

Donnybrook's High-Rise Dilemma

New proposed Student Accommodation raises old concerns

■ **Ray MacAodhagain**

Donnybrook, once a thriving village, has in recent years succumbed to the invasion of the dreaded high-rise. With the new monstrosity at the bottom of Eglinton Road, and a six-storey, 85-unit co-living complex where Kiely's once stood already a *fait accompli* (adding to that the disappearance of post office, banks, and other essential amenities), many residents now consider what was once their beloved village has been reduced to a drive-through on the Stillorgan dual carriageway. Now with another proposed high-rise student accommodation on the junction of Donnybrook Road and Brookvale, the current site of the Circle K petrol filling station, it seems the Donnybrook dilemma continues.

The Story So Far

In 2002 a four-storey apartment block was proposed for this site but rejected by An Bord Pleanála on the grounds of size and height,



Red Rock Ltd proposed 'Build to Rent apartment units' dta.ie

which was deemed to be out of character with the location. In 2008 a separate plan to develop what would have been an 11-storey mixed use development was refused by Dublin City Council. In 2010 a proposed mixed-use development of up to seven storeys in height was rejected by An Bord Pleanála, again on similar grounds. The site was again up for sale in 2018 with permissible uses including residential, office, hotel, hostel, restaurant and retail. By this time changes to planning regulations by then Minister Eoghan Murphy permitted developers to bypass local planning authorities and make applications directly to An Bord Pleanála for large-scale schemes of 100 housing units or more. This resulted in the planning body receiving multiple applications for (build-to-rent) high-rise, ultra high-density blocks.

The site at Donnybrook is presently in the possession of Red Rock Developments Ltd. They acquired this

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Save Our Post Office

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■ Eoin Meegan

Sadly, this notice appeared recently in the post office in Ballsbridge.

The post office – once the hub of the community, the place where people met to collect their pension, get stamps, or send parcels to loved ones in far off lands. Of course the real reason we went in was to catch up on the goss! It was where you went to meet neighbours and catch up with friends (before dreaded txt-ing was invented!). I've lost count of the number of times I've learned about a neighbour's sad passing, or who was expecting good news (i.e. someone's coming), while in the post office.

Post Master Shane Dunne, told the Irish Times some weeks back: "Unfortunately the costs relating to rent,

rates, electricity and labour costs have brought me to this decision."

Already we've lost the post office in Donnybrook, Ringsend, Sandymount and Montrose (and even the big one in Rathmines is under threat). I'm not sure what the solution is: get together and form action groups, lobby our politicians? But we need to do something. If not, surely, this great amenity and service, which has been part of our lives, like forever, will pass. We cannot let that happen.

Thankfully at least the facade is listed as a protected structure, so that's something, utilitarian purposes aside, it is a beautiful building. An Post tells us that the process for finding a new location is well under way. Let's hope they're more successful than in the above mentioned places.

Customer Notice

- I am saddened to announce that Ballsbridge Post Office will cease trading at the present location at the end of November 2024.
 - Unfortunately the costs relating to Rent, Rates, Electricity and labour costs have brought me to this decision.
 - If the Landlord was agreeable to letting me stay, I would be forced to run the office with only one staff member as the current remuneration from An Post is inadequate making this and my other Post Offices unviable. This is even with the highly appreciated support of government to prevent the collapse of the Post office network which will end in 2025.
 - I would sincerely like to thank you for your support and custom. I hope to find a new location for the office before the November deadline subject to availability, which there is none at this present time.
- If you have any queries please contact An Post directly or your local representative as the fate of Post Offices lie with them.
- Yours sincerely
Ballsbridge Post Master

The Editor's Corner

With September around the corner and schools about to reopen many parents are already fretting about how they will be able to meet this year's school bills. While education is free in Ireland there are many hidden costs, as parents are all too well aware. Top of that list has to be school uniforms, ranging on average from €158 (primary) to €287 (secondary) per child, not including shoes. It's regrettable that some schools insist on the new crested uniform, including on jumpers and jeans; sewing or ironing them onto garments seems to me to be a perfectly reasonable alternative. Other expenses are 'voluntary' contributions parents are asked to cough up throughout the year, for school trips and the like. Some people will even take out loans and go into debt to meet these costs. The average cost of a first-year secondary school pupil is now €972.

In a report just published the children's charity Barnardos has called on the government to implement a few basic changes: to extend the Free Schoolbooks Scheme to all children in the Senior Cycle (it was extended to include the Junior Cycle in the last budget), mandate all schools to adopt an affordable uniform option, increase back to school allowance and expand eligibility, increase capitation rates and abolish voluntary contributions, and reduce the cost of digital devices (that's tablets and laptops which can be as high as €900 a year, depending on the school). With the government forecast to take in €92 billion in revenue this year (Source: Department of Finance), it's hard to see how these not unreasonable demands cannot be met. Two things for sure must happen; the ridiculous 'voluntary' contribution parents are frequently being asked to make

must end, and the back to school allowance needs to be universal.

So while many people are worrying about education, others are struggling to find a place to live. The housing crisis is now a national emergency. For some inexplicable reason as regards housing we've managed to turn what is a basic necessity into an elitist luxury. Responsibility rests firmly with the government. While no one's denying the need for High-Rise, the disgraceful policy, thankfully now scrapped, of allowing uncapped restrictions in residential areas (see **Cover Story**), together with permitting huge conglomerates to gobble up whole chunks of land and then sell them back to us at exorbitant prices (see **pgs. 30-31**) have both contributed significantly to this debacle. The former, threatens the eradication of vil-

lages, while the latter acts as an impediment to individuals to get on the property ladder. What we need, no, *require*, are affordable, quality homes with supporting infrastructure. In short, we don't need houses, we need homes.

Also in this issue we pay tribute to a stalwart of Sandymount, and a prolific writer, the late Anthony Jordan (**pg. 8**). And speaking of writing, an exhibition not to be missed is City of Words (**pg. 12**) at the MoLI, boasting a great display of memorabilia from many of our best known wordsmiths, including a first edition of *Ulysses*. Something to keep in mind for Culture Night (**pg. 17**) on September 20th. Successful fundraising is celebrated on **pgs. 26-7** and **31**. Kudos both to Ballsbridge Lions and Dave Donnelly. Lots to enjoy, so curl up, grab a cuppa and start reading.

Irish Girl Guides selected as an SDG Champion for the 2024-25 Programme

The Department of the Environment, Climate, and Communications has selected Irish Girl Guides (IGG) as one of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Champions for the 2024-25 Programme.

As a youth-driven organisation with our members at the heart of all decision-making, IGG has shown increasing interest in the SDGs and Global Citizenship Education (GCE) over the years. Its members are demonstrable changemakers both within and outside the organisation, eager to actively participate in creating a healthier planet and society.

Irish Girl Guides actively promotes the SDGs among its members, who range from five to 30 years old. As a girls and young women centred organisation since its founding in 1911, the ethos and work of IGG have contributed towards the advancement and high-

lighting of various SDGs, particularly SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities).

IGG's Mission is "to enable girls and young women to develop to their fullest potential as responsible citizens of the world." Its Vision is "a future which is sustainable, diverse, and equal where girls and young women are empowered to advocate and lead the way." In this sense, IGG is committed to raising awareness of the importance of the SDGs as a founding principle for a fair and sustainable future for all.

IGG's work emphasises the outdoors, environment, community responsibility, and global sisterhood through our membership in the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS). SDG linking is particularly visible in the organisation's programmes



and its Badges. Existing badges related to environmental awareness, disability awareness, cultural diversity, and care for the elderly directly relate to the SDGs. IGG also has specific badges dedicated to SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 14 (Life Below Water),

which particularly engage IGG members.

Shauna Harris, Irish Girl Guides Global Citizenship Education Programme Officer, said: "The Irish Girl Guides are delighted to be SDG Champions, leading by example and collaborating with others. Being selected is a recognition of the daily work we do with our

members and aligns with IGG's core values and mission. This engagement in the SDG Champion Programme will support us in further advancing our work in promoting SDGs and GCE among our members, and to show through our actions that everyone in society can make critical changes for a better world."

Irish Girl Guides:

Irish Girl Guides has 10,000 members across Ireland. Guiding started in Ireland in 1911 and operates throughout the 26 counties with 1,600 volunteer Leaders providing an informal educational programme of fun and challenging activities that foster confidence and leadership skills in girls and young women, enabling them to develop to their full potential and to become responsible citizens.



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South Lotts Road Ringsend Dublin 4 T&C APPLY

continued from cover page
0.131-hectare plot, sometime in 2020 and have since endeavoured to build on it. This company specialises in multi-disciplined property developments. It has completed a number of outstanding projects, including the 77 apartments and penthouse at Elmpark Green, a luxury development in Dublin 4, and the salubrious Paddock at Bushy Park Road, Dublin 6.

New Proposals 'Build-to-Rent apartment' 2021-2022

In February of 2021 plans were lodged for a 12-storey, 84-apartment complex on the site (build-to-rent) residential use at 1st to 11th floor levels. However, this was met with resistance, with opposition to planning resulting in some 30 individual objections being lodged. In 2022 a Bord Pleanála Inspector's Report ABP-310204-21 noted that the proposed building design was acceptable. However given the scale of the project they had concerns over visual dominance. The report also notes that no public open space was proposed. It recommended refusal of the scheme, quoting three reasons: excessive height, scale and mass, traffic impacts. Yet, after an appeal to An Bord Pleanála this time a 10-storey (reduction of two floors) mixed-use development, that included 68 build-to-rent apartments, planning permission was granted.

Local resident, Cllr Dermot Lacey noted that the height of the 2021 proposal was significantly higher than the council's own guidelines of 16 metres (typically four storeys) and wholly unsuitable for a village. Nor was the reduction of two floors by the City Council planners deemed to be an adequate solution. Spokesperson for the Eglinton Residents Association Robin Mandal informed An Bord Pleanála that while it reduces the impact marginally it does not substantially address the negative visual impact.

The scaled down proposal was condemned on various

grounds. Including its impact on the historical integrity of Donnybrook. In fact, the development received two third-party appeals with High Court proceedings being launched in January 2023. David and Valerie Clarke of Dublin 6 called the planned development monolithic. The Eglinton Residents Association submitted an objection and Mr Mandal maintained that the scheme appeared out of character with the pattern of development in Donnybrook.

The area is perhaps more suited to mid-rise development.

2024 Plan & the Transient Argument

A revised plan, this time, a 225-bed student accommodation, which includes a cafe, bike storage and other amenities received the go-ahead in May of 2024. The council, in consideration of previous objections, ordered the omission of two floors, reducing the height of the building to eight floors. However, it did little to curb the frustrations of local objectors. The Donnybrook Lawn Tennis Club, who had previously expressed their concerns, argued that gross over-development of the site would dominate the Donnybrook skyline as the project overlooked the club. In what the Irish Times described as a strongly worded objection against the Donnybrook site, they informed Dublin City Council that the Red Rock scheme would constitute an "enormous" impact on the club. It not only encroaches on the privacy of its 800-member private club, but it also breaches their child protection policy.

Many residents expressed concerns about the way Donnybrook was developing, particularly with plans for around 100 co-living units on the site of the former Kiely's pub and

another 12-storey apartment block a short distance away on Eglinton Road, which would bring an additional 400 transient homes to the village. Similarly, the Herbert Park Area Residents Association opposed the scheme on the grounds that it would not advance sustainable long-term residency in Donnybrook. Speaking to the Journal in 2021 Fianna Fáil's Deirdre Conroy noted that the development would provide a block of "non-affordable, non-purchasable homes" which was more suited to a dockland site than an historic village. This takes account of build-to-rent or shared/co-living accommodation, as types of developments not designed for long-term living, and sometimes not suitable for families.

The latest proposed student accommodation can be viewed as an extension of the transient argument. The term studentification can be applied here. The term commonly refers to the impact brought about by a preponderance of universities, creating a high demand for accommodation in the vicinity. It includes a perception that students are transient people by nature and will not become a part of the community. There appears to be some consideration of

behalf of Red Rock, advocating that there is unlikely to be any significant increase in the number of students living in the area. Rather there will be a redistribution from more informal student living arrangements in rented accommodation (i.e. flats/studios) to the managed student accommodation development. The total student population would represent 0.7% of the total population which is not considered to be an overconcentration of student population. However, the price of accommodation might determine who actually has access to it. According to one estimation dated 2022, the cost to a student is above €950 per month to live in a cluster room in an apartment in one of these privately owned accommodations.

High-Rise vs. Mid-Rise

More broadly the chronic shortage of accommodation for both students and the wider population has resulted in high-rise as a way of combating the crisis in housing and urban sprawl. However, high-rise has not proved particularly popular in Ireland where lower density is preferred.

was met with fierce opposition with locals adopting the slogan "Stop The Monster" in their campaign.

While there is a huge supply/demand imbalance the answer to the student accommodation problem may not be solely a question of high-



Image: VectorStock.com

rise. This may be adequate in some urban areas in which high-rise already exists. And this form of accommodation is not without its merits of course. Yet the proposed student accommodation at Donnybrook has added another layer to the debate. For communities like Donnybrook it does a great disservice to both students and established residents alike by dividing them on demographic lines. It has been shown that students often feel more a part of the community while living in mid or low-rise accommodation. What is often key to this is the sense of disconnect; high-rise accommodation is separate and isolating. The area is more suited to mid-rise development.

Whatever the case, it is clear that the current model of fast tracking high-rise accommodation brings with it many problems, most notably, when the choice of site is unsuitable. Donnybrook is a good example of obtrusive buildings in low-density villages. This kind of development creates delays, objections and extra complications that new apartment occupiers, students and locals can do without. What is needed is a common sense approach to planning.

A decision on the Donnybrook site is expected in October.



Bricklayer putting down another row of bricks in site
Photo by Naypong depositphotos.com

this element of the development in April of 2024, with the *Student Accommodation Demand, Concentration and Justification Report* prepared by John Spain Associates, a leading Planning and Development Consultancy, on

Even in Britain where multi-story living is more common, high-rise student accommodation 'rising over cities' has become contentious. A multi-story student accommodation development in Manchester, for example,

Dublin Simon's Home Run: "It's Our Time To End Homelessness"

Dublin Simon Community Launches Its 41st Annual 5km Home Run In Phoenix Park

Dublin Simon Community has launched its annual 'Home Run' campaign, inviting hundreds of walkers, joggers, and runners to complete a new Phoenix Park loop on Saturday 5th October and raise essential funds to end homelessness. This year's event will host a Wellness Day Out at the start and finish line filled with food trucks, children's entertainment, live music and wellness activities, encouraging people of all ages to complete the course and join the celebrations with fellow fun-runners.

Now in its 41st year, Home Run allows participants to fundraise for those experiencing homelessness while enjoying an accessible journey through the scenic Phoenix Park. The new 5-kilometre loop is perfect for all ages and physical abilities. Everyone is encouraged to walk, jog, run, hop, skip, or

dance their way to the finish line. Previous years have seen schools, walking clubs, parents with buggies, wheelchair users, elite runners, active retirement groups, corporate teams, and many more join together to participate.

The first wave of participants will start the Home Run at 9.30am, with family members and friends encouraged to cheer on participants from the sidelines. The start and finish line will host a range of stalls and activities for participants to enjoy once the hard work is done, including musical performances and Dublin Simon Community's Wellness Day Out.

Established in 1983, the Home Run has long supported the progress made by Dublin Simon Community to end homelessness. Since then, the event has been pivotal in rais-



ing funds to provide emergency response, wraparound support, and permanent homes to people experiencing or at risk of homelessness in Dublin and the surrounding counties. In 2022 alone, Dublin Simon's Outreach had 6,371 interventions with people sleeping rough, provided 3,335 hours of one-to-one counselling and crisis suicide intervention, and supported 5,476 people and families across all services.

Interested participants are urged to register for the event via <https://www.dubsimon.ie/home-run> and begin their fundraising drive ahead of time. Those who register before August 31st will pay a reduced registration fee of €15, or €20

thereafter. Participants can also purchase a limited-edition t-shirt for an additional €15 or donate these funds back to Dublin Simon Community. All funds raised by runners and within the community festival will go directly towards Dublin Simon Community's life-saving services, helping vulnerable people in our community close the door on homelessness for good.

Speaking on the 2024 Home Run launch, Dublin Simon Community's CEO Catherine Kenny said:

"The number of people dealing with homelessness has continued to grow, with a 12% increase in Dublin in the last year alone. Now, more than ever, it is necessary to remind the local Dublin community of our goal to end homelessness for people and families each and every day. Since 1983, our

community has shown what it is capable of. Every year at Home Run we see what happens when participants, staff, volunteers, clients, and supporters join forces. We have been and will continue to make a difference by helping people out of homelessness. We are reaching out to get as many people as possible, whether athletes or not, to join us on the 5th October because it is our time to end homelessness. With the power of movement as a community, we can show solidarity, action, and change lives together."

It is our time to end homelessness.

Sign up for the 2024 Home Run here and help Dublin Simon Community raise essential funds and change lives.

<https://www.dubsimon.ie/home-run>



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Weekly Advice Clinics – Tuesday

St. Andrews Resource Centre: 6pm-7pm
114, 116 Pearse St, City Quay, Dublin D02 PR44
Ringsend Community Centre: 7pm-8pm
Thorncastle Street, Ringsend, Dublin 4



Star of the Sea celebrate the Gaelbhhratach award

The Star of the Sea BNS, Sandymount, has been awarded the prestigious Gaelbhhratach flag in recognition for platforming Gaeilge as a used everyday language, and to inspire respect for our national language amongst their pupils and staff. The school, whose values include pride and respect for each other, had a little celebration when they raised the flag, with music (which saw student Finn McGrath display his expertise on the tin whistle), and Irish dancing by brothers Fintan, Arthur and Patrick Gilmore. The pupils of the school were actively involved in competing through pupil committees, or 'Coiste Gaelach' run by primary teacher Faye Mulhern. The school applied to be part of the scheme ten years ago, and were accepted to partici-

pate in 2022; the process to get the flag takes two years. They truly deserve the award thanks to the valiant efforts of everyone involved who work tirelessly towards promoting our language.

The Gaelbhhratach was established in response to the need to create natural opportunities to speak Irish outside the formal classroom setting. The scheme which is funded by Foras Na Gaeilge and the Department of Education and Skills, and organised by Gael Linn, commenced in the 2012 /13 school year at primary level, and at secondary level the following year. Star of the Sea fully appreciates, with a huge sense of pride, this prestigious award bestowed on them.

Images: Ian Davis



Boys of Star of the Sea with the flag, teacher Faye Mulhern and Principal Niall Walsh

Plaque Unveiled: The "Patriotic Children's Treat"

■ **Ray MacAodhagáin**

On 29th June 2024 Dublin City Council hosted a 'Picnic in the Park' to mark the unveiling of a plaque to commemorate the Patriotic Children's Treat, which took place in Clonturk Park on 1st July 1900. Present at the unveiling were such distinguished guests as Deputy Lord Mayor Donna Cooney and Mary McAulliffe who has written widely on Irish woman, gender and sexual violence in war.

The unveiling commemorated an event that took place over a hundred years ago when tens of thousands of Dublin children and their parents attended a festival at Clonturk Park in Drumcondra. This event was in many respects a counter-protest to the visit of Queen Victoria to Dublin (3rd to 27th April 1900) and in particular the children's entertainment event which occurred in Dublin's Phoenix Park, attended by 30,000.

Nationalists were naturally against the visit. Maud Gonne, who had written a column titled "The Famine Queen" in the United Irishman newspaper claimed that only 5,000 of the 35,000 children in Dublin "had allowed themselves to be used for a Unionist demonstration." In response, Gonne and other women organised a 'National treat' for all children which was set in Clonturk Park. That afternoon many of the guests gathered at Beresford Place before marching to Drumcondra.

The Patriotic Children's Treat Park culminated with around 30,000 in attendance.

The committee that organised the Children's gathering remained active thereafter and by 1900 had become Inghinidhe na hÉireann (Daughters of Ireland) which later merged into Cuman na mBan.



Star of the Sea pupils Patrick and Arthur Gilmore, Sarah Jane Spelman (accordian) and Seamus O Brollochan (guitar)





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ANTHONY J JORDAN

- a personal tribute

Anthony (Tony) Jordan, whose death a year ago we still mourn, was the man who reclaimed for Sandymount the poet William Butler Yeats. Tony organised annual poetry readings on Yeats's birthday here on the Green. Always imaginative and inclusive, he involved a range of local people, young and old, in the event as well as some distinguished strangers. He campaigned to have a bust of the poet in the Green – where it stands today, a permanent statement of Yeats's Sandymount connection.

There was, it should be said, much more to Tony than Yeats and Sandymount. Tony was a Mayo man, born in Ballyhaunis in 1942. His father was a returned American emigrant who had a shop in the town and a farm nearby. He died when Tony was only four. Tony went from the local National School to St Jarlath's College in Tuam where he starred in Gaelic football and was on a team that won the all-Ireland colleges final in 1960.

From there he went to Maynooth to study for the priesthood. Only in his fifth year when he had reached the stage of taking a vow of celibacy did he begin to have doubts about his vocation. On his own account, watching Doris Day in a bedroom scene in the film *Move over Darling* made him realise that celibacy was not for him and that he could not go on.

Cardinal Tomás Ó Fiaich, then Professor of History at Maynooth, had taken a liking to Tony when he heard him sing a rebel song and got him into St Patrick's Drumcondra, to train as a National School teacher. "It taught me how to teach," he recalled, "something the Higher Diploma in Education course I did in UCD the following year did not."

The sense of service that had inspired Tony's vocation for the priesthood remained with him. After short spells teaching in local schools he taught students in the Central Remedial Clinic (CRC) founded by Lady Valerie Goulding and Kathleen O'Rourke. He was an early member of the Samaritans, an organisation committed to lend a supportive, totally confidential ear to those suffering psychological stress.

He married his wife Mary, also from Mayo, in 1969. Their first child Antonia died less than two days after her birth in 1970. Tony, an emotional man, never really got over it. There were two other daughters of this happy marriage, Fiona and Judith.

In 1973 he was headhunted to take charge of the school attached to the Cerebral Palsy Centre (now Enable Ireland) in Sandymount. He remained in this position until 2002, navigating in his unyielding way the challenges of ensuring that education was not neglected in an organisation whose main thrust was medical. To be near his work he moved from Portmarnock to live in Sandymount.

Writing was a lifelong interest. As a young teacher he had written a novel, in which a London publisher evinced some interest, that contained some explicit sexual scenes. Deterred by the experience of author John McGahern, who had been dismissed from his post as a national teacher when he published a book with such scenes, Tony put his work away. (*The novel Tell My Mother I... was published in 2020 by Westport Books, Ed.*)



When he returned to writing around 1990 it was mainly as a biographer. He produced some twenty books. An early book contained the letters of Christy Brown, an alumnus of the Sandymount School, who, despite severe physical disabilities, became a noted writer and artist.

Tony's admiration for Yeats, the poet, did not prevent him taking issue with Yeats's repetition of charges made by his beloved Maud Gonne against her husband John McBride, a Mayo man executed in 1916. It was one of many causes Tony took up. He was a doughty controversialist.

Among his formidable output of eighteen books were short biographies of Conor Cruise O'Brien, Seán McBride, John A. Costello, and W.T. Cosgrave. They rendered useful

service opening up subjects previously neglected and contained some new material. He was in contention with then Minister for Education Mary Hanafin when her department donated free copies of a book on her former party leader Éamon de Valera to every school in the land, but refused to do the same for Tony's book on Cosgrave. A later life interest in James Joyce led Tony to write a book about him and to organise several Bloomsday events on Sandymount Green. Tony pressed the government to do for Joyce what a previous government had done for Yeats, that is repatriate his body to Ireland. My abiding vision of Tony is of a dark figure pacing rapidly along the promenade on the Strand Road with head down deep in contemplation, allowing himself a short break from his punishing work schedule.

Until his final year of illness Tony, as he was known, remained a restless man bent on making his mark and wasting not a moment of his life. His last book published in 2021 was a memoir containing letters from his correspondence arising out of the many controversies of his life. He donated his papers to the National Library.

Others benefited from his focus and dedication, notably in recent years, the village of Sandymount, where he organised on its charming English-style green each June a Yeats day. It marked the poet's birth nearby in that month, and his ancestral connections with the adjacent Sandymount Castle. Locals and celebrities alike were recruited to recite or read Yeats's work. Thanks, in part, to Tony busts of Yeats

and of Seamus Heaney, a long-time Strand Road resident, adorn the Green.

A last wish expressed when he realised that he was mortally ill was that this event would go on. Joe Lynch, Louise Burke and the other organisers of this day in the Green have kept faith with him. We are indebted to them, as we are to Tony for enriching our lives.

Tony passed away on May the 3rd, 2023, aged 81. The funeral mass took place at Star of the Sea Church in Sandymount, where Tony was a parishioner, and which features in Joyce's *Ulysses*. Tony is survived by his wife, his two daughters and a grandchild Lily.

By **CHARLES LYSAGHT**

The Lacey Report

August 2024

First things first. "Thank you". Thank you to the nearly two thousand people who gave me their Number 1 vote and the very many more who gave me subsequent preferences at the recent Local Elections. As the late Dan Spring TD said to me many years ago, "It is an honour to be elected but a very special honour to be re-elected." I hope that I will repay that honour over the next five years as I embark on my seventh term on Dublin City Council. Despite the constant references in the media to abusive behaviour I found the campaign both friendly and enjoyable.

Welcome also to the two new Councillors for Pembroke, Emma Blain FG and Rory Hogan FF. I look forward to working well with them as I have with James Geoghegan and Hazel Chu for the last five years.

The first meeting of the City Council following those elections dealt solely with the election of the Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor. I am very pleased to be able to congratulate my Area colleague James Geoghegan on his election as Lord Mayor and wish him every success in that role. I also wish our new Deputy Lord Mayor Green Party Councillor Donna Cooney every success during her term.

At the first normal meeting of the City Council I was appointed to serve on the Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly, the City of Dublin Education and Training Board, the HSE Regional Forum and the Board of the Little Museum of Dublin. I will also continue to serve on the Board of the Royal Hospital Donnybrook for a short interim term. Much to my surprise I was also elected to serve for a sixth year in a row as Chairperson of the South-East Area Committee – so a busy year ahead.

There were a huge range of issues raised during the Local Elections and over the next few months I hope to get these on the agenda of the relevant Committees. These range from a desire for a Dog run in Herbert Park, providing an alternative for the camper van use of the Strand Promenade car park, a lot

of traffic issues, footpath and road maintenance issues, and much more. These I am all following up on through the Area Committee and, when established, the Strategic Policy Committees. A key objective will be advancing the Sandymount Flood Protection works.

Our first Area Committee saw motions and questions on Road maintenance in Donnybrook, Sandymount and Ranelagh, Cleansing in Rathmines and Ranelagh and sadly once again the ongoing vandalism at the Playground at the Sean Moore Park Playground.

I also raised, through an addendum to another motion, the proposed closure of the Ballsbridge Post Office and the Committee agreed to write to the Minister for Communications, Eamon Ryan on the issue. This area has already lost Sandymount, Ringsend, Donnybrook and Montrose post offices while Rathmines is threatened. If this was Rural Ireland RTÉ would cover the loss on numerous Radio and TV programmes – yet here in Dublin 4 and 6, despite the ongoing references to a "Dublin Centric media" – not a whimper from the Public Broadcaster.

The Summer Season brings a lot of community events and I was delighted to attend the Beech Hill Community Family Day and the Milltown Residents Association Fun Day. It has also been good to see the Sandymount Green extended road closure operate for another year. This is a classic case where good will and people working together saw a workable compromise that I hope is enjoyed by all.

Shortly after the Local Elections – three days after to be precise – the Upper Leeson Street Area Residents Association hosted their AGM where all five newly elected Councillors for Pembroke took part in an active Questions and Answers session with their members. This was followed by a pleasant social evening where we all engaged with residents in a more informal manner. Congratulations to Simon Nugent who has taken on the role of Chairperson of ULSARA.

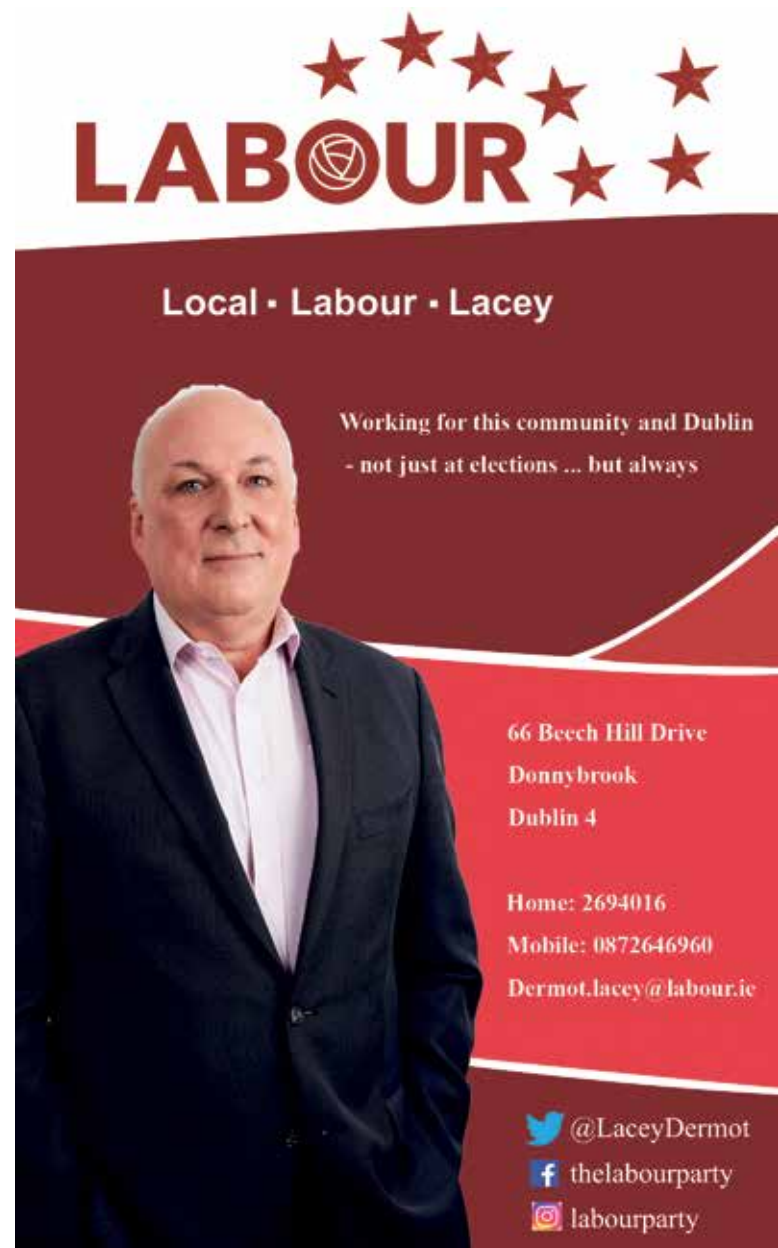
An important community event on August 10th will see the unveiling of a plaque on the former home in Ranelagh of the great Irish actress Maureen O'Hara. This is something I formally proposed some time ago and it is lovely to see it finally happening. Maureen of course was not only a great actress but also a lifetime Shamrock Rovers fan – so two great reasons to honour her.

Most readers will know of the old Baths on the Merrion Strand. This historic part of our heritage has been ignored for too long and in my view they are a serious danger in terms of their current condition. I have requested Dublin City Council to hold a competition on what might be possible to do with them. I have no fixed view – other than we

need to make them safe for people walking the Strand and, in particular for children, playing in the vicinity. Perhaps if you have ideas let me or NewsFour know and we can have a community debate on their future.

In Donnybrook work is ongoing on installing Columbarium Walls in the old graveyard and while there were some delays it is hoped that the new facility will be ready before the year's end.

That's it for now folks. Enjoy the Summer and always remember if you need a Councillor or a Peace Commissioner for any reason I am always here to help if I can.



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Point Pedestrian & Cycle Bridge

Plans for new bridge will make cycling and walking safer and more pleasurable for Dubliners

■ **Ray MacAodhagain**

The East Link Bridge replaced the numerous ferries that carried traffic across the river. The bridge which is a bascule bridge or a moveable bridge (particularly common in Belgium) was opened to road traffic in 1984. RTÉ noted that, “in its first 12 hours of operation over six thousand vehicles used the bridge.” In the coming years the number of vehicles making the crossing averaged at eight thousand. By the mid-1990s the number of vehicles that crossed the bridge was closer to 18,000, which is similar to today.

Tom Clarke Bridge

Following a ceremony in 2016, which featured then Lord Mayor Críona Ní Dhálaigh, President Michael D. Higgins and Helen Litton, the grandniece of Tom Clarke (1858-1916), the bridge was renamed after this Irish Republican who was executed by firing squad for his part in the 1916 Rising. Yet the change of name would not be the last change.

Problems for Walkers and Cyclists

Besides consistent comments about the bridge being an eyesore it has been judged in particular to be inadequate for cyclists. In 2015 according to IrishCycle.com a uniformed Garda was enforcing a no cycling sign at the Tom Clarke Bridge (cyclists are requested to dismount and walk bicycles). Gareth Brown, chief operations officer at Egis Projects Ireland (which managed the bridge) claimed not to be aware of a Garda presence. However, he noted that the roadway and footpath were very narrow and for safety reasons it had been determined that cyclists should dismount. The Green Party’s Ciaran Cuffe, however, said that the bridge was a natural route for cyclists connecting both sides of the city. It would be inappropriate to force cyclists to walk rather than cycle across it.

It appears that the bridge lacked the proper provisions to ensure the safety of all those who crossed it and in 2017 Brendan O’Brien, director of traffic at Dublin City Council confirmed this, and that DCC had started assessing ways in which a proper pedestrian and cycling facility could be incorporated at Tom Clarke Bridge. And that this may include a separate bridge beside the Tom Clarke for cyclists and pedestrians.

The Cycling and Walking life

In the meantime more people had begun to switch from motor vehicles to active mobility. For example, the *Walking and Cycling Index* of 2021 (the largest assessment of walking and cycling in urban areas in Ireland) indicated a strong surge in walking and cycling. The Minister for the Environment, Climate, Communication and Transport Eamon Ryan noted that 95% of all residents in the Metropolitan Area walk and one in four of us cycle at least once a week, with high numbers doing so at least five times a week.

The benefits of cycling and walking include not only reducing traffic congestion, or reducing one’s carbon footprint, but making the city healthier, cleaner, quieter and safer. Besides this it offers personal health benefits like enhanced personal mobility and the easing of stress, depression, or anxiety.

A welcome addition

Once the news of a Point Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge and Tom Clarke Widening Project became public one commentator on Boards.ie, noted that the new bridge is 100% needed, the current one being “a nasty squeeze with heavy traffic in a wind tunnel for cyclists and



view of proposed bridge and control tower

pedestrians.” The problems with the existing infrastructure being that the footway which is used by pedestrians as well as cyclists is too hazardous to cycle on as is the road. One cyclist confirmed the current condition, “as very narrow so cars beep at you if you aren’t right against the kerb so they can get past.” Another cyclist noted that on a windy day, it can be lethal on that bridge due to the windswept location.

The New Proposal 2024

Planning and design for the project are part of the Active Travel Network (ATN) initiated by Dublin City Council to bring significant change for Dublin. The ATN has prioritised people-centred, connectivity and sustainable mobility that will contribute to a citywide reduction of transport-related carbon emissions. The Tom Clarke project is funded by the National Transport Authority and Dublin City Council who note that the specific aim of this project, “is to rectify the insufficient pedestrian and cycling facilities on Tom Clarke Bridge and provide a safe crossing link for pedestrians and cyclists across the River Liffey, as well as enhance existing bridge features of the Tom Clarke Bridge.”

A secondary purpose of the Proposed Development is to undertake necessary upgrades to Tom Clarke Bridge

to make provision for a turning lane to North Wall Quay and a potential future turning lane to Sir John Rogerson’s Quay via the Dodder Bridge (proposed as part of the Route 16 Bus-Connects Ringsend to City Centre Core Bus Scheme).

Tom Clarke Bridge Upgrade

The upgrade to the existing bridge will be achieved by widening the northern and southern bridge deck. This will include replacing elements of the bridge deck furniture (barriers, lighting column and traffic lights). Perhaps the most substantial change is the removal of the existing control building and the installation of a new bridge control building, a three-story control tower in the middle of the bridge. A feature of which is a proposed light pole to be located at the centre of the roof of the building which is 8m in height.

The Point Bridge: Cycling and Walking

The cycling and walking bridge will be directly adjacent to the existing Tom Clarke Bridge in Ringsend and is positioned just west of the Tom Clarke. It will also open in the same way as the Tom Clarke Bridge. The new control building will be used to operate both overpasses. The ‘Point Bridge’ as it is to be known features low level lighting including in the proposed viewing area and will

be integrated with the seating, planters and along the footpath /cycle path in the parapet top rail.

The Architect’s View

Seán Harrington, who designed the Rosie Hackett Bridge just over ten years ago, is currently engaged on the Point Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge and Tom Clarke Widening Project. He noted that the East Link Bridge had been designed purely with cost in mind. “However, right now I’m designing a pedestrian and cycling bridge to go parallel to the Tom Clarke Bridge— in many ways to hide it from view, but also to give extra capacity for pedestrians and cyclists.”

He adds that when, “you’re on the Tom Clarke Bridge, the views of the city are spectacular, so the new bridge— which will open in maybe three years’ time — will allow you to stop and look at the city.” Here I think he is referring to the public realm area with seating, which will allow the public to enjoy scenic views of the River Liffey and Dublin City.

He feels that, “bridge design is a little bit more than just a structural exercise of spanning from one side to the other. It’s the idea that you can bring a bit of magical meaning to the bridge.”

Hopefully this rectifies the problems posed to cyclists and pedestrians, and adds some aesthetic pleasure to people’s lives. What’s more, it is some indication that we are finally prioritising the humble pushbike, at least more than in previous decades. While we have a long way to go before our capital city is as safe for cyclists as say Amsterdam or Copenhagen, any initiative that makes cycling in congested areas more safe and pleasurable is commendable.

The scheme will go to An Bord Pleanála for planning permission at the end of 2024.

Northumberland Dental Care Introduces Facial Aesthetics Treatments with Dr Rebecca Gavin

Northumberland Dental Care is delighted to announce the expansion of its services with the introduction of specialised facial aesthetics treatments, including anti-wrinkle and Profilo treatments, led by Dr Rebecca Gavin. This new offering underscores the clinic's commitment to providing comprehensive care and addressing the diverse needs of its patients.

Dr Rebecca Gavin, a highly skilled and experienced dental practitioner, will lead these new treatments. Her expertise and dedication to patient care ensure that clients receive top-quality service and achieve their desired aesthetic outcomes safely and effectively.

The anti-wrinkle treatments offered at Northumberland Dental Care focus on reducing the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles, providing a smoother and more youthful complexion. Using advanced techniques and premium products, Dr Gavin creates personalised treatment plans tailored to each client's unique needs and goals, ensuring they feel valued and understood.

In addition to anti-wrinkle treatments, Northumberland Dental Care offers Profilo, a cutting-edge injectable treatment designed to improve skin hydration, elasticity, and overall quality. Profilo works by stimulating collagen and elastin production, resulting in a radiant and rejuvenated complexion.

"We are thrilled to expand our services with the addition of anti-wrinkle and Profilo treatments," said Lesley Doyle, Practice Manager of Northumberland Dental

Care. "With Dr Rebecca Gavin's expertise, our patients can trust that they are in excellent hands and can achieve beautiful, natural-looking results."

Northumberland Dental Care warmly invites both existing and new clients to explore the benefits of their latest facial aesthetics offerings. To schedule a consultation with Dr. Rebecca Gavin or to learn more about the anti-wrinkle and Profilo treatments, please contact Northumberland Dental Care at (01) 6688441 or visit www.nidm.ie.

About Northumberland Dental Care: Northumberland Dental Care is a leading dental clinic located at 58 Northumberland Road, Ballsbridge. Committed to excellence, the clinic offers various dental services, from dental implants to advanced restorative and cosmetic procedures. The dedicated team at Northumberland Dental Care strives to help patients achieve healthy, beautiful smiles that last a lifetime.

For media inquiries or further information, please contact: Michelle Downey, Marketing Manager @ Dental Care Ireland. E: michelle.downey@dentalcareireland.ie T: 0860640320



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City of Words

MoLI's new exhibition celebrates the Dublin Writers Museum Collection

■ **Brian Bowe**

The Museum of Literature Ireland (MoLI), located in UCD's Newman House, south of St Stephen's Green, opened a new exhibition this past June. City of Words showcases the rich collection of the Dublin Writers Museum, which sadly closed down during the Covid-19 pandemic, in 2020. The collection consists of rare first editions, custom bronze busts, contemporary artwork, as well as personal items and fascinating mementos linked to the renowned writers of the city.

"The Dublin Writers Museum Collection is a fascinating and very unique survey of our city's literary history through personal items, artwork, sculpture, books and correspondence," says Simon O'Connor, Director of MoLI. "Here at MoLI we are very proud to be entrusted with this collection, and to make it accessible in perpetuity to Dubliners and visitors from across Ireland and beyond. These precious items are a wonderful addition to the rich literary history on display at MoLI."

Some trinkets bound to catch your eye include Samuel Beckett's rotary telephone

from his Paris apartment, Brendan Behan's portable Remington typewriter, and Frank O'Connor's spectacles. Though, what I found most enlightening were the names I didn't recognize: mostly those of women, a lack of recognition I attribute to a combination of personal ignorance and the sad truth that these writers have generally been overlooked and underappreciated in comparison to their male counterparts.

Tribute is paid to Katharine Tynan, the Dublin novelist and journalist, whose work — over one hundred novels, 12 collections of poetry, and 12 short story collections — was a pivotal building block to the inception of the Irish Literary Revival in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Among the items associated with her on display is a first edition of her book *Ballads and Lyrics*, 1891, and a print of a pencil sketch of Tynan by W.B. Yeats, who, in his formative years, took great inspiration from the Dublin writer.

You'll find a few familiar faces at this exhibit: specially commissioned bronze busts of Beckett and Bram Stoker stare you down from both sides of the room — Stoker, burly and distinguished, sits



Simon O'Connor, Director of MoLI and Clodagh Johnston, Curator.
(Credit Leon Farrell, Photocall Ireland)

in sharp contrast to Beckett, his face like an Aztec eagle. You could light a match off that mug!

Another exceptional item, in Beckett's section, is a programme from the first complete English language production of *Waiting for Godot* in the Pike theatre, 1955.

There's plenty of personal letters on display, my favourite being Sean O'Casey's to Vida Henning, 1958, in which he declares he's a communist, "like GB Shaw." As well, dotted about the room are rare editions of works by WB Yeats, Behan, Edna O'Brien, and Stoker.

"MoLI is connected as much to the living artistic community of today as it is to the rich writing tradition of our past and is a fantastic home for the Dublin Writers Museum Collection" says Paul Keeley, Director of Regional Development at Fáilte Ireland. "Placing the collection here will help bring the unique sto-

ry of Ireland's literary heritage to life in new and immersive ways for a broad range of visitors. It will also ensure that these important artefacts benefit from the cultural curation, management and maintenance expertise of the staff at MoLI and their partners in UCD and the National Library of Ireland."

Entry price for adults is €14.50, but you'll be happy

to hear this grants you access to the whole museum; so after you're done perusing the small treasures of City of Words, I strongly recommend you explore every nook and cranny of this special institution. Pro Tip: Head to the top floor to gaze upon Copy No. 1 of the first edition of Joyce's *Ulysses*. Yep, it's up there, a priceless piece of history just minding its own business.



Dublin writer Brendan Behan's portable Remington typewriter (photo Museum of Literature Ireland)



Samuel Beckett's telephone, from his Paris apartment on Boulevard St Jacques (courtesy Edward Beckett photo Museum of Literature Ireland)



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Annie Baker at The Gate Theatre

Pulitzer Prize winner Annie Baker's Circle Mirror Transformation lights up The Gate Theatre

■ **Brian Bowe**

I'm very much on the outside of the theatre world — movies are more my racket, for which you can blame my meagre funds and short attention span — but even I, for many years, have heard the name Annie Baker being bandied about like the second coming of, if not Christ, Chekhov. Advertised as the hip playwright; she's into the mundane and magical moments that make up life — quiet but deep, dark but quirky.

The American playwright is one of the leading voices in contemporary theatre. Her play, *The Flick*, set in an ailing cinema in Massachusetts, won her the Pulitzer Prize, in 2014, and was hailed as “a love letter to theatre and liveness itself” by Lyn Gardner of the *Guardian*.

For Irish fans of Baker this summer had a lot to offer. Her debut feature film, *Janet Planet* — that's right, she's gone from Pulitzer to popcorn — released in Irish cinemas this July, following The Gate Theatre's very successful month-long run of her 2009 work *Circle Mirror Transformation*, the play which won Baker the Obie Award for Best New American Play.

Before heading into *Circle Mirror Transformation*, I tried to familiarise myself with Baker's work. But, let me tell you, hunting down modern play scripts ain't easy! Nowhere I looked seemed to stock her work, even those shops cluttered up with great, dusty unstable stacks of books from every corner. Nada! So I went into it blind — apart from seeing the glowing reviews from the *Irish Times* and the *Guardian*, which were hard to miss as they were plastered across the side of most buses in the city centre.

Circle Mirror Transformation is one of four plays Baker based in the fictional town of Shirley, Vermont. It's centred around five individuals taking drama classes at a community centre. The most remarkable aspect of this particular production was how the Gate Theatre reimagined the staging. You essentially have the stage planted in the middle of the space, with seating on either side. It creates a startling sense of intimacy between the audience and the performers, but also, and most curiously, between audience sections; you're positioned straight in front of them, noticing who's giggling at what — Sally Rooney was sitting in the section across from mine, and you bet I was glancing over the odd time to gauge her sense of humour — and who's on the verge of nodding off.

Róisín McBrinn directs Baker's sharp script, buoyed up by several strong performances. Making up our five main characters are Niamh Cusack, as Marty, the drama teacher; Hazel Doupe plays



Clockwise from bottom left: Imogen Doel, Hazel Doupe, Marty Rea, Niamh Cusack and Risteárd Cooper. (Photo Ros Kavanagh)

teenager Lauren, who's eager to learn some “real acting”; a terrific Imogen Doel as Theresa, arguably the best role of the play; Marty Rea, as the tragic comic foil Schultz; and Risteárd Cooper (best known for spoof football punditry comedy show *Après Match*) as James, Marty's husband, who seems more interested in working through

marital baggage then improv games.

There's a sparseness to Baker's taut script, relying on short scenes that are intercut with stage blackouts. This use of form gives the whole production a wicked pace that compliments the moments of comedy. Each drama class becomes a sort

of therapy session, with characters revealing hidden sides of themselves. As well, at 2 hrs and 15 minutes, including an interval, *Circle Mirror Transformation* rolls along nicely, never overstaying its welcome, which is something I can't say about a lot of theatre I've seen over the years — soz, Shakespeare xo.



Niamh Cusack and Risteárd Cooper. (Photo Ros Kavanagh)

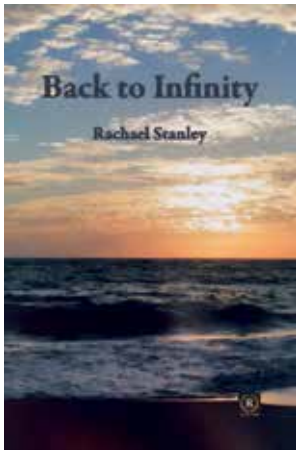
Nothing about the play really surprised me, truth be told. Going to the theatre as rarely as I do, it's like I expect, or at least hope, to be blown away every time. It's an unfair expectation seeing as most of the stuff I see at the movies is hot garbage! Though nothing blew me away, it's all strong stuff, and the ending is something special; it's the first time you really feel the play take off, just a shame it coincides with its landing. Nonetheless, *Circle Mirror Transformation* is a funny and heartfelt work, and it certainly encouraged me to venture back out to look harder for Baker's play-scripts. If you missed its run, I strongly urge you to check out *Janet Planet*. It's gained a terrific amount of buzz since premiering at Telluride Film Festival last year.

Back to Infinity by Rachael Stanley

■ Eoin Meegan

The notion of presence, synonymous with intimations of eternity is what first struck me when reading Rachael Stanley's debut offering, *Back to Infinity*. Thematically expansive, juxtaposing the mundane with the surreal, the ephemeral with the eternal; at times reminiscent of a musical score with its repeated variations sounding through divergent and disparate individual offerings.

Echoes of eternity are evident, but never oppressive, in poems such as *Breath*, *Corridor*, *In the Midst of Potato Skins*, *Ocean*, *Songs True and False*, and others. In fact, lightness is another characteristic we find; like when you're trying to get through to a utility company on the phone (always a pleasure!), or the panic over mislaying ones mobile, which the poet prefers to call 'the beast',



*it offers escape from
the awkward pauses
the conversations that
require effort,*

from Crutch

Moving from the spectre of impatient technology Stanley casts an acerbic eye on the pandemic in *Twenty – Twenty*, while simultaneously celebrating the freedom it brought in *The Self*.

*faces buried behind masks,
the ongoing science fiction
we wish we could switch off.*

from *Twenty – Twenty*

Sprinkled amongst the collection we find Haiku, which I confess a fondness for, although as the poet doesn't adhere to the five-seven-five rule, I found these poems less satisfying.

Death and Eternity

In *Farewell to Gran* we glimpse the world through the eyes of a seven-year old, perhaps her first encounter with death, with its delicious interplay between absence and presence.

*Silence first made itself
known to me as absence
Now it makes itself
known as presence.*

Two poems are dedicated to the poet's mother, both using external objects through which to channel loss. A personal letter is the chosen vehicle in *Words of Love*, a poem on the occasion of not being able to be at her mother's side at her passing, only for it to turn up again in an unexpected setting; a coincidence of course, but only for those who can't read messages. While in *A Picture of My Mother Reading* it's a photograph that evokes memories of happier times, but hinting at sadness to come:

*Oh mother, dearest mother,
did you know what lay ahead of you?
I think in your heart you knew that
yours would not be an easy marriage
but a journey of two souls
who were drawn by the magnetic
force of attraction.*

Father relationships often seem to be more challenging in general for poets, with silence a common motif. In *Remembering My Father As We Approached Gethsemane* (Friday April 13th 1979) Stanley treats her own father with great compassion, but also honesty, and even claims an affinity with him.

*You were perceived as the enemy within
the camp,
yet strangely, I felt I travelled the same
road as you,
a kindred pair of outcasts.*

The opening and closing poems round the collection with this recurring sense of the eternal. From *Dreams of Freedom*, with its desire 'to become the feathered air / spiraling through heat and light' to the book's closing poem, *Atoms*,

*Then form into sentences upon tongues
that will one day return to a realm
beyond names and descriptions,
beyond labels and conditioned minds,
and dance the way back to infinity.*

While the penultimate poem prefigures the poet's own death:

*On my last day,
I hope to be a feather
falling lightly upon you.*

from *My Last Day*

Notice how it echoes the notes of the first poem, *Dreams of Freedom*.

Back to Infinity is a work of astounding maturity, strength and compassion. It's been a long time since I've enjoyed reading a poetry book so much.

Rachael Stanley grew up in Rathgar and went to school in St Louis in Rathmines. She



Rachael Stanley

currently resides in Milltown. From a young age she always had an interest in expressing herself through the written word.

***Back to Infinity* by Rachael Stanley is published by Revival Press and is available in Books on the Green, Sandymount and in Kenny's Bookshop, Galway, and on the website from the Limerick Writers Centre: see link**

<https://limerickwriterscentre.com/product/back-to-infinity-by-rachael-stanley/>

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GAZE 2024

GAZE International Film Festival returned for its 32nd edition spotlighting the best in new LGBTQ+ cinema

■ **Brian Bowe**

This year, those attending the GAZE International LGBTQIA Film Festival were absolutely spoiled for choice. The festival's 32nd edition showcased 100 films from across the world, including 25 international feature films, ten eclectic shorts programmes, seven world premieres, a dozen European premieres and over 50 Irish premieres across the five-day festival.

"With almost 100 films in the programme, I'm hopeful there's something for all cinemagoers at GAZE 2024, from both inside and outside the LGBTQIA community," commented GAZE Festival Director, Greg Thorpe at the festival's programme launch. "I'm proud that our programme can support high-profile makers like Andrew Haigh, incredible emerging talents like D.W. Waterson, and the next generation of filmmakers via our vibrant shorts programme. Thanks to all our supporters, old and new, I can't wait for us all to be together again in the cinema."

Kicking off proceedings was D.W. Waterson's intense and inspiring lesbian cheerleading drama, *Backspot*. Executive produced by Elliot Page, Waterson's feature-length directorial film debut follows Riley (Devery Jacobs of *Reservation Dogs*), a teenage cheerleader with anxiety as she navigates the world of competitive cheer. Riley's stern coach is played by Evan Rachel Wood, always a welcome screen presence, whose performance here has been favourably likened to J.K. Simmons' Oscar-winning turn as a similarly strict mentor in 2014's *Whiplash*. The director joined the festival in person to introduce the film and hosted a DJ set following the screening — prov-



Devery Jacobs in Backspot, the Opening Gala film of this year's GAZE Film Festival

ing the perfect opportunity to show off all those cheer routines we picked up.

Also at the festival, and one I was particularly excited for, is the Berlinale award-winning documentary *Teaches Of Peaches*, which follows Canadian musician and performance artist Merrill Nisker, better known by her stage name Peaches. Shot during the 2022 Anniversary Tour of her breakthrough album, *Teaches Of Peaches*, the documentary chronicles the iconic queer artist's career from the 1990s until the present day. As well as paying tribute to the electropunk trailblazer, filmmakers Philipp Fussenegger and Judy Landkammer also grant audiences a rare and intimate glimpse

into her life by mixing together tour footage with a rich selection of archival finds. And Peaches herself was in conversation during the fest, reflecting on her 25-year career as a glorious gender-bending pop-provocateur.

This year GAZE honoured LGBTQ+ activist, broadcaster and filmmaker Edmund Lynch, who passed away in October, with a special commemorative screening of their 2016 documentary *A Different Country*. The film reflects on the modest yet unwavering start of a burgeoning gay rights movement, tracing its roots from 1973 all the way to the decriminalisation and flourishing LGBTQ+ community in modern-day Ireland.



Elliot Page in Close to You

There was a lot of focus on Irish talent throughout the festival, of course, especially in the shorts programmes, which celebrated films that defy genre, shining a spotlight on Irish and International LGBTQ+ talent. And for those of you who missed or had still to get over *All of Us Strangers* — starring our very own beautiful boys, Andrew Scott and Paul Mescal — GAZE hosted a special screening of the film (widely considered one of the year's best) with director Andrew Haigh in attendance, interviewed by collaborator Russell Tovey.

In addition to showcasing a diverse selection of films, the festival offered a variety of activities such as special events, workshops, exhibitions and parties. A highlight of this year's festivities was the introduction of starGAZE, an initiative aimed at uplifting six LGBTQ+ filmmakers by amplifying queer Irish narratives in the film industry. These selected individuals will benefit from a comprehensive year-long mentorship where emerging Irish filmmakers will have access to seasoned Irish and inter-

national creative talents to guide them at crucial points in their careers. starGAZE is supported by The National Talent Academy Film & TV Drama, is an initiative of Screen Ireland and is managed by Ardán.

Dominic Savage's delicate homecoming drama *Close to You* was the festival's Closing Gala film, on Monday, August 5. The film marks Elliot Page's first big-screen role since coming out as a trans man in 2020. According to Variety critic Guy Lodge, the film is a triumphant return for Page: "a reminder of what a deft and perceptive actor he can be, capable of both naked emotional candour and acidic wit."

There was plenty more stuff on show, too much to pack into an article, so please dive into the full programme for GAZE 2024 at www.gaze.ie to catch up on anything you missed and want to add to your watchlist. The GAZE International LGBTQIA Film Festival ran at the IFI and Light House Cinemas and at GAZE Online from 1 – 5 August.

Dublin: City of Culture

Culture Night returns (Sept 20th 2024)

Niamh Byrne

Believe it or not, it's that time of year again! The days are getting shorter. Woolly jumpers are coming back out of the closet. The return of school is just around the corner. However, we do have something to brighten your day as Culture Night comes round again. Friday the 20th of September holds many exciting events, all for free for us to enjoy. Something for free in Dublin? Can you imagine! Here's a look at some of the top things to enjoy on Culture night, whether you're a history fanatic or an Irish alcohol expert (aren't we all!) or just looking for something different to do on a Friday night on the town, News-Four has got you covered.

Kilmainham Gaol

Kilmainham Gaol is one of the largest unoccupied prisons in Europe. It was built in 1796, replacing Dublin's former county prison. The Gaol was used to hold political prisoners during Ireland's struggle for independence. It was closed in 1924 by Ireland's Free State government and was reopened as a museum in 1971. Access to the Gaol is by guided tour only. The tour lasts approximately 60 minutes and allows you entry to the museum.



Irish whiskey museum bottles & tasting glasses

Whiskey Museum

After plenty of research, in 2014, the Irish whiskey museum finally opened their doors to the public. Housed in a historic building in Dublin's city centre, the museum consists of an extensive whiskey bar, historic exhibits, a tasting room and its own shop filled with whiskey and souvenirs. Working with over 30 brands of Whiskey across Ireland and Northern Ireland, portraying the different distillation methods and styles of whiskey. The average price for an adult entry ticket to the museum starts at €23 per person, so is a great option for culture night.

EPIC Museum

At EPIC, we get to honour Irish emigrants by hearing about their stories and keep-

ing their memoirs alive. It's a chance to give your ancestors the recognition they deserve by acknowledging them, their journeys and their achievements. As you travel back in time through the museum's 20 galleries, make sure to stamp your very own souvenir EPIC passport as you go. This historic, interactive experience is fun for all the family and the best thing about it is, you don't have to book tickets in advance for culture night, you can just walk straight in!

National Print Museum

Attention locals! This museum is perfect for you as it is located on our very own Haddington Road! The National Print Museum tells the historical and contemporary story of printing in Ireland and not only its relationship but also the impact on the stories of Irish people and Ireland itself. It features fully operational letterpress printing equipment, laid out like a traditional print shop, giving visitors the chance to get a hands-on experience of Ireland's print heritage in its truest form.

Wax Museum Dublin

Embark on a journey of lifelike wonders and iconic figures at Dublin's wax museum. Pose with your favourite celebs and step into your favourite tv show sets. This museum is a very unique one indeed, re-creating our very own Father

Ted's sitting room with wax figures of the famous characters Ted and Dougal. With interactive experiences, providing visitors with not only an entertaining but also an educational journey through Irish history, heritage and culture.

Culture Night / Oíche Chultúir is brought to you by the Arts Council; it is a national mo-

ment, celebrating culture, creativity and the arts and seeks to actively promote the belief that this rich and varied culture is alive, treasured and nurtured in people's lives, today and every day. It is delivered nationwide in cities, towns, villages and rural locations as well as online and through our media partners. All activities will be available to the public free of charge.



National Print Museum



Craggy Island at the Irish Wax Museum



A FINAL RESTING PLACE

The St Matthew's Church Columbarium Wall is now available to book a final resting place for your loved ones in the Community. For more details and to receive a Brochure, call the St Matthews Parish Office on 087 254 0378 or email Jonny Bell at jonathanbell61@gmail.com



Where Creativity meets Vision...

The Art of Niamh Carroll

■ Louise Whelan

Artist Niamh Carroll launched her first solo exhibition 'Dreamscapes' in the Fair Play Café in Ringsend on July 12th to a full house of her nearest and dearest to watch her showcase all her wonderful, very special artwork. Niamh is the fifth artist to have an exhibition in The Smallest Walk-In Art Gallery in Ireland and so much time, energy and love has gone into producing these unique stunning pieces. The exhibition which ran for four weeks was immensely popular with eye-catching paintings whilst enjoying a cuppa or having lunch in the café.

Niamh was always involved in art which was developed from childhood, she just had a natural talent and was very creative. She lived overseas where she studied and when she came back to Ireland to get her B.A., she had her own class in teaching art and took in students also.

In 2020 she had to give up teaching due to two hip replacements and in her recovery, she

decided to dedicate herself fully into her art so she did a four year process of intensive painting, building up skills like mono printing, screen printing, and painting on aluminium and glass. Niamh has designed her own way of printing and painting, which she would not have had the time before due to her busy lifestyle but now she has invested herself fully in her creative flow.

There are three issues that Niamh is interested in as an artist. The light, the application of paint, and the emotion which shows in every single piece how powerful they are together and the impression it leaves. Niamh's semi abstract artwork conveys a message that you can feel connected to, leaving you with a genuine appreciation for the beauty of her work.

Niamh thanked everyone for supporting her, especially the huge encouragement from her close knit family, and her special people, Penny, Pauline and Karen who all make sparks fly whenever she is in their creative energies and she is grateful for

their knowledge and friendship.

Joe Donnelly, who runs the cafe with his wife Sharon and the crew, voiced that the vision behind the kiosk is to use the space in the Fair Play Café for a local artist who would have the talent to just get their artwork up on the walls. There's no charge, no cost to yourself, it's done on a Friday lunchtime where you can invite your friends. You can have an immersive experience in the phonebox by having your artwork shown on the panels outside and inside, so people can enjoy it either way.

So if anyone is interested in having an exhibition in the near future, just get in touch with Joe in the Fair Play Café.

Congratulations Niamh on your very successful first art exhibition and best wishes for the future.

Follow Niamh on Instagram @niamhcarrollart and her website at @niamhcarrollart.com



Niamh Carroll



Donnybrook artist exhibits at Connecting Artists 2024

Ten artists from around the country showcase their work at prestigious RCSI event

■ **Brian Bowe**

The Connecting Artists 2024 exhibition took place this past July, showcasing a rich variety of talent. It's part of a wonderful initiative that looks to empower visual artists with intellectual disabilities who wish to collaborate with fellow artists to enhance their creative skills. Ten artists living with disabilities were chosen from across the country to participate in a ten-week online program aimed at advancing their art and equipping them for exhibition and potential sales of their work.

"As we enter the third year of the Connecting Artists programme, the dedication of our ten wonderful mentors and the collaboration with the RCSI Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Unit remain crucial," said Miriam Spollen, founder of Connections Arts Centre. "We are thrilled to see the 2024 participants' fantastic artwork exhibited at a national level.



Niamh Eldridge-Barry, Kristin Reynado Suniega and special guest Miriam O'Callaghan at this year's Connecting Artist's exhibition

The consistent support from the public, both business and community, has been incredible and continues to inspire us."

It's great to see the support these artists are getting, many of whom have never gotten the chance to show off their art, especially at this scale. The organisers' meticulous at-

tention to detail in curating and staging the exhibition was evident. The choice of the Royal College of Surgeons' College Hall as the venue really added to the occasion, with its ornate decorative ceiling and three magnificent glass-domed windows bathing the space in warm, natural light.

I was in attendance during an

insightful artist workshop, one of three free demonstrations taking place across the week-long event. Donnybrook artist Kristin Reynado Suniega painted a new work while taking questions from the audience in what soon became a lovely and loose group discussion, full of curiosity and encouragement.

Inspired by her family's hometown in the Philippines and the work of legendary post-impressionist painter Vincent Van Gogh, Kristin's work evokes a sense of playful wonder while retaining a strong feeling of familiarity.

"Art has been a place of comfort for me and it helps me to relax," says Kristin. "The Connecting Artists Programme community has given me the opportunity to connect with fellow creatives and be part of a community that truly understands me."

Niamh Eldridge-Barry, a 26-year-old artist from Co. Kildare, who was selected for the Connecting Artists Programme last year, served as Kristin's mentor this time around, crafting weekly art sessions and fostering a friendship rooted in a shared passion.

The sense of community I experienced during my brief visit left a lasting impression on me. The initiative is a true inspiration, manifesting a profound and immeasurable positive impact on its participants and their families. It's a safe space that gives people the opportunity to connect with like-minded creatives, collaborate and explore new ideas. On top of that, it underscores the significance of nurturing artistic growth within underrepresented communities. Such programmes not only empower individuals to express themselves but also contribute to the cultural enrichment and diversity of the broader artistic landscape.

WORKING FOR YOU

If you are in need of assistance or advice, please feel free to contact Chris or Kourtney.

CHRIS
ANDREWS TD
EMAIL:
✉ chris.andrews@oir.ie
OR BY PHONE ON:
☎ 089 437 9644



Clr **KOURTNEY KENNY**
EMAIL:
✉ kourtneykennysinnfein@gmail.com
OR BY PHONE ON:
☎ 083 078 3990

Google Community News Update

This City Works Graduation Ceremony with An Taoiseach Simon Harris and the Lord Mayor of Dublin James Geoghegan



Graduates celebrating their achievements at Google Flour Mills.

Fourteen local graduates commended by An Taoiseach at Google's Bolands Mills

An Taoiseach, Simon Harris TD was at Google's Bolands Mills campus to address a group of graduates from the Ringsend, Irishtown, and Pearse Street areas. An Taoiseach presented the fourteen graduates with certificates for qualifications across a diverse range of disciplines including nautical skills, training and development, and teacher training education. These programmes were delivered as part of the This City Works strategic plan, a local employment task force established by Google.

At the ceremony an announcement was made of further funding of €750,000 by Google.org, the philanthropic arm

of Google, to St Andrews Resource Centre. The grant will enable St Andrews Resource Centre to deliver training opportunities in the domains of digital support, AI prospects, nautical skills, teacher training education, enterprise development, career guidance, and personal growth. This is part of a strategic plan developed by This City Works and their local partners St Andrews Resource Centre, the Irish Nautical Trust and the Fair Play Anchorage Project.

Left: Members of TCW gathered to celebrate graduates through This City Works representing St Andrews Resource Centre, Irish Nautical Trust, The Training Junction Pearse Street, Fair Play, Ringsend Community Service Forum, Dublin Education Training Board, Department of Social Protection, Dublin Port Co, Dublin Waste To Energy and Google



Google Education Task Force

At a celebration hosted in Google Foundry, Minister for Finance Jack Chambers presented SNA graduates with their certificates along with announcing Google Community support for a further

8 Scholarships. Anne Smith the Principal of St Patrick's Girls School in Ringsend spoke about the great work some of the graduates provide to the local schools and clubs in the community.



Above: Graduate Sarah Barrat, Deputy Jim O Callaghan and Minister for Finance Jack Chambers joined Google Ireland Vanessa Hartley and Teresa Weafer Google Community Affairs to celebrate the SNA graduates



Mental Health and Diversity

A remarkable evening was hosted at the Google Foundry under the leadership of local Cambridge FC in partnership with Jigsaw and supported by Google's Community Affairs. A critical message emphasizing the significance of open dialogue surrounding mental health was discussed in depth. We extend our sincere gratitude to the esteemed panel who contributed to the success of the evening.



Dr Cian Hughes (Google) Keith O'Brien (Cambridge FC) Deputy Ivana Bacik, Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly Teresa Weafer (Google Community Affairs) Deputy Jim O'Callaghan, Deputy Chris Andrews, Scott Foley (Cambridge FC) Niamh Fennell (Jigsaw)



Celebrating the 37th South Dock Festival



Odlums Strawberry & Cream Sponge

COOK TIME: 15 mins

What you need:

- 75g/3oz Odlums Self Raising Flour
- 3 Eggs (separated and at room temperature)
- 75g/3oz Shamrock Golden Caster Sugar
- Pinch of Salt
- Few drops of Goodall's Vanilla Essence (optional)

Filling

- Fresh Strawberries, sliced
- 150ml/¼pt Whipped Cream

How to:

1. Preheat oven to 200°C/400°F/Gas 6. Grease and base line two 18cm/7½” sandwich tins with greaseproof paper.

2. Place the three egg whites and salt in a

large, clean, dry mixing bowl. Stiffly beat until mixture is dry looking in appearance.

3. Next add the sugar and beat for a few seconds, then add the egg yolks and beat until mixture thickens and the trail of the beaters is visible.

4. Finally, sieve in the flour and fold it into the thick mixture using a metal spoon. To fold, just cut through the mixture, over and over with the metal spoon until all the flour is blended. Never beat, as it will beat out all the air.

5. Fold in the vanilla essence if used, then transfer to the prepared tins and bake for about 15 minutes.

6. As soon as sponge is baked, transfer to a wire tray to cool.



7. When cold, spread one sponge with whipped cream and layer sliced strawberries on top. Then put second sponge on top to sandwich together. Dust with sieved icing sugar, if desired.

For more recipes visit Odlums.ie

Crossword Clues

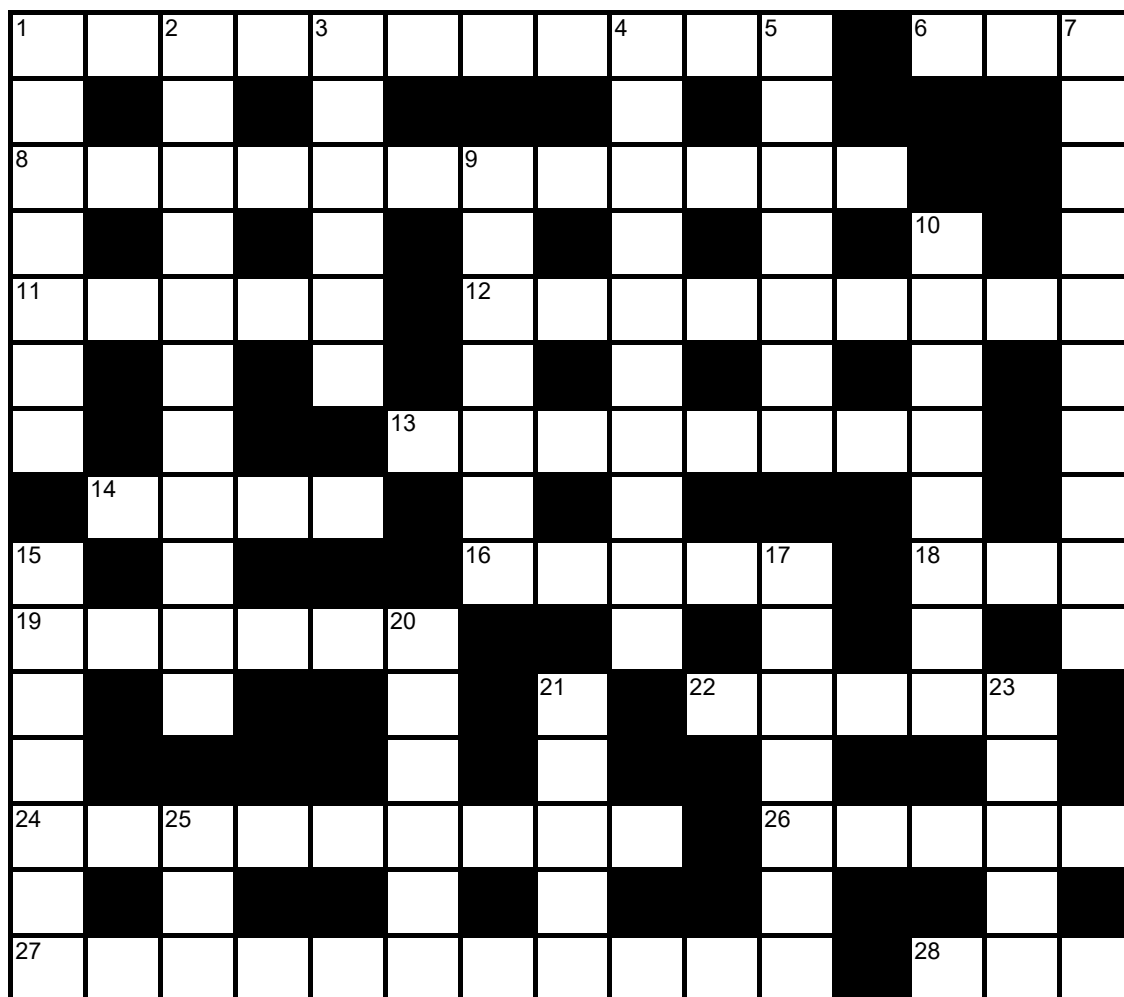
Crossword August / September 2024

ACROSS:

- 1) Star who brought her Era's tour to the Aviva stadium recently (6,5)
- 6) Cooking top (3)
- 8) Diagram, drawing (12)
- 11) Gaseous layer between the earth and the sun (5)
- 12) This style of ballroom dance sounds rapid (9)
- 13) Subtracted (8)
- 14) Male deer (4)
- 16) It takes two to perform this dance (5)
- 18) Cancel this hatchet (3)
- 19) Heavy artillery on wheels used to fire stones or metal balls (6)
- 22) Fragrance (5)
- 24) Invent or manufacture (9)
- 26) A skilled stone worker (5)
- 27) The process of turning liquid to vapour (11)
- 28) Liquid for writing and printing (3)

DOWN:

- 1) Lybya's capital (7)
- 2) Large national park in west U.S.A. (11)
- 3) Luxury shellfish that was once pauper's food (6)
- 4) Fascinating (10)
- 5) Set of utensils for a particular task (7)
- 7) Budget traveller sporting a rucksack (10)
- 9) Ask for (7)
- 10) A place for horse breeding (4,4)
- 15) Brief, confused struggle (7)
- 17) A male rower might drink in this Ringsend pub (7)
- 20) American stock car racing association (6)
- 21) Group of eight musicians (5)
- 23) Decorate (5)
- 25) Feathered scarf could be a constrictor (3)



Prize of €25 book token.

Post entries to:
NewsFour,
13A Fitzwilliam Street,
Ringsend, Dublin 4

by the 20th September 2024.

The winner of our June/ July 2024 crossword competition is Bernie McDonagh, Ringsend.

Solutions to the June/July 2024 Crossword

ACROSS:

- 1) Declaration, 5) Sod, 7) Surplus, 9) Potions, 10) Cur, 11) Neuro, 13) Ego, 14) Tra, 15) Bar, 16) Eaten, 17) Pest, 18) Ore, 19) Pedal, 20) Auntie, 21) Andrews, 24) Torturous, 26) Elect, 27) Lulu, 28) Fizzy, 29) Kneecap

DOWN:

- 1) Disinfectant, 2) Corruption, 3) Impressionism, 4) Notion, 5) Short and Sweet, 6) Dastardly, 8) Scarper, 12) Obnoxiously, 19) Permeate, 22) Noble, 23) Strop, 25) Ritz

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

Telephone:.....

Q & A with Elaine Corcoran



Elaine Corcoran is a Solicitor and principal in Corcoran & Company Solicitors, 24 Thorncastle Street, Ringsend, Dublin 4. She is mum of two boys and lives locally. She is here to answer readers' questions and to give some guidance on current legal trends / develop-

ments. Elaine can be contacted on 01 5617900 or by email:

elaine@corcoransolicitors.com

Please email any questions that you have for Elaine to newsfour@gmail.com.

Dear Elaine

I am in a committed relationship with my partner of over 24 years, neither of us has been married before, my partner does not have any children but I have two. I purchased my house before my partner was on the scene and it is in my name only. How can I ensure that my children get the house after I pass away but leave it so that my partner has a place to live. Can my children force a sale if my partner is living in the house? Everyone gets

on very well, I don't anticipate trouble but you never know.

Sam

Hi Sam,

I would encourage you to make a Will which would stipulate exactly how you would like your estate to fall. In your Will you could give devise and bequeath your house to your children subject to a life interest in favour of your partner, whom I am assuming is a cohabitant. This would mean that your partner could live in the property for as long as they wish and your children could only sell the property after your partner passes away, or with your partner's consent. A financially dependent cohabitant may be able to apply to the court for provision to be made for them from the estate of a deceased partner if the relationship ends as a result of death or otherwise,

and you should talk to a solicitor to ensure that you are fully advised and informed on the matter.

Elaine

Dear Elaine

I separated from my husband in the last few months, I remain living in the family home contributing to the mortgage and the family bills. My husband has moved out to live with his new partner and makes a financial contribution once a month. On divorce, what will my children and I be entitled to?

Anne

Hi Anne,

Firstly, you can apply for a divorce when you are two out of the last three years separated. When a couple separate or divorce the most frequently asked question

posed to me is what am I entitled to? The simple answer is an agreement or court Order that achieves proper provision.

The aim is to ensure fairness. Proper provision is achieved by a Judge weighing up a list of principles and reaching a financial split based on this criterion. As no two marriages are the same and no two marriage breakdowns are the same, no two settlements are the same. The list of criteria to be considered are set out in both the Family Law Act 1995, and the Family Law (Divorce) Act 1996. Your settlement agreement or Court Order will deal with (1) Property Adjustment Orders (2) Maintenance Orders (3) Access Orders and (4) Pension Adjustment Orders.

Elaine

Property News D4

Sherry FitzGerald opened their Sandymount, D4 branch in 2016 and since then it has grown from strength to strength serving all the property needs of the Sandymount, Irishtown and Ringsend vendors, buyers and investors. Our brands are among the most recognised in the country. The depth and breadth of our expertise in the property sector, both locally and nationally, is unrivalled. Recruiting the very best local property advisors, we believe that in-depth knowledge of an area or a neighbourhood is essential to give the best service. We are the largest national estate agency with a wealth of local knowledge and are happy to answer all your property queries in complete confidence. Call your local agents on 016672244 or email sandymount@sherryfitz.ie

Q.1.

Hi Barry

I am tired of paying rent so have decided it might

be time to get on the property ladder. Is there anything I need to do before I start looking at houses, I haven't even spoken with the bank yet.

Hi Sean,

The most important thing to have in place is your mortgage approval. We would always recommend using a broker as they will be able to shop around for you and get you the best rates and deals. This will allow you to make offers on properties that you are interested in. If you do not have your approval in place an estate agent is unlikely to take offers from you. I would also recommend lining up a solicitor and surveyor so when you have an offer accepted on a property you are ready to go. Apart from that I would recommend you view as many properties as you can so you can work out your non-negotiables and things you think you could probably live with.

Q.2.

I viewed an apartment that I really liked, and I submitted an offer, but the vendor

has turned down my offer. What are my options?

If your offer was rejected, then you have several options:

1. Increase your offer: If the vendor rejected your offer because they believe it is too low, then you may consider increasing your offer.
2. Ask for a counteroffer: The vendor may not want to accept your offer but may be willing to negotiate by providing a counteroffer. This gives you an opportunity to revise your offer or negotiate other terms, such as the closing date or repairs.
3. Keep searching: If the vendor is not willing to negotiate and you cannot or don't want to increase your offer, then you can move on and continue your search for another property.

The Writers' Adventure for Bloomsday' was an event organised by Thomas Gregg and the Ringsend and District Historical Society on Bloomsday past in the CYWMS where people shared their own poems and short stories. Thanks to everyone who participated. Below is a small selection of the winners and runners-up.

winner adults section

**Sunday Morning Walks After Mass
(For the Da)**

Words & Music by Mick Brady

We used to take a walk, just you and me
Where the two rivers and the canal run out
to the sea
The city was always quiet on Sundays way
back then
A day of rest for the working men

Across the bridge and down the steps
Weeds in the dried-up grass, boats and old
fishing nets
Jinny-Joes blowing across the black dirt track
Flowers growing wild out through every crack

*My small hand in your old leather glove,
It looked cracked and worn, but it felt like love
I still remember how it felt after all this time
How proud I was to hold your hand in mine*

The canal would shine and sparkle as it
tumbled out through the locks
Cranes on tracks through the cobblestones
down along the docks
We'd cross the river on the ferry, then we'd
come straight back
This was our own little world

After you'd gone, your coat hung in the hall
She kept it there and I'd see it every time
I called
I still see it in my mind and it takes me back
To our Sunday morning walks after mass

Chorus

The factories, coal boats on the quays
The Broken Wall, wheat lorries on the streets
The gas works, the dog track and the mills
The Bottle House, the Iron Bridge

The rivers still run and the tides still ebb
and flow
But the ships are gone, factories all shut down
Sometimes I walk those street but now I
walk alone
It's not the same, it doesn't feel like home

Everything changes but not some things inside
Like memories of you that I keep alive
Sometimes the mirror takes me by surprise
And I think it's you, looking through my eyes

Maybe someday someone will think of me
And remember the way I used to be
Some small hand in some old leather glove
That looks rough and worn, but feels like love

Chorus

runner-up adults section

The Grief Manual

By Sophie Gregg

Grief is supposed to come in waves they say
But what if it never comes at all
I feel like since it happened
My body feels numb, and my mind feels raw
But no grief
I haven't sat up during a sleepless night
With water rolling from my eyes
Haven't encountered my fight or flight
Cause you know they say that will arise
With grief.
I feel wrong for not feeling the way I imagined
it to feel,
I feel like I am betraying her for not being sad,
But this forces me to believe its not real,
Grief is not universal.
It's not something everybody gets
It's not like the flu.
I believe I grieved while she was here
She was still breathing yet I had started
grieving
I was grieving right up until she took her
last breath
And then it stopped

It was like when the clock strikes 12,
The way you felt yesterday is not what you'll
feel like today
It's different
I can't force myself to cry
I can't force myself to feel what society says
you should feel when somebody dies
I can't
I can't lie to myself
I can't feel the way society wants me to feel.
I'm stuck between
In the space between fact and fiction
in the grey area
Is there a manual on grief?
Please just tell me how to feel
Because I know I miss you,
I know my heart breaks for you
I know my body aches for you
I know my eyes stay wake for you
But I am numb
I am walking across this tightrope
And I am afraid that if I stumble just once,
I will fall,
I will fall into a state I've never experienced,
Grief
But then again, grief is not universal
But if it is and I don't like it
Can I get a reversal?

winner children's section

Madison Tucker

In Ringsend by the river's flow, myself, my
dreams began to grow, my voice a song, my
feet a dance, a world of magic and romance.

My laughter filled the cobbled streets, a
melody of youthful beats, I sang in squares,
in parks, in halls, my spirit bright, my voice
enthalls.

The neighbours cheered me every day, their
friendly smiles would light my way, with every note
and every twirl, I'd hoped to be Ringsend's shining
pearl.

From sunrise to the evening's glow, my hard work
set the town aglow, I danced through lanes and by
the docks, my rhythm echoing the clocks.

The Spar cashiers and all pub folk, would pause to
hear the words I spoke, my songs would weave a
tale so sweet, of Ringsend life, a perfect beat.

Opportunities began to bloom, my voice dispelling
any gloom, invitations from near and far, I became
a rising star.

But no matter where my path would bend, my heart
remained in dear Ringsend. With every stage and
every light, I'd think of home, my heart's delight.

The friendly faces, warm and kind, were always in
my heart and mind, their love and cheers my guid-
ing star, no matter how hard or tough or long or far.

In Ringsend, by the river's flow, a girl with dreams
continues to grow, my song a gift, my dance a flight,
in Ringsend's heart, forever bright.

runner-up children's section

Anonymous

Growing up in Ringsend, by the sea, where sea-
gulls soar and boats roam free, in the shadow of
the Poolbeg Chimneys tall, a place where memo-
ries rise and fall.

Strolling by the Liffey's gentle flow, past the dock-
lands, where stories grow, in Ringsend's embrace,
the heart finds peace, where the city's hustle and
bustle cease.

Children's laughter fills the air, playing in the park
without a care, the smell of salt and seaweed near,
in Ringsend, where time is dear.

Growing up in Ringsend, a gem so bright, where
the sun dances on the water's light, in each street
and corner, history weaves, a place where the soul
believes.

Joint 3rd place in children's section.

Reagan Tucker

Growing up in Ringsend is a blast.
The community's kindness will forever last.
From friendly neighbors to helping hands,
lifelong friendships in Ringsend expand.
In this close-knit place, we all belong.
Festivals and laughter, memories strong.
Local shops, bustling streets so grand,
Ringsend's love and care always at hand.
Cheers to Ringsend, where love never ends.
Childhood adventures, lifelong friends.
A special place in our hearts it will be,
Ringsend, forever cherished, you see.

Tongue-tied no more!

Enhance your communication skills with beginner-friendly Public Speaking Club in Sandymount

By Rodney Devitt

It is probably one of the commonest of human fears: having to speak in public to a large or even a small group of people. That dread of standing up, with all eyes in the room focused on you, and all ears listening out for the slightest stumble or mistake you might make. The terror of appearing stupid or tongue-tied. It brings the sweat out on one's brow. And yet, in this modern world, communication has never been so important. Most of us have to interact and address our customers, our clients, our colleagues, our superiors, or our employees, and we want to do it effectively. We all need to talk in public at some stage, maybe to contribute to a local forum, or to give a business presentation, or make a point at a Residents AGM. Maybe a Best Man or Father of the Bride obligation?

Well, let me say from my own personal experience, that being a member of a well run Public Speaking Club, such as ours here in Sandymount, is probably one of the most effective,

productive and enjoyable ways to put behind you the awful fear of speaking in public. It is a Club that will give you the skills and confidence to effectively express yourself in any situation. It may not eliminate the butterflies in your tummy, but it will get them flying in formation. And it does so in a supportive, encouraging and affordable way. Quite quickly, one can become an effective contributor at work meetings, thus enhancing one's career prospects.

Now Sandymount has a long-established Public Speaking Club, which has recently moved to the lovely Sandymount Community Centre, on Newbridge Avenue, just around the corner from the Aviva Stadium. Meetings take place on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, starting at 8 pm. Visitors and guests are welcome, with no charge, obligation or pressure.

And how does this Club work its magic? Well, when you join, you are introduced to a programme which gives you the opportunity to attempt short

speeches or presentations, suggests areas you may wish to practice, such as vocal variety, eye contact, manual gestures and body language. It gives tips on various speaking skills, but always in a friendly, supportive and encouraging way. There is no formal teacher or instructor at these meetings, but everything that happens is evaluated in an encouraging way by your peers, so each week you are getting feedback and recommendations, fostering continuous personal improvement.

Members get the chance to make short formal speeches of five minutes or so, or to speak impromptu for up to two minutes at the Topics Session, or to make a contribution to the evening's Debate, or to give an evaluation of one of their colleague's speeches, or to take the role of Chairman, Proposer of the Motion, or General Evaluator. The roles change from week to week. But

everything is voluntary, and no new member is forced or rushed into doing anything they don't want to.

There is a very pleasant sociable aspect to the Club, with a tea break at each Meeting, and the chance of a pint and a chat with fellow members afterwards. Membership of our Club is split fairly evenly male and female.

Our Club is affiliated to Toastmasters International, a world-wide public speaking organization.

Why not give it a try? Come along, drop in some Tuesday night, starting 24th September, and meet us.

Email: president-3599@toastmastersclubs.org

Phone: Seb Stevenson, President, 086 8178287

Eleanor Devitt, Vice President, 087 7402200

3rd joint place in children's section

Fletcher Roche

Here is Bernadette's story.

There were twelve in the family eight girls and two boys and mother and father.

We would have porridge toast or cornflakes for breakfast. We would have our dinner at half past two when we came home from school. Yea you would get hungry at night and you would make yourself toast.

We went to St. Patrick's School. Ringsend' And before that we went to the old school for about a year. You would get a bottle of milk and a sandwich and on a Wednesday you would get a bun. The teachers seemed very old and they would slap you with a stick if you didn't do your homework or you were talking. I remember learning how to knit and we did cooking in the cookery kitchen. We did that every Tuesday and you would have to bring in all the ingredients and sometimes we would not have them at home so you would have to buy them and there wasn't much money at home so your ma would have to borrow it.

Sir Patrick Dun's Grand Canal Street yea we used to go there a lot if you wanted a

bandage you would go there and say you hurt your leg or something there would never be that much of a queue. A lot of the kids would get measles and a lot of sickness from overcrowding.

My da was a docker and my ma worked in Holies St. Hospital plus other cleaning jobs. When I turned fifteen, I left school and got a factory job.

You had a bath and if you wanted hot water you would have to light your coal on fire. A few neighbours would share the one washing machine. With a coal fire and logs you had a gas meter and you had to put a shilling in so you could cook on the gas cooker.

Yea we all had jobs in the house to clean different rooms. If your ma had money, she would give you something but not every week. We used to go to the shops for people and they would give you something. Mostly every Friday you would get chips and a burger from the chipper as a treat.

No, we hadn't got a car I remember only two people in the flats had a car.

Yea we went to Butlins. When I was 19, I went to Spain first time on a plane. We borrowed money and paid it back weekly with high interest.

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Ballsbridge Lions Club host two big fundraising events

Niamh Byrne

The Ballsbridge Lions Club have been very busy of late, hosting a concert for Gaza as well as a summer BBQ. The concert, which featured a variety of singing acts including a cappella ensemble 4 in a Bar, and Irish folk artist Julie Feeney, took place in St Mary's Church, Haddington Road, on April the 19th last to raise much needed assistance for children in Gaza. The driving force behind this event was Voice Teacher Máire Ledwith, proprietor of the Máire Ledwith Singing Studio, now in its 25th year, also located on Haddington Road. The event included an auction at which Irish Rugby Jersey signed by all the players sold for €1,000.

In total €15,500 was raised and the cheque handed over at a subsequent event in the Dylan Hotel to Isabelle Simpson, Ireland's Executive Director to Médecins sans Frontières (MSF), on behalf of that organisation (see picture). Isabelle, who has seen the destruction of Gaza firsthand, thanked everyone for their wonderful generosity.

Médecins sans Frontières, also known as Doctors Without Borders, is an international humanitarian non-governmental organisation (NGO), who provide assistance to countries in distress, victims of armed conflict, as well as victims of natural or man-made disasters.

And then, in July, the Lions held their Big Summer BBQ jointly with the Pembroke Road Association. A fantastic night was had by all, with everyone up dancing to, firstly the sound of The Nuts, and as darkness descended on Ballsbridge, to NoGMO Jazz. The proceeds were in aid of the community landscaping of St Mary's Garden. Very well done to the Lions. Long may they roar.

Images: Ian Davis & Niamh Byrne



Cheque presentation L-R Rev. Fachtna McCarthy, Farrell O'Boy, Máire Ledwith, Jeanette Pierobon, and Isabelle Simpson (MSF)



You looking at me?



A slow waltz



Dancing the night away



Film producer Kieran Corrigan and friend



Farrell learning to jive



hear the jazz go down



Lions committee member Jeanette Pierobon



You need some refreshment after all that dancing

PEELING BACK THE PAGES

Compiled by Louise Whelan

'007' VISITS RINGSEND



PIERCE BROSNAN, also known as 007 James Bond, was spotted flathunting around Whelan House and O'Rahilly House in Ringsend recently.

Well, not really, he was just filming there for a production of his own Irish Dream Time film company called 'Evelyn'. He will be producing

another film in this country in the near future to be called 'The Limo Man'.

Here Pierce is shown with some local adults and children including Bridie Dalton, Anne Mulligan and Linda Boylan.

Our thanks to Anne Mulligan for the use of this photo.

James Bond in da flats! Yup!



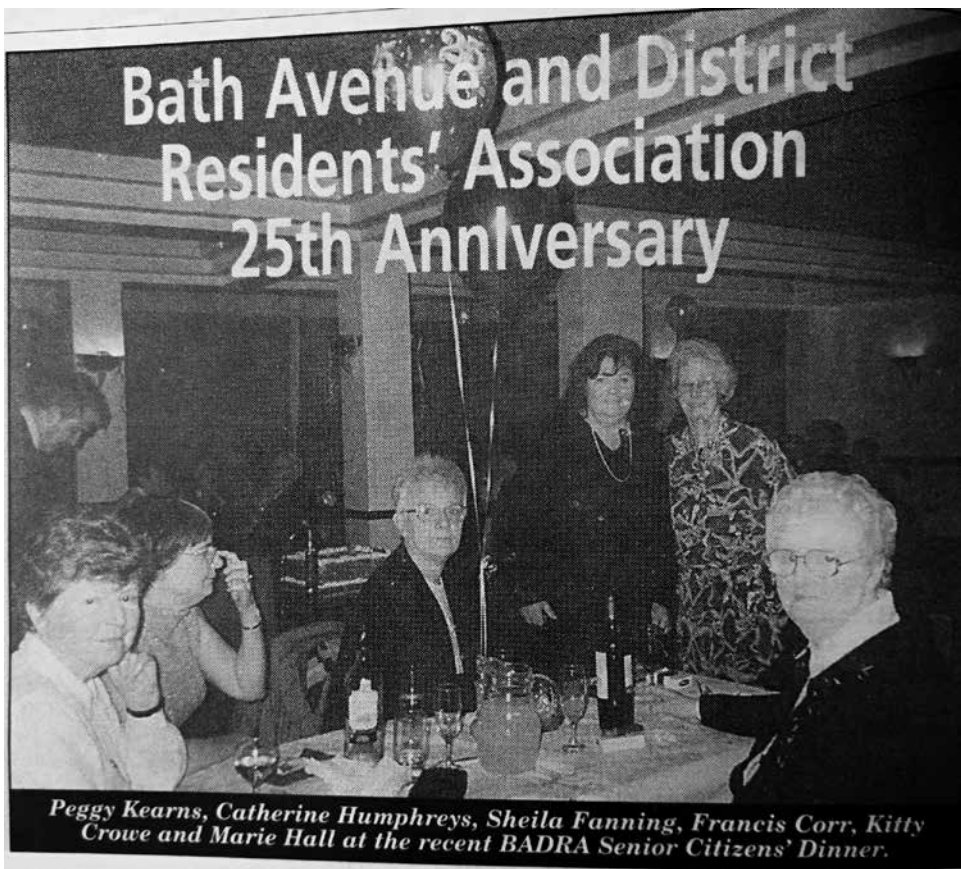
Christina Goad, who runs Ringsend Market along with her daughter. Business is brisk as usual and this shop truly lives up to the term 'convenience store' with a large variety of products on the shelves! (Photo by Colin Flynn)

Loved going into this shop growing up!



In Clyne's Brothers Butchers, Ringsend, meet, on left, Peter Hayden and Dave Kavanagh. (Photo by Colin Flynn)

Definitely need the butchers back ASAP



Peggy Kearns, Catherine Humphreys, Sheila Fanning, Francis Corr, Kitty Crowe and Marie Hall at the recent BADRA Senior Citizens' Dinner.

BADRA celebrated 25 years with a lush dinner party.



Clanna Gael, U.15 Championship Winners

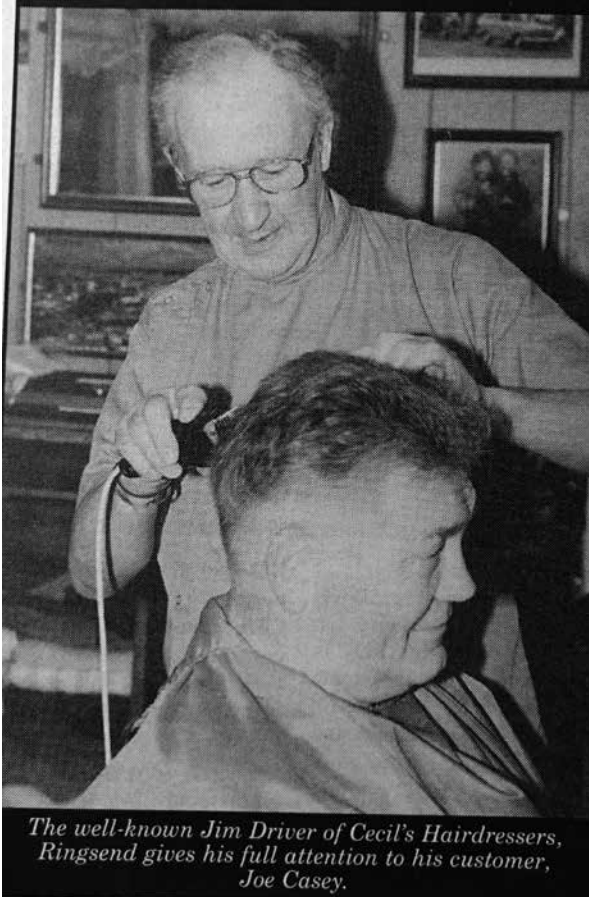
Back row, left to right: James Doyle, Conan Finn, Dermot Nicholson, Ryan O'Neill, Vincent Byrne, Stephen Brennan, Barry Hogan, Jonathan Black, David Neville, Sean Kinsella.
Front Row: Stephen Cleary, Liam Phibbs, Eugene Dent, Mark Boland, Thomas Behan, Stephen Rooney, Gerard O'Neill, James Kavanagh.

St. Patrick's Senior Crew (Winners)

East Coast Rowing Council Regatta on Liffey between Matt Talbot and East Link Bridges.
Left to right: Gay Murphy, John Montgomery, John Flood, David Doyle and his son Eric, John Doyle and his daughter Lauren.

We've some amazing athletes in our town!

A Trim with Jim



The well-known Jim Driver of Cecil's Hairdressers, Ringsend gives his full attention to his customer, Joe Casey.

Who didn't get a Cecil special.

Mysterious Woman



We suspect that the 'Gypsy girl', pictured above, may not necessarily have dressed like this during the working week. The photograph has a reddish tint and is, we believe, over 30 years old. See the note below.

Dear Editor,
While browsing through a book I bought at a sale of work in Newbridge Avenue (either Cat's Aid or the Christmas fair) I came across this lovely old photo. Must

Who is this 'Mysterious Woman'?!?



Bingo night in the CYMS hall, Ringsend.

Top: On the stand, bingo caller Pat Carroll hard at work, while people in the foreground check their numbers.

On right: Alice Whelan and Sarah O'Reilly in jubilant mood.

Bottom, left to right: Angela Steele, Mary O'Brien, Margaret Dunne, and Robert Steele.

Bingo in the CYWMS now is still as popular as ever & the ladies who organise it are amazing

Junior Achievement Award



St Patrick's Girls' School, Ringsend, 6th Class girls. Junior Achievement Award.

Front row, left to right: Niamh Maher, Deirdre Rooney, Aoife O'Brien and Martha McCormack. Back row: Jennifer O'Neill, Miss Murphy, Ciara Cassidy, Karen Daly, Cathryn Murphy, Claire Ashmore, Paula Doolin, Karen White and Ian Kealy from Price, Waterhouse, Coopers, who presented the certificates and was course tutor. A presentation of the project was made to the company directors.

St Patrick's GNS with their Junior Achievement Award

ANJELICA HUSTON MARRIES JASPER!

HOLLYWOOD actress and director Anjelica Huston and local actor Jasper Kearns certainly make a handsome couple, but all is not as it seems.

The photo was taken for the film 'Agnes Browne', which was made partly in Ringsend, in which Angelica starred. Jasper posed as the deceased Mr. Browne, who appeared on the wedding photo in the film.

Jasper himself will shortly be doing work on the new Disney film, to be filmed, in part, around the Pigeon House, so perhaps Hollywood fame will beckon to him also!



Local actor Jasper Kearns hangs out with famous people, including Anjelica Heuston

A BIRTHDAY SURPRISE FOR MAGS!



Margaret 'Mags' Reilly from Canon Mooney Gardens celebrated her 70th birthday with a surprise party at the Lansdown Tennis Club given by her family and friends on August 10th. One photo for the family album! Mags with, left to right, friends Ann-Marie Alice Whelan and sister Annie Stanley.

The best surprise is a birthday surprise, yay

MAKING AN EXHIBITION OF THEMSELVES!



PICTURED AT the recent exhibition of their paintings in the Powerscourt Townhouse Centre are May Pullen, May Mullen, Maureen Walsh, Marie Montgomery, Cynthia O'Reilly and Olive Farrell.

Well done to the local artistic ladies who had an exhibition of their artwork

More Than Bricks and Mortar

New Documentary lays bare hidden implications of the housing crisis

■ **Niamh Byrne**

It's no secret that Dublin is going through a big housing crisis. Dublin accounts for 70 per cent of all homeless people with 6,935 adults and 3,165 children without homes in the capital. This means that the number of homeless in Dublin city surpassed 10,000 for the first time in March of this year. More recent figures suggest it is now over 14,000. Bottom line, it's not a problem that can be overlooked anymore. One area particularly affected by the housing crisis is our very own Ringsend.

Recently a planning application was put in to demolish existing one and two storey buildings in Ringsend, and to replace them with a 15-storey, 48-unit complex. The building would not only overshadow the homes around it, but would also have no social housing available. The law here states each private developer must provide 10% social housing. However, some have found a way around this, for example, if the ground floor of the building is less than 1,000 square metres, the developer may in some cases seek an exemption. The lack of social housing means young families are stuck living with parents or grandparents, often in overcrowded homes or face being pushed out of their local area entirely. One example is that of local woman Sophie Gregg, who grew up in the Ringsend flats. Sophie, 21, is in her last year of college training to be a teacher, and worries she might have to move from her childhood neighbourhood as the cost of living is so prohibitive.

“Set against the background of an unprecedented housing crisis and record numbers of homeless people. . .”

Freelance cameraman Eamon Cleary, originally from Tallaght but now residing in Ringsend, has just completed a documentary, outlining the problems of the housing crisis, and particularly its impact on local traditions. After giving a talk to a packed house in the Community Centre NewsFour caught up with Eamon to talk about his documentary.

NF: Did you get any help making the documentary or was it just you?

Eamon: No it was just me. I worked for a few years as a freelance cameraman and at

the start of lockdown I started recording things going on around the area which was meant to be a separate project but at the same time the notice about the 15-storey complex being made came about. So I thought why don't I document everything together and make a documentary on the housing crisis instead, and show exactly who the crisis is affecting. During all this I met with a young local girl Sophie. Sophie is a great example of a young person who is studying in Maynooth to be a teacher, which is a good job, but still won't be able to afford housing.

NF: Is there anything in particular that inspired you to make this documentary?

Eamon: So, I'm from Tallaght originally and lived here for five years. Seeing the Community spirit specifically during lockdown made me want to help people with the housing crisis and show they're not looking for free handouts.

NF: What are you planning to achieve from the documentary?

Eamon: To raise awareness. There's a scene in *Boyz n the Hood* where the guy's dad takes him up to a billboard

and tells him what they do is they get rid of the local people and raise the value of the market and sell it at a profit. I'm laughing thinking this film was made in the '80's and it's still the same! But Ringsend traditionally was an area no one was in, it was just wasteland, but now it's a very valuable area and my fear in the long-term is that people with money would like to move in and raise those flats to the ground and I'm hoping this documentary can always be pointed to to say it's more than that. That's also where the name of the documentary came from 'More Than Bricks and Water'.

“. . . A working class area in the heart of Dublin city tries to maintain its presence and culture in the face of corporate development.”

Keith O'Brien has a great line in it where he says: "People who are selling the houses are piggy backing on all the hard work the locals have put in." Through all the recession, drug problems, unemployment, they still held up all the positive things like the rowing and soccer clubs. They also held up traditions such as carrying the coffins over the bridge. Locals say they can't remember when this tradition started. It's always been there but they worry it might not be that way one day with all newcomers coming in and the fear of them being pushed out, as well as the housing prices being too high.

NF: You mentioned about traditions being upheld. Why is this such an important factor of the documentary?

Eamon: People from working class areas are perceived as one thing and we're trying

continued next page



Eamon Cleary and Sophie Gregg

to show the other side of the coin and all the hard work people put into the community to make everyone feel welcome and part of a group. These are the same people who can't afford to stay in the area they've lived in their whole lives. The carrying of the coffins over the bridge, the rowing clubs, and the community events are all things that might one day fade away because of the soaring housing prices that will lead to big changes.

NF: How come you chose film as the way of putting the word out?

Eamon: It was just something I was always interested in and I had a background of working in. I thought as I had the camera here, why not? So I ended up filming over a four year period of people's lives and the work they put

into the community and got to know everyone better.

NF: Is it going to be aired on TV?

Eamon: Yes, that's the plan, I worked for years with TV3 and then Virgin Media and a bit with RTÉ doing camera man so I'm going to send it onto them. If it goes ahead I'll have to cut it down to 45 minutes as it's currently 50 minutes.

NF: What have you learned from the experience?

Eamon: I've learned loads actually! I've learned a good bit on how to make a documentary and put in what needs to be said. I've heard people who've made them before saying it's a labour of love, like forget about payment cause you won't get much. I've done documen-



Attendance at Eamon's talk in RICC

taries for my Degree and Masters but this is my first one I've completed by myself and I also learned a good bit about editing.

NF: If you wanted audiences to take one thing away from the documentary, what would it be?

Eamon: It would be to open your eyes to a problem that working class communities are facing. To understand the essence of working class

communities and the effort that is put in by decent people, and that it's not as straightforward as 'we can afford to live there and you can't', for working class people as well as middle and upper class. Hopefully the documentary can keep the wolf from the door.

Tour de Canals Success

Louise Whelan

Local man Dave Donnelly and his Tour De Canals fundraising event last May has raised over €7,000 for his two nominated charities, Féileacáin and See Change. Dave would like to thank the generosity of all supporters and their participation and commitment to the event including, Ringsend and Irishtown Community Centre, DCC, Dublin Port, Chris Andrew TD, Jim

O'Callaghan TD, Liz Watson, Ringsend Rockschooll, Dylan Clayton, Keith Clarke (John Clarke and Sons) Helen Walsh, Féileacáin, See Change, Jack's Stop Cafe Streamstown and all the cyclists who took part.

Thank you to all who have made a positive difference, it is truly appreciated and we look forward to the next future event.



Anthony Owens (Féileacáin) Dave Donnelly and Anthony James O'Reardon (See Change)

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RATHGAR
Christ Church, Rathgar Road, D06 CF63
Saturdays at 8:00am & 9:30am
Call Lisa on 087 939 85 83



South Docks Festival of Fun

Louise Whelan

The annual South Docks Festival from St Andrew's Resource Centre in Pearse Street celebrated its 37th year in the community with the theme "In a world where you can be anything, BE KIND." This hugely popular festival hosted a variety of family-friendly events and activities throughout the week of the 14th-19th July, which combined celebrating the neighbourhood, the heritage and the inclusive integration of togetherness.

included, A Night at the Oscars, The Dublin Port Tour, Family Fun Day, Bingo, The Allen Wilson Art Expo, plus many many more.

Thanks to all the dedicated staff, volunteers, helpers, benefactors, friends of the festival and the young people who gave their time and effort in making this Summer event a big success.

Few pics of the colourful South Docks Festival Parade and the Fair in the Square.

Images: Louise Whelan & Billy Ryan



Sandymount Tea Party

Images from the Sandymount Tea Party held recently on the Green. The event, which included dancing and live music from yesterday supplied by the Hampton Duo, was organised by Sandymount Tidy Towns Community Association and Dublin City Council's South East Area Community Team with support from local businesses

<https://uliyager.gallery.photo/gallery/events/>

Photo Credit: Yuliia Ger / <https://uliyager.com.ua/>



Pearse Street Library – Events August - September

For Children

Coimicí Gael Comic Design Workshop

Date: Tuesday 13th August
Time: 11.30am

Suitable for age group 7-12 years. All materials provided.



Booking: Please contact the library T. 01 222 8430 E. pearsestreetlibrary@dublincity.ie for further information.
Places limited so booking required.

In this bilingual workshop, Aidan Courtney will be showing how to create comic strips and how to draw cartoons. A bit of creative fun for everyone! Learn cúpla focal too!

Hosted as part of Dublin City Libraries Summer Programme for Children.

Magical Storytelling with Sarah Sparkles

Date: Wednesday 14 August
Time: 2.30pm

Age: Family event suitable for children aged 3-7 years.

Booking: Please contact the library T. 01 222 8430 E. pearsestreetlibrary@dublincity.ie for further information.
Places limited so booking required.

Help Sarah Sparkles to create your own story using magic! Sing songs, dance along to the music, meet her puppet friends and even help her perform some magic! Interactive, fun storytelling event with Sarah Tully aka Sarah Sparkles, Children's Performer, Storyteller, Artist & Teacher.

Hosted as part of Dublin City Libraries Summer Programme for Children.



For Adults

Do Your Own Thing! Creative Workshops for Adults

Date: Thursday 29 August, Monday 23 September, Thursdays 31 October, and 28 November.
Time: 6pm - 7.30pm

To Book: Email: pearsestreetlibrary@dublincity.ie or Phone: 012228431. Spaces are limited.



Come to this interactive workshop where we provide the inspiration and you bring the creativity. Write, paint, sketch, craft, stitch, crochet, photograph and pursue any hobby that you fancy. This is an open creative space for one and all, especially curious beginners.

Workshops are facilitated by creative practitioner and poet Sree Sen. She will give you a prompt at the beginning of the session, and you can express yourself in any medium you like.

These are not structured workshops so you are welcome to join in or leave when it suits you. The idea is to build an engaged community sharing their interests in various ways. Sree hopes this workshop will encourage people to unwind and increase wellbeing through creativity in a relaxed space. We will provide the following items for use: A4 papers, pencils, charcoal pencils, colour pencils, sketching pens, water colours, brushes, yarn, and knitting needles. Bring anything else with you.

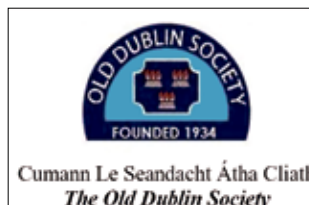
An Introduction to the Old Dublin Library in the RDS

Date: 21st August 2024
Time: 6PM

Location: Pearse Street Library

No Booking Necessary.

The Old Dublin Society has its own library of books relating to the City of Dublin housed in



the RDS Ballsbridge. This presentation will look at some of the books that form this collection and how they can be accessed for research.

Creative Writing Group

Group starting up Thursday 12th September at 6.30pm.

Join our Creative Writing group. Open to all from beginners to intermediate. Come along and share your creativity.



Age Friendly Corner

We are delighted to announce upcoming Age Friendly "Digital Skills Classes!"

Starting this September in Pearse Street Library. If you are interested please contact us by phone: 012228431 or email pearsestreetlibrary@dublincity.ie

Our Age Friendly Tablets are available to borrow, just enquire at the desk. A tutorial of how they work will be explained and patrons can then take it home for two weeks.

More information on [Acorn Tablet](#)



Scripted at the Lir Academy - September 7th.

■ Louise Whelan

Exciting times for The Lir Academy at Grand Canal Quay, Pearse Street as they are involved in the Dublin Fringe Festival from 7th-22nd September.

Scripted 2024 (Sept 7th) will be an afternoon of performed readings of excerpts from brand new plays by MFA Playwriting graduates of The Lir Academy directed and performed by professionals, creatives and cast.

The graduate playwrights taking part include, Cait Moloney, Conor Kelly, Mary Coleman and Megan O'Malley.

This is a free event but ticketed so you can get more info on their social media and on The Lir Academy website, [The Lir Academy | Ireland's National Academy of Dramatic Art](#)

Dublin Fringe Festival celebrates its 30th anniversary with an incredible line-up of performances, shows and creative talent.

Check out the full programme at [Dublin Fringe Festival 2024 | 7 - 22 September | Fringe Festival](#)



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A B H A I N N

our river stories

A public art project that will reawaken an ancient kinship between Dubliners and our rivers. Rivers tell stories about Dublin's relationship to water, past and present.

Have you a river story that we can hold?

- Have you followed one from source to mouth?
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- Have you bailed water from a basement, remember a flood or watched the ground water rise?
- Have you seen a river disappear, found an old city well, swam on a hot day?
- Are you a fly angler or a river rower?
- Have you sat by one and felt at home?

2024 will be the first year Dublin's river stories are collected, stored and our water courses animated through our stories.

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Dublin 8
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E M A I L T O :
abhainndublin@gmail.com



Give it a TRY!

Callout for new Women's Rugby Team

■ Louise Whelan

Last Summer, Lansdowne FC completed the purchase of Claremont Road, with a key aspect of launching their women's rugby program. Aimed at age 18 and over, the team's progress has been growing since, with lots of training but no immediate competitive games as of yet as they are actively seeking to recruit more players to join this brand new generation of women's rugby for 2024/2025 season. There is a real pedigree forming already and the quality is showing with the numbers they have so far under Stephen Rooney's direction, guidance, mentoring and drive. This renowned club is one of the most successful rugby clubs in the country and their standards and values are of the utmost importance so they are properly resourced in every as-

pect to debut this women's team. Head coach, John Tobin joined at the crucial development stage and is doing a great job at getting the program up and running and his vision of building things is in full force.

It will take time but there is no reason why this women's rugby team can't be up there competing with the best of them. No experience is necessary as full training will be given so if you have never played rugby before but would like to give it a shot, you'll be trained up with experienced coaches like John and also a strength and conditioning coach, so you will be experiencing the top level guidance and instruction, learning a new skill or adding to your level of skill. It's especially inclusive so all women can feel valued and accepted.

And what an atmosphere to learn and play rugby. Lansdowne FC is located beside the Aviva Stadium, using the back pitch, and Claremont Road is located in Sandymount with all its new top notch facilities so training will be on both grounds. Remember if you want to be successful in anything in life, you have to do it right and Lansdowne FC are doing it right.

As we all know, there is a huge amount of history associated with the club. It is iconic. The brain-child of the club, Henry Dunlop founded it in 1872 where it has offered a home-from-home to many generations of players who came from beyond the Dublin area. So for the women now to come in and build up this first team together, they will be making history, adding to the heritage of the club which in itself is a very powerful thing.

This is also great for the local community and the surrounding wider community to get this going as soon as possible. Rugby is in its growth phase now and there is plenty of room for another women's rugby team with Lansdowne FC at the helm and being part of the journey all the way. Your journey. The rise of women in sports is growing in popularity and you can help continue the development of the female game. It's empowering, teaches teamwork, respect and determination, confidence, friendship and leadership. The benefit of physical exercise is vital for social, mental and emotional wellbeing and this environment will give you every opportunity to seek an athletic experience. Overall, it provides you with the tools to challenge yourself and in turn, can have a profound, positive impact on your life.

Chairman of Rugby, Ian Hopkins is fully behind the team and is very excited to see its progression.

So, what are you waiting for? This brand new generation of women's rugby is about to explode! Be part of the greatness! Women do have a place in the sport. Sign up and join the team today.

To find out more information check out Lansdowne FC on their Instagram and Facebook platforms, send them a message at womensrugby@lansdownerugby.com or contact 0879186848/0858102414.

Thanks to Stephen Rooney, former President of Lansdowne FC for his time and hospitality.

Image (below) Stephen Rooney - by Ian Davis



Lansdowne Rugby Club makes marquee appointments to coaching ticket for next season

Arrival of ex professional rugby players Rhys Ruddock and Craig Ronaldson set to create buzz at club

Lansdowne Football Club has announced an exciting new coaching ticket for the 2024/25 rugby season, supporting the Lansdowne senior team to compete for the Energia All-Ireland League (AIL) First Division title and other competitions and fixtures throughout the year.

Among the newly recruited coaching team that is sure to generate interest and make an impact is the appointment of Rhys Ruddock as Assistant Coach and Craig Ronaldson as Backs Coach.

Rhys has just announced his retirement as a professional player for Leinster Rugby at the end of the current season. He has now played 229 times for Leinster having featured in the recent Leinster v Connacht URC game at the RDS and has been capped on 27 occasions by Ireland.

As the newly appointed Assistant Coach for Lansdowne FC, Rhys opens a new chapter in his coaching career, following in the footsteps of his dad, Mike Ruddock, who famously coached Lansdowne to three AIL trophies, and for the first time ever, achieving a haul of five senior trophies for Lansdowne in one season. Mike's distinguished coaching credentials also saw him guide Wales to Grand Slam glory and take the Ireland Under 20s to a World Rugby U-20 Championship semi-final appearance, among his many other achievements. Craig Ronaldson, Lansdowne's new Backs Coach, previously played professionally for Connacht, primarily as an outhalf and centre, where he spent six seasons from 2013 to 2019. Craig is a former player at Lansdowne FC. He won the AIL with Lansdowne in 2012-2013 and finished as the leading points scorer in the league

and Player of the Year that season.

Commenting on the new coaching and management team, Conor Shaw, President at Lansdowne FC said: *"We're delighted to announce our coaching & management group for the Men's Senior team for the upcoming 2024/25 season and wish them the very best for the season. We feel extremely proud and grateful to have such excellence and experience guiding, inspiring and supporting our young players to make the most of their rugby experience and playing careers at Lansdowne."*

"Declan Fassbender will remain as head coach and is joined by Rhys Ruddock as Assistant Coach. Craig Ronaldson returns to the club as Backs coach, while Mark Flanagan continues as our Line-out & Set Play Coach. Adam Boland transitions from playing in our senior team, to becoming our new Scrum Coach. Michael Quinn Jr, heads up the coaching team as Director of Senior Rugby, with Paddy Gore acting as Team Manager."

"Dan Moore and Aisling Frawley resume their roles as Head of Strength & Conditioning and Head of Physiotherapy, respectively, and Ian Hopkins has become Lansdowne's Chairman of Rugby."

About Lansdowne Football Club

Lansdowne Football Club was founded in 1872 by Henry Dunlop. The Club caters



Pictured (L- R) Conor Shaw (Lansdowne President 2024-25), Dan Moore, Craig Ronaldson, Mark Flanagan, Declan Fassbender, Rhys Ruddock, Aisling Frawley, Ian Hopkins

for players at all levels and currently fields five senior teams, as well as an under 20's side.

Mini and Youth Rugby, including a girls' section, also

flourishes in the Club, with several hundred youngsters involved in teams from under 6/7/8's up to under 17's. Lansdowne FC is also committed to a Women's Rugby programme and is currently

looking to further establish and build a senior Women's team, following its launch last year.

<https://lansdownerugby.com/>

The Dublin Horse Show is back - August 14th – 18th

Yes, it's that time of year again when the famous Dublin Horse Show returns to the RDS. The event which sees over 1,600 horses and ponies descend on Dublin 4 for over 160 competitions and classes across the RDS showgrounds takes place from 14th – 18th August.

International and national showjumpers will compete for a prize fund of over €1,000,000 including the inaugural Rolex Grand Prix with a prize fund of €500,000. And don't forget Best Dressed Day which takes place on Thursday 15th August when the winner will walk away with €10,000 in cash, courtesy of 1664 Blanc. Enjoy a few fun-filled days in Ballsbridge.



BILL FALLON

Part Four

■ Gavan Bergin

At the start of the 1936/37 season, Bill Fallon played superbly for Notts County. In their first game of the season against Exeter City, his determination and hard shooting from the left wing helped County to a 3-1 win. Soon after that, he scored the winning goal in the 2-1 victory against Crystal Palace. As the season progressed, he kept on scoring crucial goals and playing stunning football for his team. On September 26th 1936, County played at home to Torquay United, giving their supporters a very good show. They made a great start, taking the lead in the seventh minute, then taking charge of the game. They were still 1-0 up in the 80th minute, yet the fact that they were just one goal ahead meant that a single mistake could cost them the win. Then in the 85th minute, County attacked with an intricate passing move that sent the ball through to Bill, who took it and shot it past the keeper and into the goal. With that, he put County 2-0 up and got them the win.

On October 10th 1936, in the away game against Clapton Orient Bill scored a splendid headed goal, putting County 1-0 up in the 33rd minute. They carried on attacking, nearly scoring a number of times, but they couldn't get another goal. That didn't seem to matter though, because they were running the show and they were still 1-0 up in the 90th minute. Then, out of nowhere, Orient attacked and scored in the dying seconds of the game. The final score was 1-1. That might have been disappointing for Notts County, but it was the start of a six-game unbeaten run that was the making of their season. They won three and drew two of their next five matches, and they moved up to eighth in the Third Division. They were still outsiders - but now they had a chance!

During that vital stage of the season for County, Bill did his usual fine job of supporting the team in attack. He made the runs and played the passes, hit the crosses and made the chances and set up goals for the strikers to go and score. First, he played that role for County when they were winning and moving up the league standings. And then, when they slipped up a bit and results took a turn for the worse, he played his part in getting them back on track.

On December 26th 1936, County played Exeter City away from home. They needed a win to get back in the championship race but that was no easy task. Exeter were fighting to stay in the league and they played as if their lives depended on it. They made a series of attacks and three times in three minutes they got the ball directly in front of the goal, but each time their forwards were denied the time and space to shoot. During that frantic opening, Bill was forced back into defence but in the fifth minute, he got forward to help County earn a corner kick, and when the kick was played into the box, he got to the ball and headed it into the goal. Score! 1-0 to County. Exeter never recovered. County scored again and they led 2-0 at the end of the first half. Midway through the second half they got their third goal and they won the game 3-1. That was the first of four straight wins by County, which put them third in the league. They were outsiders no more!

On January 16th 1937, Notts County played Newport County at Meadow Lane. Newport were one of the worst sides in the league, but they were no pushovers. They were hard and tough, with a reputation for what the Nottingham Journal called "obstructionist tactics". But they were no match for County or for Bill.

Early on, he nearly scored with a shot from distance that hit the woodwork and bounced back out, but he kept trying and shooting for goal and he came close again twice more in the early stages of the first half. Then, in the 35th minute, he made a run into the box, the ball was crossed in and he headed it into the goal. The Newport players furiously appealed for handball, but the goal was good. 1-0 to County! They held that lead till half time and they scored twice in the second half. They won the game, 3-1, and they moved up to second in the standings.

Now, all they had to do was keep on winning - and that's what they did. They won and won and they would have run away with the league- if not for one other team. That team was Luton Town. All the other teams had fallen by the wayside until the only two left in the championship race were County and Luton.

From then on, the two of them were locked in a fierce battle for supremacy at the top of the league. Every week they went toe to toe in a simple savage dance, a contest that was as tight and as close as could be, where every point was precious and a draw could be priceless. Neither side was able to get ahead of the other by too much or for too long. One week, Luton moved up a place, the next week it was County. That's how it went, on and on, game by game, week by week, month by month, as on and on they fought toward the fi-



nal frantic finish run-in to the season.

On March 20th 1937, County played Aldershot Town and Bill played a fantastic game. He ran and ran, he shot on sight and all day long he left defenders trailing in his wake. Within minutes of the kick-off, he smashed a long shot against the crossbar and he had a couple more chances early in the game. Then, in the 35th minute he ran into the box, the ball was crossed in and he headed it down into the goal. 1-0! That should have been that. With County a goal up against an inferior side, they looked certain to cruise to victory.

They easily held their one goal lead up to half time, and well into the second half they were still in front. Then, the game changed. First, one of the County players had to go off injured - and there were no substitutes allowed in those days - then they had a player sent off. Suddenly, they were

nine men against eleven and they were not cruising anymore! Aldershot came alive with their two-man advantage, attacking constantly and forcing County to defend desperately. They only just managed to hold out till the final whistle, but they did it. They won the game 1-0, and they went top of the league!

Over the next month, they kept playing well and winning games. On April 17th 1937, they beat Watford 2-0, and that win put them four points clear of Luton with two games of the season to play. County would be champions if they got one point from two games! And one of those games was at home, where they hadn't lost in eight months.

Then, disaster. On April 24th 1937 Brighton beat County 1-0 at Meadow Lane. That defeat put County in second place and all but cost them the league title, but they still had a slim chance to finish top- if they could win big on the final day of the season. They couldn't. On May 1st 1937, they lost 2-1 at Walsall and so they finished second, two points behind the champions, Luton.

Luton got the silverware and the promotion to the Second Division. County got nothing. Back then, that's what you got for second place. No promotion, no playoff games, no nothing- just another year in the Third Division.

But that wasn't on the cards for Bill. He didn't get promoted with Notts County, but after making a brilliant scoring start to the following season, he got himself a deserved promotion to the Second Division when he was signed by Sheffield Wednesday in February 1938.

End of Part Four
To be continued...





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How you can help your Free Local Newspaper survive into the future.

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My Name is **Susan Daly**, I am the Managing Editor/CE Supervisor of Sandymount Community Services/NewsFour. I am reaching out to you to support the NewsFour Community Newspaper. With the economic slowdown following the Covid-19 Pandemic the newspaper advertising revenue declined sharply leaving us financially fragile. Just a small donation will help us to continue supplying NewsFour, free of charge, to our community.

NewsFour is an invaluable resource for historians and local studies, as it contains a multitude of detail about the lives of the ordinary people of Dublin, in the articles and in the advertisements and community notes. The paper is produced by the dedicated efforts of the community employment participants of Sandymount Community Services, which is based in Ringsend, employing and training 21 people in the local area. Our project is not-for-profit, and your donation will go toward the printing and distribution costs of NewsFour.

UPDATE:

Thank you to **all who have made donations to date**, with your support, NewsFour will be striving to serve D4 with even more news, features and sport in the months to come.

A special thanks to the **Aviva Stadium Community Fund** for their continued support over the past few very difficult years.

Following our GoFundMe appeal, some **local Businesses/Groups** have supported us by taking out Advertisements in our paper to which we are extremely grateful.



BUT WE ARE NOT OUT OF THE WOODS YET!

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Blast from the past!

This picture c. late 70s / 80 shows the Clanna Gael Fontenoy Camogie girls. L – R. Jennifer Rigby, Christine Chamberlain, Patricia McNamara, Veronica Nealen, Liz Joyce, Janet White, Jeanne Murphy, Eileen Byron, and (out front) Loraine Rigby.

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