

ISSUE 03  
AUG/SEP 2022

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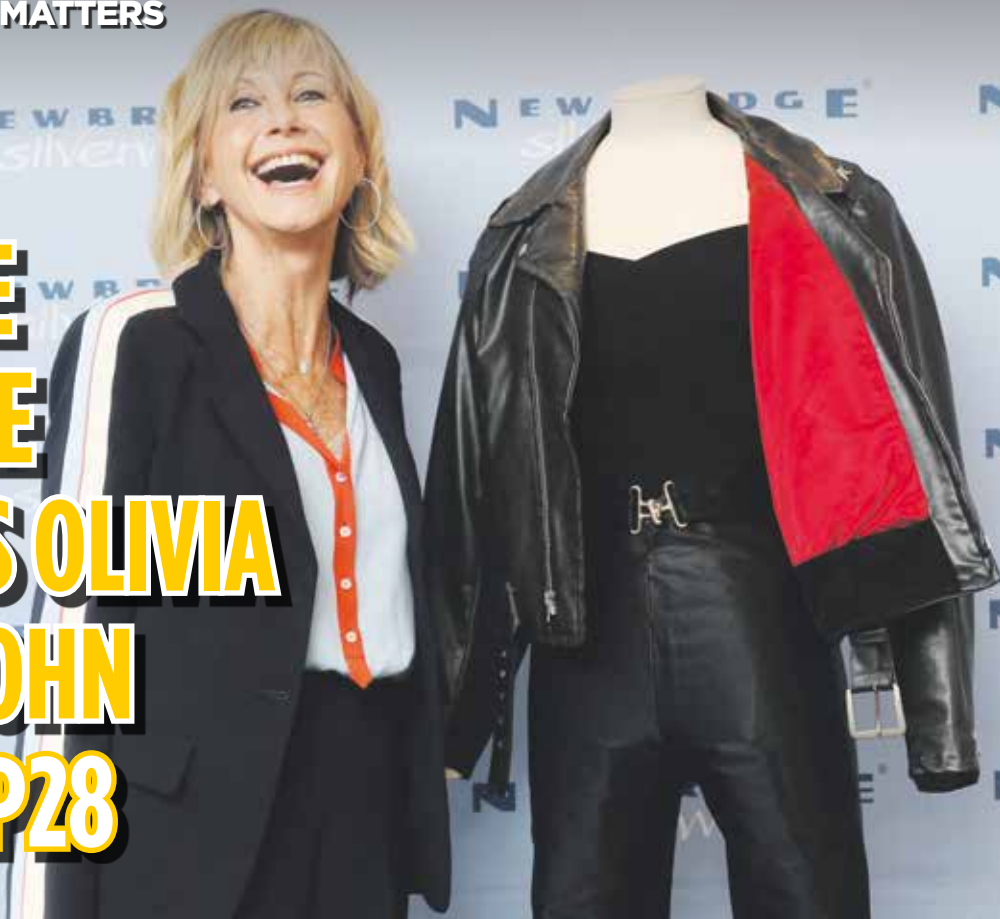
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**Cllr. Joanna Tuffy**

Lucan Electoral Area  
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My updates in this issue include -

- Canal Loop Greenway
- Adamstown
- Election as Deputy Mayor



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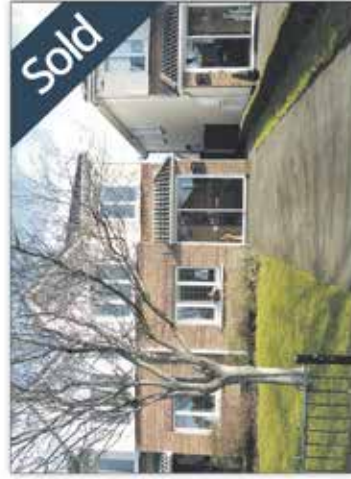
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## EDITORIAL

**W**elcome to the third edition of Little Village for Celbridge, Leixlip and Lucan. We continue to receive a positive response and are delighted that so many readers are enjoying our publication.

Our cover story for this edition is bittersweet. Sad because of the passing of a beloved singer and actor Olivia Newton-John alongside happy memories of her visit to Newbridge in 2019. To many Olivia Newton-John will be remembered best as Sandy in Grease, one of the most

popular musical films of all time.

We also have news of forthcoming events in Kildare, planning proposals and general interest stories. Features include famous Kildare landmarks including The Curragh Racecourse and The Wonderful Barn.

Do let us have suggestions about future stories and articles. Our next edition will be available by November 2022.

Kind Regards,  
Little Village



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# FIRST HOME SCHEME LAUNCHED

As part of the Government's Housing for All Policy, the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien recently announced the First Home Scheme.

**T**he new €400m First Home Scheme will help first time buyers purchase their own home by stepping in to bridge the gap between the finance a prospective purchaser has, and the finance they need, to buy a new home.

For example, a couple with an income of €70,000 who want to buy a home for €320,000. After putting up a 10% deposit (up to €30,000 of which can be Help-to-Buy), the most they can borrow is €245,000 (3.5 times their income). This leaves a gap of €43,000. The First Home Scheme will provide the amount as equity.

The Government's Housing for All Policy sets out a series of measures to deliver 300,000 new homes by 2030, including 90,000 social homes and 54,000 affordable homes.

## Referendum on housing in Ireland

The Housing Commission has today launched a public consultation seeking views on a Referendum on Housing in Ireland. The consultation asks submissions to consider whether there should be a constitutional amendment and if so, what form it should take. It's important that you make your views known on this subject and submissions are due in on Friday September 2 and you can find more details on the Commission web site.

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# The Curragh



**The Irish passion for horse racing is legendary and experiencing it at The Curragh is unforgettable. Hooves drumming, your heart is galloping faster than the thundering hooves, louder than the roar of the crowd as the horses race up the home straight...it's exhilarating being swept away by the energy of the galloping horses before you, sheer unbridled excitement.**

**T**he vast open grassy plain of The Curragh is at the very centre of Ireland's thoroughbred horse industry and the racecourse, in addition to regular race days, hosts all five Irish flat-racing Classics, including the oldest, The Irish Derby, originating in 1866.

The outlook from The Curragh benefits from one of the most spectacular backdrops in world horse racing - expansive views across the gentle rolling grassland plains in an area of historical, ecological and architectural importance.

Even on non-race days as you pass the 5,000 acres in the

morning, you are likely to spot long lines of thoroughbreds training thundering hooves, glistening coats, steaming breath in frosty air over the miles of flat, rich plains being put through their paces by trainers and jockeys- the very same horses that win prestigious races around the globe.

The Curragh racecourse occupies a spectacular location in both an ecologically and archaeologically valuable area at the heart of Kildare. The Curragh is recorded as a monument under the National Monuments Act and is a Special Environment location, and a proposed Natural Heritage Area.

The Curragh is an extensive flat plain with grassland as the dominant vegetation cover, with extensive clumps of gorse, and copses of trees both coniferous and deciduous vegetation is made up of typical indigenous trees and shrubs.

## Curragh Racecourse History

The word "Curragh" means the place of the running horse. As early as the third century there was chariot racing on The Curragh.

The racecourse has existed at The Curragh for over two hundred years, with the first recorded race meeting dating back to 1727.

In 1865 a commission was set up by the house of parliament to examine The Curragh, and the resultant 1868 Curragh of Kildare act settled the right of common pasture, and preserved the use of The Curragh for the purpose of horse racing and training. Since, The Curragh is at the heart of the



Irish bloodstock industry and host to some of the finest racing not just in Ireland, but internationally too.

In the 1760's, the Irish Turf Club was founded in Kildare and quickly became established as the Governing Body for horse-racing, not just on The Curragh, but throughout Ireland.

The 5,000-acre Curragh Plains are one of Europe's oldest grasslands.

Legendary Fionn MacCumhaill and his warriors raced their horses here from the nearby Hill of Allen fortress. It is said that 3rd century kings and chieftains raced their chariots here. Softer echoes carry tales of pre-Christian gatherings here of all the people of the Kingdom of Leinster, or of the 5th century King of Leinster granting St. Brigid all the land she could cover with her cloak - and it stretched out, right over the plains.

The Sport of Kings - Records show 17th century noblemen's match racing- where two owners pitted their horses against each other on a 4-mile course on The Curragh.

Later cavalry trained here before going to battle to the Crimea, the Boer War and the First World War.

Within the grassy plain of The Curragh, there are almost 200 archaeological monuments and numerous features of cultural heritage have been identified.

#### Location

The Curragh racecourse is located in County Kildare, on the edge of The Curragh plains, approximately an hour outside of Dublin (50km).

The Curragh Racecourse is situated on approximately 860 acres of land on The Curragh. The total site extends to 4,870 acres.

## Cllr. Shane Moynihan

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# Kildare County Council progressing exciting plans for Outdoor Teen Facility in Celbridge

Provision of outdoor recreational space for teens is a key priority in Kildare County Council's Play Strategy 2018-2028 and the Kildare Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC) Plan 2019-2021.

**T**he COVID-19 pandemic heightened awareness of the value of outdoor community space and the need for safe and welcoming spaces for young people. The need for outdoor facilities for teens in Celbridge has been highlighted by young people and parents via local school surveys and consultations.

Kildare County Council in conjunction with other community stakeholders have been working on plans to meet the need to provide an outdoor recreation facility(s) for young people in Celbridge. The initial work has concentrated on establishing a steering group to oversee the project. This Steering Group comprises staff from the Community & Culture Department in Kildare County

Council, County Kildare Children and Young People Services Committee, Foróige, Insync, St Wolstans Parent Council, Celbridge Community Council, Local Councillors and parent representatives from the Community.

The goal of the project is to enhance Celbridge as a teen-friendly town by creating safe and welcoming outdoor recreational space(s) for young people, within 2 years of starting the consultation, in a way that is owned by young people and is developed collaboratively with the community.

Work is now underway to engage young people in the project to have their say and guide the direction and ownership of the project and what it delivers. Dr Carol Barron from the School of Nursing, Psychotherapy and Community Health, Dublin City University has been appointed to lead this engagement and will work with young people through various organisations across Celbridge who cater for young people. A report will be presented after this stage of consultation concludes in June.

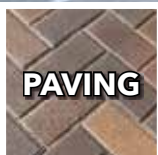
Kildare County Council plans to use the findings of the consultation to progress the development of an outdoor facility at appropriate location(s) in Celbridge.

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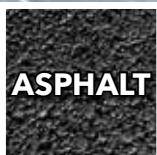
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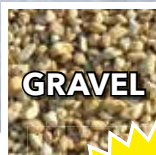
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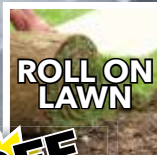
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# Late Late Toy Show date confirmed as young stars invited to apply

Come on all you young and upcoming talent of D15, now is your chance to get your application in and hopefully we will see you on the Toy Show later this year.



**R**yan Tubridy - "We are going to go large this year. I had a great chat about it last week, and it's going to be very, very special indeed" Ryan Tubridy has confirmed that this year's Late Late Toy Show will take place on Friday, 25 November, with applications now invited from the young stars of 2022 on the rte.ie web site

The host was joined on his RTÉ Radio 1 show on recently by 12-year-old DJ Calum Kieran, one of the stars of last year's show alongside his five-year-old brother Jackson.

Announcing that applications are now open on the Late

Late Show website, the presenter told listeners: "We are going to go large this year. I had a great chat about it last week, and it's going to be very, very special indeed."

Offering advice to young applicants, DJ Calum said: "Just be yourself. Take your time. Have fun. And practice and make sure your video is ok! Even just a half an hour, fifteen minutes a day - that's all it takes."

Having supported DJ Jenny Greene at her Iveagh Gardens show during the summer, Calum added that he is very busy with "communions, confirmations, even 21sts, weddings".

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# Local Enterprise Offices join partnership to launch ‘You’re the Business’

## Google, Enterprise Ireland and the Local Enterprise Offices partner to launch ‘You’re the Business’

*A new digital training scheme for Irish SMEs*

*SMEs from County Kildare are encouraged to get online, to grow their digital footprint and expand internationally*

*SMEs from County Kildare could receive a customised suite of digital supports from Google, which includes a €1,000 Google ads package*

Google, Enterprise Ireland and the Local Enterprise Offices have announced a new partnership, with a focus on supporting Irish businesses to upskill digitally and enhance their online capabilities. The new ‘You’re the Business’ programme aims to accelerate Irish SME growth through digitalisation in the form of a free of charge online training scheme, as well as an SME reward programme. This comes after recent research from Google found that significant gaps in the areas of digital skills and competence remain a concern for many SMEs.

Through the new ‘You’re the Business’ digital platform, Irish SMEs will have access to a series of live and on-demand training sessions, geared towards supporting companies at all stages of their digitalisation journey, including those at early stages right through to those more digitally-sophisticated businesses who are ready to export globally. The training will consist of three modules that will help businesses understand how they can use digital to get online, grow online and expand internationally.

A recent comprehensive study from Google, developed in partnership with Amárach found that almost half of SMEs believe they could more than double their turnover (40%) and profitability (45%) with an investment in digital skills. The research also shows that SMEs believe that enhancing digital skills could increase environmental sustainability (21%) and reduce running costs (27%).

When it comes to training, the research found that 32% of Irish SMEs would like to invest time in digital skills training. This finding is supported by data from Google that confirms an increase of 1,100%<sup>[1]</sup> in searches for the terms ‘IT Course’ in Ireland since January 2022.

When it comes to technology, the research shows that more than one in every ten SMEs based in Ireland (11%) are not yet using digital technology in their business - almost half (45%) of SMEs do not have their own website [comparably higher than the EU average of 23%<sup>[2]</sup>] and 47% do not use social media and video platforms. In addition, almost half (46%) of Irish SMEs feel their employees have

- New ‘You’re the Business’ platform provides online training and resources for all Irish SMEs to help them get online, to grow their digital footprint and expand internationally
- Ten participants will be awarded with a suite of customised digital supports from Google, including one-to-one mentorship sessions and ad funding supports
- Recent research shows that almost half of SMEs believe they could more than double their turnover (40%) and profitability (45%) with an investment in digital skills
- Less than half (47%) of Irish SMEs have invested any time into digital skills training
- Almost half (46%) of Irish SMEs feel their employees have either ‘none’ or ‘few’ of the skills needed to successfully adopt and use new technologies

either none or few of the skills needed to successfully adopt and use new technologies and less than half (47%) of SMEs in Ireland have invested any time into digital skills training.

Damien English TD, Minister of State for Business, Employment and Retail said: “The skills required for doing business in a digital-first world are constantly evolving, and it can be challenging for SMEs to stay ahead of the curve as they manage their day-to-day business needs. Irish SMEs’ ability to adapt and thrive is both an inspiring and vital component of their success. To prosper on their digital journey, Irish SMEs need support and that is why I am encouraging businesses from across Ireland to engage with the You’re the Business initiative and would like to wish Google, Enterprise Ireland and the Local Enterprise Offices every success in its roll out.”

**Taking ten businesses to the next stage**

The ‘You’re the Business’ platform and resources are open to all SMEs, but ten participants that demonstrate a commitment to digital at different stages of their journey will be awarded with a suite of customised supports, including mentorship and ad funding. In order to be considered as one of the ten firms to receive a package of tailored supports, SMEs will be invited to submit a video [via the You’re the Business site] no longer than two minutes in duration detailing what their business means to them, as well as an example of how they have used digital to enhance their business. The ten SMEs selected by a panel of established judges will receive a customised suite of digital supports from Google, which includes a €1,000 Google ads package and expert mentorship across a range of technical areas that will help them to further develop their business.

Alice Mansergh, Director for Small Business at Google, said:

“Google, Enterprise Ireland and the Local Enterprise Offices have a long history of partnering with businesses to help them thrive. We’re proud to have been able to play a part in the growth of many Irish businesses over the last two decades, recently helping them navigate a global pandemic. Knowing that there is still a digital divide, where a significant proportion of Irish businesses are not online, even though their customers are, we are keen to come together to help. Getting





online can unlock so many opportunities for businesses. Digital skills will be important for driving competitiveness and navigating volatility in the years to come, and so will be important not only to individual SMEs but to the Irish economy overall."

Jacqui McNabb, Head of Enterprise and Economic Development, Kildare County Council said;

"For many small businesses taking the time to upskill and change processes, especially getting online, can be overwhelming. Over the past two years with Brexit and Covid, small businesses have needed to be reactive to a very challenging landscape, which has demonstrated the importance of businesses to develop and embrace

new skills. The Local Enterprise Offices have been to the fore with a range of supports to enable businesses get online and maximise their online presence with the likes of the Trading Online Voucher. By partnering with Google on this initiative we will continue to support all our small businesses. We want to encourage SMEs from across the Kildare region to engage with the You're the Business initiative to see how they can get online, grow online and one day expand internationally."

**For further information on the various training modules as well as the You're the Business competition, please visit: [g.co/yourethebusiness](http://g.co/yourethebusiness)**

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# Main Street in Newbridge

Kildare Co Council has announced plans to develop a Local Transport Plan for Newbridge that will propose measures for walking, cycling, public transport, car travel and parking in the town once complete.

**T**he local authority has launched a public consultation and is seeking engagement from those who live, work, study, shop or do business in the area on existing transport issues and the type of improvements that would be most beneficial to residents and visitors.

Recent statistics have shown a 45% increase in use of the train between 2015 – 2019 and that 67% of residents in the area use a car to get to work.

Furthermore, 52% of residents use a car to get to primary school and 38% of residents use a car to get to secondary school.

The current population of the town is 22,742 and KCC said the local transport plan will help improve conditions for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users when accessing key destinations such as school, employment and the town centre as well as public transport.

The online public consultation survey is now open and



the deadline for submissions is Wednesday 14 September. Submissions can also be made in writing. Further information on how to make a submission is available on the Kildare County Council web site.



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## Site in Kildare joins new World Heritage Tentative List for Ireland

Dún Ailinne (Knockaulin), Kilcullen is one of 6 on Royal Sites of Ireland collective

**K**ildare County Council in conjunction with other coThe Royal Sites of Ireland, a group of six unique collectives of largely prehistoric monuments and sites, have been announced as one of three successful bids to be added to Ireland's Tentative List for World Heritage status.

Dún Ailinne, (Knockaulin) in Kildare, is one of the six, and is located on private land owned by the Thompson Family on the outskirts of Kilcullen. In historic times the site was a symbol of Laigin or the Leinster kingship. At this time Leinster consisted of the south-east of Ireland and its northern-most border with Mide (Meath) was defined by the river Liffey. During this period the Leinster men were rivals of Uí Néill of Mide who were creating the myth that the Hill of Tara was the seat of the Irish High Kings from time immemorial. Not to be outdone, the Leinster men developed Dún Ailinne as the symbol of Leinster kings

Spread throughout the island, four of the sites represent the ancient Kingdoms of Ireland and its current provinces

of North (Emain Macha), South (Rock of Cashel), East (Dún Ailline) and West (Rathcroghan). Tara was the seat of the High Kings of Ireland situated in the ancient 'fifth' province of Meath (Midhe) while the Hill of Uisneach the 'omphalos' or centre was where the 5 kingdoms met.

Kildare County Council are excited to work with the Thompson Family and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to progress World Heritage Site designation for Dún Ailinne

The Royal Sites Steering Group is very much looking forward to starting their journey towards nomination. A critical element of this will be partnership, working with landowners, local and national stakeholders and the World Heritage Unit and the Department and we look forward to beginning this process together in the coming months.

Please note: Dun Ailinne is a privately owned and active working farm and therefore should not be accessed by the public unless they have spoken to the landowners, the Thompson family, and permission granted.





## An Garda Síochána announces commencement of new Operational Uniform

An Garda Síochána have announced that their new Uniform will become operational commencing at 7am on Monday 15th August 2022. Garda across the country, including Dublin, will be receiving the uniform in the coming weeks.

**T**his change, during the 100th anniversary year of the founding of An Garda Síochána, is only the third time that An Garda Síochána has undertaken a formal change of the Garda uniform.

Over the past number of months, a logistical operation delivered the new uniform to approximately 13,000 members of An Garda Síochána of Garda, Sergeant and Inspector rank, in excess of 560 Garda stations across every Garda Region, Division, District nationwide. Logistics were also in place to facilitate size changes and returns across the organisation.

The new contemporary uniform incorporates elements such as durability, protection and functionality and the new elements consist of:

- Two-tone Soft-Shell Jacket
- Two Tone Waterproof Jacket
- Garda Blue Polo Shirt
- Operational Trousers
- Practical Base layers

This is the first time that elements of the uniform, other than the uniform cap, will feature the Garda Crest and demonstrates the respect held by An Garda Síochána for this unique symbol as they enter the second century of policing in Ireland.

The current uniform cap remains in operation as a unique and distinctive element of the Garda uniform.

### Background Information:

A key finding of the internal Garda Cultural Audit 2018 was a desire from front-line Gardaí for a new, practical operational uniform. Over 6,500 members of An Garda Síochána contributed to the findings of the Cultural Audit.

The new Garda Uniform is also a key recommendation outlined in the Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland Report, 'A Police Service For Our Future'.

In developing the uniform, An Garda Síochána embarked on a bottom-up collaboration through the Uniform Committee of An Garda Síochána, including international research and implementing

a Pilot Project involving nearly 200 frontline Gardaí based at three Garda Stations (Tallaght, Henry Street and Bunclogh). These extensive collaborations and engagement designed An Garda Síochána's new uniform 'by Garda members, for Garda members'.

Following collaboration between An Garda Síochána and the Office of Government Procurement (OGP) at the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform the contract for the manufacture, supply and delivery of the new Operational Uniform was signed in February 2021, and was awarded to James Boylan Safety Ltd (T/A JBS Group), an Irish SME company based in Monaghan.

JBS Group are a privately owned Irish Company established in 1944 that specialises in the supply of operational uniforms and protective supplies.

The contract was designed to ensure that the supply chain demonstrated high levels of sustainability where possible. The successful contractor has been awarded Eco Vadis Gold Rating in terms of sustainability ensuring a combination of the following:

- Reduction in Waste through enhanced stock controls
- Upgrading of traditional styles to avoid unnecessary obsolescence
- Reduction in environmental impacts using a variety of recycled materials
- Provision of end-of-life solution for work garments

An Garda Síochána has previously updated our uniform policy to embrace the wearing of official headwear for religious and cultural reasons and beliefs including Turban, Kufi, Topi, Kippah, or Hijab.

### The project won the award for

'FM Project of the Year – Public Sector' at the 2022 Facilities Management Awards.

### The success of this project was also recognised in its nominations for the following awards;

- 'Best Manufacturing Procurement Project of the Year' and
- 'Best Public Sector, Semi-State or Government Procurement Project of the Year' at the 2021 National Procurement Awards.



# Lucan Festival 9-14 September 2022

Lucan Festival 2022 is a community-based festival and provides an opportunity for all groups and cultures.

**T**he festival will once again come alive on the second weekend of September, and you can join us for 5-day festival this year. COVID hit all the entertainment community right around the globe and like many festivals they had to shut down over the past 2 years. Now the festival is back and ready to once again make some noise in the Village of Lucan. Organisers hope you will also support local traders and generate additional revenue when you visit the festival.

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## Is another boom-bust cycle inevitable for the Irish housing market?

# Is history in the Irish housing market set to repeat itself?

In a 1948 speech to the UK House of Commons, Winston Churchill quoted a chap called George Santayana when he said his famous words, “Those who fail to learn from history are condemned to repeat it”. Having lived through the last global property crash like many of us here in Ireland, I cannot help thinking that we may be about to watch the next generation fall foul of the inevitable correction that will arrive.

**N**obody can predict when Irish house prices will witness a significant drop in value but there’s little doubt the cycle will repeat itself. The signs are there already with the supply/demand imbalance, prices & rents rising unsustainably beyond Celtic Tiger levels, very cheap mortgage rates (for now) and a failure of recent governments to control the housing issue.

### The Property Cycle

I certainly do not want to apportion blame to any particular entity, because it is almost always a combination of factors that lead to a property market correction. In fact, it’s something that every citizen of a modern economy should probably just get used to. A wise property developer I know, who has seen more property cycles than I have, explains property prices globally very well. They always undershoot or overshoot their fair value while they are going through their cycle – the prices never stop in the middle at fair value where there’s enough houses and everyone can afford one. So, if we look back over

30 years in Ireland and the UK, then trends in the housing markets will appear obvious in hindsight which should give us clues as to when we could avoid paying too much for a property in the future.

### Why are property prices so high?

The factors that lead to prices of the existing housing stock plus new built homes rising rapidly usually include cheap finance available from lending institutions, lack of supply versus demand and an overall backdrop of asset inflation. All these factors would usually cause prices to rise, but we have also had a few abnormal factors thrown into the mix which is causing the price rise to be even sharper. The Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in supply-chain interruptions whereby it has become much harder to get building materials from their producers’ location across the world. The cost of shipping containers has gone up significantly. The breaks in production because of lockdowns across the globe in 2020 & 2021 has caused huge issues for the supply of new homes. China is



currently witnessing partial lockdowns in certain regions due to another Covid variant which is having an effect. The Ukraine-Russia conflict has recently caused the price of many hard & soft commodities to surge which is the last thing the world needed.

### Prospects for new Borrowers

So, what could all this mean for your average 30-year-old couple on reasonably good, combined incomes about to embark on their first house purchase. And what should they be wary of locking in to a 25- or 30-year mortgage at a period of elevated house prices here in Ireland. I know that banks when they are lending do stress tests with the borrowers, to see what higher variable mortgage rates might look like for their monthly repayments and what a fall in the value of the house might look like for them too. Of course, it's impossible to predict how far house prices could fall when the market does correct, when this might happen and for how long will prices stay down for. The crash many of us witnessed from 2008 onwards was not a normal property market correction and the next one could be smaller in magnitude.

### Interest Rates

There is little doubt that mortgage rates in Europe will go higher in the next few years. This is because the only tool central banks have to combat rapidly rising inflation is to raise interest rates. Of course, higher interest rates benefits savers and penalises borrowers. The danger for purchasers in the near future is that they borrow too much, pay too much for the

house and possibly buy somewhere they didn't really want to live because other areas they preferred were even more expensive.

### Advice to the next generation

My two children are another decade or more away from being able to purchase their first home but if the exact situation existed right now when they are in their mid-to-late twenties then the advice I would give them might be as follows.

#### Ask yourself the following questions before you buy.

- Would I consider emigrating to an economy where I will get the same wages for my profession and the cost of housing or rent is far lower?
- Do I want to lock myself (and possibly my partner) into a 30-year mortgage obligation to a bank?
- Is the asset I am borrowing to buy very clearly overpriced in comparison to its historical trend? How will I feel if the price falls by over 25% and stays down for many years to come?

It's a very big life decision so I just hope our next generation do not walk blindly into making the mistakes of the past.

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# Cllr. Joe Neville

Over the Summer I was elected as Deputy Mayor for Kildare which was a great pleasure and privilege for me. I am looking forward to the year ahead working across the county and getting another perspective on Kildare County Council. Over the coming 12 month I look forward to promoting the county and especially North Kildare and showing off the wonderful locations of heritage and beauty.

I also believe it is important that North Kildare is a focus within the Council and the upgrading of Community facilities is key to that. We know that North Kildare provides a significant proportion of LPT and rates from industry but we also have seen that Leixlip and Celbridge in the past did not get the same level of community investment that other areas get. Therefore, I am delighted to say that in Celbridge, KCC has announced an agreement between the Council and the parish to purchase the Parochial House and lands, Main St, Celbridge. The council have plans to redevelop this significant building and site on the Main Street for the use of the community. Currently I am working on a project to develop a youth facility in Celbridge and its possible that along with a new library this new facility will become a key centrepiece for the area. Being heavily involved in local sports clubs and schools while also being a director of the youth centre in Confey and the Leixlip Amenities Centre I see at first hand the value of investing in our communities.

In Leixlip I have working with the sustainable Transport team a that will improve existing cycle infrastructure and promote safe active travel along the R148 Station Road, Leixlip from the eastern side of the Intel roundabout to the traffic lights at the Leixlip Garda Station (circa 1.35km). Also, work is continuing in the background to design and set out the new cycleway from the Leixlip Garda station up to the Castletown estate turn to make that busy area safer for all. On a separate note in Leixlip I am delighted to say that Leixlip GAA has been chosen for a new Pop-up swimming Pool facility in April 2023 for three months with Swim Ireland. I know its not the swimming pool that the area needs but it is positive step we can get behind in the community.

Lastly, it was a great honour as Deputy Mayor for Kildare to welcome the Rose of Tralee contestants to Kildare recently. Obviously based in Kerry but as part of the schedule the Rose tour has encompassed different counties and in this case I was delighted to push for North Kildare to be included. In Kildare the roses visited Ardcrough, the Cliff at Lyons, Leixlip Castle, Celbridge, Carton House, the K Club & Barberstown Castle. I have always advocated for the promotion of the North of the County and I was delighted to push for our area to be included in this promotional tour and indeed take part in it. In North Kildare we have a great legacy of beautiful buildings and amazing heritage I look forward to continuing to promote North Kildare and all it has to offer.







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### Conor Martin Managing Director



The firm was founded by Conor Martin in 2014 to provide a personal, professional and financial advisory service helping clients and their families to achieve their financial objectives. Conor has over 23 years combined experience in Capital Markets, Banking, Investment and Wealth Management working for Bank of America, AIB, Davy and Smith & Williamson throughout his career. He has an extensive financial products knowledge and advises on all aspects of pensions, wealth management, succession /estate planning, protection and retirement planning. Conor has achieved the internationally recognized Certified Financial Planner (CFP) accreditation. He is also a keen sportsman having won 2 All-Ireland Senior football titles playing in goals for Meath in the 90's. Conor also enjoys coaching underage GAA teams and is a self-confessed fine-weather golfer.

### Lisa Coghlan BBS (Business & Management), QFA



Lisa is one of our advisors who has built up a comprehensive knowledge in the financial services industry through a variety of customer focused roles including business banking, conduct risk and mortgages working for AIB and the Central Bank of Ireland. Lisa is passionate about empowering and supporting clients to make clear & educated financial decisions for their immediate and future goals. Outside of work, Lisa enjoys staying active and spends her evenings in the gym, hiking or walking with friends. When she's not doing those things you can usually find her eating or travelling!



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## A Timeline of the Civil War in County Kildare 1922-1924

As part of Kildare County Council's Heritage Week programme, Cllr Pádraig McEvoy, Chairperson of the County Kildare Decade of Commemorations Committee, has launched **A Timeline of the Civil War in County Kildare 1922-1924**.

**T**he new publication highlights local political, military, social and cultural episodes, and incidents in the county during the Civil War period, alongside some of the major events that took place across the island of Ireland. If you are curious about the history of Kildare, the publication will help you to navigate the period of the Civil War in the county. While the book is not a comprehensive history of the Civil War, it brings new information to light.

A Timeline of the Civil War in County Kildare 1922-1924 has

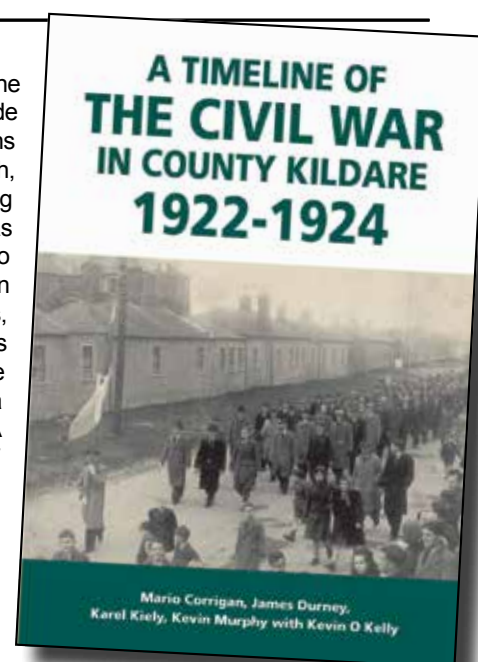
been supported by the County Kildare Decade of Commemorations Committee. The research, compilation and editing of this publication was undertaken by Mario Corrigan in conjunction with the Local Studies, Genealogy and Archives Department of Kildare Library Service. It is a companion volume of A Timeline of the War of Independence in County Kildare 1919-1922.

Complimentary copies of the publication will be available in all branches of Kildare Library and Arts Service in the coming weeks. It

is also available to download on the Decade of Commemorations webpage of Kildare County Library Service website:

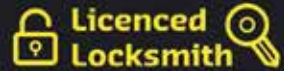
[kildarecoco.ie/Library/LocalStudiesGenealogyandArchives/DecadeofCommemorations/](http://kildarecoco.ie/Library/LocalStudiesGenealogyandArchives/DecadeofCommemorations/)

The County Kildare Decade of Commemorations Committee has been active in its work since 2015 to create a legacy of research and material for future generations. It is supported by Kildare County Council, Kildare Library and Arts Service, the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport, and Media under the Decade of Centenaries 2021-2023 initiative.





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## Kildare County Council sets out ambitious Housing Delivery Action Plan

Kildare County Council have launched an ambitious Housing Delivery Action Plan, which will see almost 3,000 social and affordable homes delivered across the county over the next five years.

**T**he Action Plan sets out how Kildare County Council and Approved Housing Bodies will provide new social and affordable housing through direct build as well as through turnkey and Part V arrangements.

The action plan outlines a commitment to deliver:

- A target to deliver 2416 new social housing homes
- 226 new affordable homes

The Housing Delivery Action Plan details how Kildare County Council will achieve the targets set in the national Housing for All policy in partnership with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and Approved Housing Bodies.

Over the period 2022 – 2026, Kildare County Council will deliver a range of housing including mixed-tenure schemes, increase social housing stock and address important issues such as affordability and vacancy.

Speaking at the launch of the action plan, Annette Aspell, Director of Services, Kildare County Council said: “The targets set out in this plan show Kildare County Council’s commitment to delivering social and affordable housing for the county and to playing our part in addressing this national challenge.

“This is an ambitious plan with a series of key objectives to be delivered by 2026. It is our ambition to continue working closely with our Approved Housing Body partners and with the Department of Housing to achieve these targets which will make a significant and positive impact on the supply of social and affordable housing in Kildare.”

This Housing Delivery Action Plan will build on the work already underway delivering on the ground with a total of 952 units delivered across the build, acquisition and leasing programmes in Kildare in 2021. In addition, schemes in progress to date this year include:

- Social Housing Delivery at Flinter’s Field, Athy
- Social Housing Delivery at Castlefen, Sallins
- Affordable Cost Rental Delivery at The Paddocks, Newbridge

The Kildare County Council Housing Delivery Action Plan can be viewed in full on the Kildare County Council website: [kildarecoco.ie/YourCouncil/Publications/Housing](http://kildarecoco.ie/YourCouncil/Publications/Housing)



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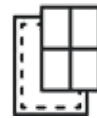
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# Newbridge Silverware and Olivia Newton-John

Newbridge Silverware recently issued a press release commenting on the death of Olivia Newton-John.

**T**he press release read:

Newbridge Silverware was saddened to hear the news that Olivia Newton-John, the legendary singer and actress, died on Monday 8th August, 2022.

The four-time Grammy award-winning singer, and Hollywood superstar, visited Newbridge Silverware and the Museum of Style Icons in 2019 when she officially opened the Olivia Newton-John exhibition.

The exhibition featured some of the star's most important costumes including her iconic "Grease" leather jacket and famous leather trousers. The exhibition was extremely popular and was on display from the 22nd July 2019 until the 18th August 2019 before it went back to the United States where it was auctioned by Julien's Auctions. A portion of the auction proceeds were used to benefit the Olivia Newton-John Cancer Wellness & Research Centre.

The British-born singer died peacefully at her ranch in Southern California on Monday morning at the age of 73. Her husband confirmed her death on social media. Olivia is best known for her starring role as Sandy in the 1978 film *Grease*, in which she appeared opposite John Travolta, who played Danny Zuko.

Writing on Instagram, John Travolta said "My dearest Olivia, you made all our lives so much better. Your impact was incredible." and

signed off his tribute to the actress as "your Danny".

On hearing the sad news of Olivia's death, William Doyle CEO of Newbridge Silverware said, "Olivia Newton-John's visit to Newbridge Silverware and her exhibition at The Museum of Style Icons was of huge historical, cultural, and artistic importance. The importance of her visit and exhibition, kindly facilitated and arranged by Julien's Auctions cannot be underestimated. She was also a wonderful advocate for vulnerable people and battled gracefully through her illness for a very long time, always with great humour and grace. We pass on our deepest sympathies to her family, friends and legions of fans and are forever grateful that she took the time to visit Newbridge Silverware and the Museum of Style Icons."

Martin Nolan of Julien's Auctions, who brought the costumes, property and exhibition to Ireland in July 2019 said, "Her extraordinary career –including her starring role in *Grease*, one of the most successful Hollywood films and soundtracks of all time – and her recordings of some of the biggest pop singles of the 20th century, made her more than just a star but a pop culture phenomenon".

Little Village readers will have been sad to hear of the passing of this singing and acting legend and wish her family and friends their sincere sympathy.



# Cunninghams Funeral Directors

has been in business serving greater Dublin since the 1920s. The present-day company evolved from an original family business, Cunningham Brothers, which was set up by Robert, Andrew, and John Cunningham. The three brothers were already trading as Kellystown Sawmills (based in Clonsilla Village) and, among other things, were coffin manufacturers who transported their products throughout the country on the Royal Canal.

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# THE WONDERFUL BARN



The Wonderful Barn in Ireland's County Kildare is a distinctive, corkscrew-shaped building on the grounds of the Castletown House Estate. Dating back to 1743, with external stairs winding around its surface, the building is believed to have originally been a grain store

**T**he Wonderful Barn is well known for its unusual design, built as it is in an inverted funnel shape rising to over 70 feet high, with a cantilevered set of 94 steps wrapping around the outside. It is unique in all of Ireland except for one other structure – the so-called Bottle Tower in Churchtown, Dublin.

## Relationship with the Bottle Tower

Also built on an estate owned by the Connolly's, the Bottle Tower is said by many to be an imitation of the Wonderful Barn, as the latter is considered a much finer example. However, the date of construction of the Bottle Tower is put at either 1741 or 1742, believed to have been initiated by William's wife, Katherine Connolly, with the aim of both storing grain and employing locals during and after the devastating Irish Famine of 1740–1741. The Wonderful Barn was built in 1743, also thought to have been a famine relief scheme.

## Why was it Built?

Bounded on either side by two dovecote towers, the Wonderful Barn appears to have been used as a granary, a place to keep a large stockpile of grain in case of another famine. Each floor had a hole in the centre for the grain to pass through before it was dried out and later packed for winter storage. As it can

be viewed from certain windows inside Castletown House, it is also believed that the architecturally unique building was intended to add character to the landscape. The structure is adjoined by a large two-storey residence called Barnhall House, with a walled garden.

Another theory is based on the custom in Georgian times of using doves as a delicacy when other game or animals were not in season, and suggest its use as a dovecote.

The height of the structure would also lend itself to sport shooting, supporting another theory of its use as a shooting or gamekeeper's tower.

The tower is seen from the east windows of Castletown House, so it filled that vista, possibly as a folly.

However, the generally accepted theory of its use is as a granary. The barn was built in the years immediately following the famine of 1740–41, as there was a need for new grain stores in case of another famine. The Connolly's owned Kilmacredock and rented it out, so the barn was also useful for their tenants.

The construction project also likely served as a way to keep the local poor employed. In this, it is not unlike the Connolly Folly (an Obelisk), which was built on the estate in 1740–41.

The grounds of Castletown Estate are open daily from 6.30am to 8pm



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# Diageo to build new €200m brewery in Kildare

**Diageo announced in July plans to invest €200 million in Ireland's first purpose-built carbon neutral brewery on a greenfield site in Littleconnell, Newbridge, Co. Kildare.**

**T**he new facility will brew lagers and ales including Rockshore, Harp, Hop House 13, Smithwick's, Kilkenny and Carlsberg. When fully operational with a capacity of 2 million hectolitres, it will be the second largest brewing operation in Ireland after St. James's Gate and support the future growth of Diageo Ireland's beer brands.

The state-of-the-art brewery will be powered with 100% renewable energy and will harness the latest process technology to minimise overall energy and water consumption. This will enable the brewery to avoid up to 15,000 metric tons of carbon emissions annually.

As the production of lagers and ales is transferred to the new facility it will enable St James's Gate to increase





the production of Guinness to meet global demand. Additionally, it will also support the delivery of Diageo's Society 2030 commitments by creating the physical space required for the use of renewable technologies at St James's Gate.

Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise Trade & Employment Leo Varadkar TD, said: "This €200m investment by Diageo is really great news for the future development of Ireland's thriving food and drink industry, and also for the wider national economy. It's also extremely positive for Newbridge and the local economy in Kildare, with up to 1,000 jobs being created during the construction of the site, and 50 once built. I'm sure there will be many indirect jobs too."

"We must leave the planet in a better way than we found it. Industry has a role to play and I'm really pleased to see Diageo taking the lead and investing in this carbon neutral brewery, which I'm sure will be a leading example for others."

Colin O'Brien, Category Head – Global Beer Supply, Diageo said, "Today is a landmark day for Diageo in Ireland. Our plans for a new, state-of-the-art brewery in Kildare, and the developments at St. James's Gate, will enable growth in overall beer exports from Ireland."

"We are fully committed to embedding sustainability across our business from grain to glass and this announcement represents the next step in our integrated approach towards achieving one of Diageo's Society

2030: Spirit of Progress commitments by becoming carbon neutral in our direct operations."

Leo Clancy, CEO of Enterprise Ireland, added: "Diageo's decision to invest in a second brewery in Ireland is a fantastic endorsement of the Irish food & drink ecosystem. Diageo is a key client of Enterprise Ireland, and we look forward to continuing to partner with them as they embark on this ambitious project to create Ireland's first purpose-built carbon neutral brewery. The new facility will make an important contribution to the local economy, supporting value added exports, creating high quality jobs, and doing so in line with the highest sustainably standards."

Martin Shanahan, CEO of IDA, said: "IDA Ireland welcomes this proposed development in Kildare of Ireland's first purpose-built carbon neutral brewery by Diageo, a substantial and valued employer in Ireland. This proposed investment demonstrates Diageo's continued commitment to sustainability, which is also a key pillar of IDA Ireland's current strategy Driving Recovery and Sustainable Growth 2021 – 2024."

The new facility will contribute to Ireland's critical economic and climate policy goals, such as supporting the transition to a low carbon economy while also increasing both food and drink production and associated jobs.

Diageo will submit a planning application to Kildare County Council in September this year and, if successful, plans to commence brewing in 2024 following a construction period of approximately two years.



## South Dublin County Council Update

### Plan for Greenway from the Grand to the Royal Canal

**The proposed Canal Loop Urban Greenway will link the Grand and Royal Canal Greenways.** The draft plan for the Greenway from the Grand Canal to Lucan Village includes:

- 4.5km of walking and cycling facilities
- Safer routes for walking and cycling to school
- 100s of new trees

The objective of the plan is to swap a proportion of local car journeys with journeys by bike, and on foot or other means of active travel.



“Ireland had the 3rd highest increase in carbon emissions in the EU last year”  
-Eurostat



Reducing the proportion of car journeys is essential to reduce carbon emissions. Half local school journeys are by car. That is why the plan includes safer routes to walk and cycle to schools.

Active travel, which includes walking and cycling, is good for health and well being.

See the plan and have your say at [consult.sdbublincoco.ie](http://consult.sdbublincoco.ie)



Artist impression of the greenway from Grand Canal to Lucan Village

### Election as Deputy Mayor

*I was elected Deputy Mayor at this year's AGM in June. I'm very honoured to be Deputy Mayor. My role as Deputy Mayor is to support the Mayor. This can involve me representing the Council at events. I will be delighted to facilitate any local groups who would like me to attend their community event while I am Deputy Mayor.*



With Hillcrest Residents Committee at Hillcrest's 50th Anniversary Celebration



With the organising committee of Arthur Griffith Park's 50th Anniversary Celebration

### My day to day work as a councillor

- attending council meetings
- pursuing queries and raising local issues
- meeting local groups
- making policy and plans for the area

You can follow my work on my webpage and social media accounts



[joannatuffy](https://twitter.com/joannatuffy)



[labouroflucan](https://www.instagram.com/labouroflucan)



[joannatuffylabour](https://www.facebook.com/joannatuffylabour)



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## Adamstown Update

### Scarcity of Childcare Places

Many residents from Adamstown have contacted me about a lack of local childcare places. The situation is that currently there is capacity for 176 childcare places in Adamstown. These are operated by Giraffe. Staff shortages in the sector is a Dublin wide problem according to a recent Newstalk childcare survey and this factor is affecting the availability of places in Adamstown. The Adamstown SDZ requires a minimum of 565 childcare places by the time Adamstown is completely built. The SDZ only deals with the delivery of infrastructure. Staffing shortages and the need for greater capacity needs State intervention. The Labour Party Leader, Ivana Bacik, has called for a State-funded childcare model, away from reliance on the private sector. I support her call and believe it is the only way to properly address the lack of local childcare places.

**The local childcare committee has an online directory where parents can search for childcare places at <https://www.southdublinchildcare.ie/index.php/directory>**



Map of Adamstown Development and Amenity Areas



### Highlights from a recent Council briefing on the current status of Adamstown Strategic Development Zone (SDZ) :

- The SDZ is in Phase 4 (2601-3400 units) – c3,200 units occupied (Quarter 1 2022)
- In 2022: Planning permission granted for 227 homes at Adderrig
- Permission has been granted for a 32 classroom primary school at Tandy's Lane (SDZ21A/0001)
- Traveller Accommodation provision ongoing – SDZ requires 4 locations
- Airlie Park – substantial completion is expected in Quarter 3 2022
- Celbridge Link Road – completion is expected Q 3 2020
- €10 million State funding has been announced for a Plaza; a Civic Building/Library and Enterprise Centre



Me with Laverna Bannon Manager AYCC and Sanjeeb Barik at this year's Holi Festival in Adamstown

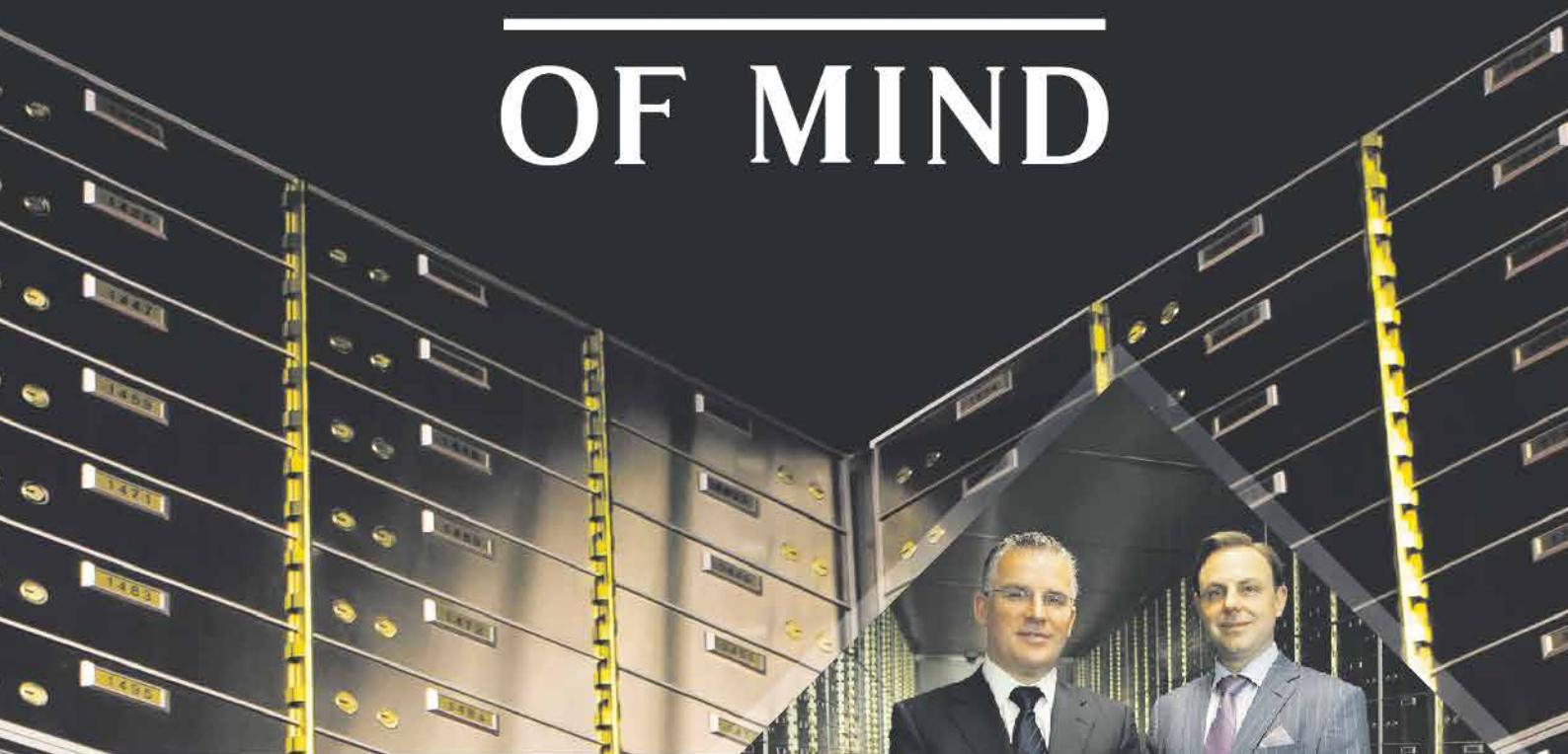
**My Information and Advice Hub takes place in Adamstown Community Centre 5-7pm on first Friday of each month. Contact me to make an appointment.**



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