also on 20 points, Avoca on 19 and YMCA on 17 points.

Basketball

Éanna finish fourth in SuperLeague

ÉANNA finished fourth place overall in the Super League this year, qualifying themselves for a position in the playoffs as they finished the season strongly with a big win against Neptune, *reports Michael Howley.*

The game finished 117 to 72 points in Éanna's favour with several players pressing throughout. Manou Christal, Neil Lynch and Dean Kiernan were the stars of the show scoring wise for Éanna managing 31, 28 and 16 points respectively.

Manou spoke after the game on the win and the culmination of Éanna's regular season.

"I feel great, great game. We played mostly with the bench today. Everybody came out strong and everybody chipped in. We lack a bit on some things but overall it was a great game."

On competing for the playoff title.

"We just need to stick with the program. Stick with what we have, our principles that we've had the whole season. We start from defense and then the offense will come by itself."

In Division 1 Dublin Lions have made the playoffs for the men's division after winning the overall league with a hugely impressive record of 18 wins and four losses.

They play Galway Titans this Saturday in Colasite Bride with a 5:30pm start.

In the women's division Templeogue have made the play off finals following a fourth place finish in the league.

It was really a four horse race throughout the campaign with Templeogue, Limerick Celtics and Limerick Huskies all finishing on 39 points while Cleveland Rockets finished on 42.

In comparison fifth place side Tolka Rovers sat ten behind on 27 points.

That is the team that Templeogue will be facing next as they contest the playoff quarter final this Saturday, hosting Tolka Rovers in TUD Tallaght with a 5pm start.

Three Rock edged out in Mill Cup but bag Neville Davin Cup



Three Rock Rovers won the Neville Davin Cup Final on St Patrick's Day. Photo Henry Simpson

THREE Rock Rovers came unstuck 3-1 in the Mills Cup final on St Patrick's Day as YMCA ended their 31-year wait for a senior title at Grange Road, *reports Stephen Findlator.*

Rovers had led in the first quarter through James Walker but quickfire replies from Sam Hyland and former Rover Adam Walker soon turned the tables.

And when Ian Perrott put YM 3-1

up with 20 minutes to go, Rovers were unable to make any inroads into a defence marshalled superbly by Grant Glutz.

For the Three Rock, it ended a run of three Mills Cup final defeats in the past four seasons as they finally made their breakthrough.

Rovers second team, however, did land the Neville Davin Cup for the first time as they produced a remarkable late show to defeat

YM's second team.

It was Three Rock's first appearance in the competition designed for sides who exit at the early stages of the pre-Christmas Neville Cup.

They trailed for the guts of an hour as Johnny Woods early goal had YM in front until two minutes from the end when Harry Glennon popped up with the equaliser.

That sent the tie to a shoot-out

where Adam Hearne reigned supreme, keeping out all of YM's efforts while Mark English, Josh Kelly and Louis Rothwell all netted theirs for a 3-0 success.

Next on the agenda for the Rovers first team is an instant chance for revenge as they play YM in the EY Hockey League on Saturday at Wesley. Both are in the shake-up for the playoff places, making this a vital battle on that front.

Glens pipped at the post

GLENANNE'S women and Monkstown recently produced a gripping contest in the Jacqui Potter Shield Final which remained finely balanced until a decisive moment in the third quarter ultimately sentenced Glenanne to defeat, *reports Michael Howley.*

Both teams began the game with intensity, pressing high and moving the ball quickly through the midfield. Despite several promising passages of play from Glenanne, Monkstown's defence remained disciplined.

Glenanne keeper Flourish Olufemi Ojo was called into action on multiple occasions during the opening half, the shot stopper produced several crucial saves to deny Monkstown and ensure the sides went into the halftime break level at 0-0.

Glenanne emerged after half time with renewed attacking intent. Caoilin Dunne, Claire Shillington and Ciara Vincent consistently drove forward, making strong attacking runs that stretched the Monkstown defence and created a number of promising opportunities.

In midfield Caoimhe O'Donoghue, Audrey Westlake and



captain Roisin Doody worked tirelessly to control possession and link defence with attack, helping Glenanne to maintain pressure for long periods.

The real breakthrough came in the third quarter when Monkstown capitalised on a swift counter attack.

Breaking quickly from midfield

they caught the Glenanne defence momentarily exposed and finished clinically to take a 1-0 lead.

Glenanne responded with determination in the closing stages and pushed hard for an equaliser. Their persistence earned two short corners in the final minutes, raising hopes of a late leveller.

Despite well worked routines and

sustained pressure in the circle, Monkstown held firm and Glenanne were unable to convert.

While the result ultimately went Monkstown's way, the match remained a closely contested affair throughout, with Glenanne showing resilience, strong midfield control and threatening attacking play right until the final whistle.



GAA President Jarlath Burns opens Ballyboden facility at Pairc Carmel

BALLYBODEN St Endas opened their new facility Pairc Carmel last Saturday, reports Michael Howley.

On the day a number of games took place which saw all codes involved with the club brought together in what was an extremely inclusive day for all.

The first games of the day saw the Ladies Footballers take on Lurgan from Cavan in a game while Ballyboden's U16 side welcomed a matchup against nearby neighbours Templeogue Synge Street.

Later on in the day saw games played between the Senior Hurlers and Holy Cross Ballycahill from Tipperary while in the camogie an U15 league game between Boden and Oliver Plunketts/Eoghan Ruadh also took place.

The Rathfarnham Concert Band was also present on the day which truly added to the atmosphere of the occasion.

GAA President Jarlath Burns was also present at the ceremony and addressed the gathered crowd in a speech.

Burns touched on how Ballyboden fulfilled the three things that he looked for in a club, an

essence of community, a sense of ambition and for gaelic games to be at the fore of the club and given utmost priority.

In a speech that half was given in Irish with the other half in English, Burns also touched on the importance of community and the role that Ballyboden St Enda's played in their own and praised the development of the grounds was "fantastic".

On a day that was quite emotional for many in the club given the work that had been put into the project, John Ryan was honoured for his role in leading the development over the last number of years.

Ryan gave a speech where he also made sure to mention the contributions of DAR Golf contractors as well as the countless hours put in by volunteers from the club in helping the project get over the line.

Donagh O'Farrell, chairman of the club also gave a speech at the event where he emphasised focusing on and celebrating the hard work of past club members over the last 50 years or so, whose efforts were instrumental in bringing the club to where it stands today.



GAA

Mixed results for hurling teams in the league

THERE was a busy weekend of hurling last weekend with teams from across South West Dublin competing across Divisions 1-3, *reports Michael Howley.*

St Jude's found themselves defeated by St Vincent's at Tymon Park 3-17 to 0-12.

The result sees them now at the bottom of Division 1 with losses in their opening two games.

They will be looking for their first win to really kickstart their campaign as they are scheduled to take on Castleknock in their next league game.

In Division 2 Thomas Davis battled to a draw with St Sylvesters at Kiltipper Road, the final score reading 3-11 to 2-14.

Davis now sit in fifth in the table having drawn their opening two games and will be looking to remain undefeated and get their first win in their next match up against Naomh Mearnog in a weeks time, also set to take place at Kiltipper.

Commercials suffered a defeat at the hands of Rathcoole in what was an extremely close game with the score ending 1-14 to 1-17.

They next find themselves up against Erins Isle in Finglas next week.

In Division 3 Crumlin drew with Lucan Sarsfield's second team in a game held at Airle Park with the final score being 0-19 to 1-16.

Both sides undefeated and sitting in second and third place respectively, Crumlin's next game sees them against Scoil Ui Chonail while Lucan take on Round Towers Clondalkin next week.

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Dublin U16s slip up to Kildare in Leinster Football C'ship

THE Dublin LGFA U16's side played the second round of the Leinster Championship in TU Dublin last weekend against Kildare in a losing effort, *reports Michael Howley.*

There was local representation on the squad with Caoimhe O'Donoghue, Lulu Ormsby and Sophie Buckley all representing Ballyboden St Enda's while Caoimhe Buckley of Lucan Sarsfields was also present.

Both teams had to overcome adverse weather conditions in a game that was played at a fast pace.

Kildare got off to an excellent start, scoring a goal within three minutes of the contest beginning which signified their dominance of the opening quarter.

By the first 15 minutes they had accumulated a 2-05 lead before Darcy Hall scored Dublin's first point of the game which came in the 18th minute.

Towards the end of the half Dublin managed to come into the game themselves and would eventually get a goal of their own courtesy of Anna Kellegher which left Kildare with a still sizable 2-07 to 1-02 advantage at the interval.

On the resumption of the game both defensive units were working exceptionally hard in what was terrible playing conditions. Dublin's main attacking outlet during this time was Darcy Hall who continued to punish Meath with her free taking ability.

However in chasing the game Dublin were caught on the counter as Kildare scored a third goal of the match which totally took the wind out of Dublin sails.

The game now beyond saving the Girls in Blue were unable to make up the ground after a slow start and lost out via a 1-08 to 3-10 scoreline.

Their next game will see them travel to play Carlow on April 4th who earlier that day had lost by seven points to Meath with the Royal County still remaining unbeaten in the championship.



Ballyboden's Caoimhe Buckley in action for Dublin's U16s and (inset) her teammate Caoimhe O'Donoghue battles for possession
Photos by Maurice Grehan



Rugby

Tallaght finish Metro season on a high



Tallaght RFC had a very strong performance against Swords

TALLAGHT RFC travelled to Swords to play their final Metro Division 8 fixture of the season, *reports Michael Howley.*

Player/coach Adam Nolan would score the first try for Tallaght before Jordan Corrigan managed a second in quick succession.

A conversion from Luke Maher would give Tallaght an early 12-0 lead before Corrigan scored his second try of the match.

Swords would respond with a try of their own to make the score 17-7 before Ian O'Donoghue on his return from injury, scored a try which was successfully converted by Maher. Colin Morrison would score the last try of the half to make the score 29-7 in Tallaght's favour.

In the second half Tallaght continued to dominate and Luke Maher scored and converted a try to make it 36-7.

One more try and conversion in the

half courtesy of Evan Tyrrell and of course Maher made the final score 50-7 in a game where Tallaght showed their true ability with an incredibly strong performance.

The win puts Tallaght ahead of Swords in the table and ultimately means that they won't have to contest a relegation play off.

Head Coach Adam Nolan was proud of his team performance and emphasised the potential within the team.

"It was a strong performance across the board. A performance that really showed how good the squad is when we have numbers. It gives hope to the group that if we can get the buy-in for the cup, we could be real contenders to push on and challenge. Everyone stood up in a big performance and that is something everyone can be proud off. But it does lead us to wonder what if we had the commitment all season how different the year could have been".

GAA

Dublin U14s take part in Festival of Football

THE Dublin LGFA U14 squad recently took part in the opening stage of the Festival of Football competition last weekend, reports Michael Howley.

The opening stage was held in Stamullen, Meath and saw Dublin take on the hosts as well as Kildare in two separate games.

There were several local players involved in the set up.

Lucy Quinn and Ava Connellan were both from Templeogue Synge Street while Ballyboden St Enda's Isi Fran, Eva Curran and Layla Devlin were also involved in the squad.

Lucan Sarsfield's had plenty of representation with Doireann Ni Fhiaich and Emily Rose Donnelly representing the club.

Isabell Trinkunaite plays for St Finians Newcastle and Hanna Hurley is from St Marys Saggart.

The results of the tournament saw Dublin earn themselves two wins in the opening stages with the first game against Meath ending 2-09 to 1-05 in their favour while a scoreline of 1-06 to 0-04 saw them defeat Kildare.

Finishing on top of their group, Dublin will go into the next stages of the competition hoping for a favourable match up as Stage 2 is expected to take place on the March 28.

Tower's hurlers bag first league win against Setanta



Round Tower's hurling team in pre-season

ROUND Towers Clondalkin's Hurling side recorded their first win in the AHL Division 3 at the weekend after a dominant scoreline against Setanta GAA winning 5-12 to 0-08 at Monastery Road, reports Michael Howley.

The win was welcomed after the club had suffered a significant defeat to Cuala in the opening game of the campaign.

Playing against the breeze in the first half and put on the backfoot by Setanta, Towers did well to score two goals courtesy of Alex O'Neill and Eric Finn which put them in a great position to see out the game.

Their bench also played a key role in the game with talent such as Sam

Mulvaney and Daithi Billings coming on in the second half of the match and playing a key role for the side.

The key man throughout the game for the team however was Stephen Barry who put in an excellent performance at wing back, playing a key role in progressing the ball, breaking down attacks and kickstarting his own as well as getting his name on the scoresheet courtesy of an excellent score himself.

The squad depth available to manager Conan O'Brien this year means that Towers are able to compete across multiple competitions with the side currently also playing in the Leinster League in Division 4.

They recently won against Laois side Slieve Bloom GAA in a match played at Airlie Park while they take on Confey GAA from Leixlip this weekend with the AHL not back in action until the week after.

Towers have also benefited from boosting their coaching staff with former Dublin intercounty player Ryan O'Dwyer now involved with the side.

O'Brien touched on the inclusion of O'Dwyer into the coaching set up.

"He's an outstanding coach. The lads have responded really well to him. His standard is really high and you can just see it in training. It's brilliant to have him on board. He's played at the highest

level and the lads are learning a lot from him because of that."

O'Brien spoke on participating in multiple league competitions simultaneously.

"Having that extra depth allows us to enter competitions like this during football weekends given how big our panel is now. After the group stage there will be a quarter final so we'll see how we go with that. We're taking it one game at a time but it's a great competition to be able to play. Especially to look at some of the lads who maybe weren't getting as much time, this gets them in and gets them game time and makes a big difference."

Jackies back in league action against Galway

THE Dublin Ladies Footballers are back in action this weekend as they take on Galway in the sixth round of fixtures this Saturday, reports Michael Howley.

There have been a few local players involved with the squad so far including Abbey Shiels and Sophie McIntyre of Lucan Sarsfields while Kate Donaghy and Rebecca McDonnell represent Ballyboden St Endas.

The Division 1 clash sees teams with very opposing fortunes in the league square off against one another.

Dublin currently sit bottom of the table, joint on four points with Armagh. They have come into some better form as of late however after

they lost the first three games on the bounce.

These losses came against Kerry, Meath and Waterford while they would pick up a decisive victory against Kildare before drawing with Armagh in their last outing.

It looks to be a difficult road ahead for Dublin in terms of avoiding the drop to Division 2. The game against Armagh was really crucial in picking up some points and while a draw isn't the worst result it does not drastically improve their standing.

With only two games left in the league they are still yet to play the two top sides in the division.

They will take on second place Galway this weekend, a

side who have just lost one game all campaign.

The game after that will see them come up against league leaders Cork. Cork are currently undefeated in the league and Dublin will certainly be underdogs going into the contest.

While it certainly seems a tall order, one chink in Cork's armour is that they only managed a draw against Kildare, a team that Dublin actually have defeated.

Still, during the league panels and players can change quickly but if Dublin want to avoid Division 2 they need at least a point from their next two games and need both Armagh and Kildare to lose their remaining two also.

Good start for Lucan Sarsfields senior hurlers

LUCAN Sarsfields have continued their position at the top of the league with a dominant victory over Craobh Chiarain last weekend with the final score reading 5-21 to 1-11, reports Michael Howley.

Held at 12th Lock, Lucan were in excellent form and thrived through first half goals from Darragh Meehan, Matt Coogan and Charlie Keher which put them firmly in the driver's seat for the rest of the game.

The game would see nothing change in terms of momentum throughout the second half.

Points would be added to the scoreboard from the likes of Liam Garrigan, Ryan Clancy, Coogan and Darragh Lyons while Meehan and Coogan

would both grab further goals by the final whistle to totally kill the game.

Now sitting in first place after an opening game win against Naomh Barrog along with the performance last weekend, manager Charlie Carter is not taking anything for granted.

"On this occasion everyone hurled well, we didn't play particularly well against Naomh Barrog on the first day but this time of the year it's all about bringing lads up to speed. It's all about getting the lads going."

"We've only played two games but our touch was a bit better last weekend and we were a bit crisper. At the start of the year though you don't

know where you are until you get a couple of matches under your belt. We were definitely sharper yesterday and our decision making was better on the day. We got a bit of a run early on Craobh Chiarain and we managed to get it fairly done and dusted at half time maybe."

The side take on Cuala in their next league game with Carter again expecting a tough contest.

"This time of the year, we have lads missing and so will they. It's a great opportunity for lads to put their hand up and grab a jersey. It's a great chance to show the management that they want to be there for inclusion later on in the year as well."

GAA

Third round of football league games take centre stage

A BIG week of action ahead in the Dublin AFL leagues as we gear into the third round of fixtures for 2026, reports Michael Howley.

Division 1 sees Ballyboden St Endas journey up the M50 and getting off at junction four as they take on Ballymun Kickhams.

Endas and Kickhams currently sit second and first place respectively in the league with the northside team possessing a hefty points difference of +30 while Boden sit on +17.

Boden come into the game after two wins against St Patrick's Donabate and Kilmacud Crokes and will be looking to continue the defense of their league crown with a win against Kickhams, a side they beat to secure the title back in 2025.

Thomas Davis will also be travelling but sticking south of the river as they take on Kilmacud Crokes in Stillorgan.

Davis currently sit in fifth place in the league table after a massive win in their last game against Raheny which saw them score six goals. The result was a welcome boost after defeat in their first game of the season to Ballinteer.

Crokes also got themselves back on track after being defeated by Ballyboden in the opening day of the league. They defeated Skerries Harps last time out and will be looking at establishing some momentum for the rest of the campaign.

St Jude's are set to host Na Fianna in Tymon Park. After their first match of the league against Skerries was called off due to poor weather conditions, Jude's would instead play their opening game against St Marys Saggart and ended up being defeated.

Their opposition is also without a win as Na Fianna's first game of the league against Cuala ended in a draw while they found themselves defeated by Ballinteer St John's on their last outing.

St Marys travel to Donabate for their next game as they take on St Patrick's. Marys will be looking to build on momentum after securing a win against St Jude's in their last game as well as putting in a solid performance against Raheny in the opening day of the league, despite the defeat.

St Patrick's picked up a big win against Lucan Sarsfields in their first game before a resounding 12 point defeat to Ballyboden St Endas grounded their momentum in the second round of fixtures.

Finally Lucan Sarsfields take on St Vincent's in Marino. As stated previously Sarsfields suffered a heavy loss on the opening day of the campaign to Pats but redeemed themselves somewhat last time out with a big performance away from home to secure a draw against Castleknock.

Faughs pick up their first win in the league



Faughs picked up their first win of the campaign against St Brigid's

FAUGHS GAA picked up their first win of the AHL Division 1 campaign last weekend after a big win saw them defeat St Brigid's by a score of 0-20 to 0-13, reports Michael Howley.

The win came as a much needed boost after the club experienced a frustrating start to their league campaign in the opening game against Na Fianna.

With the game headed into injury time Faughs would be leading against the current Dublin Champions by six points but would unravel with Na

Fianna grabbing a haul of 2-01 in the dying moments of the game to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat.

With that frustration still in mind the club were anxious to get a win under the belt at the weekend and succeeded in doing so thanks to an excellent team performance.

Particularly impressive was the performances of James O'Brien, Cormac O'Dowd, Aedan Mostyn and Sean McDonald.

The match saw Faughs play with the

breeze in the first half as they managed to build up a seven point lead at the interval and that deficit would remain the same at the final whistle as they secured themselves the victory.

With an average age of 22 in the team at the minute, Coach Karol O'Brien is happy with the performances so far as the club prepares for their next league game against Kilmacud Crokes in two weeks time.

"We wanted to get the win and thankfully we did. We hurled

reasonably well. Brigid's were down a few lads in with Dublin and missing a few others so they were struggling numbers wise. We aren't necessarily thinking we are top dogs after it but we had more available to us. It was great to get the win.

"Crokes up next, they are very strong but will have a lot of lads involved with Dublin teams so you don't really know who will be available for them. That will be another tough game on par with the Na Fianna match."

Dubs pushing for a final place

THE Dublin Camogie team picked up a big win against Offaly in their Division 1B game in Abbotstown with a final score of 2-16 to 0-09, reports Michael Howley.

There was plenty of local talent involved with the Gannon sisters, Niamh, Claire and Aisling from St Jude's in the starting line up along with Kerrie Finnegan of Faughs Celtic and Abbey Ryan from Crumlin.

Talent on the bench included Enya Kennedy, Hannah Leddy and Emma Moran while Jude's had further representation with Leah Butler and Eimear Kehoe also appearing on the bench. Lucan Sarsfields player Niamh Roche was also involved in the squad.

The damage would be done by Dublin in the first half with St Jude's Aisling Gannon managing a goal along with Castleknock's Aisling O'Neill.

The Dubs were capable point takers as well during this first period and they accumulated a big 2-10 to 0-05 lead at half time.

The second half was fairly lacklustre in comparison with the game essentially being won in that opening half an hour.

The result adds even more weight to Dublin's upcoming league game against Limerick this coming Saturday.

With Clare now confirmed for a league final it is between Dublin and Limerick for the other spot in the deciding game.

Dublin will possess the home advantage though Limerick travel knowing that even a draw will be enough for them to progress.

They themselves defeated Wexford at the weekend 3-13 to 1-11.



Dublin's Claire Gannon from St Jude's in action for the county senior camogie team against Offaly Photo by Matthew Lysaght

Soccer

Rovers and Peas go head to head in Tallaght Stadium

PEAMOUNT United and Shamrock Rovers square off against one another in Tallaght Stadium this weekend in the first derby between the two sides for the 2026 Women's League of Ireland Campaign, reports Michael Howley.

It will be a reunion of sorts for both players and managers on the day.

Several members of the current Shamrock Rovers squad were playing for Peamount previously last year.

Some notable examples being Sadhbh Doyle, Amanda Budden and Lauryn O'Callaghan.

Doyle will be hoping to continue her goalscoring form and net against her old club after providing a goal and assist in Rovers's 2-0 win over Cork on the opening day of the season.

Manager James O'Callaghan will also be returning to his former club having been in charge of The Peas for an eight year stint where he won the league and FAI Cup with the club before leaving in 2024.

Rovers captain Maria Reynolds spoke on the upcoming game in Tallaght.

"All focus on Monday goes straight to Peamount at home. Obviously we love playing them in Tallaght. We're going to go back into training, work hard, improve on what we need to improve on and hopefully get the three points."

Peamount will be looking for their first three points of the season after picking up a 2-2 draw at home to Bohemians in the opening game of the campaign.

They will be disappointed with the result after some poor defending on both goals led to the points getting shared, with Bohemians having little other chances come their way that weren't Peamount errors.

A goal from Sorch Melia and Mary Phillips ensured that they did not leave the match empty handed and they will be looking on rectifying those defensive errors ahead of this upcoming game.

Peas held to a draw with Bohs in league opener



The Peamount United Squad with mascots
Photos by Bartley Ramsay

PEAMOUNT United kicked off their 2026 league campaign with a draw at home to Bohemians in a game that finished 2-2, reports Michael Howley.

Peamount threatened early on with Aoife Murphy O'Connor drawing a good save from Bohemians keeper Rachael Kelly with a shot from outside the box.

Bohemians would be the side to break the deadlock however after Peamount failed to effectively clear a cross that had been floated in.

Sarah McKeivitt latched onto the loose ball and drilled a shot into the bottom left hand corner to break the deadlock and hand the visitors the lead.

Bohs would nearly double their lead just minutes later

after a header from a corner kick was cleared off the line by Meabh Russell, starting at right back she kept her side in the game with the goal line clearance.

It was 1-0 at the interval.

Peamount would start the second half off with a bang however with Sorch Melia scoring for the side in the 49th minute.



Della Doherty of Peamount United and Aoife Brophy of Bohemians compete for a header from a corner



Katie Malone of Bohemians and Aoife Moore O'Connor of Peamount United compete for the ball

Melia was put through on goal after an excellent assist from Eleanor Ryan Doyle, her pass carved open the Bohemians defence and Melia did well to keep her composure to make the game 1-1.

Frustrations would be high just minutes later however as a botched Peamount pass resulted in Bohemians being gifted a one on one with the goalkeeper with

Sarah McKeivitt again making no mistakes in front of goal.

Peamount would end up getting something from the game however, a free kick from Eleanor Ryan Doyle forced a save from Rachael Kelly in the 72nd minute and Mary Phillips would be on hand to poke over the rebound to ensure that Peamount earned a point from their first game of the season.

O'Callaghan happy to see Rovers get three points in Cork

SHAMROCK Rovers women's team got their 2026 League campaign off to a winning start after a 2-0 victory against Cork City in Turner's Cross last weekend.

Rovers took the lead in the 23rd minute following a goal from Sadhbh Doyle on her league debut for the club after signing from Peamount in the winter break.

A great ball from Katie O'Reilly saw Doyle calmly slot the ball past the keeper into the bottom right corner to put Rovers 1-0 up.

Just before halftime Doyle would again be involved as Rovers managed their second goal of the game.

Linking up excellently with Emily Corbet, Doyle's return pass to the striker would see her dummy the ball past the defender before unleashing a shot into the bottom left corner to secure a 2-0 lead for the visitors.

The remainder of the game was fairly open and shut with little chances for either team across the second half as Rovers picked up their first three points of the season.

The match also saw the debut of academy starlet Kassie McLoughlin who has impressed at underage level throughout the club and is an Ireland international.

Manager James O'Callaghan spoke about the club's performance.

"Really happy to get the three points here. Cork are a really good side. We're after working very hard for nine weeks in pre season so it feels really good to get the win."

The first half I thought we played really well. We moved the ball side to

side and got at them down the wings which was pleasing to see but there is still lots of room for improvement. But after the 90 minutes it was just great to get three points."

"It's our first match and we've brought in lots of players since last season and lost lots of players since last season. There's lots of new players coming in. For our first match it's brilliant to see. Kassie from the academy came up and made her debut today but there's other players looking to come through there as well."

Soccer

Lucan set to establish a women's team

LUCAN United are looking to establish a senior women's team for 2026 after the club has gone for several years now without one, reports Michael Howley.

Headed by coach Mark Lynam the coach is looking for players to join the squad and previously managed u18s girls in the club and has also worked at underage levels with Bohemians.

There has been talks of getting a squad set up since last summer and after having to postpone plans of getting the team set up for December, March was marked as the new deadline.

The plan is an ambitious one and while Lynam has managed to recruit about 13 or 14 members of the squad, they are still a long way off an ideal number of 20 plus.

While women's football has seen huge growth in Ireland in recent years, Lynam comments on how this is not the case throughout every age group.

"Up until certain age groups, around U17s/U18s level, life starts getting in the way. Social lives and work come into things. Especially at senior level as well people have families which can impact as well. We are looking at anyone 17 or older. We are just looking to accumulate enough players to keep the squad going."

"It can be done, look at teams from around the area. Leixlip for example have two squads and an overflow of players. I just think it's always harder setting up a new team from scratch like this. Once you have the team set up and you have the structure that will bring more players into it. The players coming behind us will keep supplementing as well. The hard part is getting the legs underneath it."

The team hopes to play in the EWFL for its first season back in 2026 and will be recruiting more players as the season goes on.

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Boxing

Olaniyan wins debut pro fight in 59 seconds

ADAM Olaniyan paid a visit to his old Jobstown Boxing Club following his debut professional win last weekend in the 3Arena, reports Michael Howley.

Boxing on the undercard of WBA Super Featherweight Champion Antony Cacace, Olaniyan dominated in his pro debut coming up against Jan Bezouska whom he dominated over the brief 59 second fight.

A native of Jobstown, Olaniyan spoke of the victory after the fight.

"It was great, the full arena, my family and friends. It was emotional walking to the ring but it is what I was born to do. On the stoppage, you couldn't ask for any better but I'm looking to progress and go bigger and better in the future."

"I don't think anyone in the world has seen what I'm capable of. I think the possibilities are endless."

His coach Paul Stevenson at Everton Red Triangle was also happy with the performance of his new protege.

"I was very impressed with him, it was a great night to have it for him. I liked the opponent. He came out to fight. It was over quickly but Adam was graceful, accurate and when the man rushed him picked clean shots and done what he should do which was get him out of there quick."

Olaniyan touched on the mentality headed into the contest.

"No nerves, I wasn't really too nervous because I knew what had gone into the training. We left nothing to chance so there was nothing to be nervous about."

After visiting Jobstown on Monday, Olaniyan has since returned to Liverpool where he begins a fight camp for his second professional bout.



Adam Olaniyan visited Jobstown Boxing Club after pro debut

Soccer

St Francis move into third place in league

ST FRANCIS FC moved into third in the LSL Senior Sunday when they saw off the challenge of St Mochtas last Friday night on a narrow 2-1 scoreline, reports John Mooney.

Jimmy McHugh had put the visitors in front on the stroke of half time, but the home side struck back after the restart, when Dylan Stack slotted home after 63 minutes and Sean O'Mahony-King bagged the winner in the 88th minute.

ALSO in the same Division, Lucan United suffered a home defeat at the hands of Inchicore Athletic when they went down on a 2-1 scoreline, meaning they failed to close the gap on leaders Malahide United.

Scott Mahon opened the scoring for the visitors after just four minutes and although Mark Byrne equalised in the second half, Dylan Barrett delivered what proved to be the winner in the 63rd minute.

IN DIVISION 1 Sunday, Crumlin United had to wait until the 85th minute for Anthony McKay to score to share the spoils in Ringsend Park against St Patrick's CY.

United had fallen behind just before the break, and the dropped points mean that Crumlin are now two points behind leaders Montpelier FC with a game extra played.

TEMPLEOGUE UNITED lead the way in Division 1A after a narrow 2-1 win over rock bottom Collinstown FC, although the chasing pack have games in hand.

Joseph Murphy set them on their way after seven minutes, but Collinstown hit back approaching the half hour mark.

The lads knew a draw would not be good and they had Robert Orr to thank as he delivered the winner in the 63rd minute, to keep the United flag flying high.

CHERRY ORCHARD are hanging just above the drop zone in the LSL Division 1B after a 3-1 defeat away to East Wall Bessborough. Leo Whelan with their goal in what has been a disappointing season so far.

IN THE UCFL, Ronanstown FC are cruising to the Division 2 title after win number 11 on the trot in the league, when they saw off Livorno Carpenterstown on a 3-0 scoreline.

The opening half of this tie was tight enough with very little happening, and they went in at the break 0-0.

However, when Jordan Payne crashed home the opened after 53 minutes this game was only going to end one way.

Payne was on the scoresheet again in the 70th minute, and that was followed by a Karl McCormack effort eight minutes later to wrap up the scoring.



Cherry Orchard lost out 3-1 to East Wall Bessborough



Crumlin United drew 1-1 with St Patrick's CY

Soccer

Long takes over managers role at Cherry Orchard



David Long has been named as the new manager of the Cherry Orchard senior team

DAVID Long has been named as new Cherry Orchard Senior manager for the remainder of the 2026 season, reports Michael Howley.

Long has a tough task at hand as he takes on a side which are struggling in Leinster Senior 1B at the minute, with a possibility of falling out of intermediate football.

Cherry Orchard currently sit in 12th place in the league with 16 points, three ahead of Castleknock Celtic and seven ahead of Newton Rangers.

The disadvantage for Cherry Orchard however is that they have played 21 games so far in the league, more than anyone else in the division and Castleknock have played 19 games, Newtown Rangers have played just 16.

A captain of the Irish Army International Football Team as well as a former player for both St Francis and Sacred Heart, Long has a long history involved in intermediate football as a player.

This is his first gig in Senior management however and while he is aware that he has been thrust into a challenging position, he is more than happy with the quality he has seen within the team already.

"100%, the flipside is that some of the 19s players are well capable also. What I did when I first came in was a full team meeting with all of the lads and laid out my stall and let them know what I was expecting from them. We then had an in house game between mixed teams of the Seniors and U19s. I was actually taken back by the quality of lads in the U19s, there were two or three lads who would be more than capable of stepping up. I am 100% confident that there is enough there between the two teams."

Long touched on importance of mentality ahead of the next few games.

"I told them in training, every game is a cup football from now on. It's not a thing of we are playing so-and-so team that are so many points ahead of us that it doesn't matter. It has to be won. Stroke that off the list and do that for the next game and the game after. It's a tough six games remaining no matter what. We aren't going to cover the cracks with paper, I'm being a realist. We know it's an uphill battle but we know what we have to do. Six cup finals. Can it be done? Looking at the players 100%, we definitely have the quality."

Kilnamanagh edge past Newtown test



Newtown couldn't get the better of ten man Kilnamanagh



Kilnamanagh Beat Newtown Rangers 2-0
Photos by Leslie Evans

KILNAMANAGH AFC's Major 1D Saturday side defeated Newtown Rangers with a 2-0 score getting them over the line, reports Michael Howley.

There would be plenty of action towards the end of the first half with Kilnamanagh finding the opening goal in the 42nd minute through Graham Moran with James Sullivan providing the assist.

Kilnamanagh nearly doubled their lead just a minute later as they were awarded a penalty just before halftime.

Unfortunately the attempt from Luke Harman did not find its way into the back of the net and the score at the interval remained 1-0.

Things appeared to take a negative turn in the second half with Kilnamanagh's Cian Ryan receiving marching orders after picking up two yellow cards in quick succession.

This set back did not dampen Kilnamanagh's attack however as the side pushed forward and found a second goal through Daniel Geraghty in the 63rd minute to double their lead.

Newtown Rangers would push on in desperate hope of any way to get themselves back into the game with both sides introducing several

pairs of fresh legs during the last 20 minutes of the fixture.

The score would remain 2-0 however with Newtown Rangers actually having a man sent off themselves in the 90th minute with Gerard Carroll receiving a straight red card.

The win leaves Kilnamanagh in fourth position in the league as they maintain their positive recent form.

With four wins out of their last five games, they sit fourth in the table on 28 points.

League leaders St John Bosco are on 34 with Leixlip and St Ita's on 31 and 30 respectively. Kilnamanagh can take solace however knowing that they have only played 13 games this season while Leixlip 16 and St Ita's have played 18.

Newton Rangers unfortunately remain languishing at the bottom of the division. 10 games played this season has seen them win one, draw two and lose seven.

Sat on five points they are one point ahead of Ballyfermot who remain at the bottom of the table and four points behind Baldoyle and Collinstown who are both on nine, directly above them.

Ballyer awarded FAI Club Mark Award

BALLYFERMOT United have been awarded the FAI Club Mark Award which sees them enter into the initiative at the entry stage, reports Michael Howley.

The mark initiative was set up by the FAI in order to establish a consistent level of coaching and management across all grassroots clubs which will hopefully elevate the overall standard of Irish football from the very bottom rung of the ladder.

Teams were given a deadline to pass the standards for being awarded the entry level mark by the end of December last year with Ballyfermot submitting their final application just a few days before Christmas.

The push for this achievement was organised by several members of the club with David Kavanagh in particular playing a key role, driving the movement and getting the club over the line.

If the club had failed to meet the mark criteria they would have faced severe ramifications such as being denied access to the DDSL for their youth sides.

Training involved coaches being involved in a number of workshops on their own time during evenings with some taking between three and six

hours to get through.

A three tiered system the entry level mark is followed by level one and level two awards with Club Mark officer David Kavanagh believing that Ballyfermot are well on track to gain the next rank.

"My goal now is to try to bring all the managers up to the next level again in training and things like that. There are a couple more hoops that need to be jumped but because of how much preparation we have already done in getting the initial mark award it isn't that big of a gap until we get to the next one. We didn't have to do as much work for it as we did so that has dramatically decreased the time until we can get to the next level up. For us that is the full priority at the minute. Why stop there, keep going even further and beyond."

"The kids benefit because the coaches have more training. Other kids will be looking to get involved. Coming away from the environment where you would be pulling managers and coaches out of the crowd of parents, instead you're making an environment where parents will bring their kids knowing that they will be well coached and trained by experienced qualified coaches."



Ballyfermot U7's



Ballyfermot U12's

Soccer

Under 15 schools girls team includes players from Kylemore College

THE Ireland Schools Girls Under 15s side travel to Belfast this weekend to take on Northern Ireland in the first leg of their 2026 Bob Docherty Cup clash, reports Michael Howley.

Head Coach Richard Berekely has confirmed a squad of 18 players for the tournament.

This includes local player Aoibhe Galvin of Kylemore College, Ballyfermot.

Northern Ireland will host the first leg in Newforge Sports Complex, Belfast this Sunday with a 1pm kick off while the second leg of the tournament will be held a week later on the 29th at Home Farm FC, Whitehall with a 2pm kick off.

Normally the tournament also consists of Scotland and England though both nations were unable to field teams this year leaving the two games against Northern Ireland the only matches that will be played for 2026.

Head coach Berekely spoke on the upcoming fixture.

"I think we're all really looking forward to the games. While it's disappointing that there is no tournament this year, these two games against Northern Ireland will provide a great challenge for us. The recent matches have been very close so we're expecting the same again. After a long assessment process, with some difficult decisions, we have finalised our squad and hopefully we have a squad that can represent our school's international team with pride, determination and quality".

Ireland have an excellent record in the competition. Over the past 24 years the trophy has been contested 22 times with the Republic of Ireland winning nine, Scotland winning seven, England winning three, Northern Ireland winning two and Wales winning once.

It's the first taste of International football for most of these players and plenty of senior international stars in the future will play in this competition.

Notable past players include another Ballyfermot native, Jessie Stapleton, Kilnamanagh native Katie McCabe and former Peamount captain and Ireland stalwart Karen Duggan to name just a few.

The 18 players selected will represent 17 different schools from Dublin, Wexford, Galway, Tipperary, Donegal, Mayo, Kildare and Louth

'We were off our levels' against Droogs - Bradley

THE League of Ireland had a double game week last weekend with Shamrock Rovers making two away trips to Sligo and Drogheda respectively reports Michael Howley.

The game in Sligo saw Rovers pick up three points thanks to two goals just before halftime from Matthew Healy and Danny Grant.

The game in Drogheda is a frustrating one for the Hoops with a 0-0 scoreline meaning that the points were shared.

Rovers never really threatened throughout the game with Victor Ozhianvuna and Adam Brennan coming closest for the side throughout though the game was devoid of any real

chances.

Perhaps even more worryingly was that Rovers did not dominate possession or the flow of the game the way that they would be used to and Drogheda were the better team for extended spells.

While Rovers will view the fixture as points lost, based on the performance it could realistically be viewed as a point gained with Drogheda failing to utilise any sort of clinical edge.

The results over the weekend leave Rovers in third place with the top three teams all winning Friday and drawing Monday's game leaving the table unchanged.

Stephen Bradley spoke after the

game.

"I don't think we did anywhere near enough to win the game but neither did Drogheda. It was a pretty poor game to be honest. We were slow and sloppy in every aspect, decision making, tempo and moving the ball as well as final third

decisions. Sometimes it happens and it has happened tonight."

"There was a couple of half chances but there was never enough to win the game. We were poor, we've been good recently but tonight we weren't. We were off our levels."



Danny Grant in action for Rovers against Drogheda



Aaron Greene battling for possession during the Drogheda United match
Photos Una Murray

St Pat's continue good run of form

ST PATRICK'S Athletic have continued their run of good form in the league with a win and a draw over the course of last weekend, reports Michael Howley.

They battered Drogheda on Friday night with a resounding 4-1 win at Richmond Park.

Drogheda actually took the lead after the first five minutes after a shrewd counter attack which had Pats down early on in the game.

The remainder of the half would be a fairly drab affair with Brandon Kavanagh's shot against former teammate Joseph Anang doing little to trouble the goalkeeper who kept the score at 1-0 heading into the interval.

Ryan Edmonson would again get himself on the scoresheet after a goalmouth scramble appeared to be poked over the line by himself to make the score 1-1.

Anang would be called back into action shortly after as he made a save to deny another former Pats player, Mark Doyle from the penalty spot.

Pats would take the lead themselves then after Aidan

Kenna converted a penalty of their own, making no mistake as he slotted it into the bottom left corner.

A goal from Kian Leavy minutes after seemed to write Drogheda totally out of the game and the fourth, coming from Romal Palmer was the icing on the cake.

The team received a reality check of sorts however on Monday evening after the Jubilations of Friday.

Again playing in Richmond Park Pats hosted Derry City in a game that ended 0-0.

The best chance of the game came all the way in the 75th minute with Sean Hoare's attempted header just wide of the post.

The game was devoid of chances for both sides and other than Hoare's header and a goalmouth scramble in the 88th minute it never really looked like Pats were going to put the ball in the back of the net.

Despite the lackluster game, they still kept a clean sheet and still find themselves second in the table.

They next play Waterford away this Friday.



Glory Nzingo is tackled by James McClean during the game between St Patrick's Athletic and Derry City
Photo by Martin Doherty



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