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MAR 2024

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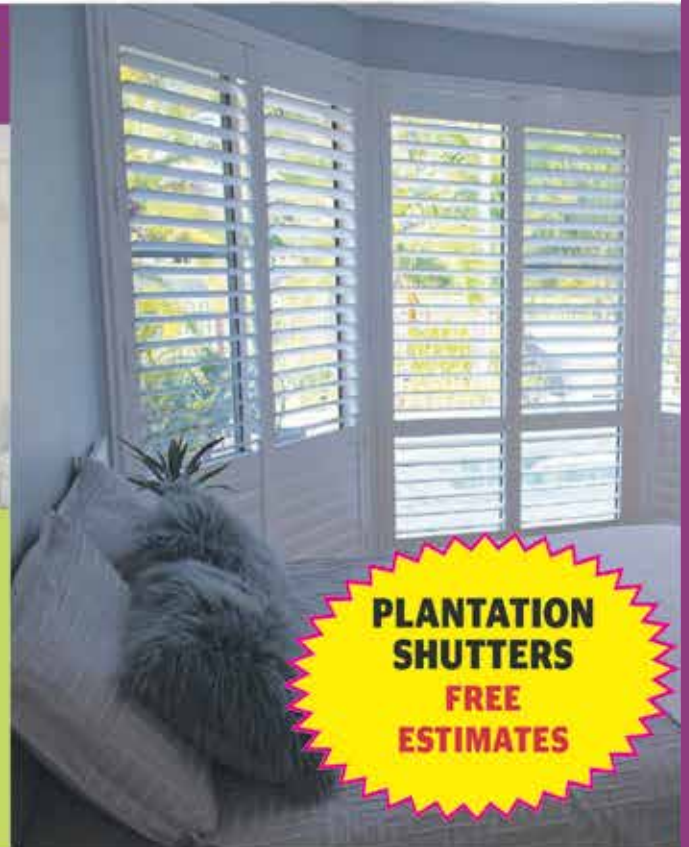
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EDITORIAL

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

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

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

Kind Regards, Little Village



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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

An advertisement for Glinmahon Construction Ltd. The top section has an orange background with a black house icon inside a circle. Below the icon, the text "GLINMAHON CONSTRUCTION LTD" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Underneath, in a smaller font, it says "FOR ALL YOUR BUILDING NEEDS". The middle section shows a photograph of a modern, single-story house with a grey roof and white walls, with two white vans parked in front. The bottom section has a dark grey background with white text listing services: "Extensions, Garage/Loft Conversions, New Builds, Home Renovations, Garden Renovations and Paving." It also states "Fully insured & ALL work guaranteed." and "Free no obligation quote." At the bottom, contact information is provided: "Tel: 01 233 0488", "Mob: 085 844 3341 or 089 436 3104", and the website "glinmahonconstruction.ie".

Lucan Trees update



from



linktr.ee/joannatuffy

Cllr Joanna Tuffy

New trees for Lucan

At the November 2023 Lucan Palmerstown North Clondalkin Area Committee Meeting, local councillors gave the thumbs up to planting of more than 300 new trees in Lucan! This included this diverse tree selection for Lucan Demesne:

- Prunus Avium - Wild cherry
- Juniperus communis - Juniper
- Prunus padus - Bird cherry
- Malus sylvestris - Crab apple
- Corylus avellana - Hazel
- Alnus glutinosa - Black alder
- Sorbus aucuparia - Rowan



"The creamy flowers of the Rowan tree ripen into scarlet berries which colour early in the season and provide food for thrushes through the winter" (irishtreecouncil.ie)



Admiring the holly tree I planted, with Oscar, VIP member of 'Stepping Stone Forests'



Beside a newly planted Acer campestre 'Streetwise' - Maple tree in Lucan



"Leaves and fruit of the Juniper. Berries are used commercially to flavour gin" (irishtreecouncil.ie)

South Dublin County Council is responsible for planting and maintaining trees in Lucan

The estimated cost of planting and maintaining a new tree for 2 years is €150 per tree

Council policy includes the objective of "the right tree in the right place"

Feel free to contact me if you have any queries about the Council's tree management in your area



087 392 0931



jtuffy@cllrs.sdublincoco.ie

Cllr Joanna Tuffy

Labour

ISPCC receives 'triple lock' status again

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

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

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

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

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



Reporting Practice under FRS102).

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

The advertisement for TaxAssist Accountants features a blue and yellow color scheme. On the left, the text reads 'TaxAssist Accountants Here to help you thrive'. Below this, it says 'Switching accountants is simple. Get the support and advice you deserve.' and provides contact information: 'Call: 01 906 0400', 'Email: siobhanstowe@taxassist.ie', and 'Visit: taxassist.ie/blanchardstown'. At the bottom left is the TaxAssist Accountants logo, a stylized yellow 'E' with the text 'TaxAssist Accountants' and 'The Accountancy and Tax Service for Small Business' below it. On the right, the text says 'Book a free, no obligation consultation today:' followed by three icons: a storefront for 'Visit us in store', a laptop for 'Meet us online', and a phone for 'Chat on the phone'. At the bottom right is a photograph of a TaxAssist Accountants storefront.


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WHAT IS POSITIVE AGEING?

Positive ageing is an approach that recognises how our mindset and attitudes affect our physical and emotional wellbeing as we age. The Positive Psychology Institute defines it as, *"The process of maintaining a positive attitude, feeling good about yourself, keeping fit and healthy, and engaging fully in life as you age."*

8 POSITIVE AGEING TIPS FROM THE WORLD'S BLUE ZONES

1. Incorporate Physical Activity Into Your Daily Routine

For those aged 65 and over, the HSE recommends at least 30 minutes a day of moderate exercise for at least five days every week. This can be as intense as you like

– whether it's pumping iron at the gym, taking a brisk stroll or even doing a spot of weeding in the garden!

2. Maintain A Healthy Social Life

Research on the longest living communities in the world has found a positive link between older peoples' social networks and their health behaviours. Some ways to do this could include volunteering or taking up a new hobby.

3. Give As Much Time As You Can To Family

Family life plays a key part in positive ageing. Families in Blue Zone communities tend to live with or near to ageing parents and grandparents.

4. Have A Clear Purpose According to The Blue Zones Project

Having a sense of purpose can add up to seven years to your life expectancy. In fact, there have been a number of studies that show that having meaning in your life can lead to reduced stress, improved coping techniques, and greater engagement in health-promoting behaviours.



5. Find A Way Of Relieving Stress

Some effective ways of managing stress include yoga, tai chi, meditation, guided imagery, and deep breathing exercises. Many people also find cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) to be helpful.

6. Enjoy 1-2 Drinks A Day!

Moderate consumption of alcohol (defined as up to one drink per day for women, and up to two drinks per day for men) of red wine, in particular, has been linked with a wide range of health benefits.



7. Go Green With Your Diet

Medical studies have found that those who reduce their meat intake tend to live longer.

8. Adopt The 80% Rule For Eating

It takes approximately 20 minutes for our stomachs to tell our brain that we are full, so how can you tell when you reach the 80% point? One tip is to simply stop eating once you no longer feel hungry, rather than eating to the point of fullness.

The Secret to Successful Ageing

Age is strictly a case of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter.

– Jack Benny, New York Times (1974)

RESOURCES

Age Action

Age Action operates a busy information service on older people's issues and services throughout Ireland. Trained information officers provide information or referrals to the appropriate organisations.



Contact:

The information service is open:

Monday from 9:30am-1:30pm and 2.30pm - 4.00pm;

Wednesday from 9.30am - 1.30pm;

Thursday from 9.30am - 1.30pm

T: (01) 475 6989 E: info@ageaction.ie

ALONE

ALONE staff will get in touch with you and meet you if needed. We will work with you to find a solution to your current challenge.



Contact:

T: 0818 222 024 or E: hello@alone.ie www.alone.ie

The benefits of being active – if you don't use it, you lose it!

Being active helps:

- You to stay mobile and independent
- To keep your heart and lungs healthy
- To keep your bones and muscles strong
- To improve your mood

Being active improves:

- Your flexibility and prevents stiffness
- Your brain function and memory
- Your balance
- Your health and wellbeing



GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR OLDER PEOPLE

Housing Aid for Older People Grant

Dublin City Council provides Housing Aid for Older People Grant to assist with adaptation works which are necessary to allow you to remain living in your home.

This grant is for people 66 years old or more to do essential repairs, so that they can continue to live in their own home.

What can I use this grant for?

The grant is for essential repairs to make it possible for an older person to continue living in their home.

Essential repairs can include:

- Repairing or replacing the roof
- Upgrading the electrical wiring
- Repairing or replacing the windows and doors
- Providing central heating



Special requirements for this grant

If you need to:	you need to send your local authority...
1. Repair or replace your roof	a letter from your insurance company stating that the repairs are not covered under your policy
2. Upgrade the electrical wiring	a report from an electrician describing the necessary repairs. This electrician must be registered with Safe Electric
3. Upgrade the existing central heating system	a report from a heating contractor stating that the existing heating system is beyond economic repair. This means that it is more cost-effective to replace than repair.

How much is the grant for?

The most you can get is €8,000 or 95% of the total cost of the work approved by your local authority (whichever is less). This grant can go towards the total cost of the work including the VAT.

Yearly Household Income	Percentage of Costs	Maximum Grant
Up to €30,000	95%	€8,000
€30,001 - €35,000	85%	€6,800
€35,001 - €40,000	75%	€6,000
€40,001 - €50,000	50%	€4,000
€50,001 - €60,000	30%	€2,400
Over €60,000	No grant payable	No grant payable

Example

If your household income for the previous tax year is €45,000 after the disregards and deductions are applied, your grant is 50% of the costs of the work to a maximum of €4,000. This means that if the work on the home costs €10,000 including VAT, the grant will only cover €4,000 and not €5,000.

Please contact me and I will post or drop you an application form for this grant.

HSE SUPPORTS

Home Support Service for Older People

The HSE Home Support Service (formerly called the Home Help Service or Home Care Package Scheme) aims to support older people to remain in their own homes for as long as possible and to support informal carers.

The Home Support Service provides you with support for everyday tasks including:

- getting in and out of bed
- dressing and undressing
- personal care such as showering and shaving

The support you will receive depends on your individual needs. These supports will be provided by the HSE or by an external provider, approved by the HSE.

Costs

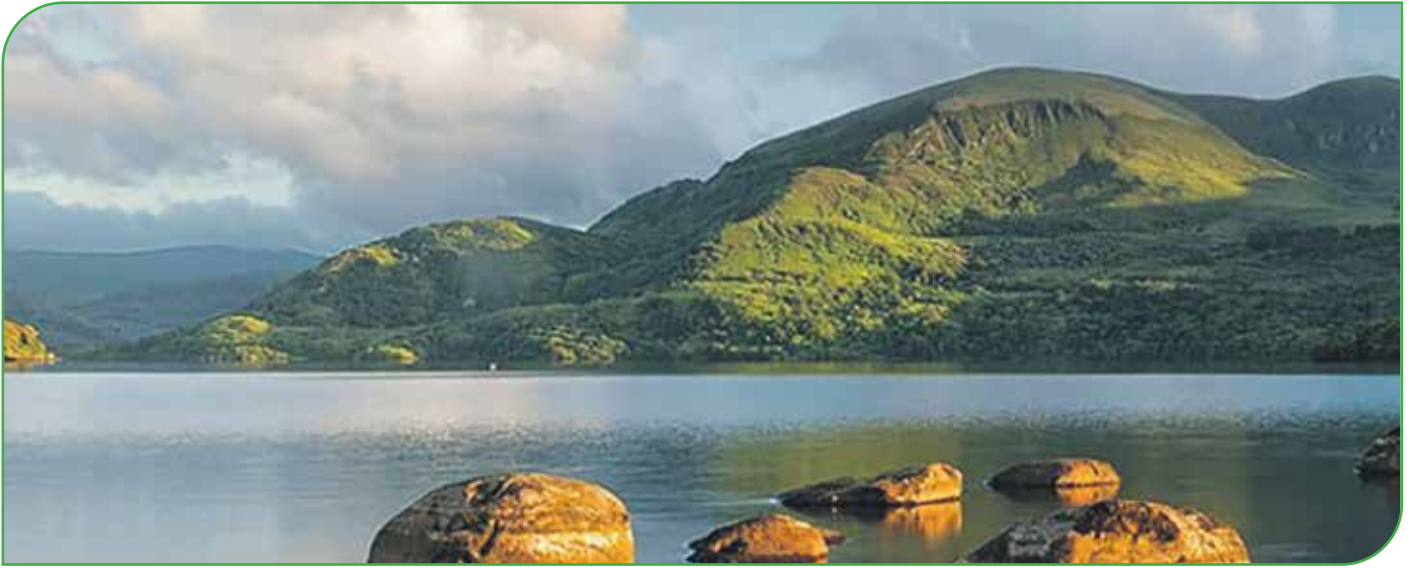
The Home Support Service is free. You do not need a medical card to apply and your income will not be assessed.

Who can apply?

The Home Support Service is available to people aged 65 or younger than 65 who may need support. For example, people with early onset dementia or a disability.

Please contact me and I will post or drop you an application form for this service

Beyond the Pale – Killarney Co.Kerry



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

history, architecture, and the legends associated with the castle.

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

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

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

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

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

The Constitution of Ireland



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

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

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

Background

The Constitution of Ireland replaced the Constitution of the Irish Free State which had been in effect since the independence, as a dominion, of the Irish state from the United Kingdom on 6 December 1922. There were two main motivations for replacing the constitution in 1937. Firstly, the Statute of Westminster 1931 granted parliamentary autonomy to the six British Dominions (now known as Commonwealth realms) within a British Commonwealth of Nations. This had the effect of making the dominions sovereign nations in their own right. The Irish Free State constitution of 1922 was, in the eyes of many, associated with the controversial Anglo-Irish Treaty. The anti-treaty faction, who opposed the treaty initially by

force of arms, was so opposed to the institutions of the new Irish Free State that it initially took an abstentionist line toward them, boycotting them altogether. However, the largest element of this faction became convinced that abstentionism could not be maintained forever. This element, led by Éamon de Valera, formed the Fianna Fáil party in 1926, which entered into government following the 1932 general election.

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

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

Drafting process

De Valera personally supervised the writing of the Constitution. It was drafted initially by John Hearne, legal adviser to the Department of External Affairs (now called

the Department of Foreign Affairs). It was translated into Irish over a number of drafts by a group headed by Micheál Ó Gríobhtha (assisted by Risteárd Ó Foghludha), who worked in the Irish Department of Education. De Valera served as his own External Affairs Minister, hence the use of the Department's Legal Advisor, with whom he had previously worked closely, as opposed to the Attorney General or someone from the Department of the President of the Executive Council. He also received significant input from John Charles McQuaid, the then President of Blackrock College, on religious, educational, family, and social welfare issues. McQuaid later became, in 1940, the Catholic Archbishop of Dublin. Other religious leaders who were consulted were Archbishop Edward Byrne (Roman Catholic), Archbishop John Gregg (Church of Ireland), William Massey (Methodist) and James Irwin (Presbyterian).

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

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

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

Adoption

Main article: Adoption of the Constitution of Ireland

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

3d denomination of the Irish Constitution postage stamp issue

The draft constitution was then put to a plebiscite on 1

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

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

Plebiscite on the Constitution of Ireland

Choice	Votes	%
Referendum passed	Yes = 685,105	56.52
	No = 526,945	43.48
Valid votes	1,212,050	90.03
Invalid or blank votes	134,157	9.97
Total votes	1,346,207	100.00
Registered voters/turnout	1,775,055	75.84

Response

When the draft new constitution was published, the Irish Independent described it as one of de Valera's "finest tributes to his predecessors". The Irish Times criticised the constitution's assertion of a territorial claim on Northern Ireland, and the absence in its text of any reference to the British Commonwealth. The London-



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based Daily Telegraph included in its criticism the special position assigned to the Church of Rome under the new constitution.[26] The Sunday Times concluded it would only help to “perpetuate division” between Dublin and Belfast. The Irish Catholic concluded it was a “noble document in harmony with papal teachings”.

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 years of Kildare Animal Foundation 1994-2024

For three decades, the Kildare Animal Foundation has shown dedication, compassion, and resilience

In the realm of animal welfare. Since its establishment in 1994, the foundation has served as a sanctuary and a voice for countless animals in need throughout Kildare County and beyond. Through the tireless efforts of volunteers, our unwavering supporters and a steadfast commitment to our mission, the foundation has left an indelible mark on the community and the lives of many animals.

Over the years, the Kildare Animal Foundation has embarked on countless rescue missions, offering a safe haven to abandoned and neglected pets. Unfortunately, a crisis exists within our society, animal shelters throughout the island of Ireland are overcrowded. Over the years people would ring looking for help to resolve a problem they were having with their pet. They listened and we worked together to find a solution. However, the past 3 years have been most challenging, we really struggle to keep up with demands of abandoned and neglected animals.

Despite facing these numerous challenges and obstacles along the way, we at the Kildare Animal Foundation have remained steadfast in our commitment to our core values and our belief in the inherent worth of every animal.



As we celebrate three decades of service, the Kildare Animal Foundation stands as a testament to the power of compassion and the difference that can be made when individuals come together to make a positive impact on the world around them.

We are so thankful to the people who have kept our shelter open for the last 30 years. We never stopped believing that we were making a difference and our supporters never stopped believing in us.

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Cllr.

Liona O'TOOLE
INDEPENDENT



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My name is Liona O'Toole, an Independent candidate seeking your No. 1 Vote in the local elections. I have been a Councillor for 10 years and active within the community for the last 28 years, successfully leading campaigns and driving initiatives representing the interests of our Community.

Dedication, Energy and Commitment, my priorities include:

Planning:

Campaigning for sustainable development. Committed to ongoing strategic planning for Adamstown and Clonburris SDZ's (Strategic Development Zones) prioritising transport infrastructure, community facilities, Primary Health Care services and open green spaces in residential development.

Community:

Facilitating the setup and development of community groups improving communication with the local authority. Enhancing teen spaces. Securing essential funding for the development and improvement of Lucan's amenities, including arts, culture and sports.

Housing:

Assist with housing needs and facilitating various housing adaptation grants. Continued support for Independent living and step-down facilities.

Security:

Ongoing liaison with the Gardaí, local authority, residents, business's and other stake holders to address anti-social behaviour and crime. Pursue a satellite Garda station in Adamstown and a Garda station in Clonburris.

Education:

Addressing challenges in Lucan's primary and post-primary schools. Increased creche places.

Health:

Additional Primary Health Care services.

Enterprise:

Supporting local business and job creation.

Proven Record, Some of my personal accomplishments to date include:

Planning/Housing:

Consistently pursued proper, sustainable planning in Lucan, aligning services/facilities with residential development. Successful efforts on Adamstown and Clonburris SDZ have led to quarterly SDZ meetings with County Councillors, ensuring effective monitoring and providing resident updates.

Community:

Initiated Lucan's Men Shed, Lucan's Sister Shed and Lucan's Operation Transformation. Co-founded Big Tree Committee securing grants for youth focused projects. Set up Lucan's Darkness into Light annual walk. Helped various community groups with community events. Secured new voting polling station for Lucan located in Adamstown Community Centre. Secured web casting for local council meetings.

Security:

As a member of the Joint Policing Committee, I have advocated for an Adamstown satellite station and continue to lobby for a new Garda station in Clonburris. I have also organised safety talks for women and facilitated the setup of Neighbourhood Watch groups

Amenities/Sport:

Campaigned for Lucan Pool and successfully got it included in the County Development Plan with funding released by the then Minister for Sport. Ensured Lucan's running track development was on the County Development Plan. Initiated the sports wall ball, in Griffeen Park's first teen-space. Helped establish Lucan's first boules club, with a new court. Extended and enhanced the Griffeen Park dog run. Provided consistent support for facility enhancement in various clubs, including Weston Hockey club's successful sports capital grant. Continuously assisted Lucan Sarsfields GAA club and Lucan football clubs. Assisted with the delivery of Adamstown Sport Hall. Helped establish Griffeen Junior parkrun.

Enterprise/Transport:

Facilitated networking with local enterprise offices, fostering collaboration between businesses and community groups. Secured sponsorships for local clubs. Advocated for creches in future developments. Successfully lobbied for and secured the Outer Ring Road bus route between Lucan and Tallaght, now known as Route W4, and the opening of Kishoge railway station.

Education:

Serving on several school boards in Lucan and as Chair of Griffeen Community College, my commitment to education remains strong. As Chair of Youth Reach, I foster collaboration with youth workers and Gardaí in the Griffeen Youth Diversion Programme.

Cllr.
Liona O'TOOLE
INDEPENDENT
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Extending child benefit for full-time students up to the age of 19 marks a positive step forward

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

A large advertisement for Phoenix Driveway & Patios. The background is a collage of circular images showing different driveway and patio designs, including gravel, stone, and concrete. The company logo, "Phoenix DRIVEWAY & PATIOS", is prominently displayed in the upper right. Below the logo is a list of services: PAVING SERVICES, GRAVEL DRIVEWAYS, PATIO & GARDENS, IMPRINTED CONCRETE, TARCAADAM, and FENCING & WALLING. At the bottom right, contact information is provided: Pearse St, Dublin 2, CONTACT JOHN MALONEY, Tel: 01 697 2087 | Tel: 087 359 1000, info@phoenixdriveways.ie, and www.phoenixdriveways.ie.

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Chocolate mini egg vertical cake recipe



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

Ingredients

oil or butter, for greasing

6 eggs

150g granulated or caster sugar, plus 2 tbsp

150g plain flour

50g cocoa powder

2 x 400g tubs vanilla flavour frosting

3 x 80g bags chocolate mini eggs

Method

1. Preheat the oven to gas 7, 220°C, fan 200°C and grease and line two 22 x 32cm Swiss roll tins with baking paper. Cut two extra pieces of baking paper a bit larger than the tins; set aside.

2. Put the eggs and 150g sugar in a large mixing bowl and use an electric whisk to beat for 5 mins or until pale and thick. Sift in the flour and cocoa powder with a pinch of salt, then fold in using a spatula until no streaks remain. Divide between the prepared tins, level the tops, then bake for 7-9 mins until springy to the touch.

3. Sprinkle each of the extra sheets of baking paper with 1 tbsp sugar. As soon as the sponges are baked, carefully invert onto the sugared paper, removing the tins and lining paper. With a short edge facing you, score a horizontal line 2cm from

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

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

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

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

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

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Witchcraft In Ireland. A Horror-able Story ?

by Mike Power



Like a Good Fright?

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

Primitive Brains

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

Witchcraft in Ireland

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

first case of execution for heresy.

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

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

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

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

Reminder to apply for Mortgage Interest Tax Relief scheme for 2023

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



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

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

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

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

eligible to submit their tax return. Over 200,000 mortgages are eligible for the relief,” concluded Higgins.

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

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

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

Waste Operator ‘Transaction Fees’ – A Cause of Concern



Some concerned customers of domestic waste operator Greyhound have reported having surcharges applied, for choosing to pay their domestic waste bin charges by credit or debit card.

According to one local county councillor representing residents in Lucan and Palmerstown-Fonthill, Greyhound customers have contacted him about the recent introduction of a surcharge, described on account holder's bills as a 'transaction fee'.

Cllr Derren Ó Brádaigh said;

"I was first contacted by a Greyhound customer living in Lucan before Christmas and complaining of being charged .85ct for every transaction that they made by bank card. When they raised this with the company, they were quickly reimbursed

€1.70 for the two prior occasions charged. Shortly afterwards, I received another call from a customer in Palmerstown concerned at the legality of being charged for every time they paid by card. I contacted the company by email asking that they set out their policy in this regard but only received an automated response, with no further correspondence. That same afternoon, I was contacted by the same Palmerstown resident to say the charge was now being 'waived' after raising the issue earlier in the day.

Cllr Ó Brádaigh also said;

"I spoke with party colleagues and asked for a Parliamentary Question be submitted to the Minister. At the end of January, we submitted this through my colleague Mark Ward TD's office, asking for clarification and comment on any reported practice of such in the industry. In response it was stated that the practice of service providers charging consumers a surcharge for making payments with credit or debit cards is prohibited under Regulations 86(6) of S.I. No.6 of 2028. The response went on further to state that the issue has now been brought to the attention of the Central Bank of Ireland and the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission.

Ó Brádaigh added;

"Initially I submitted this as a concern for the attention of South Dublin County Council, but as I expected, they do not have any role in this regard, because as we unfortunately are all too aware, domestic waste collection services were taken out of the hands of our local authorities. Therefore, I felt compelled to contact the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission, which I did in early January. The response when received this month stated that whilst the Commission does not hold an ombudsman role and they can't intervene in individual disputes, they advise any customer that has experienced a surcharge applied to their transaction to query the exact reason for it with the business and seek a refund where it relates to the use of a card to make a payment. On a follow up call with the agency, they did confirm that they had received a several complaints and that this had been referred to their Consumer Enforcement Protection Team to further investigate the matter.


Cllr Ó Brádaigh further added;

"In the meantime, I did contact Greyhound earlier this month to again ask for an update on behalf of the constituents I represent and requesting clarification from the waste services operator. I asked whether they would confirm this new charge, when it was introduced and if customers had been notified. The response was not forthcoming, and I have received no reply to a subsequent email almost 2 weeks ago now. I also called Greyhound this week and spoke with a representative regarding charges for new customers. When I asked the specific question about incurring any additional charges

for choosing to pay by card, it was confirmed to me that a 2 month up-front payment was required and a 'transaction fee' of 0.85ct would apply on every transaction made by card. When I queried this practice, I was put on hold to see if 'anything could be done'. I was then quickly informed that this could be waived, but only if I signed up today!"


The Councillor concluded by saying;

"In a time of increased cost of living difficulties being felt by so many families in my constituency and beyond, and when people all too often are simply being squeezed for every penny, I would appeal to all businesses to engage transparently, fairly and apply an equal payment policy for goods and services for every customer. I welcome the referral of this matter to the appropriate bodies and look forward to any decision affording fair outcome to all concerned."



Sinn Féin

Cllr
Derren Ó Brádaigh



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Kildare County Council launches Age Friendly programme at annual Pride of Premises Awards



Kildare County Council has launched the Kildare Age Friendly Programme for 2024, in collaboration with Age Friendly Ireland, which aims to deliver a series of supports, training and accreditation to businesses to assist in the enhancement of age-friendliness county-wide.

The programme was launched at the recent Pride of Premises Awards on 5th March by Cathaoirleach of the County of Kildare, Cllr. Daragh Fitzpatrick, and Orlaith Carmody, Principal Advisor for Age Friendly Ireland's (AFI) Business Recognition Programme.

The Age Friendly Programme will form part of the Shopfront Improvement, Universal Accessibility and Age-Friendly (AF) Grant scheme.

Kildare County Council hosted the Pride of Premises

Awards which recognise the efforts business owners across Kildare's five municipal districts in enhancing their premises through Kildare County Council's Retail Support Schemes. The event took place in the Keadeen Hotel, Newbridge, and was attended by over 70 businesses, elected members and special guests.

Square Coffee, Athy, was the Overall County Winner while Lips & P's, Naas, took home the award for Overall Window Merchandising for the second

year running. The award in the Accessibility and Age-Friendly category went to the Castle Inn, Carbury, honouring the parameters and requirements of universal accessibility.

Opening the Awards, the Cathaoirleach of the County of Kildare, Councillor Daragh Fitzpatrick, said “I’m delighted to launch Kildare County Council’s Age-Friendly programme, and we are keen to assist businesses in embracing age-friendliness and universal accessibility on their premises. The statistics show that over 50% of spending in our towns and villages is attributable to those over 55 so we’ll be encouraging businesses across the County to apply for grant aid, attend the training sessions and receive accreditation to become age-friendly champions.

Sonya Kavanagh, KCC Chief Executive, said “The economic benefits derived from the proactive engagement of the County’s businesses with Kildare County Council’s Retail Support Scheme. In 2023, we approved funding of €159,851 for 97 businesses to enhance their shopfronts and premises; this funding also draws on the Window Merchandising Grant appreciating the seasonality element of doing business locally.

Smart shopfronts make a town feel more prosperous, improve its image and contribute towards a stronger sense of identity and universal accessibility provides equality for all citizens. The awards are an excellent opportunity to recognise the efforts of the business community to promote and develop an enhanced

Category	Winner	Runner Up
Overall Shopfront	Square Coffee Bar, Athy	Judge Roy Beans, Newbridge
Athy MD Shopfront	Square Coffee Bar, Athy	Gillen Jewellers, Athy
CBLX Shopfront	Sketch - The Label, Leixlip	So Coffee, Leixlip
KDNB Shopfront	Judge Roy Beans, Newbridge	Violets, Kildare Town
Naas Shopfront	Hairography, Naas	Jam Music, Naas
CLMN Shopfront	L’Art Du Chocolat, Maynooth	Sarah Warren Skin, Maynooth
Overall Window Merchandising	Lips &P’s, Naas	So Coffee, Leixlip
Accessibility Award	The Castle Inn, Carbury	The Spout, Kilcullen

Category	Winner
Retail E-Commerce Champion 2024	Sundae Scoops, Newbridge & Naas
Retail Sustainability Champion 2024	The Maynooth Bookshop, Maynooth

customer experience.”

Awards were also given to winners and runners-up across each of the 5 Municipal Districts in County Kildare. The Retail E-Commerce Champion and the Retail Sustainability Champion were inaugurated this year and were awarded to Sundae Scoops and the Maynooth Bookshop respectively for their application of the Kildare Local Enterprise Office’s advisory and

grant support.

Closing the event, Jacqui McNabb, Head of Enterprise and Economic Development for Kildare County Council, commended the businesses on their efforts and encouraged businesses to continue their uptake of Kildare County Council’s support in 2024 and to give special consideration to the Council’s Age-Friendly programme.

EASTER EGG HISTORY

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

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

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

Why do we have Easter eggs at Easter?

The story of Easter starts with the last supper.

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

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

Chocolate eggs

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



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was born.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For colourfast egg dyes, mix 7-8 drops of food colouring into 1 cup of hot water. Stir in 1/4 cup vinegar. For more intense colours, use small amounts

of professional-quality food colouring gels or pastes, available at craft, cake decorating and kitchen supply stores.

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

Store finished and dried eggs in empty egg cartons.

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Lap and Chat

Host a Lap and Chat at your school, club or crèche this March and support Ireland's only 24 hour listening service for children and young people nationwide!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

To find out more about the campaign, including information on

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

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

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

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Councillors visit delayed Lucan Pool

Councillors representing the Lucan/Palmerstown/North Clondalkin area were invited to a site visit of the delayed Lucan swimming pool.



The visit included a walk around the building and the overall site. The project has been marred by delays caused by a number of issues, including supply chain problems, connection to utilities and labour shortages. The project began construction in 2019 and has been highly anticipated by the local community who have been campaigning for decades for a public swimming pool in Lucan.

People Before Profit councillor Madeleine Johansson, who attended the site visit, said: "It was great to get the opportunity to go in and see what the building will look like. The quality and standards seem to be very high, and the pool will be an incredible amenity for the community once it's finished.

"However, it really shouldn't have taken this long to get here, and we still don't have a date for the opening of the pool. This is deeply frustrating for local residents who have been waiting so long for this. The delay in connections to utilities like electricity and water is causing problems on other projects such as social housing. Utility connections should be prioritised for public projects."

Mark Kerins, long time Lucan resident and People Before Profit representative, commented: "I've lived in Lucan all my life and we have needed this pool for decades. The delay to the pool shows why we need a state-owned construction company that could deliver both housing and facilities like this in a timely manner with full accountability."



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Seachtain na Gaeilge 2024

By: Darren J.Prior

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

estate road signage (and some street signage) erected must display the Irish language and English language road names in equal size.

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

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

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

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

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