

ISSUE 40
JUN/JUL 2023

Little Village

FREE MAGAZINE

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EDITORIAL

As the sun shines bright and the days grow longer, we can't help but be reminded of the tune: "Summertime and the livin' is easy." Despite the rain we've had, the optimists are still holding out for a sizzling hot summer. Let's cross our fingers and see what comes our way!

No matter the weather, Little Village is right here, bringing you the latest stories straight from your neck of the woods. We know how much you all enjoy hearing about local history and what's going on around town. So, if you've got stories to share or upcoming events to shout about, we'd be happy to spread the word.

Send by email to littlevillagenewsdesk@gmail.com.

Kind Regards

Little Village

Correction notice: Our last edition included an article about proposed development on the Grand Canal 12th lock. We inadvertently included an image of the 12th lock on the Royal Canal. We apologise for any confusion or concern caused.

AVAILABLE FROM

- EducO Gym
- Myos
- De Bruns
- Castleknock Community Centre
- Laurel Lodge Community Centre
- 12th Lock
- Bradys Pub
- Wetherspoons
- Costa Coffee
- Blanchardstown Shopping Centre
- Draiocht
- Blanch Library
- Leisure Plex
- Super Valu Blanch
- Tesco Roselawn
- Blakestown Community Centre
- Mountview Community Centre
- Huntstown Community Centre
- Eurospar Hartstown
- Dunnes Ongar
- Cu Chulainns Ongar
- Lidl Clonee
- Aldi Clonee
- Lidl Blakestown
- Lidl Tyrrelstown
- Tyrrelstown Community Centre
- Peregrines Gaa Club
- Corduff Sports Centre
- Spar Waterville
- Centra Corduff
- Castleknock Golf Club
- Castleknock Hotel
- Elmgreen Golf Club
- Hollystown Golf Club
- Westwood Gym
- Westwood Golf Club
- Phibblestown Community Centre
- Costcutter Clonsilla Road
- Credit Union Clonsilla Road
- The Greyhound Blanch Village
- The Grasshopper Clonee
- Clonsilla Inn
- The Carpenter Inn
- The Carlton Hotel Tyrrelstown



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LITTLE VILLAGE MAGAZINE

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BANK HOLIDAYS

Ireland now enjoys ten bank (public) holidays a year. There have been five public holidays in Ireland so far.



We still have five more coming up this year in June, August, October and two set to take place in December. Generally, these days take place on a Monday but there are some exceptions to the rule (such as when St Stephen's Day falls on a Tuesday this year).

While many of these days are called bank holidays - a bank holiday does not necessarily mean it is a public holiday. For example, Good Friday is a bank holiday, but it is not considered a public holiday meaning there is no automatic holiday entitlements for employees.

Full-time workers have immediate entitlement to benefit for public holidays and part-time workers have entitlement to benefit when they have worked a total of 40 hours in the previous five weeks. If you qualify for public holiday benefit, you are entitled to one of the following:

- A paid day off on the public holiday
- An additional day of annual leave

- An additional day's pay
- A paid day off within a month of the public holiday

The remaining public holidays in 2023 include:

June

The June bank holiday is on Monday, June 5

August

The August bank holiday is on Monday, August 7

October

The October bank holiday is on Monday, October 30

December

Christmas Day is on Monday, December 25 and St Stephen's Day is on Tuesday, December 26

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Blanchardstown continues to attract top stores

Blanchardstown Centre has added another flagship store recently.



Bershka has opened a brand-new flagship store here in Blanchardstown Centre! The expansive new store offers the latest womenswear and menswear collections, along with accessories, through a vibrant in-store experience.

BERSHKA is owned by Spanish multinational clothing company Inditex, whose portfolio also includes Massimo Dutti, Pull&Bear, Stradivarius, and Zara, amongst others.

The new store is located on Level 2, in a prime position.

The addition of a new flagship Bershka store follows several other recent signings at the centre – including Nike, which will open its new Nike Unite concept store in a few weeks.

This follows the opening of the biggest Zara store in Ireland just before Christmas and the luxury goods store Flannels, a state-of-the-art luxury store. The store is the retailer's first in the Republic of Ireland.

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Measles warning issued to parents following outbreak in Europe

The HSE has issued a warning for parents following a measles outbreak among children in Europe.



Measles cases in children are rising across Europe and Irish children are at risk of catching the viral illness as it is highly contagious.

Measles is most common among children aged between one and four years old, although anyone who has not been vaccinated against measles can catch it.

The illness begins with cold-like symptoms that start around 10 days after infection, with a rash following days later.

It typically lasts 7 to 10 days and is much more common in children than adults. It can have more serious health complications in children.

According to the HSE, the symptoms include:

- cold-like symptoms such as aches and pains, a runny nose, sneezing and a cough
- sore, red eyes that may be sensitive to light
- a temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or above (fever), which may reach around 40 degrees Celsius
- small greyish-white spots in your mouth

- loss of appetite
- tiredness, irritability and a general lack of energy

The HSE advised on social media: “Measles cases are rising right now in Europe. Your child needs two doses of the MMR vaccine to be fully protected. It is the best way to protect our little ones from measles.”

The last measles outbreak in Ireland happened in 2000 with over 1,600 cases and 350 children hospitalised, according to the HSE. Sadly, three children died from it.

Dr Lucy Jessop, Director of the HSE’s National Immunisation Office, said in a statement that she encouraged all parents to ensure their child is up to date on their vaccinations.

“Measles spreads very easily and it can be very serious, especially in younger children. Getting the MMR vaccine is the best way to prevent it and protect your child,” she said in a HSE statement.

She added that the uptake in the first and second doses of the MMR vaccines have dropped below the 95% rate that is recommended by the World Health Organisation.

Councillor PUNAM RANE

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Dear Resident,

This newsletter consists of new updates and works that have been completed this year. I have been working exceptionally hard to push new initiatives forward and engage with residents regarding their queries.

Punam

Works Completed – 2023



Mulhuddart Cemetery

As part of the Community Monuments Fund, Mulhuddart Cemetery has been allocated €30,000 to start conservation work on the St. Mary's Church. The cemetery now has a Wheelchair accessible eco toilet that was installed at the beginning of this year.

PROGRAMME OF WORKS – FUNDING 2023

Location	Description	Budget
African Advocacy Network Ireland	Website, Laptop, video projector	€2,000
Mulhuddart Men's Shed	HP Pavilion Laptop, HP Envoy 603 Printer, HP150 Mouse, Cannon A4 Printer Paper, Kodak A4 Photo Printer Paper, Samsung USB Memory Stick, Logik Surge Protection, Microsoft Software Bundle, IKEA Computer Desk	€2,152
Churchfields Link Rd	Cycle Infrastructure	€12,000,000
Churchfield Dwellings	Housing	€21,090,957
Wellview/ Parslickstown Mulhuddart	Footpath Improvement Works (Concrete)	€27,840
Wellview Avenue Mulhuddart	Surface Restoration	€76,440
Blackcourt Rd Corduff	Footpath Improvement Works (Concrete)	€20,000
Edgewood Lawns Corduff	Surface Restoration	€168,000
Ongar Distributor Rd Joint Repair	Surface Restoration	€50,00
St. Patrick's Park Blanchardstown	Surface Restoration	€45,600
Church Avenue	Surface Restoration	€32,520
Hollywoodrath Rd	1 Number Bus Friendly Ramp	€5,000
Church Rd	Signalised Pedestrian Crossing	€65,000
Tyrrelstown	Replace 2 Number Sets of Speed	€8,000
Meakstown	Wildflower & Pollinator Bedding	€5,000
Hunstown Roundabout to Mick Walsh Park/ Mulhuddart Roundabout	Pollinator Bed	€9,900
Dunsoghly Open Space	Exercise Equipment	€10,000
Dunsoghly Open Space	Benches	€7,000
Dunsoghly Open Space	Tree Planting	€2,000
Dublin 15 Operational Area	Replacing of Existing Beds	€5,000
Castlecurragh Heath	Infill Lights	€7,000
Castlecurragh Heath / Hartstown Park Dog Run / The Beeches / Porters Village	Whip Planting – Various Locations	€1,820

Hollystown GAA Centre of Excellence

I am pleased to say that Dublin GAA have been granted planning permission to build a centre of excellence at Hollystown. The facility will include 4 floodlit GAA pitches, one of which will have a synthetic surface. It will be located at the former Hollystown Golf Course, to the north-west of the city, on the Ratoath Road. The development will include a renovation of the former 2 storey clubhouse. The bar will be converted into 2 new dressing rooms which means there will be 6 dressing rooms in total. The clubhouse offices will be converted into a team meeting room. An indoor training facility is planned, which will include a pitch (30mx20m) and a "tactics space". A covered stand which will have a capacity of 500 spectators, will overlook the first pitch. The county's hurlers will have the use of a wall, five metres high, as well as a "floodlit Astroturf hurling practice area". There will be a trail for walking and jogging around the perimeter of the site. The application for planning permission was received by Fingal County Council on 25th May and permission was granted on 17th November.

Housing Schemes & Grants



First Home Scheme: The First Home

Scheme (FHS) aims to make home ownership achievable for thousands of individuals and families by bridging the gap for first-time buyers and other eligible homebuyers between their deposit and mortgage, and the price of their new home. The FHS is a shared equity scheme, where the State and participating banks pay up to 30% of the cost of your new home in return for a stake in the home. If you want, you can buy back the stake at any time, but you don't have to.

- Available for newly built properties in private developments
- Local authority area price ceilings apply – **€475,000 for houses** and **€500,000 for apartments** • Not a loan
- Get up to **30%** of the property purchase price
- Service charges apply from year six (1.75% for years 6 to 15; 2.15% for years 16 to 29; 2.85% for years 30 and over)

To be eligible for the Scheme you must:

- be over 18 years of age
- be a first-time buyer or other eligible homebuyer (see below*)
- have Mortgage Approval with a Participating Lender
- borrow the maximum amount available to you from one of the Participating Lenders (up to 4 times your income; there are no specific household income limits required to participate in the FHS)
- not be availing of a **Macro Prudential Exception** (MPE) with a Participating Lender
- have a **minimum deposit of 10%** of the property purchase price

Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant: This grant provides funding so you can refurbish vacant homes, this can either be to rent the property out or live in it yourself. A property is long term vacant if it has been unoccupied for 12 months or longer. You can get a grant from €50,000 to €70,000 if the property is derelict. To apply for this grant, you must submit an application on Gov.ie. The actions that will be taken to make sure these vacant houses will be addressed are:

- 1. Quick Voids Turnaround:** The houses are inspected, tendered and repaired promptly allowing the council to ensure that less than 2% of stock is vacant at any time.
- 2. Allocation of Casual Vacancy:** The Housing Allocations section identifies suitable tenants while the properties are under repair.
- 3. Choice Based Letting:** This allows applicants to express an interest for designated social housing, this is specifically for people who are on the social housing list.
- 4. Approved Housing Bodies:** Properties are then identified and highlighted to any approved housing bodies, where a vacant property in their ownership requires attention.

Energy Schemes

Fully Funded Energy Upgrade (fully funded by SEAI):

This scheme consists of fully funded energy upgrades to homeowners who receive certain welfare payments for: Attic insulation, cavity wall insulation, external wall insulation, internal wall insulation, secondary work such as lagging jackets, draught proofing and energy efficient lighting, new heating systems and windows. <https://www.seai.ie/grants/home-energy-grants/fully-funded-upgrades-for-eligible-homes/>

Individual Upgrade Energy Grants (Part funded by

SEAI grants: This scheme is for home owners and private landlords who would like to manage their own energy upgrades over time and to suit their budgets. <https://www.seai.ie/grants/home-energy-grants/individual-grants/>

EVENTS

St. Patricks Senior National School, Corduff

I attended the opening of St. Patricks Senior National School in Corduff along with An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar on 3rd March 2023. The new building consists of two storeys with 36 classrooms, 2 general purpose halls, car parking spaces, bicycle spaces, 4 ball courts, and hard and soft play areas.



Women in Business Conference

I attended the 'Women in Business' conference on the 28th of April 2023. Minister Simon Convey confirmed that there will be more focus and support provided to women in business by Enterprise Ireland. This was a wonderful event that gave women entrepreneurs an opportunity to highlight some of the business opportunities and funding that they had received from Enterprise Ireland which was a large benefit for them to grow their businesses, including the support that will be required for them to expand their businesses.



TUDublin – Blanchardstown – New Technology Innovation Hub

A visit to The LINC Techno University Dublin - TUD. Delighted to see the new tech innovation hub which will be a great addition with the state of art facilities like the big panelled multiple screens, sound proofing room etc. This hub will be used to provide training



in futuristic technologies like cybersecurity, cloud services, AI. The hub has its own cloud infrastructure being built. This is an amazing investment to promote new technologies and encourage students from local schools to take up Maths and Science subjects which will help gear their careers towards future technologies.

Register to Vote

New to the Area? New to Ireland? Just turned 18?

- >> Anyone over 18 and resident in Ireland can vote in the Local Elections.
- >> Irish Citizens and British Citizens living in Ireland can vote in General Elections.
- >> Irish Citizens and Citizens of the EU who live in Ireland can vote in European Elections

If you are over 18+ years of age and a resident in Ireland, you can vote in the Local elections and have a say in your local area. Local elections decide which individuals represent your area in the local council. The council makes decisions on public services and facilities in your area. Make sure to have your say. If you wish to vote or update your name/address/nationality you can download the form or register online. To access this, go to the website below and click on www.checktheregister.ie

You do not need to be an Irish citizen to vote in the local elections.



If you have any queries and you think I can help, please let me know via the contact details outlined in this update.

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Councillor

John Walsh

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

Dear Resident

I would like to give a short update on some issues which I have been working on. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance.

John

EXPANDED FUND FOR NON-FINGAL COMMUNITY CENTRES

I secured a commitment in the Council budget for 2023 for a doubling of funding to €400,000 for non-Fingal owned Community Centres and it is very positive that this is now being rolled out.

Fingal County Council's Community Development Department has announced the Community Facilities Remedial Works scheme for Community centres. The scheme will focus on enhancing existing (non-Fingal County Council owned) Community centres throughout the county of Fingal. Online Applications are now being invited for funding under this Scheme for the following categories. Applicants should be registered with the Fingal Public Participation Network.

Multi-purpose facility: Grants of up to 50% of the costs of the works subject to a maximum of €40,000 for enhancement/refurbishment projects involving capital works.

Single interest facility: Grants of up to 50% of the costs of the works subject to a maximum of €30,000 for enhancement/refurbishment projects involving capital works

Application form <https://www.tfaforms.com/5039665>

Scheme Criteria <https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2023-04/CRWGS%20-%20Criteria.pdf>

FINGAL COUNCIL ADOPTS CIRCULAR CITIES DECLARATION

Following a motion which I presented earlier this year, Fingal Council has agreed to adopt the European Circular Cities Declaration. This supports the circular economy model which is designed to:

- eliminate waste and pollution by designing out waste
- circulate products at their highest value, for example by re-using materials for as long as possible
- transition to renewable energy.

A systemic shift to a circular economy is important to achieving climate neutrality and creating a sustainable society. This is a very welcome decision which places Fingal at the heart of efforts to create a more sustainable society.



Congratulations to St. Mochta's National School on the opening of their new school!

PHOENIX PARK CONSULTATION EXTENDED

The Office for Public Works and Systra Consulting have launched a draft Parking Strategy for the Phoenix Park. The strategy is intended to be implemented over a ten-year period and sets out recommendations to be considered in the short, medium and long term – it will have major implications for the future of the Phoenix Park.

A non-statutory public consultation period seeks the views of the public on the draft Parking Strategy. **This public consultation period has been extended until 6th June 2023.**

You can find details of the draft strategy at <https://www.phoenixpark.ie/draft-parking-strategy/>

Submissions are being accepted online at the link below, by email to phoenixpark@systra.com or in hard copy at the Phoenix Park Visitors' Centre. https://www.research.net/r/phoenixparksurvey_parkingstrategy

The Phoenix Park is a priceless public amenity which is greatly valued by residents in Dublin 15. The Park has to be an inclusive space, which is accessible for walkers, cyclists, older residents and people with mobility difficulties. I am making a submission on the draft parking strategy and I would like to get your views on the future of the Phoenix Park – please contact me at john.walsh@cllr.fingal.ie



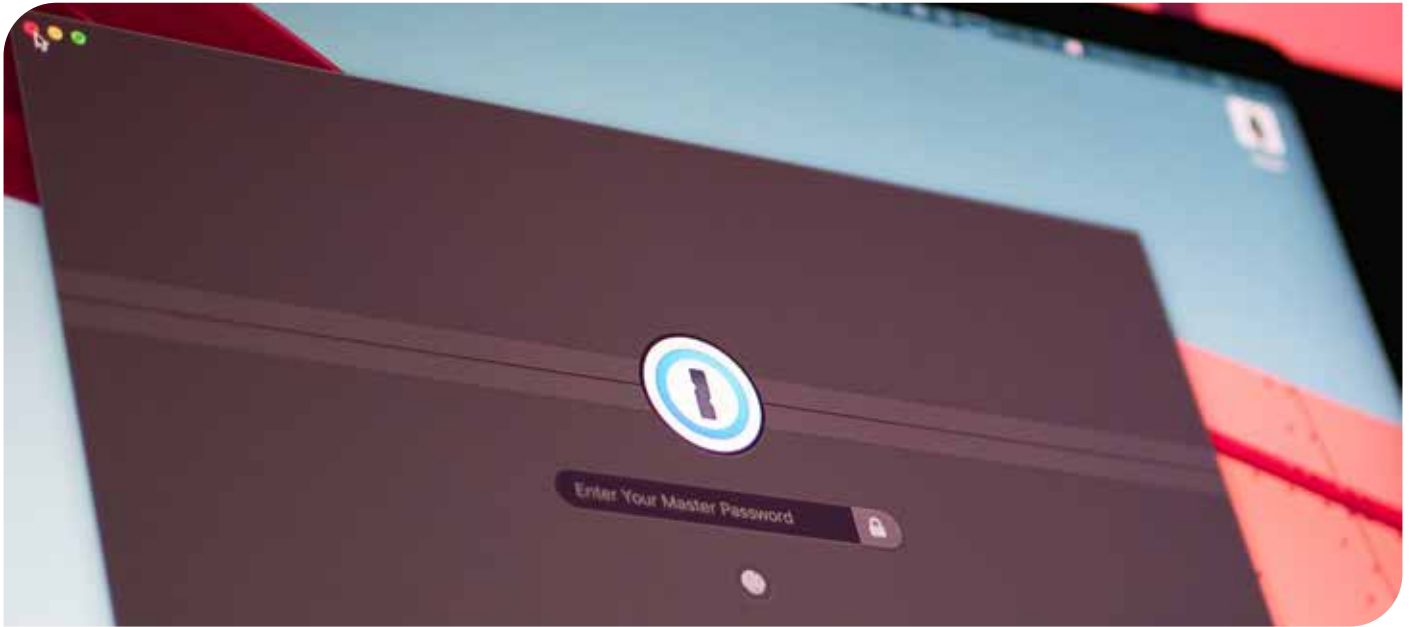
BIN COLLECTION – PANDA WASTE INCREASE

I have been working with my colleague Cllr Mary McCamley to oppose the scandalous decision by Panda Waste to impose a charge for compost bin collection – this move is extraordinary in a cost of living crisis and will deter recycling of waste.

The Labour Group on Fingal Council secured agreement for a motion by a majority of Councillors at our last meeting, calling for changes to primary legislation to allow for a remunicipalisation of household waste collection. We need to assert greater public regulation over household waste collection to prevent private monopolies and price increases which rip off consumers: there are various options to do this but change in primary legislation is essential to achieve any of them. As a first step, the Government should regulate the household waste collection market urgently to prevent charges for compost waste collection.

The end of passwords?

Don't you just hate it when you can't remember a password. Well, those days might soon be over. Industry experts are predicting that password could be a thing of the past in less than a year!



The frustration of forgetting a password may soon be a thing of the past, as industry experts predict that passwords could become obsolete within a year. The solution lies in the form of passkeys, a new method for signing into apps and websites that offers both convenience and enhanced security. No longer will users have to rely on easily guessable passwords like their pets' names or simple combinations like "password123." Instead, passkeys enable users to authenticate themselves in the same way they unlock their devices: through a fingerprint, face scan, or screen lock PIN. These passkeys are designed to be resilient against online attacks such as phishing, making them significantly more secure than traditional passwords or SMS one-time codes.

Leading the charge, Google has already begun offering passkeys to its account holders, paving the way for widespread adoption. However, while passkeys bring many advantages, there are a few potential downsides that need consideration. One concern revolves around the possibility of a user's passkey being compromised if their device is stolen or hacked.

To mitigate this risk, it is crucial to securely store passkeys and employ robust device-level security measures, such as biometric authentication. Taking steps to deauthenticate a lost or stolen device becomes paramount in maintaining security.

Another challenge lies in the accessibility of passkeys for users with disabilities or older devices. Individuals with limited mobility may encounter difficulties with biometric authentication, while older devices may lack support for the latest passkey technologies. It is essential to address these concerns and ensure that the transition to passkeys does not inadvertently exclude certain user groups.

Whether we like it or not, the shift away from passwords is underway, and we must prepare for changes in the way we log in online. Passkeys offer a promising solution to the longstanding password problem, providing a more user-friendly and secure authentication method. As this transition takes place, it is important for individuals and technology providers to work together to address any potential challenges and ensure that the benefits of passkeys are accessible to all.

Wordsearch

(Answers on Next Page)

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Fingal welcomes its eleventh Cricket Club Ongar CC

Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar T.D. was guest of honour as Fingal welcomed its eleventh cricket club Ongar CC in a special ceremony to mark the start of the 2023 cricket season.



Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar T.D. was guest of honour as Fingal welcomed its eleventh cricket club Ongar CC in a special ceremony to mark the start of the 2023 cricket season.

He was joined on the occasion by Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Roderick O'Gorman, Cricket Leinster President, Mr. Pat Banahan, Senator Emer Currie, Cllr. Kieran Dennison, Cricket Development Manager for Fingal, Mr. Brian O'Rourke, Minister of State at the Department of Transport and Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, Jack Chambers, and Cllr. Tom Kitt.

Like many clubs in Fingal, Ongar's journey started life as a group of cricket-loving friends who got together to play friendly games at the Latchford Ground in Ongar. As word spread of cricket in the town, interest grew in the estates, and by 2018, over forty members meant a formal club could be incorporated to play friendly weekend matches.

Ambition grew that for 2020, the formal move into Cricket Leinster league competitions would be the next step, but that was halted by the global pandemic, something that has seen many clubs closed across Europe, let alone, launches cancelled.

However, Ongar CC was committed to the journey, to becoming the eleventh club to join cricket leagues in Fingal, and to place cricket at the centre of its community and providing the right path for young children to follow, something no pandemic could stop.

That spirit, of building back stronger from the

pandemic, and the drive to succeed, is something Cricket Development Manager for Fingal, Brian O'Rourke, was quick to identify placed Ongar Cricket Club, and its members out from day 1, for why this club would succeed:

"Having our Taoiseach open the club was an inspirational and well-deserved day for the members of Ongar Cricket Club led by Arun Reddy Katheri, who have shown incredible resolve to overcome a global pandemic, to launch their club and be part of the united goal of all clubs in Fingal, of building back stronger communities after the pandemic. I, and all of the clubs, are proud to welcome Ongar CC to the Fingal cricket community".

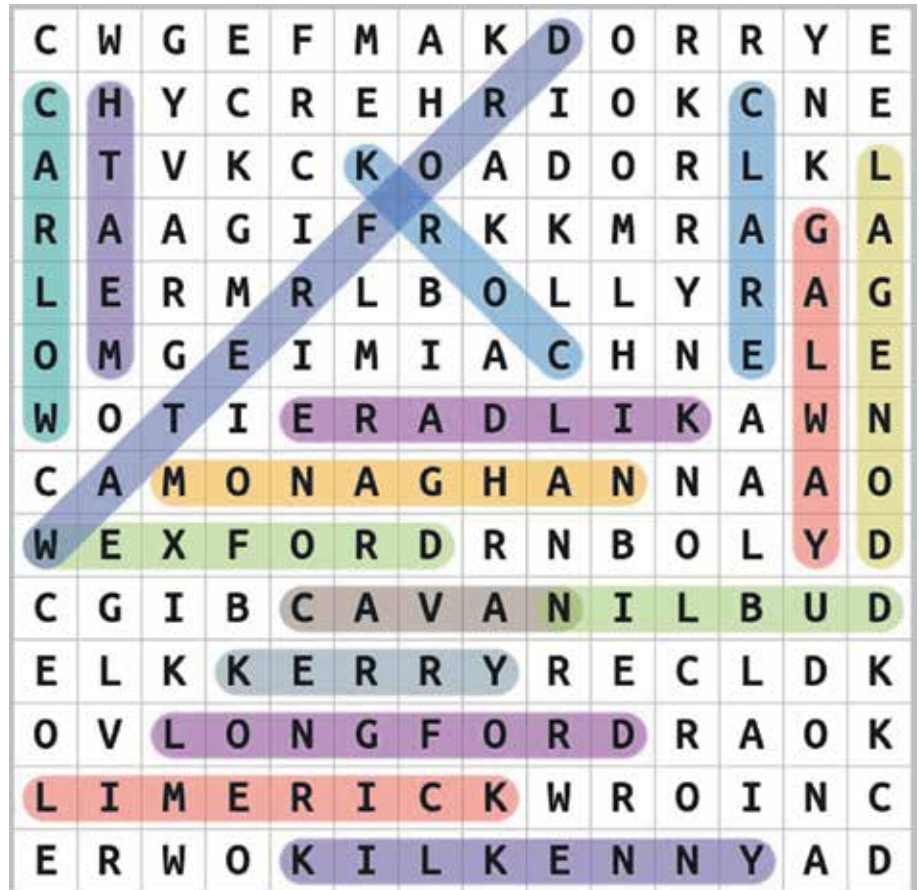
For Chairperson, Arun Reddy Katheri of Ongar Cricket Club, the launch is just the start, and the club has ambitious goals for the next two years, which they hope can be achieved with the continued support of Fingal County Council. "We aim to launch a youth team and a women's team to promote gender diversity and encourage young players to hone their skills." he said.

Gerry Reardon, Principal Sports Officer, Fingal County Council, joined Brian in congratulating Ongar CC on their achievements:

"I would like to state the whole Sports Development Team's pleasure at seeing the eleventh cricket club launched in Fingal. We share the recognition this pays to the Ongar CC members who have overcome a global pandemic, to launch their club, and to do so with their Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar T.D, as the guest of honour."

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Parking at Phoenix Park

A petition has been launched on Change.org to fight against the possible introduction of pay parking at Dublin's Phoenix Park. The Phoenix Park Parking Strategy suggests implementing car parking fees, but there is no direct bus route or Luas service to the park. However, the Office of Public Works has stated that there are no immediate plans to introduce paid parking and that the strategy focuses on sustainability, active travel, reduced emissions, and accessibility for all. A schedule of dance events at the park is also listed.



The Office of Public Works is considering introducing parking charges in the Phoenix Park, a popular public park in Dublin. The move has been met with opposition from politicians and members of the public who argue that the park is a vital resource for people, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, and that charging for parking will disproportionately affect families with limited budgets, senior citizens, and young families. The government has launched a public consultation process to gather views on the proposal. However, critics have accused the government of not including the most important question in the online survey - whether people support parking charges.

Members of the public are invited to review a draft Strategy which includes 24 recommendations for the parking management in the park. Among these recommendations is the introduction of parking charges across entirety of the park, as well as the introduction of maximum durations of stay for parking.

According to the draft strategy: "Whilst divisive,

the introduction of parking charges and increased control of parking operations (for example through the introduction of maximum durations of stay) can be used as a tool to promote use of a wider range of parking locations, encourage changes in user behaviour and support uptake of sustainable travel modes for travel to and from the Park".

A new 40-space carpark has also been proposed close to Castleknock Gate, which will prioritise parking for those with mobility issues. These changes are due to the anticipated growth in visitor numbers in the medium- and long-term which the OPW believes may result in a future need to increase overall car parking provision either within or outside of the park.

Minister of State Patrick O'Donovan encouraged both Dubs and visitors from further away to read the draft strategy. He said: "The Draft Parking Strategy seeks to protect and conserve the Phoenix Park, while enabling appropriate access and use by Dubliners and visitors from further away."

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Concerns over lifting of Eviction Ban

The lifting of the no fault evictions ban by the government is causing “huge concerns in the community” local representatives have claimed. People Before Profit representatives Gino Kenny TD and Councillor Madeleine Johansson made the claims following the lifting of the ban on the 31st March.



About 1 000 people attended a rally outside the Dáil on the 1st April calling on the government to reinstate the ban and to take stronger measures against the rising cost of living. New figures from the RTB show that almost 10 000 notices to quit were issued to tenant in the last 6 months of 2022 (Q3- 4 741 and Q4- 4 329).

Gino Kenny TD said: “I’ve had a number of families and individuals contact me in recent weeks because they are facing eviction. Other renters are afraid that they will be next.

“We are giving tenants advice on how they can stay in their homes, from checking that their notices are valid to going to the RTB and even possibly over holding. Every tenant will have different circumstances but at this stage we are saying to people that they should stay in their home if they have nowhere else to go.

“We are urging anyone with an eviction notice to get in touch with us or other organisations such as Threshold for advice and help.”

Cllr Madeleine Johansson added: “We have been talking to people on the doors in North Clondalkin over the last few weeks and there are huge concerns in the community about evictions. Because of the large number of notices being issued in 2022 almost

everyone knows someone who is facing eviction. Others already have family members who are homeless or are couch surfing.

“I’m one of the 4 329 households that were issued a notice to quit in Q4 of 2022. On the 3rd April there were only 565 properties available to rent in Dublin and only 174 under €2 000 per month. We, and thousands others, will have nowhere to go. I refuse to volunteer for homelessness and will stay in my home for as long as possible.

“We need South Dublin County Council to allocate additional resources to the processing of the tenant-in-situ scheme to allow as many tenants as possible to stay in their homes. At the moment I have been told that there is a backlog of requests from landlords and tenants for the council to buy properties where tenants have notices to quit.”

Darragh Adelaide commented: “New research shows that seven out of ten young adults are considering emigrating. The housing crisis is pushing young people out of the country because they cannot afford to move out of the family home, and they see no future in terms of being able to afford their own home. It is sad to see another generation of young people emigrating because of failed government policies.”



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eCargo Rental from Fingal County Council and Bleeper

Fingal County Council, in partnership with service provider Bleeper, have launched a brand new public eCargo bike service based at Mountview Community Centre, Dublin 15.



An eCargo bike is a battery power assisted pedal bike with a clever feature in front; a large, aerodynamically designed, lidded box. The box has a carrying capacity of 350 litres and is suitable for moving items such as sports training gear, small items of furniture or simply a large load of grocery shopping.

Fingal County Council's Director of Environment, Climate Action and Active Travel, David Storey says cargo bikes can provide the convenience and capacity that non-drivers may have traditionally struggled with. 'We know that fewer young people are learning to drive or choosing to own a car and we believe that Active Travel services such as this eCargo bike can plug the gap that people may experience without a motor vehicle and make the choice to switch to Active Travel easier. Fingal County Council is working hard to provide a network of cycling routes and safer cycle lanes across the County and by pairing that work with services like bike sharing we are opening up a world of cycling opportunities for everyone in the community.'

Borrowing the eCargo bike is a simple process. The

bike is stored in a 'bike bunker' at Mountview Community Centre and can be unlocked for a small €3 fee, which covers 120 minutes of use. After 120 minutes, a fee of €0.05 per minute is charged. The eCargo bike must be returned to its original location at the end of your trip and to hire the eCargo Bike you must download the Bleeper app and set up an account. Users must be over the age of 18 to set up a Bleeper account. To access the eCargo Bike Bunker, users will also need to download the EVVA Airkey App, which will enable them to use the NFC Reader with their phone.

This eCargo bike has been purchased by Fingal County Council and maintenance and bookings will be handled by partner Bleeper.

Hugh Cooney, CEO of Bleeper Bike, says cargo bikes can offer a convenient and affordable alternative to car use for many. 'Our eCargo bikes take advantage of the latest technology, they are lightweight and easy to manoeuvre. Anyone who can cycle a bike can use a cargo bike and being able to do the 'big shop' for example without the need for a car can really free you up to choose the healthy, climate friendly option of cycling.'

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St Mochta's National School

The official opening of St. Mochta's National School (Porterstown Road, Clonsilla, Dublin 15) took place on Friday the 12th of May 2023.



Among other invited guests, the official opening was attended by An Taoiseach, Mr. Leo Varadkar, and blessed by Most Reverend Dr. Dermot Farrell, DD Archbishop of Dublin.

A new state of the art building project for St. Mochta's began in 2017 which incorporated the original "White School" into the new building structure. The final phase of this school building was completed in 2019 and is a huge credit to all who have been involved in its design and construction. The original "White School" was renovated and is now the Administrative Area of the new building. The new school now incorporates colourful bright classrooms, excellent IT resources, a server, a library and a hall for indoor activities and

four ball court outside. St. Mochta's continues to work in partnership with pupils, parents, and the whole community of Clonsilla.

St. Mochta's National School is located in St. Mochta's Roman Catholic Parish of Porterstown / Clonsilla.

St. Mochta was born in the year 445 and died circa 535. St. Mochta's Feast Day is August 19th. St. Mochta was the last survivor of St. Patrick's disciples and the first Abbot of Louth. He founded a church at Coolmine called "The White Church of St. Machutus". This church served as the parish church for the neighbouring area, but it had disappeared entirely by 1490. The present Church of St. Mochta's in Porterstown was built in 1890.

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Castleknock Village Festival

Following the tremendous success of the first annual Castleknock Village Festival in June 2022 I am delighted to confirm that the festival will be taking place again this year. On Sunday June 18th the Castleknock Village festival will once again be teaming up with the Castleknock 5k Run for a full day events for people of all ages.



Holiday Plans?

This is the time of year that you and your family may be making a plan to take a holiday abroad later this year.... Before you do, here are a couple of reminders before you book! Take out your passport and **check its expiry date!**

If it is out of date or coming near the end of its life you need to apply for a new one- apply online otherwise you could be waiting a couple of months!

<https://passportonline.dfa.ie/Apply/Passport>

If it is out of date and you need an emergency passport contact <https://www.dfa.ie/passports/urgentappointment/>

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Kellystown

Permission has been granted by An Bord Pleanála for **349 residential units** (123 houses and 226 apartments) at Kellystown. Kellystown is located behind Luttrellstown Community School and south of the Maynooth rail line. This is the first phase of the Kellystown Local Area Plan which will ultimately **deliver 2,500 homes plus accompanying schools and community services.**



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE COMMUNITY OF MOUNTVIEW

I would like to offer my warmest congratulations to the community of Mountview, on winning the All Ireland Pride of Place award. I want to especially praise the Team at Mountview Fortlawn Community Youth and Sports Hub CLG, Mountview Resource Centre, NYP, Forlough, Fingal Community Hub, Fortlawn Flower Power residents group, Mountview Boys and Girls Football Club, all the Community Groups and residents who took part and continue to make the Mountview area such a wonderful community.

JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

As a member of the Joint Policing Committee I attend regular meetings with Gardai. If you ever wish to contact me in relation to any crime or safety issue please get in touch.

Phoenix Park Parking Strategy

A Public consultation process is currently underway seeking the views of people on the future of parking in the Phoenix Park. The consultation will end on the 22nd of May. You can view the proposed strategy and make a submission online on the following website: www.research.net/r/phenixparksurvey_parkingstrategy. I am opposed to any parking charges being introduced in the park.



Snugborough Road Interchange

The Snugborough Road Interchange is due to be complete and in use by October/November this year. It will significantly improve traffic around the Blanchardstown Area



Guinness Bridge

I'm really pleased that the major repair and refurbishment works (€1.5M) on the Guinness Bridge in the Strawberry Beds has begun. I've been campaigning on this for years along with my colleagues Cllr Siobhan Shovlin & Senator Emer Currie and others so it is very satisfying to see this progress. The next campaign will be to open it up as part of a Liffey Valley walking trail.

Bród, one of the beloved Bernese Mountain Dogs owned by President Michael D. Higgins, has died.

Readers, and dog lovers in particular will have been saddened by the news that Bród, the Presidents Bernese Mountain dog has died.



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The recent news of Bród, the President of Ireland's Bernese Mountain dog, passing away has left readers and dog lovers feeling a profound sense of sorrow. For years, this 10-year-old canine had formed an enchanting duo with two-year-old Misneach, captivating the nation as they warmly welcomed dignitaries and the public to Áras an Uachtaráin.

Before Misneach's arrival in March 2021, Bród had enjoyed the companionship of Síoda, another Bernese Mountain Dog who sadly succumbed to a brief illness in September 2020. Throughout the President's tenure, these furry companions had become beloved celebrities, even inspiring unofficial social media accounts dedicated to their names, gathering a vast number of followers.

The spotlight shone brightly on Bród and Misneach just last week when videos of their "snub" towards US President Joe Biden during his visit to Áras an Uachtaráin went viral, making headlines worldwide. However, today, sources from Áras an Uachtaráin have confirmed that Bród passed away peacefully in his 11th year.

Bród's departure creates a void that will be deeply felt. His presence and undeniable charm touched the hearts of many, serving as a testament to the remarkable bond between humans and their four-legged companions. As the nation mourns the loss of this extraordinary canine, the memory of Bród will endure, forever etched in the hearts of those who cherished him. May he find eternal peace in doggie heaven, leaving behind a legacy of love and joy.

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Lord Chesterfield and Ireland. Your History Your Home. By Mike Power.

Castleknoch Gate

Have you ever wondered about the tall monument you meet when driving out or in the Castleknock gate...? This dates from 1745-46 and was erected to the memory of an English viceroy to Ireland, Lord Chesterfield in 1745.

This was erected by public subscription to thank him for opening the park to the public. Formerly, this whole area had been private to the military e.g. the Magazine Fort (1736) and the Royal Hibernian Military School, to educate the children of officers serving abroad. The office of the Irish Ordinance Survey was also located there in 1825. There were also many houses of Irish grandees living on the demesne.

The Monument

The monument, which is of Portland stone over Corinthian columns and surmounted by a phoenix, contributes to the name the name of the park itself. Originally the this monument was in the very centre of the park, but was moved in the 1830s to it's present position of prominence.

Lord Chesterfield (1694-1773)

But what of the man who erected it...? Well, Chesterfield was an English politician and diplomat who was English Viceroy in Ireland for 1745-46. Chesterfield had already a political and ambassadorial (Holland 1728) career behind him before setting foot on our shores.

He entered the House of Lords in 1715 as Lord Stanhope of Shelford. Unfortunately, he was recognised as not being of age to serve, was fined £500 (about EU:40,000 now) and had to flee to the continent to escape from his debtors! He was awarded the Order of the Garter (1730 see pic) as a reward for services to the State. He came to Ireland in the year in which another great advocate for Ireland died, Jonathan Swift. Chesterfield was a great admirer of the French language and culture and corresponded regularly with leading intellectuals of the day such as Voltaire, Montesquieu and Condorcet.

Chesterfield was a witty, erudite, and practical person, well-used to the tricky ways of the world. In his younger days, he was an inveterate gambler and married a rich German heiress in 1733 to improve his perilous financial position. On arriving in Ireland some wag

asked Chesterfield why he had such a small staff accompanying him.? 'Why,' he retorted 'it's because I intend to do all the work myself...!' And so, he DID!

Chesterfield was an anomaly among British statesmen of that day, he actually liked Ireland and Irish people, and he was determined to improve the lot of both during his vice regal ship. He immediately identified the twin evils of the Penal Laws and oppressive control from Dublin castle as requiring reform. During his short stay in Ireland, Chesterfield founded schools, actively promoted better industries and farm-practices here, and



contributed to the setting up of the many charitable institutions.

Improving the Park

Chesterfield had a great impact on the history of the Phoenix Park. It was typical of him that he wanted to bequeath an open air and pleasant recreation ground to all his Irish subjects. He also encouraged many landscape works there, including tree-planting along the avenue named for him (Chesterfield Ave.). This completed, he then formally opened the park to everyone. . (and much to the annoyance of the resident grandees!).

Chesterfield's Letters to his son

One of the things Chesterfield is best known for now, are his famous Letters to His Son (1745- '73). He wanted his son to quickly learn the 'ways of the world' so he could advance in his career, and wrote him many letters containing the gist of his hard-won, and distilled wisdom about life and living. He dealt with every trial of life and how to curry favour and survive through it with graceful manners. Unfortunately, Chesterfield's son was congenitally indolent and benefitted little from this advice. Letters to his Godson were aimed at a more receptive target...

Chesterfield died in 1773, aged 79 yrs. He will always be remembered as a friend of Ireland—an enlightened ruler who only wanted the best for his people. Think kindly of the old statesman, painfully tottering out his gouty final days, courageous to the end when you next drive pas his monument....

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Aldi rolls out autism-friendly hours across all stores

Measures Will Be Implemented Every Tuesday Between 6.30 – 8.30pm

ALDI Ireland has today launched the nationwide roll out of autism-friendly hours, which will see the implementation of a number of autism-friendly measures in ALDI stores every Tuesday between 6.30 – 8.30pm. Aldi has stores in Blanchardstown and Mulhuddart in the D15 area.



Following a successful trial, ALDI has introduced the measure across their entire store network of 156 stores in Ireland beginning Monday, 24 April.

During the autism-friendly hours, ALDI stores will:

- Limit noise in stores, especially at the tills, by decreasing the volume of scanners, and by turning off unnecessary announcements.
- Switch off digital screens to limit harsh light in store.
- Welcome any assistance dogs to stores.

The use of JAM cards will also be rolled out in all ALDI stores to increase accessibility for all shoppers. JAM cards, which can be presented as a physical card or by app, offer discreet accessibility by allowing people to ask for a minute of patience in any situation they need.

Alongside these measures, store colleagues will also be briefed prior to the commencement of the autism-friendly hours and asked to consider noise levels and any additional needs customers may have.

Customers can find full details of the measures to promote autism-friendly shopping on the digital screens or window displays in each ALDI store.

Nicola Tipping, Business Development Manager at NOW Group, a social enterprise committed to supporting those with autism and learning difficulties, commented:

“It is all about increasing public understanding and making things, such as a shop, which is an everyday necessity, become accessible for an autistic person just as it is for everybody else. We are thrilled that ALDI are taking measures to address this by launching a nationwide roll out of autism-friendly hours, providing

an opportunity for those with autism, a hidden disability, or a communication barrier, to shop without the crowds, noise, and unpredictability.”

Talking about the adoption of the JAM Card, Nicola adds: “We are proud to have been working with the staff at ALDI, training the team to become JAM Card friendly. Since launching the JAM Card initiative in 2012, the scheme has been a resounding success with more than 2,500 organisations across the country participating in the training programme.

We hope that this announcement will encourage other organisations across all industries to see the benefits of joining us in committing to support and facilitate a more fully autism-inclusive and neurodiverse friendly society.”

Commenting, Liz Fox, Corporate Responsibility Director at ALDI Ireland, said:

“We want ALDI to be as welcoming a place as possible for all our customers and so from today, 24 April, we will be rolling out designated autism-friendly hours between 6.30 and 8.30pm every Tuesday across each of our 156 stores.

At ALDI we understand that our customers often have diverse needs and requirements, and by implementing these measures to want to enhance the customer experience for those who may be sensitive to noise, bright lights or other sensory information. Alongside the measures we will be introducing during the autism-friendly shopping hours, we will also be implementing the use of JAM cards throughout our stores. JAM cards increase accessibility for those with autism, learning difficulties or communication difficulties, by asking for additional patience from store employees.”

Senator Emer Currie | Local Update - June

DUBLIN AIRPORT DROP-OFF CHARGES MY CAMPAIGN A SUCCESS

Dublin Airport Authority (DAA) has dropped their plans to introduce drop-off charges. Planning permission was granted by Fingal County Council to install tolling infrastructure in 2022. A Swords Councillor and I were the only people to appeal that decision to An Bord Pleanála so a campaign could be mounted.



NEW 20-CLASSROOM BUILDING FOR DANU SPECIAL SCHOOL

Danu Community Special School, which has been operating in temporary and unideal accommodation since it opened, has received project approval for a new, standalone, 20-classroom, state-of-the-art school building on the same campus as Rath Dara secondary school.

This is an issue I frequently raised in the Seanad and will continue to support parents and staff who have worked tirelessly to secure this investment.



60 ACRES EXTENSION TO ST CATHERINE'S PARK

I am thrilled to say, that further to my representations, Fingal County Council has bought 60 acres to the North of St Catherine's Park on the edge of Dublin West. I understand the land will be used for recreational amenity purposes.

New developments are coming at Barnhill and Kellystown, Hansfield and St Josephs in Clonsilla, it's really important we

also have access to open space and that we protect sensitive land around the Liffey Valley.



NEW FOROIGE YOUTH SPACE IN THE HEART OF TYRRELLSTOWN

Delighted to see 'Penthouse', a Foroige youth space open in the Village. More youth services across Dublin 15 are needed, which I frequently raise in the Seanad. Volunteers are required in your area too, so please get in touch if you're interested.

LITTLEPACE / HUNTSTOWN WOODS BUS GATE

I was the first public representative to get assurances from the National Transport Authority (NTA) that this controversial bus gate will not be imposed on the community if they do not want it. I met the NTA in person in March and will continue to advocate for this on your behalf.

SCHOOL BOOKS FOR PRIMARY AND SPECIAL SCHOOLS ARE NOW FREE

From September, children attending primary and special schools are set to benefit from free school books. Grant payments are being made to schools to cover the cost of books, copy books and work books. This €50 million investment amounts to a significant saving on back-to-school costs and the time traditionally spent during the summer trying to buy the booklist.



IMPROVING AND CONSERVING MULHUDDART CEMETERY

As a Councillor and then Senator I have raised the need for investment in the new part of Mulhuddart Cemetery and conservation works in the old. Thankfully there has been an



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improvement in the upkeep of the Cemetery lately and having worked closely with Fingal County Council, €30,000 has now been allocated towards a conservation plan for St Mary's Church, eco-toilets have been installed, and the planning process for a new boundary treatment, sliding gate and separate pedestrian gate is due to begin in the Autumn.



Ongar Cricket Club Jersey Reveal

NO TO PARKING CHARGES IN THE PHOENIX PARK

I am totally opposed to OPW's recommendation to introduce parking charges in the Phoenix Park, which I consider an essential public resource. I held two public meetings about the Draft Parking Strategy in the Phoenix Park where the overwhelming view is that the changes that have been introduced in the Park over the last number of years have been much more focused on driving cars out of the Park, than introducing alternative modes of transport. Balance must be struck. You can read my opinion piece in the Irish Sun here: <https://www.thesun.ie/news/10590552/phoenix-park-warning-parking-charges-fine-gael/>



Official Opening of St Mochta's NS, Clonsilla



Castleknock TidyTowns visit Leinster House



At St Francis Xavier Senior National School with Acting Principal Sean McKeown as we work on building repairs and improvements together.



Edmund Rice Phoenix Park Officially Opened

CASTLEKNOCK

Your Home your History

by Mike Power

What does the word 'Castleknock' remind you of...? Deer strolling leisurely through the Phoenix Park? - Ashtown Castle or Farmleigh? -the Royal Canal perhaps...? All these and more lie within the boundaries of this most attractive suburb, once a rural, small outlying village on the outskirts of the city.

Add the sweetly flowing waters of the river Liffey to this idyllic mix and you know why locals love and revere their own Castleknock, and the place has an impressive historical pedigree to match.!

The barony of Castleknock was long-established as the administrative centre here. In earliest times, the Great Scaldwood forest covered this area, enticing many land-hungry Normans to the area.

The original 'castle' in Castleknock began with the famous Norman knight, Hugh de Lacy and then passed to Hugh Tyrell ('Tyrellstown'). The house later came into the possession of the Burnell family, local English settlers.

The remains of this once famous Castleknock castle are to be found within the grounds of Castleknock college today.

Baron of Castleknock i.e., Hugh Tyrell, known also as the 'Graecian Knight' d.1199 was a great benefactor to local religious orders like the Order of St John of Jerusalem, whose house stood in nearby Kilmainham. Traces of his energetic medieval building in the area can still be seen here today.

And elderly though he was, Hugh was not above joining the third crusade (1173) in a fervour of

religious feeling against the Muslim's occupation of the Holy Land and Jerusalem in particular. This third crusade brought two illustrious historical titans, Richard 1 ('Lionheart') of England and the Kurdish Saladin (Sala-Al-Din-Yusuf) into a mammoth maelstrom of battle.

This most famous crusade, detailed in Ridley Scott's (2005) film Kingdom of Heaven, failed in its efforts to recapture Jerusalem. It did, however, succeed in founding Christian kingdoms centred on both Jaffa and Acre, thereby establishing permanent Frankish counterweights to Islamic expansion in the middle east.

Hugh Tyrell died in far-away Picardy, France, (1199) never having seen his native castle or the sweetly-flowing river Liffey again. He seems to have been a fervent son of the church and certainly left his mark on the Castleknock we see today.

Wealthy Landowners

By the 1830s, Castleknock had succeeded in attracting many wealthy families to the area, Guinness's (Farmleigh), Diswellstown ('Deuswells') and the Georgian Mount Hybla, now a nursing home. Maps of the day show details of the many landed properties in



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the area.

The arrival of the Victorian era railway (1849) by the engineer John Skipton Mulvaney, saw Castleknock being joined both to the city and the wider country. Railways were the life-giving economic arteries of their day, bringing business, tourism, residential and political benefits to all. The wider connectivity railways afforded to Irish towns was a guarantee of later commercial success.

The Royal Canal's 12th lock in Castleknock was also opened in 1817, another fillip to settlement in the area, canals being the cheapest way to deliver goods then.

In the 1830s the Liffey supplied motive power for the nearby woollen mills, providing scarce industrial employment for sixty locals, while stone drawn from local quarries was also an important industry to the building trade.

Farmleigh House.

Farmleigh House, now an open property, was the main Dublin seat of Edward Guinness, Earl of Iveagh. Originally a small Georgian house with spectacular views over the Liffey, it was extended to include a ballroom and more accommodation.

One of the first houses to have electricity in Ireland, Farmleigh's power supply was generated by turbines driven by the Liffey at the Strawberry beds in the 1870s.

Purchased by the State and following an €53 million refit by the OPW, the re-furbished Farmleigh was finally opened to the public in July 2001. Money well spent or a costly white elephant...? Take your pick!!

The Castleknock Drone.

A drone hovering over the area of Castleknock on a sunny day today would immediately spot the dusty green-brown bowl of the Phoenix Park, circled by the curving black thread of the Royal canal. Through the middle would run the silvery stream of the Liffey, its banks fringed with graceful trees. It might also see the curving scar of the M50 or faintly hear its unceasing, tiny traffic. This is Castleknock, one of the jewels of Dublin 15.

AstraZeneca to expand Blanchardstown facility

Covid-19 vaccine maker AstraZeneca has been given planning permission for a \$360 million (€326 million) “next generation” active pharma ingredient (API) manufacturing facility in north Dublin.



Fingal County Council granted permission to

AstraZeneca subsidiary, Alexion Pharma Operations International Ltd (APOI), to expand in order to ramp up its production of small molecule APIs to meet the firm’s growing drug pipeline.

The AstraZeneca subsidiary proposal would generate an additional 105 jobs when operational within the 18.5-hectare Alexion biopharmaceutical campus in Blanchardstown.

The council has attached 19 conditions to the permission including one that requires the firm to pay €1.8 million in planning contributions towards public infrastructure.

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Thrift Shopping

Thrift shopping is becoming more popular these days for numerous reasons - sustainability, the rising cost of living, and previous decades making a fashion comeback.

Dublin D15 has many busy thrift or charity shops. Consider donating rather than throwing away items. The Society of St Vincent de Paul is one of the major thrift shop chains in Ireland and has over 230 local Vincent's charity shops located in every county around Ireland. Their advice on what they can accept (similar in all Thrift Shops) is:

- Good quality, clean unwanted and used clothes and shoes
- Bags and accessories
- Jewellery and valuables
- Second hand books
- Music (CDs, vinyl, DVDs, videos, instruments, and sheet music)
- Homewares: china, kitchenware, ornaments, pictures
- Soft furnishings: small rugs, linen, curtains
- Wedding dresses and accessories
- Second hand Furniture (in selected stores only)



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Update on the Work Life Balance Act

In light of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the huge shift to working from home, there was a widespread re-evaluation of working practices – not just about where we work, but also about how we work.



For many people, working from home brought both benefits and challenges, along with a realisation that work places and work practices need to recognise the reality of people's lives. As hard as we all work, personal lives don't stop between the hours of 9 and 5. We might have appointments to make, kids might need picked up from school, or family members might need cared for. None of which fits itself around the usual office job hours.

That is why earlier this year, I brought in a Work Life Balance Act. As the name suggests, this new law includes a raft of measures to better cater for parent and caring responsibilities. It will come into effect over the course of this year.

For first time, parents and carers will have a new right to request flexible working, so their working hours better fit with the needs of their child or person they're caring for. Once a request is made, the employer will be required to consider it and, if they refuse, the employee will have the right to challenge that.

As well as a right to request flexible working, the Work Life Balance Act will also provide leave for medical care purposes, which can be used by parents and carers for when they need to provide care at short notice. While some work places already have good policies and practices in place, putting this into legislation will give all parents and carers better certainty and stronger entitlements.

For new parents, the Act will extend the current

entitlement to breastfeeding breaks, from the current entitlement of six months - which is generally taken up during maternity leave - up to two years.

I know, however, that a desire to change work practices goes beyond parents and carers. Many people have benefitted from working from home over the past three years. That is why the Act will also provide all employees with a new right to request remote working. Much like flexible working, an employer will have to provide a reason for a refusal, and the employee has a right to challenge that.

Beyond the Work Life Balance Act, I have been taking steps to help support parents and carers.

This year, I increased investment in childcare by more than €350m – up to a total of €1 billion. This delivers an average 25% reduction in childcare fees, improved pay for childcare professionals, and more funding for services. I have also expanded access to the National Childcare Scheme. Since coming into office, I've extended paid parent's leave from two weeks to seven weeks, and in this year's Budget, I want to go further again.

The Green Party has always believed that a person's work life has to reflect the realities of people's day to day lives, particularly for people with caring responsibilities. Through the Work Life Balance Act, reduced childcare costs, and more leave entitlements, we are committed to helping parents and carers.

If you have any questions please email roderic.ogorman@oireachtas.ie



RODERIC O'GORMAN TD

Minister for Children, Equality, Disability,
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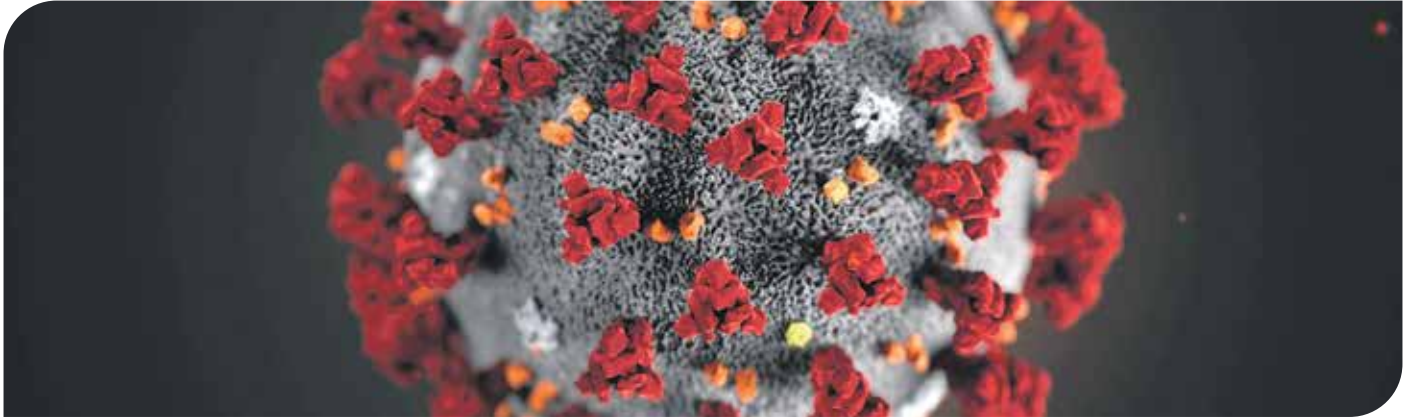


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The end of COVID?

The World Health Organisation no longer considers Covid-19 a global health emergency. We see the effects of this locally as screens are being removed in retail and health care environments and mask wearing requirements removed.



However, WHO chief Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus stressed that does not mean Covid-19 is over as a global health threat and thousands of people are still fighting for their lives in intensive care units. Covid-19 was first declared a public health emergency of international concern on January 30, 2020 - the highest level of alarm under international law.

He said: "This virus is here to stay. It is still killing, and it is still changing. The risk remains of new variants emerging that cause new surges in cases and deaths."


"The worst thing any country could do now is to use this news as a reason to let down its guard, to dismantle the systems it has built, or to send the message to its people that Covid-19 is nothing to worry about."

Dr Tedros explained that "it is time for countries to transition from emergency mode to managing the virus alongside other infectious diseases". He also warned: "If need be, I will not hesitate to convene another Emergency Committee should Covid-19 once again put our world in peril."


Dr Tedros said that he has decided to use a provision in the International Health Regulations that has never been used before, to establish a Review Committee to develop long-term, standing recommendations for countries on how to manage the virus on an ongoing basis.

He added: "In addition, WHO this week published the 4th edition of the Global Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan for Covid-19, which outlines

critical actions for countries in five core areas: collaborative surveillance, community protection, safe and scalable care, access to countermeasures, and emergency coordination.

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Barnados Big Toddle

Over 6,000 toddlers will hit Dublin's streets for a half-mile fundraising walk for Barnardos.



The children's charity launched their annual Big Toddle at Airfield Estate in Dundrum recently. They announced that the theme this year, Big Toddle Little Heroes, celebrates Ireland's youngest fundraisers who help vulnerable children their own age by completing a half-mile sponsored walk in their creche, childcare group, pre-school, or with their families.

Ambassador Amy Huberman joined the launch along with a group of toddlers. She said: "I am delighted to be part of Barnardos Big Toddle and most importantly to support the work of Barnardos. I have been an ambassador for 10 years now and supporting children to have a

better start in life is something very close to my heart."

Over the last 20 years, toddlers from across the country have raised an incredible €4.46 million in support of Barnardos Early Years services. This work focuses on "some of the youngest and most vulnerable children to come through [their] doors and ensures that they get the best start in life.

Creches, parents and childminders can organise their own Barnardos Big Toddle anytime in May or June by registering on <https://www.barnardos.ie/how-you-can-help/fundraising/fundraising-events/big-toddle-2023>

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Minister Roderic O’Gorman welcomes new national plan to combat racism

The Government has launched the National Action Plan Against Racism 2023-2027, which was developed by an independent Anti-Racism Committee. The plan sets out a coordinated approach to eliminating racism in all its forms in Ireland.



There are five main objectives in the Action Plan, under which there are priority actions and recommendations on how to implement the actions. The objectives are:

1. Being Safe and Being Heard – Supporting people who experience racism and protecting people from racist incidents and crimes
2. Being Equal – Addressing ethnic inequalities
3. Being Seen and Taking Part – Enabling minority participation
4. Being Counted – Measuring the impacts of racism
5. Being Together – A shared journey to racial equality

Welcoming the publication of the National Action Plan Against Racism (NAPAR), Minister for Equality and Integration Roderic O’Gorman TD said:

“I welcome the publication of Ireland’s National Action Plan Against Racism, fulfilling a key commitment in the Programme for Government negotiated by the Green Party in 2020. Ireland has gone 15 years without a specific plan to combat racism, with the last plan lapsing in 2008. This National Action Plan Against Racism has been long-

anticipated, particularly by those who experience racism and who feel its impact on their day-to-day lives.

Racism has no place in an equal society. We live in a multi-ethnic and multi-cultural country, and everyone who lives here, regardless of their race, colour, ethnicity, or origin, deserves to be treated fairly, with respect, and free from racial discrimination.

There is clear evidence that racism exists in Ireland, and if we are to truly tackle it in all its forms, in our institutions, in our workplaces, in our sports clubs, and in our local communities, we must strive to be actively anti-racist.

I would like to thank the members of the independent Anti-Racism Committee for all of their hard work in creating this plan, which sets out a coordinated approach to tackling racism, and includes a set of priority actions and recommendations of which the effective implementation will be key in making Ireland a safer and more inclusive country.”

The National Action Plan Against Racism can be found at www.gov.ie/anti-racism.

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D15 households hit with extra bin charges

D15 households were recently hit with extra bin charges.



Panda Recycling has introduced a charge of €3.80 for each compost bin lift affecting many D15 residents.

Panda Recycling is one of the biggest waste collection companies in the country.

The new charge is for food and garden waste in compost bins, and many have said it will discourage them from recycling.

Last year, the company increased its general waste bin-lift charges by over 12% and has raised its service charges.

It now costs €10.25 for a lift of a general waste bins - a rise of €1.13 since September 2022.

The rise in the latest bin charge means that a household couple will be paying an extra €50 per year for waste collection.

Panda Recycling has an estimated 360,000 customers in Ireland who will be impacted by these charges.

Speaking to Newstalk about the charges, Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore said that bringing in these charges is counterproductive.

She said: "We want people to do the right thing when it comes to our waste.

"We want people to recycle, and we want people to compost.

"In order for them to do that we need to encourage them to do it and not penalise them when they do it, so I think it is a counterproductive move by Panda."



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Cllr Natalie Treacy

Elected Councillor for the Castleknock LEA,
085 1285493 natalie.treacy@cllr.fingal.ie



I hope 2023 is a happy and healthy year for you and all your families. As always, I have been working very hard on behalf of the people of Castleknock of which I am elected to. This update leaflet is a synopsis of some of the work I have been doing over the last few months on your behalf.

We recently seen a role reversal of Taoiseach and we in Sinn Féin believe it is not a change in Taoiseach we need, it is time for a new government.

It is time for change - Tá sé in am don Athru!



I am delighted to receive the news that Mulhuddart Cemetery is finally going to get a toilet installed!

I have been calling for toilets in Mulhuddart Cemetery for a long time now. I have raised this at our Budget meeting, Development Plan meetings, Full Council and local area meetings. The Cemetery is widely used by the whole of D.15 and beyond and is one of the very few public places that does not have this facility. We have public toilets now in our parks, playgrounds, beaches, and most public places. The fact that we do not have a public toilet in our cemetery is unacceptable especially with the number of senior citizens that use it to visit their lost loved ones. I feel very strongly about this and have been fighting very hard to have this rectified. I am delighted to announce that I have finally had a commitment and date from Fingal County Council to have one installed. I will continue to fight for this until it is installed.



St. Brigids Park

Delighted that FCC lowered the dangerously high shore on the open green space in St. Brigids Park after I made representations on behalf of residents. I also had Fingal install 2 new paths across the green to allow residents to safely bring their wheelie bins across the green for collection as the old paths were badly broken and overgrown



Before

After

Affordable Homes for All

As a member of the housing SPC I continue to call for more social and affordable housing. In the meantime, those on the Fingal housing waiting list should also apply to the Choice Based Letting scheme. For more information on the scheme see: <https://fingal.ie/choicebasedlettingscheme> or contact choicebasedlettings@fingal.ie



Mountview wins at all-Ireland Pride of Place community awards

Congratulations to Mountview/Fortlawn on their fantastic achievement of winning this years Pride of Place award. The community of Mountview was honoured at the prestigious IPB Pride of Place Community Awards. The Community took top spot in the 'Urban Neighbourhood' category at the awards, which took place in front of 400 community volunteers from across the Island.

Mountview is one of the older urban areas in Blanchardstown. This resourceful community lobbied throughout the 1990s for a state-of-the-art community centre and succeeded after many years. The Mountview Youth and Community Centre is now the hub of this thriving urban neighbourhood of which I am proud to sit on the Board of Management. Mountview also has a Family Resource Centre, a Neighbourhood Youth Project and many strong, active community groups such as the Fortlawn Flower Power Community Group. Mountview Boys and Girls FC is the local football club, and the centre also hosts a group representing the local Kurdish community. Well done to all involved for all your hard work in achieving this award. What a fantastic community and I am always happy to help and support in any way I can.



Sinn Féin is seeking a new, agreed and united Ireland. We want to build a just, fair and equal Ireland, an economically prosperous and socially and culturally inclusive Ireland. We want to protect our most vulnerable, the elderly, children, the ill, those with disabilities – and ensure that equality is the touchstone upon which all policies are formulated. The time is right to start the conversation to achieve a united Ireland.

Finally, thank you for taking the time to read. If I can help anyone with any local issues please do not hesitate to contact me.

"Sinn Féin working hard in our communities all the time not just at election time"



Contact Natalie Treacy

085 1285493

natalie.treacy@cllr.fingal.ie

New Traffic Island

I am delighted to have got installed our new traffic Island along the Mountview/Lohunda Road adjacent to Whitechapel Estate. This was on the back of representations I received from residents. This will allow residents especially those wheelchair users to cross over to Mountview Community centre and Mountview Shopping centre safely.



Walkway at Coolmine Boulevard

During the summer I had FCC clear out the overgrown path and cut back the overgrown bushes and shrubbery along the walkway at Coolmine Boulevard. This made the pathway more accessible and safer for resident of Coolmine Green, Court and Vale.



BEFORE

AFTER

The Liffey Valley Trail

Delighted to attend the launch of The Liffey Valley Trail, this will be a huge asset to the whole of D.15 and beyond.



Some updates on my representation

Councillor JK ONWUMEREH

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



Dear Resident,

I hope that this newsletter finds you and your loved ones well. I am continuing my work around our area, meeting people in different estates and working with various community groups. I am delighted to bring you the following updates of my most recent representations for the Blanchardstown-Mulhuddart LEA on the Fingal County Council.

Corduff Park Upgrade

I am delighted to inform residents that a Part 8 Planning Application is currently in preparation relating to the upgrade of Corduff Park. Plans for the park includes a new playground, an extension to the all-weather pitch to make it a full-sized soccer pitch as well as significant other improvements to the park. The council's statutory planning process has been initiated. I will continue to make representation on this project which would provide much needed facilities for children and families in the community.



for the Garnish Square and Aran Court as well as other estates in Waterville.

Recently, I facilitated the removal of a burnt-out car at the dead end of Garnish Square.



Update on the Snugborough Interchange upgrade

The Snugborough Interchange upgrade is progressing nicely and is expected to be completed in Q3 of this year. Many of the structural elements of the scheme have been completed at this time and the underpass under Snugborough Road will be completed in Q2 following utility and traffic diversions. The traffic management on the N3 out bound has been removed and it is intended to reopen the inbound N3 bus lane by early Q2.

During the remainder of Q1 and Q2 there will be further traffic and pedestrian diversions on Snugborough Road to complete the project and these diversions will be signed to users. It was necessary to close the existing underpass during the works, but the final layout will give much improved cycleways and footpaths along different routes. The completed scheme will result in less delays for all modes, but the main environmental benefit will be more bus lanes and cycle lanes providing significantly enhanced connectivity across the N3.

Thanks to users and residents for their patience during the upgrade. Updates to the scheme will continue to be posted on the project web site : www.snugboroughinterchange.ie



Wheelchair Accessibility/ Taking in Charge/ Name plate signage and other matters

Recently, I made a representation for the improvement of wheelchair accessibility along the Waterville Road and wish to inform you that the tactile paving and dropped kerb works were carried out by the Council's Contractors. I am working with other councillors to expedite the taking in charge of estates in Waterville.

I have also made representations for name plates to be erected

Update on The Building Acquisitions Measure in St Margarets



I am delighted to inform residents of St Margarets that Fingal County Council has made some heart-warming progress with the Building Acquisitions Measure which was launched by the Department of Rural and Community Development to facilitate Local Authorities to immediately acquire up to three derelict or vacant buildings to a maximum combined value of €500,000, with the intention of bringing these back into use as new multipurpose community spaces in line with the aims of the Town and Village Renewal Scheme.

In total, one application from St, Margarets with a value of €500,000 was submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development for funding consideration. I am really delighted to have made representations on behalf of the St Margarets community to ensure that the Parish Hall, Parochial House and the grounds are retained for the use of the community.

Register to Vote

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

Please contact me if you require more information.

About JK

I am a Councillor for the Mulhuddart-Blanchardstown LEA. I am a professional youth worker and community leader with diverse volunteering experience. I have a certificate in youth studies from the Maynooth University, a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and a Masters of Arts in ManagementCommunity and Voluntary Services from the Dublin City University. As a youth worker, I am aware of the importance of providing good quality recreational areas for young people and families. I am passionate about advocating for adequate housing for all and improvements in local amenities and public spaces in the LEA. It is a great pleasure to serve our community and I am happy t

Contact

Cllr. JK Onwumereh

Your Fianna Fáil Councillor for Blanchardstown – Mulhuddart LEA works with Minister Jack Chambers TD

Address: Civic Buildings, Grove Road, Blanchardstown, D15

Email: jk.onwumereh@cllrs.fingal.ie / Phone: 0899642783

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m: +353 (85) 780 9292 Cllr Tania Doyle
 e: Tania.Doyle@clrs.fingal.ie @taniadoylecillr

At the Fingal County Council Meeting of the 08th of May, my Motion “That this Council calls for the return of domestic refuse collections to this Local Authority” was passed by a majority vote of the members.

My Motion fundamentally and clearly calls for domestic refuse collections be taken back into the control of Fingal County Council.

This is not without its challenges and obstacles, let me be clear. Legislation needs to be changed by Central Government before anything else.

So tangibly it won't happen overnight as there is a clear obstacle within Central Government and its constituent political parties to maintain privatisation at any cost.

Dublin City Council Elected Members voted for the refuse service to be taken back by their Local Authority and now Elected Members of Fingal County Council, by majority vote, have now sent a clear signal to Central Government that change is being called for from the grass roots, from our communities.

Castleknock Tennis Club Summer Camps kicking off on Monday 3rd of July for 4 weeks

Registration will be open online on smartclubcloud.com from Tuesday 2nd May at 9am.



Camp is open for members and non-members for children born between 2008 and 2017.

Camp Details:

- Week 1 from Monday 3rd to Friday 7th July
- Week 2 From Monday 10th to Friday 14th July
- Week 3 from Monday 17th to 21st July
- Week 4 From Monday 24th to 28th July
- All payments must be completed through the booking link (payments cannot be made through the office and

must be paid online)

- The camp will run for 2.5 hours from 9.30 am to 12 pm.
- Camp is available for children born between 2008 and 2017.
- The tennis camps are outdoor, and we require all children to bring a rain jacket, a drink, and a small snack.

More details on the club website for registration (members and non-members).

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