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JUN/JUL 2023

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EDITORIAL

Our cover features the surprise visit to Kildare of Bruce Springsteen, ahead of his recent Dublin concerts. There is a cultural theme to several of our articles this edition with news of Summer open air theatre, poetry and art exhibitions. Our focus on a town this edition is the historical Celbridge.

We try to keep our news local but are happy to include items of general interest. We welcome contributions from local schools, community and sporting groups so please send us news of forthcoming events.

Send by email to littlevillagenewsdesk@gmail.com.

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Ronan Bright
Director / Head of Sales
brightronan83@gmail.com
085 199 8321



Patrick Browne
Graphic Design
hello@patrickbrownedesign.com
086 831 9322

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All correspondence should be addressed to:

Little Village Magazine, 11 Cherryhill Avenue, Kells, Co. Meath.
Creative Top Publishing Ltd. publishes Little Village Magazine.

Company registration No. 534480

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BANK HOLIDAYS

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



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

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

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

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

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

The remaining public holidays in 2023 include:

June

The June bank holiday is on Monday, June 5

August

The August bank holiday is on Monday, August 7

October

The October bank holiday is on Monday, October 30

December

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

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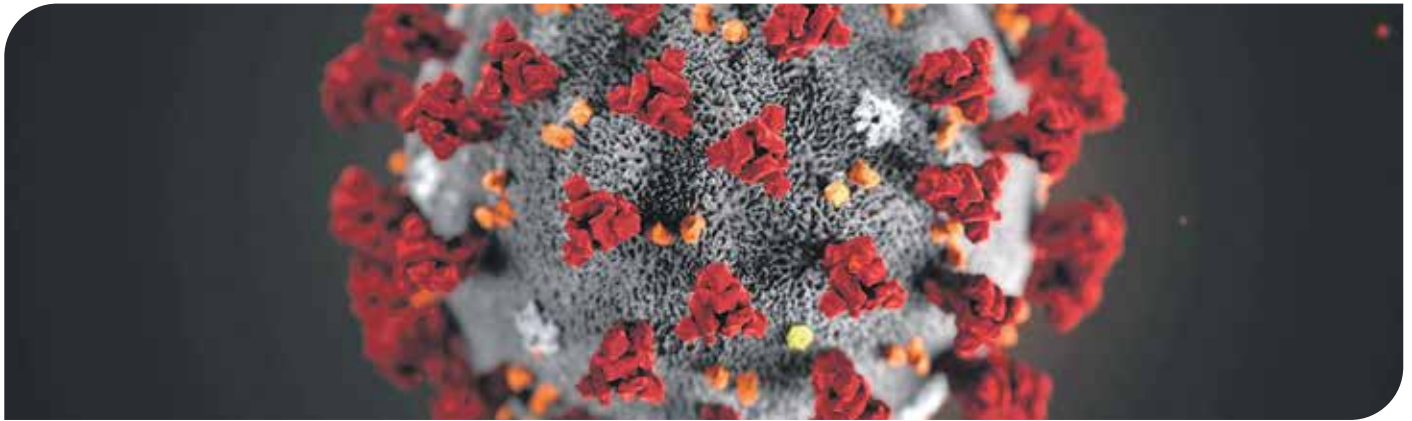


Contact Paul 085 1085 502 or 01 6271 386



The end of COVID?

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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13,438 - Council's Housing Waiting List Numbers Continue to Rise

A Sinn Féin councillor has expressed serious concern at the number of households and individuals on South Dublin County Council's housing waiting list and across all categories. Derren Ó Brádaigh, a councillor in the constituency of Dublin Mid-West was criticising the government when speaking to what he has described as a housing and homeless 'catastrophe by design'.

Ó Brádaigh represents families and communities within areas such as Lucan, North Clondalkin, Palmerstown and Balgaddy and says that both he and his colleagues are dealing with a worrying number of people staring into the housing abyss with little or no immediate solutions to offer.

Cllr Ó Brádaigh said;

"Only this week, I received figures confirming that as of 1st April this year, we had a total of 13,438 adults and children across 5,888 family households on my own local authority housing list here in South Dublin. From the total number 43% are children, giving rise to real social, educational and health related concerns for so many of our younger dependents being afforded the stability required to meet their full development and potential. The figures are extraordinary given that we are only one local authority within just one county. There are 5,094 on the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) transfer list. There are almost 1,300 awaiting housing transfer with 40% having approval on grounds of specific medical requirements. Many of these are also children.

"Every week, we as councillors receive the list of available properties on the council's 'Choice Based Letting' (CBL) housing system. Those that do qualify on the council's housing list are encouraged to express interest where they feel properties will meet their family needs. Every week I personally find it increasingly difficult to even share this list, as the offerings are simply paltry. Recently, I took a closer look at the actual numbers over the course of the past 16 months, being offered, and by bedroom size on CBL. In all of 2022 there was a meagre 262 homes in total available. This year to date there has been 15 one beds, 48 two beds, 33 three beds and no four-bedroom size units whatsoever.

"Whilst schemes such as the tenant-in-situ is hugely welcome, this in itself is not going to dent the bigger problem. The processes within the scheme itself needs to be examined further in my view, and local authorities need to allocate adequate staffing to deal with expressions of interest by landlords keen to sell to the local authority. Also, greater engagement and sharing of information with both council tenants and private homeowners that may be interested in 'Rightsizing' into Age-Friendly council-built developments within existing communities needs to be more accessible, with more of these developments being

built. According to 2021 Eurostat data, almost 7 out of every 10 people in Ireland are over-accommodated, that is, living in housing that is too large for their needs. I was happy to support the council's 'Rightsizing' policy when it was introduced 2 years ago, however I believe that most people that could potentially consider such a scheme as an option if they so choose, actually know very little if anything about it.

"Government now needs to recognise and acknowledge the plight of thousands of people and wake up to what the local authority figures are continually telling them each month, and in response declare a national housing emergency. This demands a degree of social conscience, empathy, and ambition to be the driving factors toward the delivery of long overdue and necessary social and affordable homes, to be built on the required scale to address today's emergency and begin to resolve the over-reliance for far too long on the private rental sector."



Cllr
Derren Ó Brádaigh



Lucan-Palmerstown
Nth Clondalkin
Balgaddy-Fonthill

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Kildare County Council announces 2023 Commercial Incentive Grant Scheme

Kildare County Council has opened applications for the Commercial Incentive Grant Scheme for 2023.



The scheme, which aims to encourage reoccupation of vacant commercial premises in Kildare, offers a three-year grant to eligible entrepreneurs/businesses who occupy a property that has been vacant for a period of at least two years.

An attractive, vibrant commercial area contributes positively to a location's retail and economic growth, by boosting footfall and encouraging a longer stay by shoppers and visitors.

This scheme, which will complement the highly successful Shop Fronts Grants Scheme already available through Kildare, aims to promote business creation, enhance the prosperity of our commercial spaces and improve the economic welfare of Kildare's towns and villages.

Further details and the on-line application form can be accessed through Kildare County Council's website on <https://consult.kildarecoco.ie/en/content/commercial-rates-incentive-grant-scheme-2023>

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Supplied & fitted
€25 Per Week

The search for the remains of Patrick Sarsfield, 1st Earl Of Lucan

The search is now on for the remains of Lucan Hero Patrick Sarsfield in the town of Huy in Belgium.



Huy Belgium



Patrick Sarsfield

Patrick Sarsfield was born around 1655 and was a leading military figure fighting for King James 2nd (Jacobite) against King William of Orange (Williamite) in the late 17th Century.

His family were Catholic and were a mixture of Old English and Gaelic nobility. His mother was an O'Moore.

Patrick's family lived in what is now the demesne of the Italian Embassy in Lucan.

Patrick served with distinction leading a famous and daring cavalry raid at Ballyneety to blow up the ammunition train of the Williamite forces in August 1690 which forced the lifting of the siege of Limerick.

He subsequently surrendered the City of Limerick in October of the following year and led the "Wild Geese" to France to fight on under the French King Louis 14th. The Wild Geese were the surviving soldiers

and their families.

He was wounded, fighting for France, at the Battle of Landen in 1693 and died in early August in Huy where he was interred.

French Consul Loic Guyon, lecturer in Mary Immaculate College in Limerick is the leader in the search for Patrick and is organizing a dig this Summer.

If anyone or any business in Lucan wants to help, there is a go fund me option "Sarsfield Homecoming Project"

Limerick City are very interested in retaining any remains found but there is a strong case for returning Patrick's remains to the family graveyard in Lucan behind Kenny's pub in the beautiful Medieval cemetery of the Church of the Immaculate Conception.

Patrick Sarsfield, Lucan Hero, deserves a statue in the Village and an interpretative centre for the Jacobite wars. A great tourism project.



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Aldi rolls out autism-friendly hours across all stores

Measures Will Be Implemented Every Tuesday Between 6.30 – 8.30pm

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



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

During the autism-friendly hours, ALDI stores will:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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‘Finding Form’

An exhibition of selected works from Kildare’s Municipal Art Collection at Riverbank Arts Centre



Selectd works from Kildare County Council’s Municipal Art Collection came to the McKenna Gallery at Riverbank Arts Centre in April in an exhibition curated by Paula Barrett. The exhibition was officially opened by Cathaoirleach of the County of Kildare Cllr. Fintan Brett.

The public are encouraged to come along and explore artwork from Kildare County Council’s Municipal Art Collection (MAC) which was established in the 1970’s. The collection, which is normally displayed in public buildings across the county, has been revisited and a selection of work has been specially curated for this exhibition.

A municipal collection is a body of work that is in the process of becoming, and therefore is not easily defined. The works chosen from the collection echo this feeling of flux, of taking form, the momentary becoming monumental through time and context and medium. Included among the selection are artworks by Niamh O’Malley, Isabel Nolan, Gillian Lawler, Shane Hynan, Emma Stroude, John Minihan, Seán Cotter, Rebecca Peart, John Behan, James Nolan, Derek A. Fitzsimons and Dominic Turner.

Curator Paula Barrett, who recently joined the Kildare County Council Arts Service team, reflects on her process of curating this small selection and the responsibilities of Kildare

County Council as a purchaser and a caretaker of the extensive collection: “This has been a great opportunity to get to know the works in the Kildare MAC, to take time to reflect on the purchasing policy and what it means to care for and interpret a municipal collection.”

Lucina Russell, Arts Officer, Kildare County Council states “It is fortuitous, indeed, that Paula Barrett, a practicing visual artist, joined the arts team as Assistant Arts Officer last year and has embraced the opportunity to curate this exhibition from Kildare’s Municipal Art Collection. She brings a wealth of experience and casts a fresh pair of eyes on this vast collection, to prepare ‘Finding Form.’ The collection belongs to the people of Kildare and I hope they actively engage with the exhibition and accompanying panel discussion and workshop.”

‘Finding Form Workshop’

A workshop exploring the theme of ‘Finding Form’ will take place on Thursday 25th May at 7pm, more details will be available on www.riverbank.ie

Finding Form – Selected Works from Kildare’s Municipal Art Collection runs in the McKenna Gallery until Saturday 27th May. Admission free.

For more information please visit www.riverbank.ie

Kildare County Council announces winners of the Pride of Premises Awards

Kildare County Council hosted the Pride of Premises Awards on Tuesday 28th, March, recognising the efforts business owners across the county have made in enhancing their shop fronts and streetscapes through the Kildare County Council Retail Support Schemes.

The ceremony took place in the MERITS - Mid-Eastern Regional Innovation Think Space building in Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas. Through the Shopfront, Accessibility & Age Friendly Grant Scheme and the Retail Window Merchandising schemes businesses across Kildare were awarded funding to carry out works that have improved the appearance of their shop fronts or commercial properties.

Boyle's Bar was the overall County Winner while Lips & P's took home the award for Overall Window Display. Awards were also given to winners and runners-up across each of the 5 Municipal District areas. The award in the Accessibility and Age-Friendly category went to Shining Stars Academy, Athy, honouring the parameters and requirements of universal accessibility.

Sonya Kavanagh, Chief Executive of Kildare County Council joined Leas-Cathaoirleach, Councillor Joe Neville in presenting the awards to the respective winners, and said "The Pride in Premises awards are a great opportunity for us to recognise the fantastic efforts and commitment of business owners across the county in enhancing their shop fronts and streetscapes, and their contribution to our vibrant towns and county. We are proud to continue to support businesses across Kildare through our suite of retail supports and I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of the nominees and winners."

Kildare County Council established its Retail Support Scheme to financially assist and support independent business owners to improve the appearance of their shopfronts/commercial properties. Shopfronts help form people's first impressions of a town centre, so their condition can really affect a town's image.

In 2021 and 2022, Kildare County Council funded businesses to enhance their shopfronts and premises to the value of €247,271; Kildare businesses also draw on the Window Merchandising Grant appreciating the seasonality element of doing business locally. These funds, combined with matched funding from the businesses, totalled €589,883.18 spent in the local economy over the past 2 years.

The entrants for the Pride of Premises Awards were adjudicated by an independent panel of judges comprising Denise Doyle, a retail consultant and MD of Retail Republic, and Vivian Cummins, a registered architect and co-owner of Dooley Cummins Architects + Engineers.



Kildare County Council, Pride of Premises Awards 2023 Results:

OVERALL WINNER: Boyle's Bar
Runner-up (overall): House 41

Accessibility:

Winner: Shining Stars Academy, Athy
Runner Up: HOMESbyDESIGN.ie, Naas

Overall Window Display:

1st: Lips & P's
Manley's Menswear

DISTRICT WINNERS

ATHY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Winner: House 41
Runner-up: Royal Garden

CELBRIDGE/LEIXLIP MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Winner: OBUS School and Wellness Centre
Runner-up: Tara's Boutique

NEWBRIDGE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Winner: Boyle's Bar
Runner-up: Roche's Barbers

NAAS MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Winner: Lock 13
Runner-up: Adora & Co.

CLANE/MAYNOOTH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Winner: Bob & Kate's Gift and Home
Runner-up: Ob1 Hair

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Clr Vanessa Liston

Cathaoirleach Celbridge-Leixlip
Municipal District July 2022-2023



vanessa.liston@greenparty.ie



086 140 8681

To see and provide feedback on how I am working on your behalf, please see my website, where updates on my activities, focus areas, projects, and issues raised in Council are published: www.vanessaliston.ie

My office is open for appointments.

I look forward to meeting to discuss your issue or query.

ADDRESS: Unit 6, Riverview, Dublin Road, Celbridge

See the new Facebook page of Members of the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District for announcements of meetings and news.



www.swiftandvanessa.com

Programme of Festival Events

FRIDAY JUNE 2ND - MONDAY JUNE 5TH

Celbridge, Co. Kildare

2nd
JUNE

Vanessa and Swift: A (complicated !!) love story

A talk by Dr. Brendan Twomey & Harpist Mary Keenan

Venue: Slip Hall, The Slip, Celbridge

Time: 7.30 - 9pm - Free Entry

This talk will explore the fifteen-year long, and in the end tragic, love story much of which took place on the banks of the Liffey in Celbridge Abbey. It will be interspersed with beautiful pieces by Mary Keenan. Register by email to info@swiftandvanessa.com

3rd
JUNE

Children's Storytime

Children's Swift & Vanessa Storytime

Venue: Tea Lane Church, Church Street, Celbridge

Time: 11am - 12:30pm - Free entry

This event for children ages 7-10 will bring to life the story of Swift and Vanessa in Celbridge Abbey and also extracts from Swift's wonderful fairytale Gulliver's Travels. From 11am - 12:30pm at Tea Lane. Limited number of places. Register by emailing info@swiftandvanessa.com

2-5
JUNE

Tours of Kildrought House

Tours will be held at 11:00 each day from

Friday 2nd - Monday 5th June

Fee: 3 euro

The tours last for approximately 1.5 hours and will show the beautiful interior and gardens of this historic building and will hear its wonderful stories. The maximum number of people for each tour is 12. To book phone: 087 616 8651 or 01 627 1206 from the 20th May.

3rd
JUNE

Swift's Secrets *Play by Straffan Drama Club*

Venue: Kildrought Gardens, Main Street Celbridge

Time: 2 - 4pm - Free Entry

Swift's Secrets, written and directed by Geraldine O'Brien, will be performed by Straffan Drama Club on Saturday, June 3rd, 2023 at various times between 2-4pm. It takes place outdoors, is 30 minutes in duration, and requires walking on uneven ground. Booking is essential, text 0872618118.

Readings: 'A Mighty Pain to Love It Is'

Venue, Tea Lane Church, Church Lane, Celbridge

Time: 4 - 6pm - Free Entry

Dramatised readings of the Correspondence of Jonathan Swift and Esther van Homrigh of Celbridge 1710-1723 by Seamus Cummins. Read by actors Bob Tysall and Camilla With.

3rd
JUNE

Celtic Tenors with Masterson Supported by Mary Conroy

Venue: Christchurch, Castletown Gates, Celbridge

Time: Saturday, 8pm - Entry: 10 euro

Enjoy a musical evening to celebrate the love story of Swift and Vanessa with the Celtic Tenors & Deirdre Masterson, supported by Mary Conroy. Contact Bridie O'Connor at 087 795 2271

3rd
JUNE

Family Fun Day!

Venue: The Slip, Celbridge

Time: Sunday, 2 - 6pm - Free Entry

Come along to the Slip for a fun day of family activities, including Checkers - one of Ireland's top social dancing bands. Performances also by the RAMS in Rhythm Men's Shed band, dancing, face-painting and circus performers.

4th
JUNE

'Swift and Vanessa' Play

Venue: Tea Lane, Celbridge

Time: First showing - June 4th Sunday at 8pm

Second showing: Monday 2 - 3 pm

Entry: Adults 10 euro or donation (for low/unwaged).

Tickets via Eventbrite for Monday

In 1710, Jonathan Swift met Esther VanHomrigh (Vanessa) in London. She became besotted with him. But what he failed to mention was that he had another Esther - Esther Jonson - in his life. Let us transport you back to the London of 1710, when the smartest man in the city met the strong-willed Vanessa. It was a meeting he was never allowed to forget and a story you won't.

4&5
JUNE



Senator *Emer* **CURRIE**

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📷 emercurrie1



process, but I will endeavour to keep you updated on progress.

SCHOOL BOOKS FOR PRIMARY AND SPECIAL SCHOOLS ARE NOW FREE

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

60 ACRES EXTENTION TO ST CATHERINE'S PARK

I am thrilled to say, that further to my representations, Fingal County Council has bought 60 acres to the North of St Catherine's Park on the edge of Dublin West. I understand the land will be used for recreational amenity purposes. New developments are coming at Barnhill and Kellystown, Hansfield and St Josephs in Clonsilla, it's really important we also have access to open space and that we protect sensitive land around the Liffey Valley.



BOARDWALK

Fingal County Council has agreed to build a new boardwalk at the entrance of St Catherine's Park to improve walking and cycling access. Government funding of €100,000 has been secured for this work.

LUCAN HOUSE

South Dublin County Council has also secured agreement "in principal" for the purchase of Lucan House, something I have been in favour of for many years. Access to the River Liffey and lands at the House would be transformational for the Village. This is subject to contract and the normal rigours of conveyancing and is currently very early in the

NO TO PARKING CHARGES IN THE PHOENIX PARK

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

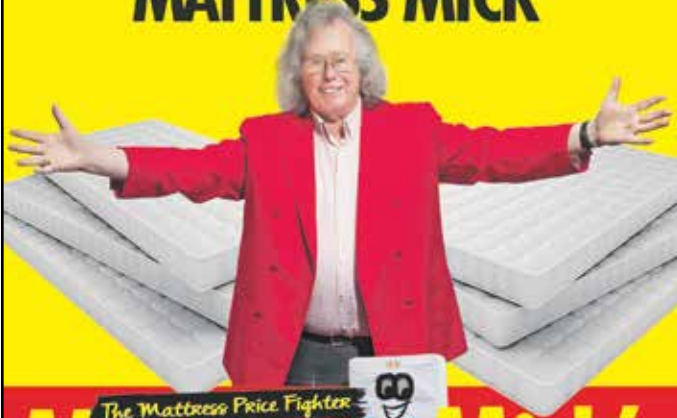
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A taste of my Council work ongoing in late Spring early Summer 2023! By Joe Neville

The last number of months have been an extremely busy period for me and the Council alike. Many projects I have worked on are coming to a key stage on their path to fruition while others continue to develop.

Along with pushing for investment in the Wonderful Barn, the issues with Ryevale House, the Leixlip Pop up swimming pool, issues with works on the Celbridge roads by Irish Water there has been a great deal of many other items to keep me busy.

One significant project I have been working on for a number of years now is the new playground at the Amenities Centre. I have pushed hard for KCC to put this as a key focus and I can confirm it will double in size the older playground. The new playground (1130m²) will be located at the Amenities site also to the east of the current playground. Currently, the site proposed for the playground is being rented as a worker carpark for the Intel construction site. To facilitate public access, a copy of the plans and particulars will be available for viewing in Leixlip Amenities Centre during normal opening times (Monday to Friday 6:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m., Saturday to Sunday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Public Holidays 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.) Hopefully that will be completed by next Spring.

The redevelopment of our towns and villages in Kildare are at the forefront of my mind. As we all know the situation for some brilliant business owners in Leixlip as in all villages and towns is tough. There are some positives with new coffee shops having opened and doing well there have also been steps backward with businesses closing. Unfortunately, though more so than any town centre in Kildare, Leixlip has suffered from lack of investment and vision from Kildare County Council. In response to my latest question on the vacancy issue in in Leixlip the response I got was "A Health-check and Town Renewal Plan for Leixlip is currently in draft format with Appropriate Assessment/Strategic Environmental Assessments screenings to be carried out. A presentation to the elected members will be arranged in the coming weeks prior to the commencement of public consultation. To inform the Draft document, the Public Realm team recently carried out vacancy surveys in Leixlip and Celbridge. The vacancy surveys are a snapshot in time given that a building that was vacant at the time of the survey could be occupied within a few months."

Ryevale House a beautiful period home built by Robert Laws the Barrackmaster General of Ireland has been a key focus in the last 3 months. A protected structure while being readied as an IPAS Centre it has been devastated by a lack of care and proper oversight over the last number of weeks. Without planning permission while working with the Minister Roderic O'Gorman



the developers have forged ahead against the processes set out by Kildare County Council. The fact that in his own words the Minister would say that the opinion of the providers planning consultant should be of any value when it contradicts KCC is indeed shocking. We are all obliged to follow local authority planning rules and guidelines and these developers should be no different. As a country we need to preserve our heritage and fight back when we see it stripped before our very eyes as is the case of what is happening in Leixlip right now.

To finish on a positive note the Pop Up Swimming Pool is coming to Leixlip GAA this June and it is something I have worked on with my council Colleagues for the last number of months. Organised by Swim Ireland & KCC it will be based on the Glen Easton Leixlip GAA site. Leixlip GAA are proving to be amazing partners on this project and I thank all in the club who have worked with on this. It will be there for 6 months from June to December so I look forward to seeing the great success of that.

Although that is just a few of the ongoing items for me I hope it gives a taste of my Council work ongoing in late Spring early Summer 2023!

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'Menu of Poems' to Celebrate Poetry Day Ireland

Poet Theo Dorgan selects 'Menu of Poems' for patients and staff of Irish hospitals for Poetry Day Ireland 'Menu of Poems' features 'Unlegendary Heroes' by Kildare poet Mary O'Donnell



To celebrate Poetry Day Ireland last month, a Menu of Poems is being distributed throughout Irish hospital wards, waiting rooms and other healthcare settings for patients, visitors, and staff to enjoy. The poetry was selected by Poet Theo Dorgan.

Menu of Poems takes the form of a short anthology of poetry distributed annually to healthcare users in a range of healthcare settings. Produced by Saolta Arts on behalf of Arts and Health Co-ordinators Ireland, supported by Poetry Ireland and HSE Health Promotion and Improvement, over 10,000 people in healthcare settings will receive the Menu on Poetry Day Ireland, including patients in Naas General Hospital, residents of St. Vincent's Hospital, Athy and nursing homes and day services for older people across County Kildare.

The anthology includes Mary O'Malley's poem The Hare, Pat Boran's poem Hedge School as well as Kildare based poet Mary O'Donnell's poem Unlegendary Heroes. The poets involved have also kindly recorded the poetry and it is available at <https://saoltaarts.com> and the Menu is available to anyone working in a healthcare facility to print and distribute in their own locations. There is also a bonus available on the website Theo's own poem The Promised Garden.

Since its conception in 2008, Menu of Poems has been a positive development in the lives of both patients and those who work in healthcare settings across Ireland. The poetry is circulated on meal trays in hospitals and other healthcare settings with participating healthcare providers organising readings and workshops for Poetry Day Ireland.

Theo Dorgan, Poet and Editor of the 2023 Menu of Poems, said: "This is a marvellous venture and it's a pleasure and an honour to contribute to it. Now more than ever we need words that speak to us in the direct

language of the heart. I chose these poems in the hope they will help steady the hearts of readers as they have steadied mine."

Liz Kelly, Director of Poetry Ireland, said: "Poetry Ireland is once again delighted to be involved with the Menu of Poems project in 2023. Theo Dorgan has imaginatively selected powerful, thought-provoking poems that we are sure will bring great pleasure to all who read them. Saolta Arts has done a tremendous job in producing and sharing this remarkable menu of poems."

Margaret Flannery, Arts Director at Saolta Arts, said: "Menu of Poems continues to grow its audience annually and I am delighted to work with my colleagues in Arts and Health

Co-ordinators Ireland, the HSE and Poetry Ireland to realise this special project. With the recordings and download available online the poetry can be accessed all year round in all healthcare settings for everyone to enjoy across the country."

Lucina Russell, Arts Officer, Kildare County Council commented that 'the local authority has been involved with this thoughtful and considered project from the outset, but it has particular resonance this year, with the inclusion of a poem by Kildare based poet Mary O'Donnell. I hope that the poems stimulate conversation and allow for reflection.'

The following local hospitals and centres will participate in Menu of Poems 2023:

- Arts and Health Programme at Tallaght University Hospital;
- Kildare County Council Arts and Health Programme;
- Naas General Hospital Arts Committee;

For more information on the Menu of Poems project and if your hospital or healthcare facility would like to take part email saoltaarts@hse.ie

Kildare County Council Local Updates

Cllr Ciara Galvin

Celbridge-Leixlip Electoral Area

Facebook: facebook.com/voteciaragalvin

Email: voteciaragalvin@gmail.com

Phone: 087 656 0474



Pop-up pool comes to our district
As of May 2023, anyone living in North Kildare will have the use of Swim Ireland's pop-up swimming pool at Leixlip GAA's Glen Easton Grounds.

It is really important that we make as much use of the pool as possible over the next 6 months, to prove that a permanent pool is needed and would be used in North Kildare.

Leixlip GAA's Glen Easton Grounds are a 10 minute drive or 15 minute bus journey (on the L59) from Celbridge main street.

It will be available to book by schools, groups and individuals/families, so dust off your togs, book a swimming session, and dive in!

Roadworks in Celbridge

It has been more than a year since the Irish Water sewer works started on the Dublin Road in Celbridge, causing major delays and disruption for everyone living in the town.

Along with four other local councillors, I will be inviting Irish Water to meet us in June, to inform us on the progress of the Celbridge sewer network project, and to discuss issues arising from the works.

If you have any points you would like me to put to them, please let me know.

Community grants open for applications

80,000 euro of Local Property Tax is available to help fund activities, studies or projects that will benefit Celbridge, Leixlip and/or Ardclough.

The 2023/2024 Community Innovation Grant Scheme is open to community groups, youth groups, sports groups, parents' associations, and all other local not-for profit groups, with a maximum total grant of 4,500 euro.

For more details, or a link to apply for funding, please contact me and I would be happy to send them on. The closing date for the scheme is Friday 2nd June 2023, but it would be best to have the form in well in advance as, in the interest of fairness, late submissions cannot be considered.

My work on the council

What I've been working on in 2022/2023

Our Youth Facility project is making good headway at the moment, following the publication earlier this year of a study we commissioned into what facilities young people in Celbridge need and want. Initial designs are currently being developed and potential locations discussed at our steering group meetings.



Other matters I have raised with the council over the past year include but are not limited to:

- the need for access to council owned lands along the Liffey in Celbridge for use as a community amenity
- various upgrades to footpaths, bus shelters, road markings and accessibility works
- the need to space out roadworks better
- seeking to re-open The Abbey Playground
- trialling an off-lead area for dogs in Celbridge
- seeking an update on the North Kildare swimming pool appeal
- factoring demand for GP services outstripping supply locally into planning applications
- the emergency accommodation crisis
- the parking of commercial vehicles in residential areas

I have also requested updates on the 3 schools' campus near Ballyoulster, the second bridge and link road project, updating public lighting to LEDs, flood relief in the Hazelhatch area, repairs to dangerous structures, unauthorised developments, action to protect pollinators, and much more besides.

I was recently appointed to the council's Active Travel subcommittee. I also sit on and contribute to the Climate Action SPC, Kildare Joint Policing Committee, and the Decade of Commemorations Committee.

Raising local matters with national reps

A few weeks ago we had Minister Kieran O'Donnell down in Kildare County Council. I only had three minutes to speak, but I packed in as many local matters as I could into my speaking time – the housing and rental crises, our pressing need in Celbridge for physical and social infrastructure like permanent school buildings, bridges, swimming pools etc. and not just houses, limited staff in Kildare County Council meaning important projects are stuck in the pipeline, and the failure of the OPW to purchase the site behind Castletown House when it went up for sale last year.

Kildare County Council Providing Another Support to Home Buyers

Kildare County Council has issued Advance Notice of a new Affordable Housing Scheme. The Local Authority Affordable Housing Purchase Scheme aims to help people on moderate incomes to buy new homes at reduced prices.



In the coming months, Kildare County Council intends to make new homes available for purchase in Kildare under the Local Authority Affordable Housing Purchase Scheme. In return, Kildare County Council will take a percentage equity interest in the home that covers the reduction in price.

The scheme is aimed at first-time buyers, but there are some exceptions for fresh start applicants.

You are a first-time buyer if:

- You have not previously bought or built a property to live in
- You do not own or have an interest in any property in Ireland or abroad

You are a fresh start applicant if:

- You previously owned a home, but you no longer have a financial interest in it because:

- You are now divorced, separated, or your relationship has ended
- You have gone through personal insolvency or bankruptcy

Eligible applicants are encouraged to take the time during this advance notice period to familiarise themselves with the application process and documentation, such as Mortgage Approval in Principle are advised. A minimum deposit of 10% of the purchase price of the property will also be required.

An online application system will be available as each affordable housing scheme is launched, meaning, there is no general application form or waiting list.

Eligible applicants can use the Local Authority Home Loan or a mortgage from any private lending institution, to finance their purchase.

A full list of required documentation and eligibility criteria are available at Affordable Housing – Kildare County Council (kildarecoco.ie).

All queries can be sent via email to affordablehousing@kildarecoco.ie

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Adamstown Community College named Ireland's Cycling School of the Year

Last month Lucan school Adamstown Community College was named one of Ireland's Travel Schools of the Year (Cycling Mode) at a ceremony in Dublin.



An Taisce Green-Schools presented the school with their award at the event honouring the winners of this year's Green-Schools BIG Travel Challenge 2023 in Haughton House of Dublin Zoo.

Eleven other schools were also awarded on the day for their efforts promoting sustainable and active travel modes to school.

During February schools undertook the Big Travel Challenge, which asked them to concentrate on one sustainable transport mode for two weeks to see if they could achieve real, lasting change in the travel behaviour of their staff and students. The Challenge is an initiative of the Green-Schools Travel theme, which is supported by the NTA and the Department of Transport.

Adamstown Community College, a school of 900 students, excelled and embraced the challenge. They concentrated on encouraging students to cycle to school and saw a significant increase in cyclists over the two-week period. Students and staff were also encouraged to set personal goals to reduce their carbon footprint from transportation- pledging to walk or cycle to school, carpooling with other students or colleagues, or using public transport instead of driving alone.

Congratulating Adamstown Community College and the other awarded schools on their achievements, Green-Schools Travel Manager Ciara Norton said: "My team and I have been so inspired by the many ways schools approached the Big Travel Challenge this year. The winning schools created incredible change in a short period of time,

showing the desire among young people to travel to school independently, actively and in a mode that is mindful of our climate and local environment. Well done to all!"

Eleven other schools were awarded for their part in promoting green travel modes to school as part of the BIG Travel Challenge. These are:

- Piper's Hill College, Walking School of the Year 2023, Secondary
- St. Mark's Junior National School, Walking School of the Year 2023, Primary
- Adamstown Community College, Cycling School of the Year 2023, Secondary
- St. Aidan's National School, Cycling School of the Year 2023, Primary
- Scoil Naomh Gobnait, Carpool School of the Year 2023, Primary
- St. Brendan's College, Carpool School of the Year 2023, Secondary
- St Brigid's National School, Park 'n' Stride School of the Year 2023, Primary
- Loreto Secondary School, Park 'n' Stride School of the Year 2023, Secondary
- St. Joseph's Special School, Special School Sustainable Travel Award 2023
- St. Cecilia's School, Special School Sustainable Travel Award 2023
- Scoil Mhuire, Big Travel Staffroom Challenge Winners 2023
- Presentation College, Big Travel TikTok Challenge Winners 2023
- St Brigid's National School, Meath Hill, Ireland's Travel School of the Year 2023



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TOTAL NIGHTS STAY

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TOTAL NIGHTS STAY

Lucan House & Spa

The known history of these lands and their occupation goes back to the time of the Anglo-Normans. Firstly, they were granted to Alard Fitzwilliam by King Henry II and then to Warris De Peche from Hampshire, England, sometime before 1204.

Lucan House



The known history of these lands and their occupation goes back to the time of the Anglo-Normans. Firstly, they were granted to Alard Fitzwilliam by King Henry II and then to Warris De Peche from Hampshire, England, sometime before 1204. He and his descendants possessed the land for over a century. The ruin of a tower house style castle exists in the grounds which appears to date from this time. The castle adjoins a medieval church ruin which was the Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Over the next few centuries there were various occupiers, including the de Nottinghams and the Fitzgeralds of Kildare until 1537. Towards the end of the 1500's the Sarsfield family came into possession of the lands. By this stage it is recorded that there were two castles on the lands at Lucan, as well as two water mills. The Sarsfields had almost continuous possession of Lucan Castle, as it was then, and the lands up to 1718, when James Sarsfield, the second Earl of Lucan, died without an heir. The title died with him.

His father was Patrick Sarsfield (1650-1693), first Earl of Lucan. He was renowned for his military involvements, fighting in support of James II, and in particular saving Limerick from William of Orange by blowing up his weaponry supplies. In 1692, after moving to France, he was appointed Captain of the second troop of Irish Lifeguards. In 1693, following the Battle of Landen in Flanders, Belgium, he died from wounds received and is buried in a town called Huy near the Belgian/French border.

The Vesey family then came into possession of the Lucan Estate when the Right Honourable Agmondisham Vesey

married Charlotte Sarsfield, his first wife and a niece of Patrick Sarsfield. She bore him two daughters but died not long after their marriage. He then married Jane Pottinger and had a number of children and whose eldest son was Agmondisham Vesey, M.P., Accountant-General of Ireland. In 1772 their son Agmondisham commenced the design and construction of Lucan House which still stands today, demolishing the castle to make way for it. He was named Professor of Architecture in Samuel Johnson's 'Utopian University' and seems to have been an amateur architect of notable talent. The oval dining room was possibly the inspiration for the oval room at the White House in Washington D.C., USA. Both are on an axis aligned to the front hall, and Lucan was built shortly before James Hoban, the architect of the White House, emigrated from Ireland in 1784. The delicate plasterwork at Lucan is by Michael Stapleton; the Wedgewood room has painted panels in grisaille and mauve trompe l'oeil, and a ceiling "pulled down at the corners like a tent" (O'Brien and Guinness). Agmondisham built the bridge over the River Griffeen in Lucan Village in 1773. When he died in 1785 Colonel George Vesey inherited Lucan House and the Demesne. His daughter Elizabeth married Sir Nicholas Conway Colthurst, and they and their descendants had possession of the Estate from 1836 to 1921. So, at the time of Griffith's survey in 1851 the principal occupant for Lucan House was Charles Colthurst.

After 1921 there were several owners until the Italian Government bought Lucan House and some of the Estate in 1954 as a residence for its ambassador. The remaining land is today a public park, Liffey Valley Park, or Lucan Demesne, running alongside the River Liffey.



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Thrift Shopping

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

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

- Good quality, clean unwanted and used clothes and shoes
- Bags and accessories
- Jewellery and valuables
- Second hand books
- Music (CDs, vinyl, DVDs, videos, instruments,



- and sheet music)
- Homewares: china, kitchenware, ornaments, pictures
- Soft furnishings: small rugs, linen, curtains
- Wedding dresses and accessories
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Open air theatre at National Stud and Castletown

Chapterhouse Theatre company have announced they will be returning to County Kildare for its 2023 Summer tour.



This summer, County Kildare residents will have the opportunity to enjoy three of Chapterhouse's productions in the beautiful surroundings of The Irish National Stud and Gardens, and Castletown House.

The theatre company will stage *The Secret Garden* on Friday, July 7, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* on Wednesday, June 21 at the national stud.

Both performances begin at 7pm.

On Saturday, July 1, Chapterhouse will perform *The Importance of Being Earnest* at 6pm at Castletown House in Celbridge.

Theatre under the open sky is the perfect pastime for those long summer evenings, and audiences are welcome to relax with a picnic while they watch the show unfold.

For tickets to *The Importance of Being Earnest* please visit www.eventbrite.ie or call 01 628 8252.

For all other tickets please visit www.seetickets.com or call 0044 871 220 0260.

More details of Chapterhouse's summer tours can be found by going online and logging on to www.chapterhouse.org.

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Chapterhouse Theatre Company presents Shakespeare's best-loved romantic comedy. Let yourself be whisked away on an enchanting journey to the most magical of forests and meet bewitched lovers, playful fairies, and hilarious travelling players.

Beautifully designed Elizabethan costumes, a wonderful musical score and fine performances come together to make this an evening of unmissable summer garden theatre.

One of Shakespeare's most famous comedies, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* follows three story threads as they are tangled together by fae trickster Puck; four young lovers traverse an enchanted forest on Midsummer's night, The Faerie King Oberon and Queen Titania feud with one another, and a travelling troupe present a play within a play.

Believed to have been written in 1595 or 1596 to celebrate an aristocratic wedding, ours is a story of order and chaos, waking and dreaming and love and marriage.

The Secret Garden

Written by Frances Hodgson Burnett and adapted for the stage by Laura Turner, join young Mary Lennox on her journey of discovery as she travels to her uncle's house deep in the Yorkshire countryside, where unexpected friends and magical creatures help her unlock the mystery of the secret garden.

This enchanting story, loved by children and adults alike, is presented in the beautiful setting of Irish National Stud and Gardens. Alive with music and song and featuring an array of especially designed creatures, *The Secret Garden* captures the spirit of summer and promises to be an unforgettable evening of magical theatre in magical surroundings.


Established in 1999, Chapterhouse Theatre Company is a critically acclaimed theatre company and has been touring for over twenty years.


Specialising in open air Shakespeare, classical literature, and family shows, Chapterhouse has recently embarked on a new venture of popular outdoor music concerts under the banner of 21st Century Events featuring, among other artists, tributes to ABBA, Queen, and Elton John.



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'The Boss' visits Kildare

Bruce Springsteen paid a surprise visit to the small Co Kildare town of Rathangan, as part of a low-key series of events exploring his Irish roots, ahead of his three concerts in Dublin.



His great-great-grandmother Anne Garrity emigrated from Ireland to the US and is believed to have left the Rathangan area in Co Kildare during the Famine, before later settling in New Jersey.

The US singer-songwriter visited a number of spots in the town on Thursday, in a trip that was kept under wraps

until late the evening beforehand.

During the visit Springsteen dropped in to see a local creative performance art youth group, as well as stopping into the Burrow pub in Rathangan where he gave a rendition of 'My Home Town'. Springsteen also visited a library in Newbridge where a presentation was made to the singer about his Irish ancestry.

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FOCUS ON CELBRIDGE

Celbridge, as locals know, is steeped in history. Its ties to the Conollys of Castletown, Arthur Guinness, Henry Grattan and Jonathan Swift are renowned.

There are several interesting local historic sites to visit.

These include:

Arthur Guinness Birthplace

Arthur Guinness, founder of the famous Guinness brewery at Saint James's Gate in Dublin, was born at Celbridge in 1725 and lived there for 30 years. The inventor of probably the world's greatest beer, and Ireland's most famous export, is commemorated by a life-size bronze sculpture in the heart of the town. 'The Duck' and 'The Village Inn' pubs on the main street mark the site where Arthur was born.

Here, at the birthplace of Arthur Guinness, visitors can learn to pour the perfect pint of Guinness stout, an experience not to be missed.

Celbridge Abbey

Celbridge Abbey, a gothic structure by the Liffey, was originally built by Bartholomew Van Homrigh, Lord Mayor of Dublin in 1697. King William III presented him with the gold chain still worn by holders of that office. His eldest daughter, Esther, was a close friend and correspondent of Dean Swift. Their relationship has always been a matter of conjecture, but it lasted from their probable meeting at Dunstable in 1707 to Esther's death in 1723. They saw each other in England and Ireland and corresponded frequently. In 1713 Swift was appointed Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin and Vanessa, as he called her, followed soon after to her family's houses in Dublin and Celbridge.

Despite their age difference of 21 years, Vanessa clearly expected that Swift would marry her. His



letters to her are affectionate, and suggest more, but he did not commit to marriage. She died in 1723 at the young age of 34, most likely of tuberculosis, but some say of a broken heart following a stormy visit to Celbridge from Swift. Nowhere is the heritage of 18th-century Ireland more strongly reflected than in Celbridge, linked with one of the literary giants of the period, Jonathan Swift, known worldwide for the pleasure he gave to generations through his writings, particularly the satirical 'Gulliver's Travels'.

To find out about the many places of interest in Celbridge visit <https://www.discovercelbridge.com/places-to-visit-celbridge/>

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Floatation Therapy & Wellness Hub



Float Well, floatation therapy and Wellness Hub, opened its doors in March 2023 to provide the people of Celbridge and surrounds with a home to look after all things mental health and mental strength.

One of the standout services at Float Well is Floatation Therapy. Floatation Therapy is relaxation through proven and tested scientific techniques. Removing your sensory overload allows your brain to drift away into the half-asleep/half-awake type Theta state, where mind and body restore and rejuvenate. Levels of the stress hormone Cortisol decline, while they are feel-good, happy hormone dopamine rises.

During the float, joints are supported and relaxed, and your lower back begins to decompress and align itself. Once your mind is at rest, your body can focus on healing itself naturally. As you remove the harsh effects of gravity, your joints, muscles and connective tissues begin to rest and recover.

Alongside Floatation Therapy there are classes offered in Mindfulness, Breathwork and Yoga with the introduction of Sound Baths and other recurring workshops from September.

The core message behind Float Well is to promote active participation in programmes and activities that align people more with the present moment, therefore reducing stress, anxiety and other ailments attached to the pace of the world we live in. Like a gym is designed to keep your body healthy, Float Well is a space to keep your mind healthy.

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The end of passwords?

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



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

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

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

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

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

Cllr **Liona** **O'TOOLE** **INDEPENDENT** **Peace Commissioner**



Mobile

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In attendance at today's full council meeting I'm glad to report the following news:

SDCC has secured agreement in principle for the purchase of Lucan house. This is subject to contract and the normal rigors of conveyancing and is currently very early in the process.

There will be updates to follow in time.

South County Dublin County Council 10th May 2023

Economic Development Enterprise and Tourism SPC meeting.

I got the opportunity to discuss development with the director of economic development, tourism and trade.

There was a broad support although it will need the backing at government level.



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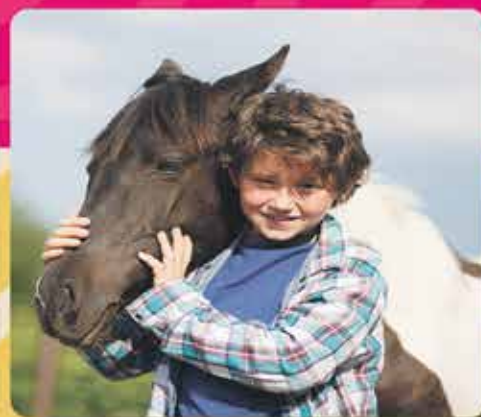
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