

ISSUE 53

JAN 2025

FREE MAGAZINE

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first 2025 edition of Little Village. Our theme is about looking forward to the year ahead. Nearby events such as St Brigid's Day, Valentine's Day and some of the events planned for 2025. For the motorists we look at new cars to be launched this year.

We hope you enjoy our mix of local and general news. We welcome contributions about local events and activities. Historical and local interest articles are especially welcome, and our thanks go to local guest contributor Jim Lacey for his article on Chapelizod with more to come in future editions.

Best wishes for the year ahead,

The Little Village Team

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- Castleknock Hotel
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- The Greyhound Blanch Village
- The Grasshopper Clonee
- Clonsilla Inn
- The Carpenter Inn
- The Carlton Hotel Tyrrelstown



LITTLE VILLAGE MAGAZINE

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Appeal Filed Against Rejection of 55-Apartment Development at Brady's Pub, Castleknock



An appeal has been lodged against the refusal of permission to build a five-story block containing 55 apartments on the site of Brady's pub in Castleknock

This marks the fourth attempt to develop housing on the site, following two previously approved SHD (Strategic Housing Development) plans that were overturned by the High Court.

Grounds for Refusal

Fingal County Council rejected the latest proposal, citing concerns over the development's height, scale, and mass, as well as inadequate car parking provisions. The council described the proposed structure as "monolithic in scale" and argued it would have an "undue overbearing impact" on neighbouring homes.

Local opposition to the project raised several issues, including:

- Loss of privacy for nearby residents
- Increased traffic and insufficient car parking
- Environmental concerns related to the removal of mature trees
- Noise pollution
- Preference for houses rather than apartments

Some residents of Talbot Downs also claimed rightful ownership of part of the site under adverse possession laws.

Appeal Arguments

In response, the appeal challenges the council's decision and highlights several points:

- The developers argue that the council allowed the low-density, two-story housing in the area to dictate the form of the proposed development, which they claim conflicts with the principles of proper planning and sustainable development.

- They contend that describing the area as a "quiet residential neighbourhood" is misleading, given the site's prior use as a large, busy pub and restaurant.

Next Steps

The outcome of the appeal will determine whether the development will proceed despite significant local resistance and previous legal setbacks. The case underscores ongoing tensions between the demand for housing and the preservation of established residential communities.



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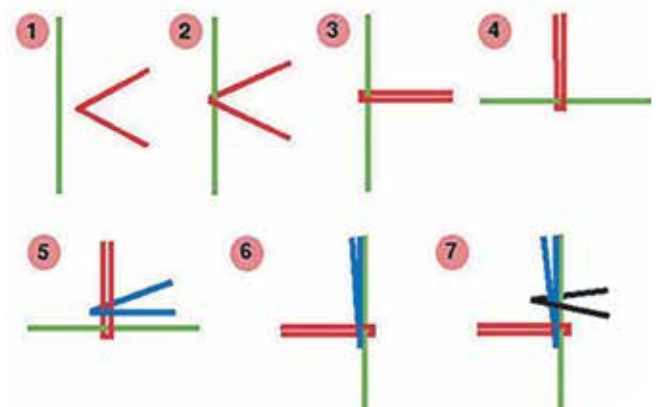
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How to make a St Brigid's Cross

Making a St Brigid's Cross is a custom in Ireland. The St Brigid's Cross is made out of plants called rushes (*Juncus effusus*) for hanging above the entrances to dwellings to invoke the help of St Brigid in warding off disease.



St Brigid's Day is celebrated on the 1st of February each year and the crosses are made at that time. Rushes were traditionally used to make the St Brigid's Cross. These were collected from wetlands and cut into pieces, 8-12 inches long. Rushes can be hard to get for city dwellers so ordinary paper environmentally friendly drinking straws are a good substitute. Use rubber bands to tie up the ends.

If You Can't Get Rushes, You Will Need:

- 9 paper environmentally friendly drinking straws
- 4 small rubber bands

What to Do

Hold one of the straws vertically. Fold a second straw in half as in the diagram. Place the first vertical straw in the centre of the folded second straw.

Hold the centre overlap tightly between thumb and forefinger.

Turn the two straws held together 90 degrees counterclockwise so that the open ends of the second straw are projecting vertically upwards.

Fold a third straw in half and over both parts of the second straw to lie horizontally from left to right against the first straw. Hold tight.

Holding the centre tightly, turn the three straws 90 degrees counterclockwise so that the open ends of the third straw are pointing upwards.

Fold a new straw in half over and across all the straws pointing upwards.

Repeat the process of rotating all the straws 90 degrees counterclockwise, adding a new folded straw each time until all nine straws have been used up to make the cross.

Secure the arms of the cross with elastic bands. Trim the ends to make them all the same length. The St Brigid's Cross is now ready to hang.

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Castleknock TidyTowns Welcomes New Chairperson

After six years at the helm of Castleknock TidyTowns, founding chairperson Evelyn Pender has recently stepped aside. From January '25, Patricia Sheehan will take on the role.

In 2019, Evelyn re-established Castleknock TidyTowns, after an 18-year gap. Under Evelyn's leadership, the group has grown to a team of over 60 volunteers actively promoting community involvement as well as adopting heritage, environmental and sustainability projects.

Patricia has been a passionate volunteer with the group for six years and has served on the steering committee for the past two. Her hands-on experience and deep commitment to the TidyTowns ethos made her an ideal choice to guide the group into the future.

At a recent presentation, Evelyn reflected on the accomplishments in Castleknock over the past six years, including numerous awards, long-lasting projects and the fostering of strong community spirit. She also shared that it has "been an honour to work alongside such a dedicated team of volunteers. I'm more than happy to remain on as a member of the CTT Steering Committee. I am confident that Patricia will continue to build on our successes and bring fresh ideas to Castleknock TidyTowns."

Patricia expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to lead the team. "Evelyn has set a high standard of leadership and I'm excited to build on the strong foundation she has established. I look forward to working with the community to create an even more vibrant and sustainable Castleknock."

As the group moves forward, Castleknock TidyTowns invites anyone wishing to join the group to get in touch: www.castleknocktidytowns.com.



www.castleknocktidytowns.com/get-involved

Check out the work of this growing community group - making Castleknock a better place in which to live, work and enjoy.

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Dear Resident

I have included some updates on issues which I have been working on. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance. The Programme of Works for 2025 has just been approved and I have included some details below – please contact me directly on john.walsh@cllrs.fingal.ie for more information.

John

SECOND SPECIAL SCHOOL IN DUBLIN 15

I have called on the new Minister for Education to approve a second special school for Dublin 15. This motion which I presented at the Area Committee on 16th January was approved unanimously by Councillors and submitted to the Minister for consideration.

Motion: Councillor J. Walsh

“That the Chief Executive write to the Minister for Education and the Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board to locate a second special school in Dublin 15 dedicated to the education of autistic children and children with complex educational needs.”

Danu Community Special School is already fully subscribed and the need for more special class and special school places has been consistently underestimated by the Department of Education and NCSE. The most recent survey by primary principals in Dublin 15 found that that 111 children with additional needs are struggling within inappropriate placements in mainstream classes. The new Minister has the opportunity to solve this crisis in special education by delivering a second special school in our area and ensuring that special classes are provided at all levels in primary and post-primary schools.



Working with Cllr Mary McCamley

PROGRAMME OF WORKS 2025

Traffic Calming/Pedestrian crossings

- A new signalised pedestrian crossing on Clonsilla Road between the entrances to Coolmine Boulevard and Broadway Road. This new crossing will be close to the junction with Woodview Grove on the Clonsilla Road.
- A new signalised crossing will be installed on Beechpark Avenue and the existing chicane will be replaced with a ramp.
- A new zebra crossing is being installed on Beechpark Lawn.
- A new signalised crossing on Ongar distributor road.
- A new signalised crossing at the junction of the Lower Road and Knockmaroon Hill.
- Installation of ramps on Porterstown Road (number to be confirmed)
- Replacement of ramp on Lohunda Road.
- Footpath buildouts – Hadleigh Heights/Peck's Lane

Park and Open Spaces

Blanchardstown

- Overlay path between Broadway and Summerfield.
- Pollinator beds in Summerfield Lawn and Fortlawn.
- Planting project on Summerfield Rise.
- New park bench on Glenville Green and whip planting on Glenville Lawn.
- Bulb rejuvenation at Woodpark.
- Various projects with Blanchardstown Tidy Towns.

Clonsilla & Ongar

- New pollinator bed in Weaver's Row and Clonsilla Road/Coolmine Woods.
- Pollinator beds (2) at entrances to St. Mochta's estate and new dig path in estate.
- New bench and pollinator bed at St. Mary's church.
- Landscaping in Lambourn and Windermere.
- Re-lay damaged path in Willows Green and bench in Willow Wood Green.

- Resurface paths and remove old path in Castlefield Court.
- Entrance upgrade at Manorfields entrance, Old Hansfield Lane.
- New pollinator bed at Bramblefields roundabout and bulb planting at Pheasant's Run roundabout.
- Boundary fencing and planting at Littlepace Park.
- Bulb planting at Littlepace Drive.
- New K-Barriers at Ravenswood Crescent/Cherryfield Court and Stonebridge/Allendale.

Castleknock & Carpenterstown

- Pollinator beds at Fairhaven (1) and entrance to College Gate (1).
- Tree planting and bench (1) in Beechpark Orchard.
- New park benches in Castleknock Green, Castleknock Elms/Avenue and Laurel Lodge.
- Boundary Planting in Luttrell Park Court.
- Planting project and boundary wall in Castleknock Park.

- New footpath from Luttrellstown Green to Heath with dishing.
- Projects with Castleknock Tidy Towns.

Mulhuddart & Tyrellstown

- New benches in Hollywoodrath (2) and Parslickstown Drive (1).
- Planting/Landscaping and bench (1) on Melville Road.
- Overlay path in Corduff Green.
- Re-lay path for Parslickstown Green cycle track.
- Landscaping project with tree planting on Blackcourt Road.
- New path for Belgree Community Garden.
- Landscaping project, Newtown Cottages.
- New entrance/vehicle entrance to open space at Seagrave.

General Improvement Works

- Village Floral Displays, Dublin 15.
- Allocation of bulbs for planting to residents' associations.

Tiny Tots Castleknock



Tiny Tots is a weekly group run by Castleknock Church of Ireland Parish which takes place in the Castleknock Parish Centre on Castleknock Road each Thursday, from 10am till 11.30am.

The suggested donation for those who attend is just €3.

Young children (babies, wobblers, toddlers and pre-schoolers) attend along with a parent, grandparent or carer. Helpers provide tea or coffee. The group provides a great intro for new residents in Castleknock or a support for those without a

network around them.

This for all pre-school children and their parents/carers in Castleknock Parish Centre will meet weekly during term time. Tiny Tots is a great place for parents and carers to meet for chat and friendship and for little ones to have fun and play. Please spread the word to anyone you know with young children who would benefit from getting to know others and have a place for the little ones to play and interact. There will be fun activities and song time each week as well as special seasonal days to keep everyone entertained



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BEYOND THE PALE

This edition takes you to County Carlow

You might think it early in the year to think about traveling in Ireland but with Spring on the way Altamont House in County Carlow is a great option.

While some of Ireland's beautiful gardens remain closed until late spring/early summer, there are those that like to show off their floral collections of snowdrops, bluebells and more in springtime. Altamont Gardens in County Carlow displays its renowned blanket of February snowdrops during snowdrop week (12 to 18 Feb)

Altamont Gardens are an enchanting blend of formal and informal gardens with riverside walks covering over 40 acres (16 hectares). Lawns bisected by sculpted yews, slope down to a lake surrounded by rare trees and rhododendrons and lead in turn to a very different garden featuring exotic shrubs and trees. A fascinating walk through the Arboretum, Bog Garden and Ice Age Glen with its canopy of ancient oaks and huge stone outcrops leads the visitor to the River Slaney.

"Every visitor says it has a special atmosphere, that's why so many people come back. Every element you want from a great garden is here, from lovely lawns, floral beds and beautiful woodland going down to the river, to a walled garden and really superb collections, such as the snowdrops, rhododendrons and the fabulous oaks in the Arboretum" – Paul Whyte, head gardener at Altamont Gardens.

You can enjoy refreshments at the Walled Garden

Sugar & Spice Café with lovely coffee/tea, scones and cakes, with a takeaway option available, open February – October daily 11 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.

FACILITIES: Toilets, outdoor picnic tables, car and coach park, restricted wheelchair access. No dogs allowed except guide dogs.

HOW TO FIND US: From Dublin/Waterford exit the M9 at junction 5 for N80 Rosslare. Continue along the N80 through the village of Ballon and the N80/N81 junction. Turn left at the next crossroad junction signed Altamont Gardens. From Carlow Town follow the N80 through Ballon and continue as above.

OPENING TIMES:

January 1st – 31st, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. 7 days per week.
February 1st – 28th, 9 a.m. – 4.30 p.m. 7 days per week.

March 1st – 31st, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. 7 days per week.
April 1st – September 30th, 9 a.m. – 6.30 p.m. 7 days per week.

October 1st – 31st, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. 7 days per week.
November 1st – 30th, 9 a.m. – 4.30 p.m. 7 days per week.

December 1st – 31st, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. 7 days per week.

ADMISSION: Car park fee of €2 per vehicle applies. Free admission to gardens. Free guided tours daily Feb-end of Nov, 10.30am-4pm every 30 minutes. Booking for group tours required.

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Renewed Optimism for the Greens as Dublin West Hosts Green Party Convention

Almost 400 delegates convened at the Castleknock Hotel in the heartland of Leader Roderic O’Gorman’s constituency.

The Green Party hosted its annual party convention earlier this month at the Castleknock Hotel, Dublin 15. Despite setbacks in the recent general election, which saw the party’s representation in Dáil Éireann reduced from 12 to just 1 TD, the event focused on rebuilding and looking to the future, and was attended by the highest number of delegates in the party’s history – with 400 registered to attend on the day.

Speaking at the Convention, Green Party Leader and local TD Roderic O’Gorman reflected on what the Party had achieved during its time in Government and discussed what its next steps.

“Climate action is more relevant than ever” said Roderic O’Gorman in his inaugural address as party leader. “And while the election result hurt, we can be proud and stand over the policies we drove on

climate, on transport, on family leave and in the arts over the past few years. Our records on these will continue to deliver into the future, and our core issues are not going away – and neither are we”.

The high turnout and tone of discussions on the day show a strong sense of hope within the Greens, which O’Gorman aims to foster in the rebuilding of the Party in the coming months and years. Indeed, it will be a different Dáil term for O’Gorman who will be working in opposition, a new experience for the TD first elected to national politics in 2020.

“I’m eternally grateful to the people of Dublin 15 and Dublin 7 for returning me to the 34th Dáil. Serving as a Minister and TD for Dublin West for the past 5 years has an incredibly rewarding experience. Now I look forward to continuing to work for the people of Dublin West in my new role as an Opposition TD ” O’Gorman stated.





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- * Roisin: I now realize that your style of teaching was unique.
- * Melody: Your nice and professional teaching revived the love of learning in us.
- * Mariam: Thank you for your patience toward our silly questions!
- * James: I cannot thank you enough for all your advice and assistance.
- * Sarah: There was a sense of good feeling in the class.
- * Mary: It is a mystery how James went up to 78% from 17%.
- * Claire: My results crazy good, 89%! I had never gotten over 50% in any maths exam!

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Ingredients

300g plain flour
plus, a little extra for dusting
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diced
120g golden caster sugar
2 large egg yolks
2 tsp vanilla extract
½ tsp rosewater
or 25g/1oz freeze-dried raspberries, whizzed to a powder (optional)
red or pink food colouring

Method

Step 1

Tip the flour and butter into a food processor and whizz to fine crumbs. Add the sugar and yolks then whizz to a smooth dough. Remove one-third of the dough, add vanilla to what's left and pulse to whizz in. Wrap this dough in cling film and leave at room temperature.

Step 2

Put the reserved dough back in the processor with the rosewater or dried raspberries, if using, and a drop of food colouring. Pulse and add more colouring to achieve an intense colour. If the dough has become too soft, pulse in a few spoonful

more flour until a similar consistency to the vanilla dough. Put the dough in the fridge, remembering to remove it 30 mins before you need to roll it out.

Step 3

Thickly roll out the coloured dough between baking parchment. Use a small 3-4cm heart cutter to stamp out hearts. Keep re-rolling and stamping until all the dough is used. Line up hearts on top of each other and press to form a cylinder, taking care to retain the heart shape. Wrap in cling film and freeze for 3 hrs until solid.

Step 4

When the heart dough is hard, roll the vanilla dough, using your hands, into 3 cylinders the length of the heart stack. Stick one to each 'side' of the hearts, pat together to form a fat cylinder, then gently roll on your work surface until it completely encircles the coloured dough, with the frozen heart dough hidden in the centre. Chill for 2 hrs.

Step 5

Heat oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Use a sharp knife to slice the log into 1cm-thick discs. Place on trays lined with baking parchment, allowing space for spreading, and bake for 20 mins. Cool on wire racks. Will keep for up to 4 days in an airtight container.



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MISSING CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS IN IRELAND



ISPC MISSING CHILDREN'S HOTLINE

In Ireland, the number of children and teenagers reported missing each year has been increasing.

According to An Garda Síochána, the national police service, the total number of missing person reports has risen from 8,494 in 2020 to 11,014 in 2024. Specifically, the number of individuals reported missing increased from 3,334 in 2020 to 4,080 in 2024. While the exact proportion of these figures representing children and teenagers isn't specified, it's evident that a significant number involve young individuals.

Focusing on children in State care, reports indicate that 37 children and young people went missing from Tusla's care in 2024.

Similarly, nearly 30 teenagers disappeared from State

care in 2024, with one 14-year-old boy missing for two months.

These statistics highlight a concerning trend of increasing missing person cases among children and teenagers in Ireland, underscoring the need for continued attention and action to address this issue.

The ISPC's Missing Children's Hotline provides emotional support and advice to young people and adults alike in relation to missing children.

The Hotline can be contacted for free 24 hours a day, every day, by calling 116 000.

The service is available to take calls from the general public, family members of a missing child and children who are missing.



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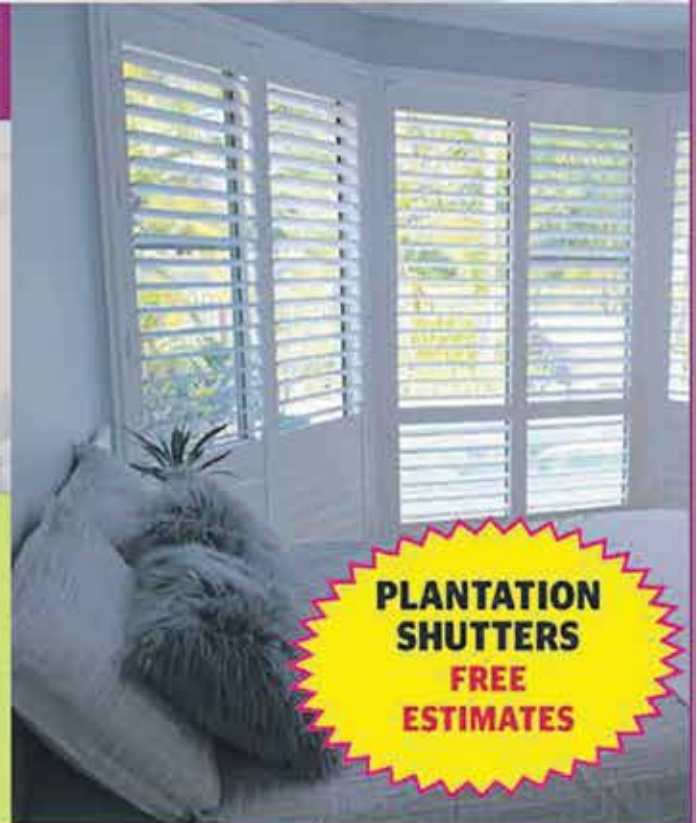
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Emer CURRIE TD

Thank you!

I am honoured to have been elected as your Fine Gael TD for Dublin West and would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported me in the election and over the years. Alongside our excellent team of Councillors, I will work hard to deliver for you all.

Emer



Fingal County Council agrees to Feasibility Study on Guinness Bridge for walkers & cyclists

The CEO of Fingal County Council has recently updated me on the decision to co-fund a joint feasibility study with South Dublin County Council to examine the potential opening of Guinness Bridge for walkers and cyclists. This follows my public meeting in November 2023, calling for such a study and the development of a Liffey Valley Park in partnership with communities in Dublin and Kildare.

Last year a €1.4 million restoration project was completed on the bridge, but it remains isolated from visitors. Both Councils have confirmed they are now in regular contact to agree a brief for the feasibility study to assess how the bridge can be developed as an asset.

Neighbouring Councils progress 'Liffey Valley Park' - we should too

Kildare County Council has commenced a feasibility study and public survey to evaluate the opportunity and deliverability of a Liffey Valley Park from St Catherine's Park all the way to Celbridge. If delivered it would be the first phase of a Liffey Valley Park, a concept that was initially launched in 2006 as part of an overall Strategy including Fingal County Council and the OPW, but has never been progressed.

Fingal County Council and South Dublin County Council should now follow suit and collaborate on a similar study, focusing on the river corridor from St Catherine's Park to the Phoenix Park and Memorial Gardens, as envisaged in the original strategy. A design for a pedestrian and cycling bridge between the Memorial Gardens and Chapelizod Road, is already being progressed by Dublin City Council and the OPW. Guinness Bridge could also be incorporated.

A Liffey Valley Park and Trail would be a hugely valuable natural amenity for all of Dublin West, linked to the Phoenix Park and an investment in biodiversity for generations to come. I will continue to work towards this.



My public meeting about Guinness Bridge & a Liffey Valley Park

Emer is working in Dublin West with...



Regina Doherty MEP



Cllr Kieran Dennison



Cllr Ted Leddy



Cllr Siobhán Shovlin



Cllr Gayle Ralph



Cllr Colm O'Rourke



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Interim traffic safety solutions at Ashtown Gate

Following lengthy engagement with Dublin City Council, Fingal County Council and the OPW, interim traffic safety solutions will be introduced at Ashtown Gate in April.

This is a dangerous and unpredictable junction connecting three busy routes, Blackhorse Avenue, Castleknock Road and access to the Phoenix Park. It is heavily used by pedestrians and cyclists and demand for action has been clear for some time.

I will share the design on my social media when I have it, however, as this is an interim solution, it is not expected this process will entail public consultation.



With Cllrs Siobhan Shovlin (Castleknock) & Gayle Ralph (Navan Rd) at Ashtown Gate

Chesterfield Avenue - segregated cycle lanes & pedestrian crossings progress to design stage

The OPW has moved on its commitment to upgrade to permanent walking and cycle facilities along Chesterfield Avenue, including the introduction of proper segregation between cyclists and vehicles through junctions, as well as much-needed pedestrian crossings. I welcome universally safer walking and cycling infrastructure in the Park, and the commitment to improvements for "people who have mobility impairments, wheelchair users, people with disabilities, and people with buggies".

I will be asking the new Minister with responsibility for the OPW to provide a designation of car parking spaces as part of the overall design between Castleknock Gate and Mountjoy Roundabout, for older and less mobile Park users, that would not compromise on the segregated cycle lanes.

While the current Car Parking Strategy for the Phoenix Park outlines proposals for a totally new car park near Mountjoy Roundabout, there is more support for a solution that would give direct access to this limited section of Chesterfield Avenue and would substantially reduce the loss of green space. It would also mean one construction project instead of two, saving time and money.

Some of our local residents, particularly those with mobility issues, feel they have lost their connection to the Park. This approach would give all cyclists and walkers the infrastructure they need.

It is expected that a design will be presented to the public through non-statutory public consultation by mid-year, before it is finalised and submitted for statutory approval. Funding has been secured from the National Transport Authority (NTA) for design and planning only, with the project programmed for delivery post-2028.

Local Projects



✓ Porterstown Road Speed Reduction Survey closes Thurs 20th Feb at 5pm at fingal.ie

✓ Draft Clonsilla Framework Plan

Proposals by the Council to guide future Village projects and development. Come to Cllr Shovlin and my Drop-In Clinic on Tues 4th Feb, 5-7pm at the Clonsilla Inn.

✓ Auburn Avenue Walking & Cycling Scheme

Responses and changes from the public consultation have been published by the Council. If you want a copy please email me. My submission included your feedback in relation to the design, impact on trees, traffic, and costs.

Of greatest note was the request for segregated cycling facilities from Auburn Avenue roundabout to the Tennis Club, which has been incorporated into the final design. Better way-finding will be introduced for pedestrian safety outside the Tennis Club, in conjunction with two raised uncontrolled crossings, one on the Old Navan Road and one replacing the ramp on Beechpark Avenue. The project is proceeding to tender.

✓ Laurel Lodge Playground

Cllr. Shovlin received an update from the Council to say construction is due to commence in the first half of 2025.



EXCITING NEW CARS COMING IN 2025

With the automotive industry buzzing with innovation, 2025 promises to bring some incredible new car launches.

From electric vehicles (EVs) to iconic nameplates reimaged, here's a look at some of the most exciting models set to hit the roads in Ireland before the summer ends, just in time for the 251 registrations.

Audi Q5 Sportback



The sleek Audi Q5 Sportback continues Audi's tradition of blending practicality with sporty design. Despite Audi's push toward EVs, this mid-sized SUV persists with petrol and diesel options. Built on the Premium Platform Combustion (PPC), the Sportback offers:

- **Engine Options:** 2.0-litre turbocharged petrol (TFSI) or diesel (TDI), and a high-performance SQ5 with a 367hp V6 TFSI.
- **Design:** Its dynamic styling sacrifices little boot space, making it an attractive option for families who want practicality with flair.

Citroën C3/e-C3 Aircross



The lovable Citroën C3 expands its charm with the C3 Aircross, offering more space and versatility.

- **Powertrains:** Available as a petrol model or the fully electric e-C3 Aircross, which features a 44kWh battery and a range of up to 300km.
- **Configurations:** The petrol version introduces a seven-seat option, though this won't be available in the EV.

Ideal for urban families, the C3 Aircross balances value and practicality with Citroën's trademark character.

Cupra Tavascan



Cupra Tavascan Cupra's second all-electric vehicle, the Tavascan, is poised to make waves in the coupe-SUV segment. Sharing its platform with the VW ID.5 and Skoda Enyaq Coupe, the Tavascan stands out with:

- **Battery & Power:** A 77kWh battery paired with a 286hp motor, offering impressive performance.
- **Variants:** The lineup will include the dual-motor, all-wheel-drive VZ version with 340hp.

With stylish looks and competitive specs, the Tavascan is set to bolster Cupra's reputation as an EV pioneer.

Ford Puma Gen-E



The Ford Puma Gen-E signals a key step in Ford's electric transformation. Based on the popular combustion-powered Puma, this EV boasts:

- Performance: 168hp and up to 376km of range.
- Practicality: A larger boot than its petrol counterpart, with 574 litres thanks to an innovative underfloor storage space.

By maintaining the familiar Puma design, Ford ensures a seamless transition for fans of the original model.

Range Rover Electric



The luxury SUV brand enters the EV market with the Range Rover Electric. While specific details on range and power remain under wraps, early tests in the Arabian Peninsula suggest a strong focus on performance and durability.

- Significance: This is only the second EV from JLR (following the Jaguar I-Pace) and is critical to the company's lineup as Jaguar prepares for a 2026 relaunch.

Expect unparalleled luxury and capability in this highly anticipated electric Range Rover.

Suzuki e-Vitara



Suzuki's first fully electric vehicle, the e-Vitara, modernizes one of its longest-standing nameplates. Key highlights include:

- Battery Options: Two choices – 49kWh or 61kWh – with ranges exceeding 400km, even with the smaller pack.
- Performance: Power outputs range from 144hp to 183hp, with the latter reserved for dual-motor, all-wheel-drive variants.

Combining practicality with advanced EV tech, the e-Vitara aims to be a strong contender in the affordable EV market.

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the latest Toyota Land Cruiser merges classic styling with modern advancements.

- Design: Retro-inspired exterior meets a tech-enhanced, high-quality interior.
- Powertrain: A rugged 2.8-litre turbodiesel engine shared with the Toyota Hilux.
- Capacity: Standard seven-seat configuration ensures versatility for families and adventurers alike.

With a heritage dating back to 1951, the Land Cruiser continues to be a symbol of reliability and performance.

What to Watch For in 2025

The first half of 2025 promises something for everyone—whether you're looking for cutting-edge EVs, stylish SUVs, or timeless 4x4s. From the sleek Audi Q5 Sportback to the iconic Toyota Land Cruiser, these new models highlight the exciting direction of the automotive industry.



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What's happening in Dublin in 2025

Here are a few of the upcoming events in Dublin in 2025.

The Dublin Bowie Festival

Sunday 26th January - Sunday 2nd March

The biggest arts festival in the world dedicated to David Bowie, returns from February 26th to March 2nd, 2025 with a selection of special events.

Live Music, Q&A's, Memorabilia & Merch, Movies, Concert/Documentaries, Quiz & more.

Dublin International Film Festival

February 20–March 2, 2025. A celebration of global cinema with screenings, workshops, and discussions.

Saint Patrick's Day

March 17, 2025. Ireland's national holiday

featuring parades, festivals, and cultural events throughout Dublin.

Electric Picnic Festival

August 29–31, 2025. A renowned music and arts festival held in Stradbally, County Laois, attracting international artists and visitors.

Dublin Theatre Festival

September–October 2025. An annual celebration of theatre with performances from Irish and international companies.

Dublin Christmas Festival

December 2025. A festive season featuring markets, light displays, and holiday-themed events across the city.

Upcoming Comedy this March



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RAMBLES IN DUBLIN WEST

A series by guest Author Jim Lacey

Hello Readers and welcome to Rambles in Dublin West with Jim Lacey. This ramble takes us to the nearby town of Chapelizod. This article is Part One of a three-part series with Parts Two and Three in future editions.

Chapelizod was once a walled town with an artillery barracks, a thriving linen industry and it produced many figures who would achieve fame in the world of literature. It was once home to the Lord Deputy or Irish Viceroy whose state residence was on the southside of Chapelizod hill road opposite Chapelizod Court. William of Orange stayed there after the Battle of the Boyne.

British Prime Minister Henry John Temple 3rd Viscount Palmerstown who was British Prime Minister for two terms in 1855-1858 and again from 1859-1865. He was a member of the Temple family who were once landlords of Chapelizod and Palmerstown. The Temple family sold their land to Robert Wilcox from Mountmellick in Laois. He in turn sold these lands in 1763 to John Hely-Hutchinson. Tim Healy no relation to Hely-Hutchinson was a member of the Irish Party at Westminster and lived at Glenaulin in Chapelizod.

It was Tim Healy who did more to bring down the

great Parnell than any other apart from probably, only Parnell himself. Healy was the first Governor General of the Irish Free State and was an uncle of Kevin O'Higgins Minister for Home Affairs in the first Free State Government. Healy was suspected by some historians of being a British agent with the codename Thorpe. It is believed that he had been reporting to British intelligence since as early as the Phoenix Park assassinations. Some sources say he deluded Arthur Griffith during the Treaty negotiations into believing that Lloyd George would plan to reduce the area of Northern Ireland to such a size that it would be unworkable. He held these meetings in secret with Griffith, a classical ploy to weaken the unity of those on the Irish side in the tense negotiations and this led on to sow the seeds of the Civil War.

Chapelizod was on the Phoenix Park side of the river Liffey and the opposite side was known as St. Laurence's after a house there of that name where it was used for the accommodation of lepers. The house was closed early in the 14th century as the



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disease faded away in Ireland. It was believed that this terrible disease had been brought back from the Middle East by returning pilgrims from the Holy-Land. The disease was particularly virulent in that part of the world. Palmerstown took its name from Ailread the Dane as a Palmer as the pilgrims were known because they wore palm leaves on their clothes to signify that they had been to the Holy Land. Ailread founded a hospital there which he dedicated to St. John the Baptist. Today's Stewart's Institution evolved over the years from this original hospital. There was a fair held on St. Laurence's Day up until the mid-1800s.

This side of the river was known as Teach Guaire or Stagori. Guaire was a king of Connacht in previous times and may have had some connection with the area.

Chapelizod was a walled town, and it had a mill and a weir and a salmon fishery during the early 13th century. There was an old yarn spun to us as kids that King Sitric and his Viking warriors were galloping across the 15 acres when they saw a church spire in the distance. Sitric exclaimed to one of his men, "What chapel is it?", and that's how Chapelizod got its name! Don't believe a word of it!

We know now the name comes from the Norman French Chapelle Iseult meaning Iseult's Chapel. The

name Chapelizod first appears in records, in the year 1220 in Latin as Capella Isolda. It may have come from a legendary story of Tristan from Cornwall and Isolda an Irish princess fell in love. They were forcibly parted by their families, however, when they eventually died, they were buried in adjoining graves. A tree grew out of each plot and the branches of the two trees grew embracing each other – so the lovers were eventually joined at last. The name Isolda was a tower in the walls of Dublin City and an Isolda's Well between Kilmainham and Chapelizod. Many people call it Chapelizard, even the Down Survey called it Chappelizzard. It's even called the Lizzard by some locals. The De La Felde family, who lived in the area for years owned part of Chapelizod as well as lands in Corduff.

Sir Henry Power, Lord Valentia, an Elizabethan adventurer, was granted the manor of Chapelizod for services to the Crown. He served with the Earl of Essex in Munster and sailed with Sir Francis Drake. Lord Valentia built a large house in what is today's industrial estate. Older people may remember it as the Greyhound Track. The house was an imposing structure with fifteen chimneys. William of Orange stayed here for a while after the Battle of the Boyne when thus it became known as the King's House.



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A UK An Oxfordshire-based company is using a rare-earth barium copper oxide (REBCO) for its superconducting properties in the hope it will make fusion energy a practical reality.

But what is Fusion Energy? Fusion energy is the energy produced by nuclear fusion, the process by which two light atomic nuclei combine to form a heavier nucleus, releasing a significant amount of energy. This is the same process that powers stars, including our Sun. In fusion, typically isotopes of hydrogen, like deuterium and tritium, are fused together under extreme conditions of temperature and pressure.

The key benefits of fusion energy include:

Abundant Fuel Supply: The fuel for fusion (like deuterium) is plentiful, with deuterium being found in seawater.

Clean Energy: Fusion produces no long-lived radioactive waste or greenhouse gases, making it a very attractive alternative to fossil fuels and

traditional nuclear fission.

Safety: Unlike fission, fusion does not carry the risk of a catastrophic meltdown, as the reaction would naturally stop if there were any disturbance.

However, achieving controlled nuclear fusion on Earth is extremely challenging. It requires maintaining high temperatures (millions of degrees Celsius) and pressures to overcome the natural repulsion between the positively charged nuclei. The technology to make fusion energy a practical, reliable source of power is still under development, with significant projects like ITER (International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor) aiming to demonstrate the viability of fusion as an energy source in the coming decades.

This is an exciting development, but it is while away from solving our energy needs.

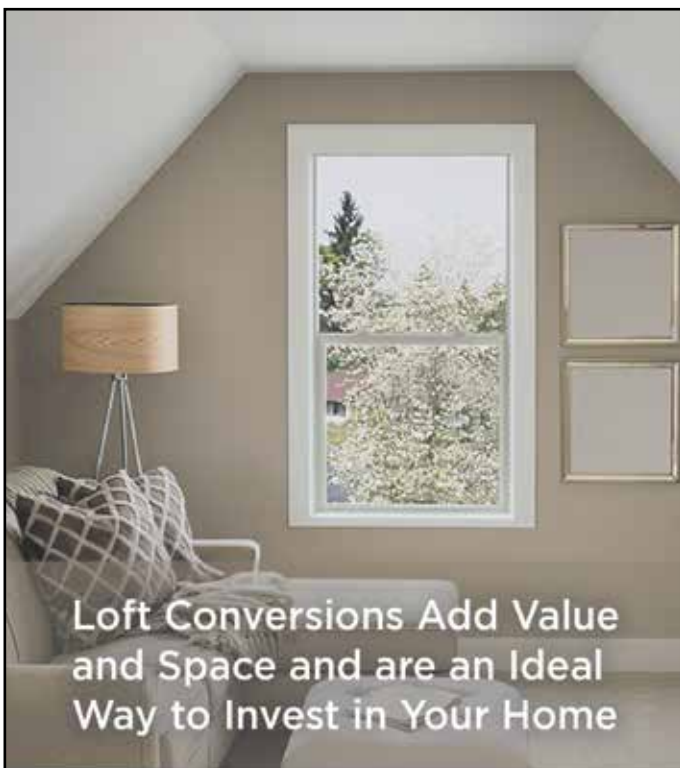
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- Our meeting is OPEN to anyone interested in learning about AA and how we help others affected by alcoholism.
- Alcoholics Anonymous is an international Fellowship of men and women who have had a drinking problem.
- It is Non-Professional, Self-Supporting, Multiracial, Apolitical and available almost everywhere.
- There are no Age or Educational requirements, membership is to ANYONE who wants to do something about their drinking problem.



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Children's Health

- Whooping Cough

Whooping Cough cases on the rise.

Pertussis (whooping cough) is a serious illness, especially in young children. Young infants are at highest risk of severe complications.

There have been 514 cases of pertussis in 2024 in Ireland including 402 confirmed, 59 probable and 53 possible cases. This is compared with very low numbers in recent years due to the pandemic (2021 – 5 cases, 2022 – 7 cases, 2023 – 18 cases).

Cycles of increased pertussis typically occur every five years. We last saw high numbers of cases in 2016 and 2017. Therefore, considering the impact of the pandemic, it is not unexpected to see this increase in 2024. Similar increases are being seen across Europe. Since mid-2023, several EU countries have reported an increase in the number of pertussis cases notified. This increase has continued into 2024, and some countries have reported pertussis-related deaths. As of 12th September, the United Kingdom Health Security Agency (UKHSA) reported there have been 12,200 laboratory confirmed pertussis cases between January and July 2024. In Northern Ireland, between 1st January 2024 to 22nd September, there have been 2,949 confirmed pertussis cases.

Amongst the 514 cases notified in Ireland to date in 2024, children predominate with:

101 cases (20%) in the 0–5 month age group (i.e. too young to have received their full three dose primary immunisation course)

87 cases (17 %) aged 1-2 years, 53 cases (10%) aged 5-9 years and 53 (10%) aged 10-14 years

One hundred and fifty three of the 514 cases (30%) were hospitalised including 68 of the 101 cases (67%) in infants aged 0-5 months.

The best way to protect against pertussis is vaccination. In Ireland, pertussis containing vaccines are offered as part of national immunisation programmes.

Babies born before the 30th of September 2024 are offered the following:

Childhood immunisation at 2, 4, and 6 months of age at your GP (6 in 1 vaccine)

As part of the school immunisation programme children are offered:

Booster 1 (4 in 1) in Junior Infants

Booster 2 (Tdap) in first year of secondary school

As part of the new primary immunisation schedule, babies born on or after 1 Oct 2024 will be offered the above pertussis containing vaccines plus an additional 6 in 1 vaccine at 13 months.

Vaccines offered as part of national immunisations are available for free at GPs and through school immunisation teams. If your child has missed a pertussis vaccine dose or are unsure if they are protected, check their vaccine records or speak to your GP practice about getting vaccinated.

In addition, in Ireland, pertussis vaccine is recommended during each pregnancy. The vaccine is recommended between 16 and 36 weeks of pregnancy and is available at your GP.

Getting the vaccine means pregnant women will be protected against whooping cough, and this vital immunity passes to the baby in utero and will protect their newborn baby from birth during their earliest, most vulnerable months before they can be vaccinated themselves.

Information on immunisation is available from the National Immunisation Office website at www.immunisation.ie



When Does Spring Start in Ireland

Spring in Ireland, like all seasons on the Emerald Isle, is hard pin down exact dates.

Traditionally speaking, spring generally starts in March and continues through April and May. However, Ireland's Gaelic calendar is quite different than what most people consider spring to be.

On the Gaelic calendar, spring or Earrach, spring starts on St Brigid's Day on February 1st, celebrating the end of winter. On the same Gaelic calendar, May is actually the start of spring.

Instead of a date we should let nature tell us. When chilly winter season is over, and the days are getting longer. Ireland's spring air – being straight off the Atlantic Ocean, is some of the freshest air in Europe. Spring flowers are peaking through, adorable fluffy lambs are bouncing around the fields, and misty mornings offer some of the most dramatic sunrises (and later sunsets) of the year. You will know when it is Spring!

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Please note my new office contact details below.

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THE DARK AND UNROMANTIC HISTORY OF VALENTINE'S DAY

Valentine's Day, now celebrated with chocolates, roses, and declarations of love, has a surprisingly mysterious, tragic, and even violent history.

Beneath its cheerful exterior lies a tale of religious intrigue, ancient traditions, and legendary figures. Let's uncover how this holiday came to be, who Saint Valentine really was, and why February 14th is synonymous with love.

Who Was Saint Valentine?

The origins of Valentine's Day are murky, partly because the Catholic Church recognizes three different saints named Valentine. Of these, one legend stands out: Saint Valentine, a priest during the rule of Emperor Claudius II, is said to have secretly performed Christian marriages for soldiers who were forbidden to wed. For this act of defiance, Valentine was imprisoned and subjected to brutal torture.

According to legend, while in prison, he fell in love with a mysterious girl—possibly the jailer's daughter—and sent her a letter signed "From your Valentine." Shortly after, he was executed, allegedly on February 14th. This romanticized story portrays Valentine as a hero of love and

faith, cementing his association with romance.

Pagan Roots or Christian Celebration?

The mid-February timing of Valentine's Day likely reflects a combination of Christian and pagan influences. Some believe the date honours the anniversary of Saint Valentine's death in 270 AD, while others suggest it was chosen to replace the pagan festival of Lupercalia, celebrated on February 15th.

Lupercalia was a fertility festival dedicated to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture, and included rituals like pairing men and women through a random draw, sometimes leading to lifelong partnerships. In the late 5th century, Pope Gelasius outlawed Lupercalia and officially designated February 14th as Saint Valentine's Day.

Despite its Christian makeover, the holiday retained elements of its pagan origins, with themes of fertility and romance persisting.

When Did Romance Enter the Picture?

For much of its early history, Valentine's Day lacked its modern romantic undertones.

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However, during the Middle Ages, the idea of love began to take hold. In England and France, February 14th was thought to mark the beginning of birds' mating season, a belief that naturally tied the date to themes of love.

Writers like Geoffrey Chaucer and William Shakespeare further popularized Valentine's Day as a celebration of romance. Poems and plays from this era romanticized the holiday, creating a cultural foundation for its modern associations.

Cupid's Role in Valentine's Day

No Valentine's Day would be complete without Cupid, but his origins are rooted in mythology. In Greek tradition, Cupid was known as Eros, the god of love, who used golden arrows to manipulate emotions. The Romans later reimagined Eros as the cherubic figure we recognize today.

Cupid's enduring connection to Valentine's Day comes from his role as a symbol of love and desire, perfectly aligning with the holiday's themes.

The First Valentine's Day Cards

While Valentine's greetings were exchanged as early as the 5th century, written cards didn't

gain popularity until the 15th century. The Duke of Orléans is credited with sending one of the earliest Valentine's cards to his wife while imprisoned in the Tower of London. Later, King Henry V famously hired a writer to craft a card for his future queen, Catherine of Valois.

By the 1700s, hand-written notes and small gifts became common in England and America. In the 19th century, Esther Howland, known as the "Mother of the Valentine," introduced elaborate homemade cards featuring lace, ribbons, and images. The tradition of mass-produced Valentine's cards began in 1913 with Hallmark, turning the holiday into a commercial phenomenon.

A Day of Love and Commerce

Today, Valentine's Day is one of the most commercially celebrated holidays, second only to Christmas in terms of card sales. While its history is steeped in religious sacrifice, ancient rituals, and literary inspiration, it has become a day for expressing love in countless ways.

So, no matter how it began, don't forget to celebrate Valentine's Day—whether with chocolates, flowers, or simply a heartfelt "I love you."



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