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EDITORIAL

Well summer is over, and while it is an Irish tradition to give out about the summer (if it is too hot we moan and if we don't get enough sun we winge even more), much like last year it has been reasonably justified. At least the pubs and restaurants have opened again with many people being vaccinated. As I write, the sun is shining, the birds are chirping (unfortunately the sea gulls are also squawking) and the smell of freshly cut grass permeates the air, so in that spirit we have a lot of positive news for our readers in this edition.

Our local TD and Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Roderic O'Gorman, has approved €2.2 million in capital grants to support national youth organisations, and local youth services and clubs across the country.

This will see 470 grants provided to services and youth clubs across 14 Education and Training Board areas and 24 National Youth Organisations,

including NYCI, Foróige, Crosscare, YWI, and Gaisce, so many groups based in Dublin 15 will benefit.

With our public representatives on holidays we have focused less on hard news this time around and more on light features. To this end we have a very interesting piece on the history of the Ha'penny Bridge and on the local side Blanchardstown man and retired Air Force Commandant Frank Russell has released his memoirs "Air, Sea and Land Memories - a Pilot Revisits"

In honour of what would have been his 72nd birthday on August 20, we have the first of a two part feature on Dublin's answer to Jimi Hendrix, Phil Lynott. Lynott's story is just too interesting to condense into a single piece.

We hope you enjoy reading and we would like to thank our readers and our advertising partners for your continued support.

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



Aaron O'Shaughnessy
Web Designer
aaronoshaughnessy@gmail.com
086 070 8221



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

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All correspondence should be addressed to:

Little Village Magazine, 4 Castleknock Mews, Old Navan Road, Castleknock, Dublin 15
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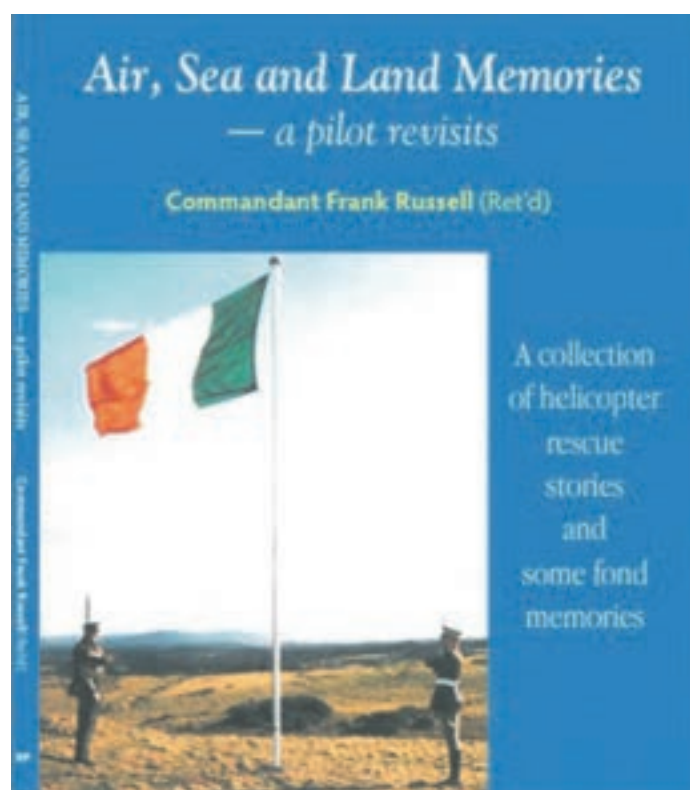
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LOCAL HERO PUBLISHES MEMOIRS

Local man and retired Irish Air Force Commandant Frank Russell has recently released a book; “Air, Sea and Land Memories -a Pilot Revisits”. In Russells own word this tome is ‘a collection of Helicopter Stories and Fond Memories.’



While a Blanchardstown man, Russell has strong Co. Clare family connections. He attended St Brigid's Primary School on Church Avenue where his father, Tom, a Liscannor man, was the long serving Headmaster. The wonderful St Brigid's GAA Club grounds on the Navan Road are named in his memory. Attendance at Secondary School in Coláiste Mhuire on Parnell Square (which has since relocated to Cabra. The old building is set to be converted into a library to replace the Ilac Library) necessitated daily bus journeys, as there was no Secondary School in the Dublin 15 area at the time, except the Catholic and Protestant boarding schools in the Castleknock area. He joined the 39th Cadet Class in The Curragh in 1964 and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in 1966.

He was then posted to the Air Corps in Casement Aerodrome, Baldonnel, to commence pilot training and, on receipt of his Wings in 1968, was a Vampire jet pilot until 1972. He then converted onto the Alouette III helicopter and

became a Search and Rescue (SAR) pilot for the rest of his career in the Air Corps. Some of his book's stories relate to his experiences in that demanding role and, in particular, to some SAR and Air Ambulance Missions that didn't seem to turn out quite as he planned...and with some surprising outcomes for the reader to savor. Other stories include his detailed memories of Blanchardstown and Castleknock in the 1950's and a tragic air accident off the Connemara coast in 1958.

In 1978 he did a tour of duty with the United Nations Truce Supervisory Organization (UNTSO), being based in the historically contrasting cities of Damascus and Jerusalem with his family. In 1980 he resumed SAR duties and also became Chief Flying Instructor on the new Gazelle training helicopter. The ageing Alouette III was replaced in 1986 by the twin engine Dauphin Helicopter in the SAR role, with the author as the first Officer Commanding the newly designated SAR Squadron. In 1995 he joined the recently formed Air Accident Investigation Unit (AAIU) in the Department of Transport as an Inspector of Air Accidents. He remained there until his retirement in 2009.

In 1998 he was diagnosed with a neck cancer from which, following an operation and lengthy radiotherapy treatment, he returned to work with a radically changed view on cancer and, particularly, on its psychological effects on recovering patients. This aspect of the cancer recovery process was known in medical circles but not acted on in any positive way due to the greater demands of primary cancer care, such as I described above. Because of this lacuna, in 2002, he and Karen Daly were invited to become Co-Founders of the LARCC Cancer Support Centre, set up and inspired by fellow cancer patient, the late Ita Bourke, near Mullingar, Co Westmeath. Today, the Centre is located in the beautiful and peaceful grounds of the Franciscan Friary in Multyfarnham, not far from its original location. To this day it is Ireland's only residential cancer support Centre (www.cancersupport.ie) providing a range of services for recovering adults and children also. The author continues to be a 'hands on' supporter of this much-needed service and all the proceeds of the sale of his book will be donated to LARCC. In 2006, he was diagnosed with prostate cancer and, again, after treatment, he resumed his mission of supporting cancer patients in whatever way he could, but primarily through his association with LARCC. In this time of Covid 19, he lives in the Burren, near Ballyvaughan, where its beauty continually mesmerizes him.

The book is available in SuperValu, Main Street Blanchardstown, Price €20.

PHOENIX PARK PROJECT

Minister of State with responsibility for the Office of Public Works, Patrick O'Donovan, recently launched the Phoenix Park Transport and Mobility Options Study Post-Consultation Report.

Speaking at the launch, Minister O'Donovan said:
"I am delighted at the level of interaction and engagement by members of the public and key stakeholders during the consultation on the The Phoenix Park Transport and Mobility Options Study. We received over 2,200 submissions. I have listened to the feedback and I am determined to implement the revised recommendations in the Report which will help safeguard all users of the Park for generations to come."

The Phoenix Park is appreciated by the public, and the OPW, as a valued urban green space and national amenity. The Phoenix Park Transport and Mobility Options Study recognised the diverse and complex functions that the Park serves, including its historic landscape, biodiversity habitats, visitor attractions, recreational spaces along with its significant institutions and places of work.

A non-statutory public consultation took place over six weeks between 29 January and 12 March 2021. This post-consultation analysis sets out how the public consultation process was managed, how people interacted with the public consultation, and summarises the issues and concerns raised throughout the public consultation process. Following detailed consideration of the public's observations, in tandem with the objectives of the Transport and Mobility Options Study, the Steering Group recommended refined proposals to Minister O'Donovan for the benefit of all users, both local and national, while maintaining the integrity and unique setting of the Phoenix Park.

Key recommendations and next steps are set out in this report, including the following main outcomes:

- 1. All gates will remain open and fully accessible as per normal operations with the exception of Cabra Gate, which, as part of the pilot bus service initiative, will be accessible by bus only during the pilot period.
- 2. Walking and cycling improvement projects will be implemented as set out in the Study.
- 3. The proposal to make the North Road a cul-de-sac has been altered arising from feedback. The proposal is now to pilot a one-way route from Cabra Gate to Garda HQ on this road.

- 4. The proposed cul-de-sac for the Upper Glen Road will proceed on a pilot basis.
- 5. A pilot bus service running from Heuston Station via Parkgate Street, Chesterfield Avenue, Cabra Gate to Broombridge Station, subject to funding.
- 6. The advancement of a Parking Strategy and review of the Bye Laws will commence immediately.
- 7. The conversion of Ashtown Gate to entry-only and the proposed cul de sac on Knockmaroon Road are postponed until the potential impacts on the surrounding areas are fully understood.



THERE IS A SOLUTION GROUP

**Alcoholics Anonymous
Corduff D15**

Our group meets every Saturday morning at 11am in the Corduff Community Resource Centre, Blackcourt Road, Corduff. D15 the meeting is OPEN, and everyone is welcome to attend and discover what we do. Our only purpose is to show other alcoholics precisely how we have recovered, and the only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking, nor are there any fees to be paid. Alcoholics Anonymous is an international fellowship of men and women who have had a drinking problem. It is nonprofessional, self-supporting, multiracial, apolitical, and available almost everywhere. There are no age or education requirements. Membership is open to anyone who wants to do something about his or her drinking problem.

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THE HA'PENNY BRIDGE

BY ROB BUCHANAN



When the Ha'penny Bridge opened in May 1816 it was originally called the Wellington Bridge and Dublin then was just a diminutive city of 200,000 people in the bosom of the British Empire.

Nelson glowered down on the capital from his recently constructed pillar, but the GPO was yet to be inaugurated for another two years. The smoggy lamp lit streets were patrolled by British soldiers and the new Grand and Royal Canals, with their horse-drawn barges, were the arteries of commerce and transportation.

The bridge was named after Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington, the victor of Waterloo who is commemorated nearby by the massive monument in the Phoenix Park. Incidentally Wellington was also known as the Iron Duke, appropriate as the bridge was the first iron one in the country. Before it was built a small fleet of seven ferries would shuttle Dubliners from one side of the Liffey to the other. Due to Dublin weather conditions, and wear and tear, the fleet became dangerously worn out. The Dublin city Aldermen John Beresford forced the ferry company boss William



Walsh to either repair them or build a bridge to fulfill the same function, connecting Liffey Street to what was then the Crow Street Theatre area. The fee for crossing the bridge would be the same as the boat trip it replaced.

The bridge was constructed from cast iron with a wooden and cement deck. Interestingly the iron sections were made at Coalbrookdale in Shropshire then brought to Dublin and assembled on site. There was a set of turnstiles at either end where your Ha'penny would be dropped in. A small hut sheltered these turnstiles for decades. For the first ten days after opening pedestrians could use the bridge for free.

The bridge itself was a far darker colour and more built up during its toll period. Designer John Windsor assumed it would be a temporary placeholder, and felt pedestrian bridges were unnecessary in Dublin. Aware of the mercurial nature of Dubliner's, part of the contract to build the bridge included a clause that if locals objected strongly to the bridge within its first year it would be dismantled. But the toll bridge was extremely successful, raking in £329 and 3s income per annum. As an added bonus for Walsh the city fathers gave him a handsome sum of £3,000 for agreeing to discontinue his ferry's entirely. The eponymous Ha'penny toll ceased in 1919.

The bridge originally was covered with huge advertising billboards, both officially sanctioned by the city and local businessmen chancing their arm, with handmade signs stuck up under cover of darkness. The Dublin Corporation banned the advertising in the 1950s and tarmacked over the well-worn wooden decking. Around this point the bridge began to suffer from the glaringly mismatched paint jobs applied haphazardly to disguise rust and graffiti. More changes came in the 1980s, not necessarily for the better. Cast iron lamp columns were installed on either side. These proved unpopular with everyone from the bridges users to angry tourist shops who found their Ha'penny themed merchandise was outdated overnight by the new designs. In the crazy late eighties there was even a proposal from CIE to install a rail terminal on the Temple Bar side!

The regeneration of Temple Bar owed a huge debt to this charismatic little bridge. Working tirelessly for decades she had a year off from being a pulse point in the city during 2001. Dublin City council hired Harland and Wolff from Belfast to perform extensive damage assessment and renovations. During this time an often forgotten temporary bailey bridge was erected. The old girl was sliced and labelled in to over one thousand individual pieces and moved to H & W in Belfast. An estimated 85% of the original body was suitable for reuse. Some of these alterations changed original features slightly. They also repainted the Ha'penny iconic white ribs and arches. There was even a controversial proposal made at the time was to have the classic piece of Dublin closed off to the public as a purely ornamental piece. Luckily for Dubliners this was rejected. The rebirth also saw the addition of a stepped ramp, anti-slip surfacing on the decking and the addition of granite paving on both mouths. The unsightly iron lamp columns which had raised eyebrows in the 80s were removed.

But architecture is not the only story of the Ha'penny. There are human elements as intrinsic to this span of the Liffey as the iron and wood. At a choke point for tourists



and locals alike the bridge has a constant turnover of homeless people. These unfortunate victims of poverty, and often mental health and drug addiction, brave high winds and Baltic temperatures to afford themselves a chance to beg a few bob from the busy span. There is also the matter of the "love locks" which moonstruck couples attach to the bridge. In 2013 alone Dublin City Council had to remove over 300 kg of locks. Whatever the future holds for the lovers or the unfortunates who call this bridge home, this priceless piece of Dublin will always be at the heart of our city.

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From Purgatory to Positivity, Ongar is now on a path to change the village for the better

By Deputy Mayor & Cllr for the Ongar ward, Daniel Whooley

Manor Park Homes launched Ongar in 2001 on a stud farm formerly owned by Aga Khan, an Arab prince, and Rita Hayworth, a film star. What once started as a Stud farm is now home to thousands of residents as Ongar has exponentially grown over the past two decades. The area's growth is illustrated in a Local Electoral Area named after the former stud farm.

The village, the crown jewel of the development, is the hub for the area occupied by local small businesses and can rival the best town in the county! Its biggest fault is in its ownership, more specifically, the situation around its ownership. Currently, Ongar is in a state of purgatory with the original developer, Manor Park Homebuilders, bust from the 2008 recession. With the deeds for the land in the hands of an Insurance Company, HCC International Company PLC, there has been little to no funds available for the upkeep of our loved village.

Ongar has not been forgotten, however. Fingal County Council and the Taking in Charge department staff have been working to acquire the deeds to the land for the best part of a decade now and recently came to a settlement with the bondholders to take over the grounds. This is excellent news for the residents of Ongar as, for the first time in a decade, significant funds will be available to bring the village and estates to the legal standard originally in their planning permission.

A lot of the more minor issues, ranging from potholes, footpath repairs, and light repairs, will be tended to by the end of the year at the best estimates and the second quarter of 2022 at the best latest. From then onwards, the Taking in Charge process enters into a more complex stage with plebiscites (a vote) needed from the owners (not occupiers, unfortunately) to approve that Fingal takes the area in charge. Most alternatives involve the current management company continuing their maintenance of the lands.

This decision will be pretty complex, and there are pros

Deputy Mayor & Cllr for the Ongar ward, Daniel Whooley



and cons to both Fingal and a private management group maintaining the lands. Fingal does not charge management fees, and the Councils Operations department primarily runs their work! Requesting works or repairs is also really easy with the County Council due to the accessibility of local councillors and a dedicated email address to contact the department! The negatives are that Fingal is that some decorative requests will not be fulfilled. More significant works face an annual budgetary process; these are topics where a functioning management company is better suited to the local authority.

It is important to stress that Fingal strives to keep this Taking in Charge process as transparent and understandable as possible. I know from conversations with my fellow councillors for the ward that they intend to do the same. Any questions, queries, concerns or comments about Ongar and the process can be sent to my colleagues, and we will do our best to help wherever possible! Ongar's future is at a crossroads right now, and the decisions from the plebiscites across the estates and village are consequential, so making sure that people make clear, informed decisions is at the heart of this process!

But, from my experience as a local councillor, and the stories I hear about dysfunctional management companies, the council is the better body to maintain and run towns, villages, and estates, and this is the case in Ongar! The future is looking bright for Ongar, and I hope that purgatory becomes positivity within the next 12 months as Fingal restores Ongar to its destined place among the best places to live in Fingal!

Councillor John Walsh

DART+WEST

Consultation Extended

Irish Rail have launched a second non-statutory consultation on the preferred option for DART+West. This consultation was launched at the worst possible time in late July and I wrote to the CEO of Irish Rail along with my colleague Cllr Declan Meenagh (Cabra-Glasnevin) to ask for the consultation to be extended. **Irish Rail has now agreed to extend the consultation until Wednesday 29 September.**

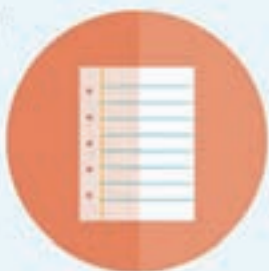
Details are available at www.dartplus.ie and you can make a submission by email at DARTWest@irishrail.ie, phone (01) 8235127 or post to **DART+West, Iarnród Éireann, Inchicore Works, Inchicore Parade, Dublin 8, DO8K6Y3**

Change in Preferred option

- It is welcome news that Irish Rail has withdrawn the plan for an over bridge from Stationcourt and St Mochta's to Riverwood Court, which was environmentally damaging and would have intensified traffic congestion in the area.
- Irish Rail's new preferred option involves closure of Coolmine level crossing without replacement and diversion of motor traffic across Porterstown viaduct and the bridge at Castleknock station. I have asked Irish Rail to clarify how this significant diversion will impact on parents seeking to access Scoil Choilm and Luttrellstown Community College and on residents in estates which may be used as a shortcut to Castleknock Road.
- A separate pedestrian and cycle bridge is urgently needed at Castleknock station – this is vital for safety of all users of the bridge but has to be completed in advance of DART+West works, as otherwise the Irish Rail plan involving intensive use of this bridge will be unworkable.

SCHOOLS UPDATE

- While it will be a relief to parents that a contractor is finally on site to start work on the permanent building for the Edmund Rice Schools Trust school at the Phoenix Park Racecourse after a delay of 17 months, it is crucial that the new school building is fully in place and operational by September 2022, to avoid a recurrence of the crisis in school places which arose earlier this year.
- Following a public campaign by parents in Danu Community Special School, Danu is going to remain in its current temporary accommodation at Hansfield Educate Together until January 2022. The Department of Education should now guarantee Danu a dedicated, purpose-built school on its own site and abandon the plan to locate Danu permanently within the current building for Riversdale Community College. This is a disastrous proposal which lets down two school communities and should be dropped by the Department.



LABOUR

OLD SCHOOL HOUSE APPLICATION REJECTED

An Bord Pleanála on 29 June 2021 rejected a proposed Strategic Housing Development for a large-scale development of 198 units at the Old School House, Porterstown. The Board's decision concluded that the application would have 'a significantly negative impact on the Royal Canal' and was premature in the absence of a comprehensive evaluation of its impact on flora, fauna and natural habitats.

This decision is an important success for the local community in Lambourn and the Village Porterstown and residents across Dublin 15 working to protect the Royal Canal. I held a well-attended Zoom meeting to facilitate residents in voicing their concerns about the application and the Board's decision took on board many of the arguments against the application.



ONGAR TAKING IN CHARGE

Following the conclusion of High Court proceedings which facilitate the start of the taking in charge process for Ongar village, the Council is planning to appoint a contractor to undertake works to bring Ongar up to taking in charge standards.

Phone: 087 6486228

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Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance.



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Fingal County Council is seeking the input from Castleknock residents on the location of proposed neighbourhood play space

Fingal County Council has launched a survey on the location of a proposed neighbourhood play space in Castleknock.

The survey will provide an opportunity, to all interested parties in the area, to examine the five proposed play space locations, state which ones they consider most appropriate and leave any feedback.

Following the submission of a resident petition and a motion by Councillors to the Blanchardstown-Mulhuddart/Castleknock/Ongar Area Committee, the Operations Department D15 have surveyed the open spaces within the Castleknock Area to identify areas suitable for a play space.

Factors included:

- Size of open space
- Local demographics
- Parking facilities
- Proximity to transport hubs
- Community facilities
- Topography
- Proximity to Residents
- Opportunities for Passive Surveillance

Their research identified five potential locations for a play space in the area; Laurel Lodge Green, Opposite Castleknock Community

Centre, Opposite Oak Tree Green, Opposite Sycamore Avenue and Adjacent to Castleknock Road and Woodpark.

In order to contribute to this research, Fingal County Council wishes to gather the feedback of Castleknock residents and potential users of this amenity. The survey will allow residents to give their opinion on the five potential locations which will then be taken into consideration by the Council.

Following this research, Fingal County Council's Operations Department will forward the results of this survey together with the 5 locations proposed, to the Planning and Strategic Infrastructure Department for their consideration. A statutory public consultation will take place at that time and members of the public and local interest groups will be invited to participate in the consultation process. It is expected that it will take a minimum of 18 months for this project to reach formal consultation.

Speaking about the project, Executive Parks Superintendent of Fingal County Council, Oliver Hoey, said: "We are currently in the very early stages of this project. We are inviting the residents of Castleknock to complete this survey in order to understand their needs and preferences for a play space in the area. We will take their feedback into consideration before progressing this project any further. We would encourage everyone in the area to get involved with the survey so that we have a better idea of their wants and needs. We'd also like to remind everyone that it will take a few years before this is achieved but that this is an important first step in the process".

A survey regarding the proposed play space can be found on Fingal's Consultation Portal website at <https://consult.fingal.ie/en/content/proposals-playground-castleknock-online-public-engagement>. Residents of the Castleknock area will also receive the survey in the post in the coming week. Postal forms can be returned to: Operations Department, Fingal County Council, Grove Road, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15. Participants should complete only one survey per person, using the postal form OR the online form. Survey submissions opened on August 17 and will remain open until 23.59hrs on September 6 2021.

Fingal County Council's website contains significant information with respect to the proposal to provide a play space for children in the Castleknock Area. If you'd like to learn more about the five proposed locations for this amenity and view the proposed project timeline, please go to:

www.fingal.ie/castleknockplay.

DRAÍOCHT BLANCHARDSTOWN PRESENTS

THE VISIT

By Deirdre Kinahan

Running as part of Dublin Theatre Festival 2021

Core funded by the Arts Council of Ireland Theatre Project Award

DRAÍOCHT: 13 – 16 OCTOBER @ 8:00PM

FURTHER INFO at: www.draiocht.ie

The world premiere of a major new play about personal hope by multi-award winning Irish playwright Deirdre Kinahan, directed for stage by Veronica Coburn:

Draíocht Blanchardstown presents award-winning playwright Deirdre Kinahan's *The Visit*. This world premiere is directed by Veronica Coburn and opens as part of Dublin Theatre Festival, this October. Based on Kinahan's play *YES* written as part of Draíocht's ground-breaking HOME THEATRE (Ireland) Project in 2018.

YES was inspired by the time Deirdre spent with Maureen Penrose, her HOME THEATRE host in 2018 and who's character Rose in that play tells a very personal story about her life. *The Visit* however delves deeper into Rose's story - a woman who opens up her front door to find a world of new possibilities, after the death of her dominating and deeply controlling husband. This funny, heart-warming, touching new play explores a hidden social reality we are only beginning to understand. Centered around Rose who is played by actress Mary O'Driscoll [*Brooklyn* (2015), *The Bookshop* (2017) and *Ordinary Decent Criminal* (2000)], this masterpiece of new theatre writing is brought vividly to dramatic life by Ireland's foremost playwright Deirdre Kinahan. It's adventurous and brave and takes us into Rose's journey getting back into her community and meeting new people.

We meet Rose as she stands on the empty stage, looking out into the auditorium. Imagining what it will be like when

it is full. Which it will be. Tonight. When the choir performs. She has washed and ironed her cowgirl shirt and skirt. She carries it on a hanger. She likes the way the fringe swings when she wears it. It makes her feel glamorous. In the quiet of the theatre, she finds herself thinking back on the events of that morning, the events of last year, even the last twenty years. When did she stop being herself? Rose thinks about her dead husband Stephen, and her sons, and the man who knocked on her door.

Directed by Veronica Coburn, starring Mary O'Driscoll, with set and costume design by Deirdre Dwyer, sound design by Sin?ad Diskin and lighting design by Eamon Fox.

The Visit will also tour offsite in Dublin 15 to two community locations.

BACKGROUND:

The original play *YES* was written for Maureen Penrose by Deirdre Kinahan, and Performed by Mary O'Driscoll in Maureen's home in October 2018 to an invited audience, before transferring to Draíocht's Main Stage, as part of Dublin Theatre Festival 2018. *YES* was Directed by Claire O'Reilly.

The Visit receives its world premiere, as part of Dublin Theatre Festival 2021 at Draíocht, Blanchardstown from 13 – 16 October:



ABOUT – Writer, Director & Performer:

Deirdre Kinahan is an award winning playwright and a member of Aosdána, Ireland's elected body of outstanding artists. Deirdre is an Associate Artist with Meath County Council Arts Office, her plays are translated into many languages, published by Nick Hern Books and produced regularly in Ireland and on the International stage.

Recent work includes: The Saviour (Landmark Productions 2021) 'In the middle of the fields' (Solas Nua, Washington DC2021), Embargo (Fishamble 2020), Dear Ireland (Abbey Theatre 2020), The Bloodied Field (Abbey Theatre 2020), The Unmanageable Sisters (Abbey Theatre 2018/19), Rathmines Road (Fishamble 2018), Crossings (Pentabus UK 2018), Wild Notes (Solas Nua DC 2018), Renewed (Old Vic London 2018).

Theatre Director Veronica Coburn has had a long association with Draíocht Blanchardstown. She acted as Artistic Director of HOME THEATRE (Ireland) and Our Place, Our Stories and in the role of Artist-in-Residence, 2012 - 2015, she established Hallelujah! Draíocht's Community Clown Choir. Veronica is the author of Clown Through Mask - The Pioneering Work

of Richard Pochinko As Practised By Sue Morrison. Written in collaboration with Sue Morrison it is published by Intellect Press. Veronica is an Associate Artist in The Civic Theatre with responsibility for participation and play. She is also the Artistic Director of the National Youth Theatre. Veronica has received the Prix Europa/Radio France, Gold Medal New York and a Zebbie Award for her work in radio drama. She is delighted to be working with a number of the participants of Hallelujah! who have continued to work independently. With the support of Create, The Clown Chorus will present an original work, 'Magpies' in Draíocht alongside The Visit.

Actress Mary O'Driscoll most recently filmed the role of Mrs Kennedy in SMOTHER Season 2 for RTE and BBC Studios, directed by Datháí Keane. Prior to that Mary appeared in THE COUNTRY GIRLS at the Abbey Theatre and played Yvonne in THE UNMANAGEABLE SISTERS directed by Graham McLaren at the Abbey Theatre.

Other credits include the role of Dolores in the second series of CAN'T COPE WON'T COPE, directed by Imogen Murphy for RTE? and BBC3; the role of Mrs. Keble in the feature film THE BOOKSHOP, directed by Isabel Coixet; John Crowley's feature BROOKLYN alongside Saoirse Ronan, Julie Walters and Domhnall Gleeson; TRADERS, directed by Rachel Moriarty and Peter Murphy, with Killian Scott and John Bradley; and the role of Cathy in Stirling Films' TV series SCU?P, directed by Declan Recks.

CAST: **Mary O'Driscoll**

CREATIVE TEAM:

Writer: **Deirdre Kinahan**

Director: **Veronica Coburn**

Set & Costume Design: **Deirdre Dwyer**

Sound Design: **Sinead Diskin**

Lighting Design: **Eamon Fox**

LISTING INFORMATION:

Previews: Wednesday 13 October | 8.00pm | €16

Opens: Thursday 14 October | 8.00pm | €18 / €16

Runs: Friday 15 and Saturday 16 October | 8.00pm | €18 / €16

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www.draiocht.ie/whats-on/the-visit-by-deirdre-kinahan

connectedhubs

#TransformYourWorkday

Fingal welcomes Funding under Connected Hubs Scheme



Fingal County Council is delighted to welcome €115k funding under the #OurRuralFuture Connected Hubs Scheme which will help to facilitate remote working.

Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, announced over €8.8 million in funding under the Connected Hubs Scheme – a key deliverable of Our Rural Future.

The funding will enable existing hubs and broadband connection points to enhance and add capacity to remote working infrastructure in every region across Ireland. Grants will also fund measures to assist hubs to deal with COVID related challenges. Fingal's remote working hubs look forward to participating in the new national connectedhubs.ie platform, where remote workers can book space and services in remote working hubs across the country.

The grant of €75,000 secured by Base Enterprise Centre will compliment investment already being made in the centre to upgrade its facilities and make the space within the centre more accessible and suitable to remote workers, start-up businesses and established business in the Fingal area.

The funding provided will enhance remote working infrastructure at the existing Broadband Connection Points in the Liam Rogers, Applewood, Tyrellstown and Luttrellstown Fingal Community Centres. These centres will provide a space for local businessmen and women, students and entrepreneurs to work remotely within their locality in a safe friendly welcoming environment. The funding will allow for the

installation of workstations, screens and technology upgrades to enhance these facilities.

Welcoming the announcement Mayor of Fingal Cllr Seána Ó Rodaigh said: "The announcement of this funding is great news for the many Fingal workers who have discovered the benefits of remote working over the last year. It will allow them to work in their own locality while availing of the facilities and supports of an office environment."

Chief Executive of Fingal AnnMarie Farrelly said: "Fingal County Council is committed to enhancing digital opportunities in Fingal and facilitating the development of sustainable working models. We welcome this funding provided for our remote working hubs which contribute to a better work life balance, are beneficial to the local economy and assist workers to work in their local communities."

Full details the funding received by Fingal:

Fingal Enterprise Centres

- Base Enterprise Centre = €75,000

Fingal Broadband Connection Points

- Applewood CC = €10,000
- Fingal Liam Rogers CC = €10,000
- Tyrellstown CC = €10,000
- Luttrellstown CC = €10,000



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Fingal County Council’s Women’s Caucus Stand with the Women of Afghanistan

The female Councillors that make up Fingal County Council’s Women’s Caucus are standing with the women of Afghanistan after the Taliban has returned to power in Kabul resulting in fear and upset across the country.

Over the past few days women across the world have watched in fear as Afghan women have been violently removed from their jobs, forced inside and had their freedom threatened. Reports have said that women are afraid to go outside or speak as the crackdown on their freedom begins.

When the Taliban last ruled Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001, women weren’t allowed to work or attend school, they had to always be accompanied by a male relative outside the home and they had to constantly cover their faces. Women who went against the Taliban in this timeframe suffered humiliation and public beatings.

The Taliban have promised to respect women’s rights within the limits of Islam, but many remain concerned and frightened. The underpinning of their ideology and social structure is a strict interpretation of and adherence to 7th Century Islamic Law.

The uncertainty is causing many to fear and expect the worst for

the freedom of Afghan women. Reports have already surfaced of Afghan women being forced to marry fighters and being publicly flogged.

The Chairperson of the Women’s Caucus, Councillor Karen Power, said: “We are deeply worried about Afghan women and girls, their rights to education, work and freedom of movement. There is a lot of uncertainty on how the situation is going to evolve, however, women have the most at stake with the removal of democratic government processes. We stand with our sisters in Afghanistan, who, like all Afghan people, deserve to live safely and with dignity.

“The only difference between us, is that we can live safely and to our full potential because of the lottery of birth. The Caucus condemns and abhors all attacks and human rights abuses, especially those targeted at women and girls. In the week in which we mark International Humanitarian Day, and among human rights persecution worldwide, we remember the persecution of Saudi Female Rights Activist Loujain Alhathloul. As a caucus, we are encouraging people within Fingal to support humanitarian causes and the maintenance of fundamental human rights and dignity in whatever way they can,” said Cllr Power.

“While news cycles tend to move on, the Caucus will not be forgetting the women and girls of Afghanistan and will continue to keep a focus on the country. The world is watching, and the Women’s Caucus encourages everyone to spread awareness, start conversations and donate when you can,” concluded Cllr Power.



MINISTER URGES CO-OPERATION WITH INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF ST. JOHN AMBULANCE

Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Roderic O’Gorman (GP) welcomes the ongoing work of the independent review, commissioned by the Board of St. John Ambulance Ireland into the management of historical child sexual abuse within the organisation.

As Dr. Geoffrey Shannon begins his work, the Minister is encouraging people who may not have been aware of the review, but who may have knowledge of the matters it is examining, to come forward. The Minister said: “It has been brought to my attention that there may be individuals who are not aware of the review. It is vitally important that the review is as complete and comprehensive as possible. I would also encourage any person who has experienced abuse themselves, or has reason to believe that a child is at risk of abuse, to speak to Tusla, or the Gardaí.” The Board of St. John Ambulance commissioned Dr. Geoffrey Shannon to conduct an independent review into historical allegations of child sexual

abuse and current safeguarding practices within the organisation. St John Ambulance are communicating with all current members and the parents/ guardians of cadets to inform them that the review is under way. Dr. Shannon is a leading authority on child protection and child and family law. During three successive terms as Special Rapporteur for Child Protection, Dr. Shannon produced 12 annual reports as well as a range of reports on matters relating to child protection. Dr. Shannon has also served as Chairperson of the Adoption Authority of Ireland. The terms of reference set out that Dr. Shannon will review how the organisation handled past allegations of child sexual abuse, relating to one volunteer, and will also examine the current standard of child safeguarding

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MORE THAN 1,000 SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED FOR ROYAL CANAL URBAN GREENWAY CONSULTATION

Fingal County Council has received more than 1,000 submissions and surveys from members of the public in relation to the proposed route for the Royal Canal Urban Greenway. The most recent six week-long phase of consultation ended on Wednesday, July 7.

This non-statutory consultation invited the public to share their views on the proposed route. Submissions were accepted through Fingal County Council's Consultation Portal website, via survey or written submission, and written submissions were also accepted by post.

Throughout the course of the consultation Fingal County Council provided the public with access to user friendly images and videos of the proposed Greenway as well as a large number of technical



drawings and reports relating to the project. These items remain online, along with recordings of two public information webinars delivered during the consultation period, and can be viewed at <https://consult.fingal.ie/en/consultation/royal-canal-urban-greenway>

The Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Seána Ó Rodaigh, said: "It is important that citizens engage in the public consultation process and let their views be known. The response to the Royal Canal Urban Greenway consultation shows the level of interest in the project



and it is great that so many took the opportunity to participate.”

Fingal County Council is now engaged in reviewing, moderating and publishing all submissions on their consultation portal. Moderation involves the redaction of a submitter’s personal details prior to publication. Due to the high level of public engagement this process is expected to take a number of weeks. Fingal County Council staff have already begun this work with 375 submissions now live on the consultation portal.

The design team will consider all submissions received and assess how to best address the various issues raised. This process will include discussions with other stakeholders, which may include local residents, landowners, the National Transport Authority, Waterways Ireland and Irish Rail.

The project team will review all feedback from the public and a summary report on the consultation will then be published and made publicly available. The submissions will also feed into the final proposed scheme design, and it will be screened for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA). That screening, likely to take place in Q3 2021, will also help determine whether the planning application will be lodged to Fingal County Council (as a Part 8) or to An Bord

Pleanála.

Fingal County Council Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly said: “We take public consultation seriously and see it as a valuable and important opportunity to understand the needs of people and the environment they live in.

“The Royal Canal Urban Greenway has the potential to promote connectivity between a number of growing communities in Dublin 15, improving their connection to the wider Dublin area. Throughout the course of this consultation the project team has reached out to the public using webinars, online resources, social media and the press and we believe the very high number of submissions demonstrates that this process works well. While Covid-19 does not allow us to meet large groups in person we remain committed to providing meaningful consultation through technology.”

The Royal Canal Urban Greenway is a proposed pedestrian and cycle route along the Royal Canal tow path. The route will operate from Castleknock travelling through Blanchardstown, Coolmine, Clonsilla and Hansfield to the Fingal County boundary with Kildare. This landmark scheme will deliver a nationally important piece of greenway infrastructure and is being delivered by Fingal County Council in conjunction with the National Transport Authority and Waterways Ireland

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Mark Abbott, owner of the Oven Wizards business said "From the first time we met Jim, we knew he would make a great success of running an Oven Wizards Franchise, particularly because of his great passion for friendly customer service."

Mark went on to explain "There is a growing demand from people who want to have their ovens professionally cleaned because it is probably the hardest and most hated job in most households".

Oven Wizards have provided Jim with comprehensive training which will enable him to professionally clean all sorts of makes and models of ovens.

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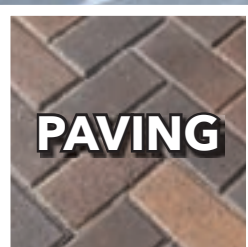
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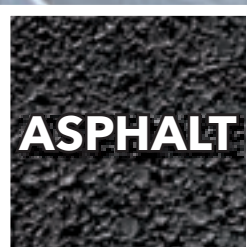
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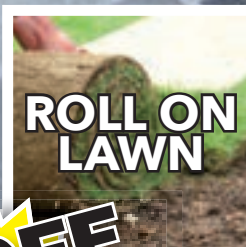
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THE LIFE AND TIMES OF PHIL LYNOTT

PART 1

Philip Parris Lynott (20 August 1949 – 4 January 1986) was an Irish singer, musician, and songwriter. His most commercially successful group was Thin Lizzy, of which he was a founding member, the principal songwriter, lead vocalist and bassist. He was known for his imaginative lyrical contributions including working class tales and numerous characters drawn from personal influences and Celtic culture.

Lynott was born in the West Midlands of England, but grew up in Dublin with his grandparents. Phil Lynott was born in Hallam Hospital in West Bromwich, England, and christened at St Edward's Church, Selly Park, Birmingham. His mother, Philomena Lynott, was born in Dublin and his father, Cecil Parris, was from Georgetown, British Guiana. Philomena met Parris, who had moved to England to seek work, in Birmingham in 1948 and they were in a relationship for a few months, until Parris was transferred to London. Shortly afterwards, Philomena found she was pregnant and, after Lynott was born, she moved with her baby to a home for unmarried mothers in Selly Park, where he was baptised on 4 September. Philomena subsequently moved to Manchester but stayed in touch with Parris who helped pay towards his son's support. She subsequently had two other children who were given up for adoption. Though he suffered no serious racism, Lynott felt different from his school-mates and was more self-conscious.

Lynott first attended school in Moss Side, Manchester. In 1957, due to accounts of racism and Lynott being mixed race, his mother sent him to live with his grandparents, Frank and Sarah Lynott, in Crumlin, Dublin. The move was important as the presence of Frank gave him a father figure for the first time in his life. His mother stayed in Manchester and remained close to her son. She later took over the management of the Clifton Grange Hotel in Whalley Range with her partner, Dennis Keeley. The hotel, nicknamed "The Biz", became popular with showbusiness entertainers, and was later referred to in a song on Thin Lizzy's debut album. Lynott had a happy childhood growing up in Dublin and was a popular character at school.

Lynott was introduced to music through his uncle Timothy's record collection, and became influenced by Tamla Motown and The Mamas & the Papas. He joined his first band, the Black Eagles in 1965 as a lead singer, playing popular covers in local clubs around Dublin. He attended the Christian Brothers School in Crumlin, where





he became friends with Brian Downey, who was later persuaded to join the band from the Liffey Beats. The group fell apart due to the lack of interest of manager Joe Smith, particularly after the departure of his two sons, guitarists Danny and Frankie.

Lynott then left the family home and moved into a flat in Clontarf, where he briefly joined the group Kama Sutra. It was in this band that he learned his frontman skills, and worked out how to interact with an audience. In early 1968, he teamed up with bassist Brendan "Brush" Shiels to form Skid Row. Downey was not interested in Shiels' request to be the drummer, so the job went to Noel Bridgeman. The band signed a deal with Ted Carroll, who would later go on to manage Thin Lizzy, and played a variety of covers including "Eight Miles High", "Hey Jude" and several numbers by Jimi Hendrix. Because Lynott did not play an instrument at this point in his career, he instead manipulated his voice through an echo box during instrumental sections. He took to smearing boot polish

under his eyes on stage to draw attention to himself, which he would continue to do throughout Lizzy's career later on, and regularly performed a mock fight with Shiels onstage to attract the crowd. In mid-1968, guitarist Bernard Cheevers quit to work full-time at the Guinness Brewery in Dublin, and was replaced by Belfast-born guitarist Gary Moore.

Despite increased success, and the release of a single, "New Faces, Old Places", Shiels became concerned about Lynott's tendency to sing off-key. He then discovered that the problem was with Lynott's tonsils; he subsequently took a leave of absence from the band. By the time he had recovered, Shiels had decided to take over singing lead and reduce the band to a three piece. Feeling guilty of having effectively sacked one of his best friends, he taught Lynott how to play bass, figuring it would be easier to learn than a six string guitar, and sold him a Fender Jazz Bass he had bought from Robert Ballagh for £36, and started giving him lessons.

Lynott and Downey quickly put together a new band called Orphanage, with guitarist Joe Staunton and bassist Pat Quigley, playing a mixture of original material alongside covers of Bob Dylan, Free and Jeff Beck. Still learning the bass, Lynott restricted himself to occasional rhythm guitar alongside singing lead.

At the end of 2006, a number of Skid Row and Orphanage demo tapes featuring Lynott were discovered. These were his earliest recordings and had been presumed lost for decades.

He fronted several bands as a lead vocalist, including alongside Gary Moore, before learning the bass guitar. Towards the end of 1969, Lynott and Downey were introduced to guitarist Eric Bell via founding member of Them, keyboardist Eric Wrixon (Bell had played in a later line-up of Them). Deciding that Bell was a better guitarist, and with Lynott now confident enough to play bass himself, the four formed Thin Lizzy. The name came from the character "Tin Lizzie" in the comic *The Dandy*, which in turn came from the nickname for the Ford Model T car. Lynott later discovered Henry Ford's slogan for the Model T, "Any colour you like as long as it's black", which he felt was appropriate for him. Wrixon was felt by the others to be surplus to requirements and left after the release of the band's first single, "The Farmer", in July 1970.

During the band's early years – and despite being the singer, bassist and chief songwriter – Lynott was still fairly reserved and introverted on stage, and would stand to one side while the spotlight concentrated on Bell, who was initially regarded as the group's leader. During the recording of the band's second album, *Shades of a Blue* Orphanage (1972), Lynott very nearly left Thin Lizzy to form a new band with Deep Purple's Ritchie Blackmore and Ian Paice, called Baby Face. "Ritchie turned up in the studio one day to jam," recalled Downey. "I was asked to play drums to Phil and Ritchie jamming... Me and Eric looked at each other like, 'Well, that's the end of the band then.' It lasted a week, then Phil came back as if nothing had happened. He wanted to be the leader of his own band, not the singer in someone else's." Due to being in dire financial straits Lizzy did, however, soon record an album of Deep Purple covers under the name Funky Junction. Lynott did not sing on the album as he felt his voice was



not in the same style as Ian Gillan.

Towards the end of 1972, Thin Lizzy got their first major break in the UK by supporting Slade, then nearing the height of their commercial success. Inspired by Noddy Holder's top hat with mirrors, Lynott decided to attach a mirror to his bass, which he carried over to subsequent tours. On the opening night of the tour, an altercation broke out between Lynott and Slade's manager Chas Chandler, who chastised Lynott's lack of stage presence and interaction with the audience and threatened to throw Lizzy off the tour unless things improved immediately. Lynott subsequently developed the onstage rapport and stage presence that would become familiar over the remainder of the decade

Thin Lizzy's first top-ten hit was in 1973, with a rock version of the traditional Irish song "Whiskey in the Jar", featuring a cover by Irish artist and friend Jim Fitzpatrick. However, follow-up singles failed to chart and, after the departure of Bell, quickly followed by Moore replacing him and, briefly, Downey, Thin Lizzy were near collapse by mid-1974. It was not until the recruitment of guitarists Scott Gorham and Brian Robertson and the release of Jailbreak in 1976 that Thin Lizzy became international superstars on the strength of the album's biggest hit, "The Boys Are Back in Town". The song reached the top 10 in the UK, was No. 1 in Ireland and a hit in the US and Canada. However, while touring with Rainbow, Lynott contracted hepatitis and the band had to cancel touring.

Lynott befriended Huey Lewis while Lewis's band, Clover, was supporting them on tour. Lewis was impressed

with Lynott's frontman abilities and was inspired to perform better, eventually achieving commercial success in the 1980s. Lynott's songs, including "Cowboy Song" and "Massacre", were particularly influenced by the band's US touring. He had a particular affinity for Los Angeles.

Having finally achieved mainstream success, Thin Lizzy embarked on several consecutive world tours. The band built on Jailbreak's success with the release of a string of hit albums, including Johnny the Fox (1976), Bad Reputation (1977), Black Rose: A Rock Legend (1979), and the live album Live and Dangerous (1978), which features Lynott in the foreground on the cover. However, the band was suffering from personnel changes, with Robertson being replaced temporarily by Moore in 1976, and then permanently the following year, partly due to a personal clash with Lynott.

By the early 1980s, Thin Lizzy were starting to struggle commercially, and Lynott started showing symptoms of drug abuse, including regular asthma attacks. After the resignation of longtime manager Chris O'Donnell, and with Gorham wanting to quit, Lynott decided to disband Thin Lizzy in 1983. He had started to use heroin by this stage in his career, and it affected the band's shows in Japan when he was unable to obtain any. He managed to pick himself up for the band's show at the Reading Festival and their last gig (with Lynott as frontman) in Nuremberg on 4 September.

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DART West Consultation Extended

Irish Rail have decided to extend the public consultation on DART+West.

Cllr John Walsh (Lab) welcomed the decision, saying: 'This extension gives residents and communities a much needed breathing space in the middle of the summer. It is simply impossible to hold a successful public consultation in August and the original time-scale was much too restricted to allow people the time to make an informed submission.'

Cllr Walsh and Cllr Declan Meenagh (Labour, Cabra-Glasnevin) wrote to the Chief Executive Officer of Irish Rail, Mr Jim Meade, on Friday, August 6 asking for the consultation to run for nine weeks until early October. The Labour Councillors called for an extension from the original closing date of 8th September to facilitate residents who would be on holidays during August or preparing for their children to return to school.

Walsh added: 'Electrification of the Maynooth line has the potential to transform public transport across suburban Dublin and would be a landmark in achieving green public transport. Considering the importance of the project, it is all the more important to secure a high level of public engagement. There are many questions and concerns around the preferred options, particularly at Coolmine and Ashtown - the final route has to respect the concerns of communities along the route to protect their local environment and prevent increased traffic congestion on local roads.'

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“DEPARTMENTAL DECISION TO BREAK COMMITMENT TO DANU COMMUNITY SPECIAL SCHOOL IS A DISGRACE” - WALSH

The school community in Riversdale looked forward to welcoming Danu to temporary accommodation in Riversdale

The school community in Riversdale looked forward to welcoming Danu to temporary accommodation in Riversdale until the new school received its own building, but allocating over a third of their building to Danu on a permanent basis curtails the facilities they can offer their students and threatens the long-term viability of the school. Combining a school for children with additional needs with a mainstream post-primary school in a single building has no educational justification and is all about saving money.'

The Area Committee for Dublin 15 unanimously agreed a motion presented by Cllr Walsh, which was co-proposed by Cllr Mary McCamley and Cllr Howard Mahony:

'This Committee condemns the decision to locate Danu Community Special School on a permanent basis within the current building of Riversdale Community College and

supports the parents of Danu Community Special School in their campaign for a permanent new build school and the school community in Riversdale in their efforts to keep their school viable and in so doing this Committee calls upon the Department of Education and Dublin and Dún Laoghaire Education and Training Board to 1) provide a stand alone, dedicated new build school for Danu Community Special School following an agreed transitional period, while also 2) preserving and developing Riversdale as a viable Community College and allowing scope for expansion and development of the school in its current building.'

Walsh said: 'The cross party support for our motion testifies to the outrage among the school communities at this decision. It is disgraceful that vulnerable children and parents are being let down in such a blatant way. It is very worrying too that a long established school serving

a working class community is being undermined and curtailed purely to save money.'

Walsh added: 'Danu is the first new special school in the country in 15 years and responds to the desperate need for a dedicated school to serve children with autism in Dublin 15. It is absolutely crucial that Danu has its own purpose built school building on its own site to serve children with additional needs and there is no reason why this impinge on an existing school. While the Education and Training Board is the patron, the ultimate authority here rests with the Department of Education and the Minister should take a decision straightaway to approve a new school for Danu on a greenfield site beside Riversdale. It is time for the Minister to intervene and ensure that justice is done for both schools.'

New Autism Specific Special School Denied New Purpose Built Building

Minister of State with responsibility for the Office of Public Works, Patrick O'Donovan, recently launched the Phoenix Park Transport and Mobility Options Study Post-Consultation Report.

Speaking at the launch, Minister O'Donovan said:
Cllr John Walsh (Lab) has called on the Minister for Education, Norma Foley to reverse the recent decision to locate Danu Community Special School permanently in an existing building shared with Riversdale Community College, rather than allocating the new autism specific special school its own purpose built new build on a greenfield site: 'This disgraceful decision by the Department of Education is exceptionally damaging to both schools and breaks a commitment made to the parents of the children with additional needs when the school was first agreed. The children and parents in Danu had to fight to get agreement for their school in the first place and have now been badly let down by this decision.

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Your Guide to the EU Digital Covid Certificate with Europe Direct, Blanchardstown Library

Europe Direct Blanchardstown has published a series of video interviews on the topic of the EU Digital Covid Certificate.

This non-statutory consultation invited the public to share their views on the proposed route. Submissions were accepted through Fingal County Council's Consultation Portal website, via survey or written submission, and written submissions were also accepted by post.

The aim of the interview series is to inform the public as to the purpose of the certificate and how it can be used to facilitate travel within the European Union. The interviews were organised by Europe Direct Manager Siobhan Walshe and recorded by Assistant Coordinator Barry O'Carroll.

There were three interviewees in total:

Barbara Nolan – Head of the European Commission Representation in Ireland

Barbara Nolan discussed the Digital Covid Certificate from an EU perspective including the purpose of the certificate and how it will facilitate travel within the EU.

Ossian Smyth - Minister of State at the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform

Minister Smyth spoke about the practical aspects of the

certificate: how to obtain one; who is entitled to one and the format of the certificate.

Siobhan O'Donnell - Head of External Communications, Dublin Airport

Siobhan O'Donnell discussed how the Digital Covid Certificate would work in practice at Dublin Airport as well as practical advice for those intending to travel by air in the coming weeks and months.

The full series of interviews is available to watch on the Fingal Libraries YouTube Channel https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLhLZ_o7ug6_9PXKZ-VxDG9S6IXiUTw0IO

Betty Boardman, County Librarian said: "We are very grateful to Minister Ossian Smyth, Barbara Nolan and Siobhan O'Donnell for taking part in this series of interviews. Now that travel abroad has opened again, it is very important that those travelling are aware that the Digital COVID Certificate will help them to travel safely and more easily within the EU during the COVID-19 pandemic. The interviews organised by staff at the Europe Direct Centre at Blanchardstown Library contain trustworthy, up to date information from reliable sources"

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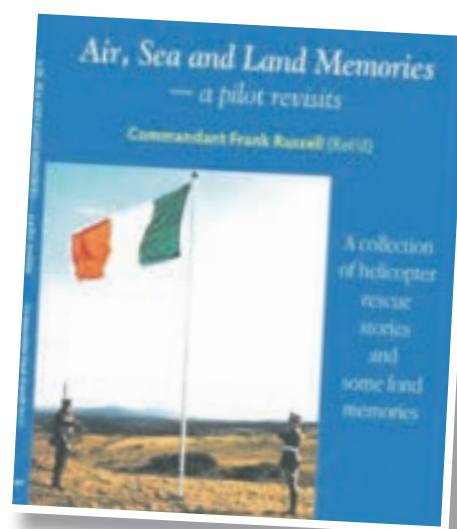
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St Brigid's GAA

St Brigid's GAA club congratulates Frank Russell on the publication of his book *Air, Sea and Land memories*. The Russell family have been core to the growth and achievements of St Brigid's, leading and supporting the club throughout.



St Brigid's GAA Club was formed in 1932 and is the longest established GAA Club in Dublin 15. The club originally served the rural villages of Castleknock, Blanchardstown, Clonsilla and Mulhuddart.

In 1979, President Patrick Hillery opened the new grounds and clubhouse, named 'Tom Russell Park' to show appreciation for Tom Russell who was Chairman of St Brigid's Club for a record eighteen years and of the Dublin County Board for nine years.

Huge thanks are due to all who volunteered on the club's behalf throughout our history and to those who are involved in supporting the current work of the club as we now near our 90th Anniversary.

St Brigid's members are very fortunate to have three full size pitches together with an additional two juvenile pitches in the Russell Park grounds. Membership numbers are expanding and we currently field over a

hundred teams. The club provides participation in sport from Nursery level through to Adult Games in Football, Hurling, Ladies Football, Camogie and Handball. Fun and skills acquisition are the focus for the youngsters, moving into competitive involvement at a suitable level as the players move through the years.

St Brigid's Senior Men's Football team won Dublin Championships in 2003 and 2011, winning Leinster Championship also in 2003. The Senior Hurling and Senior Ladies Football teams have contested recent Senior Dublin Championship finals. The Club Camogie Section Naomh Bríd reached its 50th year in 2020, with celebration still awaited due to Covid. Underage boys and girls have been proud Dublin winners of Feile na Gael and Feile Peil on numerous occasions at all levels and codes. Our Handball section is vibrant and provides participation and competition for every age group. Eoin Kennedy's phenomenal success has been inspirational.

€2.2M FUNDING FOR YOUTH PROJECTS

Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Roderic O' Gorman has recently approved €2.2 million in capital grants to support national youth organisations many of which have branches in Dublin 15, and local youth services and clubs across the country.



Today's announcement will see 470 grants provided to services and youth clubs across 14 Education and Training Board areas including Dublin 15 and 24 National Youth Organisations, including NYCI, Foróige, Crosscare, YWI, and Gaisce.

The capital grants awarded today are supporting services and clubs with upgrade works, the purchase of new equipment, ICT for online service provision, improvements to ventilation, and adaptations to outdoor spaces to facilitate youth services to run outdoor activities. Some 24 National Youth Organisations are benefiting from over €500,000 in capital grants to support their work across the country in the area of ICT, minor works and equipment.

The Minister commented:

"I am delighted to have approved capital funding of over €2.2 million to support online, in-person and outdoor activities in youth services and clubs. Youth services play a vital role in our communities, providing support and guidance to young people, and empowering them to reach their full potential. They have been at the forefront at reaching out to help young people throughout this pandemic, helping to alleviate social isolation, by offering them a space in

person or online, to meet with their peers, and process the challenges of Covid-19".

Capital Grants for Staff Led Youth Services and Volunteer run Youth Clubs

Grants have been approved in fourteen Education and Training Board functional areas.

ETBs are co-grantors for grant applications for under €5,000. The Department, with Ministerial approval, is the grantor for all applications over €5,000.

Grant application processes are ongoing in two ETB areas and it is expected that submissions will be received in due course.

To date, 391 grants for under €5,000 have been formally notified to the Department.

Announcement includes approval by the Minister for 79 applications, for amounts over €5,000 up to a maximum of €30,000.

The following outlines the distribution to date of allocations approved by ETB area.

Capital Grants for National Youth Organisations

In addition to grants to local youth services and clubs, the



following amounts have been awarded to National Youth Organisations, and this capital grant scheme is now closed.

- 1. Belong To - €17,145.12
- 2. Catholic Guides of Ireland - €28,033.70
- 3. Church Of Ireland Youth Department - €19,617
- 4. Crosscare - €48,010.66
- 5. Experiment in International Living - €3,249.53
- 6. ECO - UNESCO Clubs - €14,016
- 7. Feachtas - €8,191.40
- 8. Foróige - €48,737.42
- 9. Gaisce – the President’s Award - €41,215.17
- 10. Girls Friendly Society - €3,305.86
- 11. Involve - €25,547.16
- 12. Irish Girl Guides - €43,890.00
- 13. Irish Methodist - €3,417.00
- 14. Junior Chamber Ireland - €1,945.00

- 15. Localise Youth and Community Service Ltd - €14,786.00
- 16. Macra na Feirme - €50,000
- 17. National Youth Council of Ireland - €39,435.27
- 18. Ógras - €21,392.00
- 19. Order of Malta Cadets - €5,114.00
- 20. SpunOut - €11,012.69
- 21. Scouting Ireland - €50,000.00
- 22. Voluntary Services International - €9,261
- 23. Young Irish Film Makers - €6,711
- 24. Youth Work Ireland - €50,000
- TOTAL - €564,032.98

“I know youth clubs and services are working hard to improve the well-being of young people, and by providing opportunities for personal development, they are helping young people to achieve better social outcomes and gain a greater understanding of the world around them. I have no doubt this funding will support services to provide real benefits to young people’s lives as they navigate the ongoing challenges brought by Covid-19,” said Minister O’Gorman.

Knock Knock

One day, 3 men died and went to heaven. "Religion?" God's secretary asked the first man.

"Jewish," the man replied.

"Okay, go to room 23, but be very quiet when you go past room 8," the secretary said.

"Religion?" he asked the second man.

"Muslim."

"Go to room 10, but be very quiet when you go past room 8."

"Religion?" he asked the third man.

"Agnostic."

"Go to room 71, but be very quiet when you go past room 8."

"Why must I be quiet when I go past room 8?" the man asked.

The secretary replied, "Oh, the Catholics are in room 8, and they think that they are the only ones here."

Q: Have you heard about the new restaurant called Karma?

A: There's no menu; you get what you deserve.

Q: What has more lives than a cat?


A: A frog because it croaks every night.

Q: What do you call a cow that just gave birth?

A: Decalfeinated.

A woman is at a grocery store. She goes to the clerk to purchase her groceries. The clerk looks at her items and sees a carton of eggs, a gallon of milk, and a head of lettuce. He says to the woman, "You must be single." The woman was surprised & replies, "Yes, how did you know?" The clerk answers. "Because you're ugly."

Late one night, a preacher was driving on a country road and had a wreck. A farmer stopped and said, "Sir, are you okay?" The preacher said, "Yes, I had the Lord riding with me." The farmer said, "Well, you better let him ride with me. because you're gonna kill him."



There are three friends named Mad, Brain, and Fight. One day Fight went missing and his friends Mad and Brain started searching for him. Then Brain said, "Mad, let's file a missing person report with the police." When they were about to walk into the police station, Brain said, "Mad, you go and make the report. I will wait for you here." Mad said, "Okay." Mad walked in but no police officers paid attention to him. Then he saw a policeman drinking a cup of coffee. Mad went to the officer, smacked the table, and the cup of coffee flew in the air, landing in the officer's lap. Angry, the policeman asked, "Are you looking for a fight?" Mad replied, "Yes, I am." The policeman asked, "Are you mad?" Mad replied, "Yes, I am Mad." The policeman then asked, "Don't you have a brain?" Mad replied, "Brain is outside sir."

Bob goes to see his friend Pete. He finds Pete in his barn dancing naked around his John Deere. "What are you doing!" asks Bob. Pete stops dancing & says, "My wife has been ignoring me lately so I talked to my psychiatrist and he said I needed to do some thing sexy to a tractor." [to attract her]

One day a duck walks in a store and ask the manager if they sell grapes. The manager says, "No, we don't sell grapes." The duck goes home and comes back the next day and asks the same question. The manager says the same thing again, "No, we do not sell grapes." The duck goes home, comes back the next day, and asks the manager if they sell grapes. This time the manager says, "No, we don't sell grapes! If you ask one more time, I will nail your beak to the floor!" The duck goes home. It comes back the next day and asks the manager if he has any nails. The manager says, "No, I don't have any nails." The duck says, "Okay, good. Do you sell grapes?"



General Knowledge Questions

1. How many people held the office of British Prime Minister in the 20th Century?
2. According to the Bible in which river was Christ baptised?
3. What name did the Romans give to Ireland?
4. Who in 1998 founded internet giant Google with Larry Page?
5. Which songs with "Devil" in the title were UK top twenty hits for the following artists,[a] The Stereophonics (2005), [b] Cliff Richard (1976), [c] Jesus Jones (1993), [d] Neil Sedaka (1961) and [e] Sonia (1993)?
6. Who wrote the novel "Catch 22"?
7. What was the name of the Greenpeace ship that was sunk in Auckland in 1985?
8. Who was the original presenter of TV's "The Crystal Maze"?
9. Which is the only US State that only borders one other?
10. In the Popeye comic strip, who was Olive Oyl's brother?
11. What four train stations feature on the standard UK version of Monopoly?
12. Which two letters have a scoring value of 8 points in a game of Scrabble?
13. In which movie of 1956 did Elvis Presley make his acting debut?
14. Which is the fastest running bird, that is native to the UK?
15. Who attended the tea party in "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" alongside Alice?

THE TACSAÍ MAGAZINE BUMPER QUIZ

16. The ancient city of Byzantium could be found in which modern day country?
17. What were the names of the three original members of pop group The Police?
18. In which month of the year is Oak Apple Day?
19. In which year were the Grammys first awarded?
20. Which is the Holiest day of the year in Judaism?

11. Kings Cross, Marylebone, Fenchurch Street and Liverpool Street.
12. J & X.
13. Love Me Tender.
14. Pheasant.
15. The Mad Hatter, the Dormouse and the March Hare.
16. Turkey.
17. Sting, Andy Summers & Stewart Copeland.
18. May (29th).
19. 1959
20. Yom Kippur (The Day of Atonement).
1. Twenty.
2. River Jordan.
3. Hibernia.
4. Sergey Brin.
5. [a] "Devil" reached no 11, [b] "Devil Woman", no 9, [c] "Rap Devil", no 15, [d] "Little Devil", no 9 and [e] "Better the Devil You Know", no 15.
6. Joseph Heller.
7. Rainbow Warrior.
8. Richard O'Brian.
9. Maine.
10. Castor Oyl.

ANSWERS

Special Visitors at First FAI Summer Soccer School in Tyrrelstown



The Irish women's national football team head coach, Vera Pauw, and goalkeeping coach, Jan Willem van Ede, visited the first FAI Summer Soccer School which was held in Tyrrelstown recently.

They spoke to the children involved, shared some words of wisdom and even did some coaching. Their visit will hopefully encourage the children to keep playing football and to join the Tyrrelstown FC academy which is due to start in September.

The Summer Soccer School was held in Tyrrelstown all-weather pitch where approximately 90 children participated in activities delivered by FAI qualified coaches. This is the first ever FAI camp in the area and was overseen by the FAI and Fingal County Council Football Development Officer, Jamie Wilson, and Head Coach, Sean Fogarty.

The highlight of the week was the visit from the two Dutch coaches Vera Pauw and Jan Willem van Ede who are now involved with Ireland's women's national team. The pair joined in on some of the sessions, displaying some football skills and chatting with the participants. This was an amazing opportunity for the local children who fully embraced the opportunity to interact with two international coaches. They were joined by the Mayor of Fingal and Fingal County Council's Director of Housing and Community, Liam Burke, on the day.

The Mayor of Fingal, Seána O'Rodaigh, said: "Vera and Jan are an inspiration to the younger generation. Their attendance at the Soccer Camp in Tyrrelstown showed the children that they are the future. The engagement and respect between the National coaches and children was a joy to see."

FAI/Fingal County Council Football Development Officer,



Jamie Wilson, was delighted to see Vera and Jan visit the Summer Soccer School: "It's fantastic for the kids and coaches to see people like Vera and Jan go out of their way to visit Tyrrelstown. There are thousands of kids in the area and football has been badly neglected in recent years. With summer soccer schools, the club restarting, and many other events planned for the future, football will be more readily available for all age groups and for both boys and girls. We hope that Vera and Jan's visit will inspire the kids to take up football and play on a more regular basis."

Niall McGuirk, Acting Principal Sports Officer for Fingal County Council said: "It was an absolute pleasure having Vera and Jan at the soccer school. They showed the kids some great tricks and really got involved. It's our first ever FAI football camp in the area so we were delighted that Vera and Jan could join us and encourage the kids to keep up the sport. We hope that the children feel inspired to join in on the academy starting in the coming months."

Tyrrelstown FC academy will start on Sunday, September 12 for the 6-12 age groups. If you are interested in participating, please email Jamie Wilson at Jamie.wilson@fai.ie.

COOLMINE CLUB SPONSOR DRAW UPDATE

All monies raised by the draw are being immediately pumped back into facilities at the club.



A huge thank you to all those listed below who have supported us & entered the Club Sponsor Draw in the last week. All companies that support the draw will have their logo on permanent display on a “Friends of Coolmine” board in the Clubhouse for the season AND will be in our new Club Business Directory

What does the winner get?

- This year’s winner will receive the following prize.
- 1. Banner position on weekly club email messages
 - 2. Logo on large banners behind posts on the Astro pitch fence
 - 3. Logo on club communications & events
 - 4. Logo on First and Second Team jerseys
 - 5. Pitchside sign in centre of pitch. It will remain in a

different position on the main pitch for a further 2 years.

What is the cost?

The costs are as follows and the draw is limited 150 companies:

- 1 ticket €300 (includes 10 IRFU Draw * tickets)
- 3 tickets €600 (includes 20 IRFU Draw tickets)
- 3 tickets €1,200 (includes a pitch side sign ** for one year)
- 7 tickets €1,000 (includes 40 IRFU Draw tickets)

* The IRFU Draw is held in the autumn each year. Tickets are €10 and all proceeds go to the club. The prizes are provided by the IRFU and are of high quality
** once off cost of €225 for pitch sign in first year.
To sponsor the club and enter the draw visit CLUB SPONSOR DRAW | Coolmine (coolminerugby.com)



2 LOCATIONS **CALL TODAY**

Bishopstown, The Ward, Co. Dublin

THE WARD: 01 864 5659 or 087 919 4445

Unit 3A Coolmine Central, Coolmine Industrial Estate, Dublin 15

COOLMINE: 01 822 9630 or 086 044 0922

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The Credit Union is located on Clonsilla Road in Blanchardstown village and all details about their services are available in the office or on their website www.blanchardstowncu.ie



CONTACT US TO FIND OUT MORE

Blanchardstown & District Credit Union
Unit 9/10, Blanchardstown Business Centre,
Clonsilla Road, Blanchardstown, D15 FP92

tel: 01 820 3495

email: info@blanchardstowncu.ie

web: www.blanchardstowncu.ie

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Blanchardstown & District Credit Union is open Monday to Saturday and through lunch every day.

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wed: 10.30am - 5.00pm

thur, fri: 9.30am - 5.00pm

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