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THE LOCAL news

WEST EDITION
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Delivering to: Ballyfermot • Lucan • Leixlip • Celbridge • Clondalkin • Palmerstown • Kilcock • Maynooth

COWBOYS CREATE CLONDALKIN RAT COLONIES

HOUSING ESTATES in and around Clondalkin have been plagued with giant rats, thanks in part to "rat havens" provided by cowboy builders.

The builders create the problem by leaving redundant pipes unplugged — usually when they're working on house extensions.

"There are two kinds of infestation, those in the 12-to-18-inch pipes in the main system, and those in the 4-inch pipes that connect domestic waste to the sewer," rodent expert David Smith explains.

It is in these smaller pipes under their houses, or in their gardens, that Clondalkin homeowners can find a nasty surprise. Prevention, Mr Smith says, is far better than cure — but both are on offer.

A "Ratflap" is a kind of valve that lets the waste flow out but stops the rats coming in. However, it is another matter to tackle rat colonies that have already infested redundant pipes underneath a main house or extension.

"Ideally, a builder laying a foundation should plug any redundant pipes, or better still, remove them altogether," Mr Smith explained.

"Instead of spending an hour or two doing the job properly, many of them simply stuff the end of the pipe with old cement bags, or some other temporary plug."

He warns that determined rats, especially those trying frantically to escape during a long winter, will scratch their way through all but the



CIF CHEQUE PRESENTATION TO PIETA HOUSE, LUCAN

Pictured: L-R Marie Peelo, Deputy Director of Funding and Advocacy, John O'Shaughnessy President MBCA, Cindy O'Connor, Chief Clinical Officer Pieta House and Martin Lang, Director CIF
Photo: Bryan Brophy

strongest of barriers, even concrete!

"It can be a generational project. The older rats scratch and scratch, the younger ones finish the job."

At that stage, they're in the house.

"I have to come in, find the pipe, get rid of the rats, and then completely remove or plug up the pipe."

If the pipe is buried underneath a concrete floor, something like Ratflap is part of the solution. But, he insists, all redundant pipes should, as a matter of policy, be removed by builders when they lay the foundations for an extension. If this is impractical, Mr Smith's company can fit a "collar" to allow a main drain

to function, while cutting off all access to out-of-use tributary pipes.

One of the reasons that problems persist is that householders may be reluctant to draw attention to them:

"The stigma is that you have rats because your house is not clean. In fact, your house can be spotlessly clean, and this can still happen."

While individual residents may remain silent about rats inside their dwellings, some have been vocal about rat problems in the streets and parks.

Those living in the Kilcroman estate outside Clondalkin blame the problem of rats on the streets and in the parks on

three factors:

- rats coming through to the estate from the nearby Grand Canal

- the lack of proper bins — some suggest a big skip — to discourage littering

- no proper preventative action on the part of the Irish Housing Co-Op.

However, Irish Housing Co-Op, which runs the Kilcroman Estate, say that they have stepped up their fight against infestation, laying down poison and setting traps in and around the sewers.

- David Smith and his company, All-Brite Environmental, can be reached at all-bright.ie, telephone 513 6392 or 086 395 1800

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Clondalkin pupils in running for Aid Awards



BRIGHT SPARKS: pupils from Our Lady Queen of Apostles. Their pals are in line for a regional award

PUPILS from Our Lady Queen of Apostles National School in Clondalkin are in the running for a national award for their work on overseas development aid.

They have been shortlisted to compete in the regional finals of the Our World Irish Aid Awards, to be held on Tuesday week, May 17, in the Department of Education's Clock Tower building in Marlborough Street, Dublin 1.

Other Dublin schools competing in the finals include St. Patrick's National School, Glencullen; St. Clare's Primary School, Harold's Cross; Dalkey School Project and Rathfarnham Educate Together National

School.

Of all successful regional finalists, just three will be selected to compete in the Our World Irish Aid Awards national finals in Dublin Castle on the June 14.

The theme of the Awards this year was 'One World, One Future'.

Pupils had to imagine how they would like their world to look in 2030, and to learn about the new United Nations Global Goals for Sustainable Development. The UN seeks to address the root causes of poverty and environmental damage worldwide.

Cuan Álainn re-opened

DUBLIN South West Sinn Féin TD, Seán Crowe, has described the news that Cuan Álainn in Tallaght will be re-opened as fantastic. The re-opening comes following an agreement between Respond!, the Dublin Regional Homeless Executive, and South Dublin County Council.

Cuan Álainn was originally a refuge for women and children fleeing domestic violence and it will now be re-opened as secure accommodation for women and children who are homeless.

Deputy Crowe said: "This

shelter provided a safe haven for 71 women and 86 children since it opened its doors in 2012. The centre which was built and operated by the Respond! Housing Association had to close in December 2015 due to funding difficulties.

"I strongly criticised the inaction of the Fine Gael and Labour Government which refused to provide this vital refuge with a sustainable source of funding and raised the issue in the Dáil on numerous occasions.

"I warmly welcome the agreement that has now been reached between Respond!,

the Dublin Regional Homeless Executive, and South Dublin County Council, which will see Cuan Álainn re-opened to welcome women and children who are homeless and in need of support in order to move back into housing with the necessary supports.

"I am sure that Cuan Álainn's 10 specially designed units and their fully qualified and qualified staff will ensure that this centre can again be a sanctuary and a place of refuge for children and their mothers in Dublin South West."

BIRDWATCH IRELAND KILDARE BRANCH - MAY EVENTS

The Kildare Branch of BirdWatch Ireland's May talk will be held at 8pm on Thursday 12th May in The Townhouse Hotel, Naas.

The topic is "The Changing Fortunes of Ireland's Birds" by Brian Caffrey of BirdWatch Ireland. We additionally have Dawn and Dusk chorus events this month.

Details on our website www.birdwatchkildare.com

Legends of Ballyer R.I.P.

The Legends of Ballyer annual Mass is on next Thursday this year, at the Cherry Orchards Church. The Facebook site is proving ever more popular very week and is providing a fine service to people in the area. During the year they held a very successful lantern remembrance ceremony. You should bring a framed photo that you will be able to put on the altar. Music in the church by The Beermats. Its on this Thursday 5th at 7.30pm.

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YOUR GUIDE TO LOCAL COUNCILLORS



Our guide to local Councillors is not a complete guide to all Councillors in a particular area. Some opted not to be included. We invite all Councillors to include their details in our ongoing guide. You can contact us at 087 9133614 or frank@localnews.ie

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Devine, Dolan and Black win for mental health

SENATE WINS by Máire Devine (SF), John Dolan (Ind) and Frances Black (Ind) will offer hope to mental health and disability lobbies.

All three Senators vow to reverse respite and carers' allowance cuts.

Máire Devine, a Sinn Féin councillor representing Tallaght Central, was elected on the third count. But Senator Dolan, CEO of the Disability Federation of Ireland (DFI), had to sit through a nail-biting eighth count before the legendary poll prophet Adrian Kavanagh pronounced him "effectively elected" to serve on the Administrative panel. Dolan was an "outside" candidate, i.e., one voted on by his peers in related bodies, rather than by members of the Oireachtas.

"If I had a 'what I want from Santa' wish, it would be for Ireland to ratify the UN charter on People with Disabilities," Senator Dolan told Local News.

"This means income support, and also access."

This involved more than just transport and public places:

"It means the ability enter into life fully: access to health, social services and jobs."

Senator Devine,



SENATOR MUM: Lynn Ruane (with Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire TD) ran for TCD

a nurse, is a long-time advocate for childhood mental health; and Senator Dolan's job as CEO of the DFI has brought him into daily contact with issues surrounding both mental and physical handicap.

Senator Devine said she was "surprised and gratified" to receive support from inside and outside Sinn Féin:

"In most cases, voters would have had to go with the party whip, but in my case I received some very welcome votes from independents."

She said she hoped to hit the ground running, particularly on children's issues. She provided Local News with some startling insights into the link between B+B accom-

modation and mental health:

"I've seen children of 8, 9 and 10 years of age regressing back to an infant or mute state, they just can't take it any more."

Sometimes, she said, this inability to express themselves alternated with aggressive or acting out behaviour. These were children living what she called "box room lives":

"They are bunked up with grannies and aunts and uncles and cousins, sleeping in box rooms or on the sofa. It's either that or some B+B where they have no privacy, no place to play."

Her election co-

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Her election co-

Tallaght mum

Senator Lynn Ruane made it through Trinity despite facing the challenges of being a single mum, and having left school at fifteen. She won the last of the three Trinity seats, many of her votes coming from the very students she represented as President of the TCD Students Union in 2014.

Ruane wants abortion in other than the very exceptional circumstances permitted today.

"However, you don't have to agree with me on abortion to support me on other issues, such as equal access to education."

Already, Senator Ruane has taken that campaign for access to the wider world, speaking at a conference of Education Ministers in London earlier this year.

Elsewhere, Fianna Fáil Councillor Catherine Ardagh, narrowly beaten for a Dáil seat by AAA/PBP candidate Brid Smith, won a place on the Industrial and Commercial panel. Kevin Humphreys (Lab), who lost his Dublin South East seat, won election to the Administrative panel. Party colleague Aodhán Ó Riordáin, who lost out in Dublin Bay North, was elected to the Industrial and Commercial panel.

1124 votes were cast by Senators, newly-elected TDs and city and county councillors nationwide. Graduates were able to vote in the Trinity and NUI panels.

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Bridgefoot St. community doesn't need a park

FOR almost two years now a local community group has been actively looking for a public

park to be facilitated on the site. Much progress has been made and 2 consultation meetings with

residents were planned for this month.

Many thanks to everyone who has

supported the campaign so far, those who attended our

Regrettably and despite much support from the local council office, the committee have been informed that the consultation workshops due to take place on Wednesday 4th and 11th of May have been cancelled until further notice.

This has come as a huge surprise to the campaign, which has been active for a year and a half now, has had huge support and the local council office had contracted a landscape architect to conduct the workshops. Now they have been informed by the council that the land may now be considered for other uses.

They are anxious to up their campaign and to secure a park at the Bridgefoot Street site. With this in mind there is a public meeting so as to decide what next steps to take: **SAVE OUR PARK AT BRIDGEFOOT ST** The Proposed Park is Under Threat We Need Your Help to Save it!

PUBLIC MEETING, Wednesday 11TH May @ 7pm, Upstairs Arthur's Bar, 28 Thomas Street.

The Liberties area is seriously lacking in green space and amenities which are vital to sustainable urban communities, good for the environment and essential for creating neighbourhoods that people can have quality of life in.

Public representatives are being invited to the meeting on Wednesday 11th May and to help decide a plan of action.

The group have already had a Pop-Up Park event at Bridgefoot street recently and many have signed a petition.

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From page 1. Pictured at the Dublin Local Policing Forum, meeting held recently at Mother McAuley Centre. Photos: Dave Kenny.



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Calls on Government to review fuel allowance

SINN Féin TD Seán Crowe has urged the outgoing government to review again the fuel allowance, which ended on April 1st. He made the call due to serious concerns regarding the impact of the current long, cold spell on vulnerable families and individuals.

Deputy Crowe claimed that 2,800 people died last year from medical conditions that are directly linked to fuel poverty.

The fuel allowance payment from the Department Social Protection has a cut-off date of the 1st of April but the Dublin South West TD believes that it doesn't take cognisance of weather conditions. Arguing that the allowance should be extended until the end of May, or until the cold period passes, Deputy Seán Crowe said:

"There are between 200,000 and 400,000 households in chronic fuel poverty in this state, including the elderly and those with a disability, who more susceptible to the cold. These groups have a greater dependency on the fuel allowance.

"The current payment is €22 a week, but it begins on the 1st of January ends on the 1st of April, which is far too soon. The fuel allowance support needs to be extended to reflect Ireland's current cold conditions and weather patterns in recent years. The payment from the Department Social Protection isn't fit for purpose and needs to be more flexible. Irish weather patterns, in recent years, also suggest that this payment period doesn't reflect the need or reality of many households in fuel poverty.

"Research has also shown that people over the age of 65 are seven times more likely to be hospitalised as a result of cold temperatures, compared to a younger age group.

"Fuel poverty occurs when a household needs to spend more than 10 per cent of its income on energy in order to maintain an acceptable level of heat throughout the home.

"Hospitals and Accident and Emergency wards across the country are currently inundated with people suffering from pneumonia, hypothermia and other severe bronchial conditions.

"Surely, this should be another indicator that it would be a rational decision to extend the fuel allowance scheme to those in need.

"I am calling on the outgoing government and the Minister for Social

Protection Joan Burton to do the right thing They should, as

a matter of urgency, agree an extension of the fuel allowance

scheme till the end of May or until this cold period passes."

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Nine men in €¾million battle against illegal waste

THE CITY is paying the equivalent of nine men, full time, in its nonstop battle against illegal dumping.

According to answers sought by Cllr Daithí Doolan (SE, Bal-

lyfermot/Drimnagh), the problem is particularly acute in the South Central area on the southside, and in Central on the north.

South Central includes the Coombe,

Dolphins Barn, Crumlin and Drimnagh. Central includes all of the City Centre north of the Liffey. City bosses say that it is difficult to calculate the exact costs and

collection time involved. "The collection of such waste often coincides with the collection of litter bin waste or street sweeping waste, etc., and therefore cannot be exactly quantified," said John Billane, Supervisor of Waste Management Services. However the bin men also conduct periodic surveys. This allows them to make an estimate as to the cost of illegal bags of waste

and other forms of dumping. On that basis, about €670,000 per year, or some €12,000 a week, is spent clearing up after those who dump on the street. However, there are "hidden costs" involved that make the figure much higher, warns Mr Billane: "These figures do not include costs related to the litter wardens service," he noted. "Nor do they include the adminis-

trative/clerical costs involved in the management, supervision and collection of illegally dumped waste."

Sources told Local News that these added costs could bring the true price of fly-dumping to close to a million euros a year — far more if health, tourism and retail consequences are added in as well.

Cllr Doolan has long campaigned for greater vigilance against litter-louts, and more bins for street litter.



DOOLAN: waste not



As part of the local 1916 Easter Rising Commemorations there was a parade from the Stone Boat on Sundrive to Emerald Square where many local volunteers set off to be part of the rising. The Cabra Historical Society took part in the event and performed a scene re enactment. Many people turned up in period costume to take part in the well attended event.



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New Children's Hospital decision welcomed

'The decision by An Bord Pleanála to grant permission for the New National Children's Hospital is a very positive deci-

sion which will allow building works commence in approx. 8 weeks time,' says Cllr Ruairi McGinley. 'The decision has

been welcomed by The Children's Hospital Group, the National Paediatric Hospital Development Board, the

three children's hospitals, St. James's Hospital and the Coombe Women & Infants University Hospital.

This will mean that a modern facility will be available

by 2020 on St James campus which will help ensure that the children of Ireland continue to receive world class medical treatment,' he concluded.

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Have a look, give the place a good clean decide if there is too much furniture in the room, is it still too cluttered? If so put the excess furniture out of the room and see how it looks. The next step is wait a few days with the stuff gone, does your feel seem brighter cleaner even? Do you really need loads of clutter? if you decide you actually don't call the NCBI charity shop on The Crumlin Road the shop would be delighted to accept your donations of all kinds. The shop is open 6 days a week from early till 5pm with plenty of parking outside the shop which is located beside the AIB bank on the Crumlin Road tel 087 139 4384 for all your enquiries.

The annual NCBI Vintage car show will take place on the last Sunday in June in St Columba's College from 12 till 5 so prizes for the raffle are needed, any unwanted presents would be much appreciated too. Last year over €6,000 was raised on the day for braille machines for children in the local community.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Isn't it time that the State stopped the wasteful use of taxpayers money on the trumped-up charging of Paul Murphy with unlawful imprisonment of Joan Burton?

He was one of many supporting a legitimate peaceful protest. She was in a car surrounded by gardai. There was no attempt to prevent the guards going about their duty which surely included moving obstructions (including people) aside in order to allow passage of the car. It is claimed that she and her advisor were falsely imprisoned, so surely that charge should also include the gardai surrounding them if they were actually physically prevented from doing their duty.

Everyone knows that this was not the case. The guards could have called in extra support to help move anyone causing an obstruction. If any charges were to be made, they should have simply been charges of causing an obstruction against any persons who had to be arrested for physically doing that. Paul Murphy was not physically doing that.

We do not need an expensive, prolonged trial to determine this. Everyone also knows that this is all about failed political maneuvering by the government of the time to disrupt the anti-water-charge campaign.

Pity, but let's stop the nonsense now please and, just for once, save taxpayers' money.

Yours, etc,
Bob Wilson
Flamington, Co.Clare

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Peter McVerry Trust, My Canine Companion and The Alzheimer Society of Ireland (ASI) receive €36,822 thanks to DoneDeal Charity



L-R: Linda Collins (My Canine Companion), Liam Kavanagh (DoneDealJobs - accepting on behalf of The Peter McVerry Trust), Blathnaid Harney (The Alzheimer Society of Ireland), Helen Stacey (DoneDeal), Donna Buckley (My Canine Companion), Shane Doyle (DoneDeal). Front: Ned and Rua (My Canine Companions)

IRELAND's online classified website, DoneDeal.ie, has raised €36,822 through its most recent charity month initiative. The proceeds from money raised will go to the Peter McVerry Trust, My Canine Companion, a Cork based charity providing highly trained service dogs to children and young adults with disabilities, predominantly autism, and The Alzheimer Society of Ireland (ASI).

Each charity received €12,274 from DoneDeal to invest in important projects over the coming months. The Peter McVerry Trust will use the donation to continue supporting individuals who are experiencing homelessness in Ireland, My Canine Companion will use the donation to fully fund the provision of one dog, changing the lives of a family forever, and will help other families to get a service dog, and The Alzheimer Society of Ireland (ASI) will use the money raised to support the 122 community driven services around the country for people with dementia and their carers such as day and respite care, home care, dementia advisers, a national helpline, social clubs, Alzheimer Cafés and support groups.

Every second month a charity

is chosen by three members of staff at DoneDeal and for the duration of that month, 10% of the cost of placing a paid ad with DoneDeal goes directly to the designated charity. The money raised is split equally between three worthy organisations.

Speaking on behalf of the Peter McVerry Trust, Anne-Marie Connolly, Director of Fundraising said "We are extremely grateful to DoneDeal for their generous donation to Peter McVerry Trust. This contribution and support allows us to remain committed to moving people out of homelessness."

Speaking on behalf of The Alzheimer's Society of Ireland, CEO Colette Kelleher commented; "The ASI is Ireland's leading dementia-specific service provider. There are currently 48,000 people living with dementia, a number expected to treble in a generation. These people are cared for by more than 50,000 family carers and they need to be supported. Donations such as this from DoneDeal enable The ASI to continue to provide vital services to people living with dementia up and down the country and I would like to sincerely thank DoneDeal for this generous donation and support."

HAVE A CLEAR OUT AND RAISE MONEY

Why not have a good old clear out over the Easter and help a very worthy cause such as the NCBI. The New premises on the Crumlin Road would welcome whatever donations you might have. The next Vintage Car Show will take place in June as usual. If you have any unwanted presents they will be very gratefully received last year over €6,000 was raised in the Car Show. If you have unwanted small furniture, clutter or clothes for all ages please Tel 087139 4384, The shop is now located beside the AIB Bank on the Crumlin Road.

Be your own life coach



**Clinical Hypnotherapist
KIERAN FITZPATRICK**
advises in his regular column on
how to achieve your goals.

IN THE LAST issue of Local News I spoke about developing your observation to tell you whether or not your actions and behaviours were getting you the results you want. We looked at developing our senses to be more observant and also at being internally observant. By that I mean becoming more aware of and observing your feelings and emotions and what they are telling you about the results of your actions.

The next thing I said that we'd need to develop is our "Flexibility". This is something we all need to work on and develop.

Flexibility, in this context, is the ability to change what you are doing as soon as you realise that what you have been doing has not been achieving the result that you desire. Flexibility to change your behaviour and keep changing it until you find out what works!

Not achieving your desired outcome in a certain way is never a failure. As Thomas Edison said of his many "failed" attempts at inventing the light bulb, "I have not failed, but I have succeeded in discovering yet another way of not producing electric light". We need to be ready to change and change constantly until we have found what does work.

One popularly quoted definition of insanity is "Doing the same things over and over again and expecting a different result"! When we are not Observant and Flexible we usually end up doing this ourselves.

A good example of where a lack of flexibility halts progress and can even be fatal is in our relationships. Two people come together with their own fixed patterns of behaviour. A relationship can get into a repeating cycle, the famous vicious circle. A circle by definition has no end point. Where there is a pattern of repeated rows, it is because each person is behaving, responding and reacting in exactly the same way each time! If you are in a situation like this, even though emotionally you may be driven to behave in a certain way, try thinking about some different new response or action that you could try. It could be physical or verbal. A very good way to break a pattern is with humour. (Obviously it must be appropriate and laugh "with" and not "at" the other person). If you can both see the funny side, it breaks the old ineffective mood. Why not look at your own behaviour and maybe even laugh at what you've been doing?!

Flexibility in reaching our targets and goals should be looked on as a constant adjustment procedure. Imagine a helmsman on a boat. Although he is obviously travelling from A to B, he is constantly adjusting the rudder to keep the boat on track. If it is a sail boat, in order to get from A to B a sailor needs to constantly adjust his sails and sometimes zig-zag his direction in order to handle changing conditions and achieve their goal of reaching their destination.

So it is in life also. The most effective people have developed the skills of Observation and Flexibility. They are very quick to notice that what they are doing is not achieving the desired results. And they very quickly change their behaviour in some way to be more efficient and effective. They do this constantly until they find what works!

Kieran Fitzpatrick ADHP MIAEBP is an experienced Clinical Hypnotherapist, NLP practitioner and Personal Coach. His practices are in Dublin 2 and Dublin 12. For more details call 087-1227361, e-mail: kieran@kieranfitzpatrick.com or see www.kieranfitzpatrick.com



The D10 Salon at the entrance to Cherry Orchard at Phoenix Shopping Centre celebrated her first birthday at this venue. A party for customers, friends and relations last Saturday evening saw the salon packed for the occasion. Kim Ryan who runs the salon has a number of special offers at the moment including blow dries from €10, and Tint & Cut for just €50. She has some good offers on Hair and make-up packages also. Call into Kim or ring 085 237 2924 for more details.



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Minister visits New St. Andrews School in Lucan

LOCAL TD and Minister, Frances Fitzgerald has officially opened the new school building for St Andrews, Lucan. The ceremony was officiated by Archbishop Dr Michael Jackson and Reverend Scott Peoples, Chairperson of the Board of Management.

Speaking at the opening Fitzgerald stated she was "de-

lighted to join all those who make up the school community in St Andrews - teachers, staff, parents and most importantly pupils, on this joyous celebration.

"It was a long road for this project; there were a lot of issues to overcome until you finally moved in at the beginning of this school year. I visited

your school's previously cramped, damp and ageing facilities on a number of occasions and I know that the school community has displayed plenty of patience and perseverance in that time.

"I assisted with a number of legal issues involved in the project to ensure the project progressed in a timely and efficient



manner.

"We are celebrating today this fantastic new building, a wonderful, colourful, state-of-

the-art home for your school. The hard work and determination of the entire school community led ably

by Reverend Peoples as Chair of the Board of Management, former Principal Inez Cooper and Principal Julie Chapman, has brought this project

to fruition.

"Today is a day of celebration. I am so happy to have been able to join with you for this occasion. I hope you all enjoy

the day and I look forward to this new building serving the community of Lucan and its surroundings for many years to come.

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POOL FOR LUCAN

A campaign Pool4Lucan run by local women Bandra Whelan and Helen Farrell has achieved their aim. Government has allocated €3.8m to make up the shortfall which the Council had difficulty for the new pool which will be at Griffeen Valley Park. There has been a need for a pool in the Lucan area since the 1980s, and previously there had been a previous commitment to build a pool in the area, but it fell through. Commenting on the decision, campaigner Helen Farrell commented that the group need to keep up the pressure and have an input into the ideas for the project.

Pool4Lucan would like an input on the design and would like to incorporate seating facility and modular units within the complex that would allow exhibitions and other community events.

**€5M CARE CENTRE
TURNED DOWN**

A company calling itself; Ballyowen Castle Primary Care Centre has had its plans to build a four storey primary care centre. The HSE had expressed willingness to lease the premises and include services e.g., GPs and occupational therapists. However, South Dublin County Council refused the planning application on the basis that the project building was took large in context of the site and there were issues with car parking and infrastructure. Among the people it is reported to be pleased with the decision is local councillor William Lavelle.

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Yanks take a pop as Irish crisp wars go global

by PAUL KELLY

CANNY MARKET-ING by an American interloper could see Irish crisp kings fighting a snack war this summer.

Popchips is the latest “boutique brand” to join North Dublin’s Keogh’s, Cork’s Crispins and a host of small domestic rivals. That’s to say nothing of world-wide giants like our very own Tayto, whose boss Ray Doyle opened the fun-tastic Cú Chulainn roller coaster in Tayto Park, County Meath, last year.

Each Irish crisp-maker, minnow or major, has something special, so here is our own highly-biased report from the front lines of this most fierce of brand battles. Skirmishes so far include quite a few marketing gifts and gaffs — but you might also learn of an unusual taste or two to lead you happily into temptation.

Popchips

Good news:



Forget about the alleged health benefits of their fat-free no-fry zone. They don't cook, they pop, and in fairness that very method gives the Popchip a wonderful featherlight texture. Add to that a mouthful of taste, particularly in the Sour Cream & Onion department. Their Irish agent gets extra marks for bribery: one phone call and Local News had scammed a sackful — by express courier! Well done, and keep the baksheesh coming.

Bad news:

A bit of jingoism puts us off a packet with an English address — and an

American parent. And there's the name: in the States, our “crisp” is their “chip”; while our “chip” is their “french fry” (or “freedom fry”). Did no one tell them that we don't all speak fluent American?

Verdict:

Marketing: 7/10, particularly for the free crisps — oh all right, chips. Marks deducted for too Yankee a tone and name. Taste: 10/10. My oh my! More please.

Keogh's

Good news:

Fantastic Irish product with impeccable green and natural credentials. Excellent if broadly

conventional “crisp” texture and taste. But this, it turns out, is our fault: the Irish are mad for Keogh's Dubliner Irish Cheese & Onion, but it's the foreigners who devour the Roast Beef & Irish Stout. Genius packaging and website, with a brown-papery feel: Keogh's flirts with twee but avoids it.

Bad news:

Should be in more corner shops, but isn't — yet.

Verdict:

Marketing: 9/10. You'd have scored a 10 if you'd bribed us. Taste: 10/10. Excellent, particularly in the more mad-as-a-hatter concoctions,

which we've only just discovered. [Late flash: the bribe of several bagfuls was duly offered by Tom Keogh himself just as we went to press. By that stage, we'd bought our own.]

Tayto

Good news:

An Irish classic that's now sold around the world. Backed by marketing genius Ray Coyle, who had the chutzpah to carry on with the Co. Meath Tayto Park long after our miserable banks pulled their backing. There, the Cú Chulainn rollercoaster — a rare “woodie”, and therefore an option as eccentric as Coyle himself — merely

completed what was already a marketing dreamscape.

Bad news:

The brand is so ubiquitous as to verge on the generic. A slightly-unhinged image, in both Mr Tayto and his main minder, might have seen that off that problem but alas! As we went to press, we learned that both of those deities have long since been waylaid by a bunch of Germans known as “Internsnack”. A year-old story, but news to us. A shame.

Verdict:

Marketing: 8/10. It does not fully exploit its own founding story, and now German caution

means it's unlikely to do so. Taste: 10/10. Firm family favourite.

Crispins, or perhaps Crispin's (or Mr Crispins)

Good news:

Makes a genuine effort to offer a healthier crisp — and bagged a few grand's worth of free publicity on a recent Dragon's Den.

Bad news:

We can't find them: the crisps or indeed the company website. They have a Facebook page and a blogging site that goes on at some length about biochemistry, nutrition and the like. If we wanted nutrition we'd snack on wheatgerm.

Verdict:

Not really fair to render one, based on such thin evidence. It was a big blunder not to have driven the post-Den traffic to a really first-rate website: a sin of omission that a cut-throat snack market is likely to punish — severely. Scoring

postponed.

Overall winner, Crisp of the Summer of 2016 Award: Keogh's.

It might well have been Tayto if Ray Coyle hadn't sold out to the Germans. But even Ray's rivals love him, with the winner, Tom Keogh, generously admitting to Local News that without him, “we'd all be eating Walker's”.

Keogh's weighs in at over twice as much per bag as some rivals, keeping the cost-per-crisp closer to generic than boutique.

Honourable mention to Popchips for texture, bribery and corruption: thanks lads, we're still eating. And payola by courier? That's class. Well done Drury|Porter Novelli! We had the odd spasm of shame devouring our free Popchips but — crisp, car, and diamond-makers please note — we promise it won't happen again.



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Medics' turf war truce as James's wins Children's Hospital

AFTER more than a decade of controversy, it now appears certain that the new Children's Hospital will be built on the St. James's Hospital site behind the new Fatima complex in Dublin 8.

This ends a three-horse race between that site, the Connolly Hospital

site in Blanchardstown, and the vast free acres behind the Coombe Women's Hospital — just a half-mile from the eventual winner.

The Master of the Coombe, Dr Sharon Sheehan was quoted by the New Children's Hospital as welcoming the news:

"By ultimately



HOSPITAL: St. James's wins

combining the specialties of the maternity, paediatric and adult hospitals in this tri-location, the quality of care for our women and babies will be greatly enhanced," she is quoted as saying. The statement continues:

"We look forward to developing this model of healthcare excellence, ensuring a seamless continuity of care for our patients."

There had been some effort made by those lobbying for the Coombe to highlight its competing merits. However, those voices became muted as the planning process wore on.

Indeed, the

three-horse race between James's, Connolly and the Coombe had effectively been reduced to just two runners as final submissions were heard by An Bord Pleanála.

There were professionally-prepared and vocal contributions on behalf of Connolly, lead by Jack & Jill founder Jonathan Irwin.

Similarly, the NCH/St. James's option unleashed a non-stop barrage of publicity, particularly after Local News published front-page stories in June last year, and in late 2014, favouring the Coombe option. Local News reports favouring the Coombe site were passionately rebutted by PR and architectural professionals working for NCH, with our reporter given one-on-one briefings.

The Coombe in Cork Street — the very site sidelined in the PR and planning struggle near the end — was closest to sealing the deal in late 2012.

As this newspaper reported in our June 25 edition last year:

"It has always

been a mystery as to why the already-cramped St. James's site was ever suggested. It is already known that, by late 2012, a pro-Coombe decision had been made at Cabinet level. Simultaneous reports from several cabinet and political sources suggest that this was sensationally overturned by a last-minute phone call from a power broker associated with St. James's."

Indeed both Local News and The Irish Times quoted sources inside medical and cabinet circles suggesting that the Coombe was to be announced the winner — only to be threatened with non-co-operation by the St. James's hierarchy if their own, competing submission was not given the go-ahead.

Both our sources and those cited by the The Irish Times suggest that, with just hours to go before a cabinet announcement, the decision was reversed: the Coombe lost and St. James's won.

In our 2015 coverage, and in an initial report the previous year, we

highlighted the twenty acres of grounds adjacent to the Coombe and the nearby Player-Wills factory.

These, we suggested, could have offered more than vast play areas for long-term paediatric patients. The very size of the site would have allowed the new build to spread horizontally instead of vertically — result-

ing in huge savings on the deep foundations required for the proposed, 5-storey building in St. James's.

In the end, however, the PR wars were won by trenchant voices raised by the eventual winners, closely matched in volume by Jonathan Irwin behalf of west Dublin. Local News continues to believe

in the merits of the Coombe, both as a physical space and as a respected medical institution.

No specific promises were made by NCH about the addition of a maternity hospital to the already-cramped St. James's site. That add-on — which remains controversial — was not made part of the planning application.

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Cllr Pat Dunne - Working with Joan Collins TD

Pat Dunne is a councillor for the Crumlin/ Kimmage local election area. You can contact Pat at the constituency office of Joan Collins TD.



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Congratulations to the u19 C All Ireland Basketball champions Loreto Crumlin. The girls won the cup on the 22nd of February against St.Aidans Cork in the basketball arena Tallaght. Coached by Darren McGuinness, it was a fantastic achievement which has been long awaited. Well deserved and your families, school and communities are very proud of you all.



The Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association, in co-operation with Dublin City Council, presented a seminar at City hall, The tragedy of Hulluch 1916, to commemorate this tragic event which fell on the people of Ireland during the Easter Rising. Pictured at the seminar Dr. Mary Clark (Dublin City Archivist) Cllr. Ruairi Mc Ginely (Ind) acting Lord Mayor & Kevin Myers (Journalist) Photo Dave Kenny.

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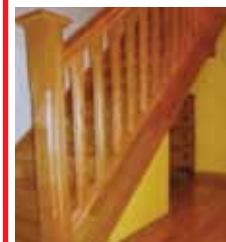
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Danske Bank equivocates on vulture loan plans

DANSKE BANK has offered an ambiguous answer in reply to questions posed by Deputy Brid Smith (AAA/PBP, Dublin South Central) about the sale of credit card loans.

Following numerous reports in

this newspaper about the sale of SME and credit card debt to so-called “vulture funds”, Deputy Smith became the only candidate to make this an election issue earlier this year. Following our reports and

Deputy Smith’s campaigning, vulture purchase of credit card and other debt has now become a national issue.

Last week she raised the Danske sale in Dáil Éireann — and with the Danish-based bank



DANSKE BANK: “no plans to sell”

themselves.

The reply she received from Danske Bank reads as follows:

Deputy Smith:

Thank you for your enquiry. Danske Bank has no plans to sell a credit card portfolio in Ireland. We hope this clears up any confusion on the matter and trust this clarifies the position.

Yours sincerely,
Grellan Dunne

COO Non-Core,
Danske Bank Ireland. (Emphasis added).

The phrase “has no plans” — a standby in the PR and political lexicon when evasion is required — leaves the way open to the sale of the loans.

Meanwhile, however, there has been some good news for harried borrowers.

A meeting in Buswell’s Hotel last week saw the birth of anti-vulture lobby Pals Ireland. The group will work to

protect shopkeepers, small farmers and others harassed by banks and vulture funds. Already, sources say, the group has had successful contact with Credit Union chiefs, charities and politicians. Protocols are

being worked out to prevent shops being closed down, and small businesses shuttered, by vultures and banks demanding immediate payment.

Furthermore, a little-noted piece of legislation, passed

last year and challenged in the High Court, has now been vindicated. This gives constitutional support to legal efforts to keep a family home off-limits in any battle between bankers and homeowners. It even af-

fords a measure of protection to tenants, including those given “eviction notices” in Tyrrelstown, in north Dublin. Those notices have now been withdrawn, and declared invalid.

“I am very happy with the outcome. It is a relief,” said Funke Tobun, who along with her husband Ademola had challenged the eviction notice.

“It has been a constant worry since I received the letter. But this means their attempt to end our tenancy has been set back.” The victory was also welcomed by Cllr Matt Waine (AAA, Mulhuddart), who has long challenged tenants and bank borrowers in their battle against the vultures.

Sixteen-year wait on Council housing list

240 APPLICANTS on the South Dublin County Council for social housing have been on the list for more a decade, Cllr Francis Timmons (Ind, Clondalkin) has discovered.

And according to answers given to the Council by SDCC officials, one applicant has been waiting since 2000 — over sixteen years. There are currently 9119 applicants, with an average waiting time of just over five years.

Furthermore, Cllr Timmons has found out that no one in SDCC management can give him even an approximate figure for the cost of one of

the new, modular houses intended to provide part of the solution to the crisis. “The cost of building a 3 bedroom Rapid Build unit is not yet known,” a manager told Cllr Timmons in reply to a written question. SDCC intends to rely on post-build figures offered to them by Dublin City Council. Only then, they say, when the first houses are built in Poppintree “will...final accounts [be] agreed”. This, according to the neighbouring Council, “will provide an indication of the cost to expect”. At this stage, Council bosses add, costs are “not yet finalised”.

ST. JAMES’ GAELS NOTES

The Under 13s boys put in a fine display on Friday night to beat a very tough St Monicas side in Walkinstown Park. The Under 11 hurlers put in a great performance on Saturday against Round Towers of Lusk but lost narrowly. The two adult men’s team have Championship action at home this week. The First team will play Ballyboden Wanderers at 7 o’clock Tuesday whereas the second team will play St Brendans at 8 o’clock Thursday. Both games will be played in the Iveagh Grounds and all support is very much welcomed. Juvenile tracksuits are ready to be collected this coming Saturday in the Iveagh Grounds from half 10 to 12. The Gaelic4Girls and adult fitness classes continue this Monday at half 6. Club membership is now due, this can be paid online at stjamesgael.com or to any manager or committee member. St James Gaels/An Caisleán would like to express its deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Geraldine Connaughton who passed away over the weekend.



Pictured here is the Rialto FC team that played in the Sheeran Dup semi-final. It wasn’t a good day out with Jobstown Celtic running out convincing winners. However it hasn’t been bad results, although they were beaten in a second semi final last week, they have since gone on to win the league again.

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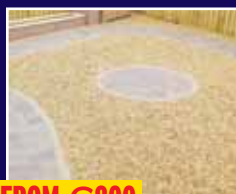
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Make sure your car stays in tip top shape

CAR maintenance is your responsibility. Yes, it can be expensive and time consuming, but the investment you make today will save you money down the road.

Don't be like the 1/3 of people who change their oil less than two times a year because they simply forget to do it. Your car won't magically take care of itself. Get in the habit of regular car maintenance and stop making excuses.

Below we take you through some of the rudimentary things you should be doing to ensure your car stays in tip top shape.

Every Other Fill-up, Do These Three Things

Instead of standing at the petrol pump and reading the advertisements for a credit card while you wait for your tank to fill, use that time to give your car a quick check-up (and cleaning) by performing three simple tasks:

1. Clean windshield. A dirty, mud splattered windshield is a safety hazard, as it obscures your view of the road. So give it a regular cleaning. Using the spongy part of the petrol station squeegee, soak the whole windshield with the cleaning fluid. Then pull the squeegee tightly from the middle of the windshield to the sides, finishing off the remaining streaks by pulling it top to bottom. This is especially important after an extended drive on the motorway when your windshield is littered with insect carcasses and using your car's washing fluid and wipers to remove them only creates a big, smeary mess that obscures your line of sight even more.

If your headlights are dirty, give them a squeegeeing as well.

2. Check tire pressure. Maintaining proper tire pressure will keep you safe and even save you a little cash. Improperly inflated tires — and this may mean over-inflated or under-inflated — don't handle or stop as well as tyres with the correct pressure. They also increase your chance of a blow out. Plus, tyres with the correct pressure have a longer life and increase your fuel efficiency.

Recommended tire pressure sticker inside car

You'll often find your vehicle's recommended tire pressure on a sticker inside the driver's side

door. Car manufacturers spend a lot of time coming up with this number, and it's the one you should use.

Checking your tyre pressure takes less than two minutes. Here's how to do it:

For an accurate reading, always check tyre pressure when your tires are "cold," that is before you've driven around on them. I only check my tyres' pressure at a petrol station when I fill up at the one less than a mile from my house, first thing in the morning. If you've already been driving around for awhile, let the tyre "rest" for at least four hours before checking the pressure.

Find out the tyre pressure recommended for your car (it's in your owner's manual and on a panel inside the driver's side door. Always fill the tyres to this recommended level, regardless of the brand, and not to the max PSI found on the tyre sidewall — that number indicates the maximum pressure the tyre needs to carry its heaviest load, not the tyre's ideal PSI.

Check tyre pressure with tire pressure gauge **Fill when needed**

3. Check oil level and top off as needed. Motor oil is essential to your car's performance. Its most important job is to lubricate all the moving parts in your engine so they don't grind and tear themselves into dysfunction. It also transfers heat away from the combustion cycle and traps and holds all the nasty byproducts of combustion, sending it to the oil filter. If your engine doesn't have enough oil, your car is at risk of going kaput.

To ensure your car always has enough oil, it's important to get in the habit of regularly checking it. Your owner's manual probably recommends that you do this at every gas fill-up, but every other is typically sufficient. Checking your car's oil level is super easy. All you need is a clean paper towel, adequate light, and about three minutes. You should save this job for last because you need to wait about five minutes after you turn the engine off for the oil to drain back into the pan:

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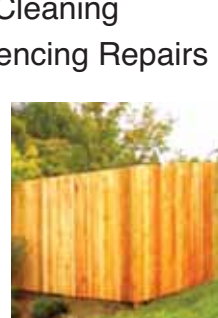
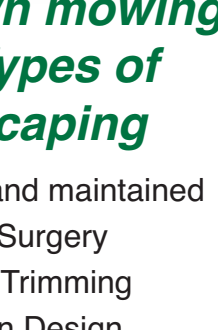
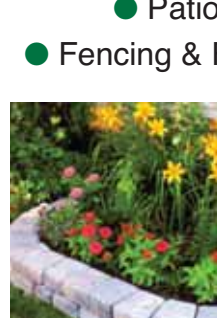
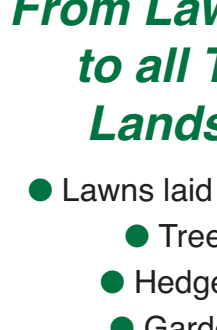
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OUT AND ABOUT



Birthday celebrations at the Malt

IRISH FERRIES SUPPORTS GARDA CHARITY ROW ACROSS THE IRISH SEA

Irish Ferries has linked up with An Garda Síochána, to support their forthcoming 'Chris Crossing' charity boat row across the Irish Sea, the aim being to raise some €50,000 for the National Neurosurgical Centre at Beaumont Hospital. Planned in memory of Garda Chris Byrne, who passed away in March 2016 as a result of a brain tumour, the event is being undertaken by 12 Gardai from Dublin's Store Street station. The 12-15 hours crossing from Dublin to Holyhead will take place in late May/early June, depending on weather conditions. Irish Ferries will provide transport and other logistics support required to guarantee the success of the undertaking. As part of the build-up, celebrities from the worlds of sport and entertainment will participate with Gardai in staging on-street rowing demonstrations at two Dublin city centre locations on Saturday, April 30th when they will row the equivalent of 500 metres as part of a Top Gear-themed time challenge. Participants also plan to raise money through a bucket collection at Dublin's Aviva Stadium prior to the Ireland v Holland soccer international on May 29th. A wider appeal for subscriptions asks members of the public to text Beaumont to 50300 to make a €4 donation, or online at www.beaumontfundraising.ie. Pictured: in Garda Headquarters, Phoenix Park to announce Irish Ferries sponsorship of the 'Chris Crossing' charity row across the Irish Sea is Irish Ferries' Marie McCarthy with a member of the rowing team, Garda Sgt Ken Hoare.



Their was a packed Transport Club, recently to remember Noelly Murphy, who passed away last year at the tender age of 41. A long time member of the Transport Club, people on the night spoke very highly of him as a friend and neighbour. Noelly was a member of the Right to Water campaign and many of his colleagues turned up on the night and some of them are pictured here.



James Street. Ph: (01) 473 5728



ENTERTAINMENT

Friday 6th
JOHN FITZ
Saturday 7th
JOHN HYNES
Friday 13th
MR. HOLLYWOOD
Saturday 14th
MAD JOHNNY
HOPPER SHOW
Friday 20th
SAM COX
Saturday 21st
JOHN HENNESSY

SUNDAYS



8pm till late
Voice of Ireland winner 2015
PATRICK JAMES with Emma Jean



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OUT AND ABOUT



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Enjoying a great night out at the Transport Club

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FRIDAY NIGHTS LIVE DJ WITH HITS FROM

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SUNDAY 1ST BRIAN & MARTIN

SATURDAY 7TH D&S KARAOKE

SUNDAY 8TH JOE MC CABE

SATURDAY 14TH D & S KARAOKE

SUNDAY 15TH FRANCIS HOWE

SATURDAY 21ST ADELE & SUPERSTARS

SUNDAY 22ND JOE MC CABE

SATURDAY 28TH CHERRY

SUNDAY 29TH FRANCIS HOWE



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The TRANSPORT Club

NEW MEMBERSHIPS NOW AVAILABLE

FRIDAYS

Friday 6th Joe Travers

Friday 13th Adam Cummins

Friday 20th No Limits

SATURDAYS

Saturday 7th DJ Darren

Saturday 14th DJ Dave

Saturday 21st DJ Christy

SUNDAYS

Sunday 8th Flipside

Sunday 15th Front Page

Sunday 22nd The Survivors

EVERY SUNDAY

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SUNDAY 8TH

SOLID GOLD



SATURDAY 14TH

JOE DOLAN

Tribute with Paschal Brennan



SUNDAY 15TH

THE VOICE

BRENDAN MCCAHEY



SATURDAY 21ST

CHECK IT OUT



SUNDAY 22ND

BLACK VELVET



SATURDAY 28TH

ROY TAYLOR



SUNDAY 29TH

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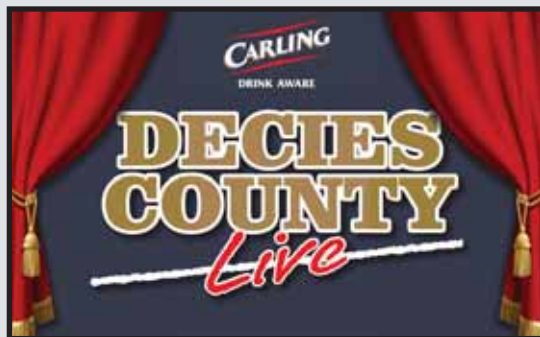
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