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JUN/JUL 2022

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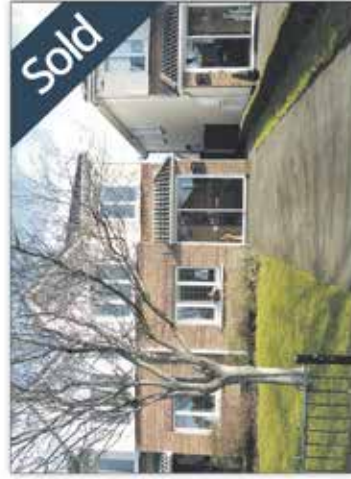
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EDITORIAL

Thank you to the readers and advertising partners from Lucan, Liexlip and Cambridge for all of your support in launching our inaugural edition. The feedback we have received has been very much welcome.

In this edition we look at Ireland's and perhaps the world's foremost satirist (except perhaps for the great Voltaire), author of Gulliver Travels, A Tale of a Tub and founder of St Patrick's Hospital; the great Jonathan Swift, and his connection to Celbridge.

Along with this local feature, we cover the good, the bad and the ugly of local news from Lucan, Liexlip and Celbridge.

From planning applications, proposed developments, political statements and local initiatives, we hope to have brought you a comprehensive update on your community.

We are a fledgling publication and any input from the community would be greatly appreciated.

Kind Regards,
Little Village



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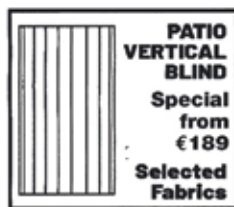
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Calls for increase in retrofitting of council homes

There have been renewed calls for an increase in funding for retrofitting of council homes. People Before Profit Councillor Madeleine Johansson made the call following information that only 76 homes in South Dublin County Council have been retrofitted so far.

In a reply to a question submitted by Cllr Johansson to the monthly council meeting, South Dublin County Council confirmed that only 76 homes have been completed with works ongoing on the other 41 homes that were part of the 2021 programme. €3.2 million were provided from central government to the council in 2021 for 117 homes, with another €5.1 million for 2022 to cover another 156 homes. Delays to the 2021 works have been blamed on shortage of labour and supplies, and the late start to works due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Cllr Johansson commented: "The funding provided by government to retrofit council owned homes isn't anywhere near what is needed. We are facing both a climate emergency



and rising energy costs and one of the easiest ways to reduce energy consumption is the retrofitting of homes.

"South Dublin County Council has a housing stock of over 9000 homes, many of which are in need of retrofitting. At the current rate most tenants will have to wait 20 to 30 years to have their home upgraded, and in the meantime they will have to pay high bills or even worse live in a cold home.

"We need urgent action, both by the government and South Dublin County Council, to speed up the retrofitting of council homes. To tackle the problem of labour shortage we need a state-owned construction company that could retrofit all public buildings including council homes in a more efficient way.

"The retrofitting of council owned homes on a large scale would help many who are struggling to pay their bills, as well as reduce energy consumption and CO2 emissions."



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Outdoor dining and alcohol laws extended

Dublin Mid-West's Government TD, Deputy Emer Higgins has welcomed the extension of outdoor dining and alcohol laws as the hospitality sector enters the busy summer season.

Deputy Higgins said, "Although the pandemic was hugely challenging for businesses I also think the hospitality sector was accidentally revolutionised by Covid-19 restrictions in some ways – particularly in relation to outdoor dining.

"For example, last December I found myself having a late-night drink outside Courtney's in Lucan which I never would have dreamed of doing in the dark Winter months, nor would Courtney's probably thought of offering outdoor dining as an option in the Winter evenings, but we all had to adapt and it was good for business.

"New laws allowed businesses to extend their footprint whether that be in carparks The Laurels or Lord Lucan, or backyards like the graveyard in Kenny's of Lucan or Annie Mae's in Newcastle, and I'm glad these laws have been further extended to allow pubs and restaurants across Ireland to continue serve alcohol in outdoor settings lawfully.

"Pubs and restaurants are absolutely vital to the social fabric of the towns and villages throughout the local community and I really believe this legislation is good for local business and great for hospitality to recover after the pandemic" said

Deputy Higgins.

Minister McEntee's announcement comes less than a week after Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien announced that he would instruct local authorities to waive fees charged by local authorities during 2022 for the use of outdoor furniture such as tables and chairs.

"I also welcome Minister O'Brien's announcement for local authorities to waive fees for the use of outdoor furniture," said Deputy Higgins.

"South Dublin County Council did a superb job at preserving the value of the public realm during the pandemic and it's great that this will continue for the summer.

"Street furniture injects vibrancy into our towns and villages but we also must ensure that we maintain vibrancy and furniture does not cause a hazard and does not take away from the beauty of our towns and villages" said Deputy Higgins.

"I think this latest announcement will continue to revolutionise the Irish hospitality sector and will bring Ireland in line with our European neighbours when it comes to outdoor hospitality" concluded Deputy Higgins.



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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!

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.

The 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.

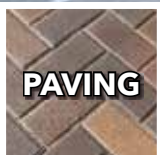
Kildare County Council plans to use the findings of the consultation to progress the development of an outdoor facility at appropriate location(s) in Celbridge.

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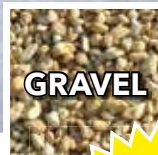
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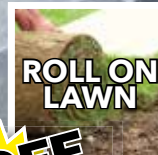
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New Rehabilitation and Residential Unit for Peamount Healthcare – Higgins

Dublin Mid-West Government TD, Deputy Emer Higgins has welcomed the opening of the Aberdeen Centre, a new 100-bed Rehabilitation and Residential unit at Peamount Healthcare in Newcastle, County Dublin.

Deputy Higgins attended the opening of the Aberdeen Centre with Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly, Minister for State for Mental Health and Older People, Mary Butler, and Councillor Shirley O'Hara.

Deputy Higgins said: "I was delighted to join Minister Donnelly, Minister for State, Mary Butler, and Cllr Shirley O'Hara to open the Aberdeen Centre at Peamount Healthcare in Newcastle.

"I was so impressed to see the range of services that the Aberdeen Centre has to offer including the 50 additional beds for specialist rehabilitation.

"25 beds have also been allocated for age-related rehabilitation services, 15 beds for neuro-rehabilitation for under 65s and 10 beds for rheumatology rehabilitation patients, which are such vital services to have in a community.

"The Aberdeen Centre is a great example of the Government's Sláintecare reform in action," Cllr O'Hara said.

"And the Centre will provide a positive experience for patients and greater outcomes for those suffering with serious

illnesses such as strokes and trauma".

Deputy Higgins continued: "The Aberdeen Centre is a great asset to the already fantastic facility that is Peamount Healthcare. The staff do tremendous work, and the new centre will build on that tremendous work. I look forward to seeing its impact on those at the centre.

"I am so grateful to our healthcare workers for their dedication and efforts to keep us safe throughout this challenging period," added Deputy Higgins.

"Peamount Healthcare provides invaluable services for members of the community such as a day care service for those in Newcastle, Rathcoole, Clondalkin and Lucan.

"It was a privilege to witness the excellent care that the staff provide at Peamount and I particularly enjoyed hearing from residents and patients who shared their own experience," said Deputy Higgins.

"Peamount Healthcare and the new Aberdeen Centre will continue supporting and facilitating the community's health needs and I hope to see it continue to grow and develop its service," concluded Deputy Higgins.



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CELBRIDGE ABBEY AND JONATHAN SWIFT

Celbridge Abbey was constructed by Thomas Marlay (1691–1756) who was Attorney-General for Ireland, a judge and grandfather of the Irish parliamentarian Henry Grattan. Marlay's rock bridge in Celbridge Abbey grounds is the oldest surviving bridge across the Liffey since the removal of John Le Decer's 1308 bridge three miles downriver at Salmon Leap.

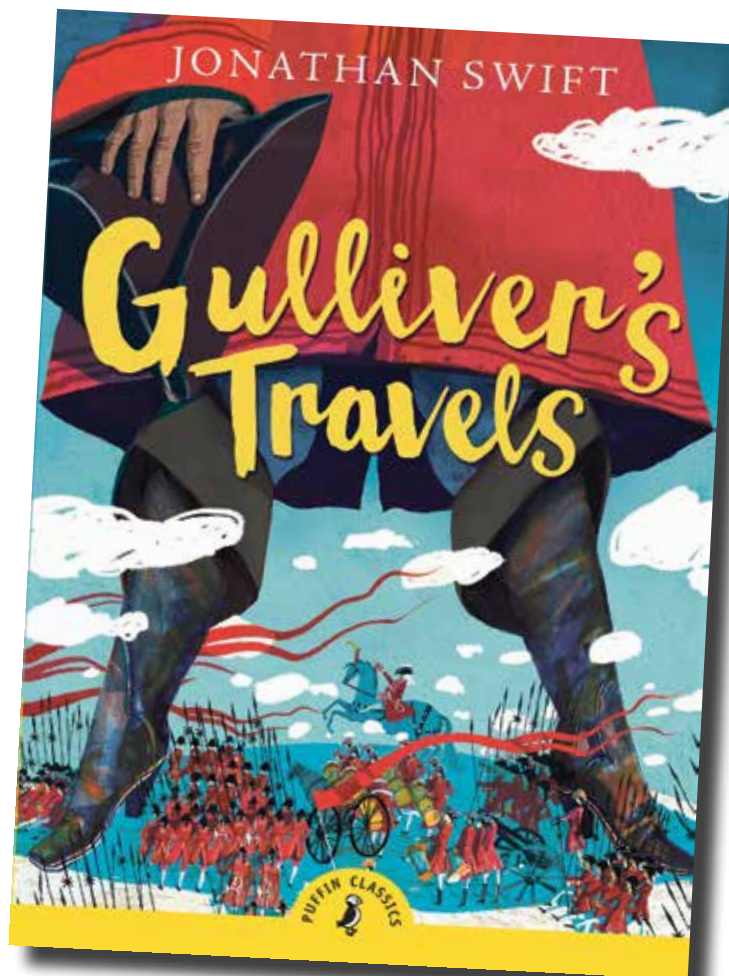
A previous structure was the home of Bartholomew Van Homrigh, a commissary-general to William III's army who became Lord Mayor of Dublin. It was the childhood (1688–1707) and later adult (1714–23) home of Bartholomew Van Homrigh's daughter Esther (1688–1723), the lover of Jonathan Swift who visited her in Celbridge in 1720. She is associated with the name Vanessa as a result of Swift's 1713 poem "Cadenus and Vanessa."

Jonathan Swift (30 November 1667 – 19 October 1745) was an Anglo-Irish satirist, author, essayist, political pamphleteer (first for the Whigs, then for the Tories), poet, and Anglican cleric who became Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, hence his common sobriquet, "Dean Swift".

Swift is remembered for works such as *A Tale of a Tub* (1704), *An Argument Against Abolishing Christianity* (1712), *Gulliver's Travels* (1726), and *A Modest Proposal* (1729). He is regarded by the *Encyclopædia Britannica* as the foremost prose satirist in the English language, and is less well known for his poetry. He originally published all of his works under pseudonyms—such as Lemuel Gulliver, Isaac Bickerstaff, M. B. Drapier—or anonymously. He was a master of two styles of satire, the Horatian and Juvenalian styles.

His deadpan, ironic writing style, particularly in *A Modest Proposal*, has led to such satire being subsequently termed "Swiftian".

Jonathan Swift was born on 30 November 1667 in Dublin in the Kingdom of Ireland. He was the second child and only son of Jonathan Swift (1640–1667) and his wife Abigail Erick (or Herrick) of Frisby on the Wreake. His father was a native of Goodrich, Herefordshire, but he accompanied his brothers to Ireland to seek their fortunes in law after their Royalist father's estate was brought to ruin during the English Civil War. His maternal grandfather, James Ericke, was the vicar of Thornton in Leicestershire. In 1634 the vicar was convicted of Puritan practices. Some time thereafter, Ericke and his family, including his young daughter Abigail, fled to Ireland.



Swift's father joined his elder brother, Godwin, in the practice of law in Ireland. He died in Dublin about seven months before his namesake was born. He died of syphilis, which he said he got from dirty sheets when out of town.

At the age of one, child Jonathan was taken by his wet nurse to her hometown of Whitehaven, Cumberland, England. He said that there he learned to read the Bible. His nurse returned him to his mother, still in Ireland, when he was three.

His mother returned to England after his birth, leaving him in the care of his uncle Godwin Swift (1628–1695), a close friend and confidant of Sir John Temple, whose son later employed Swift as his secretary.

Swift's family had several interesting literary connections. His grandmother Elizabeth (Dryden) Swift was the niece of Sir Erasmus Dryden, grandfather of poet John Dryden. The same grandmother's aunt Katherine (Throckmorton) Dryden was a first cousin of Elizabeth, wife of Sir Walter Raleigh. His great-great grandmother Margaret (Godwin) Swift was the sister of Francis Godwin, author of *The Man in the Moone* which influenced parts of Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*. His uncle Thomas Swift married a daughter of poet and playwright Sir William Davenant, a godson of William Shakespeare.

Swift's benefactor and uncle Godwin Swift took primary responsibility for the young man, sending him with one of his cousins to Kilkenny College (also attended by philosopher George Berkeley). He arrived there at the age of six, where he was expected to have already learned the basic declensions in Latin. He had not, and thus began his schooling in a lower form.



Swift graduated in 1682, when he was 15.

He attended Trinity College Dublin, the sole constituent college of the University of Dublin, in 1682, financed by Godwin's son Willoughby. The four-year course followed a curriculum largely set in the Middle Ages for the priesthood. The lectures were dominated by Aristotelian logic and philosophy. The basic skill taught the students was debate, and they were expected to be able to argue both sides of any argument or topic. Swift was an above-average student but not exceptional, and received his B.A. in 1686 "by special grace."

Adult life

Swift was studying for his master's degree when political troubles in Ireland surrounding the Glorious Revolution forced him to leave for England in 1688, where his mother helped him get a position as secretary and personal assistant of Sir William Temple at Moor Park, Farnham. Temple was an English diplomat who arranged the Triple Alliance of 1668. He had retired from public service to his country estate, to tend his gardens and write his memoirs. Gaining his employer's confidence, Swift "was often trusted with matters of great importance". Within three years of their acquaintance, Temple had introduced his secretary to William III and sent him to London to urge the King to consent to a bill for triennial Parliaments.

Swift took up his residence at Moor Park where he met Esther Johnson, then eight years old, the daughter of an impoverished widow who acted as companion to Temple's sister Lady Giffard. Swift was her tutor and mentor, giving her the nickname "Stella", and the two maintained a close but ambiguous relationship for the rest of Esther's life.

In 1690, Swift left Temple for Ireland because of his health, but returned to Moor Park the following year. The illness consisted of fits of vertigo or giddiness, now believed to be Ménière's disease, and it continued to plague him throughout his life. During this second stay with Temple, Swift received his M.A. from Hart Hall, Oxford, in 1692.

He then left Moor Park, apparently despairing of gaining a better position through Temple's patronage, in order to become an ordained priest in the Established Church of Ireland. He was appointed to the prebend of Kilroot in the Diocese of Connor in 1694, with his parish located at Kilroot, near Carrickfergus in County Antrim.

Swift appears to have been miserable in his new position, being isolated in a small, remote community far from the centres of power and influence. While at Kilroot, however, he may well have become romantically involved with Jane Waring, whom he called "Varina", the sister of an old college friend. A letter from him survives, offering to remain if she would marry him and promising to leave and never return to Ireland if she refused. She presumably refused, because Swift left his post and returned to England and Temple's service at Moor Park in 1696, and he remained there until Temple's death. There he was employed in helping to prepare Temple's memoirs and correspondence for publication. During this time, Swift wrote *The Battle of the Books*, a satire responding to critics of Temple's *Essay upon Ancient and Modern Learning* (1690), though *Battle* was not published until 1704.

Temple died on 27 January 1699. Swift, normally a harsh judge of human nature, said that all that was good and amiable in mankind had died with Temple. He stayed on briefly in England to complete editing Temple's memoirs, and perhaps in the hope that recognition of his work might earn him a suitable position in England. Unfortunately, his work made enemies among some of Temple's family and friends, in particular Temple's formidable sister Lady Giffard, who objected to indiscretions included in the memoirs. Swift's next move was to approach King William directly, based on his imagined connection through Temple and a belief that he had been promised a position. This failed so miserably that he accepted the lesser post of secretary and chaplain to the Earl of Berkeley, one of the Lords Justice of Ireland. However, when he reached Ireland, he found that the secretaryship had already been given to another.



Celbridge Abbey

He soon obtained the living of Laracor, Agher, and Rathbeggan, and the prebend of Dunlavin in St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin. Swift ministered to a congregation of about 15 at Laracor, which was just over four and half miles (7.5 km) from Summerhill, County Meath, and twenty miles (32 km) from Dublin. He had abundant leisure for cultivating his garden, making a canal after the Dutch fashion of Moor Park, planting willows, and rebuilding the vicarage. As chaplain to Lord Berkeley, he spent much of his time in Dublin and travelled to London frequently over the next ten years. In 1701, he anonymously published the political pamphlet *A Discourse on the Contests and Dissentions in Athens and Rome*.

Swift had residence in Trim, County Meath, after 1700. He wrote many of his works during this time period. In February 1702, Swift received his Doctor of Divinity degree from Trinity College Dublin.

That spring he travelled to England and then returned to Ireland in October, accompanied by Esther Johnson—now 20—and his friend Rebecca Dingley, another member of William Temple's household. There is a great mystery and controversy over Swift's relationship with Esther Johnson, nicknamed "Stella". Many, notably his close friend Thomas Sheridan, believed that they were secretly married in 1716; others, like Swift's housekeeper Mrs Brent and Rebecca Dingley (who lived with Stella all through her years in Ireland), dismissed the story as absurd. Swift certainly did not wish her to marry anyone else: in 1704, when their mutual friend William Tisdall informed Swift that he intended to propose to Stella, Swift wrote to him to dissuade him from the idea. Although the tone of the letter was courteous, Swift privately expressed his disgust for Tisdall as an "interloper", and they were estranged for many years.

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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.

The 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, Foroige, 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.

Ireland to get €12bn Intel investment, but not new European fabrication plants

Intel will not be building a series of planned new huge European chip manufacturing facilities in Ireland, with the semiconductor producer opting instead to construct them in Germany and Italy.

But Intel said it will be investing a further €12 billion between now and the end of next year on completing its currently under construction “Fab 34” plant in Leixlip. The investment, coupled with €5 billion that has already been spent on the facility to date, will lead to a near doubling of the total amount of capital spent by Intel in Ireland since it first set up here in 1989.

Intel is planning to significantly increase its chip production capacity in Europe over the coming decade as part of an EU plan to double the bloc's current market share of global chip manufacturing to 20% by 2030.

Ireland had been competing with a number of other European countries for the investment and last year, Intel CEO Pat Gelsinger told RTÉ News that this country was on the short list of potential locations to win the new facilities.

It was reported that a greenfield site in Oranmore in Co Galway was one of a number under consideration by the company.

But speaking in the US today, Intel CEO Pat Gelsinger announced that two first-of-their-kind semiconductor fabs are to be built in Magdeburg, Germany between now and 2027, at a cost of €17 billion.

Those projects will create 7,000 construction jobs and 3,000 permanent high-tech roles.

In Italy, the company is to construct a new back-end manufacturing facility with a potential investment of up to €4.5 billion.

This factory would create approximately 1,500 new jobs plus an further 3,500 jobs across suppliers and partners.

The new “Fab 34” plant in Leixlip, which is currently being fitted out, will lead to a doubling of its manufacturing space in this country.

It will bring Intel 4 process technology to Europe and expand its foundry services, through which the company is to manufacture chips on behalf of other companies for the first time.

“For over 30 years Ireland has been the flag-bearer of Intel's European manufacturing presence and with this renewed investment in the region we remain at the very centre of our company's global ambitions,” said Eamonn Sinnott, Vice-President and General Manager of Intel in Ireland.

“This is the strongest possible evidence of Intel's deep commitment to Ireland. It is remarkable to think that the €17 billion we are investing in this five-year period is double our total investment in Ireland over the previous 30 years,” he added.

Last year Intel said it had already spent €5 billion on the new Fab over the previous three years and that when it is complete it will employ 1,600 new full-time staff, bringing its total direct employment in Ireland to 6,500.

5,000 construction jobs have also been created in the building of the new Fab 34.

“Furthermore, an analysis by PwC shows that, once this latest phase of construction is complete, our presence in Ireland will contribute €2.75 billion to the economy annually,” Mr Sinnott said.

“We are proud of the contribution that we are making to the

community and economy here in Ireland. And as the EU seeks to double its share of global microchip production over the next decade, Intel and Ireland are positioned in the vanguard of that strategic campaign,” he added.

CEO of Intel, Pat Gelsinger spoke with the Taoiseach and the CEO of IDA Ireland ahead of today's announcement in Brussels.

Speaking in Washington DC, Taoiseach Micheál Martin said the announcement underlines the importance of Intel's operations in Ireland and their commitment to the country.

“Investing a further €12 billion, on top of the €5 billion previously announced on its new facility brings the overall investment by Intel in its site here to €30 billion.

“This very significant show of confidence, in Ireland and in our talented and skilled workforce, is a strong endorsement of our offering to investors,” he said in a statement.

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13% jobs growth in Dublin

Record levels of employment with 2.5 million people at work nationally

Jobs figures published by the CSO show that employment has increased 13% in Dublin, with a record level of employment reached nationally and 2.5m people now at work, a Fine Gael TD has said.

Deputy Emer Higgins was speaking after the publication of the Quarter 1 2022 Labour Force Survey published by the Central Statistics Office.

Deputy Higgins said, "Fine Gael has always prioritised job creation, and it is great to see that employment now stands at 2,505,800 million, in excess of the 2.5 million target set by the Government, ahead of that target date of 2024.

"In the wake of the Covid pandemic, the Government put a real focus on job creation to help get the economy back on its feet, just as Fine Gael did in the wake of the economic crash a decade ago.

"275,200 jobs were created in the year to Q1 2022. Female participation is at a record high, something which

I'm very passionate about and youth unemployment is at a record low.

"Fine Gael is working to build stronger safer communities and job creation across the country is crucial to that. It supports the regeneration of our towns and villages and revitalises our local communities.

"So it is particularly good to see that all regions have registered job growth. The highest increases have been in the South West, South East, Dublin and the Mid West with Employment outside of Dublin increasing by 187,400 in the year to Q1 2022 (+ 12 percent).", Deputy Higgins concluded.

The Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Leo Varadkar TD, said:

"We now have more people employed in the country than at any other point in the history of the state. That is remarkable.

"Throughout the pandemic, we did our best to help businesses survive and hold onto their staff, so that when





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things opened up they could reopen and thrive. We set a goal to have 2.5m people at work by 2024 and thanks to the incredible fortitude of Irish businesses, their staff, families and communities, we have now exceeded that goal, with 2,505,800 people at work today.

“There has been jobs growth across all regions with the highest increases in the South West and South East, while female labour market participation is at a record high and the youth unemployment rate is at a record low.

“Our aim is to create good quality, secure jobs and to make sure work pays. I’m working on five new workers rights this year, including introducing mandatory sick pay, in addition to moving to a living wage starting next year, and auto enrolment so everyone who’s working has an occupational pension in addition to the state pension, starting in 2023.

“I know these numbers do not reflect the lived reality of some, and that many are still struggling and worried about the future. We continue to work hard to provide people with opportunities for good, sustainable jobs in every part of the country for anyone that wants one.

“We’re making available 50,000 reskilling and upskilling courses through our Recovery Plan, to help move to a more digital and climate resilient economy. We recognise that many of our small businesses are still trying to get back on their feet after a really tough few years and will continue to help them and we are working hard to continue to attract the very best multinational investment to all parts of Ireland.”

Minister for Finance, Paschal Donohoe TD, said:

“I welcome today’s figures which show employment was at a record level, standing at 2.5 million in the first quarter, up more than 160,000 on the first quarter in 2020. These figures are a result of the successful economic policies introduced by the Government during the pandemic to minimize economic scarring and support a robust recovery. It is likely that employment will continue to grow through this year, albeit at a more moderate pace.

“The direction of travel in the labour market towards full employment may add to capacity pressures at a time when the economy is faced with the twin supply-side inflationary shocks from the pandemic and the war in Ukraine. While energy prices are outside our control, non-energy inflation is also running at a record high of 4.7 per cent. Our policies will not add to this inflationary pressure.”

The Minister for Social Protection Heather Humphreys, TD said being made under ‘Pathways to Work’.

“As we move forward, we will continue to focus our efforts on supporting those who remain un-employed. My Department is here to help and under ‘Pathways to Work’, there are a range of options from training and re-skilling to quality work placements.”

“As we move forward, we will continue to focus our efforts on supporting those who remain un-employed. My Department is here to help and under ‘Pathways to Work’, there are a range of options from training and re-skilling to quality work placements.”

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Kildare County Council hosts awards evening to recognise contribution of volunteers

In partnership with the Department of Rural
and Community Development and Volunteer
Ireland

On Thursday 19th May 2022, Kildare County Council, in partnership with the Department of Rural and Community Development and Volunteer Ireland, hosted an awards evening at Keadeen Hotel, Newbridge, in recognition of the valuable contributions of Kildare volunteers in response to the pandemic.

169 individuals were nominated through the Volunteer Ireland web portal and 4 groups were identified by the Kildare Volunteer Centre to receive a volunteer award. Those nominated volunteers received a commemorative badge along with a letter of thanks, signed by An Taoiseach Micheál Martin.

The Cathaoirleach of the County of Kildare, elected



**Athy Community Spirit with Mayor
of Kildare Naoise Ó Cearúil**

representatives, members of the Oireachtas, Chief Executive of Kildare County Council and members of the management team were in attendance. The event provided an opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the contribution of volunteers in Kildare during the pandemic. There was a musical performance from the Naas Men's Shed band.

Similar events were held in 14 counties across the country last night, with others scheduled to take place elsewhere over the weekend and in the coming weeks.

National Volunteering Week is a week-long celebration of volunteering that takes place every year, coordinated by Volunteer Ireland. This Year, National Volunteering Week, supported by a programme of events which take place from 16th – 22nd May.



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Kildare County Council to Go Wild for Biodiversity Week 2022

Kildare Biodiversity Week 2022 took place from Saturday 14th May to Sunday 22nd May, beginning with a Dawn Chorus at Castletown House and Parklands led by Kildare BirdWatch Ireland and a Day of Action on Lullymore West Bog at Bog of Allen Nature Centre on Saturday 14th May.

Biodiversity Week is a great opportunity for people to get out and find out more about nature and Wildlife in Kildare. Walks and talks covering all aspect of Kildare's natural Heritage have been organised by wildlife groups across Kildare.

The word 'biodiversity' is coined from biological diversity, it's about the variety of plant and animal species and the interaction between them. It is this interaction that is essential for life, giving us all the things, we need – clean air, water, agriculture, food and amenity.

Ireland's biodiversity is in a state of crisis. Around one-third of Ireland's 98 wild bee species are threatened with extinction,



while recent findings show that over 60 per cent of the 202 species of commonly occurring birds in Ireland are now on the red and amber conservation lists.

Over 90 per cent of 58 listed habitats in Ireland also have an 'inadequate' or 'bad' status and just over half of the 61 European protected species in Ireland have a 'favourable' conservation status.

"At this time of biodiversity crisis, it is important for the public to gain an understanding of our local biodiversity and so Kildare Biodiversity Week has been organised to develop awareness of the importance of biodiversity and to better understand its value to the local, national and international communities" explains Bridget Loughlin, County Kildare Heritage Officer. "The people of Kildare are invited to get out into Kildare's Biodiversity, to visit Kildare wild spots, lakes, rivers, bogs, woodlands or to simply enjoy the biodiversity of their back garden".



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Price of Taxsaver Commuter Ticket must be adjusted in line with new 90-minute-fare – Higgins

The price of the Taxsaver Commuter Ticket should be adjusted in line with new 90-minute-fare, to ensure that those commuting to and from work every day on public transport are receiving full value and tax efficiency from the scheme, a Fine Gael TD has said.

Deputy Emer Higgins called on the National Transport Authority to adjust the price of the Taxsaver Commuter Ticket, now that it no longer represents the best value for money since the introduction of the new 90-minute-fare.

Deputy Higgins said: "I really welcome the new fare structure and how seamless the new 90 minute fare between different modes of transport has been.

"And it's great to see further reductions being implemented from today with 20% reductions in fares for the rest of the year and a 50% reduction for young people aged 18-23.

"I think these are hugely progressive steps to take, that will really make a difference in light of the rising cost of living and inflation that people are currently experiencing.

"But my concern is that commuters using public transport every day to get to work are not necessarily seeing this reduction, because

at the moment you can buy a tax saver ticket for €1,150, which if you are using public transport to get to and from work five days a week every week, would equate to €23.96 a week.

"However, that's roughly 18% more than if you were using the TFI leap card for two trips, five days a week, under the new 90-minute-fare., as it amounts to €20 euro for two trips 5 days a week with the 90-minute-fare. I feel this is an anomaly which needs to be fixed going forward.

"While I understand that the TFI leap card is more suitable for people who may be returning to work on a phased basis or are working in a hybrid manor, it does mean that people using the Taxsaver Ticket are not getting the full tax efficiency which is baked into the Taxsaver policy and which is also government policy to provide," continued Deputy Higgins.

"I raised this recently at the Joint Oireachtas Transport Committee and asked that this anomaly be fixed and the Taxsaver Ticket cost be adjusted in line with the new 90-minute fare.

"During that Committee meeting, a representative for the National Transport Authority told me that the 90-minute-fare on the TFI leap card has called into question whether there is value associated with the Taxsaver ticket in certain circumstances, as the 90-minute fair represents the best value for money.

"But I certainly think that adjusting the price of the Taxsaver in line with the 90-minute-fair would allow those commuting to and from work every day to enjoy that same value while also continuing to receive the tax efficiency that it is government policy to provide," concluded Deputy Higgins.



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40 apartments planned for Leixlip

Benduff Ireland Limited is seeking planning permission from Kildare County Council for the construction of 40 apartments at Hillford House, Old Hill, Leixlip.

The permission sought is for the demolition of a two-storey house and single-storey outbuilding, in order to construct of a development comprising a four storey apartment building.

The proposed development will comprise 40 apartments (17 one-bedroom, 19 two-bedroom and four 4 three-bedroom) with each apartment having issues to private amenity space; in the form of a balcony and having access to an area of communal amenity space (260sq.m), public open space (515sq.m), a vehicular parking area (fifty spaces) five bicycle sheds (sixty spaces) and secure bin store all at surface level.

Benduff Ireland Limited is also seeking consent for the construction of new pedestrian entrance via Old Hill Road, and the provision of private amenity space (48sq.m) to serve existing gate lodge dwelling, in addition to all ancillary

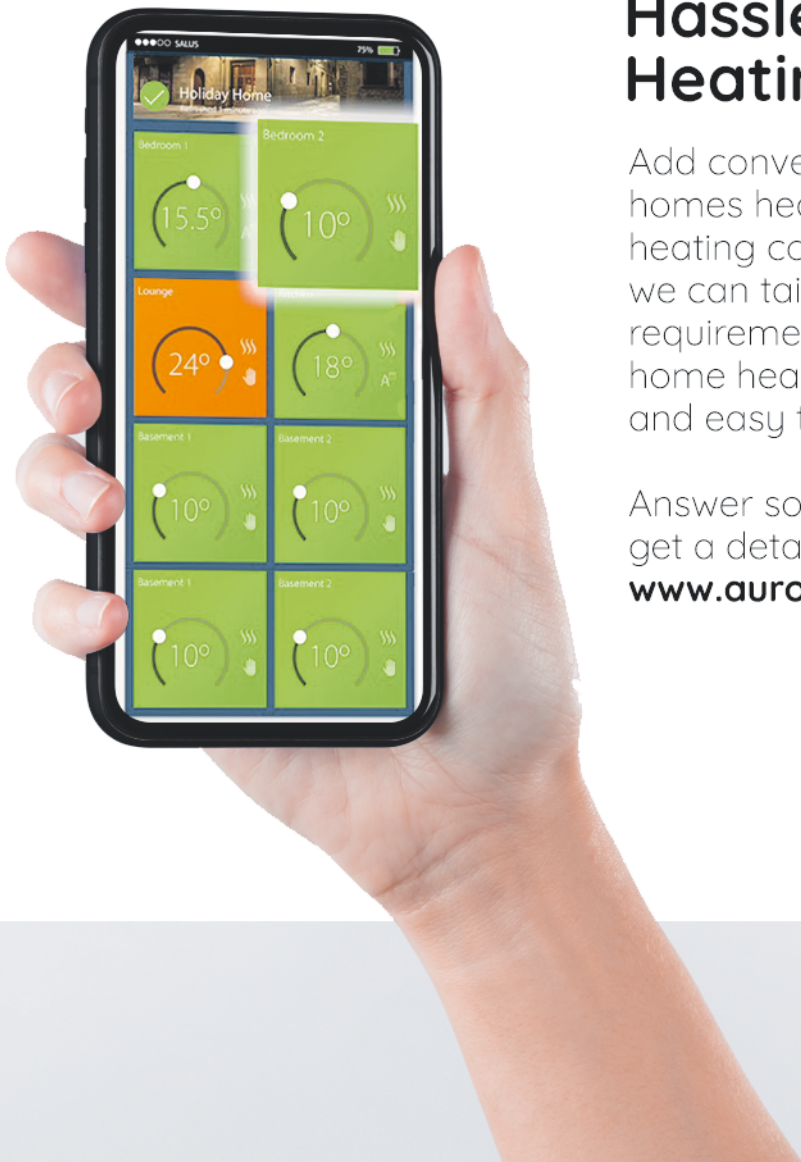


works including landscaping, boundary treatments, SuDS drainage and all site services, site infrastructure and associated site development works necessary to facilitate the development.

Kildare County Council does not comment on active planning applications.

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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!

Explaining inflation



It is apparent all around us for the past while that the price of everything has been increasing at a rapid rate. Central Banks and departments of finance would like the inflation rate in each of their economies to hover around 2%.

In the economics world this is known as the 'Goldilocks scenario', i.e. not too hot and not too cold. A modest amount of inflation in any economy is just fine. It simply means prices are rising at a controlled level and then wages will probably be rising around the same rate. So, ideally your take home pay will keep pace with the rising prices and the overall balance is maintained. Of course, in the real world inflation does not always behave and there have been periods of hyper-inflation through history where prices rise so fast that wages cannot possibly keep up and many consumer items become unaffordable. This is where we may find ourselves if prices continue to rise at this pace.

Let's look at what has caused this excessive inflation, what could happen next and what we can do personally to soften the effects of high inflation on our household income. Most anomalies in economics are caused because of a supply/demand imbalance. Before the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns there was already a massive tidal wave affecting all major economies. This was the enormous amount of economic stimulus programmes that major Central Banks had undertaken since the great financial crisis of 2008/2009. This involves Central Banks effectively printing money for the last ten years or so to create consumer confidence and avoid recession. This inflates the price of all assets including stocks, houses, raw materials such as energy, consumer good and so on because it's designed to stimulate demand. So Central Banks have been trying their hardest to create inflation for the last ten years around the globe. The only problem is that once the inflation wave has begun it can be like a rolling snowball down a mountain. It's virtually impossible to stop until it finds its own level, and the world has never witnessed such an enormous amount of money printing before.

The main tool that Central Banks have in their armoury to combat rapidly rising inflation is increasing interest rates, which will attempt to 'cool down' economic activity and dampen down demand. Inflation never stops at the perfect Goldilocks level in any economy – it will always undershoot or overshoot and

Central Banks are inevitably behind the curve playing catch-up. The massive pent-up demand from Covid-19 lockdowns is now causing large bubbles to pop up in many areas. The price of hotel rooms, building materials, overseas flights, imported foods etc., and if the supply is constrained then naturally the price of each of these things can only go up. It is well documented that the price of timber had gone up threefold during 2020/21 but research shows that this is not because there were any less trees felled during this period. It is because lots of lumber processing plants were closed during this time and it takes time to restaff & ramp these plants back up. It's the same with airlines & restaurants where so many cabin crew & kitchen staff merely retrained and took other jobs during or after lockdowns. Hence, it's not just as simple as switching every industry back on at the same pre-Covid-19 level – it takes time to relaunch an industry to full capacity.

So, that's the Why of inflation causes explained. But what might happen next? Central Banks and governments will hope that rising interest rates will dampen down consumer confidence temporarily but reducing people's appetite to borrow money or expand their businesses in the short term. The danger here is that rising interest rates can often tip an economy into or close to a recession so it's a very tough balancing act. During Covid-19 many people's savings accounts swelled to unprecedented levels because there were very few outlets for excess disposable income. Now much of those savings have poured out into consumer spending and is pushing prices even higher. The danger with this is that, like Celtic Tiger times, we know the price of everything but the value of nothing (Oscar Wilde quote). At some stage, supply lines will normalise and people will gradually begin to forego discretionary spending because the price of things will simply have gone too far. Businesses may have to close because the price they have to charge for their product is simply unaffordable. This is the economic cycle and is often likened to a forest fire, where new shoots will soon grow to replace older, unsustainable trees which have burnt down.

FINGAL CYCLING WITHOUT AGE BRINGS JOY OF CYCLING TO OLDER PEOPLE

Fingal County Council is delighted to announce the launch of Cycling Without Age Fingal, which officially began with a celebratory cycle at St. Catherine's Park, Lucan.

Cycling Without Age is a movement that started in Denmark in 2012, led by social entrepreneur Ole Kassow. Ole wanted to help older people get back on their bicycles, but needed a solution to their limited mobility. The answer was a trishaw and he started offering free bike rides to the local nursing home residents.

Trishaw bikes offer a very comfortable cycling experience for passengers and cyclists with deep, secure seats designed for maximum safety and electric power assistance helping the cyclist to efficiently manage the load as they move. The Cycling Without Age initiative isn't just about cycling, it is about meeting the social needs of older people by providing social connection and inclusion.

There are 4 locations for Cycling Without Age Trishaws in Fingal. Located at St. Catherine's Park, the Baldoyle Portmarnock Greenway, South Strand Skerries and in Northwood Demesne where Fingal County Council have partnered with Dublin City University. These 4 local schemes provide an array of opportunities for nursing homes, older persons' organisations and individuals who want to feel the wind in their hair on a refreshing open-air cycle.

Since 2021 Fingal County Council has been recruiting and training volunteers, also known as trishaw pilots, for this exciting scheme. Mayor of Fingal, Councillor Seána Ó Rodaigh, says this project demonstrates the commitment of the community to older people.

'We've had lots of people come forward and offer their time and energy to this cycling project and it's just one example of the way in which we care for our older people and nurture inclusivity in our community. It's great to see people enjoying their time on the trishaws, showing us that cycling really can be for everyone if we work to provide inclusive experiences and facilities.'

There are more than 2,700 Cycling Without Age chapters around the world, operated by more than 35,000 training pilots. David Storey Fingal's Director of Environment, Climate Action and Active Travel, says Fingal is proud to be part of this very special global movement. 'It's vital that we help open up cycling to people who are older and often dealing with mobility limitations. Getting out on a bike can be a very joyful experience and offers a wonderful feeling of freedom. Our older people have often grown up with cycling a major feature of their youth and it's great to be giving those same people a chance to return to that feeling again. Cycling is a healthy social outlet for people of any age and can be an ideal tool to manage stress and combat isolation. We're really looking forward to seeing the trishaws in use across Fingal.'

From next Monday trishaw cycle slots will be bookable online via the Fingal County Council website and interested people are encouraged to contact active.travel@fingal.ie for more information.

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Kildare County Council seeks engagement from the young people of Celbridge as plans for Outdoor Teen Facility Advances

We want to hear from teenagers (aged 11 – 17 years) living or attending school in Celbridge

The 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.

Kildare County Council together with other community stakeholders have been working on exciting plans to meet the need to provide an outdoor recreation facility(s) for young people in Celbridge.

An important component of developing this facility is the role and involvement of the young people of Celbridge. It is vital that young people have their say, inspire, and guide the direction and ownership of the project and what it delivers.

As Kildare County Council progresses these exciting plans, our team have been visiting the schools and youth clubs throughout Celbridge to meet as many young people as possible.

If you were unable to take part in our workshops in your school or club, we have developed a short

online survey and encourage you to voice your opinion.

Together we can achieve more.

Cllr. Shane Moynihan

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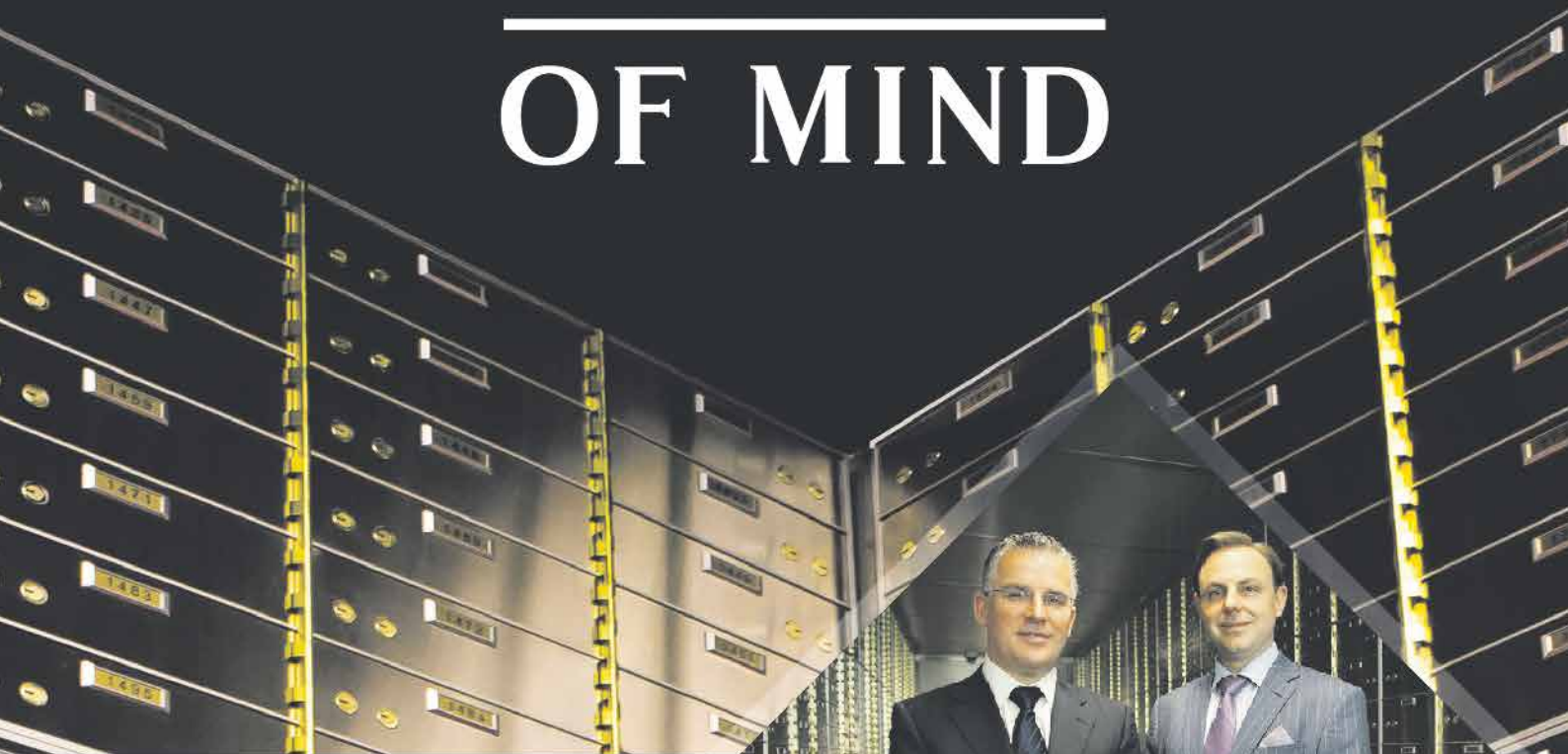
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Local groups and organisations in South Dublin should apply for funding to upgrade Community Centre facilities – Higgins

Community groups and organisations in Dublin are invited to apply for a new round of funding for the upgrade and refurbishment of community centres, a Fine Gael TD has said.

Deputy Emer Higgins said: “Fine Gael wants to build stronger and safer communities by making our towns, villages and parishes across South Dublin better places to live, work, run a business and raise a family.

“My colleague, Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, has announced that registration is now open for a new €15 million capital fund for the upgrade and refurbishment of Community Centres.

“The Community Centre Investment Fund will provide grants of between €10,000 up to a maximum of €300,000.

“Funding is available for capital works such as improvements to communal facilities such as kitchen and toilet facilities, energy retrofitting, new windows / doors / heating systems, works to address safety concerns and works to improve disability access.

“All interested applicants in South Dublin must register online at gov.ie/CommunityCentresFund. Registration for the fund must be completed prior to submitting a formal application.

“The formal application process will open on Tuesday 7th June and closes on Thursday 14th July 2022.

“Minister Humphreys has also announced that her Department will host online information sessions on Wednesday 18th May 2:30 – 4pm and Wednesday 1st June 2:30 – 4pm.

“I would strongly encourage local groups and organisations in South Dublin to attend these information sessions and learn about the application process and criteria before submitting their formal application. Applicants can also register to attend an information session at gov.ie/CommunityCentresFund.

“Completing these two important steps will help to ensure your organisation is well placed to submit a strong application to this Fund.”

Minister Humphreys said: “Our local community centres & parish halls are the heart of our towns, villages & parishes. Many of them need improvement works and that is why I have put this new fund in place.

“I am encouraging all community groups to look at this fund and think about how they can use it to improve their own local parish hall or community centre.”

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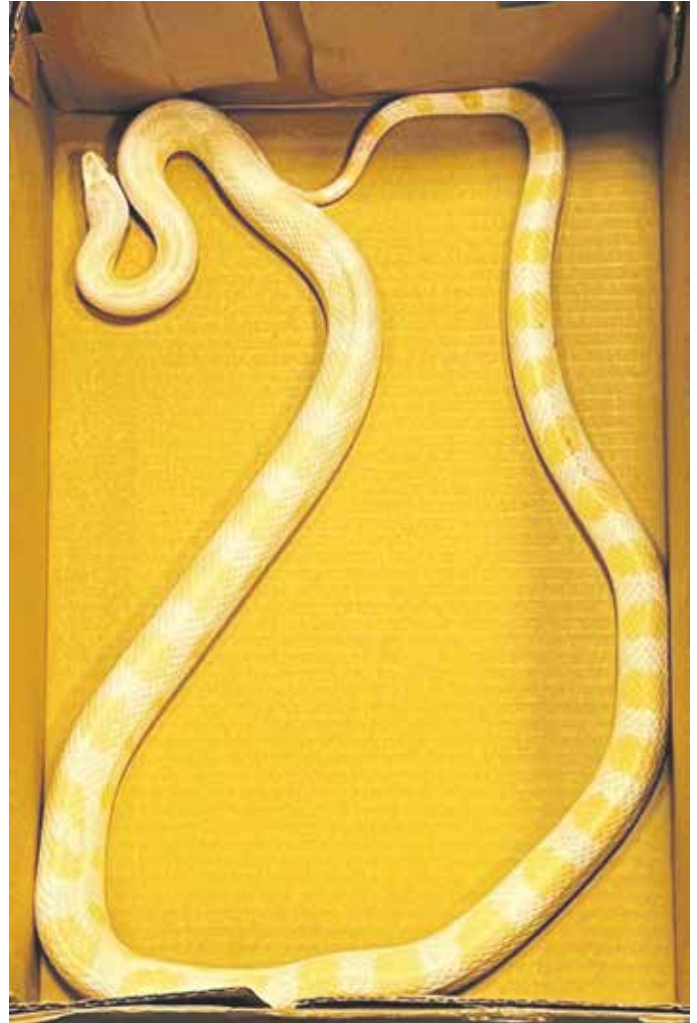
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Gardai Find Large Snake in Lucan

The reptile was transferred to the National Exotic Animal Sanctuary in Ballivor, after a night in Lucan Garda Station.

The gardai posted on Facebook: "This snake, believed to be a snow corn snake, was found in Lucan yesterday evening and was taken to Lucan Garda Station where it was looked after for the night before being transferred to the National Exotic Animal Sanctuary in Ballivor earlier today." They added: "If anyone has information on ownership, please contact Lucan Garda Station on: **01 666 7300**."



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