

ISSUE 39

APR/MAY 2023

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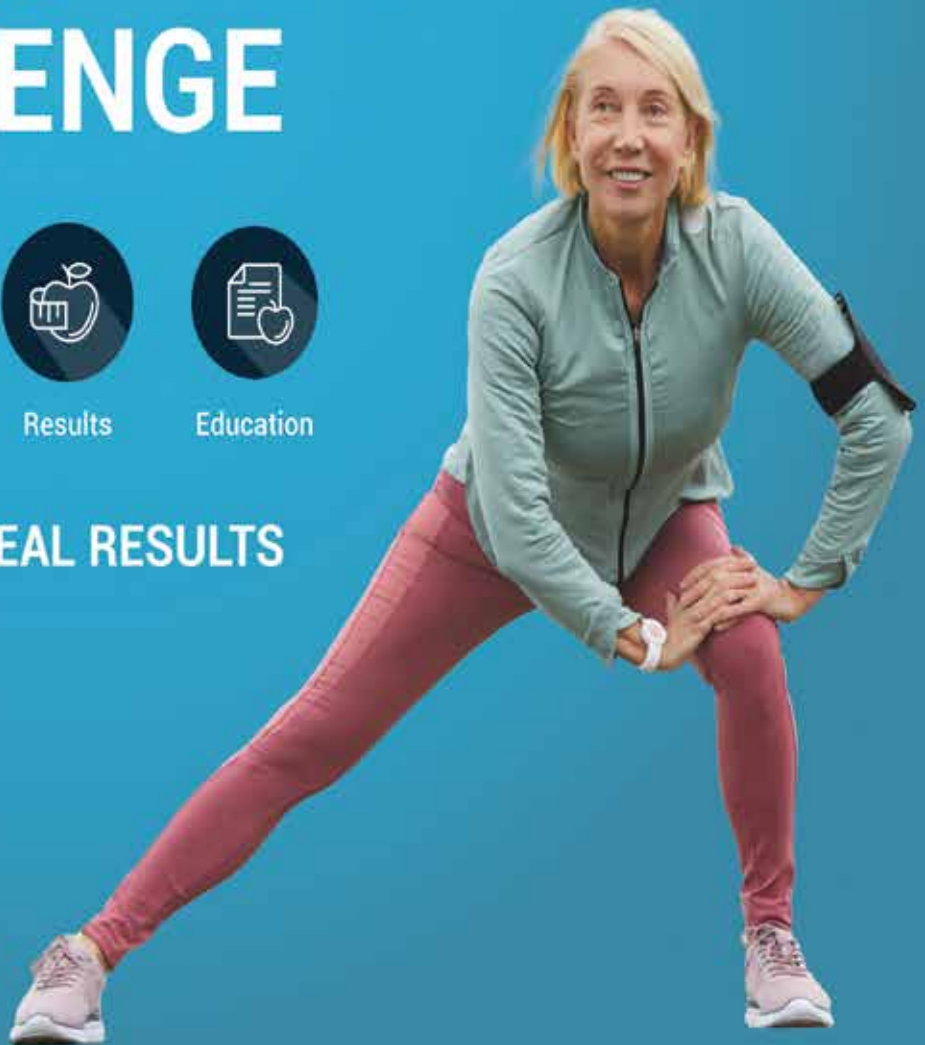


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EDITORIAL

April, come she will. When streams are ripe and swelled with rain'. So goes the Paul Simon song. It's been swelled with rain so far, but the optimists still predict a dry hot summer. We shall see!

Whatever the weather Little Village will be here to bring you the latest stories from your area.

Our readers like to hear about local history and local events so if you have stories to tell or upcoming events we would be delighted to share them on our widely distributed and well-read magazine. Send by email to littlevillagenewsdesk@gmail.com.

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Ronan Bright
Director / Head of Sales
brightronan83@gmail.com
085 199 8321



Patrick Browne
Graphic Design
hello@patrickbrownedesign.com
086 831 9322

LITTLE VILLAGE MAGAZINE

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- ➔ Improving the provision and safety of local active travel infrastructure so that leaving your car at home is a viable option.
- ➔ Helping to bring communities together and assisting them with improving where they live.
- ➔ Providing clean and safe streets and public spaces.



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Limelawn Wood, Clonsilla



Oakview Lawn, Clonsilla



Pinebrook Heights, Clonsilla



Littlepace View, Clonee



Latchford Park, Clonee



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Some updates on my representation



Councillor JK ONWUMEREH

Your Fianna Fáil Councillor for Mulhuddart, Corduff, Waterville, Tyrrelstown, Hollystown, Meakstown, Lanesborough Communities. (Blanchardstown – Mulhuddart LEA)

Dear Resident,

Here are a few updates on my recent representation. I intend to intensify effort to ensure that infrastructure, amenities, and services are delivered to residents. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance.

Working to secure bus shelter in James Connolly hospital

I am happy to inform you that in response to a representation I recently made the National Transport Authority (NTA) is currently collaborating with Connolly Hospital and the HSE to provide bus shelters on the Blanchardstown Hospital campus at bus stop numbers 7297 and 7298. The NTA has confirmed to me that the Hospital Authorities agree in principle for planning permission to be sought for the bus shelter. The NTA bus shelter contractors are preparing the planning drawings for submission to Fingal County Council to seek permission to install the bus shelters.

It will be a relief to visitors to the campus that hosts the James Connolly Hospital and St Francis Hospice who are often left to the mercy of the rains and intemperate weather because of lack of bus shelters. Often, these people are sick or have visited a critically ill relation. Thanks to Executives and stakeholders who were generous with their time to discuss this representation. I will keep residents updated on this project.

people under the age of 20 years who do not have this essential life skill and who are living in Fingal.

Considering the prohibitive amount required to provide swimming classes, this motion was considered critical as part of a cost-of-living alleviation programme. It would also help equip young people with the essential swimming skills, especially as the good weather approaches – increasing the temptation for many to be drawn to our beaches and swimming pools. Delighted to announce that the Council are working with Swim Ireland, the National Governing Body for the Aquatics in Ireland, to explore ways in which the Council can support swimming opportunities for the citizens of Fingal. In line with this, an agreement has recently been reached between the Council and Swim Ireland to appoint a “Get Fingal Swimming” Officer for the County. Once this officer is in place, the Council will work with Swim Ireland and this newly agreed co-funded Swim Officer to determine how the Council can best support swimming classes across the county, working with all relevant partners.



Targeted Swimming Classes

I am grateful to Fingal Councillors who unanimously supported my recent motion presented at full Council in March 2023 to roll out of a free or subsidised targeted swimming classes for young

Addressing Housing Development

Housing amongst many other objectives continue to be my priority as a councillor.

The launch recently of the Churchfields Housing in Mulhuddart and the Cluid Housing project in Ladyswell by then Taoiseach Micheál Martin delivered 67 and 65 new builds respectively. The

1,000 homes Churchfields projects which is an initiative of the Fingal County Council in partnership with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage is coming along great and offering hope of much needed housing delivery in the LEA. Mixed housing options on offer include: Affordable Purchase Homes, Cost Rental Homes, Social Homes.

Last year, the government delivered nearly 30 thousand new homes across the country, the largest delivery in many years. And for a fifth consecutive year the overall number of households on local authority waiting lists continue to decrease. I will continue to work with my colleagues and the council to address the housing situation.



Register to Vote

Do you know that you can now register to be on the Voter Register when you are 16 years old. When you turn 18 years you will be issued a voter card to participate in the next local or general election. To register:

- *Go to [Checktheregister.ie](https://checktheregister.ie),
- *Click on the dropdown,
- *Select Fingal County Council and
- *Click 'Next'.
- *Then type in your address and postcode
- *Then type in your names and search.

Opening of St Patrick's Senior School Building

I attended the official opening of the new state-of-the-art school building for St Patrick's Senior School in Corduff recently with my Fianna Fáil party colleague and Minister for Transport Jack Chambers TD, An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar TD and many members of the community. The new school building provides a fantastic community facility which promises so much for students, teachers & the wider community in Corduff. Congratulations to everyone involved especially Principal Mary O'Riordan and other stakeholders.



Meakestown Community Centre and Lanesborough Park

I joined my colleagues recently to perform the Turning of the Sod ceremony for the new state-of-the-art Meakestown Community Centre at the site of the Centre in Lanesborough Park. The centre is going to make a lot of difference in the area by providing a hub for community activities. It will cater for a wide-range of community, recreational, education and sporting activities in the area.



The Lanesborough Park upgrade is also due to commence in the coming weeks and altogether, the beautiful park and community centre are going to be great facilities for the Meakestown Community.

Heathfield Estate



I continue to put in representation for the completion of works in the Heathfield Estate in Dublin 11. I am working with the council managers to get the developer to complete the unfinished work to facilitate the taking in charge by Fingal County Council. I will keep residents updated on progress.

Clinics:



Please feel free to contact by phone (0899642783) or email (jk.onwumereh@cllr.fingal.ie) if you would like to schedule a meeting to discuss any matter of interest.

Councillor JK Onwumereh works with Minister Jack Chambers TD and Councillors Howard Mahoney and Tom Kitt.

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Councillor

John Walsh

Phone: 087 6486228 Email: john.walsh@cllrs.fingal.ie  @JohnWalshDWest

Dear Resident

I am giving some updates on work which I have been doing recently in our area.. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance.

John

SCHOOLS

NO TIMESCALE FOR CASTLEKNOCK COMMUNITY COLLEGE NEW BUILDING

The Minister for Education promised a new Extension for CCC in 2021 when the school agreed to take an additional 30 students per year for five years to guarantee places for all children in the Carpenterstown/Castleknock area.

It is deeply disappointing that no progress whatsoever has been made in delivering the new Extension, which was meant to be completed by 2024. The Education and Training Board submitted the required schedule for the new building only in February 2023 and the Department of Education has failed even to appoint a Design Team or give any timescale for completion of this new building. This delay will have a devastating impact on CCC's ability to provide sufficient school places for our children from 2024 and will also stop the school proceeding with vital special classes for autistic children. The Minister should intervene to guarantee a Rapid Build development for CCC and outline a timescale for completion urgently.

DANU COMMUNITY SPECIAL SCHOOL

The current location for **Danu Community Special School** on the same site as Rath Dara Community College is unfair to both school communities. The building is poorly designed for autistic children and the location is unsafe for children in the school. I am campaigning for the Department of Education to provide a permanent, purpose built building for Danu at the Institute of Horology, Blanchardstown.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATES

The new Fingal Development Plan was adopted by Councillors in February and will come into effect in April. A few brief updates from the Development Plan:

- The Local Objective prohibiting construction of an overbridge from St Mochta's Grove/ Stationcourt to Riverwood Court was reinstated in the Development Plan when a motion that I put forward was agreed.
- I also got agreement for a new Local Objective to ensure a pedestrian and cycle link close to Granard Bridge. A new bridge on the Laurel Lodge side of Granard Bridge is crucial to provide for safe access at this bridge for walkers and cyclists.
- Unfortunately, there was a very disappointing outcome on the Royal Canal when the Council rejected my motion for a 30 metre ecological corridor on each side of the Royal Canal by one vote, when Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil Councillors voted to reject it.



PROGRAMME OF WORKS 2023

The Programme of Works approved by Councillors in February 2023 includes significant investment on parks and open spaces in Dublin 15. Please let me know if you would like to get more detail of other works for your area.

PARKS & OPEN SPACES

Blanchardstown

- Upgrade of existing pollinator bed in Blanchardstown Village.
- Stone wall to be built around new Pollinator - Blanchardstown Road Traffic Lights.
- Benches for Hazel Lawn (2) and Summerfield Rise (2).
- Replanting of planters, Blakestown Community Centre.
- Bulbs & Wildflowers at Fire Station Coolmine.

Castleknock & Carpenterstown

- College Gate Tennis Courts - Overlay plus lining.
- New Pollinator Beds at College Grove on second Open Space; Tir na nOg name stone beside roundabout; Maple Avenue; Carpenter Roundabout; Laverna; Bramley; Ashleigh (beside bus stop).
- Laurel Lodge at Parklands along Roadway - Bed clean up & replant
- Wildflowers - Riverwood Copse
- Landscaping works - Laurel Lodge, Oaktree & Laverna.
- Benches for Auburn Green (1), Park Avenue (1), Delwood Park (3) and Brompton (1).

Clonsilla

- Pollinator Beds on Clonsilla Road Lower & Windermere/Aldermere.
- Pollinator Beds at Clonsilla roundabout, St. Mochta's NS and Coolmine Lawn.

Ongar

- Wildflowers & Trees - Manorfields Roundabout and Beechfield Roundabout.
- 5 benches.
- Widening of existing paths on Hazelbury Green.
- New dig path from Allendale to Ravenswood.

Hartstown & Huntstown

- Widening existing paths on Rusheeney Green.
- Pollinator bed at Huntstown Rise and hedge at Huntstown Lawn at rear of laurel hedge.
- New paths on Cherryfield Close and Willow Wood Lawn to Hartstown Road.
- Widening of existing path - Cherryfield Park.
- Barrier Planting/hedging at Ashfield Green.

Mulhuddart

- Concrete Path Replacement - Corduff Green to Crescent in the Park.
- Pollinator bed at Mulhuddart roundabout.
- Wildflower and pollinator bedding at Meakstown.

PUBLIC LIGHTING

- Solar light at Sheepmoor Lane (off Coolmine Road).
- Completion of second phase of existing works at Porterstown Road (Castleknock Hotel).
- Pedestrian way lights at Manorfields Drive.

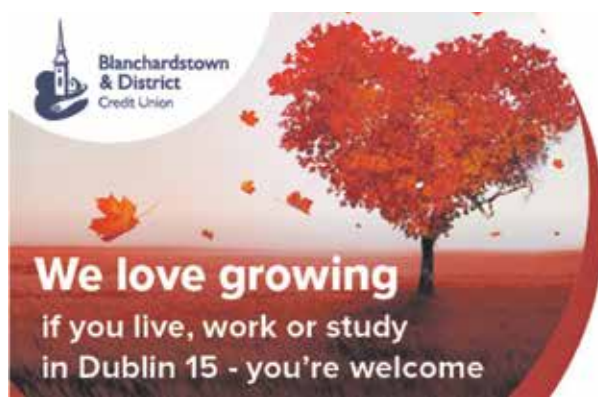


Your History - Your Home

Mulhuddart by Mike Power

Mulhuddart sits squarely on the border between Co Dublin and Co Meath. Nowadays, sited on a bridge over the river Tolka ('tuilte' or flood..), it sits in a landscape dotted with hi-tech companies like IBM, industrial estates and adjacent to the modern Dublin suburbs of Castleknock, Damastown and Clonsilla. Small though it be, Mulhuddart ('The milking place') has a very interesting pedigree and history.

You get some sense of how ancient a settlement this village is from the many old Norman names after which local town lands are named: Buzzardstown ('Bossant'), Tyrellstown ('Tayloir'), Parlicktown ('Palleur') and Luttrellstown ('Leuter'). The Tolka river has shaped local history here too from its regular flooding events and to powering the old Mulhuddart Mill (1836) which ground the corn of local farmers here



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for decades until the 1940s.

In the 1690s religious wars, some Williamites (Protestants), sheltering in the nearby old church, were cruelly murdered by the opposing Jacobites (Catholics). Legend has it that they were sleeping at the time and their ghosts still haunt the old Abbey, seeking revenge for this atrocious sectarian act.

In the 18th century there was a major shrine to the Virgin Mary located in the abbey here, with many lady days festivals being held in Her honour..(e.g. Oct 1760). Before Catholic emancipation was won by Daniel O'Connell in 1829 and when church-attendance was forbidden these rural holy wells provided a focus for religious devotion and often were centres of healing too, drawing large crowds to the pilgrimage. By all accounts these meetings were lively affairs with fights often breaking out after copious drinking sessions !! The local

authorities were keen to restore order and promptly outlawed this regular religious event, much to the chagrin of regular, devoted attendees.

One famous Mullhuddart man you may not know of, was Bertie Donnelly, who owned the Shanty pub in the village back in the 1930s.

This building sat next to the bridge in the village and had a thatched roof. The Shanty pub was a fixture in local social life attracting many Mulhuddertites(?) as well as folk from outlying places for craic and 'diversion'!

Donnelly represented Ireland in the sprint cycling Olympic finals of 1928. He was a grocer and a wine and spirit merchant born in Sherrif St, Dublin and by all accounts was a gentleman, ever ready to answer questions about his Olympic endeavours.

I wonder do any readers have memories of Bertie or the Shanty pub..? Do get in touch if you have.

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Minister O’Gorman launches Parent and Toddler Group Grants Initiative 2023

Minister for Children, Disability, Equality, Integration and Youth, Roderic O’Gorman, today launched the Parent and Toddler Group Grants Initiative 2023. The Minister has secured funding of €250,000, which will be allocated to Parent and Toddler Groups nationwide through local City/County Childcare Committees (CCCs). From today, Parent and Toddler Groups are invited to make an application for funding under this Initiative through their local CCC.

This year the emphasis will be on supporting Parent and Toddler Groups that offer a welcome to families who are newly arrived in Ireland.

Following from the success of the additional funding streams in last year’s Initiative, the Parent and Toddler Group Grants Initiative 2023 will again offer three streams of funding:

1. Funding of €800 for existing groups and €1,100 for the establishment of new groups.

2. Funding of up to €300 is available to establish and operate Buggy Walking Groups. These Buggy Walking Groups are organised social walks for parents/guardians and young children. The grant is open to any existing or new organisations or groups who wish to offer a minimum of six organised walks within their community

3. Additional funding of up to €300 is available for new or existing Parent and Toddler Groups to provide a second session to meet demand.



Conditions apply and the CCCs are available to discuss requirements with new and existing groups. In announcing this year's Parent and Toddler Grant

laughing while playing with other children' are some of the other positive comments."

Minister O'Gorman said:

"Parent and Toddler Groups provide a great meeting place for parents/guardians with young children to relax and chat together in a supportive environment while their children play. I want to thank all the groups that are offering a welcome and friendship to parents and children in their communities as well as those newly arrived to Ireland. I am delighted to be able to support this work."

Groups, including many Family Resource Centres across the country, have opened their doors to families from Ukraine. Kenmare Family Resource Centre runs a weekly successful and inclusive Parent and Toddler Group.

Máire Ui Leime the Centre's coordinator shared some feedback from Ukrainian parents using the group:

"Ukrainian parents have told me that they find it great to come to the Parent and Toddler Group as it is so welcoming and they can either sit quietly or take part.

"'We can forget the war'; 'we can leave our troubles outside the door' and 'it is great to hear the children

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Increased National Childcare Scheme subsidies

Since January, subsidies under the National Childcare Scheme increased to €1.40 per hour of childcare, per child. This is an increase of 90c on the previous rate and means that parents using full-time registered early learning and childcare services will benefit from an average 25% reduction in their childcare costs.

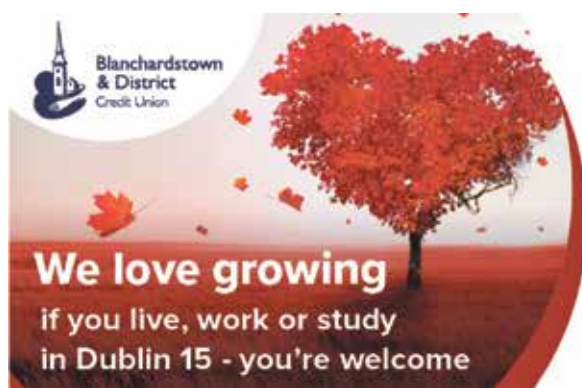
Welcoming the increased subsidies under the National Childcare Scheme, Minister Roderic O’Gorman said:

“Since being appointed Minister for Children, I made clear my intention to make childcare more affordable for parents, and with this increase in the National Childcare Scheme subsidy, due to the additional €121m I secured in Budget 2023, I am delivering on that promise.

This week, I announced that more than 105,000 children, and their families, are benefitting from the National Childcare Scheme – an increase of 95%

compared to this time last year. I’m delighted that the increased subsidies have led to a huge growth in demand for the NCS, meaning more parents than ever are getting more affordable childcare.

I’ve spoken to a number of parents across the constituency who have told me how beneficial these increased savings on childcare are for them and their family. Many parents who felt they had to choose between childcare and returning to work have said that they now feel that they can do both. I want to continue supporting families with children, and will be working within Government on how we can bring even further affordability for parents in future budgets.”



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CAREPLUS PHARMACY OPENS ITS NEWEST DUBLIN STORE

CarePlus Pharmacy has officially opened its new Clonsilla store, the group's ninth outlet in Dublin. Owner and supervising pharmacist Tom Ginnetty created seven new jobs as he built a team of experienced professionals to serve the local community.

The new store offers a full range of prescription medicines and OTC remedies as well as all the supplements and skincare products families need to help keep them feeling their best. A full range of services such as 24-hour blood pressure monitoring, vaccinations, BMI measurements, medication management, blister packs and medication reviews are also available. The team have already made an impact in the community with their in-store charity cycling event for the Irish Heart Foundation last month.

Dublin native Tom says he was attracted to the CarePlus Pharmacy brand: "I have 25 years' experience in the retail pharmacy industry, so when I saw the CarePlus Pharmacy offering I knew it

was something different. I know the support and professionalism they bring as a company will help to create great opportunities for myself and the team. Our location opposite the new Lidl store in Clonsilla is excellent and I can't wait to start rolling out a range of great healthcare services for the community".

Niamh Lynch from CarePlus Pharmacy congratulated Tom on the new store: "We are delighted to have Tom and his team working with us. He knows the area inside out and he has really exciting plans for what this store can offer. Clonsilla is a great location with its combination of established neighbourhoods and new developments whose residents will need services like Tom's on their doorstep. We'd like to officially welcome Tom and his team to the group and wish them the very best for the store".

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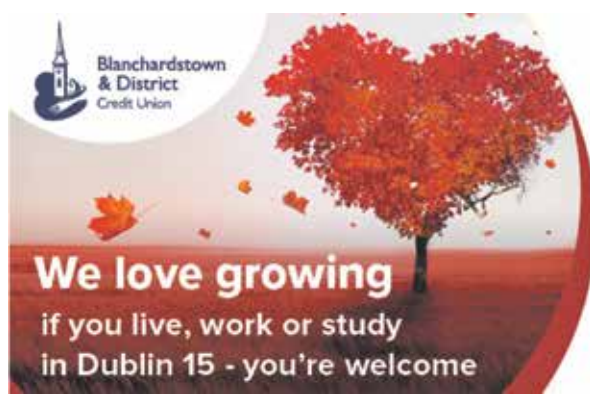
by Mike Power.

Blanchardstown Shopping Centre was opened in October 1996, making it 27 yrs old this coming October. Construction was delayed until the new Navan Road was in place , and an anchor tenant (Dunnes Stores) secured. Originally, the centre offered 635,000 sq feet of retail space, making it by far the largest retail outlet in the country.

Concerns about the competition offered by the neighbouring Liffey Valley Centre (opened 1998) , proved groundless, and the 'Blanche', as colloquially-called , soon found a cherished place in the hearts of Irish shoppers. The centre has also always been a draw for shoppers countrywide ,with it's easy access from the M50, and its policy of free parking especially popular with consumers.

The name Blanchardstown comes from the Blanchard ('white or fair hair') family who received their estate here sometime between 1250-60. The family originally hails from Lancashire, England, their family seat being Grimsbargh Hall. Interestingly, in 1685 this area was also called Blancheston, in homage to some continentals who had settled in this particular part of west Dublin.

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was once a wild and thickly-wooded area, home to wild boar, deer and packs of wolves .i.e. the Scaldwood. This great forest once stretched from the river Tolka to beyond Coolmine. The numbers of these latter animals grew so numerous as to threaten humans in the middle 17th cent., and a wolf-cull was proclaimed .While hunting in this forest had

always been the preserve of the landed gentry, the bounty on these unfortunate animals fed and housed many of the native Irish population too in those straightened times.

Thankfully, today, most patrons of the 'Blanche' are only interested in hunting down some bargains!

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Get Ready for a Summer Full of Dog-Friendly Events with Village Vets Castleknock Pet Safety Tips

As the weather warms up, many of us are eager to bring our furry friends along on outdoor adventures. From festivals to picnics, there are plenty of dog-friendly events happening this summer.

However, before you head out, it's important to consider your pet's safety. That's why Clodagh O'Dea, a veterinary surgeon at Village Vets Castleknock, is sharing some essential pet safety tips.

- Keep pets on a leash at all times
- Bring plenty of water and a bowl for your pet
- Ensure your pet is wearing proper identification and is up-to-date on vaccinations
- Provide a safe and shaded area for your pet to rest
- Avoid feeding your pet unfamiliar food or treats
- Keep a close eye on your pet and watch for signs of distress or discomfort
- Yellow Ribbon Project: Should your dog be anxious or need more space, please tie a yellow ribbon around their lead/collar as a signal to others.

Speaking of events, you won't want to miss this year's

Pups in The Park on April 22nd and 23rd. Village Vets will have their friendly vets and nurses on-site to answer any questions and provide free veterinary advice. You can even check out their real Pet Ambulance and let your children experience the role of a vet with the teddy bear surgery and real surgery scrubs and stethoscopes.

Plus, experts from the pet industry will be speaking at the Leader Chin-Wag Talk Stage and giving valuable tips to make your pet's life better.

Clodagh O'Dea, veterinary surgeon at Village Vets Castleknock, added, "Make sure to stop by the Village Vets stand and say hello. We're here to answer all your questions and provide the best advice to keep your pet safe and healthy."

We can't wait to see you and your furry friends at Pups in The Park! Remember to follow these safety tips and have a paw-some time.



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STEP INTO NATURE IN DUBLIN 15

This February has seen the planting of Stepping Stone Forests in Dublin 15 through an initiative supported by local Councillor, Pamela Conroy.

Stepping Stone Forests are being rolled out in Dublin 15 through Blakestown Drive Community Group's project, Citi Verde – "Imaging an Urban Oasis". The project sees volunteer groups coming together to create an oasis of pocket forests in a number of schools in Dublin 15.

The project began last Autumn with soil preparation in the participating schools. This stage involved laying cardboard on the ground, taking care not to leave any gaps between the pieces. Before going on the ground, the cardboard had to have all plastic tape removed as it does not disintegrate. A thick layer of woodchip mulch was then put on top of the cardboard. Preparing the soil in this way helps to suppress weeds, and retain moisture in the ground, supporting the growth of the trees and shrubs once they are planted.

In February, students, school staff, and volunteers from local community groups including Blakestown Drive Community Group, Laurel Lodge Environmental Group and Blanchardstown Gardening Group, came together to plant the forests. We were once again supported by volunteer groups from Clondalkin and Tallaght where Stepping Stone Forests began.

Over twenty species of native trees and shrubs were densely planted at each site. The dense planting is modelled on the method devised by Professor Akira Miyawaki, which leads to rapid growth of the trees and shrubs as they compete for light. This results in self-sustaining forests in two to three years which support

birds, animals and insects as well as providing a natural haven in a small area.

The trees were planted in a horseshoe shape at Blakestown Community School, Luttrellstown Community College, Ladyswell National School and Scoil Mhuire Senior National School. They will provide these schools with an outdoor classroom space as the pocket forests grow. Linear planting was also done at St Luke's National School in Tyrrelstown.

By the end of February, the students, school staff and volunteers had planted 2445 native trees and shrubs in Dublin 15. All these Stepping Stone Forests planted in Dublin 15 have been funded by AWS InCommunities.

It has been a pleasure working on this project and I am looking forward to seeing the pocket forests as they grow, and also working on new sites. I recently had a motion agreed at a Council Area Committee Meeting asking Fingal County Council to engage with the group to select a site, or sites, on council owned land that are suitable for preparing and planting for the 2023/2024 season. I will be following up with the Council on this.

If you would like to get involved in the 2023/2024 season, please email info@steppingstoneforest.org or pamela.conroy@cllrs.fingal.ie.

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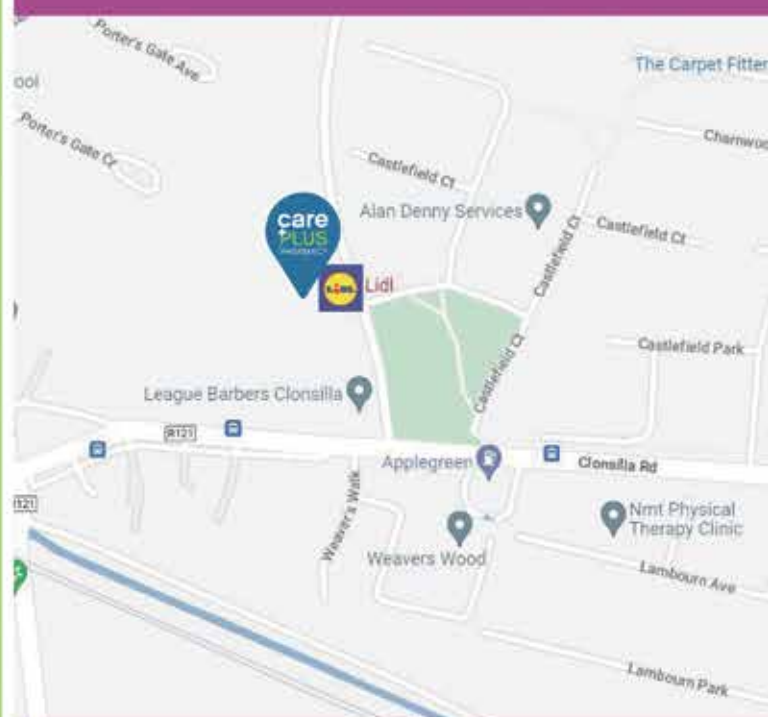


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Home energy upgrade looks at the overall effect of a combination of energy measures, which are designed in such a way that they work together successfully. The retrofit is done once, and it is done right and starts with an assessment of your home's current energy performance. The next steps are:

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We measure the u-Value of every element of your building fabric – walls, floor, attic, windows, and doors – to ensure that the overall thermal performance meets minimum standard. If this falls short, several insulation measures are available – wall insulation, roof insulation, floor insulation, window, and door upgrades.

Airtightness

Insulation will seal the house from a thermal point of view, but unwanted draughts can undo much of the hard work and expense of this insulation upgrade. A leaky house, particularly in the winter months, means cold spots and higher bills. An airtightness test will confirm if the retrofit is meeting required standards.

Ventilation

A well-ventilated home is a healthy home. The purpose of sealing a draughty house is not to stop the exchange of fresh air but rather to control it. There are two distinct options – demand-controlled ventilation and mechanical heat recovery – and the choice of which to install depends on the home and budget. Both systems provide fresh air and moisture control to kitchens and bathrooms, as well as neutralising many unwanted odours.

What does it cost?

Costs range from €25,000 for a typical house built since 2000 to €75,000 or more for older, larger, or more complex homes. It's a significant investment so an SEAI grant is available to support you to do this. This can reduce the cost by more than €25,000.

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People Before Profit representatives call for the opening up of vacant homes

People Before Profit representatives Gino Kenny TD and Cllr Madeleine Johansson are calling on vacant homes to be opened up as a matter of urgency. One of the properties they have highlighted is located in North Clondalkin and has been vacant for about 2 years.

The home is owned by the company Xerico Ltd which in turn is owned by a fund based in Luxembourg. The fund called LRC RE-1, together with its subsidiaries, owns at least another 689 homes in Dublin alone. The People Before Profit representatives will be working with local residents to demand that this property is returned to use as soon as possible, or that it be Compulsory Purchased by South Dublin County Council.

Gino Kenny TD commented: "It's absolutely outrageous that we have vacant homes in the middle of the worst housing crisis in the history of the state. There is no reason to leave a home empty

for a long period of time. These faceless vulture funds have bought up large numbers of houses in Dublin and are now leaving some of them empty."

Cllr Madeleine Johansson added: "As a tenant facing eviction it makes me furious to see these vacant homes. There are very few properties available to rent at the moment in Dublin while there's thousands of people homeless. There are also thousands of tenants with eviction notices who will have nowhere to go after the government ends the eviction ban at the end of March. Every single vacant home must be brought back into use immediately or compulsory purchased by local authorities for social housing."



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Minister O'Gorman publishes Spotlight report on Young People's Participation in Youth Organisations

Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Roderic O'Gorman, has today (28 February 2023) published a report, which collates available data on young people's participation in youth organisations.

Speaking about this report, Minister O'Gorman said

"We know that participation in youth services is one of the key ways to enable young people to overcome adverse circumstances, and achieve their full potential, by strengthening their personal and social competencies. Today's report provides us with key data on young people's participation in youth organisations based on factors such as financial situation, housing tenure and disability, that will inform the ongoing implementation of youth-related policies and strategies. It also helps us track how we compare with our European Union neighbours and I am happy to note that young people's participation in youth organisations in Ireland over the last decade has remained relatively high compared to European averages."

This report on Young People's Participation in Youth Organisations is the ninth report in a series of Statistical Spotlights. These Spotlight publications are topical in nature and of interest to both specialist and general readers. The data is sourced from European surveys and from Growing Up in Ireland, the national longitudinal study on children and young people.

Some of the key findings from the report are:

Young people's participation in youth organisations in Ireland over the last decade has remained relatively high compared to European averages.

In 2021, 23% of 16-30-year-olds in Ireland reported having ever joined a youth organisation, compared to 14% in the EU27 as a whole.

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In Ireland and the EU27, males and females had similar rates of participation in youth organisations, with participation slightly higher for males than females in 2021, the most recent survey year.

In both Ireland and the EU27, younger people (15-19-year-olds) had higher percentages of participation in youth organisations than those who were older (20-30-year-olds).

In both Ireland and the EU27, young people who were still studying had higher percentages of participation in youth organisations than those whose education had ceased.

In the EU27, a higher percentage of self-employed respondents reported that they had ever joined a youth organisation compared to other groups of respondents – employee, manual worker, or not working.

The percentage of 15-30-year-olds in Ireland who participated in a youth organisation was highest for respondents living in small/mid-size towns when compared to those living in rural villages or large towns.

In Ireland, where the household financial situation was categorised as “not enough money for basic bills”, a higher percentage of respondents reported

that they had ever joined a youth organisation compared to those in other household financial situations.

In the EU27, the percentage of 16-30-year-olds who had ever joined a youth organisation was significantly higher among respondents who speak more than one European language than among those who speak only one or none.

From young people in the “Growing Up in Ireland” study:

More 13-year-old females (36%) participated in youth clubs compared to males (32%). 17/18-year-old and 20-year-old males and females reported similar levels of participation in youth clubs.

Children from households with lower annual incomes reported more participation in youth clubs than children from households with higher annual incomes.

Young people’s participation in youth clubs was greater for those living in rented housing than those living in owned housing.

More 17-year-olds and 20-year-olds with no disability participated in youth clubs compared to those with a disability.

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Beauty and the Beast

From the 28th to the 30th of March, transition year students at Edmund Rice College performed Disney's Beauty and the Beast musical in aid of Barretstown, a charity that provides therapeutic recreation programs for children and families affected by serious illness.

The musical, which featured talented young performers, was an amazing success and raised a significant amount of money for the charity.

The hard work put in by the students, their parents, and teachers was exceptional. The students spent countless hours rehearsing and perfecting their performances, while their parents and teachers provided support and guidance

throughout the process. Together, they created a musical that was both entertaining and memorable for all.

Not only was this musical a great opportunity for the students to showcase their talents, but it was also a chance for them to give back to the community. By raising money for Barretstown, the students are helping to provide vital support to children and families affected by serious illness.

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You can also connect with us on our social media platforms - Facebook: Castleknock Sister Shed and Instagram: Castleknock_Sister_Shed. There is also a main group on Facebook of all the sheds collectively with almost 7 thousand women connected and is open to all who would like to connect and can be found under The Sister's Sheds.

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Safer Internet Day 2023



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Social media companies must face up to their responsibilities

Social media companies must face up to their responsibilities, Fine Gael TD Emer Higgins has said.

Deputy Emer Higgins, Dublin Mid-West TD and Fine Gael spokesperson on social media, called on social media platforms to face up to their responsibility for children using their platforms, following an alarming study released by CyberSafe Kids to mark Safer Internet Day 2023.

Deputy Higgins said: "This study found that half of children 8-12-years-old already feel, at their young age, that they spend too much time online which is a real cause for concern in terms of internet addiction.

"And even more concerning is that almost a quarter of children have seen content on the internet they would not want their parents to know about," added Deputy Higgins.

"Social media platforms have age limits, but the facts are they are not policed because we know that children as young as 8-years-old are using these platforms and seeing content that would be distressing or damaging even for an adult, never mind a child.

"We know the algorithms on many social media platforms feed off of negative and abusive content. It's where they make their most money and unless we put maximum pressure on social media platforms to protect young people on their platforms and protect them from harmful content then nothing will change," Deputy Higgins continued.

"Cybersafe Kids has joined forces with the National Parents Council to launch a new campaign called 'Same Rules Apply'.

"This campaign calls on parents to approach parenting

children online in the same way that they are parented offline.

"And while I really welcome parents being encouraged to take a more hands-on role in their children's time online, I also think it's very important that we don't place all the responsibility on parents while allowing social media companies to take a back seat.

"The likes of Instagram, Snapchat and TikTok know they have massive numbers of children using their platforms and they need to either make it a safer environment or enforce their age restrictions more strictly.

"This is an area of real concern for parents that I speak to in my community and Government are committed to tackling harmful online content through the new Online Safety and Media Regulation Act and the online Safety Commission.

Niamh Hodnett will shortly take up the role of Ireland's first Online Safety Commissioner giving her the powers to hold internet platforms to account for harmful online content as well as implementing an individual complaints mechanism.

"But in order for these new measures to have maximum impact, we need social media platforms to work with us.

"I'm expecting the social media platforms who are headquartered in Ireland to fully engage with the Online Safety Commissioner to address the scourge of harmful online content, especially with regard to young people.

"This Safer Internet Day, we see that parents will do everything they can to keep their kids safe online and we will support them with the policy to do that but now we need the social media platforms to come to the table," concluded Deputy Higgins.



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SCAN ME





Plans for 12th Lock development released

The plans for the development of the area at the 12th Lock on the Grand Canal were released at the February Council Meeting.

The initial proposal include a mixed use/enterprise centre, hostel, restaurant, public park, artist studios, kayaking club, creche and yoga studios. It seeks to transform the area while retaining the current buildings. South Dublin County Council will be co-operating with Waterways Ireland in the development of the area. The next step for the project will be looking at budgeting and phasing before it goes to planning and public consultation. People Before Profit TD for Dublin Midwest Gino Kenny said: "This is a very welcome plan for the area around the 12th lock. There is a huge amount of potential in the canal as a natural amenity, but at the moment it's not really usable.

The development here will bring the canal into use with water sports such as kayaking and SUP (Stand Up Paddleboard). It will be on the route of the extended Grand Canal Greenway to Hazelhatch allowing people to safely cycle and walk to the area."

Cllr Madeleine Johansson added: "It's great to see proposals that retain the current buildings and refurbish them for a mix of uses. This both keeps the architectural heritage while also being a more environmentally friendly alternative to demolition and construction. As someone who is interested in the arts it's also great to see the addition of artist studios and possible other uses of buildings here for the arts."

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State of the Nation's Children Report 2022

Almost 24% of Ireland's population are children. A new report by the Government presents interesting findings.

Roderic O'Gorman, Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth has published the 2022 edition of State of the Nation's Children (SONC) report. This online report provides a comprehensive picture of our children's lives by presenting key information on children's health, behavioural and educational outcomes as well as their relationships with their parents and their friends. It also presents data on supports and services available to children. This report has been published biennially since 2006 and annually since 2020 and is prepared by the Data and Analytics Unit in the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.

SONC is widely used as a resource by policy makers, the research community and civil society, and aims to inform Government policy on children, young people, and families. The SONC reports are useful for tracking trends in relation to children's wellbeing, they provide data that shows us where more work needs to be done and presents us with evidence of where progress is being made.

Some of the key findings in the report include:

- In 2022 there were an estimated 1,201,618 children living in Ireland. This accounted for 23.6% of the total population. Of these, 61,027 were aged less than one year, up from 55,483 in 2021
- In 2020 278 children died in Ireland, down from 284 in 2019. This equated to an overall mortality rate of 2.32 per 10,000.
- For the 2021/22 pre-school year there were 3,973 pre-school services under contract to deliver the ECCE Programme to 107,778 children. Of these pre-school services, 2,590 (65.2%) met higher

capitation status, up from 2,462 in 2020/21

- In 2020 61.3% of infants were breastfed on being discharged from hospital, up from 60.7% in 2019
- In 2021 there were 119,642 hospital discharges of children, up from 109,777 in 2020
- In 2018 76.9% of first-class children were classified as being in the "normal" weight category according to the International Obesity Taskforce Standards. 15.5% were classified as either "overweight" or "obese", down from 16.9% in 2015
- In 2021 Q4 there were 19,580 child welfare and protection referrals to Tusla, the Child and Family Agency, up from 17,485 in 2020
- In 2020 there were 181 births to mothers aged 10-17, up from 164 in 2019
- In 2020 there were 13 suicides by children aged 10-17, down from 20 in 2019
- In 2021 13.6% of children were considered to be at risk of poverty, down from 16.4% in 2020, while 5.2% of children experienced consistent poverty, down from 7.2% in 2020
- In 2021 there were 21,932 households with children identified as being in need of social housing, down from 24,646 in 2020
- In 2020 8,169 children aged 10-17 were referred to the Garda Diversion Programme, down from 9,842 in 2019
- In 2020 90.9% of pregnant women attended antenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy, up from 88.3% in 2019
- In 2021 there were 5,777 children in the care of Tusla, the Child and Family Agency, down from 5,818 in 2020



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Parkrun Ireland

It's a simple enough idea; come and run, jog, or walk 5k every Saturday, or 2k for juniors aged 4-14 on Sunday.

Whether you're the fastest or the slowest, you can still take part with the help of volunteers who help bring up the rear. It doesn't matter what you wear either; all that matters is that you take part. Claire Keogh reports.

Parkrun events now take place every weekend in twenty countries all over the world, such as Ireland, England, the U.S., Germany, Singapore, New Zealand, and Poland. Working tirelessly to make this happen are local volunteers who devote their time and energy to these events.

In Dublin 15, Parkrun offers a terrific opportunity for locals to come together and have fun, whilst also improving their wellbeing. You just need to sign up once and print off your barcode. After that, you can join in any of the 5k events held in Porterstown Park, Hartstown, or Sports Ireland Abbottstown. Parkrun promotes inclusiveness and wants all its participants to feel like an integral part of the community either at a local or global level. Volunteers scan a printed barcode from a card or other device, and a runner's time can be texted and emailed to them after they cross the finish line.

Paul Sinton-Hewitt established Parkrun on the 2nd of October 2004 in Bushy Park, London. At first, it was referred to as the Bushy Park Time Trial, but it eventually grew and developed into the UK Time Trials. In 2008, it was given the name Parkrun and has since spread across multiple countries.

In 2007, Parkrun was established outside of the United Kingdom, beginning in Zimbabwe. Two years later, Denmark hosted the events, with South Africa and Australia joining in 2011 and the United States in 2012. Paul Sinton-Hewitt, the founder of Parkrun, received a CBE (Commander of the British Empire) for his work in grassroots sports in 2014. By October 2018, over five million runners had registered for Parkrun events held in various locations including parks, stately homes, forests, rivers, lakes, reservoirs, beaches, promenades, prisons, and

nature reserves. Those who participate in many park runs are rewarded with a T-shirt and are referred to as "tourists" who complete challenges while travelling to new locations.

The male record holder is Andrew Baddeley with a time of 13 minutes and 48 seconds. The female record holder is Isobel Batt-Doyle with a time of 15 minutes and 25 seconds. The Irish female record: Meghan RYAN – 16:41 (27 Nov 2021) and Irish male record: Sean TOBIN – 14:19 (16 Nov 2019). Age graded record: Mary MARTIN - 103.49% 23:26 (5 Oct 2019). Junior Park runs take place, on Sundays at 9.30 am- 2k races for those age 4 -14 and their families, at Beechpark Clonsilla, Westmanstown Sports Club, and Dunboyne Athletic Club.



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Childcare Services Must Become a Priority in Growing West Dublin Suburb

A Dublin Mid-West Sinn Féin councillor has expressed alarm at the inadequate level of childcare services to meet the needs of families in rapidly expanding parts of the constituency.


Councillor Derren Ó Brádaigh said; “Whilst population continues to grow amid ongoing development in West Lucan, we are not seeing the arrival of essential childcare services to meet demand in real time. I see childcare services as a public service for both children and parents. When it works, a State’s childcare system can be a huge employer; help with health and mental development of our smallest children; facilitate parents, especially women, to access the workforce and be a positive component of economic growth.

“We know that South Dublin’s population grew above the national average in both the 2016 and 2022 census counts and is now at 300,000, with close to 60,000 people in Lucan alone. We also know that national and regional plans project a further 50,000 people to live in South Dublin by 2031, and a significant number of these families will take up residency within the strategic development zones of Adamstown and Clonburris.

“Accessible and affordable childcare is a huge issue in many parts of Ireland but has become particularly acute in Lucan now. The limited number of creche facilities are in most instances akin to the cost of a second mortgage, without any availability, even if parents can afford them. At a local area committee meeting last year, I learned that the community team in South Dublin County Council have recently consulted with their planning colleagues to confirm the model used for creche planning. The standards for creches are set out within Childcare Facilities Guidelines for Planning Authorities June 2001 published by the Department. These standards are reflected in the County Development Plan and seek one childcare facility with a minimum of 20 places for each 75 units for new residential development. The reality on the ground and in the community falls far short of anything even near this criterion.


“It is vital that we begin to see new public creche facilities in tandem with the arrival of any further development, that so many young ordinary working parents and families in Lucan now so badly need. Ultimately, I believe we need to invest considerably more in childcare, and early years learning needs to become an essential public service – we should be looking at pre-school and early education being free along the same model as primary school, and when secondary school moved this way in the 1960’s. Our children are the next generation and represent the

future. It is up to us just what kind of society we wish to see – one restricted by poor services, accessibility and for only those that can afford, or one that will enable entire families to flourish and give back.”

**Sinn Féin**

Cllr
Derren Ó Brádaigh

Lucan-Palmerstown
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