

ISSUE 46
MAR 2024

Little Village

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to the March/April Edition of Little Village. As Easter approaches we look forward to the long bright evenings ahead and our anticipated summer. We have two Easter related articles for our readers to enjoy. We also have an article on our Constitution.

Thank you to our guest contributors to this issue, Darren J. Prior and Mike Power.

On behalf of the Little Village Team, we would like to wish you all a Happy Easter and hope you enjoy this issue.

Kind Regards
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- Westwood Golf Club
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- Credit Union Clonsilla Road
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- The Grasshopper Clonee
- Clonsilla Inn
- The Carpenter Inn
- The Carlton Hotel Tyrrelstown



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LITTLE VILLAGE MAGAZINE

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Welcome News for Medical Card holders who choose to Rent a Room

Fine Gael TD for Dublin Mid-West, Emer Higgins, has welcomed news that participants of the Rent-a-Room scheme will not face any impacts to their medical card under proposed legislation approved by the Government this week.



Higgins stated “Individuals, particularly pensioners, who are hesitant to rent out rooms due to fears of losing their medical card, can now be reassured that this will not be the case”.

Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly announced he got the go-ahead from Cabinet to release the final draft of the Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2024.

Higgins said “This Bill, when it passes, will guarantee that Rent-a-Room income is not counted when applying for medical cards and GP visit cards and I believe this will benefit a lot of people, especially old age pensioners in my community who want to make some extra money. I also really welcome how this Bill will help support students and young professionals looking for accommodation.

“The Rent-a-Room Relief permits tax-free earnings up to €14,000 per year for those renting out a room in their home. Previously, this income was considered in determining eligibility for a medical card, but this will no longer be the case”.

“Students and young professionals who need to relocate for their studies or jobs can benefit from living in a household as ‘digs’, which is a safe and affordable option. The Rent a Room scheme encourages both the homeowners and the renters to choose this arrangement,” Higgins stated.

“This upcoming change reflects Fine Gael’s commitment to putting money back your pocket”.

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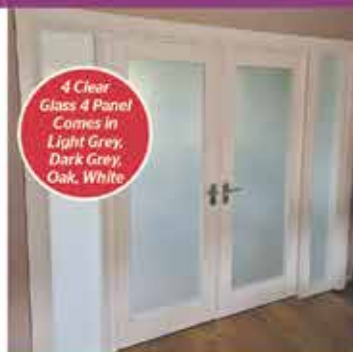
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ISPCCC receives ‘triple lock’ status again

We are delighted to announce ISPCCC has yet again been awarded ‘Triple Lock’ status by Charities Institute Ireland (CII).

This status is awarded to charities that uphold the highest standards in transparent reporting, ethical fundraising, and strong governance structures. As a triple-lock member, we maintain the highest standards of governance, ensuring that our donors, voluntary partners, and the charitable community have complete faith in our organisation.

ISPCCC is among a small number of registered charities in Ireland to have met this high standard of excellence.

To achieve the Triple Lock status, we adhered to the following guidelines regarding ethical fundraising, financial reporting, and governance:

- we adopt the Guidelines for Charitable Organisations for Fundraising to the Public. Our staff, volunteers and anyone else fundraising on our behalf are fully trained on the requirements and we have implemented controls to ensure that all our fundraising practices are fully in line with the Guidelines
- We prepare an annual report and financial statements in full compliance with the Charity SORP (Standard of



Reporting Practice under FRS102).

- Our board has formally adopted the ‘Charities Governance Code. This means that we comply with the six principles of governance. These require that we advance charitable purpose, behave with integrity, lead people, exercise control, work effectively and are accountable.

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Constituency clinic times: Fridays 10am-12 noon



Lakeside Memorial Park

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Our information office is now open, please call to arrange an appointment.



www.lakesidememorialpark.ie



info@lakesidememorialpark.ie



01 960 2222

Construction is under way at Lakeside Memorial Park

Construction work is well under way at Lakeside Memorial Park, a new cemetery on Dublin's northside. Located between Malahide and Portmarnock, the lands which are larger than St. Stephen's Green, will provide a much-needed alternative to the traditional graveyard.



The high-class memorial park will provide 3,000 traditional burial plots and 4,000 in-ground ash plots as well as numerous interment options in the park's stately columbarium walls.

Speaking on behalf of Lakeside Memorial Park, Niall O'Connor, Director said "Lakeside Memorial Park will be a truly spectacular place where we can honour and remember our loved ones in a dignified and tranquil setting. We are creating what will arguably be one of the nicest places for interment in Ireland and our plans include the planting of approximately 1,000 trees along with the construction of a café which sits beside a new large lake. It has been designed as a public park and we will be encouraging walkers, joggers and dog-walkers to visit, all of these elements adding a wonderful energy to this beautiful place."

Another Director, Henry Wildgust, said "Lakeside Memorial Park will set a new standard for interment in Ireland and will redefine the traditional cemetery experience. In addition to the highly-landscaped surroundings, the interment ceremony will

also be first in class whereby a specially designed canopy will be erected on inclement days and seating will be available for the immediate family."

According to the owners, demand for burial plots has been very strong since their on-site information office opened last summer. Responding to our questions about the cost of the various plots at Lakeside Memorial Park, Mr. O'Connor told us that "there are introductory rates currently available - traditional burial plots are available from €7,500, in-ground ash plots from €5,000 and columbarium wall niches commence at €3,500.

"It is probably important to note that we are investing a portion of all sales income into a perpetuity fund, an idea we have taken from America. Having the perpetuity fund will ensure that the park is maintained to the highest standards forever, at no cost to our clients", Mr. O'Connor added.

Further information is available on the company's website: www.lakesidememorialpark.ie or alternatively, you can arrange a consultation by calling 01 9602222.



Councillor

John Walsh

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Dear Resident

I am giving a brief update on some local issues that I have been working on. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any queries or if I can be of any assistance.

John

DELAY IN THE ROYAL CANAL GREENWAY

I recently requested an update on the progress of the Royal Canal Greenway. I am disappointed at the delay in this project, which was originally meant to be submitted for approval to An Bord Pleanála in the third quarter of 2023 but the application for planning has now been delayed until the fourth quarter of 2024 due to new requirements from the National Transport Authority.

Question: Councillor J. Walsh "To ask the Chief Executive to provide an update on the planning and timeline for the completion of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report and submission of planning documentation for the Royal Canal Greenway project to An Bord Pleanála?"

Reply: The project team from the Planning & Strategic Infrastructure Department is continuing to finalise the preliminary design in consultation with all the key stakeholders. As the project is currently at pre-planning stage there is a requirement to ensure the preliminary design complies with the updated National Cycling Manual recently published by the National Transport Authority. This has resulted in the need to make amendments to the preliminary design of the project.

Following completion of the preliminary design, all the required documents including the Environmental Impact Assessment Report will be finalised to lodge a formal planning application to An Bord Pleanála.

As a result of the changes to the recently updated National Cycle Manual, the project team has carried out a re-appraisal of the project timeline. It is anticipated that a planning application submission will be made to An Bord Pleanála in Q4 2024.

ST PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

The St Patrick's day parade in Blanchardstown showcased the fantastic contribution of a wide range of sports clubs, community groups and the Tidy Towns from Castleknock, Blanchardstown and Clonsilla. Well done to the Fingal events team and congratulations to all the groups who participated in the parade.





UPDATE ON GRANARD BRIDGE

It is very welcome news that Fingal Council confirmed recently that a Pedestrian and Cycling bridge over the Maynooth rail line and Royal Canal at Granard Bridge on the Castleknock Road has gone out to tender and will form an integral part of the walking and cycling route for Blanchardstown to Phoenix Park, which is a proposed route in the Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan. I have made the case for a dedicated cycle and pedestrian link at Granard Bridge for safety reasons and this was accepted as a local objective in the Fingal Development Plan.

The tender forms part of the initial project for the Engineering Consultancy Services Framework for Dublin 15 Pedestrian and Cycling Route Projects which is currently at stage 2 of the procurement process. The current closing date for submissions of tender is late March but this may be extended.

I will keep residents updated once more detailed plans for this bridge are available.

SCHOOLS - PUBLIC MEETING ON CRISIS IN SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

I hosted a public information meeting on Wednesday 20th March in St Brigid's Community Centre, Blanchardstown, to provide a forum for parents and teachers to discuss the crisis in support for children with additional educational needs in Dublin 15. The current system is broken and failing to deliver the consistent, specialised support that students, parents and schools desperately need.

Among the key issues raised by parents and teachers are:

- An increasing shortfall in appropriate second-level school places in special classes and where necessary, special schools, for autistic children and students with complex educational needs in fourth, fifth and sixth classes in primary schools.
- Lack of essential training and support for schools in providing inclusive learning settings.
- The absence of specialised supports and services due to the HSE recruitment moratorium and long waiting lists for therapists in child services.
- Reduction of Special Education Teachers in 70% of primary schools in Dublin 15 under the new allocation model.

The evidence based report of the Dublin 15 Principals Network sets out the systemic problems that need to be addressed. We need radical change to fix the system, not ad hoc or fragmented actions year after year.

Beyond the Pale – Killarney Co.Kerry



Continuing our series on 'Beyond the Pale' to encourage travel beyond Greater Dublin we focus on Killarney in this edition.

Killarney, located in County Kerry, Ireland, is a beautiful town surrounded by stunning natural landscapes, including mountains, lakes, and national parks. Here are ten of the top things to do in Killarney:

1.Killarney National Park: This is one of the most beautiful and well-preserved national parks in Ireland. You can explore its lush greenery, lakes, waterfalls, and historical sites. Muckross House and Gardens, Torc Waterfall, and Ross Castle are must-visit attractions within the park.

2.Ring of Kerry: The Ring of Kerry is a scenic drive that loops around the Iveragh Peninsula, offering breathtaking views of coastal cliffs, mountains, and picturesque villages. You can also stop at various viewpoints, beaches, and historic sites along the way.

3.Gap of Dunloe: This narrow mountain pass offers stunning views of rugged terrain, lakes, and valleys. You can hike, cycle, or take a horse-drawn carriage ride through the gap, enjoying the natural beauty of the area.

4.Muckross House and Gardens: Located within Killarney National Park, Muckross House is a Victorian mansion surrounded by beautifully landscaped gardens. Visitors can take guided tours of the house and explore the gardens, which feature rare plants, walking paths, and scenic views.

5.Ross Castle: Situated on the shores of Lough Leane, Ross Castle is a 15th-century tower house that offers guided tours to

visitors. You can learn about its history, architecture, and the legends associated with the castle.

6.Jaunting Car Tours: Experience a traditional horse-drawn jaunting car tour through Killarney National Park or the Gap of Dunloe. A jaunting car ride provides a unique and leisurely way to explore the scenic beauty of the area while listening to entertaining stories from local guides.

7.Cycling: Killarney and its surrounding areas offer numerous cycling routes suitable for all levels of cyclists. You can rent a bike and explore the countryside at your own pace, taking in the stunning scenery along the way.

8.Boat Tours: Take a boat tour on the lakes of Killarney to enjoy panoramic views of the surrounding mountains and forests. Some boat tours also offer visits to islands, including Innisfallen Island with its ancient ruins.

9.Shopping and Dining: Killarney town centre is filled with shops, boutiques, cafes, and restaurants offering traditional Irish cuisine as well as international Flavours. You can explore the streets, sample local delicacies, and shop for souvenirs and artisan crafts.

10.Traditional Music and Pubs: Experience the lively traditional music scene in Killarney by visiting one of its many pubs and bars. You can enjoy live music sessions featuring Irish folk music, storytelling, and dancing, immersing yourself in the vibrant local culture.



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The Constitution of Ireland



The recent referendum has brought the Constitution into focus again. This seems a good moment to remind ourselves how the Constitution of Ireland was formed. As you will see later in this article, debate about Article 41.2 (referencing women and mothers) started as early as 1937.

The Constitution of Ireland (Irish: Bunreacht na hÉireann) is the fundamental law of Ireland. It asserts the national sovereignty of the Irish people. The constitution, based on a system of representative democracy, is broadly within the tradition of liberal democracy. It guarantees certain fundamental rights, along with a popularly elected non-executive president, a bicameral parliament, a separation of powers and judicial review.

It is the second constitution of the Irish state since independence, replacing the 1922 Constitution of the Irish Free State. It came into force on 29 December 1937 following a statewide plebiscite held on 1 July 1937. The Constitution may be amended solely by a national referendum. It is the longest continually operating republican constitution within the European Union.

Background

The Constitution of Ireland replaced the Constitution of the Irish Free State which had been in effect since the independence, as a dominion, of the Irish state from the United Kingdom on 6 December 1922. There were two main motivations for replacing the constitution in 1937. Firstly, the Statute of Westminster 1931 granted parliamentary autonomy to the six British Dominions (now known as Commonwealth realms) within a British Commonwealth of Nations. This had the effect of making the dominions sovereign nations in their own right. The Irish Free State constitution of 1922 was, in the eyes of many, associated with the controversial Anglo-Irish Treaty. The anti-treaty faction, who opposed the treaty initially by force of arms, was so opposed to the institutions of the new Irish Free State that it initially took an abstentionist line toward them, boycotting them altogether. However, the largest element of this faction became convinced that abstentionism could not be maintained forever. This element, led by Éamon

de Valera, formed the Fianna Fáil party in 1926, which entered into government following the 1932 general election.

After 1932, under the provisions of the Statute of Westminster, some of the articles of the original Constitution which were required by the Anglo-Irish Treaty were dismantled by acts of the Oireachtas of the Irish Free State. Such amendments removed references to the Oath of Allegiance, appeals to the United Kingdom's Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, the British Crown, and the Governor-General. The sudden abdication of Edward VIII in December 1936 was quickly used to redefine the Royal connection. Nevertheless, the Fianna Fáil government still desired to replace the constitutional document they saw as having been imposed by the British government in 1922.

The second motive for replacing the original constitution was primarily symbolic. De Valera wanted to put an Irish stamp on the institutions of government and chose to do this in particular through the use of Irish language nomenclature.

Drafting process

De Valera personally supervised the writing of the Constitution. It was drafted initially by John Hearne, legal adviser to the Department of External Affairs (now called the Department of Foreign Affairs). It was translated into Irish over a number of drafts by a group headed by Micheál Ó Gríobhtha (assisted by Risteárd Ó Foghludha), who worked in the Irish Department of Education. De Valera served as his own External Affairs Minister, hence the use of the Department's Legal Advisor, with whom he had previously worked closely, as opposed to the Attorney General or someone from the Department of the President of the Executive Council. He also received significant input from John Charles McQuaid, the then President of Blackrock College, on religious, educational, family, and social welfare issues. McQuaid later became, in 1940, the Catholic

Archbishop of Dublin. Other religious leaders who were consulted were Archbishop Edward Byrne (Roman Catholic), Archbishop John Gregg (Church of Ireland), William Massey (Methodist) and James Irwin (Presbyterian).

There are a number of instances where the texts in English and Irish clash, a potential dilemma which the Constitution resolves by favouring the Irish text even though English is more commonly used in the official sphere.

A draft of the constitution was presented personally to the Vatican for review and comment on two occasions by the Department Head at External Relations, Joseph P. Walsh. Prior to its tabling in Dáil Éireann and presentation to the Irish electorate in a plebiscite, Vatican Secretary of State Eugenio Cardinal Pacelli, the future Pope Pius XII, said of the final amended draft: "We do not approve, neither do we disapprove; We shall maintain silence." The quid pro quo for this indulgence of the Catholic Church's interests in Ireland was the degree of respectability which it conferred on De Valera's formerly denounced republican faction and its reputation as the 'semi-constitutional' political wing of the 'irregular' anti-treaty forces.

During the Great Depression, as social polarisation generated campaigns and strikes, Catholic social jurists aimed to forestall class conflict. Taoiseach Éamon de Valera and clericalist advisors such as John Charles McQuaid considered constitutional provisions to incorporate land redistribution, credit system regulation, and welfare rights. Late in the drafting process, however, de Valera re-wrote these initially robust socio-economic rights as non-binding 'directive principles', primarily to satisfy the Department of Finance's preferences for minimal state spending. In line with Ireland's banks and

grazier farming interests, the final wording thus preserved the state's existing currency and cattle trading relations with the United Kingdom.

Adoption

Main article: Adoption of the Constitution of Ireland

The text of the draft constitution, with minor amendments, was approved on 14 June 1937 by Dáil Éireann (then the sole house of parliament, the Seanad having been abolished the previous year).

3d denomination of the Irish Constitution postage stamp issue

The draft constitution was then put to a plebiscite on 1 July 1937 (the same day as the 1937 general election), when it was passed by a plurality. 56% of voters were in favour, comprising 38.6% of the whole electorate. The constitution came into force on 29 December 1937 and, to mark the occasion, the Minister for Posts and Telegraphs issued two commemorative stamps on that date.

Among the groups who opposed the constitution were supporters of Fine Gael and the Labour Party, Unionists, and some independents and feminists. The question put to voters was "Do you approve of the Draft Constitution which is the subject of this plebiscite?".

Plebiscite on the Constitution of Ireland

Choice	Votes	%
Referendum passed	Yes = 685,105	56.52
	No = 526,945	43.48
Valid votes	1,212,050	90.03
Invalid or blank votes	134,157	9.97

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Total votes	1,346,207	100.00
Registered voters/turnout	1,775,055	75.84

Response

When the draft new constitution was published, the Irish Independent described it as one of de Valera's "finest tributes to his predecessors". The Irish Times criticised the constitution's assertion of a territorial claim on Northern Ireland, and the absence in its text of any reference to the British Commonwealth. The London-based Daily Telegraph included in its criticism the special position assigned to the Church of Rome under the new constitution.[26] The Sunday Times concluded it would only help to "perpetuate division" between Dublin and Belfast. The Irish Catholic concluded it was a "noble document in harmony with papal teachings".

When the new constitution was enacted, the British government, according to The New York Times, "contented itself with a legalistic protest".[27] Its protest took the form of a communiqué on 30 December 1937, in which the British stated:

His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom has considered the position created by the new Constitution ... of the Irish Free State, in future to be described under the Constitution as 'Eire' or 'Ireland' ... [and] cannot recognise that the adoption of the name 'Eire' or 'Ireland', or any other provision of those articles [of the Irish constitution], involves any right to territory ... forming part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ... They therefore regard the use of the name 'Eire' or 'Ireland' in this connection as relating only to that area which has hitherto been known as the Irish Free State.

The other governments of the British Commonwealth

countries chose to continue to regard Ireland as a member of the British Commonwealth. A proposal by the Northern Ireland government that Northern Ireland be renamed "Ulster" in response to the new Irish constitution was aborted after it was determined that this would require Westminster legislation.

The Irish government received a message of goodwill from 268 United States congressmen, including eight senators. The signatories expressed "their ardent congratulations on the birth of the State of Ireland and the consequent coming into effect of the new constitution", adding that "We regard the adoption of the new constitution and the emergence of the State of Ireland as events of the utmost importance."

Feminists such as Hannah Sheehy Skeffington claimed that certain articles threatened their rights as citizens and as workers. Article 41.2, for example, equated womanhood with motherhood and further specified a woman's 'life within the home'. The Women Graduates' Association, the Joint Committee of Women's Societies and Social Workers, together with the Irish Women Workers' Union mobilised a two-month campaign seeking the provisions' amendment or deletion.

The Republican Congress also critiqued the constitution's "stone-age conception of womanhood". Writing in the Irish Democrat, Peadar O'Donnell and Frank Ryan condemned the 1937 Constitution for upholding private property as a sacred, 'natural right' and declaring that capitalism was 'something ordained by Providence forever, amen!' The Congress further opposed the Roman Catholic Church's position as a 'State or semi-State church' in violation of republican principles and an offence to Protestants throughout the island. The 'Roman Catholic Bishops of the South', O'Donnell claimed, now functioned as 'the watchdogs of the private property classes'.

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Auburn Avenue Walking and Cycling Scheme

by Councillor Pamela Conroy



At a recent Area Committee Meeting the Fingal County Council Active Travel team gave a presentation on the proposed Auburn Avenue Walking and Cycling Scheme. This scheme will form part of the overall Castleknock-Dunsink Cycle Route and aligns with the Fingal County Council Development Plan (2023-2029), as well as National Policy, to promote modal shift to active travel and deliver a county cycle network.



The project location, which can be seen in the image, includes the length of Auburn Avenue and 230m of the Old Navan Road to Castleknock Tennis club. The part of the Old Navan Road heading towards St Brigid's GAA club is proposed to become a Quiet Street which will be delivered as part of the BusConnects.

The work along will include:

- 1.8km of protected cycle lanes which will be separated by the road by being raised,
- 5 bus stop upgrades (see image),
- 9 side road crossings with improved tightened corner radii and continuous footpaths,
- 4 bus friendly toucan crossings with a raised crossing (3 new crossings and one improved existing crossing)
- An upgrade of the Castleknock Road/Auburn Avenue junction to have protected corner islands, parallel crossings for cyclists and pedestrians and an orbital cycle track

- An upgrade of the Old Navan Road/Auburn Avenue roundabout to include parallel level grade zebra crossings on three arms, orbital cycle track to provide dedicated space for cyclists, and bioretention verges (see image)

Many residents living in the vicinity of Auburn Avenue have raised concerns regarding the speed of vehicles using the road. The proposed upgrades will result in traffic calming along the length of the road via the 4 raised toucan crossings. The Dutch style roundabout at the Old Navan Road end of Auburn Avenue will make it safer for those who chose to walk or cycle to Edmund Rice College of St Brigid's GAA club. Overall the proposed project will deliver a safer road experience for the pedestrian, cyclist and driver as well as reducing carbon emissions and improving air quality in the local area.

The proposed scheme will be shortly going out on a non-statutory public consultation. To keep informed of when the consultation period will begin please follow my social media or contact me by emailing pamela.conroy@cllr.fingal.ie.

Witchcraft In Ireland. A Horror-able Story ?

by Mike Power



Like a Good Fright?

Don't we all love a good fright? Back in the day, scary 1970s film franchises like *The Exorcist*, *Halloween* or *The Omen* were sure crowd-pleasers, drawing people in their droves to be simultaneously frightened, shocked and (ultimately) entertained. Steep fair-ground rides, parachute-jumping, white-water rafting, dizzy rock-climbing and many other human activities are just some of the ways in which the thrills we experience far outweigh any sense of danger we might feel. For some of us humans, thrill-seeking adds spice to what otherwise might be a somewhat mundane and ordinary daily existence. Pushing themselves to the limits of endurance brings a heightened sense of living to folk with a 'license to thrill'. Might you be one of these?

Primitive Brains

Our brain evolved in highly- dangerous surroundings, where life or death depended on split-second decisions we might make. Much of our 'primitive' brain is devoted to processing the raw emotions such as fear, terror, anxiety or anger which these existential situations might provoke. Fuelled by instant huge surges of adrenaline, these brain-parts readied us for immediate fight or flight. Horror and the occult work by tapping into these primitive brain-parts and provide us thrills which come from us controlling these sensations within bounds that are 'safe'.

Witchcraft in Ireland

The earliest we know of witches in Ireland was that of one Alice Kytler, Kilkenny city in 1324. A much-married lady (of four husbands!) she became a rich heiress, with many suitors. Jealous friends of Alice's gave evidence that she had a cat, which (they alleged) could speak and intone devilish spells and incantations. While Alice's case was being investigated, she fled abroad, her final destiny unknown. However, an associate of hers, one Petronella De Meath, claimed that she could fly. Having confessed to being a witch, she was flogged and burnt at the stake. Ireland's

first case of execution for heresy.

The 17th cent saw fear of witchcraft reach its peak on the continent, with thousands of innocent women burnt as witches. 'Goody' Newton lived in Youghal in the 1660s. She was reputed to have put a maid, one Mary Langton under a 'devil's spell'. Charged with being a witch and in league with the devil. Unfortunately, we know not of her final end. Were she convicted she would certainly have been burnt as a witch.

One of the most notorious witch investigations occurred in Islandmagee, Co Antrim in 1711. This area had been settled by many Scottish Presbyterians, puritans keen to locate and root out heresy in any form. A local woman, Mary Dunbar claimed that 'witches' had given her fits and that eight local women had caused it. Dunbar claimed these women had appeared to her in a dream and, as a result, she had vomited up nails, began fitting, and throwing bibles. For a fanatical puritan community, these allegations were proof enough. All eight were convicted but their exact final punishments are unclear to us.

Finally, in Clonmel, Co Tipperary in 1895, a Michael Cleary was convinced his wife was possessed of a 'changeling', (malevolent fairy) , who had taken over her body and her soul. A beautiful and enterprising woman, Brigid Cleary, who owned one of the first Singer sewing machines in Ireland, contracted pneumonia in March 1895, her physical appearance so altered that her husband thought her possessed. In a wild fit of uncontrollable rage, Michael held his wife fast over a burning fire until she expired. Brigid's tragic death speaks volumes for the ignorant superstition of her husband and of the blighted, prejudicial community she inhabited.

Brigid Cleary was, notoriously, the last witch ever to have been burned in Ireland. Her tragic death brought to an end a superstitious era which suspected merely independent, capable and eccentric women as 'agents of the devil-fit only to be consumed in fire.' Thank heavens that incendiary era has passed and a more accepting, tolerant one has permanently taken its place here on our little island.

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Extending child benefit for full-time students up to the age of 19 marks a positive step forward

Plans to extend child benefit to over 18s still in full time education is a welcome development, a Fine Gael TD has said

Deputy Emer Higgins said: “Following Budget 2024, one thing I was particularly keen to see is the extension of child benefit to all full-time students up to 19-years-old. As parents know, child benefit stops once a child turns 18, but nowadays, many sixth-year students are 18 or even 19 when they’re sitting their Leaving Cert.

“They’re still in full-time education and at this stage in a young person’s life, parents are still very much the financial providers for all their needs, and it isn’t fair that child benefit stops at 18 when the majority of young people are still in secondary school. The expenses don’t just stop at 18, especially when your teenager is still in school and not working.

“This is something that I have raised in the past and as we look at ways to assist people to manage the cost of living, Government is now considering an extension to child benefit following Budget 2024,” added Deputy Higgins.

“For a lot of hard-working families, child benefit is the only social welfare payment that they receive and extending it up to the age of 19, providing the young person is still in full-time education, would no doubt be a help to parents and guardians.

“Set to benefit families in respect of around 60,000 18-year-olds up until their 19th birthday, this move recognises the evolving needs of families and the societal benefits of supporting education.

Deputy Higgins continued: “Any extension to a social welfare payment, obviously comes at a cost, but given the very careful



management of public finances over the last number of years, I believe that this is an investment that we should be in the position to make.

“This investment in our families and young people is not just a matter of financial support; it’s a commitment to ensuring that students can complete their secondary education without financial strain. By extending child benefit, Fine Gael are acknowledging the importance of education and the role it plays in levelling the playing field for all our young people.” concluded Deputy Higgins.





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Chocolate mini egg vertical cake recipe



This epic vertical cake is sure to steal this show this Easter. Fluffy chocolate sponges are sandwiched together with vanilla frosting then decorated with colourful mini eggs. Try using ready-made buttercream to save time!

Ingredients

oil or butter, for greasing
6 eggs
150g granulated or caster sugar, plus 2 tbsp
150g plain flour
50g cocoa powder
2 x 400g tubs vanilla flavour frosting
3 x 80g bags chocolate mini eggs

Method

1. Preheat the oven to gas 7, 220°C, fan 200°C and grease and line two 22 x 32cm Swiss roll tins with baking paper. Cut two extra pieces of baking paper a bit larger than the tins; set aside.
2. Put the eggs and 150g sugar in a large mixing bowl and use an electric whisk to beat for 5 mins or until pale and thick. Sift in the flour and cocoa powder with a pinch of salt, then fold in using a spatula until no streaks remain. Divide between the prepared tins, level the tops, then bake for 7-9 mins until springy to the touch.
3. Sprinkle each of the extra sheets of baking paper with 1 tbsp sugar. As soon as the sponges are baked, carefully invert onto the sugared paper, removing the tins and lining paper. With a short edge facing you, score a horizontal line

2cm from the bottom of each sponge (picture 1). Gently roll up from this end, enclosing the sugared paper within. Set aside to cool completely.

4. Spoon 1 tub of frosting into a bowl and stir to loosen. Very gently unroll the cold sponges, discarding the paper. With a short edge facing you, cut each sponge in half vertically to give 4 long, narrow sponges about 9cm wide (picture 2). Divide the frosting between the sponges, taking it right to the edges.

5. Roll up one spiral with the frosting inside, then stand upright. Take a second sponge and, starting where the upright spiral ends, wrap it around (picture 3). Repeat with the remaining sponges (don't worry if they crack a bit).

6. Spoon the remaining frosting into a bowl and stir as before. Spread thinly over the top and sides of the cake to cover, then transfer to the fridge for 20 mins to firm up. Once firm, use a palette knife to cover with the remaining frosting.

7. Tip all the mini eggs into a bowl, then use to cover the top of the cake in concentric circles. Put the remaining mini eggs in a freezer bag and bash into small pieces with a rolling pin, then press into the frosting around the bottom of the cake.



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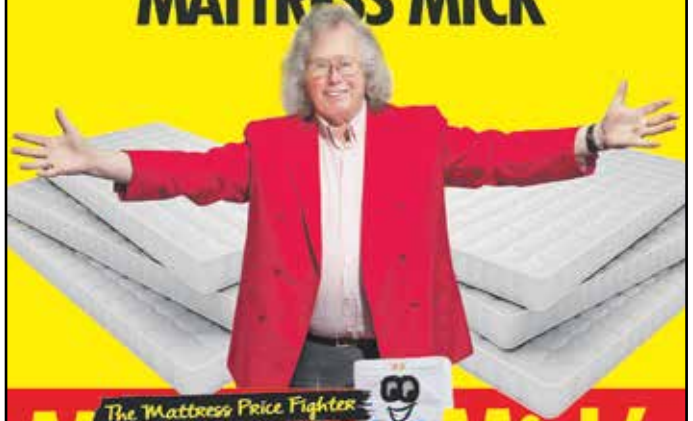


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Prioritizing Women's Health

The provision of targeted women's healthcare services is an area that has long been overlooked by successive governments. This area was a priority for the Green Party when we negotiated the Programme for Government in 2020. Since then, this Government has allocated an extra €140 million towards improving women's health services.



This substantial investment has made it possible to make bring in a range of initiatives aimed at addressing various aspects of women's health. From the implementation of a free contraception scheme for women aged 17 to 31 to the establishment of publicly funded assisted human reproduction treatment accessible via six regional fertility hubs, we have taken real steps to meet the healthcare needs of women.

Under the Women's Health Action Plan, significant progress has been made in expanding access to specialist services, including the operation of 16 out of a planned 20 See-and-Treat Gynaecology Clinics. These clinics not only provide essential medical care but also foster a supportive environment for women seeking treatment. I am hopeful that the remaining four clinics will open later this year, further enhancing access to quality care.

The establishment of six specialist menopause clinics and two specialist endometriosis centres allow for the provision of dedicated care and support for individuals experiencing menopause and endometriosis. Through these changes, we work to ensure that every woman receives the assistance she needs to maintain her health and well-being. In addition to this, I have asked my own Department to commission research on the workplace experiences of employees facing menstrual and menopause

symptoms. This initiative aims to inform government policy and provide guidance for employers on supporting their employees' health needs in the workplace.

While we acknowledge these achievements, we recognise that there is still much work to be done. However, the €140 million investment in women's health services represents a significant step towards building a more inclusive and responsive healthcare system that prioritizes the needs of women. We are committed to ongoing efforts to expand access to essential services and address emerging health challenges, ensuring that women receive the care they deserve.

Our investment in women's health services reflects our society's values and priorities. By prioritising women's health, we invest in the future of our nation, empowering every woman to lead a healthy and fulfilling life. Importantly, our commitment does not end here; we recognize the need for continued investment in healthcare to ensure the well-being of all individuals in our society.



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Reminder to apply for Mortgage Interest Tax Relief scheme for 2023

A recent survey suggested that two thirds of us will have not had enough money to last to the end of January.



Fine Gael TD for Dublin Mid-West Emer Higgins has reminded constituents that PAYE taxpayers can now submit claims for Mortgage Interest Relief for 2023. Self-assessed taxpayers will be able to claim the relief in mid-February.

"If you have a mortgage of between €80,000 and €500,000 you may be eligible for a tax relief. PAYE taxpayers can claim it now by logging into Revenue's myAccount and filing a 2023 Income Tax Return. Self-assessed taxpayers can do the same from mid-February.

The relief is based on your mortgage as of 31st December 2022 and covers homeowners who up to date on their Local Property Tax. It could be worth up to €1,250 depending on how much your mortgage repayments have increased due to interest rate hikes," said Higgins.

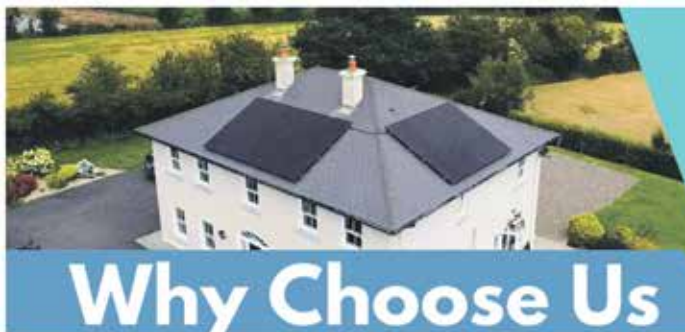
"I know this is a really welcome relief for many mortgage owners who have seen their interest rates increase and I

encourage everyone who is eligible to submit their tax return. Over 200,000 mortgages are eligible for the relief," concluded Higgins.

Minister McGrath said "the Government is acutely conscious of the impact increases in interest rates have had on many mortgage holders. In light of this, I introduced a temporary one-year, targeted Mortgage Interest Tax Relief scheme as part of Budget 2024.

"This forms a further element of a comprehensive package of cost of living supports in Budget 2024 which include energy credits, income tax and USC reductions, and welfare increases which are helping households throughout the country."

In Budget 2024, the Minister for Finance Michael McGrath T.D. announced the introduction of a temporary one-year Mortgage Interest Tax Relief scheme up to a value of €1,250. The tax relief is at the standard rate of income tax and is based on the increase in interest paid in 2023 over interest paid in 2022



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ELLEN TROY

Biochemist, Ellen Troy is married to Declan, and they have four adult children and one grandchild.

Ellen is a vibrant and active member of the D15 community serving on numerous committees, fundraising for many charities and establishing several initiatives.

She has fundraised for umpteen local charities; SONAS Women's Refuge D15, established the Family Group and Choir and remains an active participant on the Parish Pastoral Council of her local church. She recently organised the hugely successful 'Paint For Palestine' which raised almost €5,500.00 for Trocaire's humanitarian efforts for the civilian population of Gaza.

Ellen has been actively involved in the local St Brigid's GAA Club for decades and is a passionate supporter of all local sporting groups.

Secretary of the Pines, Hadleigh and Beechpark Lawn Neighbourhood Watch.

Committed to accountability, true democratic representation for all and genuine equality, Ellen found her natural 'political home' in Aontú and has served as an elected member of its Árd Comhairle from the beginning.

"I had never been involved in active politics before I joined Aontú. I was immediately drawn to its strong principles; it has a leader in Peadár Tóibín that I am immensely proud to stand behind; he espouses all the qualities and values I respect, he is a man of his word and for the people, all the people".

"If elected to Fingal County Council, I promise to work diligently; representing your views, concerns and aspirations and endeavour to improve the quality of life for all the people in the communities of Blanchardstown, Carpenterstown, Castleknock, Clonsilla, Coolmine, Lucan North and Porterstown".

My priorities include;

Social Housing: Much more social and affordable housing is required. I will demand more transparency on how social housing is allocated. At present there are 10,000 people on Fingal County Council waiting list with a waiting time of up to 8yrs.

M50 Toll Charges: This is a state-owned infrastructure and commuters have already more than paid for its construction. Drastic reductions of these toll charges should be considered.



Social Personal and Health Education. (SPHE): I have been to the fore of a campaign informing constituents of the potential serious implications of the proposed changes to the curriculum.

Parents and Guardians must have the final say.

Phoenix Park: Parking must always be free in our world-renowned facility. Changes made during Covid, preventing elderly people and young families parking along Chesterfield Road have had a negative impact with many now no longer using the Park. The negative visual impact of the bollards is also causing concern.

"The Park Must Be For Everyone".

Public Transport: I will work to ensure that public transport meets the needs of a growing population, Appropriate action needs to be taken to alleviate persistent traffic congestion.

Crime: A visible, well-resourced local and Community Garda presence is vital. I know firsthand the important role established Neighbourhood Watch Groups play, and I am encouraging the formation of new groups.

Ellen Troy 086 0610686 ellen.troy@aontu.ie

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Fingal Hubs Connected has the 'craic' with How to Gael Podcasters

To highlight the three Fingal Hubs Connected locations in Mulhuddart, Drinan in Swords and Balbriggan, the Hubs' creative studio at Drinan recently had the 'craic' playing host to Doireann, Louise and Siomha of How to Gael, Ireland's new and extremely popular bilingual podcast.

Fingal Hubs Connected are based in Fingal County Council's three Enterprise Centres, BASE in Mulhuddart, Dublin 15, Drinan Enterprise Centre in Swords and BeAt Balbriggan. Studio Drinan allows for podcasts or webcasts, ideal for anyone looking to market goods or services.

How to Gael are the new generation of Irish speakers who are living, working, socialising and reviving an Ghaeilge in a way that is suimiúil, spraoiúil agus just good craic with weekly catch ups where current affairs, popular culture and just general gossip will also bí á bplé. Louise Cantillon is the new presenter of the lunchtime slot on Today FM while Doireann Ni Ghlacain and Siomha ni Ruairc are presenter and producer respectively on TG4.

Their two lively podcasts recorded at the Swords hub

covering everything from how to have self-discipline, how to Hygge and, to celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge, five things you should never say to Gaeilgeoirí, will be released on 12th and 19th March 24. They can be heard on Spotify, Podtail, Apple, Google and Acast.

"We have a very high commuting population in Fingal, and with the advent of remote working, there's a big appetite for reducing the time spent commuting," said John Quinlivan, Director of Service, Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Cultural Development Department at Fingal County Council. "Providing local facilities supports remote working, while acting as a boost to the local economy."

Fingal Hubs Connected offers excellent facilities and networking opportunities for local workers while giving the



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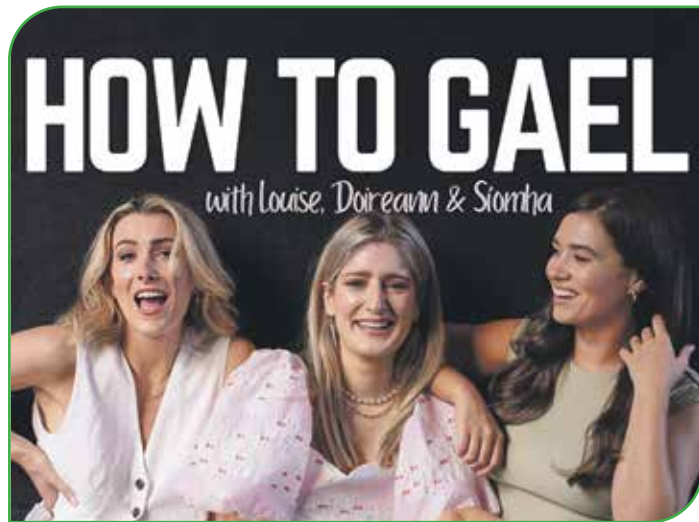
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lead to a mutually beneficial collaboration. There's huge potential there," said Quinlivan.

Fingal Hubs Connected list their available desks and meeting rooms on connectedhubs.ie. The website is run by the National Hub Network, a government initiative that allows individual hubs to come together under a shared identity to maximise the economic opportunity of remote working. Users can also rent desks, meeting rooms and host events at other hubs across the country.

The Hubs are central to Fingal County Council's aim to promote a dynamic, sustainable and inclusive economy that is enabled by strong infrastructure, collaboration and skills under its recently adopted economic development strategy. For more information and to book your space, visit www.connectedhubs.ie.

Fingal Hubs Connected is supported by the Department of Rural and Community Development.

How to Gael's Siomha ni Ruairc said "The creative studio at Fingal Hubs Connected in the Drinan Enterprise Centre in Swords was a great place for us to record our first ever off-site podcast - we're used to Louise's apartment, so this was a little snazzier! The facilities are foirfe for anyone looking to achieve professional standard recordings in their own time - for freelance audio projects as well as corporate audio productions. The studio technology and accessibility for users makes it a great place to produce, mix and record a high-quality podcast."

How to Gael is holding its first-ever show at Liberty Hall Theatre in Dublin on Monday 8th April 2024. For tickets, visit <https://mcd.ie/artists/how-to-gael> or Ticketmaster

local economy a boost. Already up and running and available for booking, the Hubs are flexible, modern and affordable with internet access and other services like meeting rooms, free carparking, tea/coffee facilities and a dedicated reception team which can provide printing, post, scanning, copying and typing at competitive rates.

In addition to high-quality, well-run facilities, the Fingal Hubs Connected also offer the chance to interact and network with other remote workers during the working day.

"It doesn't suit everyone to be at home five days a week and we're finding that people want to come out and be with other people. It's also a great way to spark new ideas, those watercooler type moments that could

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EASTER EGG HISTORY

Why do we have Easter eggs at Easter? You might have asked yourself that question before. After all, the Easter story as told in the Bible doesn't involve any eggs. So, what is the meaning behind Easter eggs?

The tradition of making and giving decorated eggs didn't begin with Easter. In fact, the practice of decorating eggs dates back nearly 60,000 years to the predynastic Egyptians. The ancient Egyptians would decorate ostrich eggs in gold and silver as a way of honouring their loved ones, who were buried with these intricate gifts.

As a long-standing symbol of life and death, the egg pops up regularly throughout history in most civilisations. Now, nearly 2000 years later, Easter and the Easter egg has become a prominent part of our yearly festivities. You can find out more about why we have Easter eggs at Easter below.

Why do we have Easter eggs at Easter?

The story of Easter starts with the last supper. This

was a meal that Jesus shared with his disciples before he was betrayed by Judas and executed. The Last Supper is a Jewish event known as Passover. Passover meals usually included a white egg.

It's thought that the Christian custom of the Easter egg came from this Passover egg, which in the early days of Easter was dyed red, to symbolise the blood of Christ that was spilled that Passover, and often adorned with a golden cross that was a depiction of the crucifix that Jesus died on.

Chocolate eggs

Using chocolate to make Easter eggs was a turning point in Easter egg history, and it all started in 1725, in the Court of King Louis XIV (14) in Versailles. The widow Giambone poured molten chocolate into empty chicken eggshells, and the first chocolate Easter egg



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was born.

During ancient times many people would give up dairy foods for Lent. This meant that by the end of Lent there were so many eggs left over, and so the Easter season has always been about eating loads of eggs. Eventually made out of chocolate they were given as gifts. It was thought that the practice of exchanging sugary treats was due to the fact that many people had started to give up sugar for Lent instead of dairy – but the egg still remained.

Nowadays, many people give chocolate eggs to their friends and family to celebrate Easter.

In many European countries, such as Germany, Sweden, and Poland, the practice of colouring chicken eggs and using them as decorations around the home at Easter still persists.

Do you want to learn how to dye the prettiest Easter eggs? These easy tips and tricks for dyeing Easter eggs will help you have eggs that really stand out amid the other plain eggs in the Easter egg hunt. These dyed eggs will be richly coloured and boldly beautiful. But before we talk colour, you'll need to know how to make hard boiled eggs.

Now that you have a dozen or two boiled eggs, let's get to creating a beautiful Easter basket.

How to Dye Easter Eggs: Dyeing Easter Eggs with Food Colouring

To start, cover a table with layers of old newspaper to soak up any spills.

Create a drying rack by sticking pins into a sheet of thick foam board.

For colourfast egg dyes, mix 7-8 drops of food colouring into 1 cup of hot water. Stir in 1/4 cup

vinegar. For more intense colours, use small amounts of professional-quality food colouring gels or pastes, available at craft, cake decorating and kitchen supply stores.

If you're doing multi-coloured eggs, let them dry thoroughly between coats of dye.

Store finished and dried eggs in empty egg cartons.



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087 327 6630 tedleddy2014@gmail.com

The Castleknock Village Festival

I am pleased to confirm that the Castleknock Village Festival will be going ahead this year for the third time. It will take place on Sunday June 16th along side the Castleknock 5k Run. We intend on having our best festival yet this year. If anybody has any ideas and suggestions or knows any organisation or business that would like to be involved, please contact me on tedleddy2014@gmail.com.



Gardai

During a recent meeting in Blanchardstown Garda station, the Taoiseach, Senator Emer Currie and I met with senior Gardai and several new Garda recruits. We are very aware of a number of crime and safety issues within the community that are currently causing anxiety. Due to these concerns Gardai are increasing their visibility and frequency of patrols around the Castleknock area.



Castleknock Wellbeing Group

I was very pleased to recently assist with the setting up and funding of the Castleknock Well-being Group. The Group do weekly yoga and other exercises for elderly residents every Monday starting at 9.45am in the Castleknock Church Parish Centre. It has proved hugely popular. If you want to know more about the program send queries to castleknockwb@gmail.com



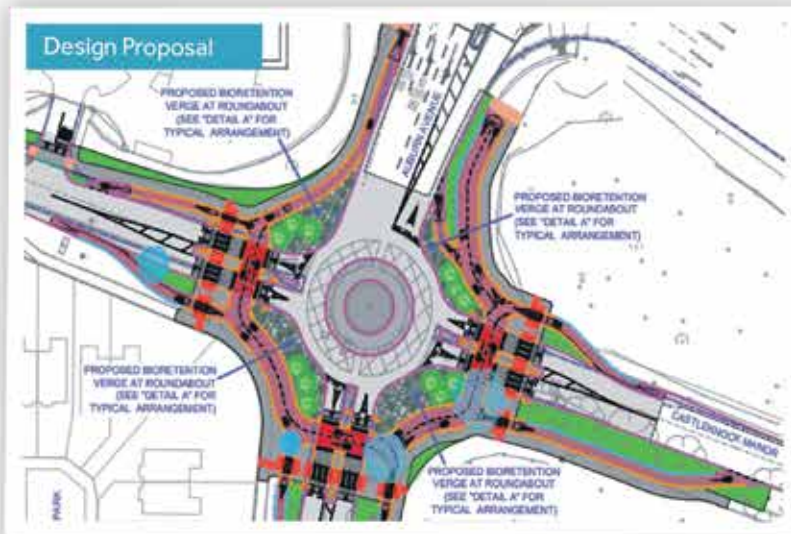
Active Travel Projects

Following last years announcement by Government of €289 million for 1,200 Active Travel projects, I am pleased that three interlinking walking and cycling schemes have been approved for the Castleknock Area. I welcome these projects as I believe that improving walking and cycling infrastructure in the area is an important part of how to **tackle our congestion problems**.

The three projects are:

- Castleknock to Blanchardstown Via Farmleigh
- Castleknock to Dunsink Lane
- Auburn Avenue to Royal Canal Greenway

Details of the walking and cycling scheme from Auburn Avenue to the Royal Canal Greenway have been unveiled and are due to begin later this year following a public consultation.



Old Navan Road/Auburn Ave Roundabout:

- Roundabout improved with parallel level grade zebra crossings on three arms, orbital cycle track to provide dedicated space for cyclists, and bioretention verges

Old Navan Road:

- Side road crossings improved with tightened corner radii and continuous footpath
- 3 speed ramps- traffic calming
- Layout changed to a shared street including parking bays with a buffer zone and buildouts, changing the road into a better/calmer space

Next Steps

- 1 New landscaping and drainage along Auburn Avenue
- 2 Appropriate lighting at potential conflict zones and to enhance the perceived comfort and safety levels along the route
- 3 The proposed scheme has been the subject of a screening assessment for the potential environmental impact of the scheme
- 4 The screening assessment reports indicate that a full Appropriate Assessment or Environmental Impact Assessment Report are not required for this project

PREFERRED OPTION



- 1.8km of Protected Cycle Lanes in both directions along Auburn Avenue
- The narrowed traffic lanes and the raised crossings at the roundabout shall encourage lower traffic speeds on the route thus contributing to a generally safer road environment
- Side road crossings improved with tightened corner radii and continuous footpath
- Addition of toucan crossings at desire lines
- Traffic calming and shared street design on Old Navan Road

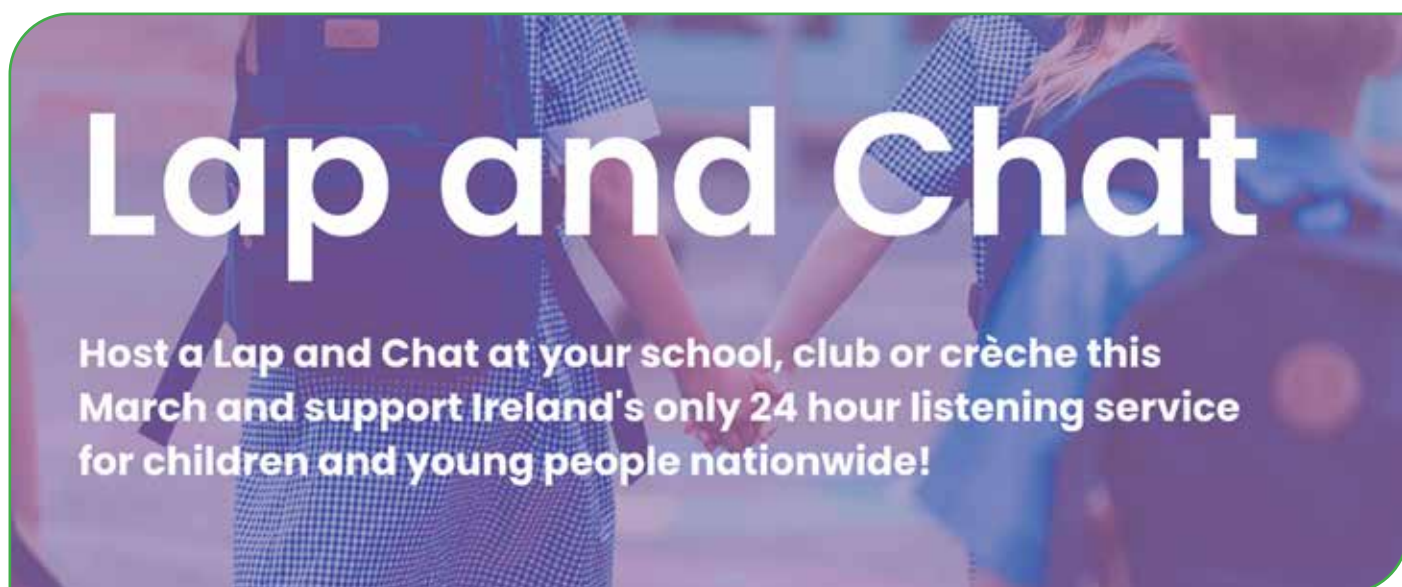


Councillor Ted Leddy

Castleknock, Dublin ☎ 087 327 6630 📧 tedleddy2014@gmail.com

Working in your area with An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar TD, Sen Emer Currie, Cllr Siobhan Shovlin, Frances Fitzgerald MEP and Senator Regina Doherty.

Get up, get out and get talking for Childline by ISPCC



Childline by ISPCC urges the nation to get chatting with our latest fundraising campaign. Get talking while walking and help children and young people by supporting the 'Lap and Chat' fundraising campaign from Childline by ISPCC. This latest campaign was developed in direct response to the worries of callers to Childline, ISPCC's 24/7 listening service.

Both walking and talking are good for us but, together, they have added benefits. International research indicates that people with anxious tendencies feel more at ease with the person they were interacting with if they aren't making eye contact with that person.

Childline is Ireland's only 24/7 listening service for children and young people, and volunteers have increasingly been hearing callers share their mental health concerns.

We know from talking to children and young people that their worries range from sibling rivalry and differences in music tastes to exam anxiety, confusion about sexuality and self-harming.

This spring, Childline by ISPCC is calling on schools, clubs and creches to take part in our latest campaign by walking a lap while having a chat with a friend in the yard, school or local area.

We listen to school students sharing their worries every day, so we know how vital it is for children and young people to share what's on their mind.

Childline provides a supportive listening ear for all those worries and anything else on the minds of our callers. "If a worry is big to any of our callers, it's big to us at Childline," says John Church, ISPCC CEO.

ISPCC needs to raise up to 75% of its funding each year from donations and the charity is grateful for all support which helps ensure its services and supports are available to children and young people all day, every day.

To find out more about the campaign, including information on

how to sign up a school, club or creche, visit <https://ispcc.enthuse.com/cf/lap-and-chat-2024>

ISPCC will provide a virtual school talk, reflection workbook for students, an information booklet about its school services and a completion certification.

The Lap and Chat event can be held any time in March or April.

**THERE IS A SOLUTION GROUP**
Alcoholics Anonymous
Corduff D15
Our Group meets every Saturday morning at 11am in the Corduff Community Resource Centre on Blackcourt Road and simultaneously online on:
Zoom Meeting ID: 898 5548 6555
Passcode: recovery

- 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.

**WE CAN BE CONTACTED HERE:**
085 814 1164 tiasgcorduff@gmail.com
www.thereisasolution.group

All enquiries will be treated in the STRICTEST CONFIDENCE

Return this plot to the public realm

By Tania Doyle | Independent Councillor Fingal County Council | Ongar Ward, Dublin 15



We currently have, what I would be described as an “abandoned plot” of land, adjacent to a major feeder route in Dublin 15 which with very little effort and resources could be returned to the public realm. In a time of climate action and mitigation, to leave such a plot to further deteriorate serves no purpose whatsoever.

This land, approx ¼ of an Acre, has laid abandoned and overgrown for many years. It is situated off the Hartstown/Huntstown Ringroad, at the outer boundary of a residential development in Dublin 15 (Pinebrook) but given its location, dimension and aspect makes it a difficult site to develop for residential purposes.

I first raised the matter of the abandoned plot in 2017 shortly after taking office. It proved difficult to ascertain ownership. I moved a Motion in Council calling for resources to be dedicated to identifying ownership of the land and for it to be returned to the public realm. I would be now proposing that Fingal County Council take control of the plot under the provisions of a CPO (Compulsory Purchase Order) and develop the plot in the public interest.

At the area Council Meeting for Dublin 15 on the 01st of February'24 Officials confirmed to me that on foot of detailed searched carried out in the land Registry it has been ascertained that the plot itself is NOT registered in the Land Registry. Fingal County Council has been able to determine that the original owners of the land were Kilnamanagh Estates Ltd, who then conveyed the land to Calend Limited in 1989. Calend Limited are now dissolved and the Council are progressing the Deed of Waiver so that this plot can be taken into ownership and then taken in charge.

The most suitable use for the plot has yet to be evaluated. I have been advised that could be most suited to a garden style development which would enhance the aesthetic and transform the location from an overgrown

plot of abandoned wasteland into a flourishing public amenity abundant with various shrubs focussed on promoting biodiversity and pollination for the area.

Whatever the final determination for the plot may be, I believe that I speak for us all when I say that it must be returned to the public realm one way or another sooner rather than later.

Councillor Tania
DOYLE
INDEPENDENT

*Your Elected Representative for Hartstown
& Huntstown, Ongar, Hansfield, Clonsilla,
Littlepace and Castaheany.*



m: +353 (85) 780 9292

 Cllr Tania Doyle

e: Tania.Doyle@cllrs.fingal.ie

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Barry Foley, at 45, originally from Dublin 3, proudly represented Ireland for over 25 years. With a winning mentality ingrained, I've ventured into business ownership with Leinster Hygiene Services. ***"I noticed a gap in the market for essential services. Wheelie bin washing stood out as a necessity often overlooked."***

Understanding the fabric of North Dublin, I'm keen on building trust within the community. Wheelie bin washing isn't just a service; it's a necessity. I'm driven by the importance of cleanliness and hygiene, ensuring every household benefits.

My vision is crystal clear – to provide unparalleled service while maintaining trust with each community. I envision Leinster Hygiene Services as a beacon of reliability and excellence, resonating with the community's values.

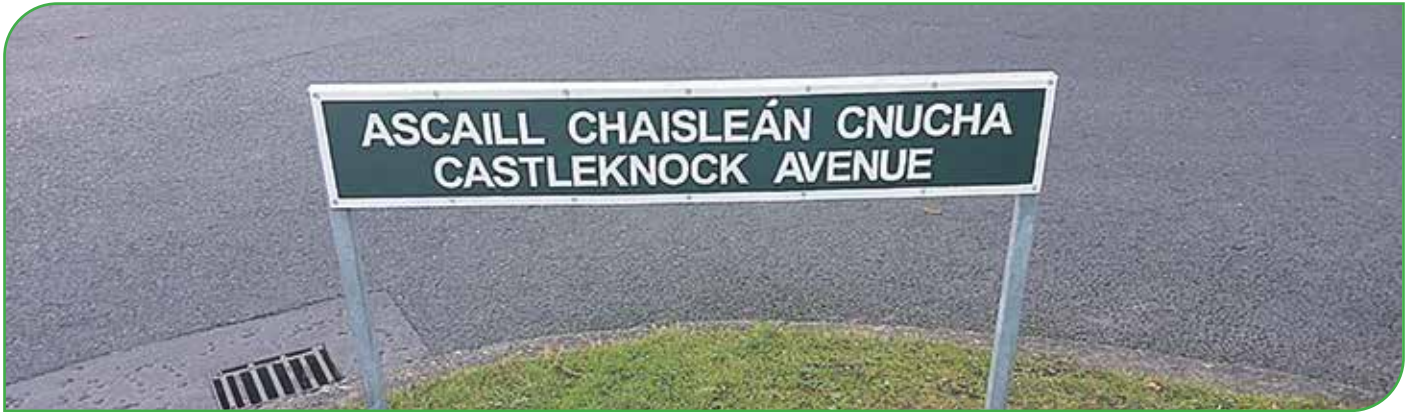
Let's work towards a cleaner, happier North Dublin and across Leinster– one sparkling clean wheelie bin at a time. Join me on this journey, where trust, quality, and community thrive.



Seachtain na Gaeilge 2024

By: Darren J.Prior

It is five years ago exactly this month since I wrote my first and last column in Little Village about Seachtain na Gaeilge.



For those who are interested but unaware of them or some of them - I am delighted to report that there have been in recent years some big, continued developments with the Irish language in Dublin and Ireland in general.

Cúla4 - the Irish language children's television channel which is part of the TG4 Group and based beside TG4 in Conamara - was redeveloped and relaunched as a full TV channel last September and is now broadcast completely as Gaeilge from 06:00-20:00 every day. So, we now have 2 Irish language television channels!!!

Dublin's 11th Gaelcholáiste Coláiste na Tulchann in Clonsilla is expected to become a full Gaelcholáiste next year in 2025.

There are now over 50 Gaelscoileanna across County Dublin and there is a demand for six more at primary level and four new Gaelcholáistí in the county.

Na Gaeil Óga CLG the Irish-speaking GAA club based in Lucan continues to go from strength to strength and they now have over 500 members, the majority of whom are young.

There are two other developments about the physical visibility of the Irish language in Dublin, though, that lovers of the Irish language should find encouraging also but which are either less known or less noticed. The first is a continuing development and the second is relatively new.

The Official Languages Act was passed in 2003, and in 2009 the section of it related to housing estate road signage came into law. Since then, all new housing estate road signage (and some street signage) erected must display the

Irish language and English language road names in equal size.

It is a work in progress and in time all housing estate and at least much (perhaps one day all) street signage will be printed with equal status for both the Irish and English languages.

And from 1st January 2026 local authorities across the state will be obliged to update housing estates and some street signage in instances when complaints are made by members of the public to Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga (The Office of The Language Commissioner) where the as Gaeilge names are not printed as big as the as Béarla versions!

In the Dublin City Council City Development Plan (2022-2028) new residential areas built in Dublin City Council are to be named as Gaeilge-only, and examples of these are only beginning to be seen as most new residential areas built after 2022 until recently had already been named in English before the policy came into effect. The policy will have a positive knock-on effect in other areas of the county and country I believe.

I don't know what the future of the Irish language in the traditional Gaeltacht will bring. It is a pretty slow process but Little Village readers should I believe be proud, though, that we are living in a part of the country where the Irish language is on a big upward trajectory in terms of the growth of Gaelscoileanna; the growth of Na Gaeil Óga CLG GAA club; and the physical visibility of the language on state signage and with housing estate and apartment development names.



Councillor **Natalie**
TREACY

 **Sinn Féin**

Tel: 0851285493
Email: Natalie.treacy@cllrs.fingal.ie

500 New Affordable Homes and a New Cost Rental Scheme



I am pleased to update residents regarding two new schemes to make housing more affordable for those who do not qualify for social housing and find it difficult to buy or rent in the open market.

Fingal County Council are partnering with house builders throughout Fingal to bring almost 500 new private homes at affordable prices onto the market with prices starting from €299,000.

The Affordable Housing Scheme provides an opportunity to buy a house at a reduced price. This is for people unable to bridge the gap between their mortgage and deposit and the full price of the home. The Council makes up the price difference by taking an equity share in the home which can be bought out by the purchaser at a time of their choosing. If the purchaser chooses not to redeem the equity share while living in the home, the Council can do so when the property is sold, transferred, or after the death of the owner.

Depending on people's circumstances Fingal County Council may be able to take up to 40% equity in the homes. These new homes include 2, 3, and 4-bedroom options and will be available for sale at affordable prices across the county. 30% of each scheme is reserved for people who have been living in Fingal for the past five years.

The council has already provided 104 affordable homes in Fingal and will bring a further 492 homes in Mulhuddart, Hollystown and the north county to market over the next few months.

On Tuesday, March 19, 36 affordable homes at Kilmartin Grove, Hollystown, Dublin 15, will be made available for sale. This scheme consists of 22 two-bedroom homes and 14 three-bedroom homes.

The next offerings are scheduled for April and May including 57 homes at Wilkinson's Brook, Hollystown and at Church Fields Mulhuddart where 180 affordable homes are

being built. Over the next year or so some 1,000 mixed tenure homes will be built at Church Fields of which some 400 will be affordable.

Further details, including information on eligibility and documentation required, are available at www.fingal.ie/affordablehomes.

Cost Rental - Rental at cost price

For those who want to rent, the council will offer Cost Rental homes to eligible applicants. The rent paid will cover the cost of the construction, management, and maintenance of your new home. This is something I have been advocating for on the council for those who do not qualify for social housing and struggle to rent in the private market.

Cost Rental provides you with a secure tenancy at a rent which is below the market rent in the local area. It is a long-term secure rental option. This means if you are paying your rent and meeting your other tenant obligations, you may continue to rent your home for as long as you want.

It is aimed at people who have a net household income of €66,000 or below. The rent is at least 25% below regular market rents in the area.

Fingal County Council will be rolling out cost rental units later in the year. Others will be provided by the Land Development Agency and Approved Housing Bodies (AHB) such as Respond who are building 3000 cost rental units in Dublin of which 284 will be in Fingal.

House Building Accelerates

As a member of the Housing Policy Committee, I have worked



to find new ways to deliver homes for our community. The housing crisis can only be solved by building more homes and I am very proud that Fingal are leading the way in spite of objections from some.

Fine Gael led governments have rebuilt the construction sector and have more than doubled the workforce from its low point after the housing crash.

Across the country over 156,000 homes have been built since 2017, including 32,700 last year.

The social housing stock has increased in the same period by over 57,500. Last year 7,400 units were built, the highest number since 1975. In Fingal there are 2,161 social houses in our construction pipeline.

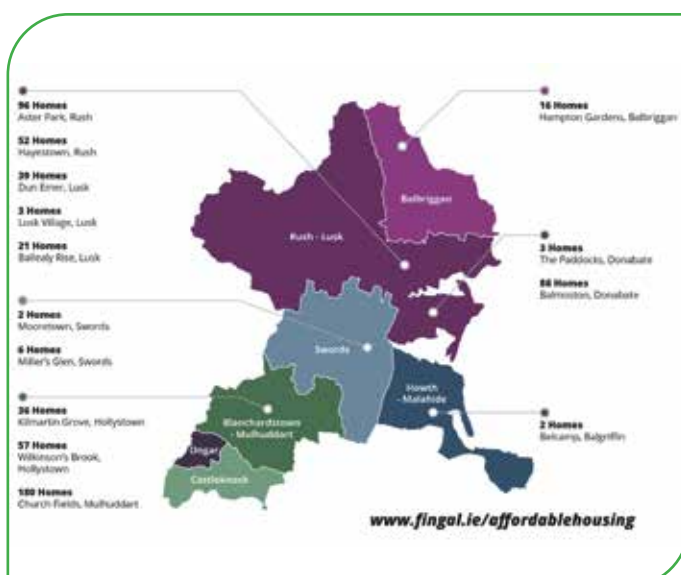
More First Time Buyers are buying Homes - over 25,500 bought their own home in 2023, the highest since 2007. That is nearly 500 (492) first time buyers a week.



Kieran Dennison is the councillor for the Ongar Ward encompassing Clonsilla, Hansfield, Littlepace Castaheany, Hartstown and Huntstown.

Kieran sits on the Housing Strategic Policy Committee of Fingal County Council. He was first elected to the council in 2009 and was elected Mayor of Fingal in 2013. Outside the council he is Chairperson of the HSE's Regional Health Committee for Dublin and the North East. He is also Chairperson of Empower.ie, Fingal's local development company working with individuals, children & families, groups and communities who are at risk of experiencing social, cultural, health and economic disadvantage. Kieran holds degrees in Agricultural Science and Marketing and runs his own business.

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Littlepace Park,
Clonee



Castlegrange Green,
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