

ISSUE 42  
OCT/NOV 2023

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## EDITORIAL

**W**elcome to the Autumn edition of Little Village. As summer draws to a close we are all hoping for an easier winter for fuel costs. We include an article examining why fuel costs are still not coming down as expected.

Text and WhatsApp scams are on the increase. This month we highlight the 'Hi Mum / Dad' scam that has caught out many parents.

As always, we welcome contributions from individuals and organisations in the D15 area. Send them to [littlevillagenewsdesk@gmail.com](mailto:littlevillagenewsdesk@gmail.com)

Kind Regards  
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- The Grasshopper Clonee
- Clonsilla Inn
- The Carpenter Inn
- The Carlton Hotel Tyrrelstown



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# What is Career Guidance & how Guidance helps You?

By Stephen Byrne, Guidance counsellor (15/09/2023)



## What is Career Guidance?

Career guidance counselling is impartial. Guidance is not just for school days, but to support you during your lifetime. Guidance support helps you explore your full range of choices and plans in your career journey. Your journey may involve pathways in education, training, and employment. Change can be consistent in your working life. The labour market changes, job skill requirements change, what you value for your career and life changes. You may have asked yourself the questions, should I stay or go, how do I decide, where do I start?

On average people may have between 10 and 12 different jobs in their career journey by age 38 (IBEC, 2018). More than half of workers in Ireland are considering changing jobs, and 1 in 5 over the next 12 months (PWC, 2022/2023).

## How does Career Guidance help You?

As a guidance counsellor over the past 9 years, I have supported people to build their career management skills. I develop these skills with people, to make plans towards their goal. Each career goal will involve challenge, change, decisions, plans, and actions to keep focused with motivation.

- Applying for pathways in (FET) Further education & training colleges (PLCs) Post leaving cert courses.
- Applying for Apprenticeships.
- Applying for CAO colleges.
- Job seeking & applications.
- Learning while working options.
- Developing your CV.
- Exploring Your work life balance.
- Using social media & networking to find employment.
- Managing finance & costs of learning.
- Getting work experience.
- Studying abroad.
- Building up literacy and language skills.

There are many paths to choose, professional support and guidance offers you the chance to understand your change and next steps with confidence.

The very best of luck in your career journey.

Where would you like to start?

## References/ Web citations:

Bureau of Labor Statistics, March 2015; Ibec (2018) Smarter World Smarter Work [<https://www.smartfutures.ie/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Informed-Choices-Career-Guidance.pdf>] [web links accessed, 12/09/2023].

PWC 2022 cited in Independent [<https://www.independent.ie/business/irish/over-half-of-irish-workers-want-to-change-jobs-and-pay-is-the-main-reason-to-switch-according-to-pwc-survey/42055763.html>] [web links accessed, 12/09/2023].

PWC 2023 <https://www.pwc.ie/media-centre/press-releases/2023/hopes-fears-workforce-survey.html> [web links accessed, 12/09/2023].

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# New Lego Store in Blanchardstown

Lego are set to open a new shop at Blanchardstown Shopping Centre. This will be Lego's second Irish store, after the one on Grafton Street opened in August 2022.



**T**he opening date for the new location is scheduled for October. The new 200sqm store will offer an extensive range of new products, RTE reported.

This will include the new Disney Castle and the PAC-MAN Arcade.

Lego Group Marketing Chief Amy Pearson said the launch of the Grafton Street store last year proved how loved the Lego brand is here in Ireland. She added: "The new Lego store in

Blanchardstown Shopping Centre will allow builders of all ages to be inspired by the endless play opportunities Lego has to offer".

Blanchardstown Centre spokesman Sharon Walsh said the shopping centre was hugely excited to welcome the Lego Group's latest Irish store. She said: "Creating unique customer experiences is increasingly important and this interactive, fully immersive store speaks directly to that."

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Councillor

# John Walsh

Phone: 087 6486228 Email: [john.walsh@cllrs.fingal.ie](mailto:john.walsh@cllrs.fingal.ie) @JohnWalshDWest

*Dear Resident*

I am circulating some brief updates on issues that I am currently working on. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance.

*John*

## MORE COMMUNITY GARDAI NEEDED IN DUBLIN 15

Recently at a meeting of the Joint Policing Committee, Garda management confirmed that there are currently only 10 Community Gardai assigned to Dublin 15. The Community Gardai do fantastic work in local communities and play a vital part in addressing anti-social behaviour and criminal activity.

Dublin 15 has a larger population than Limerick City but resourcing and allocation of new Garda recruits has failed to reflect our population and rapidly expanding neighbourhoods. I have highlighted at the Joint Policing Committee and various public meetings that support and resourcing for our Gardai is at crisis point. As a minimum, the number of Community Gardai in Dublin 15 should be doubled.



## ENFORCEMENT ACTION ON NIGHT FLIGHTS AT DUBLIN AIRPORT

Fingal Council issued an Enforcement Notice on July 28, 2023, requiring the Dublin Airport Authority to conform with Condition 5 of the planning permission for the North Runway, so that the average number of night-time (between 2300 hours and 0700 hours) flights at the airport is '65 aircraft movements per night or less'. In response to a legal challenge by the DAA to this Enforcement Notice, Fingal Council has filed and served its opposition papers and will contest the case in the High Court. My colleague Cllr Mary McCamley and I fully support this enforcement action to protect residents in Hollystown and the Ward from noise pollution and have written to the chief executive urging the Council to challenge the stay on the enforcement action granted to the DAA.

## BENCHES IN PUBLIC OPEN SPACES

Well done to the Operations department of Fingal Council for delivering new park benches in Auburn Avenue, Park Avenue and Brompton over the summer. I had requested that these benches be included in the Programme of Works following representations by Castleknock Tidy Towns and Brompton residents' association. New benches will also be provided in Delwood Park along with a new footpath. The benches are a very positive addition to local amenities for residents of all ages: if you would like to have a bench on a local green space, please let me know and I will make a request for consideration in the 2024 Programme of Works.



## **PUBLIC TRANSPORT – DART+WEST**

The oral hearing on the DART+West Railway Order starts on 28th September and is scheduled to run from 3rd - 6th and 10th -13th October. DART+West is a long delayed and essential development for residents in Dublin 15; electrification of the rail line must be achieved while preserving the local environment, managing traffic flows responsibly and protecting the quality of life of communities living along the route.

Among the issues that I plan to raise at the oral hearing are:

- Achieving universal accessibility including a lift and accessible pedestrian-cycle bridges at all stations impacted by the plan.
- Protecting Ashtown stables as a priceless community and recreational amenity which serves young people in Dublin 15 and the Navan Road: it is unacceptable that the current plan still threatens the viability of Ashtown stables.
- Minimising the visual impact of new bridges at Ashtown, Coolmine and Barberstown.
- Addressing the impact on traffic flows and local schools due to diversion of vehicles from closure of level crossings at Coolmine and Clonsilla.
- Securing a dedicated bridge for pedestrians and cyclists close to Granard Bridge (Castleknock), where the humpback bridge over the rail line is already dangerous and completely unsuitable as a main artery for traffic.



## **LOCAL UPDATES**

- I would like to thank the Clonsilla Porterstown Heritage Society for organising the inaugural Clonsilla Heritage Festival on 16th - 17th September, which was very successful with a range of walks, canal boat trips, local history talks and performances by Blanchardstown Brass Band.
- Well done to all the Tidy Towns groups in Blanchardstown, Castleknock, Clonsilla and Ongar for their ongoing hard work which makes a huge difference to the area.



# IRISH DISHES – DUBLIN CODDLE

When did you last see Dublin Coddle on the menu?



**A** Dublin coddle is the beloved Irish take on a rich stew. The dish that we know today is clearly meat-heavy, a far cry from earlier versions that had just potatoes, vegetables, and pork scraps. Coddles can take many shapes because each cook can add whatever leftovers they have at hand, but in general, potatoes and other root vegetables, bacon, sausages, and onions make the base of this delicious preparation.

Usually served with bread, the coddle meal is so filling that there is no need to make other dishes to accompany it—just fresh soda bread slices, perfect to soak up the juices. Sometimes made with Guinness beer to add a deep earthy flavour and rich texture, but

beef stock will do.

## What Does Coddle Mean?

Named from the French verb caudle, meaning to gently boil, this recipe was originally invented as a resourceful way of feeding many when food scarcity was common. A gentle boil can be obtained either on the stove top over a low heat or in the oven. While some coddle recipes do not traditionally call for browning the ingredients before simmering, the slight browning helps build flavour to make for a tasty finished coddle.

## What's the Difference Between a Coddle and a Stew?



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The primary difference is that a coddle is cooked in layers of vegetables, meat, and potatoes with just a small amount of liquid. A stew is much more like a thick soup with cubed meat, veggies, or both. Both are considered comfort foods and hearty one-pot meals.

Type of Sausage to Use in Coddle

Any good quality Irish pork sausage will be the most authentic.

Best Type of Potato to Use in Coddle

White potatoes are sturdy and won't break down even after long cooking times, retaining their shape in the finished dish.

If you don't mind the skin, you can scrub the potatoes and leave the skin on for a more rustic presentation. If you don't want to fuss with slicing the potatoes, you can also dice them into 2 inch squares and layer.

Make Ahead

Coddle can be made ahead of time and then left in a slightly warmed oven until it's time to eat. Alternatively, you can make the coddle in advance, and once finished and reaches room temperature refrigerate it for up to 4 days. Simply reheat by adding a splash of stock over medium-low heat.

Here is recipe for Dublin Coddle

- Ingredients
- 900g potatoes, peeled and sliced into slices
  - (approx thickness of euro coin)
  - 500 ml chicken stock
  - 450 g sausages, cut into large chunks
  - 225g lean bacon or cooked ham cut into thick strips
  - Large onion, peeled and thickly sliced
  - 2 or 3 large carrots, peeled and sliced
  - Salt and black pepper
  - 2 tablespoons chopped parsley

Method

- STEP 1  
Brown the sausages and bacon in a frying pan for a few minutes. Place half the sausages and bacon in the bottom of a large, oven proof casserole
- STEP 2  
Add half the onions, potatoes, carrots, salt, pepper and parsley . Add another layer of meat and vegetables, season to taste
- STEP 3  
Cover with a lid and cook in a slow oven (180 degrees, gas mark 3) for about 2 hours
- STEP 4  
Remove the lid for the last 30 minutes and dot the top layer with butter (this allows the top layer to colour and crisp up)

Wordsearch

(Answers on Next Page)

- MURPHY
- HINDS
- FRICKER
- HARRIS
- RONAN
- BYRNE
- CONDON
- NEESON
- CUNNINGHAM
- BROSANAN
- BRANAGH
- SHAW
- GLEESON
- KEOGHAN
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C	B	R	A	N	A	G	H	G	S	S	C	R	E
F	H	Y	R	E	N	E	O	I	N	N	U	E	G
E	W	H	E	O	M	H	R	C	N	A	N	K	I
R	I	P	L	A	N	R	Y	D	H	N	N	C	G
B	Y	R	N	E	A	A	O	O	F	O	I	I	S
N	M	U	E	H	G	H	N	R	A	D	N	R	G
A	E	M	N	G	R	I	U	N	H	N	G	F	G
D	S	A	E	R	I	N	Y	A	A	O	H	C	N
H	R	N	H	O	R	D	O	N	A	C	A	I	N
N	H	L	N	A	O	S	M	N	N	R	M	W	M
R	A	S	E	A	R	I	A	N	O	S	E	E	N

# CRIME IN DUBLIN

How bad is crime in Dublin? What are the facts?



It's bad. People in Dublin are five times more likely to be robbed than those anywhere else in Ireland.

New CSO stats show that the level of robbery, burglary, and theft in Dublin exceeds all other regions by far – you'd be five times more likely to get robbed, or experience extortion or hijacking in Dublin than anywhere else in Ireland. The Dublin Metropolitan Region also has the highest recorded sexual offences rate in 2021, but only 15 per cent of sexual offences led to a charge or summons in 2021.

But it has also been revealed that Dublin's detection

rates for murder, assaults and thefts are the lowest in Ireland, despite having the highest crime rate in the country. A detection means that a suspected offender is issued with a charge or summons and faces prosecution in the Courts for most crimes. Last year's recorded crime detection rates for most crimes were lower than in 2020.

How do we compare with our nearest capital city. See the chart below.

Dublin is a great city, but crime is destroying our reputation and more importantly, the quality of life for its citizens.

## Crime Comparison Between London and Dublin

Index	London	Dublin
Crime Index	54.07	52.61
Safety Scale	45.93	47.39

Level of crime	
Crime increasing in the past 3 years	
Worries home broken and things stolen	
Worries being mugged or robbed	
Worries car stolen	
Worries things from car stolen	
Worries attacked	
Worries being insulted	
Worries being subject to a physical attack because of your skin color, ethnic origin, gender or religion	
Problem people using or dealing drugs	
Problem property crimes such as vandalism and theft	
Problem violent crimes such as assault and armed robbery	
Problem corruption and bribery	
Contributors:	
Last Update:	

### Safety comparisons London vs Dublin

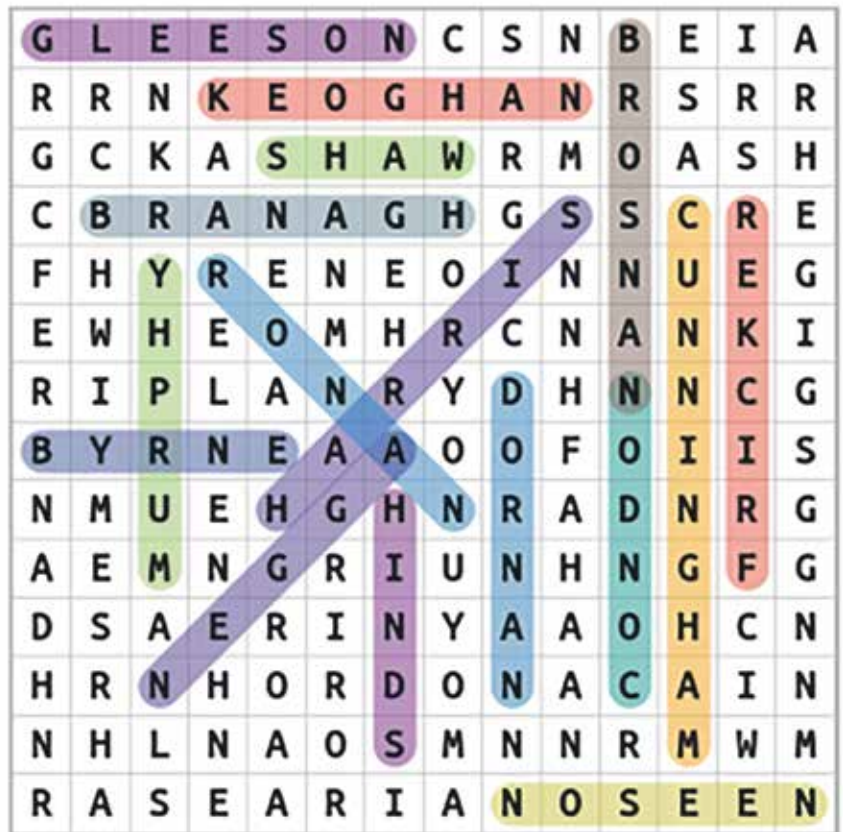
Safety walking alone during daylight	
Safety walking alone during night	
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# Wordsearch (Answers)

MURPHY  
HINDS  
FRICKER  
HARRIS  
RONAN  
BYRNE  
CONDON  
NEESON  
CUNNINGHAM  
BROSNAN  
BRANAGH  
SHAW  
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# Dublin Climate Action Plan

Dublin has created an ambitious climate action plan. It will mean significant actions to achieve it. Here are the details.



**T**he Draft Climate Action Plan, Climate Neutral Dublin 2030 sets out how the Dublin City Council can promote a range of mitigation, adaptation and other climate action measures, to help deliver on the National Climate Action Plan and the Government's overall National Climate Objective, which seeks to pursue and achieve, by no later than the end of 2050, the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy.

Climate Neutral Dublin 2030 sets out the actions that will be taken by the City Council to prepare our city and people living here for the known impacts of climate change – flooding, sea level rise, extreme weather events, drought. Climate Neutral Dublin 2030 will set out how the City Council will mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and contribute the global effort to limit warming to below 1.5oC.

Realising a Dublin City where we are resilient, resource-full, creative, and social requires all of us. Join us, as we work together to prepare Dublin City, our home, for the impacts of climate change now and into the future.

## Targets:

The plan has three targets that are interdependent:

- A 51% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in line with our National Climate Objective by 2030, while striving for neutrality before 2050 as per Dublin City's participation in the EU Mission for 100 Climate Neutral and Smart Cities (Net Zero Cities).
- A Climate Resilient City prepared for the known and unknown impacts of climate change
- A Just Transition meaning that the actions we take do not cause harm.

## Foundations and Connecting Actions

Achieving the targets requires collaboration to ensure that the actions connecting the foundations of our plan are interdisciplinary and consider the diverse systems that support life in our city. The foundations of our plan build on our city's strengths.

The connecting actions support the foundations – A Resilient City, A Resource-Full City, A Creative City and A Social City. While the actions are categorised, they are not independent of each other. All actions are interconnected and require a collaborative approach. We recognise that Dublin's success is Ireland's success, and success requires that everyone is working together.



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# REOPEN FARMLEIGH BRIDGE

The historic Farmleigh Bridge (also known as the Silver, Guinness and Strawberry Beds Bridge), spans the Liffey Valley between Palmerstown on the south, and the Strawberry Beds on the north.

This autumn will see Farmleigh Bridge returned to its former splendour, following a €1.5 million restoration. But despite this much-needed investment, the Bridge will remain closed to the public.

Many years ago it served as a link between Palmerstown Village and Farmleigh House.

Today it could connect two West Dublin parks, the Phoenix Park and Waterstown Park and become

- A much-loved amenity for local families;
- A magnet for day-trippers and international tourists; and
- A hub for active and sustainable travel.

I have called on the Government and local authorities (Fingal, South Dublin and Dublin County Council) to re-open Farmleigh Bridge as a first step towards developing a Liffey Valley Park.

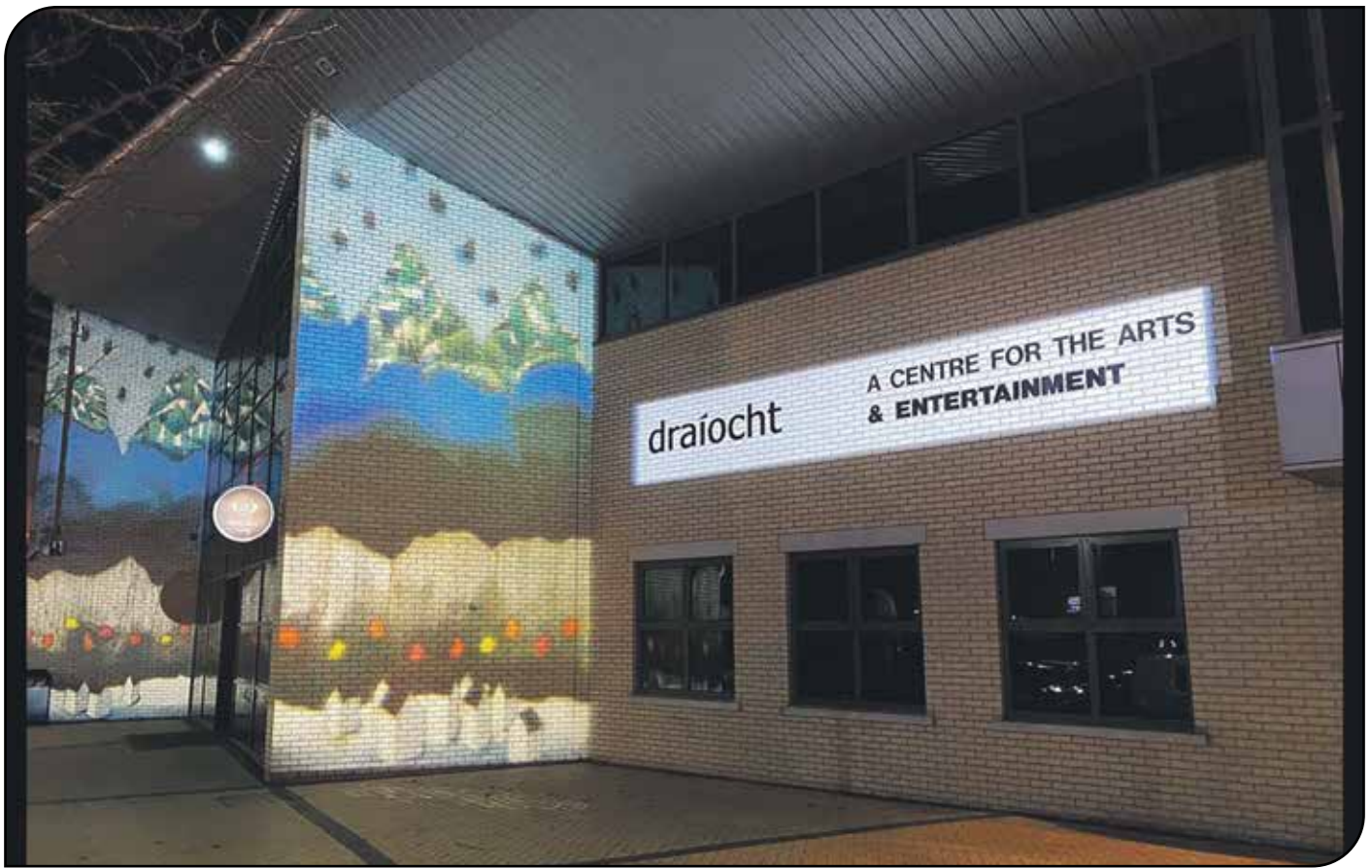
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# DRAÍOCHT LAUNCHES TWO NEW CHORAL PROJECTS THIS OCTOBER

One for D15 Adults - One for D15 Primary Pupils



**D**raíocht & Fingal County Council are delighted to announce their brand new D15 Community Choir Project, taking place weekly in five Dublin 15 Community Centres starting in October 2023:

## FRIDAYS

7PM-9PM | Huntstown Community Centre

## SATURDAYS

11AM-1PM | Parslickstown House



0868462891

[pamela.conroy@cllr.fingal.ie](mailto:pamela.conroy@cllr.fingal.ie)

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## SATURDAYS

3PM-5PM | Mountview Community Centre

## SATURDAYS

7PM-9PM | Castleknock Community Centre

## SUNDAYS

12.30PM-2.30PM | Ongar Community Centre

The project starts the weekend of 13/14/15 October 2023 and runs for 8 weeks, until December. It's Free to take part. No Choir Experience is Necessary. There are no auditions.

All are Welcome (Over 18s)

The D15 Community Choir Project will be led by renowned Choir Leader Debra Salem, who worked previously in Draíocht with Veronica Coburn and Hallelujah – Draíocht's Community Clown Choir Project (2012-2015).

Choir members can look forward to a fun and social environment, meeting for a cup of tea or coffee prior to each session, followed by 8 weeks of learning a variety of songs, all building to a performance at the end of the project in December.

Choose your local Community Centre and

contact them directly now via their socials and websites.

Staying with the Choral Theme and running in tandem with the Community Choir Project will also be a new collaboration between Draíocht & The Mobile Music School, for Dublin 15 Primary School pupils, called 'A Song Project'.

Designed especially for schools who have a choir or a class group who just love to sing together. Especially suitable for Dublin 15 teachers with a passion for music and choral singing.

This project for Dublin 15 schools will see a choir master visit 4 schools weekly over the Autumn 2023 period to work with Dublin 15 pupils on creating a song from their own words, experiences and interests.

This project culminates in an inter-school group performance accompanied by Draíocht's PlayGround Orchestra in late November in Draíocht's Main Auditorium. Imagine 300 voices singing together with a 29-piece live orchestra! It's going to be incredible.

To learn more, please email Sarah Beirne, Children & Youth Arts Officer Draíocht, [sarah@draiocht.ie](mailto:sarah@draiocht.ie)

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# HI MUM / DAD TEXT SCAM

A warning has been issued as hundreds continue to fall for the 'Hi Mum/Dad' text scam.



**B**ank of Ireland is urging the public to be wary of the 'Hi Mum/Dad' scam after a 25% rise in scam messages.

Scammers are pretending to be a person's child by sending 'Hi Mum/Dad' messages. They claim they're using a different phone after losing theirs.

They then ask the parent for money and request their card and bank details.

The increase in these scam messages may be because of the number of people on holiday. Parents will understandably fall for scam texts like this if their children are travelling as they are very convincing.

The public should look out for the following format: "Hi Mum/ Hi Dad, this is my temporary/ new number..."

The fraudster will then ask the parent to help them pay for something urgently. They will then tell them to send the money to a specific bank account or for their card details.

They may also ask for the money to be sent via Apple Pay or Google Pay.

Head of Fraud at BOI, Nicola Sadlier, said: "If a text prompts you to act immediately - stop, think, and check before reacting. Our advice to customers is, no matter what you're being told in a text, always call your son or daughter back on the number that you know."

"The sense of urgency in this current wave of text messages is deliberately designed to cause panic.

"This means customers are unfortunately acting on the request before considering a rational response.

"If a text prompts you to act immediately – stop, think and check before reacting. Our advice to customers is no matter what you're being told in a text, always call your son or daughter back on the number that you know."

If you get a suspicious message, then email a screenshot of the message to your banks security department.

You should then delete the text message.

If you have fallen for a scam message then you can call Bank of Ireland's 24/7 Freephone line 1800 946 764 or your own bank if different.



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# Access Officer for Fingal County Council Appointed

by Councillor Pamela Conroy

As a Green Party County Councillor, one of my main priorities is improving accessibility and inclusion in the built environment and public spaces.



I have two children with disabilities. This experience has made me aware of how much more challenging it can be for some people to get around and live in Dublin 15. I am using the opportunity of being a County Councillor to do work on improving accessibility in Fingal and I have been working on this to date.

As part of this work, at the November 2022 meeting of Fingal County Council, together with former Mayor and Councillor Seána Ó Rodaigh, I brought forward a motion seeking to establish a dedicated disability officer within

the Council. Our motion was agreed by the Council and the creation of a dedicated Access Officer position, within Corporate Services and Governance, followed. I am pleased to let you know that a dedicated Access Officer, Cathal Kearney, has now been appointed to Fingal County Council. Information on how to get in touch with Cathal can be found on <https://www.fingal.ie/accessibility>.

If anything is affecting your ability to get around or live in Dublin 15 that I can help with, please get in touch by emailing [pamela.conroy@cllrs.fingal.ie](mailto:pamela.conroy@cllrs.fingal.ie).

# TIDYING THE GARDEN IN AUTUMN

Tidying the garden in autumn keeps it looking neat in winter and means that Autumn is the ideal time to give your garden a thorough tidy, before the cold weather sets in.



**A**s well as clearing fallen leaves, there are lots of other simple tasks that will make a big difference to the look of your garden.

It's worth putting in a little extra time and effort now, so your garden will look neat and well-tended through the winter months - it will also mean that you've got a head start next spring.

## **Tidy your borders**

Tidying the garden - clearing dead leaves and stems from a border by hand.

Remove dying leaves and collapsed stems from herbaceous perennials, either pulling by hand or cutting at the base with secateurs. Leave any stems that have attractive seedheads for birds to enjoy. Remove weeds, then spread compost or well-rotted



manure over the soil to insulate plant roots - the worms will work it in over winter.

### Collect autumn leaves

Tidying the garden - gathering brown, fallen oak leaves with an extended metal grabber

A few piles of leaves in out-of-the-way places - under hedges, for example - can provide shelter for overwintering wildlife. But remove leaves from your lawn, paths (which can be slippery) and borders. Use them to make leaf mould, a great soil improver.

Autumn leaves fall in huge quantities during October and November, quickly covering lawns and borders. Left in place they can smother grass and fill the crowns of herbaceous perennials, sometimes killing them.

### Leave your lawn looking trim

Tidying the garden - trimming the edge of a lawn beside a path with an edging knife

Nothing sets off borders better than a neatly cut and edged lawn, so mow for the final time. Set your mower blades higher than usual to leave the grass slightly longer over winter, then cut the edges with an edging

tool or knife to redefine their pristine lines.

### Make repairs

Repair damage to raised beds, sheds and compost bins, and paint them with wood preservative. Replace any rotting fence posts, so they don't get blown down in winter storms. Ensure shed roofs don't leak and replace any broken panes or faulty vents in greenhouses.

### Clean out nest boxes and feeders.

Take down bird boxes and empty them. Old nesting material, unfertilised eggs and other debris may carry diseases, so wash out the boxes with hot water before putting them back. Also remember to clean out feeders and bird baths, and regularly refill them.

### Sort out your pond

Tidying the garden - scooping fallen leaves from a garden pond with a net

Scoop out leaves that have blown into your pond before they sink down and start to rot. Also cut back the foliage of marginal pond plants that have died down. Remove pond pumps and fountains that are no longer in use. Wash them out thoroughly, then store over winter.

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# BEING IRISH

Everybody's Irish identity is their own and we choose to express it and celebrate it in our own separate ways, none better than the other.



**H**ere are a few quotes from some of Ireland's greats on what being Irish meant to them.

1. "Being Irish, he had an abiding sense of tragedy, which sustained him through temporary periods of joy."  
— W.B. Yeats, Irish poet.



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2. “To be Irish is to know that in the end the world will break your heart.”

— Daniel Patrick Moynihan, American politician, and sociologist.

3. “When anyone asks me about the Irish character, I say look at the trees. Maimed, stark and misshapen, but ferociously tenacious.”

— Edna O’Brien, Irish novelist, memoirist, playwright, poet and short story writer.

4. “...that it is not the literal past, the ‘facts’ of history, that shape us, but images of the past embodied in language.”

— Brian Friel, author of “Translations”

5. “If there were only three Irishmen in the world, you’d find two of them in a corner talking about the other.”

— María Brandán Aráoz, Argentinian author.

6. “We Irish prefer embroideries to plain cloth. To us Irish, memory is a canvas—stretched, primed, and ready for painting on. We love the “story” part of the word “history,” and we love it trimmed out with colour and drama, ribbons and bows. Listen to our tunes, observe a Celtic scroll: we always decorate our essence.”

— Frank Delaney, Irish novelist, journalist, and broadcaster.

7. “Wherever they went the Irish brought with them their books, many unseen in Europe for centuries and tied to their waists as signs of triumph, just as Irish heroes had once tied to their waists their enemies’ heads. Where they went, they brought their love of learning and their skills in bookmaking. In the bays and valleys of their exile, they reestablished literacy and breathed new life into the exhausted literary culture of Europe.

And that is how the Irish saved civilization.”

— Thomas Cahill, American scholar, and writer.

8. “The Celt, and his cromlechs, and his pillar-stones, these will not change much – indeed, it is doubtful if anybody at all changes at any time. In spite of hosts of deniers, and asserters, and wise-men, and professors, the majority still are averse to sitting down to dine thirteen at a table, or being helped to salt, or walking under a ladder, or seeing a single magpie flirting his chequered tale. There are, of course, children of light who have set their faces against all this, although even a newspaperman, if you entice him into a cemetery at midnight, will believe in phantoms, for everyone is a visionary, if you scratch him deep enough. But the Celt, unlike any other, is a visionary without scratching.”

— W.B. Yeats

9. “My people – before I was changed – they exchanged this as a sign of devotion. It’s a Claddagh ring. The hands represent friendship; the crown represents loyalty... and the heart... Well, you know... Wear it with the heart pointing towards you. It means you belong to somebody. Like this.”

— Joss Whedon, American screenwriter, film and television director, film, and television producer.

10. “Thankfully the rest of the world assumed that the Irish were crazy, a theory that the Irish themselves did nothing to debunk. They had somehow got it into their heads that each fairy lugged around a pot of gold with him wherever he went. While it was true that LEP had a ransom fund, because of its officers’ high-risk occupation, no human had ever taken a chunk of it yet. This didn’t stop the Irish population in general from skulking around rainbows, hoping to win the supernatural lottery.”

— Eoin Colfer, author of “Artemis Fowl.”

11. “For you can’t hear Irish tunes without knowing you’re Irish and wanting to pound that fact into the floor.”

— Jennifer Armstrong, author of “Becoming Mary Mehan”

# Are we alone? The search for intelligent life in the universe

Nasa's James Webb Space Telescope may have discovered tentative evidence of a sign of life on a faraway planet.



It may have detected a molecule called dimethyl sulphide (DMS). On Earth, at least, this is only produced by life.

The researchers stress that the detection on the planet 120 light years away is “not robust” and more data is needed to confirm its presence.

Researchers have also detected methane and CO<sub>2</sub> in the planet's atmosphere.

Detection of these gases could mean the planet, named K2-18b, has a water ocean.

Prof Nikku Madhusudhan, of the University of Cambridge, who led the research, said his entire team were “shocked” when they saw the results.

“On Earth, DMS is only produced by life. The bulk of it in Earth's atmosphere is emitted from phytoplankton in marine environments,” he said.

## Caution

But Prof Madhusudhan described the detection of DMS as tentative and said that more data would be needed to confirm its presence. Those results are expected in a year.

“If confirmed, it would be a huge deal and I feel a responsibility to get this right if we are making such a big claim.”

It is the first time astronomers have detected the possibility of DMS in a planet orbiting a distant star. But they are treating the results with caution, noting

that a claim made in 2020 about the presence of another molecule, called phosphine, that could be produced by living organisms in the clouds of Venus was disputed a year later.

Even so, Dr Robert Massey, who is independent of the research and deputy director of the Royal Astronomical Society in London, said he was excited by the results.

“We are slowly moving towards the point where we will be able to answer that big question as to whether we are alone in the Universe or not,” he said.

“I'm optimistic that we will one day find signs of life. Perhaps it will be this, perhaps in 10 or even 50 years we will have evidence that is so compelling that it is the best explanation.”

JWST is able to analyse the light that passes through the faraway planet's atmosphere. That light contains the chemical signature of molecules in its atmosphere. The details can be deciphered by splitting the light into its constituent frequencies - rather like a prism creating a rainbow spectrum. If parts of the resulting spectrum are missing, it has been absorbed by chemicals in the planet's atmosphere, enabling researchers to discover its composition.

The feat is all the more remarkable because the planet is more than 1.1 million billion km away, so the amount of light reaching the space telescope is tiny.





# Councillor Natalie Treacy

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**Every Thursday 11.00am-1.30pm in Corduff Constituency Office**  
**Tuesday 3.30pm-4.30pm in Mountview Community Centre**

# 9 ways to make Halloween special for little ones

Some great ideas for a safe Halloween from Penguin.



**H**ave some frightfully good fun this Halloween! From getting dressed up and decorating your home to reading cosy stories together, here's how you can celebrate the spookiest night of the year.

## 1. Cook up some treats together

Sweet treats are one of the best parts of Halloween. But instead of heading to the supermarket and picking up what's on offer, you and your tot could make some treats together. Encourage them to use their imagination to think of some fun things to bake; you could try skeleton-shaped cookies,

some spooky ghost cupcakes or tasty pumpkin pies – the possibilities are endless!

## 2. Get all dressed up

Children love to get dressed up, and Halloween is the perfect occasion. Of course, you don't have to dress up as something big and scary to get into the Halloween spirit – try a well-loved book character such as Peppa Pig or Hey Duggee with the fun, step-by-step tutorials linked here. You could then all have a Halloween parade around the living room or host a 'best costume' competition to ramp up the excitement (though



it might be wise to make everyone a winner to avoid any tears or arguments).

### 3. Decorate your home

What could be more fun for kids than turning your own home into a haunted house? Put them in charge of making and choosing where to put all the decorations – they can have a go at making these spooky spiders. See <https://www.penguin.co.uk/articles/childrens-article/make-your-own-spooky-spider-with-pepp>. Kids will love getting involved and will squeal with delight (or should that be with fright?) when they see the finished result.

### 4. Carve your own jack-o-lantern

Get ready to dig out your carving tools. Little boils and ghouls will find pumpkin carving frightfully fun, and it's an activity you can still enjoy in lockdown. If you want to be creative and avoid the standard triangle eyes and zig-zag grin, there are lots of inspirational stencils you can find online. As a safe alternative for the really little ones, have a go at painting your pumpkins instead.

### 5. Read some not-so-scary stories together

Halloween is the perfect time to settle down, get cosy and read some books together, especially as it's beginning to get darker and colder. To make it extra special, find a comfy spot or set up your own reading nook, grab some yummy treats and a warm drink, and of course, some spooktacular books. These not-too-scary tales will get children into the spirit.

### 6. Try the mystery Halloween box game

This sensory game will definitely make your little monster squeal. Put different textured foods into a bowl or box, blindfold your child and then ask them to tell you what they can feel. Children will have lots of fun trying to guess, and you can reward correct answers with a sweet or two. As for the fillings in these mystery boxes, leftover pumpkin flesh, peeled grapes, dried pasta and gummy wriggly worms are just some of the gruesome things you could use.

### 7. Plan a Halloween treasure hunt

If you don't plan on going trick-or-treating this year, why not create a thrilling treasure hunt for your little one? Draw up a map and leave clues (alongside some sweet treats) for them to find. For those with a garden, take the treasure hunt outside and conduct it by torchlight.

### 8. Enjoy a not-so-spooky film night

And last, but certainly not least, once all the Halloween activities are over for the day you can all gather together on the sofa and settle down for a film night. Some of our film recommendations that the whole family will enjoy include Casper (1995), The Little Vampire (2000), Hotel Transylvania (2012), Kiki's Delivery Service (1989) and Monsters, Inc. (2001).  
9. Do some Halloween colouring in and activities  
You can't go wrong with some colouring and activity sheets. Aspiring little witches and wizards can try these Peppa Pig activity sheets. Download them here <https://www.penguin.co.uk/articles/childrens-article/peppa-halloween-activity-sheets>



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



Working with Minister Roderic O'Gorman TD



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# Light a Penny Candle

## The Story of Rathbornes and Castleknock



### Dublin Business Icons.

When you think of famous and iconic Dublin businesses which names come to mind? Guinesses, Jacobs, Tayto or maybe Cadburys...? But what if you were told that a Dublin business still operating today is the oldest of its kind anywhere in the world at almost 500 years old of business ..?

We are of course talking about that venerable Dublin firm of candle-makers, Rathbornes and Sons, part of the Dublin business scene it seems forever. Rathbornes moved premises a good lot down the years, bringing welcome employment to many parts of Dublin city

and suburbs. They had a reputation of being demanding but compassionate employers, resulting in many generations of the same family happily working there.

### Human Needs

Apart from food, water and shelter, humans living in northern latitudes have another essential need, i.e. light. Ancient peoples most likely simply regulated their day by light and dark and in northern Europe this would have meant a very short working day. Illumination in those days came from fire, a dangerous, impractical, and uncontrollable light source.

## Medieval Churches.

Medieval days saw the advent of beeswax candles, a necessity for churches and public offices but an unaffordable luxury to most. We can date the arrival of the 'candle' proper to this time. The pressing need down the centuries was for a constant and reliable source of light requiring a slow burning fuel. For hundreds of years this fuel was animal lard or tallow. However, this fuel produced a smoky and smelly flame, hard to ignite and unreliable. All the lamps we hear of in the bible or in ancient tales, were oil lamps with cotton wicks which required regular 'trimming'. The advent of cheaper paraffin-based lights in the 19th cent allowed for longer daylight for many.

## 'Chandlery'

Originally the term 'chandlery' meant a business that dealt in candles, soap, and paint, and as the sailing ships of those times used a lot of these materials, the term became synonymous with nautical supplies. Sailors of the wooden ships of that day reserved a special horror for fires on board, so candles were a safer option for lighting. The term 'chandelier' originally meant a device for holding candles.

## Rathbornes.

The family of Rathborne originally hailed from Chester in England where one of their family was allocated a grant of land in 1265. Richard Rathborne came to Dublin in 1488 and immediately began to make candles for the many churches, abbeys and nunneries located around Christchurch then. This original premises was located beside at Wine Tavern Street for some 150 years and was the scene of the rapid early development of the Rathbornes candle making business.

## Candlelight Laws

Along with streets and sewerage, many town councils in past days were very concerned about public lighting and our own city was no exception. In 1616 the Candlelight Law was passed, requiring every 5th house to show a

light to guide the way of passersby. Of course, this was a great business opportunity for the newly developing firm and added greatly to Rathborne's reputation as a producer of safe and reliable candles.

By this time, Rathbornes had won many lucrative public commissions including those of lighting the streets of Dublin (before municipal gas), and also of providing the lighting for the many lighthouses which dotted the coast back then. Modern electronic lights until recent times were still graded according to 'candle power', a reminder of lighting in the old days.

## Moving Premises.

1650 saw Rathbornes move to Prussia Street, their last relocation before William Rathbone moved his factory out of central Dublin and into a greenfield site at Dunsink, Scribblestown in 1763. Near to Scribblestown today there is now a housing development called Rathbornes. He also built a family home here, Dunsinea House, later destined to become the HQ of Teagasc. Later (1837) ordnance survey maps show both house, roadway and factory indicating that this was a very substantial and valued business for the area, supplying work for many

## Local inhabitants.

A member of this particular family married the famous mathematician and scientist William Rowan Hamilton. Hamilton was appointed the Royal Astronomer of Ireland based at Dunsink observatory until his death.

## William Rowan Hamilton (1805-1865).

By this time Rathbornes had extended their business to become dealers in a variety of oil-based products including those used in cosmetics, foodstuffs and also in engineering. Unfortunately, this particular factory was burned down in 1895, occasioning a move to East Wall Road where the business remained until it's final move to the Rosemount business park in Blanchardstown, where it is located today.



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### Whales and Candle making.

Rathbornes used a great variety of material in making their products, always striving for improved customer service. In the 19th century, whale-oil, or spermaceti (nothing to do with fertility!), obtained from the Sperm whale was considered as one of the very best materials for candle making.

This waxy substance comes from the head of the location and communication part of this highly evolved marine creature, and sadly led to a rapid decline in their numbers through overfishing in many territories. Many ship owners made fortunes from this trade, the fine whale oil finding applications across many industries. Spermaceti oil has a number of unique physical properties such as remaining solid during heat and also has a very high viscosity.

It is interesting to note that the former official international unit of illumination, the candlepower, was defined as the light emitted by a candle of pure spermaceti burning at the rate of 120 grains per hour. A pure source of candlepower indeed!

### Light a Penny Candle?

If any business could claim to have longevity, the long-established Dublin firm of Rathbornes certainly can. Since the 1500s Rathbornes have carved out a unique space within a very competitive market and have also navigated the business into the very changed retail world of 21st cent. Today we find their fine products today in high -end Irish retail outlets such as Avoca, Switzers, Arnotts and Dublin airport duty free.

In the perplexing demand for gifts, we all face at times, how many of us fall back on beeswax candles as suitable presents to loved ones! There is something elemental, hopeful, and pure about candles in their many forms. Candles figure in the rituals of almost all religions, from those mighty ones carried in procession by devotees in Lourdes to those tiny candles shyly and reverently lit in church shrines in remembrance of past loved ones.

We can indeed be proud of the honourable tradition of candle making carried on across the centuries by our own Rathbornes, Master Chandlers.

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# UNISON FESTIVAL

Little Village Magazine congratulates Fingal County Council on the successful hosting of the inaugural Unison Festival in Balbriggan and Blanchardstown on the 8th and 9th of July respectively. The events were well attended and enjoyed by residents. We congratulate Councillor JK Onwumereh for initiating this festival through his timely motion in the Council Chambers on the 13th of June 2022. The success of the events affirms the vision and timeliness of establishing “a Fingal wide festival to foster inclusion, integration and cohesion among residents and to celebrate the rich diversity in Fingal.”



In attendance were the Mayor of Fingal Cllr Adrian Henchy, MEP Barry Andrews, Cllr Grainne Maguire, Cllr Tony Maguire, Cllr Mary McCamley, Cllr Tanya Doyle and many other public representatives, performers, and festival revellers.

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# DOG FOULING FINES

Just 82 dog fouling fines handed out in 2022 as blind or vision impaired community calls on dog owners to clean up and Clear Our Paths



**D**ata gathered by NCBI as part of our Clear Our Paths campaign shows that just 82 dog fouling fines were handed out by local councils over the course of 2022.

Information, provided by the local councils at the request of NCBI, showed that 18 councils from around the country handed out zero dog fouling fines over the course of last year. Kerry County Council had the highest number of fines with 27 and the council reported that there were two convictions related to those fines.

Dog fouling is a huge issue for people who are blind, or vision impaired who use our footpaths daily. A recent NCBI survey showed that it was the third most frequent unexpected obstacle encountered by respondents. Not only can dog fouling cause a slip hazard, but it can also be distressing for white cane users whose canes are often dirtied by faeces.

Cars parked on footpaths emerged as the number one obstacle faced by respondents to our survey. NCBI recently learned that over 19,000 fines were

handed out in 2022 for issues around street and inappropriate parking. Three councils reported that they had not handed out any fines, while Mayo County Council said there were no fines handed out in the Claremorris/Swinford area. Roscommon County Council said there are no traffic wardens in the county.

Parking inappropriately, especially on footpaths, causes a serious hazard for people who are blind or vision impaired. If a footpath is blocked, people with sight loss may be injured by walking into traffic to get around a vehicle, injured walking into the vehicle, or injured by stepping off kerbs in unfamiliar locations.

A full breakdown of the fines handed out for dog fouling and for cars parked inappropriately can be found below.

NCBI recognises local councils' efforts and challenges to support clear paths in their communities and some councils provided information about positive steps they have taken to curb the dangers posed by dog fouling in particular.



- Laois County Council confirmed that it had given out 96 mutt mitt dispensers to Tidy Towns groups around the county.

- Tipperary County Council said it ran an anti-dog fouling stencil campaign in two municipal districts with messaging around cleaning up after a dog and about fines.

- Wexford County Council said it, among other things, had provided free pooper scoopers and bins in towns, villages and at blue flag beaches.

- Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Council said it runs a Green Dog Walkers programme to encourage all dog walkers to pick up after their pets.

Lord Mayor of Dublin Daithí de Róiste is supporting this year's Clear Our Paths campaign with NCBI advocates who shared their concerns with him. He said: "The stories and challenges I've heard today have made it clear to me that we, the general public, need to work harder to keep our paths safe for people who are blind or vision impaired. It is important that we take an extra few second each day to ensure that our actions do not impact the ability of people who are blind, or vision impaired to get out and about safely. Please support Clear Our Paths in whatever way you can, your small gesture can make a huge difference."

Aaron Mullaniff, Chief Services Officer with NCBI said: "We would like to thank Lord Mayor Daithí de Róiste for his generous support of this important campaign. This new data we have gathered is a means to explain to the public the dangers of dog fouling on footpaths and the dangers of cars parked on footpaths. Firstly, the dog fouling data shows that councils can't be expected to police the issue alone.

It's impractical to think that wardens could observe every single dog owner who doesn't clean up after their dog and then issue them with a fine. There needs to be significant effort from the public to clean up after their pets in the first instance. It's imperative that we all work to make our footpaths usable for all members in our communities.

"Secondly, if councils have noted over 19,000 incidents of inappropriate parking by way of a fine, can you imagine how many undetected instances there are that will pose a real risk to those living with sight loss? We're asking everyone in Ireland to put yourself in a blind or vision impaired person's shoes when you're walking your pets, parking your car, putting out your bins or whatever it might be, and to act in a way that's considerate to those people's needs."

As part of this campaign, NCBI has created a webpage aimed at supporting members of the public to have conversations with family members and friends about the importance of their own behaviour. We can all be active bystanders through our own actions and words and NCBI is asking people to start a positive conversation to encourage others to make sure our footpaths are clear and safe for everyone in our community.

NCBI's #ClearOurPaths campaign will run across social media from August 21st to 25th, highlighting the different obstacles each day. We encourage others to join us by sharing on their social media channels too. Together, we can garner a greater understanding among the public about the needs of people with sight loss and how unexpected obstacles can impact their daily lives.

Council	Fines issued.	Fines Issued (Parking)
South Dublin	No figure provided	807
Fingal	9	1857
Louth	9	164
Limerick City & County	5	788
Kildare	3	429
Laois	3	124
Roscommon	3	0 (no traffic wardens in the county)
Kerry	27(and 2 convictions)	379
Clare	2	120
Galway County	2	20
Cork County Council	17	266
Cork City Council	1	2337
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown	1	2426

# Irish Communities standing in solidarity with Ukraine.

Over the last 18 months, we have seen an unprecedented humanitarian effort from across Irish society. Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine at the beginning of last year, more than 90,000 people have fled here, seeking safety and shelter.



**W**hile it has at times been difficult to accommodate people, we can be proud of the work we have done as a nation in protecting those fleeing war. Of the 70,835 Ukrainian people who have sought accommodation from the state, almost 14,000 people are staying in the homes of Irish public.

Ireland's efforts extend much further than accommodation, with community integration projects funded by my department helping with the integration efforts in Ireland. A million euro is being made available to applicant groups operating at national, regional and local level to support the implementation of the National Action Plan Against Racism. Over one hundred organisations nationwide have been awarded once off grant payments in 2023 from the Communities Integration Fund, with more than half a million euro.

As well as this, a €50 million Community Recognition Fund has been launched to support communities across the country and recognise their role in welcoming and hosting significant numbers of arrivals from Ukraine and other countries.

Organisations like Ukrainian Crisis Centre Ireland who

received funding for a Community Centre for Ukrainians in Ireland, this is just one example of how my department is helping fostering a culture of respect and inclusion in our society. I had the pleasure of meeting some of the participants of these projects at the recent Ploughing Championships, where they showed me what impact the funding by my department has made in the lives of Ukrainians in Ireland.

When out canvassing in the area, I am often stopped by Ukrainians who tell me of the opportunities they have been able to undertake in Ireland, mainly education. With over 15,000 of our Ukrainian friends in education, ranging from primary school to third-level, it is heartening to see them embrace their role in Irish society.

Over 27,000 Ukrainians are in employment, helping to build a better Ireland, working in health care, construction, hospitality and IT.

I am proud of the role that Ireland has played in offering a safe haven and a new home to so many Ukrainians who have been forced to leave their country due to war. I am also grateful for the positive impact that they have had on our communities and our country. I look forward to continuing to work with them and for them.



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# FUEL PRICES

Cheaper oil and falling wholesale gas and electricity prices have left many wondering why we're still paying record prices for our energy. We decided to investigate why household gas and electricity bills aren't coming down. Courtesy of bonkers.ie



It's been a tough two years for energy customers.

All suppliers announced major price increases last year on the back of multiple price increases in 2021.

This has left gas and electricity prices in Ireland at record highs and left many households struggling to cope with their bills.

But over the past few months energy prices on wholesale markets have dropped, leading many to wonder why they aren't seeing any falls in their bills?

In this article we look at what's been happening in the energy world and whether households can look forward to cheaper gas and electricity any time soon.

## Falling oil prices

Much has been made about the fall in the price of oil in recent months.

Oil is trading at around \$70 to \$80 a barrel, down significantly from its highs last summer when it reached over \$120 a barrel following the outbreak of war in Ukraine.

However, we use oil to generate only around 3% of our electricity these days. So, its price has very little impact on the overall cost of our electricity.

On top of this, oil is sold in dollars and the euro has been quite weak against the dollar in recent months.

At the start of 2022, €1 was worth around \$1.15. However, this fell as low as \$0.96 last summer. Though



the euro has since recovered a bit this year.

This has meant that a lot of the benefit of the fall in the price of oil has been negated by the weaker euro.

Fall in the wholesale price of electricity

Last October the Central Statistics Office (CSO) announced that wholesale electricity prices had fallen by 52% compared to the previous month. Which made big news and left many wondering why they weren't seeing cheaper energy bills.

More recently, for June, the CSO said wholesale electricity prices had dropped over 35% compared to the year before.

However, wholesale energy prices are still at a very high level. At one stage during last summer, the price of gas was up by well over 1,000% on a yearly basis on wholesale markets. And in March 2022 the wholesale price of electricity in Ireland was up by over 400% compared to the year before. So, when we hear of falling prices, we need to remember that it's on the back of prices which were at record highs to begin with.

The average price of electricity for the first six months of the year is still around €136 per MWh for example. That's still over THREE times what would be considered normal levels.

Meanwhile, on the UK gas market, from where we import about 75% of our gas, the price of gas has been trading at very high levels until very recently. It has now fallen hugely. But due to hedging, which we discuss below, this benefit won't be felt by consumers immediately.

Date	Wholesale electricity price per MWh
2020 average	€38
2021 average	€136
2022 average	€226
June 2023	€117
2023 year to date	€136

\*SEM Day Ahead market price

Hedging

Another important point to remember is that energy suppliers buy their energy for delivery at different times throughout the year, and sometimes up to 12 or 24 months in advance through hedging.

So, the price households pay for their gas and electricity is usually an average price of the cost of energy on wholesale markets over the course of up to two years. This is to try ensure households aren't faced with extreme swings in the price of their gas and

electricity on a weekly or monthly basis.

As mentioned, gas prices were up by over 1,000% last summer while electricity prices were up by over 400% at one stage last spring. But thanks to hedging an increase of this size wasn't passed on to households.

Buying in advance also means suppliers can be sure they have enough energy to meet their customers' demands.

However, a downside of hedging is that falls in the price of energy aren't immediately passed on either. This is important to remember now in relation to gas. The price of gas has fallen hugely over the past few months and is now a lot closer to pre-war levels of around 50 pence a therm. However, most suppliers will only have bought a tiny fraction of their supply at this recent price.

Due to hedging, there needs to be a sustained reduction in the price of energy on wholesale markets for several months before the benefit is felt by consumers.

What does the future hold?

The drop in gas and electricity prices on wholesale markets in recent months has largely been due to good weather. While strong wind output has helped ease electricity prices too.

Europe experienced an extremely mild winter which helped keep demand for gas far lower than expected, which has contributed to a drop in its price. And as we use gas to generate around 40% of our electricity, this has helped push electricity prices down too.

There has also been a strong supply of liquified natural gas (LNG) into Europe which has helped replace Russian piped gas and eased concerns over shortages.

The level of power outages at generation plants is also down compared to recent years. In 2020 and 2021 two of the country's biggest electricity power plants at Whitegate in Cork and Huntstown in Dublin were out of action for a prolonged period which put big pressure on the electricity grid and prices. Keeping power outages at electricity plants under control will also be critical for Ireland's electricity prices over the coming months.

Any further escalation in the Russian and Ukrainian conflict could also see prices shoot back up.

Nothing to pass on

In short, household energy bills haven't reduced in recent weeks because there's been no real reduction to pass on. Yet.

Gas has been trading way above its normal price until very recently. While electricity is still trading at around three times its price compared to two years ago.

But if the trend continues, we should see moderate falls before the end of the year.

# Construction begins on temporary bus stops for Phoenix Park shuttle bus pilot

Traffic management plan in place for duration of works



**C**onstruction of temporary bus stops along Chesterfield Avenue in the Phoenix Park commenced at the end of August.

A key recommendation from the Phoenix Park Transport and Mobility Options Study commissioned by the Office of Public Works (OPW) in July 2021 was to provide a public bus linking the Phoenix Park to other modal hubs to facilitate active travel.

Working closely with the National Transport Authority (NTA), Dublin City Council and Fingal County Council, the OPW has explored options for realising this key recommendation. The NTA recently confirmed that it would be in a position to provide a pilot bus service from Heuston Station to the Phoenix Park Visitor Centre and the OPW has appointed Hegarty Building Contractors to undertake the construction of temporary bus stops along Chesterfield Avenue and at the Phoenix Park Visitor Centre.

There will be a total of seven stops within the Phoenix Park, with stops at Dublin Zoo, Phoenix Roundabout, Phoenix Park Visitor Centre and at the People's Gardens, Parkgate Street Entrance.

Traffic management will be in place for the duration of these works so those travelling through the park should expect slight delays.

Signage will be erected to direct cyclists, walkers and car users around the temporary works.

Once the necessary infrastructure is in place, a new bus route – bus number 99, with the two numerals resembling the Phoenix Park's initials – will be operated by Dublin Bus from later this autumn, offering a daily shuttle bus service from 9:00 to 18:30.

Further details will be made available by the NTA closer to the launch of the service.

## About the Phoenix Park:

- The Phoenix Park is located at the western edge of Dublin City Centre, just north of the River Liffey. The parkland extends to over 700ha and is enclosed by 11km of perimeter wall. It is a historic, natural and cultural landscape of significant international importance. At the same time, it is a diverse recreational space enjoyed by millions of visitors.

- The Phoenix Park has in excess of 25km of roads, 17km of cycle lanes and 27km of footpaths.

- Main attractions are the Phoenix Park Visitor Centre Complex (2 million visitors in 2022) and Dublin Zoo (1.2 million visitors in 2022).

## About the Phoenix Park Transport and Mobility Options Study and the Shuttle Bus Pilot:

- The Phoenix Park Transport and Mobility Options Study Post Consultation Report, published in July 2021, sets out a series of recommendations for how park visitors will access, experience and move within the Phoenix Park while protecting the public and park environment.

- It makes a number of recommendations to reduce commuter traffic and speed, to increase the cycling and pedestrian opportunities and to provide for limited public transport.

- It also takes into account the complex issues the Park presents given the multiple and competing users of the space.

- The report can be accessed at the following link: <https://assets.gov.ie/179953/49e35d57-4037-4dca-b161-e2370b4cb768.pdf>.





# MARYMOUNT

## CARE CENTRE



## **Marymount is pleased to launch a new scheme of purpose-built Supported Living Homes.**

Marymount Care Centre, owned and operated by the McNulty family for the past 36 years, is set on 16 acres of open countryside located just off the Strawberry Beds in Westmanstown, Lucan.

Since its establishment, the team at Marymount has constantly striven to develop and innovate the care and support they provide to its residents.

This mission was at the heart of its most recent development of a unique and exclusive scheme of supported living homes called 'The Grove'.

'The Grove' encompasses 12 purpose-built bungalows and is specifically designed for those who are seeking a secure, comfortable and convenient setting which actively promotes and supports their independent living. These generously proportioned 2-bedroom homes are fully equipped with all modern comforts and, for added convenience, are inclusive of all utilities. The Grove also has on site security as well as maintained landscaped garden spaces to enjoy.

The design concept for these independent living units incorporates technology to support comfort, convenience, and security for each of its residents.

This easy-to-use technology includes automation, environmental control, concierge services, and communication tools intended to positively impact on quality of life and independence.

Importantly, 'The Grove' also seeks to promote resident wellbeing through community living and access to a range of optional on-site services including

- Meals
- Housekeeping
- Laundry
- Gym
- Physiotherapy and Chiropody
- Newspaper Delivery
- Optician
- Hairdressing
- Religious Services

**For further information visit [www.marymountcarecentre.ie/the-grove](http://www.marymountcarecentre.ie/the-grove)  
To make an enquiry, please contact Conor or Fergus  
on 01-820500 or email [enquiries@mmcc.ie](mailto:enquiries@mmcc.ie)**

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