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FOR ALL LOCAL & BUSINESS MATTERS



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- SEE P9



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Dublin West

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to our October/November edition of Little Village. It's that time of year where the kids love planning their Halloween outfits. We have an interesting article on Derry Halloween, which is the biggest Halloween festival in Europe. For the cooks amongst us we have a seasonal receipt to help use up all those pumpkins.

We are always happy to include local news items. If you are an organisation in the local coverage area of Little Village and have some interesting news you would like to share with us we would love to hear from you.

Have a great Halloween. Until next time.

The Little Village Team

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I have been an Independent Councillor for the Ongar Ward in Fingal County Council for the past 6 years, having been successfully returned at the ballot box in 2019 (2nd Seat) and 2024 (First Seat First Count with 24% of the First Preference Number 1 Votes cast). It has been over 20 years since Dublin West had an Elected Representative within Local Government and has never returned an Independent/Non-Party Candidate to Dail Eireann.

As the only Independent Councillor on Fingal County Council voted in by the people, my strong belief is that Dublin West can benefit by returning an Independent TD to Dail Eireann. In a political landscape often dominated by party politics, I am an Elected Representative who prioritises people over politics. An Independent deputy is not bound by party policy. I make my decisions based on what is best for our community having listened to the wishes of that community.

I have decided to take the next step in the service of our community by announcing my candidacy in the upcoming General Election. My commitment to integrity, accountability, and community engagement will be the

cornerstone of my campaign, with your support.

As a voice for Dublin 15's future and a beacon of hope and progress, with your support and the support of our community, a lot of work has been done, but we've a lot more to do.

Dublin West has not received the tangible political support it has warranted and deserved. I intend to lobby with all my strength and determination to take us to where we should be, where we MUST be.

Serious deficiencies including but not limited to Housing & Infrastructure, Planning & Development, Public Services & Health Care, Childcare & Carers supports, Transport & Connectivity along with supporting of our Small and Medium Enterprises, have held us back.

I need your continued support now more than ever and another mandate from you shall ensure the pursuit of positive outcomes by me on your behalf at a highest level within our legislature, Dail Eireann.

Go raibh maith agaibh, thank you.

Cllr Tania Doyle

(Ind/Nion Party General Election Candidate)

Progress is being made to improve disability services



For too long, Ireland had fallen short in addressing the needs of people with disabilities.

However, slowly but steadily, progress is being made to improve disability services in this country.

The UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities sets out the rights and freedoms to which every person with a disability is entitled.

When Ireland signed up to it in 2018, it was a crucial step towards building a fairer and more inclusive society, where everyone is valued equally, and where people with disabilities are empowered to live their lives as they choose.

Part of the UN Convention is the 'Optional Protocol', which says that, if someone believes their rights have been infringed and Ireland is not living up to its obligations under the Convention, they can take a case directly to the UN.

Despite ratifying the Convention itself in 2018, Ireland did not sign up to the Optional Protocol at the time.

My view is that the Optional Protocol was so vital that we needed to change that.

That is why I pushed for it to be progressed by this Government, and I was proud that, earlier this month, Government agreed to ratification.

This is a major milestone for people with disabilities in Ireland. It will mean a person with a disability can take a case directly to

the UN, and that this Government and future Irish Governments will be held to account in an international forum.

I believe this will act as a catalyst to government departments and state agencies to continue improving the lives of people with disabilities.

Alongside this we also need to invest in services for people with disabilities. Budget 2025 represents a significant investment in disability services, with an allocation of €3.2 billion. This represents a €1.2 billion increase since 2020, a 58% rise over five years.

We have ring-fenced €10 million to address the Assessment of Need backlog. €106.6 million will be allocated to address the full-year costs of this year's expected delivery on priority residential places. It will also support the transition of under 65s from nursing homes to more appropriate housing in the community. €30.8 million will be invested in respite and supports to assist people in continuing to live in their own homes.

I believe that we must continue to build on this, ensuring people with disabilities can realise their rights, while investing in services to support them.



Roderic O'Gorman TD



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A Great Read this year



Here are some great Irish novels from 2024 that are generating buzz among readers and critics:

1. “The Wren, The Wren” by Anne Enright – This novel delves into themes of generational trauma, love, betrayal, and hope, exploring the complexities of family relationships and their lasting impact across generations. Enright is a Booker Prize-winning author, and her latest work is being praised for its emotional depth and intricate storytelling.

2. “Snowflake” by Louise Nealon – Selected as the “One Dublin, One Book” choice for 2024, this novel tells the story of Debbie White, a young woman transitioning from life on a dairy farm to student life at Trinity College Dublin. The novel explores themes of belonging, identity, and the ties of family in a unique and relatable way.

3. “Hagstone” by Sinéad Gleeson – Gleeson’s debut work of fiction is a dark and atmospheric novel set on a remote island. It explores themes of faith, nature, and the mysteries of human behaviour, making it a great choice for readers who enjoy a touch of the supernatural in their stories.

4. “Whispers of the Celtic Mist” by Aisling Ó Ríordáin – This novel combines mythology with fiction, weaving a tale set in ancient Ireland where gods and mortals interact in a rich narrative that captures the magic and mysticism of Celtic folklore.

5. “Long Island” by Colm Tóibín – As the anticipated sequel to his beloved novel

“Brooklyn,” Tóibín’s new release revisits the character Ellis Fiorello and explores the consequences of her past decisions when a stranger arrives with a life-changing revelation.

These novels highlight a variety of genres and styles, from historical fiction and mystical tales to contemporary and psychological narratives, showcasing the versatility and talent of modern Irish writers.



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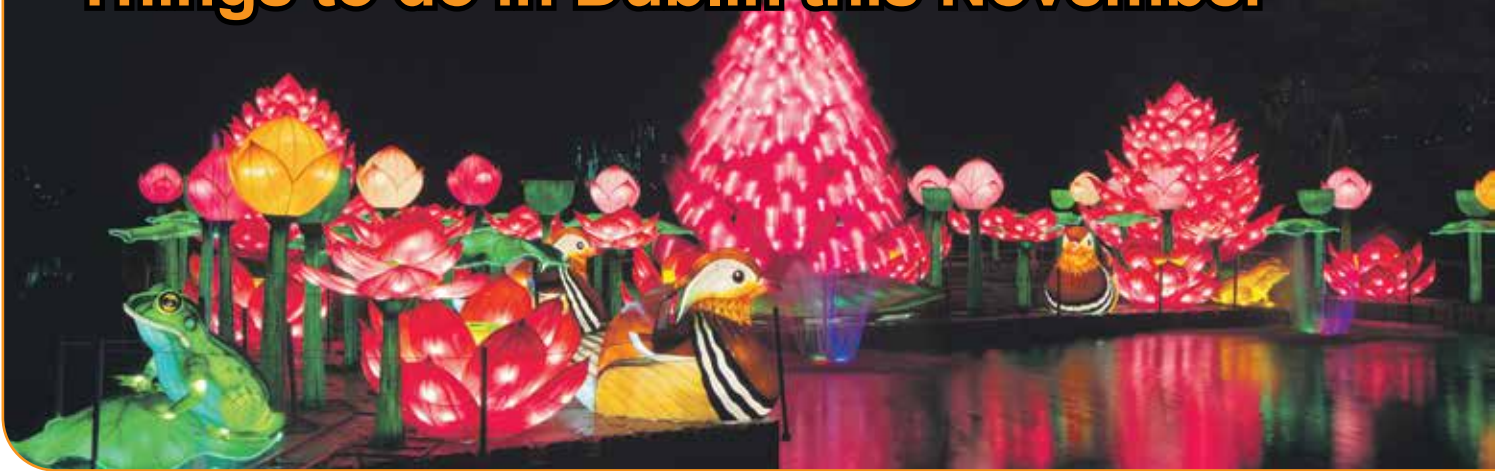
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Things to do in Dublin this November



Dublin in November 2024 is buzzing with a variety of exciting events and activities:

1. Dublin Book Festival (November 8-12): This festival will feature talks, workshops, and literary walking tours across various venues in Dublin. It's a great chance to interact with authors like Anne Enright and enjoy creative sessions for all ages.

2. Live Concerts at 3Arena: Some of the biggest names in music will be performing in Dublin. You can catch 50 Cent (November 6-7), McFly (November 18), and Anne-Marie (November 23) at the 3Arena, offering a fantastic experience for music lovers.

3. Friends Experience: If you're a fan of the sitcom "Friends," you'll love the Friends Experience at the Theatre of Light, running until January 27. This interactive setup lets you explore the iconic set and try on replica outfits, making it a perfect outing for TV show fans.

4. Pop-Up Events: For those who love themed parties, there are two great pop-ups in Dublin: a George Michael tribute night at The Purty Kitchen (November 24) and a '70s disco party at The Workman's Club (November 25). These events are a great way to enjoy classic hits and dance the night away.

5. Wonderlights at Malahide Castle: From November 7 to January 5, Malahide Castle transforms into a magical light display, perfect for a family outing or a romantic evening walk.

6. Dublin Zoo's Wild Lights event is returning for 2024, running from October 24th, 2024, to January 5th, 2025. This year's theme is "A Journey Through Time," where you can experience a magical adventure exploring the evolution of our planet. The display will feature over a thousand illuminated lanterns depicting scenes from Earth's creation, the age of dinosaurs, the rise of civilizations, and early inventions.

The event is perfect for all ages, making it an excellent outing for families, couples, and groups. Tickets are priced at €24.50, and it's recommended to book in advance as this popular event tends to sell out quickly. For more details, visit the Dublin Zoo website or the event page on www.visitdublin.com.

For more details and a complete list of events happening throughout winter, you can visit the official tourism site for Dublin

at www.visitdublin.com.

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Dear Resident

I am giving updates on a few issues which I have been working on. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance.

John

GRANARD BRIDGE PROJECT APPROVED IN CAPITAL PROGRAMME

Good news for anyone using Granard Bridge, Castleknock:

- RPS Consulting Engineers were appointed to provide engineering services for walking and cycling projects in Dublin 15 and their first job will be appointment of a design team for the proposed pedestrian and cycling bridge at Granard Bridge near Castleknock train station.
- Funding of €1.15 million from 2025 to 2027 for this pedestrian-cycle bridge was approved in the Council's Capital Programme, following a local objective which I proposed for the Fingal Development Plan.

UPDATE ON LAUREL PLAYGROUND

Following lots of queries about the Playground for Laurel Lodge, I asked a question at our last Area Committee meeting and got the following update from the Parks team:

'Tender documents for the design & build of the Laurel Lodge Playground are in the final stage of preparation and are expected to be published in the coming weeks...'
Funding is in place for the Playground which is due to be completed in early 2025.

HALLOWEEN EVENTS & AMNESTY

I have had a lot of complaints from residents about fireworks and stockpiling of material for bonfires in the run-up to Halloween. Illegal fireworks are dangerous, particularly to children, and harmful to wildlife in parks and green spaces.

Fingal Council is offering residents of Fingal an amnesty, when combustible materials (beds, sofas, wooden doors etc.) will be accepted free of charge at Coolmine Recycling Centre from Wednesday 23rd until Thursday 31st October, with a final entry time of 3pm each day.

There are some great Halloween events for families and children which you can check out here:

<https://www.fingal.ie/events/local-safer-halloween-events-d15>

Don't miss the Festival of Fire hosted by Fingal Events which is going ahead again at Millennium Park, 7-8pm on 31st October.



PLAN TO MOVE ÉRIU COMMUNITY COLLEGE SHOULD BE RECONSIDERED - SECOND LEVEL SCHOOLS NEEDED FOR BOTH HOLLYSTOWN & ONGAR

The Department of Education recently announced a plan to move Eriu Community College from Hansfield to Hollywoodrath from August 2028. This plan is fundamentally flawed and fails to meet the needs of two local communities. Hollystown is a rapidly growing area which should have a new, permanent school on the proposed site, while Ériu CC should be guaranteed a permanent building in Ongar/Hansfield.

Unfortunately, this is yet another example of failure by the Department to plan for future school enrolments in a rapidly expanding area. At least 1200 homes have received planning permission for Barnhill and Barnwell in the next 5-10 years and another permanent school building is desperately needed in Ongar.

I have put down a motion to our local Area Committee calling on the Department of Education to provide two post-primary schools, one in Ongar and one in Hollystown and have written to Minister for Education Norma Foley TD directly urging her to reconsider the original decision.

SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATION CRISIS IN DUBLIN 15

Government ministers recently announced the establishment of a Task Force for Dublin 15 to address the devastating shortfall in appropriate school places for children with additional educational needs. A dedicated task force including parents of children with additional needs is a welcome step, but much more needs to be done to resolve the special needs education crisis in Dublin 15. I am campaigning for the following urgent measures:

- Deliver special classes in every primary and second-level school.
- Reverse the cut in special education teachers for 70% of national schools in Dublin 15.
- Ensure school principals and staff receive specialised support, training and services and are not left on their own to support vulnerable children.
- Guarantee essential supports, including a full time behavioural therapist, for all students in Danu Community Special School.

*Working with
Cllr Mary McCamley*



Dublin SuperValu and Centra stores reach almost 26 million containers returned in first 8 Months of Deposit Return Scheme



- SuperValu and Centra first retailers in Ireland to reach 125 million eligible returns milestone through the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS)
- DRS scheme achieves over 95% return rate in SuperValu and Centra stores nationwide since June
- 105 Reverse Vending Machines installed in SuperValu and Centra stores in Dublin to allow for convenient returns for consumers

SuperValu and Centra stores in Dublin have announced the return of almost 26 million eligible single-use containers through the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS). Since the scheme's launch in February, SuperValu and Centra stores nationwide have achieved a total of 125 million returned containers within its first eight months, becoming the first retailers in Ireland to reach this milestone. 105 Reverse Vending Machines are currently installed across SuperValu and Centra stores in Dublin to ensure convenient returns across a range of locations for customers.

This achievement represents the largest number of returns in the country and highlights a significant shift in the nation's recycling habits. It also reflects the retailers' commitment to sustainability, offering the most extensive network of Reverse Vending Machines (RVMs) across Ireland, promoting waste reduction and a circular economy.

Public engagement has surged in recent

months, with more than 91 million containers returned since June alone nationwide, resulting in a return rate of over 95% for that period. This rate indicates the proportion of containers returned through Reverse Vending Machines in SuperValu and Centra stores nationwide, relative to total container sales.

Stores in Dublin, Cork, Meath, Galway, and Kildare have seen the highest volume of returns within the SuperValu and Centra store network.

Launching in February this year, SuperValu and Centra invested €28 million in Reverse Vending Machines across their store networks nationwide, as part of their continued focus to build more sustainable communities.

SuperValu and Centra have installed 686 Reverse Vending Machines in 549 stores across all 26 counties in Ireland, the largest deployment by any retailer. This strategic approach to DRS implementation focused on providing the most convenient option for customers, ensuring that both large and small communities nationwide have easy access to recycling facilities,



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My name is Diana I'm a Practice nurse level 7 with over 10 years experience in Beauty and Aesthetics treatments, setting the standard in skin health and new innovation. I started my career as a freelance to grow as a salon now, with clients supporting and hard work.

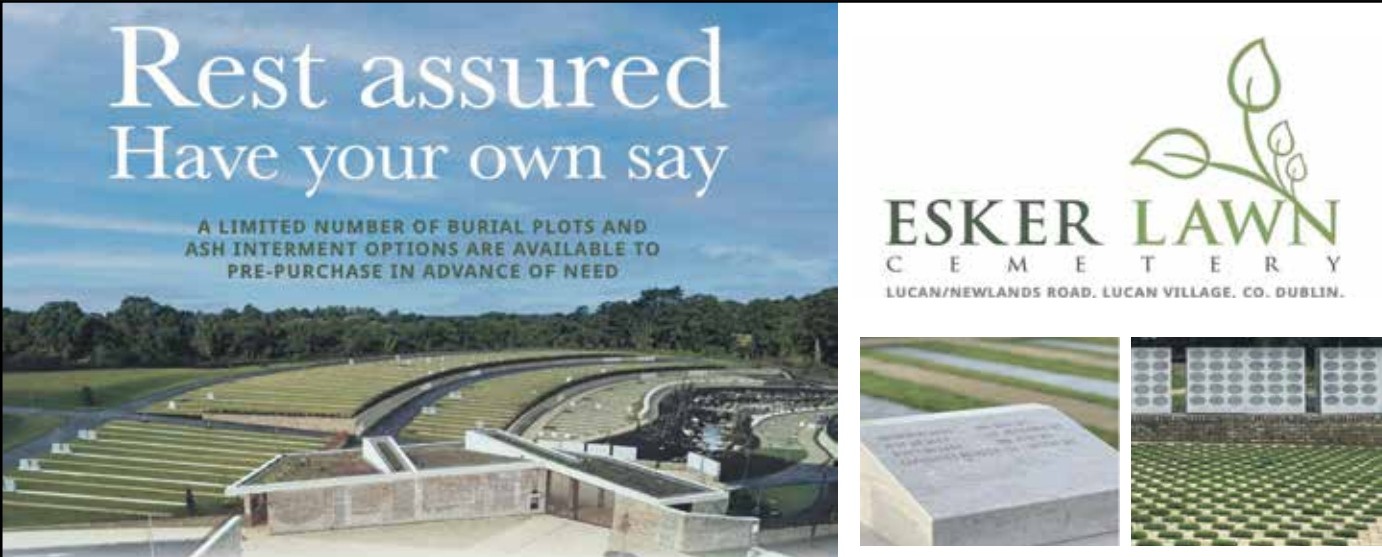
helping customers adapt their recycling habits seamlessly.

SuperValu and Centra continue to see growing interaction with their Reverse Vending Machines as the year progresses, with a number of stores ordering larger and additional machines to facilitate demand. According to both retailers, consumer behaviour indicates strong adoption of the scheme with weekends being the busiest period for recycling. In recent months, consumers are bringing higher volume of returns at once, averaging 24 containers per visit.

Speaking about the scheme, Luke Hanlon, Managing Director of SuperValu and Centra said: "As a result of offering the largest number of Reverse Vending Machines in convenient locations across every county in Ireland, we are delighted to see such a high level of interaction from our customers in Dublin with the Deposit Return Scheme in our stores, with almost 26 million containers returned in total since its introduction in February. This is a testament to our loyal customers embracing the scheme

which benefits not only them, but also the wider environment. Our data indicates that since June over 95% of eligible cans and bottles we sell have been returned through our RVM machines nationwide. This is a significant increase in the average nationwide recycle rate for these items, which was estimated at 60%–70% before the scheme's introduction."

"I would also like to thank our retailers in Dublin for the effort and investment that has gone into rolling out the scheme. We and our retailers understand the important role we play in caring for the environment and ensuring that we make the implementation of the DRS scheme as easy and convenient as possible for our customers. Customers are increasingly sustainability focused and it's essential that as community retailers, SuperValu and Centra are able to empower more eco-friendly recycling habits. This demonstrates the positive benefits of our 'Local Action Global Impact' initiative, showing that small, community-based efforts can contribute to the broader fight against environmental challenges."



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Sausage, pumpkin and sage casserole

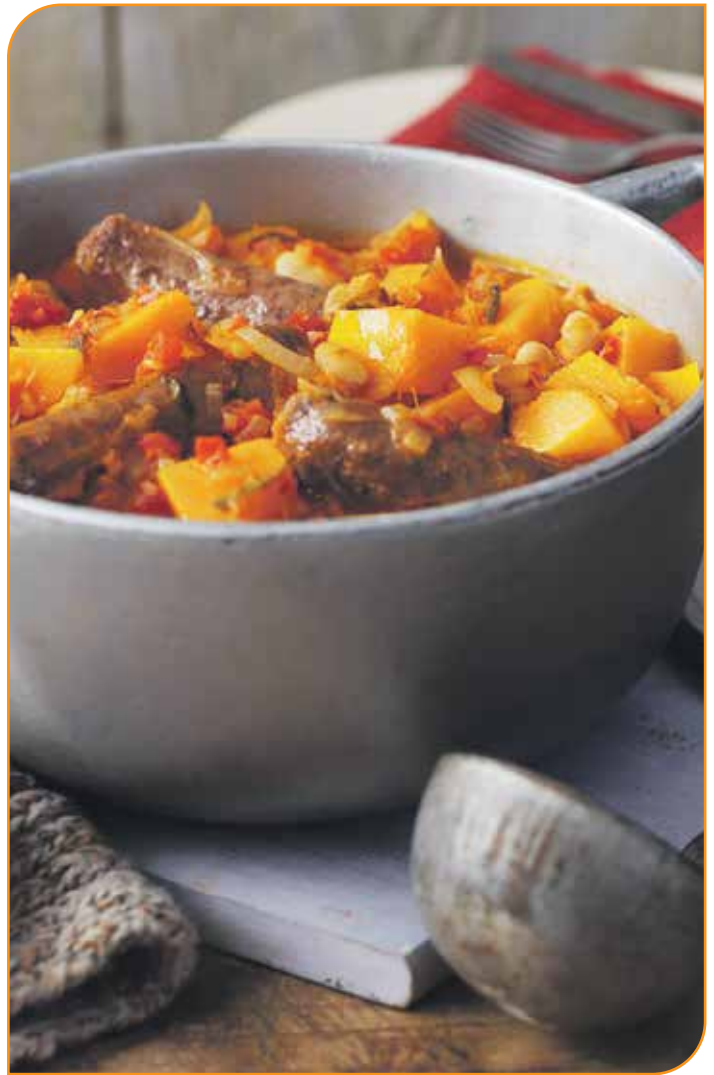
The cold nights are here. Warm yourself up on a Halloween night with this comforting dish. It's also a great way to use up any leftover pumpkin

Ingredients

- 50g/1¾oz butter
- 6 good-quality sausages, pricked several times with a fork
- 1 onion, peeled, thinly sliced
- 3 banana shallots, peeled, finely chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, peeled, finely chopped
- 1 tbsp chopped fresh sage
- 1 small pumpkin, peeled, seeds removed, cut into equal-sized pieces
- 1 tbsp white wine vinegar
- 1 tsp caster sugar
- 200g/7oz canned chopped tomatoes
- 400g/14oz canned cannellini beans, drained, rinsed
- 500ml/18fl oz chicken stock
- salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 2 tbsp chopped fresh flatleaf parsley, to serve

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4.
2. Heat half the butter in a large casserole over a medium heat and fry the sausages for 4-5 minutes, or until golden-brown all over.
3. Add the remaining butter, onion and shallots and fry for three minutes, or until softened. Add the garlic and sage leaves and cook for a further three minutes, stirring well.
4. Add the pumpkin and stir the mixture until well combined. Increase the heat to high and add the white wine vinegar. Continue to cook until most of the liquid has evaporated.
5. Add the sugar, tomatoes, cannellini beans and stock and season, to taste, with salt and freshly ground black pepper.
6. Bring the mixture to the boil, then transfer the casserole to the oven for one hour, or until the sausages are cooked through and the pumpkin is tender.
7. To serve, ladle the casserole into two large bowl and sprinkle with the flatleaf parsley.



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- By Mike Power

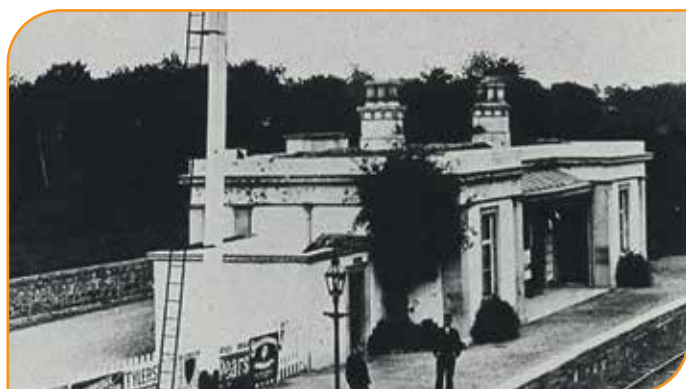


Roads, canals, and railway, each in their turn, played their historical part in forging these routes into our capital city. In particular, the advent of railways in Ireland in the 1840s proved a game-changer in terms of the efficient and (relatively!) fast transport of passengers and heavy goods across country-wide and standardised wide-gauge tracks.

Railways ushered in the decline of canals, which were expensive to build and maintain. Before railways, the transport of heavy goods like coal, turf and barrels of Guinness was the exclusive preserve of canal boats pulled by horses, who walked alongside on towpaths at no more than walking pace. Dublin 15's Royal Canal was opened in 1817.

The invention of steam engines totally radicalised technology in the Victorian era. Industrialists, builders, and engineers now had to hand a powerful motive force, far exceeding the limited power of men, horses, or water. With the application of steam, the Industrial Age proper began, and people and goods were transported faster than they ever had before!

In 1845 the Great Midland Western Railway (GMWR) company received royal assent from Queen Victoria to build a railway from Dublin to Mullingar and to buy the Royal canal. Construction began in January 1846 and proceeded westward in stages. 'Blanchardstown' station as it was called then, opened in 1849 at Castleknock. This original station ran parallel to the 12th lock of the canal, a



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fact still appertaining today.

The short-sightedness of Irish government communications planning in the 1930s and 40s led to much of this extensive railway system being actually torn up. Castleknock station itself was closed in 1937. This station was later demolished in the late 1980s to make way for the M50.

The 'new' modern Castleknock' railway station was built close by and began serving passengers in July 1990. The platforms were lengthened in 2000 as part of an upgrade of the Western Commuter Service. The station was further upgraded in 2012 with new shelters and signage. You can still see the stone bridge of the original station located at the eastern end of the site.

Sadly, the atmospheric nostalgia we all associate with Agatha Christie's depiction of railway stations and trains for murder mysteries is missing from this once Victorian heritage station. Iron lanterns, gothic latticed windows, and comfortable waiting-rooms with cosy turf fires on Winter days are some of my own fond memories of the railway station in Kildare where I grew up.

No station staff in their round hats, shiny buttons, or uniforms anymore, only anonymous ticket dispensers servicing busy and harassed commuters. Ah, changed times on our railways indeed!

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WHAT WAS DUBLIN LIKE 500 YEARS AGO?

Dublin, around 500 years ago in the 16th century (specifically the early 1500s), was a city that stood at a pivotal moment in its history.

It was still relatively small compared to modern standards, but it was already an important political, economic, and cultural centre in Ireland. The city's landscape, population, and society were heavily influenced by its Norman heritage and the broader political changes occurring in Ireland and Europe at that time. Here is an overview of what Dublin was like during that period:

1. Norman and Medieval Influence

Dublin in the 1500s was a walled medieval city. The influence of the Normans, who had established control over Dublin after their invasion in the 12th century, was still evident in the city's architecture and layout. The heart of the city was centred around Dublin Castle, which served as the administrative headquarters for the English Crown in Ireland. The castle was both a fortress and a symbol of English power and authority in the region.

2. Population and Urban Life

The population of Dublin at this time was relatively small, with estimates suggesting that it housed around 10,000 inhabitants. Most of the residents were either Anglo-Normans or descendants of the earlier Viking settlers, mixed with the native Irish. Life in Dublin was

centred around the markets, with goods being traded at locations like Cornmarket and Fishamble Street. The city's streets were narrow, winding, and often dirty, with open sewers running down the middle, typical of medieval European cities.

3. Economy and Trade

Dublin's economy in the 16th century was primarily driven by its status as a port city. The River Liffey played a crucial role in trade, connecting Dublin with ports in England, continental Europe, and beyond. The main exports included wool, hides, and grain, while imports featured luxury goods, wines, and manufactured items. The city was also a centre for the brewing and textile industries, and its merchants were among the wealthiest and most influential citizens.

4. Religious and Cultural Shifts

During the early 1500s, Dublin was still a Catholic city, with a strong religious presence that included several monasteries, churches, and religious orders. However, this period marked the beginning of significant religious changes due to the Reformation, which would soon sweep through Europe. The dissolution of the monasteries under Henry VIII,

beginning in the 1530s, led to the closure of many religious institutions in Dublin and a shift toward Protestantism that was enforced by the Crown.

5. Political Climate

Dublin was firmly under English control in the 16th century, serving as the administrative centre of the Pale, the area of Ireland directly under English rule. The Pale was a fortified zone that included parts of Dublin, Meath, Louth, and Kildare. The areas outside the Pale were largely controlled by Irish chieftains, and there were frequent conflicts between these native Gaelic lords and the English authorities. The city's governance was strongly influenced by the Crown, and Dublin's strategic importance meant that it was a focal point for political and military operations in Ireland.

6. Architecture and Fortifications

Dublin's medieval architecture was characterized by its defensive structures, including city walls, gates, and towers. The medieval street plan included areas like High Street and Christchurch Place, which were close to key landmarks like Christ Church Cathedral and St. Patrick's Cathedral, both of which were already centuries old by this time. These cathedrals were significant religious and cultural

centres for the city.

7. Social Structure and Life

The society of Dublin in the 16th century was hierarchical. The English elite, including merchants, landowners, and officials, occupied the upper social strata, while the native Irish and lower-class labourers were often marginalized. Guilds played a significant role in the city's economy and governance, controlling various trades and crafts. Social life in Dublin was influenced by the seasonal markets, fairs, and religious festivals, which were focal points for community gathering and entertainment.

Conclusion

Dublin 500 years ago was a city deeply marked by its medieval roots, with a growing influence from English rule that shaped its political and social landscape. It was a bustling trade centre with a mixed population of Anglo-Normans and native Irish, struggling with the beginnings of religious upheaval and the broader changes that would eventually lead to significant shifts in Irish society. The city's identity as both a defensive stronghold and a centre of commerce laid the foundations for its development into the capital of Ireland in the centuries to come.

The advertisement features the Seamus Etherson logo with a cow icon, the 'Your Local Craft Butcher' logo, and the 'Associated with the Craft Butchers of Ireland' seal. A green banner displays the website www.ethersonsbutchers.ie and the phone number **Tel: (01) 8682046**. The main image shows a display of meats with prices like €3.99 and a large green text overlay that reads **Join our Christmas Club**. At the bottom, the address **Unit 3 Laurel Lodge s/c, Laurel Lodge, Castleknock D15, 01 822 1531/815 1809** and opening hours **Opening Hours : Mon-Fri 8am-7pm, Sat 8am-6pm, Sun 9am-5pm** are listed.



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Shopping with Artificial Intelligence



We all fear that Artificial Intelligence will take our jobs but how about making it work for us. Try it out with grocery shopping.

A I can make your grocery shopping experience smarter, more efficient, and even personalized! Here are some clever ways to use AI for managing your groceries:

1. Automatic Grocery List Generation

- How it works: AI can analyse your past shopping habits and pantry inventory to predict when you'll run out of items. It can then automatically generate a grocery list based on your regular needs.
- How to use it: You can use apps like AnyList or Out of Milk, which can be integrated with virtual assistants like Amazon Alexa or Google Assistant. By linking your smart fridge or just manually entering your regular purchases, these apps can track what you have and suggest when you need to buy more.

2. Voice-Activated Shopping

- How it works: With AI-powered voice assistants like Amazon Alexa or Google Assistant, you can easily add items to your grocery list using voice commands. You can also ask them to place orders directly from your favourite online grocery stores.
- How to use it: Say, "Hey Google, add milk to my grocery list," or "Alexa, order my usual coffee."

The assistant will add the item to your list or place the order for you if you've set up online shopping accounts with services like Amazon Fresh or Walmart.

3. Smart Fridges with AI

- How it works: Modern smart fridges come with built-in AI technology that can track the contents inside, suggest recipes based on what you have, and even reorder items when they run low.
- How to use it: Brands like Samsung have smart refrigerators with internal cameras and AI recognition. They can monitor what's inside, send updates to your phone about items running low, and even help you plan meals based on what's available. You can connect the fridge to your grocery delivery service to automatically reorder essentials.

4. Personalized Recipe Suggestions and Meal Planning

- How it works: AI can recommend recipes and create meal plans based on your dietary preferences, health goals, and the ingredients you have on hand. It can help you make the most of what you already have, reducing food waste.

• How to use it: Apps like Yummly or Whisk use AI to suggest recipes tailored to your taste and available ingredients. They can generate a shopping list for missing ingredients with just a click, which you can send directly to an online grocery store.

5. AI-Powered Shopping Apps

• How it works: There are AI-driven grocery apps that automatically compare prices across different stores, recommend healthier options, and alert you to discounts on items you frequently buy.

• How to use it: Apps like Basket or Instacart can help you find the best deals on groceries in your area. These apps can track your favourite products and notify you when they go on sale, making it easy to save money while still getting what you need.

6. Automated Online Grocery Ordering

• How it works: AI can automate your grocery orders through online stores based on your buying patterns. It can predict when you're running low on specific items and place an order for delivery before you even realize you need it.

• How to use it: Services like Amazon Dash Replenishment can automatically reorder items like cleaning supplies, pet food, or pantry staples when you're about to run out. You can set up recurring orders for essentials or let the AI decide based on your usage.

7. Dietary and Nutritional Recommendations

• How it works: AI can track your eating habits and suggest grocery items that align with your health goals, such as weight loss, heart health, or specific dietary needs like vegan or gluten-free diets.

• How to use it: Apps like Fooducate or MyFitnessPal integrate with your shopping habits to recommend healthier alternatives based on your nutritional goals. They can analyse food labels, track your intake, and suggest better choices for your grocery list.

Tools and Apps to Get Started:

• Amazon Alexa and Google Assistant for voice-activated list creation and ordering.

• Samsung Family Hub or LG InstaView smart fridges for inventory tracking and recipe suggestions.

• Grocery apps like Instacart, Yummly, Out of Milk, or Basket for price comparisons, meal planning, and online ordering.

These AI tools not only save you time and effort but also help you stay organized and make healthier choices when it comes to your groceries.

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CHOOSING THE RIGHT WINE GLASS

Choosing the right wine glass can enhance your wine-drinking experience, as the shape and size of the glass can significantly impact the aroma, taste, and overall enjoyment of the wine.

Here's a guide to help you select the perfect wine glass for every occasion:

1. Understanding Wine Glass Anatomy

Before diving into specific glasses, it's helpful to understand the basic parts of a wine glass:

- **Bowl:** The main part of the glass that holds the wine. Its shape affects the wine's aroma and how it hits your palate.
- **Rim:** The edge of the bowl where your lips touch. A thinner rim enhances the wine-drinking experience by allowing the wine to flow smoothly.
- **Stem:** The thin part you hold to avoid warming the wine with your hands.
- **Foot/Base:** The flat part that supports the glass, providing stability.

2. Choosing the Right Wine Glasses by Type of Wine

Each type of wine has an ideal glass shape that enhances its characteristics:

Red Wine Glasses

Red wines are best served in glasses with a larger bowl. This allows for more oxygen exposure, which helps to soften tannins and enhance the wine's bouquet.

- **Bordeaux Glass:** Tall with a wide bowl, perfect for full-bodied reds like Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Bordeaux blends. The larger bowl allows for more aeration, emphasizing bold flavours and tannins.
- **Burgundy Glass (or Pinot Noir Glass):** A larger, rounder bowl that tapers slightly at the top, designed for lighter, more delicate reds like Pinot Noir. The wider bowl directs the wine to the tip of your tongue, highlighting its fruity and nuanced flavours.

White Wine Glasses

White wines benefit from smaller bowls, which help maintain a cooler temperature and concentrate the wine's delicate aromas.

- **Sauvignon Blanc Glass:** A slimmer, slightly tapered bowl that preserves the crisp, aromatic notes of wines like Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Grigio, and other light, fresh whites.
- **Chardonnay Glass:** A slightly larger bowl than the typical white wine glass, designed to enhance the fuller body and richer flavours of oaked wines like Chardonnay and Viognier.

Sparkling Wine Glasses

Sparkling wines like Champagne, Prosecco, and Cava require glasses that preserve their bubbles and delicate aromas.

- **Flute:** A tall, narrow glass that retains carbonation, allowing the bubbles to travel slowly to the top. This style enhances the visual appeal of the bubbles and concentrates the wine's subtle aromas.
- **Tulip Glass:** A slightly wider bowl with a narrowed

rim, allowing more room for the bubbles to develop while enhancing the wine's bouquet. It's a more modern choice for those who enjoy the aromas as much as the effervescence.

Rosé Wine Glasses

Rosé glasses are typically shaped with a shorter bowl and a slightly flared rim, enhancing the wine's fresh, fruity notes while directing it to the tip of the tongue.

Dessert Wine Glasses

Dessert wines are best served in smaller glasses that focus the rich, sweet aromas while controlling the pour size.

- **Port Glass:** A smaller glass with a narrower bowl that accentuates the wine's concentrated flavours and aromas.

3. Universal Wine Glasses: A One-Glass Solution

If you prefer a minimalist approach or lack storage space, a universal wine glass is a great all-rounder. These glasses are designed to work reasonably well with both reds and whites, featuring a medium-sized bowl and a slightly tapered rim.



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WHICH GLASS?



Syrah/
Shiraz Bordeaux/
Cabernet Tempranillo/
Rioja Burgundy/
Pinot Noir Zinfandel/
Chianti



Sauvignon
Blanc Riesling
(sweet) Chablis/
Chardonnay Montrachet Riesling (dry) /
Pinot Grigio



Champagne Vintage
Champagne Sauternes Rose/
Blush Vintage
Port

COLOURING



Light-bodied Medium-bodied Full-bodied Young wine Old wine



Light-bodied Medium-bodied Full-bodied Young wine Old wine



Pinot Noir Merlot Pink Moscato Grenache Malbec

4. Key Tips for Choosing Wine Glasses

- **Thin, Clear Glass:** Always choose thin, clear glass over coloured or etched options. Thin glass enhances the drinking experience, while clarity allows you to appreciate the wine's colour.
- **Size Matters:** Larger glasses are best for reds, while smaller ones are ideal for whites. Sparkling wines do best in tall, narrow glasses to preserve bubbles.
- **Stem vs. Stemless:** Stemmed glasses are preferred as they prevent your hand from warming the wine. However, stemless glasses are more casual and convenient, particularly for outdoor or informal settings.
- **Ease of Cleaning:** Wine glasses with narrower rims can be difficult to clean. Ensure the glass can comfortably fit your hand or a cleaning brush to avoid breakage.

5. Investment vs. Everyday Use

- **Investment Glasses:** High-end brands like Riedel, Zalto, and Gabriel-Glas offer wine glasses designed specifically for enhancing the drinking experience. These are great for wine enthusiasts or special occasions.
- **Everyday Glasses:** Affordable yet well-designed options from brands like IKEA or Crate & Barrel are perfect for casual drinking and are more robust for daily use.

Final Thoughts

Choosing the right wine glass can elevate your wine experience, allowing you to fully appreciate the nuances of each pour. Whether you're hosting a formal dinner, enjoying a casual evening, or savouring a special bottle, the right glass makes all the difference.

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BEYOND THE PALE SERIES

Derry Halloween

- By Mike Power



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You might not normally consider a trip away from Dublin in October, but we thought you might be tempted by this.

Discover the Magic of Derry Halloween 2024: Europe's Biggest Halloween Festival
Get ready to immerse yourself in one of the most spellbinding and electrifying celebrations in the world! Derry Halloween 2024 promises to be an unforgettable experience as the historic city of Derry-Londonderry in Northern Ireland transforms into a spectacular hub of spooktacular fun, eerie entertainment, and mystical traditions. Recognized as the biggest Halloween festival in Europe, Derry Halloween is the place to be for families, thrill-seekers, and anyone who loves the thrill of a good scare!

What Makes Derry Halloween So Special?

Derry Halloween has earned its reputation as one of the most enchanting festivals thanks to its incredible mix of ancient folklore, innovative performances, and interactive experiences that draw visitors from all corners of the globe. This year, the event will be bigger and better than ever, with new attractions, magical parades, and a schedule packed with exciting activities for all ages. Whether you're a local or visiting from afar, Derry Halloween 2024 will cast a spell on you!

Highlights of Derry Halloween 2024

Here's a glimpse of the hauntingly good fun you can

expect at this year's festival:

1. The Awakening of the Walls

The historic Derry City Walls come alive with a spectacular light show, illuminated artworks, and spine-tingling performances. This event blends the city's rich history with a supernatural twist, creating a stunning visual journey through the centuries.

Expect street performers, fire-breathers, and eerie music that sets the perfect tone for an evening of otherworldly wonder.

2. The Legenderry Halloween Parade

Derry's streets will be filled with extravagant costumes, towering puppets, and mythical creatures as the famous Halloween parade takes to the city. This year's parade theme focuses on local folklore and mythological beings, bringing the legends of the past to life in a vibrant display.

o With community groups, artists, and performers from around the world participating, this event is a must-see spectacle of colour, creativity, and ghostly charm.

3. The Samhain Sessions

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marking the end of harvest and the beginning of winter. Enjoy a mix of traditional Irish tunes, modern beats, and folk-inspired melodies that capture the spirit of Halloween like never before.

Local pubs and outdoor stages will be alive with music, giving visitors a chance to dance the night away in true Derry style.

4. City of Bones Walking Tour

Discover Derry's dark secrets and haunted history on the City of Bones walking tour. Led by knowledgeable guides, this journey through the city's cobblestone streets will uncover tales of ghosts, ghouls, and legendary beings said to still roam the area.

oPerfect for history buffs and ghost story enthusiasts, this tour adds a layer of intrigue to the already atmospheric city.

5. Foyle Fireworks Finale

The grand finale of Derry Halloween 2024 will be a breathtaking fireworks display over the River Foyle. Exploding in a burst of colours, shapes, and light, this dazzling spectacle marks the climax of the celebrations, leaving the crowd mesmerized.

It's a perfect opportunity to wrap up the festival with a bang, capturing the energy and excitement of Derry Halloween in one epic moment.

Family-Friendly Frights

Derry Halloween is not just about scares and thrills—it's also a fantastic festival for families and children! The Little Horrors event zone offers a range of activities specifically designed for younger visitors, including spooky arts and crafts, face painting, costume contests, and family-friendly performances. Kids can join in the fun of trick-or-treat trails and meet whimsical characters that will have them smiling from ear to ear.

How to Prepare for Derry Halloween 2024

To make the most out of your Derry Halloween experience, here are a few tips to keep in mind:

- Book Your Accommodation Early: With thousands of visitors flocking to the city, it's wise to secure your place to stay as soon as possible. Derry offers a range of accommodations, from cozy bed and breakfasts to stylish hotels.
- Dress to Impress: Halloween is the one time of year when dressing up isn't just welcomed—it's practically required! So, bring your best costumes and join the throngs of witches, ghouls, and mystical creatures that roam the streets.
- Explore Beyond the Festival: While Derry Halloween is the main attraction, the city itself is a treasure trove of culture and history. Take some time to explore the local museums, scenic walks, and incredible food spots that will add to your Irish adventure.

Why You Can't Miss Derry Halloween 2024

Derry Halloween isn't just a festival; it's a full-blown cultural experience that captures the essence of Celtic heritage and the universal love for Halloween. It's a unique celebration that blends tradition with modern creativity, inviting people of all ages to participate in a magical world where the supernatural feels just a touch more real.

This year, the festival promises to be the most extravagant edition yet, with something for everyone—whether you're there to be thrilled, chilled, or simply enchanted by the atmosphere. If you've never been to Derry Halloween before, 2024 is the perfect time to start a new tradition and see why this city is recognized as the true home of Halloween.

So, gather your friends and family, don your best costume, and get ready for an unforgettable experience in the hauntingly beautiful city of Derry-Londonderry. Derry Halloween 2024 is waiting to welcome you with open arms and a touch of magic!

See You There!

For more information on tickets, event schedules, and updates, visit the official Derry Halloween website. Don't miss out on what promises to be the most spooktacular celebration of the year!

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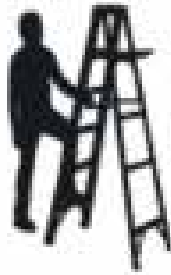
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What's new or coming soon in tech products?

Here are some of the most exciting tech gadgets that have recently been announced or are set to launch soon in 2024:



1. Sennheiser Momentum Sport: These wireless earbuds are more than just audio devices—they come with built-in heart rate and body temperature sensors, ideal for fitness enthusiasts. They can sync with popular fitness apps like Apple Health, Garmin Connect, and Strava, making them a great choice for tracking your workouts alongside offering high-quality sound and sweat resistance.

2. Asus ROG Zephyrus G14 (2024): This gaming laptop stands out with its combination of the new Ryzen 8000-series CPU and Nvidia RTX 4070 GPU, combined with a high-quality OLED display. It's designed to be powerful enough for gaming while also being portable and sleek enough to use as a regular laptop, making it one of the top contenders for both gamers and professionals.

3. Panasonic Z95A OLED TV with Fire TV: This TV integrates Amazon's Fire TV OS with a stunning OLED display, offering vibrant colours and smooth gameplay at up to 144Hz refresh rates. It also includes voice command support via Alexa, which makes navigating and controlling your smart home setup seamless.

4. MSI Claw: Competing in the portable gaming market, the MSI Claw utilizes Intel's latest Core Ultra processors and Intel Arc Graphics to deliver a powerful gaming experience in a handheld format. With a crisp 1080p display and a design that's optimized for portable play, it's set to rival other gaming devices like the Steam Deck and Asus ROG Ally.

5. Fiio R9 Music Streamer: This is a high-end

desktop music system built for audiophiles. It supports a variety of digital formats and features THX AAA amplification, promising superb audio quality. It also includes a touchscreen interface and its own app store for easy access to streaming services without the need for Google integration.

6. Lenovo ThinkBook 13x Gen 4: This innovative laptop features an E-Ink display on the lid, which allows for custom animations or branding designs. It's a creative leap in laptop design that offers personalization and energy efficiency, making it ideal for professionals who want to stand out at events or simply express their style.

7. EcoFlow DELTA Pro Ultra: This whole-home battery backup system is a powerhouse, offering up to 6kWh capacity and scalable options for up to 90kWh. It's designed to power a small house during blackouts and can integrate with solar panels to create a robust off-grid energy solution, ideal for those looking to enhance their home's sustainability.

8. Razer Project Esther: A new haptic gaming chair cushion designed to enhance your gaming or movie-watching experience by providing physical feedback based on in-game actions or audio cues. It's a simple but effective way to get more immersed in your digital experiences.

These gadgets reflect the latest trends in tech, emphasizing smart integration, gaming enhancements, fitness tracking, and sustainable energy solutions. You can expect these devices to be at the forefront of innovation, driving new experiences across various aspects of everyday life and leisure.



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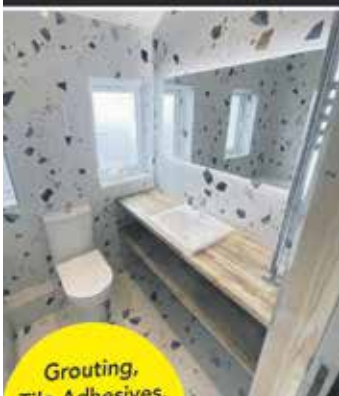
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Navigating the Health System in Ireland: A Guide to Public vs. Private Healthcare



The healthcare landscape in Ireland is often a topic of debate, with ongoing discussions around quality, accessibility, and affordability.

For residents, navigating the public and private healthcare systems can feel overwhelming, especially when trying to make the best choices for their health needs. This guide breaks down the key differences between public and private healthcare in Ireland, offering practical advice on accessing GPs, understanding waiting times, and maximizing your healthcare options.

Public vs. Private Healthcare: What's the Difference?

Ireland's healthcare system comprises both public and private sectors, each offering different levels of care, access, and costs. Here's a closer look at the main differences:

1. Public Healthcare: The Basics

The public healthcare system in Ireland is largely funded by the government through taxation and is available to all residents. Services are provided by the Health Service Executive (HSE) and include access

to GPs, hospitals, and community care services. However, there are often long waiting times for specialist appointments, surgeries, and non-urgent procedures due to high demand and limited resources.

Eligibility: All residents can access public healthcare services, but costs can vary depending on income, age, and medical conditions. Some services are free, while others require a fee or co-payment.

Waiting Times: Waiting times in the public system can be significant, especially for elective procedures and specialist consultations. The HSE provides waiting list information to help manage expectations.

Accessing GPs: Public patients often face longer wait times to see a GP, particularly in busy urban areas. It's advisable to register with a GP as early as possible to ensure access when needed.

2. Private Healthcare: What's on Offer?

Private healthcare in Ireland offers quicker access to specialists, shorter waiting times, and more personalized care. Private patients can choose their consultants and hospitals, and they often receive

treatment sooner than in the public system.

Health Insurance: Most people using private healthcare have health insurance, which covers part, or all of the costs of private consultations, tests, and hospital stays. Popular insurers include VHI, Laya Healthcare, Irish Life Health, and others.

Direct Payment Options: Some individuals choose to pay out-of-pocket for private care without insurance, though this can be expensive. This route is often used for one-off consultations or procedures to bypass waiting lists.

Specialist Access: Private healthcare provides faster access to specialists, which can be crucial for urgent health concerns or when seeking second opinions.

Navigating the Systems: Tips for Making the Most of Your Healthcare Options

1. Understanding Health Insurance: Is It Worth It?

Health insurance can significantly reduce wait times and improve access to healthcare services, especially for specialist consultations and elective surgeries. However, insurance plans vary widely in terms of

coverage, costs, and benefits.

Choosing a Plan: Compare different providers and plans to find one that meets your needs and budget. Consider factors such as the level of hospital cover, outpatient benefits, and the inclusion of routine check-ups.

Tax Relief: You may be eligible for tax relief on health insurance premiums, which can make private insurance more affordable.

Switching Providers: Don't be afraid to switch providers if you find a better deal or need more tailored coverage. There is no waiting period if you switch to a similar level of cover.

2. Know Your Patient Rights

Regardless of whether you use public or private healthcare, you have rights as a patient in Ireland. These include the right to safe and effective care, the right to be informed about your treatment, and the right to privacy and dignity.

Complaints and Appeals: If you are dissatisfied with your care, both public and private patients can lodge complaints with the HSE or their private healthcare provider. Knowing your rights can empower you to



seek better care and outcomes.

3. Tips for Reducing Wait Times

Long waiting times are a major drawback of the public healthcare system. Here are some strategies to navigate the queues:

Be Flexible: Opt for cancellations or off-peak appointments when possible. This can sometimes reduce waiting times for GPs and specialists.

Seek Second Opinions: If wait times for specialists are too long, consider getting a second opinion from another consultant who may have shorter waiting times, even if it means traveling further.

Use Private Options Selectively: If waiting times are too long, consider using private consultations for quicker access and then transferring back to the public system for ongoing treatment or surgery.

4. Finding the Right Specialists

Referrals: Your GP will be your first point of contact for specialist referrals. Communicate clearly about your needs and preferences and ask about waiting times for different consultants.

Research: Use resources like Healthgrades or Rate My Hospital to find specialists with good patient

reviews and shorter wait times.

5. Accessing Mental Health Services

Mental health services in Ireland are available through both public and private sectors. Public services are generally provided through Community Mental Health Teams, but waiting times can be long. Private options, including counselling, therapy, and psychiatry, are often more accessible but can be costly without insurance.

Final Thoughts

Navigating Ireland's healthcare system can be complex but understanding the differences between public and private healthcare and knowing your options can help you make informed decisions about your care. Whether you opt for public services, private insurance, or a mix of both, being proactive, staying informed, and understanding your rights can lead to better health outcomes and a more positive experience within the Irish healthcare system.

For more information on public healthcare services, visit the HSE website, and for advice on private health insurance, check out the Health Insurance Authority for comparison tools/guides.





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What will life be like in 100 years' time?



Little Village readers will not be around to experience life in 100 years' time, but your grandchildren and great grandchildren might be. What kind of world will it be?

Predicting life 100 years into the future is challenging, but based on current technological trends, scientific advancements, and socio-economic developments, we can make some educated guesses. Here's a vision of what life might be like in the year 2124:

1. Technological Advancements

- **Artificial Intelligence and Robotics:** AI is expected to become even more integrated into daily life, potentially reaching levels of advanced general intelligence. Robots will handle many

jobs currently performed by humans, from manual labour to professional tasks in medicine, law, and customer service. Homes will likely have AI personal assistants that are highly intuitive, capable of managing all household tasks, from cleaning and cooking to healthcare monitoring.

- **Smart Cities:** Urban areas will be transformed into smart cities, with interconnected systems that manage traffic, energy consumption, and waste efficiently. These cities will use data from various sources to reduce pollution, optimize resource use, and improve overall quality of life. Renewable energy sources like solar, wind, and advanced

nuclear options will likely be the norm, significantly reducing our carbon footprint.

- **Quantum Computing:** By 2124, quantum computers could solve problems that today's most powerful supercomputers cannot, potentially revolutionizing fields like medicine, materials science, and cryptography. This might lead to breakthroughs in drug discovery, climate modelling, and even developing new materials for space travel or energy storage.

2. Space Exploration and Colonization

- **Life Beyond Earth:** Human settlements on Mars or other celestial bodies might be a reality. Organizations like SpaceX and NASA are already laying the groundwork for missions to Mars, and in 100 years, sustainable colonies could exist. Advances in space travel might make interplanetary travel more routine, with asteroid mining becoming a significant industry to gather resources not available on Earth.

- **Space Tourism:** Space tourism might become accessible to a broader population, with commercial flights to low Earth orbit or lunar visits being common vacation options for those who can afford it. Companies like Blue Origin and Virgin Galactic are already pioneering these efforts, and the trend is expected to grow dramatically.

3. Healthcare and Longevity

- **Genetic Engineering and Precision Medicine:** The progress in genetics and biotechnology could lead to significant increases in human lifespan, with treatments that prevent or reverse aging. Techniques like CRISPR and other gene-editing technologies might be used to eliminate genetic diseases or enhance physical and cognitive abilities.

- **Nanotechnology:** Medicine might rely heavily on nanotechnology, with microscopic robots performing surgery, delivering drugs directly to cells, or even repairing tissues at the molecular level. This could make previously incurable diseases treatable or eliminate the need for invasive procedures.

- **Mental Health and Neurotechnology:** Advances in brain-machine interfaces (like those developed by Neuralink) might allow humans to interact with computers using their thoughts, potentially treating neurological conditions or enhancing cognitive

abilities. These technologies could help people with disabilities regain lost functions or even allow brain-to-brain communication.

4. Environmental Changes and Sustainability

- **Climate Change Adaptation:** As climate change continues to impact the planet, society will likely adapt through innovative technologies designed to reduce greenhouse gases, manage rising sea levels, and prevent natural disasters. Buildings might be designed to be resilient against extreme weather, and there could be a shift towards living in eco-friendly, self-sustaining communities.

- **Vertical Farming and Synthetic Foods:** With growing concerns about food security and the need to feed a global population that might exceed 10 billion, vertical farms and lab-grown meats could become mainstream. These technologies allow for sustainable food production with less land, water, and energy use than traditional agriculture.

5. Social and Cultural Evolution

- **Global Society and Cultural Shifts:** The world

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is likely to become even more interconnected, with cultures blending as global travel and communication become even more accessible. This could lead to a more homogenized global culture but also spark a resurgence in preserving unique cultural identities and traditions.

- **Work and Economy:** The concept of work might change dramatically, with many traditional jobs replaced by automation. Universal basic income (UBI) or other forms of social support might be necessary to address unemployment caused by AI and robotics. People might focus more on creative pursuits, entrepreneurship, or roles that require uniquely human traits like empathy, creativity, and problem-solving.

- **Digital Immortality:** With advances in AI and data storage, it might be possible to create digital replicas of people’s personalities, memories, and consciousness. These “digital humans” could live on in virtual worlds, interact with others, or even assist in guiding future generations based on accumulated knowledge and experiences.

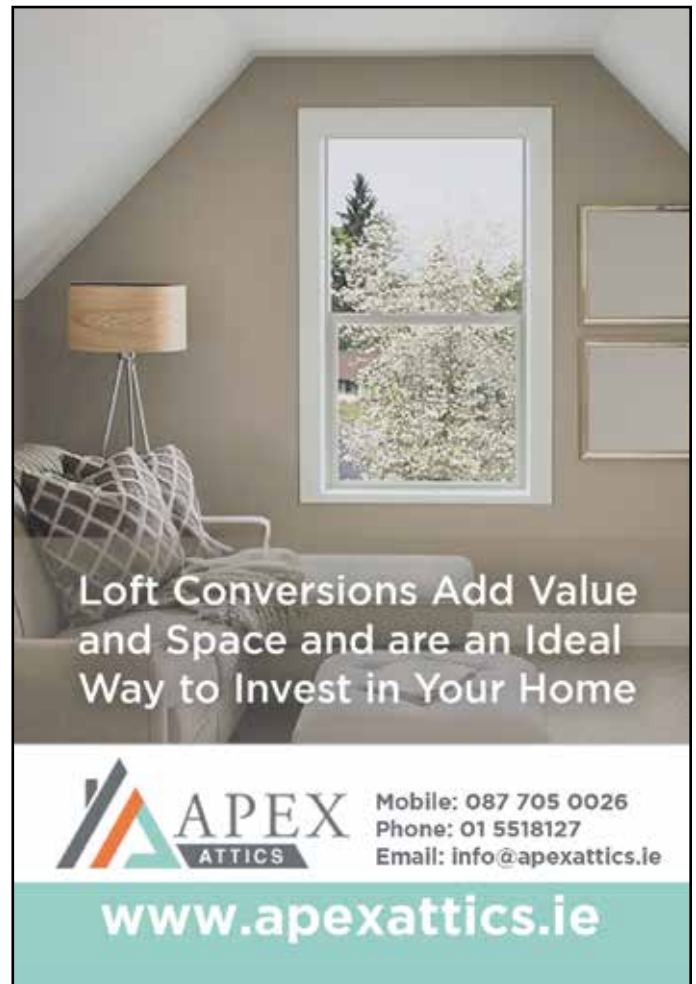
6. Ethics and Philosophical Changes

- **Human Enhancement and Bioethics:** Technologies that enhance physical and cognitive abilities will raise ethical questions about what it means to be human. Debates about genetic modifications, AI rights, and the moral implications of life extension could shape laws and societal norms.

- **Privacy and Surveillance:** The expansion of AI and smart technologies might come at the cost of personal privacy. With data from every action potentially being monitored and analysed, societies will face ongoing discussions about balancing technological benefits with individual rights and freedoms.

Conclusion

Life 100 years from now is likely to be profoundly different from today, shaped by rapid technological advancements, environmental challenges, and evolving social norms. While we can expect significant improvements in quality of life, health, and sustainability, these changes will also bring complex ethical and societal issues that future generations will need to address. The balance between technology’s potential and its risks will play a critical role in shaping the world of 2124.



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Castleknock TidyTowns new stone art



Photo (l to r): Darren Rafferty, Liffey Memorials, Evelyn Pender, Chairperson and Declan Mescall, committee member of Castleknock TidyTowns, Rev Colin McConaghie, Rev Natasha Quinn-Thomas and Brenna Crushell.

Castleknock TidyTowns is absolutely thrilled to finally reveal a new stone art piece for Castleknock, after working on this project for over five years. The stone is fitted into the stone wall of St Brigid's Church, located in the heart of the village. The art piece was commissioned by Castleknock TidyTowns, designed by Brenna and Amy Crushell and carved by Liffey Memorials. Inspiration for the design came from the glass fanlight above the door of an adjacent old property. The art piece has been created in Irish limestone and is very much in keeping with the existing stone wall and its surroundings.

The stone is a wonderful permanent enhancement and a total contrast to the redundant, abandoned utility cabinet which previously occupied this high-profile location for many years.

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All funds raised during the event will go

towards building a children's playground for the school.

Make sure to bring your family, friends and neighbours and enjoy some seasonal spirit with us!

Sunday December 8th, 12noon-5pm

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'Locate the National Genetics and Genomic Testing Laboratory to Connolly Hospital in Blanchardstown'

The Government has a once off golden opportunity to show it has some respect for the public purse by relocating the.

That's according to Aontú Cllr Ellen Troy who says that despite the staggering sums of money being spent on the new Children's Hospital, lack of space is being cited as the reason why the Lab can't be located there, a situation she describes as 'baffling'.

She says:

"We will soon be the proud owners of the most expensive children's hospital in the world which in itself is quite incredible, yet despite the exorbitant cost it still can't cater for all the services that should be located there" .



"You actually couldn't make it up".

"We are being told that the cost is so high as it will be a one stop shop for everything, but this is patently untrue " .

"The National Genetics and Genomic Testing Lab is a vital service and is used for the testing of rare diseases. It is currently being done in Crumlin and the decision as to its new location apparently rests with the HSE".

"It makes perfect sense to locate this facility at Blanchardstown Hospital, there is lots of room there".

"If not, then the Government will spend a fortune sending tests to private labs abroad. It is nonsensical and displays a complete lack of lateral thinking and frankly, ineptitude" .



Councillor
**Ellen
TROY**
Castleknock - Fingal County Council

#aontu

ellen.troy@cllr.fingal.ie

Domestic abuse cases are continuing to climb in Dublin West.

Aontú Cllr Ellen Troy, a candidate for Dublin West in the upcoming General Elections says her party uncovered the appalling statistics following a PQ from her party leader, Peadar Tóibín TD.

Cllr Troy says

“It is deeply concerning that domestic abuse incidents are rapidly increasing in Dublin West, 4,582 cases last year in Dublin West is absolutely shocking. Domestic violence is a heinous crime and it damages the entire family who live in fear and it can often have lifelong repercussions”.

“It’s not just in Dublin West however, the number of reported domestic abuse incidents have increased from 14,264 in 2014 to a shocking 46,539 countrywide last year. Sadly, this dark trend is continuing this year. There are now 128 garda call outs for domestic abuse incidents every day of the year. Behind every one of these figures, is a person being damaged, in what should be, the sanctuary of their own home. In the vast majority of cases, this abuse is being carried out against women. The truth is, Ireland is becoming a more dangerous place for women. I don’t believe for a second that the government is tackling the causes of this abuse within society or providing the necessary support to those affected”.

“A report commissioned by Women’s Aid In a study commissioned by Women’s Aid (Sexual Exploitation Research and Policy (SERP) shows Ireland ranks 43 for watching porn sites. Violence

is becoming more and more prevalent and much of what features in mainstream porn is sexual violence”.

“In Dublin West, we have the wonderful Sonas Refuge which is doing incredible work but it is underfunded and under resourced. It needs more funding as a priority as it is literally a lifesaver for women and children fleeing their homes”.

“The collapse in the number of Gardaí during the term of this Minister for Justice is making it harder to protect citizens. There is a lack of resources to provide interventions to stop children witnessing domestic abuse, so they are not conditioned to repeat physical or psychological violence in their own lives. The government is refusing to tackle the proliferation of hard-core porn being consumed by children. More than 1 in every 3 pornographic videos depicts sexual violence or aggression against women, and children as young as ten are consuming this material every day”.

“There has been a 200% increase in cocaine abuse since 2017 and a sharp rise in the number of people with multiple addictions. Our mental health services only receive 6% of the overall health budget and chronic underfunding is having

a serious societal impact. The housing crisis and the lack of safe rental move-on options also add to the pressure. There are still nine counties in Ireland that do not have a refuge centre for women and children facing domestic violence. This is an indictment against government inaction. And there is no doubt that the long harsh Covid

lockdowns are playing a role in the increase of these figures”.

“Aontú is calling on the government to take this issue seriously. By seriously we mean the provision of the necessary resources, changes to the law and societal changes to ensure that Ireland is a safe place for women”.

Region	Division	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Q1 2024
Dublin Region	D.M.R. Eastern	336	424	485	573	627	769	1,039	1,033	1,192	1,147	292
	D.M.R. North Central	244	523	557	568	779	1,030	1,254	1,559	1,600	1,464	379
	D.M.R. Northern	944	1,500	1,778	1,977	2,253	2,865	3,443	3,460	3,839	4,104	962
	D.M.R. South Central	206	380	454	554	679	979	1,160	1,228	1,387	1,334	362
	D.M.R. Southern	637	1,237	1,699	1,860	2,008	2,380	2,433	2,593	2,974	2,948	740
	D.M.R. Western	814	1,035	1,314	1,543	1,807	2,984	3,809	4,267	4,662	4,582	1,140
Eastern Region (NEW)	Kildare Div	602	610	624	862	982	1,245	1,602	1,641	2,214	2,164	620
	Laois/Offaly	455	550	519	868	858	980	1,146	1,372	1,537	1,679	393
	Meath/Westmeath	966	1,024	1,090	1,262	1,399	1,851	2,039	2,335	2,513	2,735	780
	Waterford/Kilkenny/Carlow	859	1,010	1,046	1,239	1,329	1,448	1,669	1,982	2,248	2,472	627
	Wexford/Wicklow	897	985	1,149	1,328	1,399	1,583	1,833	2,050	2,390	2,525	688
	North Western Region	Donegal	493	555	545	594	607	841	898	1,021	1,298	1,315
North Western Region	Galway Div	693	805	798	927	905	1,157	1,339	1,676	1,816	1,917	502
	Louth/Cavan/Monaghan	1,157	1,147	1,271	1,471	1,596	2,049	2,509	3,112	3,264	3,077	736
	Mayo/Roscommon/Longford	668	715	707	884	1,032	1,210	1,425	1,777	2,034	2,046	496
	Sligo/Leitrim	322	309	306	411	391	509	692	889	783	719	167
	Southern Region (NEW)	Clare/Tipperary	719	933	980	1,187	1,173	1,465	1,636	1,932	2,142	2,423
Southern Region (NEW)	Cork City	957	1,075	1,050	1,142	1,377	1,599	1,744	1,736	2,173	2,170	563
	Cork North	543	498	558	654	727	795	904	1,025	1,188	1,272	325
	Cork West	341	311	369	383	442	409	510	566	585	611	139
	Kerry	422	428	454	551	754	871	926	1,049	1,289	1,251	270
	Limerick	989	1,027	1,026	1,243	1,287	1,528	1,642	2,014	2,483	2,584	544
	Total		14,264	17,081	18,779	22,081	24,411	30,547	35,652	40,317	45,611	46,539

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I have made the decision to listen to the people who have elected me for the last 10 years to run in the upcoming General Election.

It is with a heavy heart that with this decision I have had to leave Sinn Féin in order to continue to represent the people in my constituency and run as an Independent Candidate,

Before I was a member of Sinn Féin I was a republican and community activist and going forward that will not change.

I was first elected onto Fingal County Council in 2014 and then re elected in 2019, in 2024 I did not lose my seat on Fingal County Council but the party made the decision to move me into a new area. The people of Dublin West have expressed very clearly to me that this was a mistake, with that in mind I have listened very carefully to the people and have put a lot of thought into this decision.

I am very privileged to have been the elected rep for the Castleknock ward for the last 10 years and if circumstances had been different I would not have agreed to move

constituencies. My role as an elected rep has allowed me to help so many people and build relationships within so many communities across Dublin West and I have been extremely grateful for that experience.

I would be honoured to continue to support and represent the people of Dublin West, this time on a national level, therefore I am officially announcing my candidacy for the upcoming General Elections as an Independent Candidate, the decision on whether the people want me to continue to represent them will be made by the people themselves and not decided by a small group of people in the local Sinn Féin structure who continuously blocked me.

We have four men currently in Dublin west elected to Dáil Éireann, three of whom are Ministers but still the people of Dublin West are being left behind. If I am elected I will stand up for each and every person in Dublin West, I will make sure your voices are heard and no one will be left behind.

Is mise le meas,
Natalie Treacy

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