

## Birth of a New State

■ Dermot Carmody

On January 16th 1922 there was a brief and informal ceremony in Dublin Castle in which the castle was handed over (or surrendered, depending on what angle you look at it from) to the Provisional Government of Ireland established under the freshly signed Treaty. This event, an important landmark in the creation of an independent Irish state, was commemorated in January on its 100th anniversary by a ceremony in the castle, and by a conference hosted by TCD on “The Handover of Dublin Castle.”

By 1922 Dublin Castle had been the seat of English and then British power in Ireland since King John ordered the construction of the mediaeval castle in 1204. In the 17th century it was transformed from a Norman stronghold to a Georgian palace, with only the Records Tower remaining from the original castle. In 1922 Irish memories were raw of the Castle as the centre of British intelligence throughout the War of Independence. It had been the site of such dreadful



events as the imprisoning, torture and killing of three members of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) on Bloody Sunday in 1920. In the light of all this, the transfer of the Castle from British hands to the Irish Provisional Government, set up under the very recently signed Treaty, was of huge symbolic importance. It seemed to mark the end of years of fighting and dying, and the beginnings of a new independent Irish state. A point that emerged more than once in the discussion of the handover of Dublin Castle at the TCD conference was the importance of trying to see the event through the eyes of various groups at the time. From a contemporary perspective it is hard to look at the events of those days outside the knowledge that civil war in Ireland was just around the corner. Thus for the crowds who spontaneously gathered

outside the gates of Dublin Castle, the moment must have represented at once an end to the violence and disruption that had dominated Ireland in the years following the 1916 rising and especially during the War of Independence, and the possibility and hope that this was the dawn of a new independent Ireland.

Of course, the politics behind the event were far from straightforward. The Dáil had ratified the Anglo-Irish Treaty only a week before in Earlsfort Terrace by a margin of only 64 votes to 57, with the outcome unclear until the last minute. Had just four TDs voted differently the Treaty would have been rejected (there were three abstentions), with the real prospect of war resuming. In the event DeValera’s leading his followers out of the Dáil in protest foreshadowed the coming Civil War. But those

events were yet to unfold and many in Ireland at the time must have shared the hope embodied by the symbolic handover of power expressed in the editorial of the Cork Examiner, which proclaimed on January 17th 1922 that “The day is breaking in Ireland for which the country has long and patiently waited through tribulation and suffering, and if the people of this country were as emotional as some of their critics believe them to be, the entry of the Provisional Government into Dublin Castle yesterday, and the formal taking over its Departments, should arouse them to exceptional enthusiasm.”

The phrase “the formal taking over of its Departments” is significant here because it refers to an Irish government taking control of the apparatus of the management of state represent-

ed by the various civil service departments housed in Dublin Castle. Such a transition was not unique to Ireland at the time, as Dr Martin Maguire of the Geary Institute of UCD pointed out at the TCD conference. The birth of new states was happening with the post war dismantling of empire throughout Europe. In Ireland, as in countries formerly part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, or in the setting up of the Soviet Union, it was generally assumed that the civil service in Ireland would have continuity with the civil service from English rule. This was in part an expression of the view held explicitly since the 1850s in England that the civil service was apart from politics.

Of course in Ireland this had not been the case. The civil service in Dublin Castle was dominated by landed Protestant gentry. As the previously quoted Cork Examiner editorial put it “The Castle backstairs has been regarded as the ladder on which snobs and anti-Irish Irishmen rose to titles and preferment.” As such it “typified the rule of force which

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## NewsFour

### Editor

Eoin Meegan

### Online Editor

Geneva Pattison

### Journalists

Peter McNamara  
David Prendeville  
Dermot Carmody  
Brian Quinn  
Louise Whelan

### Contributors

Gavan Bergin  
Teresa Weafer  
Rodney Devitt  
Timo

### Crossword

Gemma Byrne

### Design and Layout

Gary Burke

### Ad Design

Dara O Riordain

### Photo Diary Design

Gary Burke

### Sandymount

Community Services,  
13A Fitzwilliam Street,  
Ringsend, Dublin 4.

Telephone: (01)6673317

### E-mail:

newsfour@gmail.com

### Website:

www.newsfour.ie

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held Ireland in subjection.” But as Dr Maguire pointed out at the TCD conference, both Griffith and Collins wanted to get rid of the existing civil service in the Castle and replace it with “Gaelic” civil servants. The departments at the Castle were only intended by the Provisional Government to continue during transition until the adoption of the constitution, after which it would be superseded by a Dáil Eireann administrative system.

In May of 1922 Collins began a process of reform of the civil service by calling on the heads of departments to propose reforms, but the Civil War interrupted that process. Eventually, making use of the power granted to the Irish political administration to hire and fire civil servants, the 6000 strong group of Castle civil servants were granted job security in return for agreeing to serve whoever was elected to political power in Ireland. 900 were fired and 1200 resigned or retired, but that still left a sizeable representation of the old Castle service continuing in the civil service of the Free State.

The TCD conference highlighted in this regard and others just how much things were in flux on the day Dublin Castle was handed over to the Provisional Government. Dr Laura Cahillane (UL) in a paper on the

legal complexities of the handover pointed out that the drafting of the constitution of the state, on which legal authority should rest, had not even begun at the time of the handover. The Irish state did have some legal powers ahead of the adoption of a constitution, but not in significant areas such as military and customs and excise. However, the state did act in assuming control of the civil service, and despite the vacuum and confusion in the transition of power, there was huge symbolic power in the handover of the Castle.

Ultimately, while the handing over of Dublin Castle was an event of great symbolic importance in the birth of the state, an examination of the uncertainty and division at the time, and the descent into civil war that followed, shows it to be a complicated and unstraightforward moment. It was not, as Taoiseach Micheál Martin said in his address to the TCD conference, truly analogous to the fall of the Bastille in the French revolution and “it does not have that symbolic place in our history.” The Taoiseach pointed out that the year 1922 “could have been one of celebration, but was ultimately one of regret and loss.” Here he was referring of course to the subsequent Civil War, but also to lost opportunities. For exam-

ple he asserted that 1922 marked a long period of rowing back on the 1916 Proclamation’s “promise of extending the franchise and political rights to women.” The Treaty debates saw women TDs dismissed as ‘hysterical’ and January 10th 1922 was the last day for 57 years that a woman sat in an Irish government.

The marking of the centenary of the handing over of Dublin Castle, as with the further centenary commemorations ahead of us, shows not only the importance of properly remembering the past with respect to the experiences of all those who took part in these events, but also the importance of interpreting what these events mean to us today. For the state to have succeeded to the extent that it has in a century since its birth is an achievement. But it was not perfect at the time of its formation and it could not be said to be perfect now. Not many in the Free State at the time expected the fledgling Northern Ireland state to persist as it does today, for example. The tension between the ideas of an Irish nation and the reality of two separate Irish states is by no means confined to history, and if there is to be a border poll in the near or medium future, it will be very interesting to see the perspectives of the people of a hundred-year-old 26 county state when the possibility of a

32 county republic is dragged from the realm of aspiration back to the realm of choice.

**Image: on Front Page: The Privy Council Chamber occupied the three windows over the archway of the East Cross-Block. This image shows it before its reconstruction in the 1950s (Reproduced courtesy of the Office of Public Works).**



Michael Collins, Joe.ie.



Provisional Government Ministers arriving by taxi (1922), the Journal.ie



President Michael D. Higgins unveiling Commemorative Plaque, Irish Times.

## The Editor's Corner

**O**k, hopefully we have come to the end of this pandemic, but when we look back and examine the response to it there are some worrying signs. According to a Healthy Ireland Survey brought out at the end of 2021, 30 percent of people reported a worsening of their mental health during the pandemic, with women and those aged over 50 suffering most. A lot of this was brought on due to worry and stress about the virus. But the reverse is true too, in that the pandemic itself elicited latent anxiety in people. Sometimes amidst all the noise around mental illness and the pandemic we need to remind ourselves that mental health was an issue before there was covid. It didn't come with the virus. And with our under-funded HSE and a health system in crisis it never

received the attention it merited. What is quite alarming looking back on this now is the swiftness with which human rights were blithely swept aside, and perhaps equally disturbing the way we, as a nation, meekly acquiesced to this. It seems when the reasons presented to us are strong enough we are prepared to jettison deeply cherished freedoms, including freedom of assembly, the bedrock of democracy itself. A very dangerous precedent that could, if left unchecked become an easy conveyance when the next crisis, whatever it is, comes along. There is a saying that freedom is only one generation from being lost. Let us not be that generation.

The Irish Council for Civil Liberties in a statement to an Oireachtas Joint Committee on Justice last June said

some of the measures the government brought in “involve very significant interference with human rights,” particularly they pointed out people being confined to homes, and the damage to the good work An Garda Síochána had built up as community policing by consent, by having them enforce these new strict measures.

The context all this took place in was of course Covid, and the teleological argument to prevent people getting sick and dying was sound. No reasonable person will deny the existence of the virus, and the potentially devastating consequence that airborne viruses can unleash, and only the most selfish would object to some form of restrictions. But maybe there was another way to manage it. Voluntary participation instead of legislation might

have been a better route to go. When the pandemic first struck people naturally gave others the space they needed, many volunteered not to go out socialising, or chose to wear masks in public before it became compulsory; and we saw the outpouring of good will in the form of food parcels delivered to those who needed them. It's when something becomes mandatory that resistance arises. In any crisis, be it fire, a natural catastrophe, or even a virus it's almost in our DNA to look after each other, particularly the elderly and most vulnerable. There are many lessons to be learned from this whole Covid-19 crisis, not least to make the proper funding of our Health Services a priority; let's hope they will be learned.

# BT Young Scientist Of The Year



Two third-year students from Synges Street CBS, Dublin have been announced as the winners of the 58th BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition. Aditya Joshi and Aditya Kumar, both aged 15, took home the top prize for their project entitled "A New Method of Solving the Bernoulli Quadrisection Problem."

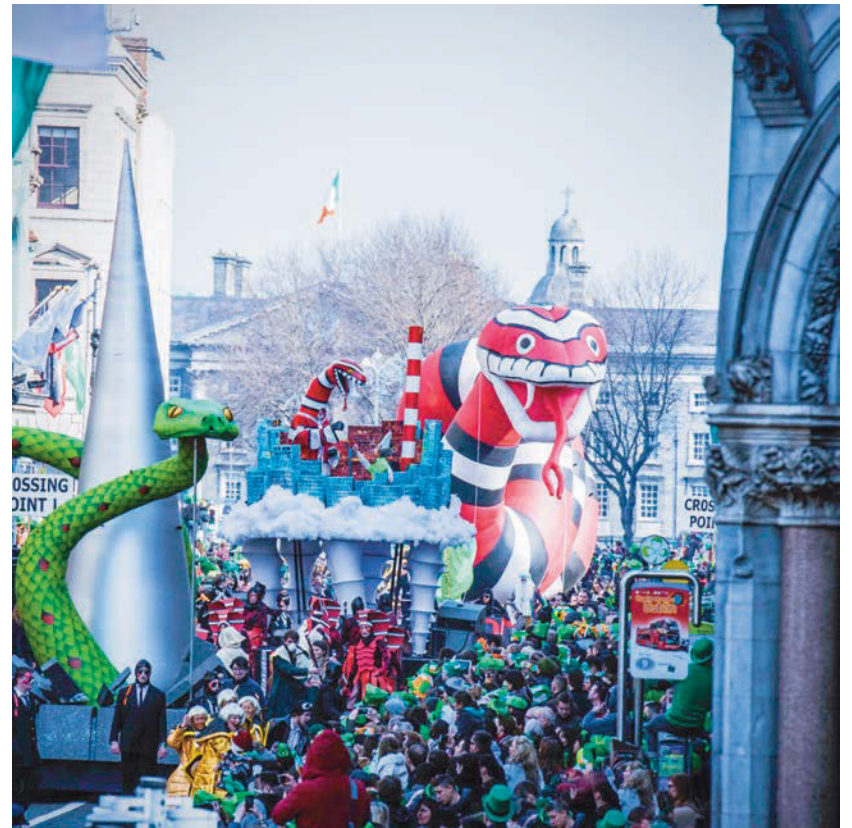
Big congratulations to the boys and well done to all who participated.

Image: Fennell Photography

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Yes folks it's that time of year again when young - and not so young - of heart turn to thoughts of love. And what better way to show your significant other that you adore them than through the language of chocolate. These delicious tempting treats were specially created for the occasion by Lizzy Donnelly. You can find these and more of Lizzy's scrumptious cakes and chocolates on her Instagram at [www.twiceasnicebakery.ie](http://www.twiceasnicebakery.ie)

Happy Valentine's Everyone.



# RICC NEWS



**The Retro Café at RICC**  
Our brand new café at the centre opened its doors in December 2021. Our newest member of staff, the lovely Caran is serving some tasty delights including; tea, Lavazza coffee, breakfast, bagels, cakes and more. Open from 10-2pm Monday to Friday, all our welcome! We look forward to welcoming our customers old and new.

**RICC Radio Relaunch**  
RICC Radio Community News Podcast will launch on Monday February 14th 2022 at 12pm and every Monday at 12pm, check out [www.ricc.ie](http://www.ricc.ie). We are delighted to welcome Mick Hanley to the RICC Team with Dylan Clayton and Jennifer Gannon.

**The Ringer Boxing Club**  
Boxing classes have reopened at the centre and we are delighted to offer kids classes weekly. We also have new coaches on board to build a bright future for the club.

Only the best service at Retro Cafe: Caran Flood serving Mary Thompson  
Images: courtesy of Jennifer Betts

## Covid Restrictions Lifted

■ David Predeville

It seemed to happen so suddenly in the end. After nearly two years of varying forms of restrictions, the government and NPHET took everyone by surprise with the announcement that from January 22nd virtually all restrictions were to be lifted and that in the views of the National Public Health Emergency Team, Covid was no longer a public health emergency. Of course, things could change if a new, more dangerous variant were to emerge but, for now, it seems like the pandemic may finally be coming to an end.

I have pondered on these pages previously as to how the government's reaction to the pandemic will be viewed. It was announced promptly in the aftermath of the lifting of restrictions that a group is being set up to do a report on how the government managed the pandemic. It remains to be seen how Ireland's response as a whole will be viewed. Ireland had relatively low death rates compared

to other countries. However it is also undeniable that memories of the pandemic in this country will be heavily characterised by weak leadership from the government, inconsistencies, poor communication and sometimes a worrying lack of transparency. Ireland also had a much stricter and longer lockdown than nearly every other European country and, if lockdowns are considered a last resort, the pandemic really highlighted the chronic state of Ireland's health system.

While this shouldn't be forgotten, and those in government held accountable, now is probably not the right time to dwell on recriminations. There have been false dawns before and I don't know how often I've said in these pieces that we may be seeing light at the end of the tunnel, but one can't help but feel energised and hopeful at the lifting of these restrictions.

It's a great moment, in particular, for the arts and hospi-

talities sectors who have been decimated since the beginning of the pandemic. One of the major and little discussed casualties of the pandemic has been the closure of some of the remaining independent cinemas left in rural Ireland. I hope that these sorts of businesses, seemingly left behind by government support, can find some kind of recovery going forward.

In terms of the few remaining restrictions, we've heard from Leo Varadkar that there is hope that all measures will be gone by the end of March. Varadkar stated this prior to the announcement of such a major easing and immediate lifting of restrictions in the short-term. In truth, the small restrictions that do remain (mask-wearing on public transport, in retail etc), I think most people would be comfortable retaining for a time to come. The sudden, wholly unexpected announcement on Friday January 21st has really changed the whole

outlook of the coming period. When NPHET were scheduled to meet on the 20th, I think the majority of people would have been delighted with even just the 8pm curfew for hospitality and arts venues to be scrapped.

This announcement of wholesale easing of restrictions ushers in an optimism that would have been unthinkable even a few weeks ago. Hopefully it's a fittingly surreal conclusion to what has been a bizarre two years.



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## Jim O'Callaghan TD



### Contact

Dáil Éireann  
Kildare Street  
Dublin D02 XR20

**T:** 6183134

**E:** [Jim.ocallaghan@oireachtas.ie](mailto:Jim.ocallaghan@oireachtas.ie)

**Instagram:** Jim O'Callaghan TD

**Facebook:** Jim O'Callaghan TD

**Twitter:** @OCallaghanJim

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# DUBLIN BAY: A CONJECTURE

## Our Bay is Beautiful - Let's keep it that way



■ Timo

The Bay is the Womb in whose amniotic waters Dublin was conceived and born, from whose dust it rose like the Phoenix. And like that mythical bird from which its Park is named it needs to be reborn every one thousand years from the dust. However, if we continue to poison that dust (ie. mud) by discharging our ever increasing waste into its waters there will be no source for regeneration of the Bay or the twenty km of coastline bordering it.

Dublin is as much the 'city by the bay' for Leinster people, at least, as San Francisco is for Californians and it should be respected and preserved as a national treasure as is San Francisco Bay by all Americans from the President down. The expanse of sheltered sea-front stretching thirty km from Howth Head to Dalkey has provided food, employment, commerce, shipping, fishing, aquaculture, recreation, health, as well as being a playground for Irish people since the dawn of civilization. It has been prized and fought for by many tribes and nations who landed on the shores of Éire, such as the Tuatha De Danann, Celts, Vikings, Danes, Normans, among others.

Until half a century ago its waters were the breadbasket of Dublin, particularly for the ordinary working class who enjoyed the world renowned Dublin Bay Oysters, Lobsters, Crabs, Cockles and Mussels as immortalised by Molloy Malone. Citizens could catch fish and swim in its waters without fear of being poisoned. It is paradoxical that while the land area has become much cleaner and healthier in the meantime, the water quality has deteriorated to such an extent that the oysters cannot tolerate it any more.

I would take the liberty, although I am no sewerage engineer, to postulate that the single greatest pollutant is the effluent entering the shallow Poolbeg water off the Irishtown treatment plant. Apparently, it was decided back in the 1960's to focus all the metropolitan area waste from Howth to Dun Laoghaire to Tallaght into one small focal point (about 150m x 300m) at Irishtown. While the plant may kill all the E Coli and other bacteria, it does so at the expense of deoxygenating the sea water and promoting the growth of algae. It is like a cancer and will continue to spread to the whole foreshore as the quantity of waste increases.

It might be of interest to study how this came about and to ask

why so many other cities, such as San Sebastian and even Venice are able to keep their waters purer than Dublin. Our history does not go back much more than 1,000 years, as the Romans declined to come to Éire thinking it too cold, calling it Hibernia; although they crossed the Alps and the Himalayas. Subsequently, we have no great roads or bridges or records from Roman times. It would appear that records of the first settlements on the Dubh Linn (Black Lake) only go back to the time when the Vikings invaded Ireland and set up settlements at ports along the coast. For their primary settlement on the East coast they picked the estuary of the Liffey, the Dodder and the Tolka rivers, which was then apparently a dark swampy sea marsh, too shallow for ships to sail up. But it did have a Wattle Ford crossing it, which may be the source of the name Baile Átha Cliath (town of the hurdled ford). They knew a good port and hinterland when they saw it.

It is reasonable to assume that those Danes, coming from a well developed land of almost a thousand islands, would have landed in the shallow water at Poolbeg beside what is now Irishtown and set up their first settlement, while they mapped, drained and built dikes along

the river banks. Indeed those building works continued right down through the centuries even to the present day. Much of present day Dublin from Capel Street to Ailesbury Road, Clontarf to Blackrock, was built on land recovered from the sea, as attested to by the many 'Strand Roads' around.

After their defeat at Clontarf, the Danes stayed in Dublin and continued commerce and trade with overseas countries, England, Europe, the Mediterranean coast even as far as Muslim lands and the Middle East, from where the Irish got silk and spices and gold.

In 1169, Diarmaid Mac Murchadha sought the help of the King of England, who sent him a contingent of mercenaries. They landed at Waterford; but they quickly moved to Dublin causing the Danes to flee the city. Many years later, as the 'Second City of the Empire' its port was one of the most important in the United Kingdom. Work continued down the centuries to make it suitable for bigger ships. However, owing to it being shallow and silted up the 'Bull Wall' was built following a survey in 1801 by Captain Blythe (yes he of the Bounty fame) and finished by 1825; the wooden bridge was built in 1819 to facilitate its construction. While this kept

the estuary of the Liffey deep for shipping it resulted in further silting of the Poolbeg and led to its disuse as a harbour except for coal barges from England.

Hence Irishtown became the centre first for the production of town gas and later electricity from coal. The ESB built a big generating station there in the 1960's with its twin iconic chimneys, which have since been closed down. Coincidentally the City Council decided to place the treatment plant for the whole city of Dublin and divert all the city's waste here too.

Consideration might be taken of how the treatment facilities could be diversified and the effluent removed from the shallow waters of the bay so that the waters might be brought back to life. Water is life and in this age of growing populations and diminishing resources, it is very unwise to be killing the greatest natural resource on the East coast of Éire, which has survived millennia and been the lifeblood of the city. The cost of relocating the facility or augmenting it would be considerably less than that of building the new terminal at the airport; it would also pay for itself by freeing the foreshore area for residential homes and hotels, such as the disused one at Poolbeg now.

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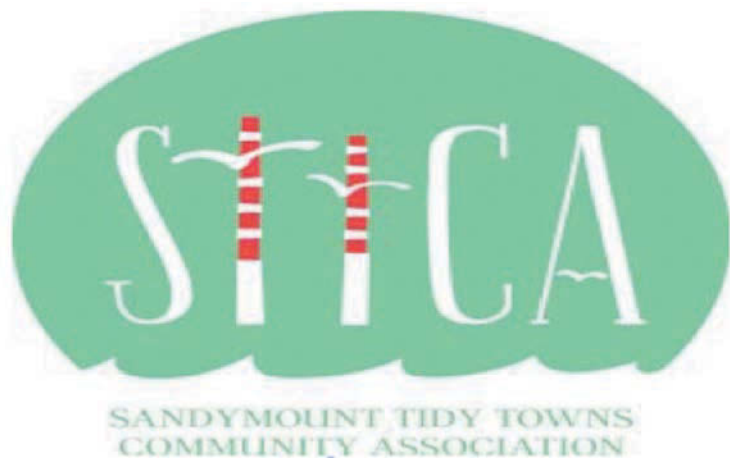
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## Farewell to Phil



Below Image: Eric and Auriol Earle on the sea wall at Merrion, around the time of their marriage in the early 1950s, courtesy Charles Lysaght.



STTCA were saddened to learn of the untimely death of Phil Keogan on September 13 last, a dear friend and a STTCA Committee member. Phil brought a wealth of knowledge to STTCA as our Biodiversity Officer over the last number of years. She was instrumental in the winning of a Special Judges Award in the Dublin City Council's Neighbourhoods Competition in 2019 in the local Star of the Sea Boys' National School, Sandymount. There Phil created a learning situation where her special ability as an Educator was imparting information on a conchology (study of sea shells) assignment in a simple and 'hands-on' way to the boys in 3rd Class of 29 children over an eight week period. For this project, she tediously collected all the different varieties of shells from Sandymount beach, washed and sterilized them, and had a basket for each student in the class making them aware of the sea life residing on the coastline of Sandymount. She became known as the "shell lady." Together with Vincent Ryan, they also undertook to provide a planter box for the growth of nine varieties of herbs and bee friendly shrubs, and she donated two plum trees germinated from seedlings from her own garden! The purpose of this initiative was to instruct the young boys on how delicately balanced our ecosystem is, and what they can do to help avoid the many causes that are contributing to Global Warming. STTCA's educational initiative extended to a two-hour lecture

in Margaret holme Sheltered Housing on the sea shells and a similar planter box was installed and filled for the residents. As well as donating another plum tree, Phil brought along a pot of home-made plum jam for the afternoon tea!

A native of Canada, Phil was married to the late Donald Keogan from Dublin. She was qualified in Entomology (the study of insects) with a special interest in butterflies. She would regularly collect eggs and caterpillars to raise into butterflies, and took such joy from watching the process and sharing it with others. Her fascination with amphibians led her to find female frogs laying spawn, which she then nurtured in her garden pond. In fact, one of her last projects for STTCA was her involvement with fellow STTCA colleague Ros Moran, together with teachers and students of the Shellybanks Educate Together National School relating to frog spawn, but unfortunately the project never reached fruition because of the school closure due to Covid-19. Phil raised the biodiversity/sustainability knowledge of STTCA with her in-depth knowledge of shrubs, flowers, bees, etc. In 2020 she assisted greatly in a Sustainability Project of saving begonia bulbs which were removed from the centre bed in The Green at the end of summer, drying them out in her attic and frequently spraying them with water, ahead of them being replanted the following summer season. Again these efforts helped

**May she now rest in peace.**

Sandymount gain extra points in the National Tidy Towns Competition under the challenging category of "Sustainability – doing more with less."

Phil of course had many strings to her bow; involved in a local walking group and a loyal volunteer in the Star of the Sea Parish Church, where Fr John spoke so eloquently at her funeral about her. She had a deep faith and created and organized banners in the Church for the different liturgical events. It was poignant to see several bees landing on her floral wreath at her graveside – "bee friendly." That would certainly have given her a laugh!

Phil was inspirational and bore her illness with great fortitude and dignity and appreciated the great help and comfort of her neighbours in Park Lane at this time, with particular mention to Sheila and Syl Mooney. In between treatments, Phil would bounce back with a pep in her step and a smile on her face saying: "hey, I'm living with cancer, not dying from it." Unfortunately her battle ended on September 13, 2021, dying in the comfort of her home surrounded by her three daughters Katharine, Clara and Chloe. STTCA extends their sincere sympathies to them, to her sons-in-law along with her two sisters and two brothers. Phil will be remembered with affection, gratitude and enduring respect by the people of Sandymount and especially by the members of the STTCA.

## ERIC EARLE REMEMBERED

Eric Earle, who has died in Guildford in Surrey at the age of 96, spent much of his early life at the house of his parents at the Merrion end of the Strand Road. As a boy, he was an altar server at the High Anglican St John's church in Sandymount. He went from Trinity, where he was a Scholar in History, into the British Colonial Service

as an education officer in the Gold Coast (now Ghana). His subsequent career was in London University. He was one of the founders of Ghana Aid, an organisation for the promotion of education in that country. Eric maintained his Irish connection, having his base for regular Irish visits at his apartment in Salthill. He collabo-

rated in a book published in 2013 by the Office of Public Works on his great grandfather William Despard Hemp-hill, a medical doctor in Clonmel, who was also a pioneer of photography in the 1840s. Eric was predeceased last April by his wife Auriol and is survived by two daughters and two sons.



## Perspectives: a template for a healthier, happier, and more positive life.

Psychologists from Perspectives Ireland are urging people to consider how they can invest in their sense of self as employees return to offices and normal life resumes. The pace of life has picked up as many people return to the office and with further restrictions set to be eased next month, people are being advised to take things at their own pace and to take time for themselves.

### 1. Focus on you

We all might admit that we have spent a lot of time pleasing others and trying to be better, or even perfect. But as you get older, you're in a better place to give yourself permission to focus on you. Try to make your actions go in the directions that really matter to you. Everyone is entitled to grow in a positive way. Growth and contentment are a process, not an outcome. You can start that process in any way at any time. Stop waiting until tomorrow, you are worth it today.

### 2. Accept Yourself

Accept all of who you are. There may be things you want to change, but ironically change flows better from accepting the place you are in at this point in your life. Think of three things about yourself that you would really like to

accept. Maybe it's your body. Maybe it's a mistake you made. Or maybe it's a bad habit you find hard to shake. Everybody has things they need to accept. Find yours and let them go.

### 3. Embrace who you are

Really try to embrace who you are. Think of three ways in which you are lovable. Maybe you have a good sense of humour. Maybe you are hard-working. Maybe you have kept your family in comfort. Maybe you're a good sister. Everybody has something good in them. Find yours and embrace it.

### 4. Add to your life

Look back at the last year and ask yourself what you added to your life that really meant something to you. Try to remember how this made you feel. This will help you to stay close to the things that make you feel fresh and alive. These don't have to be big changes or experiences; they can be small. Perhaps the small things you did mattered the most. Spending quality time with a friend. Baking with the children. Taking cookery classes. Joining a walking group. Becoming a volunteer. Arranging special events with the people you love, like booking a nice lunch. Add to your life your way.

### 5. Let go of What won't matter

We all sweat the small stuff and most of it never matters. Often, we don't remember it afterwards. If you can't remember it, it almost certainly didn't matter as much as you stressed about it. What was your most recent sweat about? Getting somewhere on time, not having something you wanted ready, focusing on a trivial comment someone made? Did any of that time overthinking really pay off? If anything, overthinking drains our physical and emotional wellbeing. It keeps us stuck in loops of self-doubt and future thinking and a false sense of security and control. Let all of that stuff go for good, it will never serve you well.

### About Perspectives Ireland

Perspectives Ireland is a brand new Irish consulting psychology company aimed at providing high quality training in psychology and well-being.

With decades of experience working as academics and extensive clinical practice, Dr's Yvonne Barnes-Holmes and Ciara McEnteggart bring a precision to understanding mental health that is often lacking.

This precision gives them an unmatched ability to tackle and resolve mental health issues in



a humane way that facilitates growth and self-fulfilment. The co-directors of Perspectives Ireland, Yvonne and Ciara, have worked together since 2006 and have built a strong professional and personal partnership. They helped to shape the scientific model that now drives the work of Perspectives Ireland and based on this they have developed Process-based Behaviour Therapy (PBBT), a new form of psychological therapy. Perspectives Ireland reflects the warm and thorough relationship of its two directors and their joint passion to give the best to their clients that the field of psychology has to offer.

You'll feel more emotionally grounded. Your sense of self worth will strengthen. You'll connect better with the people you love. You'll feel more comfortable in your own skin. And you won't waste your time sweating the small stuff!"

Dr Ciara McEnteggart, Director of Perspectives Ireland  
You can contact Perspectives at [www.perspectivesireland.ie](http://www.perspectivesireland.ie).

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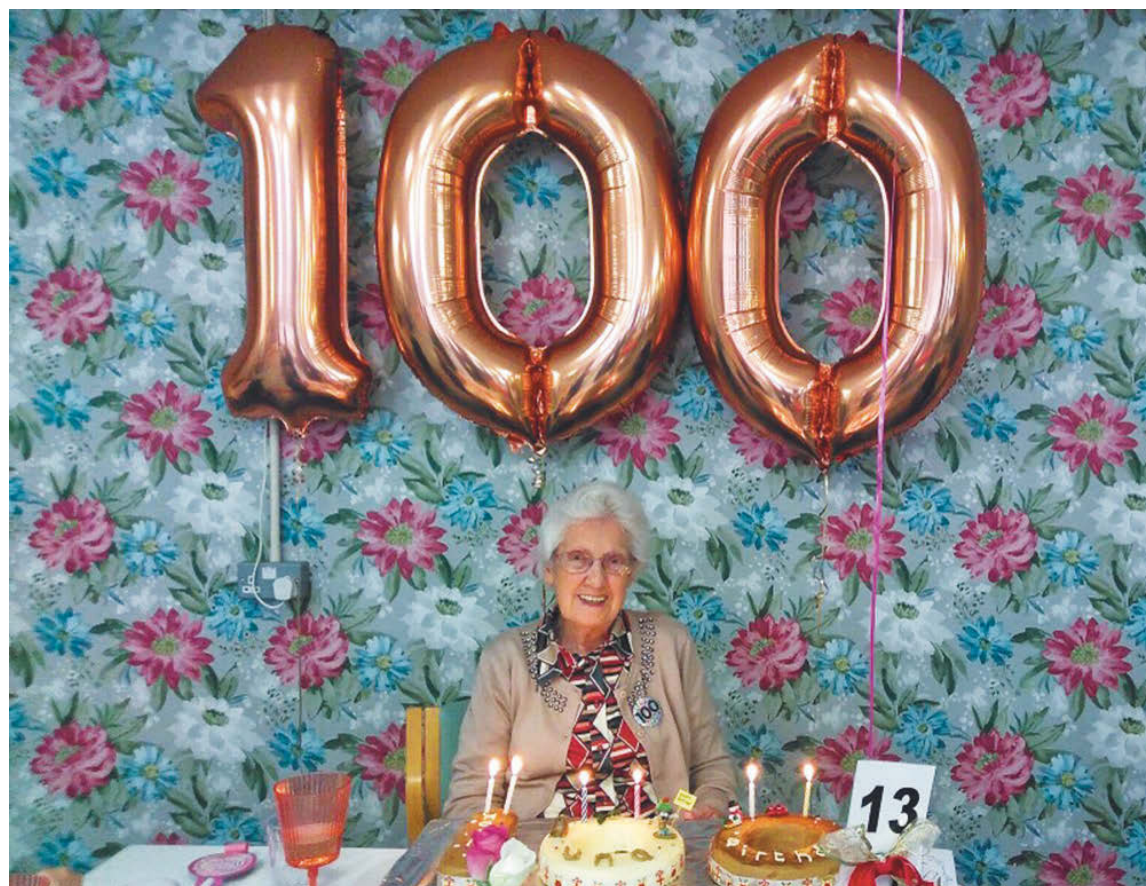
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## A Shrine for Ashling



Shrine on Sandymount Strand following a vigil in honour of Tullamore native and beloved school teacher Ashling Murphy who was murdered recently while out jogging. This is just one of many vigils and awareness walks all around Ireland to pay respect to a beautiful life taken too soon, and to call for an end to violence against women everywhere.

# The Local Wonder Women @100 club Centenary Celebration



Una celebrates her 100th birthday, relaxing in Mount Tabor, courtesy of Sandra Murphy. Lizzy (almost 101) enjoying a glass of red and at 18 (inset), courtesy of Ericka Doyle.

■ Louise Whelan

Imagine being 10 decades on this earth. That's quite a big milestone. Turning 100 is the benchmark for an elite club of senior citizens and we are so lucky in this area as we have not one, but two incredibly blessed ladies that have reached this magical number.

Una Henry turned 100 on 1st January 2022. Una who lived in Londonbridge all her life was also in the Active Retirement in the CYMS. She loved going on all the outings and the parties from there, she still enjoys a good sing song and is still as active as ever, residing in her new abode up in Mount Tabor Nursing home in Sandymount. She is fond of a good book and an old movie. Also a keen knitter she loves all the daily activities that keep her smiling. Una celebrated her birthday with a special party attended by all her friends and staff in Mount Tabor and had a truly wonderful day.

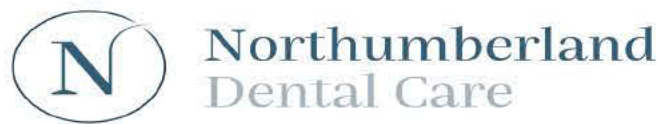
Another amazing lady is Lizzy Doyle. Lizzy is from Bremen Avenue in the New Houses and she celebrated her big day last February 2021 with all of her family and friends. Lizzy is the 'Queen Bee' as her family calls her, a real legend. Lizzy states that she feels 21 and laughter is what keeps her going. She loves to get out and go for dinner. This lady has a super strong mindset and is very open in her thinking. She is a character with great stories to tell, including that she is probably

the original 'WAG' (wives and girlfriends of footballers) as she was married to local footballer James Doyle who played for Shelbourne in the 1930s/40s; to this day she still gets slugging from her granddaughter Ericka over it. Lizzy's whole family has enjoyed longevity. Her father was shot in the head in WW1 and survived with a metal plate in his head, while her brother who was a paratrooper in WW2 lived into his 90s. Lizzy's 101st birthday will be on February 29th, and she was born on a leap year.

Talk about amazing genes for both women. Centenarians who are born in Ireland receive a 'centenarians bounty' which is a national award and a signed letter of congratulations from the President. Then on each subsequent birthday Irish citizens also receive a commemorative coin in a presentation box. A new coin is designed each year. The centenarian bounty was first introduced in 1940 by President Douglas Hyde.

From all of us here in NewsFour - Happy 100th Birthday to Una and 101 to Lizzy and may you both continue to enjoy the journey of life, Slainte.





# 10 Signs You Need to See a Dentist

If you experience some tooth sensitivity, dislodge a filling or notice a little blood when brushing, is it time to make a dental appointment?

“Conditions such as tooth decay or gum disease may not always cause symptoms at first. Routine attendance allows your dentist to detect any underlying issues at an early stage, but it is important to be aware of the warning signs. Our mouths provide a mirror to our body’s general health, so regular check-ups are key, even if you have no obvious dental complaints,” says Dr Jennifer Collins, lead general dentist at Northumberland Dental Care in Ballsbridge.

### 1 Jaw Pain

If you feel pain around the jaw, particularly in the morning, it might indicate that you are grinding your teeth. Your dentist can identify

signs of grinding such as worn teeth and fillings, or damaged dental crowns and bridges.

### 2 Bleeding Gums

The first signs of gum disease are red, swollen gums that bleed when you brush your teeth. Other symptoms include bad breath, gum recession and sensitive or loose teeth. If you have a family history of gum disease, it is important to visit your dentist.

### 3 Tooth Sensitivity

Although tooth sensitivity is a common condition, it can also be an early indicator of more serious dental problems. Does one of your teeth feel sensitive when exposed to hot, cold, sweet or acidic foods?

### 4 Consistent Toothache

If you experience ongoing toothache, your dentist will need to assess the underlying cause. Toothache may not necessarily be concentrated in a particular

area, and may present as either a dull ache or sharp pains.

### 5 Bad Breath

Persistent bad breath can be a sign of underlying tooth decay. As a cavity develops and deepens, food and debris can become lodged in it, creating an ideal environment for smelly oral bacteria to grow.

### 6 A Hole or Dark Spot

If you look in your mouth and notice a dark spot forming on a tooth, or a visible hole, this may be a sign that a cavity is developing. To prevent long-term damage, your dentist will need to address the issue as soon as possible.

### 7 Damaged Old Fillings

In some cases, tooth decay can cause old fillings to become loose or fall out completely. If a previous filling is cracked, broken or missing, it may need to be replaced to prevent further issues or pain.

### 8 Broken Floss

When you floss at home, does the string tear each time you floss a particular tooth? If the floss begins to break or fray, this may be a sign that the tooth is becoming sharp and jagged as a result of tooth decay.

### 9 Pregnancy

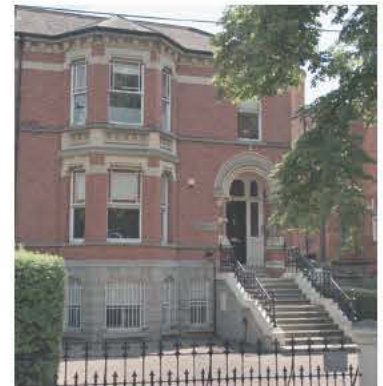
The changes in your hormones during pregnancy can affect the health of your mouth and can make pre-existing dental conditions worse. It is safe and recommended to continue to visit your dentist for routine dental care while pregnant.

### 10 Mouth Sores

If you notice any unusual changes in the mouth, red or white patches, or mouth sores that do not heal on their own, it could be a sign of either infection or disease. Your dentist will need to examine the mouth to determine the cause and best treatment options.



Dr Jennifer Collins is lead general dentist at Northumberland Dental Care in Dublin 4, part of the Dental Care Ireland group. For further tips and advice on looking after your oral health, visit [www.northumberlanddentalcare.ie](http://www.northumberlanddentalcare.ie)



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■ David Prendeville

## Samuel Beckett's Endgame at the Gate

Running throughout February and until March 26th is the Gate's highly anticipated production of Samuel Beckett's classic *Endgame*, from Broadway director Danya Taymor. This revival of the seminal comic-tragic masterpiece sees Taymor make her Gate debut following her recent acclaimed production of Antoinette Chinonye Nwandu's *Pass Over* which reopened Broadway in 2021.

Also making their Gate debuts, as Hamm and Clov, are Bafta-nominated comedian Frankie Boyle, and Robert Sheehan, Bafta-nominated star of Netflix's *The Umbrella Academy* and RTE's *Love/Hate*.

Returning to the Gate stage are Sean McGinley and Gina Moxley; McGinley recently appeared in Lucy Kirkwood's *The Children*, while Moxley previously appeared in Lorca's *The House of Bernarda Alba*. *Endgame* is a one-act play with four characters. It was origi-

nally written in French (entitled *Fin de partie*); Beckett himself translated it into English. The play was first performed in a French-language production at the Royal Court Theatre in London, opening on 3rd April 1957. The follow-up to *Waiting for Godot*, it is commonly con-

sidered to be among Beckett's best works.

The play centres on the fractious relationship between irascible tyrant Hamm and his boy-servant, Clov. An apocalyptic, nihilistic and darkly funny tale, the play also features Hamm's parents, Nagg and Nell, liv-

ing in dustbins, tossed aside by an uncaring world. Although it is now sixty five years since *Endgame*'s original premiere, it remains an urgent and strikingly relevant work that speaks to the existential and absurdist challenges of our time.

It will be fascinating to see

what this talented director can make of this wonderful play. The casting is also very interesting. Sheehan is a seasoned, excellent performer. It is the casting of comedian Boyle that is likely to raise the most eyebrows. I can't wait to see what the performers bring to these iconic characters.



Image : courtesy of the Gate Theatre

This much anticipated production will open February 16 (previews from February 11) and run until March 26. Tickets for all shows recently sold out, however, with the hope that Covid restrictions are likely to ease over the coming weeks, the Gate are hoping that they will be able to make more tickets available once capacity limits have been increased

People can register to be first to hear about future ticket releases at the Gate's homepage: <http://gatetheatre.ie/>

*Endgame* is presented with the kind support of the Marker Hotel. The Gate Theatre is proudly supported by the Arts Council.

# On Steady Ground/Unsteady Ground

■ B.J. Quinn

## New Exhibition Highlights Concerns Surrounding Climate

Located at the Municipal Gallery, dlr Lexicon, Dún Laoghaire and running until March 13, *On Steady Ground/Unsteady Ground* is a collaborative exhibition by artists Cora Cummins and Saoirse Higgins – awardees of a Visual Art Commission from Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council – and is curated by Marysia Wieckiewicz-Carroll.

Working across multiple media (etching, video, photography and sculpture) the exhibition connects the artists' parallel research interests in environment and landscape change and reflections on losing what seemed permanent. Dún Laoghaire residents themselves, Cummins and Higgins have drawn their research from the surrounding landscape and history, and by looking globally towards Everest and the remote island of Papa Westray, one of the most north-

erly islands in the Orkney Islands Archipelago. With *On Steady Ground/Unsteady Ground*, they have set out to create a dialogue between the various stages and levels of experiencing both environmental change and loss, and personal change and loss.

Speaking at the exhibition's launch, Cathaoirleach of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Lettie McCarthy said: "we're pleased to present this exhibition of new work by Cora and Saoirse. It is a fascinating body of work dealing with timely and pertinent issues which connect to all of us."

Born in Carlow, Cora Cummins works mainly through printmaking. She is interested in not only exploring the idea of change



connected to the actual landscape, but also the wider psychological impact of loss and how grief connects with the geographical. For this exhibition, Cummins has made a large-scale mountain ('Monument') through the etching technique. It's

an eye-catching piece, to say the least, and remains a personal highlight of mine.

Based between Dún Laoghaire and Papa Westray, Saoirse Higgins' work is process-driven and she often collaborates with local experts and island communities. Higgins has been marking and recording physical changes in the environment on the small island of Papa Westray. The exhibition includes two of her films made in the Orkney Islands ('Survival Tools of the Anthropocene' and 'The Sea: be-lapse'); photographs of the Sólhiemjökull glacier in Iceland, marking changes from 1976 to 2021; an image of the stone benchmark symbol on the oldest house on Papa Westray which is used to measure rising sea levels; and a

star spectra map which meditates on our changing position in the greater universal picture. Admission to *On Steady Ground / Unsteady Ground* is free, no booking required.

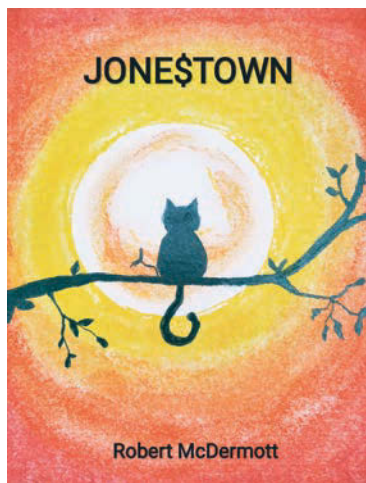
The majority of works on display are available for purchase. The price list, which can be seen at the exhibition's front desk, runs from €300 - €10,000.

For further information, please go to [www.dlrcoco.ie/arts](http://www.dlrcoco.ie/arts)

Cora Cummins in her studio, and Saoirse Higgins' *Survival Tools of the Anthropocene*; courtesy of Ciara King, Arts Office, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Co. Council

■ Geneva Pattison

## Jone\$town: Book Review



**J**one\$town is Robert McDermott's debut novel. The author is the winner of the TESEO 2019 short story competition and the book is published by Riversong Books. The novel explores all measures of truths and half-truths, as told by the unreliable narrator Matt Lowell and you'll have to take his word on that. This deceptive thriller deals with secrets at the heart of the wealthy, suburban panopticon-like Jonestown (Riverside Falls), a somewhat self-professed haven for perfect neighbours with perfect gardens. Of

course, that is not the case whatsoever, but that's just the first instance of duplicity in the story, as our literary tour guide Matt will tell you. No, it has nothing to do with the Guyana mass cult incident, but in Jonestown, it's easy enough to spot who would drink the Kool-Aid, it seems.

The central character, Matt, is rather neurotic, with hilarious hot takes on some of his suspicious neighbours relayed in a charmingly blunt style at times. To introduce us to the seeming madness of the gated community, we meet Mr. Zimmermann, the chairman of the Residential Community Association (RCA). As Matt mentions, Zimmermann is a follower of rules that values that of the traditional and is a complete "horse's ass". Matt has a rapport with Barney, the cool and collected security man who oversees all the goings on in Jonestown, this is where Matt gets the inside scoop on the politics of the community, and hints of Zimmermann's nefarious nature. You have the 'family

zone' to one side of Jonestown, the only section where families with three children may live, in keeping with the rules. To the top of the shamrock shaped community, you have houses mainly occupied by the elderly. Then you have the last section where Matt lives, or Jonestown Proper, as he calls it. It is here, where all the drama begins.

An award winning journalist living in Jonestown Proper writes a 'truth-bomb' of an expose on the community, aptly named "Not Quite so Pleasantville", for the local paper and it all kicks off. The journalist, Jeff Simmons, attracts a lot of negative feedback by pointing out the social inequality represented within the gated community and the farcical nature of the "keeping up with the Joneses" attitude within the gates. Cue a ridiculous court case, the sudden disappearance of a cat (named Gene Hackman) and a whole host of surreptitious happenings, including a possible murder, as the journalist Jeff goes missing. Soon after, Beth, a

private detective, shows up asking questions, claiming to have been hired by Jeff to find his cat, but is that really the case?

"Jone\$town" is treated as part mystery and part confessional for the main character Matt. Peppered throughout the novel, we get glimpses into Matt's past and his difficult family life growing up, which is somewhat painted over with disregard in the beginning by the narrator. As the tale progresses, Matt finds himself embroiled in the confusing deceptions of his current situation and we see him open up to the reader about previously shrouded aspects of his childhood. He reveals elements of psychological trauma that have haunted him his whole life, as he tries to figure out the seedy secrets of his present. The reader is brought on a journey through the narrator's life, from childhood to present day and ultimately, we learn that some secrets need to see the light of day.

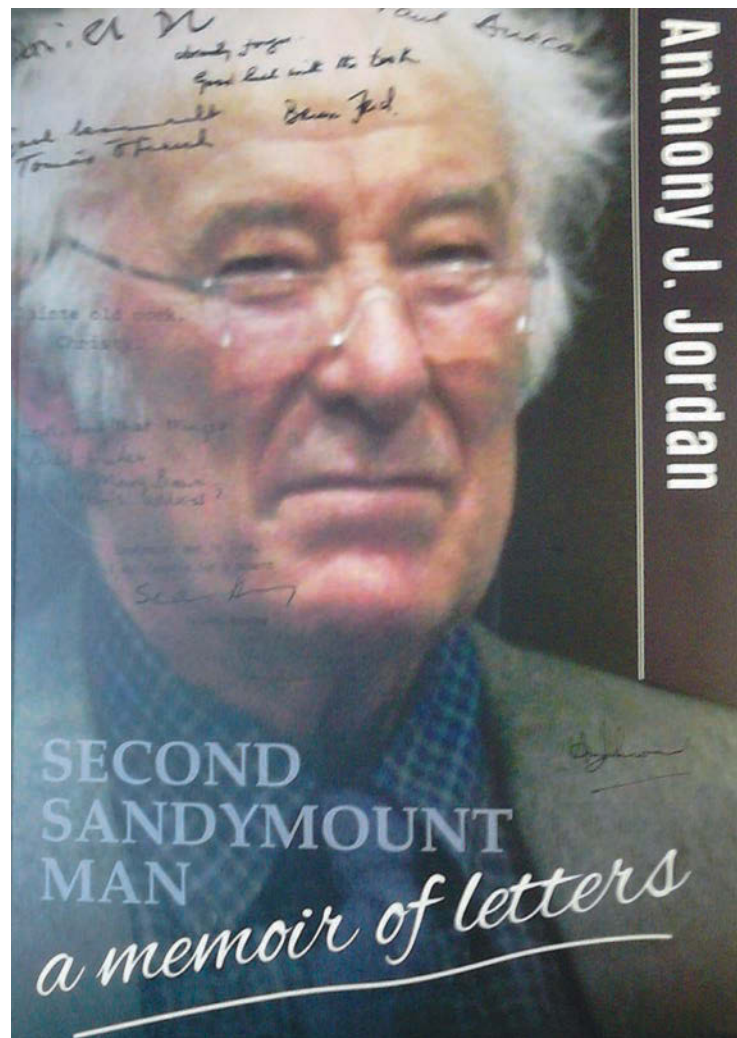
Despite being told through

the voice of a single narrator, Jone\$town is a novel of multiple tales and multiple life stories. The characters are written in such a way that we don't always get a clear view of their values and motives in life, until the very last page. As in life, we learn that even the most perfect, infallible beings in this circle have their own secrets and struggles. Not everything is as it seems in this book from all aspects of interpretation, the plot, the characters and the character's history itself are all up for scrutiny. What starts as a relatively feel-good easy reading mystery, soon descends into processing of past trauma, murder, manipulation and plotting from almost everyone involved. This novel has a definite edge, and we can see this through the narrator's ever changing voice and development as the story plays out. It's an exciting read, as the plot builds you're given just enough to keep asking questions. You'll have to read it and see for yourself, can you ascertain the truth?

**Jone\$town: by Robert McDermott is published by Riversong Books, and is available in all good bookstores and on Amazon.**

■ Eoin Meegan

## Second Sandymount Man: Book Review



**O**ne might be mistaken for thinking Second Sandymount Man was a book on Seamus Heaney owing to the title and cover, in fact the book is a collection of letters and correspondence gathered over the years between the author and various luminaries from the world of literature and politics. These include: Conor Cruise O'Brien, Paul Durcan, Liam Cosgrave, Brian Friel, and Christopher Nolan, the writer not the film director. There are also chapters on Sean MacBride, Winston Churchill and of course Yeats. Also featured is historian Roy Foster, who probably wrote the definitive bio of our national bard.

In fact only one chapter is given over to Heaney, although there is a chapter entirely dedicated to Marie Heaney, his wife. The title came about from a letter Heaney wrote to the author, referring to himself as the 'second Sandymount man', the first

of course being Yeats who was born on Sandymount Avenue. Heaney adopted Sandymount as his home from the 1970s. Two of his best known poems, 'A Kite for Michael and Christopher', and 'Walking the Strand', were inspired by its natural raw beauty. Jordan describes Heaney as "completely and graciously approachable, and [one who] wore his fame lightly."

Perhaps one of the more amusing pieces in the book is the chapter on actor Daniel Day-Lewis. Day-Lewis arrived one day at the school Jordan was principal of to get information on Christy Brown, in preparation to play him in the movie *My Left Foot*, and Anthony – more a literary man than film buff – didn't even recognise him. Later however, they became friends and indeed many of the students at the school became extras in the film. Then after he won the Oscar Day-Lewis brought it in to show the

students and have photos taken. Jordan, no stranger to the film's subject, had earlier been involved in organising a memorial day (June 6) for Christy Brown, to whom a chapter in the book is also dedicated, as well as some correspondence with Christy's wife Mary (Carr) Brown.

The book highlights certain highs and lows in the writer's life, including the story of the origins of what was to become his novel *Tell My Mother I...*, reviewed in this paper some time back. There is also a chapter on the sad death of his first child Antonia, as well as the origins of the first Yeats day in Sandymount Green (now an annual event), which was instigated by Jordan, quoting extensively from a report of the event at the time from this very newspaper. An interesting collection of letters and memorabilia from the world of literature and the arts, although probably of interest to the academic or special interest mostly.

**Second Sandymount Man: A Memoir of Letters, by Anthony J. Jordan (2021), is published by Printwell Books, and available in all good bookshops.**

# 20 Films to see in 2022

## What will be on view in the months ahead?

David Prendeville

### The Souvenir Part 2

Local company Element Pictures has joined forces with BBC Films to bring to life Joanna Hogg's follow-up to the sumptuous autobiographical original. The film was honoured with being named best film of 2021 (where it was released in some territories) in the prestigious Sight and Sound poll of experts. Real life mother and daughter Honor Swinton Byrne and Tilda Swinton reprise their roles. Release Date: Feb 4th

### The Batman

Robert Pattinson makes his bow as the caped crusader in Matt Reeves' highly anticipated DC blockbuster, the first solo Batman film since Christopher Nolan's *The Dark Knight Rises*, a decade ago. Colin Farrell, Zoe Kravitz and Barry Keoghan make up the impressive looking cast. Release Date: March 4th.

### Red Rocket

Sean Baker follows up the hugely acclaimed, Oscar nominated *The Florida Project* with an outrageous black comedy starring Simon Rex. Release Date: March 11th.

### Benedetta

The great Paul Verhoven returns with a typically satirical and provocative film about a 17th-century nun in Italy who suffers from disturbing religious visions. The film premiered at Cannes last year and has stoked a considerable amount of controversy and acclaim in the interim. Release Date: March 25th.

### Happening

Winner of the Golden Lion at Venice, Audrey Diwan's hugely acclaimed drama is an adaptation of Annie Ernaux's eponymous

novel, looking back on her experience with abortion when it was still illegal in France in the 1960s. Release Date: April 1st.

### The Northman

Robert Eggers follows up the highly acclaimed *The Witch* and *The Lighthouse* with what looks set to be his biggest budgeted film to date. This Viking actioner boasts an extraordinary cast that includes Alexander Skarsgard, Anya-Taylor Joy, Nicole Kidman, Willem Dafoe, Ethan Hawke and Bjork. Release Date: April 22nd.

### Vortex

Gaspar Noe's new film has been hailed as his most mature to date. It follows an elderly couple in the late stages of dementia and is presented entirely in split-screen. It stars legendary director Dario Argento alongside iconic French actress Françoise Lebrun. Release Date: May 20th.

### Top Gun: Maverick

Delayed from an initial forecast release in 2020, the already much-belated sequel to the 80s smash finally arrives 36 years after its predecessor. Tom Cruise, Jennifer Connolly and Val Kilmer reprise their roles in the original. Release Date: May 27th.

### Nope

Little is known about Jordan Peele's much anticipated follow up to *Get Out* and *Us*. He reteams with his *Get Out* lead Daniel Kaluuya. Release Date: July.

### Nitram

Caleb Landry Jones won Best Actor at Cannes last year for his portrayal of the shooter at the 1996 Port Arthur massacre in Tasmania in Justin Kurtzel's true crime drama. Judy Davis,

Anthony LaPaglia and Essie Davis make up the impressive cast. Release Date: July 1st.

### Don't Worry Darling

Actress turned director Olivia Wilde follows up her directorial debut *Booksmart* with this satirical comedy about a 1950's housewife living with her husband in a utopian experimental community who begins to worry that his glamorous company may be hiding disturbing secrets. Release Date: September 23rd.

### The Banshees of Inisherin

Martin McDonagh returns with this black comedy about a pair of lifelong friends on a remote Irish island who find themselves at an awkward time in their relationship when one of them no longer wants to be friends. Colin Farrell, Brendan Gleeson, Barry Keoghan and Kerry Condon star. Release Date: TBC, most likely later in the year.

### Killers of the Flower Moon

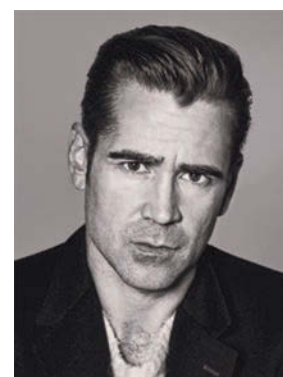
Martin Scorsese is back with this highly anticipated historical drama that revolves around Members of the Osage tribe in the United States, who are murdered under mysterious circumstances in the 1920s, sparking a major F.B.I. investigation involving J. Edgar Hoover. Jesse Plemons, Leonardo DiCaprio and Robert De Niro star. Release Date: TBC.

### The Eternal Daughter

Joanna Hogg reteams with local company Element Pictures for what's described as a ghost story in which a middle-aged daughter and her elderly mother must confront long-buried secrets when they return to their former family home, a once-grand manor that has become a nearly vacant hotel brimming with



Florence Pugh



Colin Farrell



Emma Stone

mystery. Tilda Swinton once again stars. Release Date: TBC.

### The Wonder

Another Irish co-production involving Element Pictures. Sebastian Lelio, whose *A Fantastic Woman* won an Oscar for Best Foreign Film in 2017, directs this period drama described as "a psychological thriller, and a story of love pitted against evil." The film is based on the novel by Irish author Emma Donoghue (*Room*) and stars Florence Pugh, Tom Burke, Niamh Algar, Ciaran Hinds and David Wilmot. Release Date: TBC, likely Winter 2022.

### Disappointment Blvd.

Ari Aster moves away from horror with this intriguing sounding drama starring Joaquin Phoenix. The film is described as a decades-spanning portrait of one of the most successful entrepreneurs of all time. Release Date: TBC.

### Flux Gourmet

The great Peter Strickland makes a welcome return to our screens with what's sure to be another delightfully singular vision. The film is set at an institute devoted to culinary and alimentary performance and revolves around a collective who find themselves embroiled in power struggles, artistic vendettas and gastrointestinal disorders. The film has its world premiere at the Berlin Film Festival this month. Release Date: TBC.

### Crimes of the Future

David Cronenberg makes his first film in nearly a decade with this remake of an early student film of his. The film is described as a deep dive into the not-so-distant future in which humankind is learning to

adapt to its synthetic surroundings. This evolution moves humans beyond their natural state and into a metamorphosis, which alters their biological makeup. Cronenberg regular Viggo Mortenson stars alongside Kristen Stewart and Lea Seydoux. Release Date: TBC.

### Poor Things

Element Pictures strike once more in another collaboration with Greek auteur Yorgos Lanthimos. The film is an adaptation of the Alisdair Gray novel and is said to be a Frankenstein-esque tale focusing on a young woman brought back to life by a brilliant but eccentric scientist. Emma Stone, Willem Dafoe, Mark Ruffalo, Margaret Qualley and Christopher Abbot head up the impressive cast. Could be in line to make its bow in Cannes in May. Release Date: TBC.

### Blonde

Andrew Dominik's Marilyn Monroe biopic has attracted lots of buzz and controversy, with rumours swirling at one point that Netflix had demanded the Australian director tone down some of the more hard-hitting elements. Netflix have since reportedly backed the uncut version of the film, which stars Ana De Armas as the iconic actress. Release Date: TBC.



Olivia Wilde

## Five Special Trees - Sandymount's Living Link with Joyce's Ulysses



**Rodney Devitt**

Probably everybody who lives in Sandymount has walked up Leahy's Terrace at some point, from Sandymount Road to Beach Road, by the side of Star of the Sea Church. And there, set into the footpath, starting at the Sandymount Road end, are five fine mature trees, which must be at least one hundred and thirty years old, each about twenty yards apart, and stretching the length of that fine terrace of early Victorian houses. Well, four actually, since one must have succumbed to some ailment, and was replaced by a younger model, maybe sixty years ago. But these five trees – one London Plane and four Poplars – achieved literary fame when James Joyce's earth-shaking novel *Ulysses* was published 100 years ago.

The novel is set over one day, the 16th June 1904, though it was not actually published until eighteen years later, in 1922. Joyce picked that date to coincide with the time he was actually staying in a house on Dromard Terrace in Sandymount, and brought his girlfriend and life-partner-to-be, Nora Barnacle, for a walk out to the Shelly Banks.

As all NewsFour readers will be only too aware, *Ulysses* contains three important episodes that are set in Sandymount. The first one brings one of the main characters, Stephen Dedalus, to our fabled seafront, where he has a long and complicated debate with himself on all sorts of philosophical and metaphysical matters, and of course utters, with his eyes closed, the immortal words: "Am I walking into eternity along Sandymount Strand?"

The Hades episode begins at number 9 Newbridge Avenue, outside which is a horse-drawn

hearse in which poor Paddy Dignam, the late occupant of said number nine, who has died from drink-induced apoplexy, is to be brought to Glasnevin Cemetery.

And finally, the third Sandymount based episode takes place at about eight o'clock in the evening, when our main protagonist, Leopold Bloom, who has been to visit Paddy Dignam's widow to help her with a widow's insurance policy, walks from Newbridge Avenue, up Leahy's Terrace, and down onto the Strand to sit on a rock, enjoy the evening sun, and ponder on his stressful day around the city.

The opening passage of this chapter is one of the most beautiful in the whole book: "The summer evening had begun to fold the world in its mysterious embrace. Far away in the west the sun was setting, and the last glow of all too fleeting day lingered lovingly on sea and strand, on the proud promontory of dear old Howth, guarding as ever the waters of the bay, on the weedgrown rocks along Sandymount shore and, last but not least, on the quiet church whence there streamed forth at times upon the stillness the voice of prayer to her who is in her pure radiance a beacon ever to the storm-tossed heart of man, Mary, Star of the Sea."

It is almost prayer-like in its sublime depiction of this lovely area. Or it could be an estate agent's advertisement in the property pages of a newspaper.

We should be aware that in 1904, Beach Road did not exist, the sea wall was much closer to the Church than it is now, and what was then the Strand is now Sean Moore Park and sports ground. As in the whole book, Joyce was meticulous in presenting the accurate geography and topography of his native city, from which he had by now exiled himself. For one small section of the Sandymount Strand episode, he wrote home from Trieste, where he and Nora were then living, to his aunt in Dublin: "Dear Aunt Josephine, I want that information about the Star of the Sea Church. Has



it ivy on its seafront? Are there trees in Leahy's Terrace at the side or the rear? If so, what and how many? Are there steps leading down to the beach?"

Poor Aunt Josephine, who lived on the north side of the city, presumably had to get the number three tram to Sandymount and, with her little notebook and pencil, record all that her demanding nephew asked for. And a very good job she must have made of it, because the picture we get of that part of Sandymount on a warm summer's evening in 1904 is totally credible.

"Soon the lamplighter would be going his rounds past the Presbyterian church grounds and along by shady Tritonville road where the couples walked, and lighting the lamp near her window From house to house, giving his ever welcome double knock, went the nine o'clock postman, the glow worm's lamp at his belt gleaming here and there through the laurel hedges And among the five young trees a hoisted limstock lit the light at Leahy's Terrace."

Almost makes you wish you lived in Sandymount a hundred years ago.

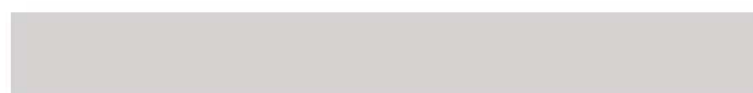
### Ulysses at 100

**Eoin Meegan**

This year sees the 100rd anniversary of the publication of *Ulysses*. Joyce started writing the novel as early as 1914 and in the years that followed the manuscript began circulating around the Paris literary scene, catching the attention of literary giants such as T.S. Eliot and Gertrude Stein. Between 1918 and 1920 it was serialised in *The Little Review*, but when that periodical published the Nausica episode (set on Sandymount which has the leading protagonist Leopold

Bloom masturbating), it began to gain the reputation as an obscene work, with the French police confiscating issues of the magazine. For a long time it didn't look as if it was ever going to be published. Joyce was deeply depressed about this, and exasperated, he turned to his friend Sylvia Beach who ran the publishing company Shakespeare and Company. Beach agreed to publish the book herself, and so on February 2, 1922 *Ulysses* finally was published in Paris. The English edition came later that same year. The book has always been dogged by controversy and was banned in many countries owing to what some considered lewd and explicit sexual content. But the passing years have been kinder to *Ulysses*, and today I don't think it would shock anyone. Writing recently in the *Guard-*

ian, Anne Enright says "there is no sex in *Ulysses* – it is all remembered or anticipated sex, all jam tomorrow and jam yesterday and no jam on the single long day of the book itself. A novel that is interested in love and fascinated by the body contains no passionate union, unless you count Molly Bloom's afternooner with Blazes Boylan, which is intuited by her husband, but which happens off stage." Today *Ulysses*, an early proponent of the stream of consciousness technique, is considered one of the great masterpieces of Irish, and indeed world literature. According to Declan Kiberd, "Before Joyce, no writer of fiction had so foregrounded the process of thinking." To mark the occasion this year *An Post* is bringing out two commemorative stamps.



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# And The Winner Is... 2022 Oscar Preview



■ B.J. Quinn



The 94th Academy Awards are due to take place on March 27 at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood. After last year's low-key ceremony – delayed because of the pandemic and featuring movies that, for the most part, sidestepped theatres in favour of VOD – this year's event aims to bring the sparkle back to tinseltown.

Thankfully, they won't be short on stars on the night. Steven Spielberg is back to reclaim his throne, after directing a *West Side Story* adaptation which has proved a hit with critics and audiences alike. Lady Gaga's transformation from popstar to screen siren is all but complete thanks to her strong performance in Ridley Scott's *House of Gucci*. And hey, Smith is having a comeback, riding high on the wave of *King Richard*, a sports biopic

where Smith plays Richard Williams father and trainer of tennis superstars Venus and Serena.

As of now, there has been no indication what the event will look like: Will there be a crowd? A red carpet? Does anybody really care? What we do know is that this year's ceremony will have a host, which is something we did without for the last two years. Who it will be is still undecided, though there have been reports that British actor and Marvel superstar Tom Holland is in the running. It would be a bold choice to have such a young talent carry the entire show, but the boy can sing and dance, to be fair. In fact, he's due to star as Fred Astaire in an upcoming biopic. So perhaps the Oscars could prove a dry run before he dances 'Cheek o cheek' on the big screen

The nominations are set to be announced February 8, and while nothing is certain, we have a fair idea of who will make the cut. Last year's Academy Awards fell victim to the pandemic, and although the outcome was far from fatal – Chloé Zhao making history as the first woman of colour to win for best director was the evening's high point – the impact was clear. Under the radar films such as *Sound of Metal* and *Promising Young Woman* became surprise front runners. This was due to the fact that many distribution companies thought it wise to postpone their tent-pole releases until after the initial waves of COVID had eased, a decision which saw films like, *No Time to Die*, *West Side Story* and Wes Anderson's *The French Dispatch* hold their breath until the coast was clear – or, as it turned out, clear enough.



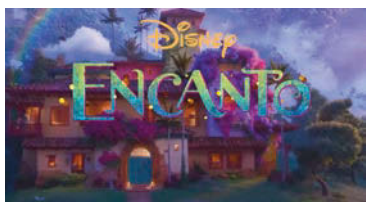


# Categories, Potential Winners And Losers..

## Best Animated Feature

A category oft-dominated by Disney Studios, and this year looks no different. Highlights include the animated documentary, *Flee*, and two movies driven by hand-drawn aesthetics: Netflix's *The Mitchells vs. The Machines*, the hilarious family road trip through the robot apocalypse; and Pixar's *Luca*, the coming-of-age story about one young boy experiencing an unforgettable summer filled with gelato, pasta and endless Vespa rides. Meanwhile, Disney has two contenders with *Raya and the Last Dragon* and *Encanto*, with the latter sure to take home top prize. Following a young Colombian girl facing the frustration of being the only member of her family without magical powers, *Encanto* is a bona-fide crowd-pleaser and a marvel to look at.

Should win: *Encanto*  
Will win: *Encanto*



## Best Supporting Actress

This year's selection boasts a heap of Irish talent and will be our nation's best chance of claiming a golden statuette. Kerry's own Jessie Buckley has been going from strength to strength after her feature debut in 2017's *Beast*. This year, Buckley lights up *The Lost Daughter*, while Ruth Negga puts on a tour de force, co-starring in Rebecca Hall's *Passing*. Dublin native Caitriona Balfe gives *Belfast*, written and directed by Kenneth Branagh, its beating heart, an achievement which has surely locked her in for a nomination. Elsewhere, Ariana DeBose is captivating in *West Side Story* and has already picked up a Golden Globe for her efforts. Kathryn Hunter is sublime as the three witches (that's right, 3-in-1) in Joel Coen's *The Tragedy of MacBeth* and is this category's dark horse. And as for

Kirsten Dunst, her performance in *The Power of the Dog* is nothing short of a masterclass.

Should win: Kirsten Dunst  
Will win: Ariana DeBose



## Best Supporting Actor

With a Golden Globe already in the bag, Kodi Smit-McPhee is leading the charge for this year's supporting actors. The 25-year-old's performance in *The Power of the Dog* is quiet and understated, but the amount of screen time he has – he should really be battling for the Academy Award for Lead Actor against co-star Benedict Cumberbatch – will be hard for voters to ignore. With the SAG (Screen Actors Guild) awards snubbing both Jamie Dornan and Ciarán Hinds (who both feature in *Belfast*), it'll be challenging to see if they can bounce back. It could be Dornan or Hinds, but not both. Bradley Cooper was a delight in *Licorice Pizza*, but it's hard to see the Academy put Cooper over, considering his limited screen time. Then again, stranger things have happened – I'm looking at you, *Beatrice Straight!*

Should win: Kodi Smit-McPhee  
Will win: Kodi Smit-McPhee



## Best Actress

Kristen Stewart seemed to have everything sewn up after her captivating turn as Princess Diana in *Spencer*. Since then, a double whammy of losing out on a Golden Globe to Nicole Kidman and being snubbed by SAG has turned Stewart's Oscar campaign upside down. It doesn't help that she's surrounded by stiff competition in Olivia Coleman (*The Lost Daughter*) and Jessica Chastain (*The Eyes of Tammy Faye*). The fact Coleman already has an Oscar to her name (*The Favourite*, 2019) might harm her chances, but don't be surprised if the Academy adds to her collection, they're suckers for a bashful Brit. One actress who is destined to be overlooked, however, is Agatha Rousselle. Making her screen debut in *Titane*, which picked up the Palme d'Or last year at the Cannes Film Festival, she puts on a truly captivating physical performance. But if you're looking for a dark horse, look no further than Lady Gaga. Her role in Ridley Scott's *House of Gucci* raised a few eyebrows for a liberal take on the Italian accent. But she is a star, something Hollywood is short on at the moment. Could this be Gaga's Cher moment? Don't count on it, all you *Little Monsters* out there.

Should win: Agatha Rousselle  
Will win: Kristen Stewart



## Best Actor

This will be a close race, and it essentially boils down to three: Will Smith for *King Richard*; a lively Andrew Garfield for *Tick, Tick... Boom!*; and chaps-wearing, banjo-pickin', Buck Henry's #1 fan, Benedict Cumberbatch for *The Power of the Dog*. Smith

is the fan favourite; he's riding high on a Hollywood comeback and is playing on home soil, after all. *Garfield* has come alive in 2021, putting on a hell of a show wherever he goes, be it *Spider-Man: No Way Home*, *The Eyes of Tammy Faye* or *Tick, Tick... Boom!*, a non-stop musical which gets the best out of the young English actor. Cumberbatch is a shoo-in for the BAFTA, but as for the Oscars, I predict Hollywood is about to get *Jiggy Wit It*, at long last.

Should win: Ben Cumberbatch  
Will win: Will Smith



The directing race looks to have two sure bets with *Belfast* boy Kenneth Branagh (*Belfast*) and Jane Campion (*The Power of the Dog*). Both have been enjoying success on the awards circuit up to now, with *Belfast* finding a way into American hearts, becoming the feel good movie of the year. Campion won the Golden Globe back in January, so it's hard to argue against her. Plus, it helps that *The Power of the Dog* is so beautifully crafted, truly the work of a master. Now, if the Academy really wanted to make our eyes roll, they would pick Spielberg, who offers up a picture as visually bright as it is painfully dull in *West Side Story* – thank god he left the songs intact, at least.

Should win: Jane Campion  
Will win: Jane Campion



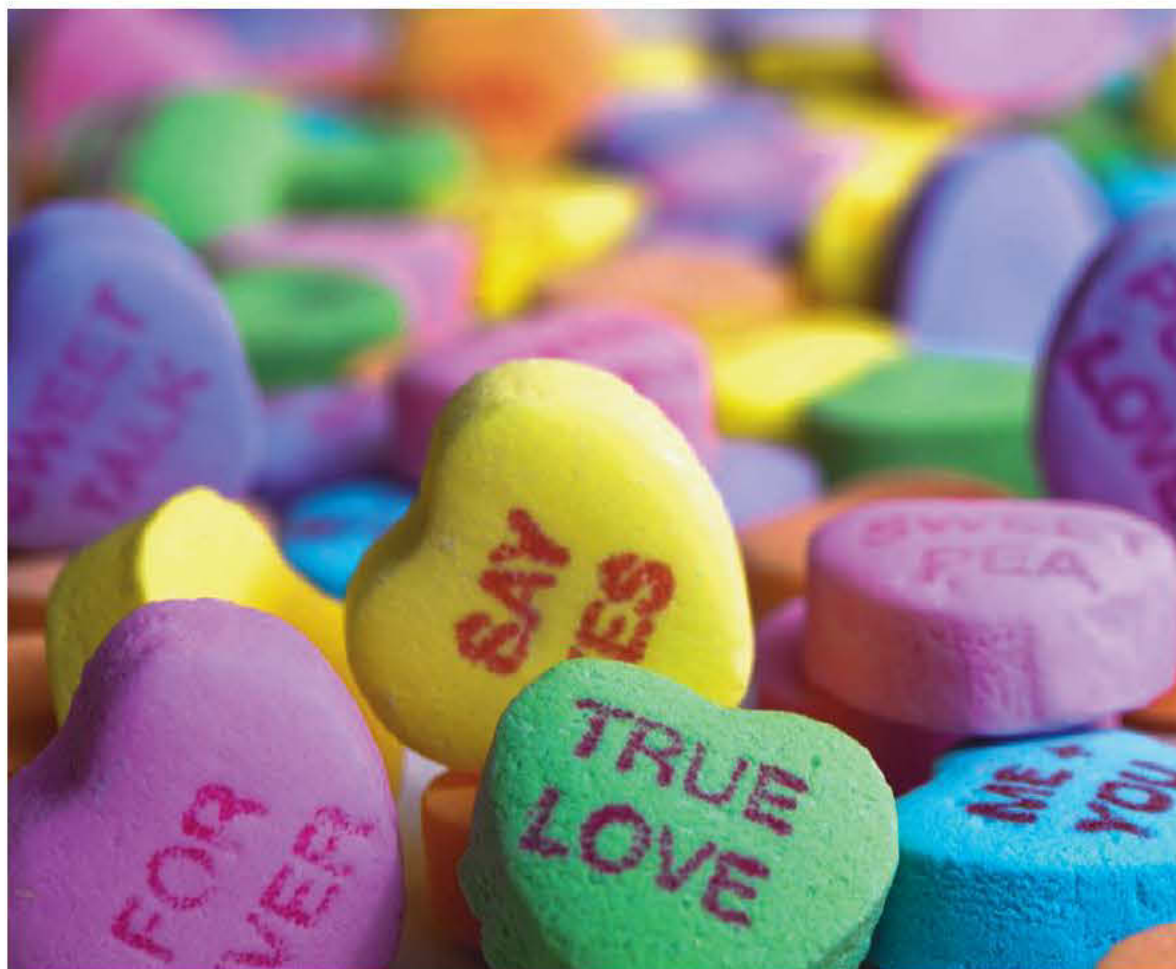
## Best Picture

Now for the biggest prize of the night. Let's start by narrowing the playing field. Many will be rooting for *Dune*, Denis Villeneuve's mesmerising space opera, but, as happens so often with blockbusters vying for Oscar glory, fans will have to lower their expectations and make-do with cleaning up the technical fields instead. Adam McKay's *Don't Look Up* showcases a host of star names, but its mixed audience reaction and limited theatre run (moving to Netflix two weeks after its cinema release) doesn't bode well. *West Side Story* could easily walk away with this one and it wouldn't surprise anybody. But, for my money the Best Picture Oscar is a two-horse race: *The Power of the Dog* and *Belfast*. Branagh's trip down memory lane is both grand and intimate, and if it doesn't win the BAFTA I'll eat my hat. *The Power of the Dog*, on the other hand, isn't as easy to put in a box; it's evocative, mysterious and constantly plays with audience preconceptions. With Best Picture predictions, I always ask myself, "what note does the Academy want to end on?" Here we have two choices: celebrating a complicated study of queer desire way out west; or a simple and sentimental tale about the power of family and pop tunes.

Should win: *The Power of the Dog*  
Will win: *Belfast*



## Love Streams : The 6 Best Valentine's Day Movies Currently Streaming



■ B.J. Quinn

It's February, which means that the next special occasion on everyone's mind is Valentine's Day. Of course we would all love to wine and dine our significant other across fancy bars and restaurants, however, with COVID what it is, maybe you'd prefer to retreat to the comfy confines of your home – a place where you can put up your feet, share a bottle of wine and binge on some cheesy rom-com classics. With six recommendations, you and your partner are bound to find something you both agree on.

### Netflix

Jerry Maguire (1996)

When slick sports agent Jerry Maguire (Tom Cruise) has a crisis of conscience, he writes a heartfelt company-wide memo that promptly gets him fired. Desperate to hang on to the athletes that he represents, Jerry starts his own management firm, with only single mother Dorothy Boyd (Renee Zellweger) joining him in his new venture. Banking on their sole client, ego-maniacal football player Rod Tidwell (an electric Cuba Gooding Jr.), Jerry and Dorothy begin

to fall in love as they struggle to make their business work.

Jerry Maguire kicked off a delightful run of dynamite pictures for director Cameron Crowe, including *Almost Famous* (2000) and *Vanilla Sky* (2001). But Jerry Maguire is the stand out. For one, it showcases Crowe's distinct blend of over-the-top sensibilities and instinct for intimate human drama. Sure, it contains a lot of larger-than-life elements – cheeky narration, multimillion-dollar sports contracts and Cuba Gooding Jr. – but ultimately feels more like an honest, down-to-earth character study than a typical Hollywood rom-com. The most powerful conflict in this film is a quietly rocky romance rooted in miscommunications and unfair expectations, not big fights and external problems.

Blue is the Warmest Colour (2013)

Adèle's (Adèle Exarchopoulos) life is changed when she meets Emma (Léa Seydoux), an older art student with striking blue hair, who will allow her to discover desire, to assert herself as a woman and

as an adult. In front of others, Adele grows, seeks herself, loses herself, finds herself.

This is an extremely intense viewing experience, for reasons that go beyond the well-publicized graphic sex scene. Director Abdellatif Kechiche pushes his camera in close... very close, capturing snotty noses, moles and freckles, and every tiny flicker of emotion going through his characters' heads on a moment-by-moment basis. It all feels uncomfortably raw and voyeuristic, but there's so much familiarity in each of these moments. It lit up the Cannes Film Festival back in 2013, and has been lighting up our hearts ever since.

### Prime Video

Palm Springs (2020)

When carefree Nyles and reluctant maid of honour Sarah have a chance encounter at a Palm Springs wedding, things get complicated. They get stuck in a time loop and develop a budding romance while living the same day over and over again.

One of the good things to come

out during the pandemic, *Palm Springs* is a fresh riff on the *Groundhog Day* (1993) formula. It allows for the themes to go beyond existential repetition, and instead a lovely little comic romance unfolds. And while Samberg is great, the scene-stealer has to be Cristin Milioti; she owns every major moment. Their chemistry allows the film to flourish, but it's her enthusiasm that makes it go by so fast. And don't worry, all you clever clogs, the script's sci-fi logic holds up well against all kinds of hole-poking. *Palm Springs* will make you laugh, it'll make you think, and, in the end, you'll find it's a time loop worth getting stuck in.

West Side Story (1961)

As if I need to remind you: Love at first sight strikes when young Tony (Richard Beymer) spots Maria (A star-making turn from Natalie Wood) at a high school dance in 1957 New York City. Their burgeoning romance helps to fuel the fire between the warring Jets and Sharks – two rival gangs vying for control of the streets.

With Steven Spielberg's own

version bound to garner awards during this year's awards season, now is the best time to catch up with Robert Wise's original screen adaptation. Isn't there anything more romantic than *Romeo and Juliet*? As it turns out: yes – *Romeo and Juliet* by way of jazzed-up ballet. In some ways, *West Side Story* feels like the absolute zenith of the classic Hollywood studio system, heralding the arrival of the sixties with a defiant "Krup you!" to the very idea of naturalism. Recognising the weaknesses of the central pair – there's more sexual chemistry between the two gangs than with Tony and Maria – there's so much to appreciate about what the film gets right. For one, Wise's direction is so striking and cinematic in composition, it's no wonder he earned the Academy Award for Best Director – one of ten wins on the night. Will Spielberg continue the tradition come Oscar night? Possibly, but for now he'll have to "Play it cool, boy"

Disney +

WALL-E (2008)

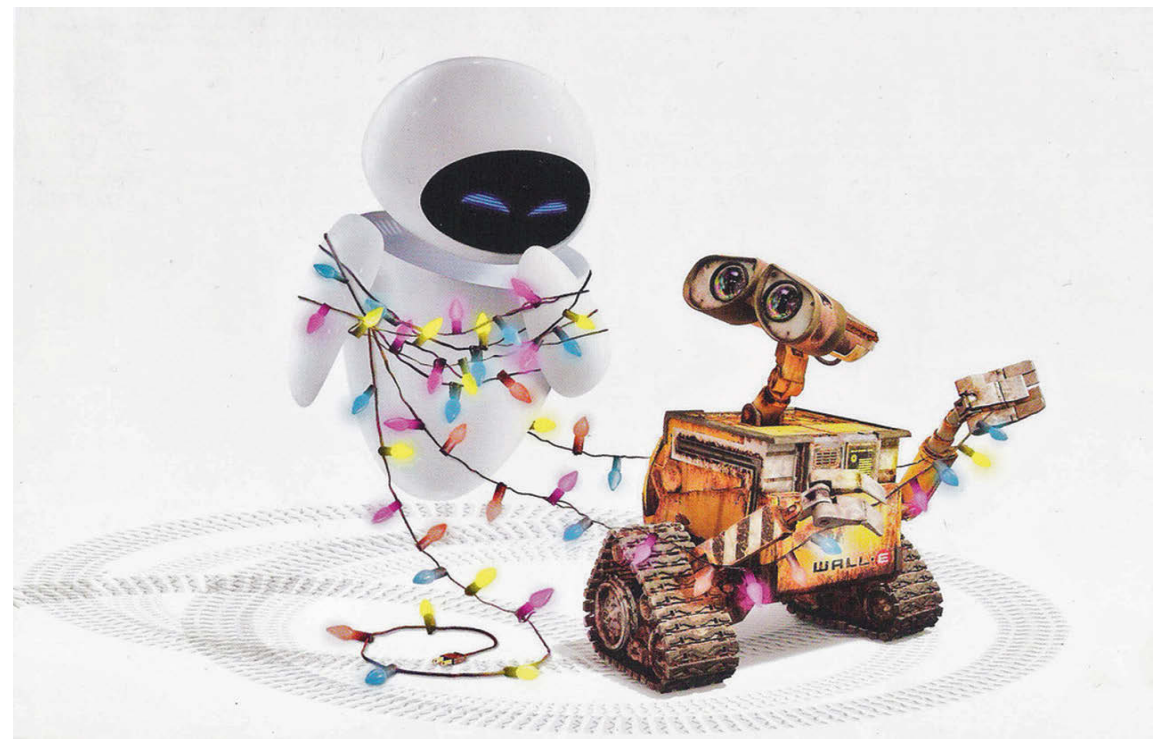
WALL-E is the last robot left on an Earth that has been overrun with garbage and all humans have fled to outer space. For 700 years he has continued to try and clean up the mess, but has developed some rather interesting human-like qualities. When a ship arrives with a sleek new type of robot, WALL-E thinks he's finally found a friend and stows away on the ship when it leaves.

WALL-E is the best example of Pixar's ability to appeal to children and adults alike. Director Andrew Stanton, who's other credits include A Bug's Life (1998) and Finding Nemo (2003), creatively weaves environmental catastrophe and unchecked consumption promoted by a materialistic culture with an adorable and charming love story. It's an astounding visual experience. The first two thirds of this film is irrefutably demonstrative of the emotional storytelling heights of which Pixar is capable, and the fol-

lowing adventures in saving the human race from their self-inflicted gradual erosion are a tonal whiplash, the nice kind. The fact that WALL-E barely talks and yet manages to be one of the most well-realised and charming characters in animated history speaks volumes. Inside Out (2015) came close to taking the throne, but WALL-E remains Pixar's greatest achievement to date.

Never Been Kissed (1999)

Josie Geller (Drew Barrymore), a baby-faced junior copywriter at the Chicago Sun-Times, must pose as a student at her former high school to research contemporary teen culture. While there, she falls in love with one of the teachers and has to control her feelings for him while keeping her cover in place. Never Been Kissed is not deep or sophisticated, but it's quirky and big-hearted and it wins us over in the end. Has it aged well? Nope. Is it one of my top guilty pleasures? A resounding yes! You see, under all the film's schmaltz is Barrymore



at the peak of her powers. She emerges as a real star here – an actor whose personality and charisma are the real subject of the story. She manages to turn scenes so contrived and artificial into moments worth caring about. Never Been Kissed remains one of the best teen movies and rom-coms of the '90s – a lively tribute to awkwardness.

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 ASSOCIATE PRODUCER  
 SAUL CHAPLIN  
 CHOREOGRAPHED BY  
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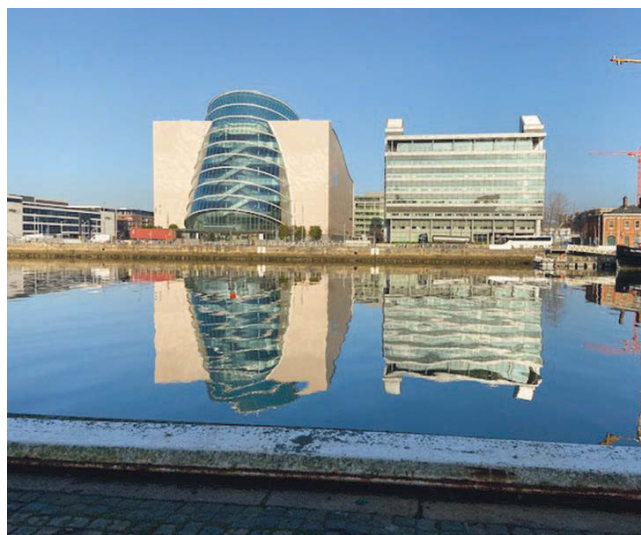
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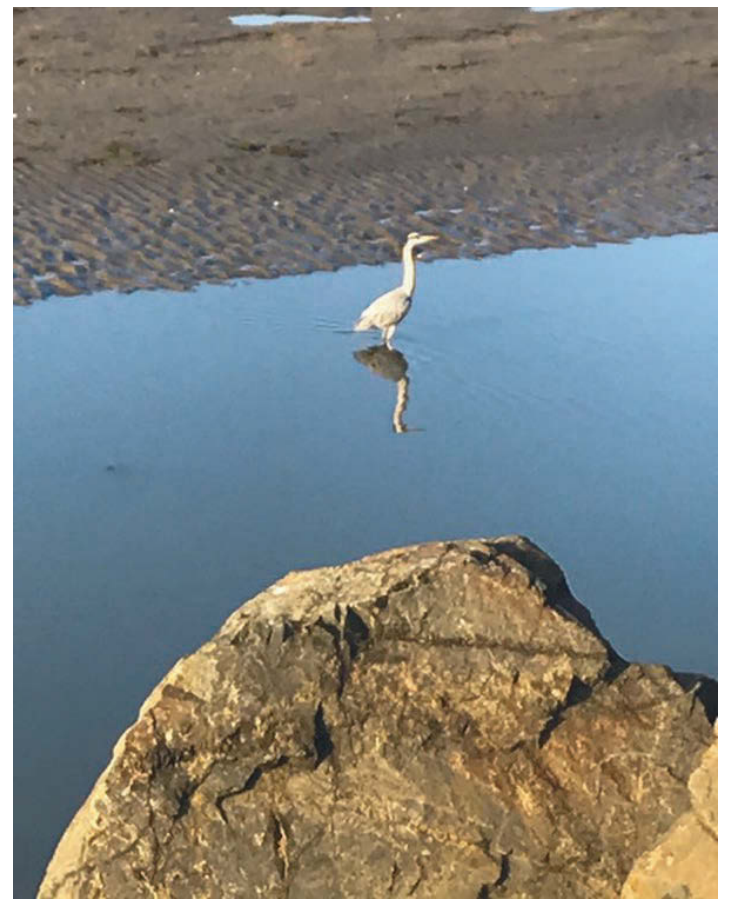
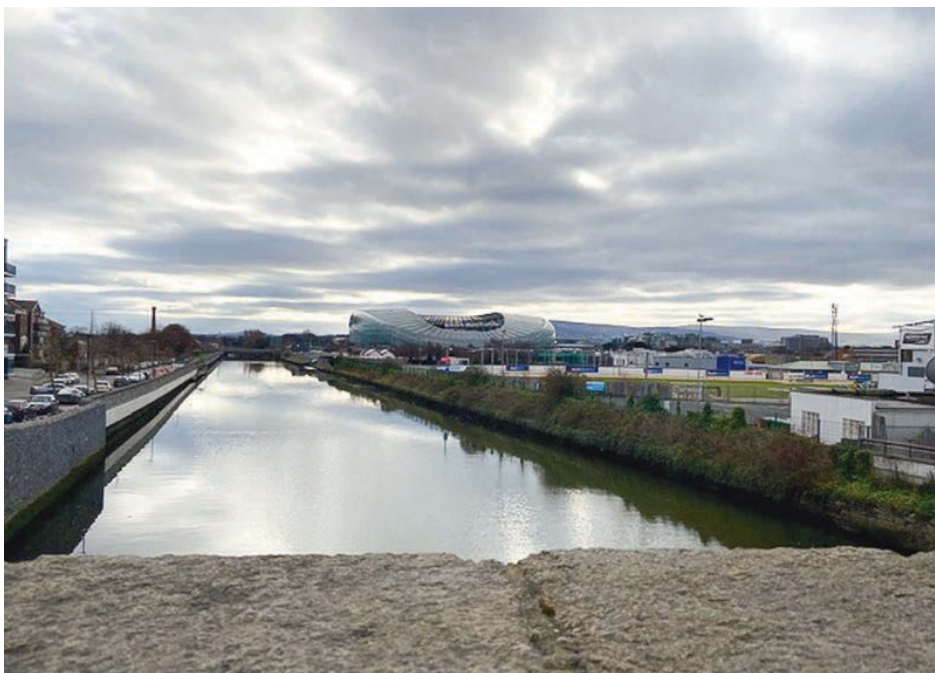


# DUBLIN BE PROUD

Local images of a city coming alive again. A city that never died.



All images courtesy of NF photographer Rose Sunderland.



# Poetry is the Soul in words

## AFTER HEAVY RAIN ~ GOLDEN WATER

After heavy rain  
 This evening the waterfall  
 Seems to have really changed  
 The water is positively brown, peaty.  
 As if there's bog suspended in it,  
 Turning it brown or could it be  
 Gold, from the riverbed  
 The river's browner than I've ever  
 Seen it before, and this weir  
 Is my go-to place to drink in  
 Nature moments to nourish my soul;  
 I'm not disappointed  
 On my return to the steps I espy  
 Two sleepy moorhens or ducks  
 Blending in beside the riverbank  
 Nature moments,  
 Filling my soul!

Margaret Boles

## GODS

You guide my pen now I am old  
 And you help steady my hand.  
 The girl inside me Leaps for joy  
 Because you steady my hand.  
 True love is this, true love is bliss..  
 your spirit moves me.

Your spirit moves me from the Cradle to the grave  
 you must remember to be brave.  
 and let us remember these days.

Siobhan Walsh

## TWITCHER

I saw one  
 The other morning  
 A treasure hunter  
 Typical of  
 The twitcher  
 As she seeks to  
 Invade Nature's privacy  
 Expose a bird in flight  
 Or on perch, use  
 Tricks of light to  
 Best advantage  
 Create a work  
 Of art from  
 Nature's own  
 Treasures.

Margaret Boles

## Crossword Clues Feb/Mar 2022

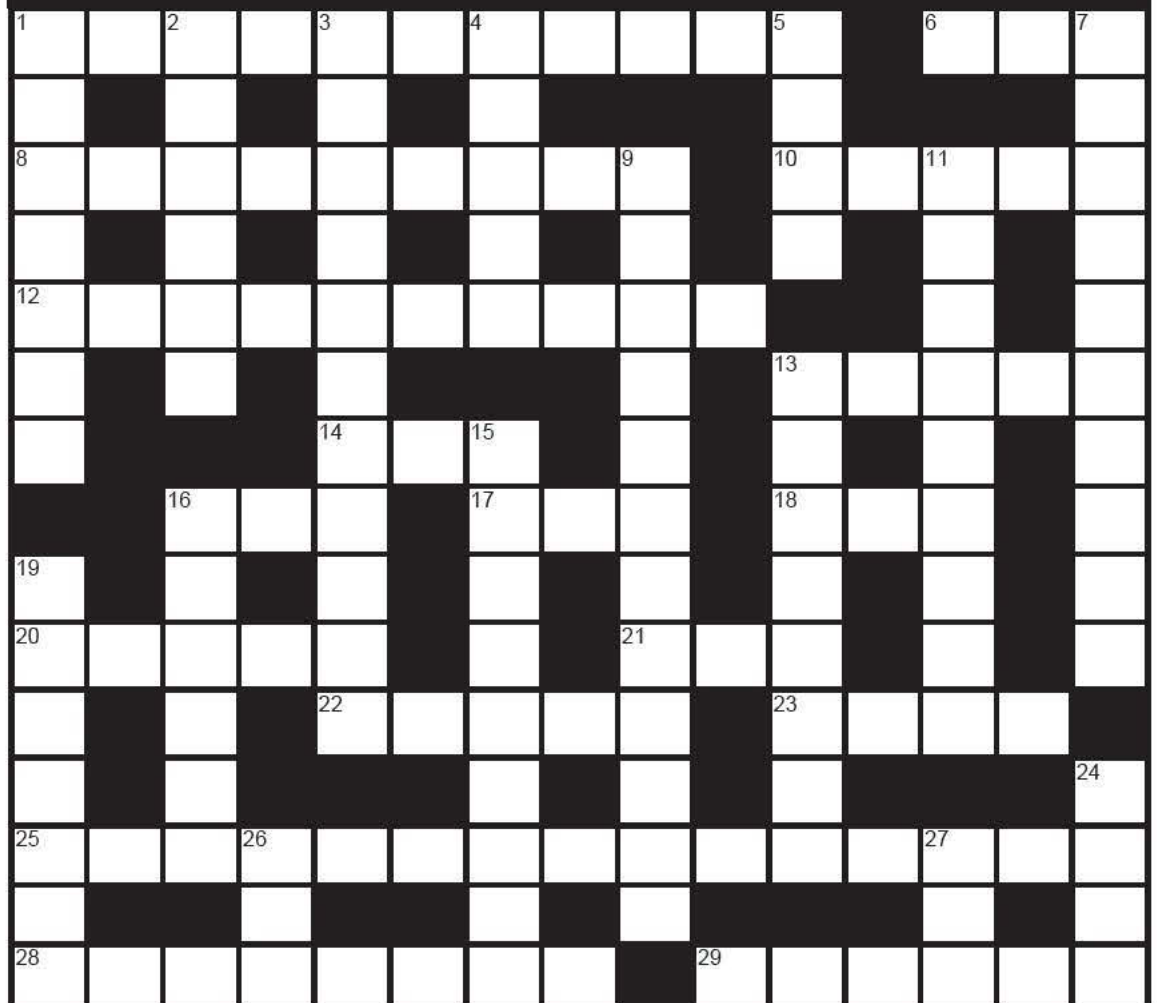
### ACROSS:

- 1) Recently published memoir by Ann Ingle (4, 7)
- 6) Edible starchy tuber (3)
- 8) Practical lessons or lectures (9)
- 10) Decorate (5)
- 12) Humongous (10)
- 13) Coarse, unrefined (5)
- 14) Not very bright (3)
- 16) House (in Dublin slang) (3)
- 17) Much of this can be made about nothing? (3)
- 18) Photograph, in short (3)
- 20) Horizontal ladder supports (5)
- 21) This bone can be found floating (3)
- 22) Expensive woven woollen fabric (5)
- 23) Naturally occurring minerals or metals (4)
- 25) Homemade throwable incendiary device (7, 8)
- 28) The H in water (8)
- 29) Ovum receptacle (3, 3)

### DOWN:

- 1) Eight-sided polygon (7)
- 2) Restaurant (6)
- 3) These rules are firm and speedy? (4, 3, 4)
- 4) Modify (5)
- 5) Dreary (4)
- 7) Of great importance or size (10)
- 9) The front right of a craft where you might find the clings? (9, 3)
- 11) Bewilder or make purposely confusing (9)
- 13) Jotter for handwriting (8)
- 15) A careful/skillful move or series of moves (9)
- 16) Pleasant and friendly (6)
- 19) Achieve a victory (7)
- 24) Applaud (4)
- 26) Flat paddle (3)
- 27) Curve (3)

## The NewsFour Crossword February/March 22



Solutions to the Dec-Jan'21/22 Crossword

### ACROSS:

- 1) Petroleum Jelly, 8) Stupendous, 9) ABBA, 10) Shekel, 11) Cointreau, 14) Sans,
- 16) Tight lipped, 18) Mikado, 23) Ask me anything, 25) Tambourine, 28) Nepal, 29) Damp Squib

### DOWN:

- 1) Pussycat, 2) Touching, 3) Overstate, 4) Endure, 5) Jests, 6) Loafers, 7) Tablespoon, 12) Amps,
- 13) Gem, 15) Amalgam, 17) Digit, 19) Tartan, 20) Skim, 21) Snared, 22) Eton, 24) ELO, 26) Bra,
- 27) Jab

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## DCC Proposes Limits On Build To Rent Developments In New City Development Plan

■ Dermot Carmody

DCC Proposes Limits On Build To Rent Developments In New City Development Plan

In January Dublin City Council (DCC) published its draft statement on the new Draft Dublin City Development Plan 2022-2028. In a chapter in the statement on Development Standards, DCC has proposed limits on the amount of Build-To-Rent (BTR) units that can be built in the city, claiming that such developments in large schemes are “to the detriment of the build to sell units” within such schemes.

To mitigate against this, DCC purposes only to accept BTR developments in specific areas:

■ Within the Inner City (i.e. within the canal ring).

■ Within 500m walking distance of a high employment area i.e. more than 500 employees per hectare.

■ Within 500m of major pub-

lic transport interchanges (e.g. Connolly Station, Tara Street Station and Heuston Station), and within identified Strategic Development Regenerations Zones.

The first two of the above points particularly have clear implications for housing developments in the Dublin 4 area.

The plan proposes that there will be “a general presumption against” developments in excess of 100 units comprising 100% BTR. A minimum of the 40% of the units in such developments would have to be built to sell. In the case of smaller BTR developments under 100 units, these would only be considered where there is a “strong need” for such developments for which the applicant would have to provide a “detailed justification.”

The plan does concede that there is a part to play for BTR in achieving an appropriate mix of housing, but sets itself against over-proliferation of such developments in any one area. In

view of this it would require developers wishing to build BTR developments to submit an assessment including other similar developments within 3km to demonstrate that any new development “would not result in the over-concentration of one housing tenure in a particular area.”

Additionally, in the chapter on Quality Housing & Sustainable Neighbourhoods that lays out the conditions under which BTR developments will be considered, the plan states that there will be a “general presumption against the granting of planning permission for shared accommodation/co-living in Dublin City.”

The full Draft Development Plan 2022-2028 is available on the DCC web site (<https://www.dublincity.ie/residential/planning/strategic-planning/dublin-city-development-plan/development-plan-2022-2028>), where you can make submissions until the end of the public consultation period for the plan on February 14th.

### TAG Requests By Ministers Should Be Identified By Name

While discussing the Traffic Advisory Group (TAG) report at the meeting of the DCC Southeast Area Committee (SEAC) on January 10th, the SEAC chairperson, Cllr. Dermot Lacey (LAB) suggested that where requests were made by elected representatives rather than members of the public it should be practice to name the source of the request.

The Traffic Advisory group deals with requests on such issues as parking, road signs, access and road maintenance, and provides a report indicating the issue on which a request has been made and the recommended action to be taken, or the reason for action not being recommended.

The request which drew Cllr. Lacey’s attention in this instance was one that parking should be limited to one side of the road or should be “access for residents only” in Airfield Park, with the



source of the request being identified solely by the word “Minister”. Cllr. Lacey made the point that “Dublin Bay South only has one minister, and that Minister is the Minister for Transport [Eamon Ryan].” Cllr. Lacey said it struck him as odd that the Minister for Transport, if it was he, was asking for something that is not possible under the rules of his own department.

Cllr. Claire Byrne (GREEN) pointed out that the Minister for Transport was not specifically indicated and therefore it should not be said that it was he who had made the request. She said that as the Minister for Transport’s PA she had no recollection of sending in any such request on his behalf, but said she has made repeated requests that it should be clarified on the TAG report which councillor, TD or Minister had submitted a request.

# Careful Now!

## TedFest is back on March 3rd-6th 2022

### Inis Mór AKA Craggy Island

“Everything subject to change without notice nor comeback whether due to acts of God or straightforward incompetence”

TedFest is back from Thursday March 3rd to Sunday March 6th 2022 as Inis Mór in the Aran Islands becomes the legendary ‘Craggy Island’ once more for a weekend of high-jinx. Visitors will enjoy all the ecumenical craic that Craggy Island has to offer. While the official itinerary for TedFest 2022 hasn’t been announced yet, it has been confirmed that highlights will include the annual **Lovely Girls Competition, Ted’s Got Talent, Craggy Island’s fittest family, Matchmaking with Nellie, Priests Dance Off, The Pan Asian Zen-Off, the Father Ted Prizeless Quiz, the Craggy Cup, Blind Date** and lots more. Tickets are now available at [www.tedfest.org](http://www.tedfest.org).

Original cast members **Fr Damo (Joe Rooney)** and **Eoin McLove (Patrick McDonell)** are also

firm favourites at the event and confirmed for 2022! Willie or no willie, Craggy Island’s most beloved singer always draws a crowd – probably about seventeen million! Competition can also be rife for the coveted Lovely Girls title and organisers have lovely girls practice their lovely talents, lovely laughs, cone walking and general loveliness at all times. Ted’s Got Talent is also a big highlight.

Copious cups of tea and sandwiches, a lot of red tank-tops, nuns on the run, priests on the pull, map-cap costumes and of course a bishop getting a kick up the arse - Tedfest is Fr Ted, Ireland’s best loved TV Show celebrated. Interestingly, Tedfest was the last great festival that went ahead in 2020 before lockdown and now will

possibly be the first festival to take place post lockdown!

The music line-up is always a triumph at TedFest and Trad for Trocaire will surely bring out the dancing priests and raise some money for a good cause that won’t just ‘rest in our account’ All activity will take place at the Aran Islands hotel on Inis Mor which has the space to accommodate the Music Stages, the Craggy Craic Den and full extended line-up.

Organisers are encouraging the seventeen million repentant brethren who have never managed to tick TedFest off their bucket list to not miss out again as tickets are going fast and are limited to the amount of accommodation available on the island. TedFest is about as wild and wonderful as it gets!

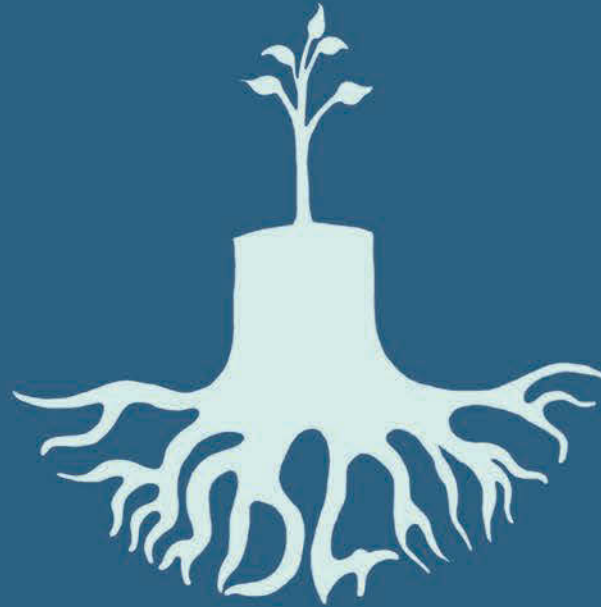


“Get them feckin crunchies out of the car”

Photo Adam Patterson.



# Restart your business



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Newsfour is a full colour, free, bi-monthly community newspaper serving Sandymount, Irishtown, Ringsend, Docklands, Pearse Street, Ballsbridge, Donnybrook and Merrion.

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We publish 6 issues per year. Each issue is in circulation for 2 months with top-ups in key areas. We estimate a readership of 32,000. NewsFour is distributed in libraries, shops, pubs, restaurants, clinics and most public gathering places in Dublin 4 and the Docklands.

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## The History of Dublin's Trams: A Rail-Life Story

**Peter McNamara**

**D**ublin City was once home to one of the most advanced and extensive tram networks in Europe. At the turn of the 20th century, Dublin United Tramways could boast of being one of the finest services on the continent, and the seventh largest system, with 330 tram cars. They were regarded as efficient and clean and, according to History Ireland, the courtesy of the staff was “legendary.” The proud men in their uniforms, motorman and conductor, were captain and crew of their street vessels as they glided along serving the citizens of Dublin. Up until the 1920s the main mode of public transportation around the city was its tramways. The service came into existence in 1865 and, according to *Moving Through Modernity: Space and Geography in Modernism*, was considered “one of the most impressive in the world” by 1904. On the old system, Dublin had pretty comprehensive coverage.

Examples of some of the routes in service at the time included: Phoenix Park to Ballsbridge, O’Connell Street to Dalkey, O’Connell Street to Howth, and Rathfarnham to Drumcondra via Harold’s Cross.. Line-laying commenced in 1871, and trams began service in 1872. Established by a number of companies, the majority of the system was eventually operated by forms of the Dublin United Tramways Company (DUTC), dominated for many years by William Martin Murphy. On that note, the tram system was also central to the Dublin Lockout, which caused major distress within the city, and despair for workers and their families.

Ireland actually came remarkably early to the city tram concept. The tram arrived in this country in the early years of railway development, and the first related projects concerned attempts to link major city train stations with a light railway. And, although some might be familiar with the celebrated his



O’Connell Street (then Sackville Street) around the turn of the century.

tory of street cars in this fair city, it may come as a surprise to learn that the first street tramway system in the world was introduced by an Irishman, John Stevenson, to New York in 1832. Originally hauled by steam, this means of propulsion was soon deemed unsafe and unacceptable. Stevenson’s horse-drawn solution became the first of its kind in the world, running from Prince Street to 14th Street and providing a fifteen minute service over a four mile route. The tram weighed two-and-a-half tons, could carry thirty passengers, and had all the appearance of an elongated stagecoach. Despite other experiments elsewhere in the world, John Stevenson’s effort was the first lasting tramway format.

At its peak, the Dublin tram system boasted over 97 km of active line – it was heavily used, profitable and advanced in technology and passenger facilities. Most of the services ran within the city centre and near suburbs. Additionally, there were two longer-range services, one reaching to Poulaphouca Falls, and two services concerning Howth. As per Stevenson’s example, the first Dublin trams were horse drawn, but near-full electrification was completed by 1901. The system had a reputation for technical innovation, and was described in 1904 reportage as “one of the most impressive in the world” – so much so that representatives of other cities would come to inspect it..

The massive balcony bogey cars with open front parts on the upper deck had canvas screens to prevent down-draughts. Combined with the gleaming polished brass ware, the varnished mahogany and flapping canvas, History Ireland recalls that they soon won the poetic nickname

out the hissing sound – common with today’s articulated trucks along with magnetic brakes usually reserved for emergencies. The motorman’s feet were also busy, clanging gongs to warn of the tram’s approach and clicking home a foot-operated ratchet to lock on the hand



A tram trundling it’s way along College Green.

of “galleons of the streets” as they “gently swayed from side to side, and lurched fore and aft.”

On Dublin trams, the driver always remained in a standing position with legs and arms held well apart to manage the controls. The left hand was on the controller, managing the speed by raising a scale of notches. Trams could reach the dizzy speed of 40mph on straight routes. The right hand was held on the handbrake column to aid slowing down at corners, coming to a halt or holding the car on an incline. Trams also had powerful air brakes which gave

brake, and even to tap a pedal to release sand onto the track for wheel-grip in wet conditions. Although more rarely used – thankfully – the foot was also the means to drop a safety screen or lifeguard to scoop up a fallen body if within braking distance. So with hands and legs on the go, the motorman went through what History Ireland describes as “a rather ritualistic dance” as he propelled his tram along.

As much as the tramways made life easier for ordinary Dubliners, carting them to work, to the shopping districts, or to other social and personal joys, the history of the Dublin Tramways

Company is not without blemish.

Under the leadership of William Martin Murphy, owner of the Irish Independent and controller of the DUTC, over 400 employers combined in the Dublin Employers’ Federation – a union of sorts – to deny the city’s underprivileged those very same rights of working together as a single group. The employers’ aim was to remove the threat of the Irish Transport and General Workers Union (ITGWU) and its message of discontent so marvellously articulated by James “Jim” Larkin, in his powerful street oratory.



The Dublin United Tramways Company was the key antagonist of Jim Larkin and Union leaders during the 1913 Lockout.

The crunch moment came on 15th August, 1913, when Murphy offered the workers in the Irish Independent’s dispatch department the choice of Union or job. When their loyalty to the Union resulted in dismissal, prompt solidarity action saw the dispute escalate with further dismissals in Eason’s and on the trams. The now-confident employers issued the infamous lockout document: physically locking out from their place of employment any worker that refused to sign a pledge to disown the ITGWU. By the end of September over 20,000 were locked out – and beginning to starve.

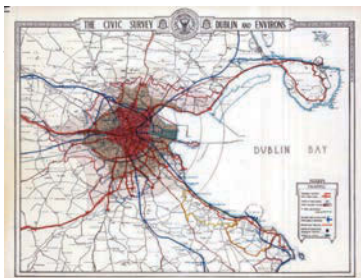


Jim Larkin.

**O**n Sunday, 31 August, the police attacked a crowd gathered to hear Larkin address them in O'Connell Street. The meeting had been banned by the authorities – the then-ruling British government. Scores were injured in the baton charge and British public opinion was shocked at the scenes. As a result of injuries received in the furore and the subsequent violence, James Nolan, James Byrne and Alice Brady paid the full measure of devotion to the cause of the workers and the underprivileged: all three were killed. Questions were raised in the House of Commons and the issue was debated at the British Trades Union Congress.

International support soon came on foot of the distress. But Larkin's "Fiery Cross" crusade in Britain only won food and material support rather than sympathetic industrial action. Both sides settled for a long attritional war through the winter, with the bosses relying on starvation and the workers on the simple message of "each for all and all for each."

In the face of uneven odds eventually Lock-Out began to crumble in January 1914. Some good came of the suffering. The Building Labourers' Union returned to work – with many others following soon afterwards – without signing the offending document.



A number of factors combined in the decline of Dublin's tram system. The DUTC opened its first bus route in 1925, running from Killester via Clontarf to the city centre. These vehicles were more nimble and mobile, and the large-scale competition meant that buses often ran the same routes as the trams and would jump in front to "grab" customers. Moreover, buses were able to move into Dublin's expanding hinterland quicker

and at less cost than the trams. Alongside this, many customers began to believe that trams were outdated and old technology.

Meanwhile, the DUTC's takeover of many bus operators left the DUTC with a large number of buses which were used and expanded to areas of Dublin with no tram service, and buses eventually became the DUTC's core business. There was a belief that buses were cheaper to run than trams and that the system was in a poor state of repair. Following the Transport Act 1944, control of the DUTC was vested in the newly formed C oras Iompair  ireann (CI ). At the time the DUTC had 113 trams remaining. The Hill of Howth Tramway was transferred to CI  in 1958 and closed on 31 May 1959. It was the last tram to run in Ireland until the Luas tram system opened in 2004.

Around the city it is still possible to see buildings associated with the system, such as the Blackrock Depot, Dartry Depot, Clonskeagh Depot, Donnybrook Depot (now part of Donnybrook Bus Garage), Dalkey Yard (some track still in-situ), the Sandymount Depot, the Marlborough Street Depot which still features the lettering DUTC – or the Power House in Ringsend.

The idea for a new tram or light rail system for the city of Dublin was first suggested in 1981, by a Dublin Transportation Initiative (DTI) report. Following this, CI  was asked to study the different options. The Trans-

### Dublin City Services—Passenger Equipment

Year	Number of Vehicles		Total Seating Capacity	Percentage Seating Capacity 1945=100	
	Trams	Buses			
		Single-deck			Double-deck
1945	93	88	267	100	
1946	93	118	273	105.8	
1947	93	118	283	108.7	
1948	58	118	369	121.5	
1949	—	122	441	122.8	
1950	—	124	457	128.4	
1951	—	109	457	128.2	
1952	—	100	478	132.8	
1953	—	100	509	141.8	
1954	—	100	509	142.1	

Towards the end of the 1940s trams went into rapid decline – first published in the Journal of Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland in 1955.



The Power House in Ringsend a tangible legacy of the hey-day of Dublin's trams

port Act, 1996 created a legal framework for CI  to build a tram system and in May 1997 the company applied for a Light Railway Order to construct the first phase. The responsibility for developing Luas was transferred from CI  to the Railway Procurement Agency (RPA), a separate government agency created in December 2001.

Construction began in March 2001 on the Tallaght to Connolly line, as well as the Sandymount to St Stephen's Green section of the second line. The development of the Luas Red Line was facilitated by European Union funding of  82.5 million under the European Regional Development Fund, and part of the cost of some line extensions

(e.g. over 50% of Line B1 to Cherrywood) was raised though levies on development in areas close to the projected route..

The original launch date for Luas was to be 2003, but delays in construction saw this date pushed back by a year. An advertising campaign took place to inform the public of the development of the system, while construction was taking place. Construction finished in February 2004 and a period of testing and driver training began. 30 June 2004 was decided on as the official launch date of the Green Line. The first tram went into service for the general public at 3 p.m. Several days of free travel and a family fun weekend took place to

launch the system. The red line opened on 26 September 2004, with six days of free travel for the general public.

Around 90,000 Luas trips are made each day. Before Luas was launched, a Safety Awareness Day was held in Dublin city centre. Thousands of reflective armbands were distributed to pedestrians and cyclists, in order to ensure their visibility for tram drivers. This policy seems to have worked as Luas has been described as "one of the safest transport systems in the world." It seems Dublin is something of a world leader yet again.

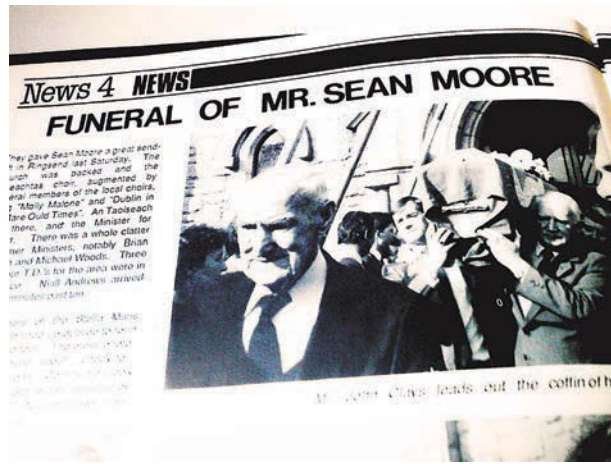
Although not quite galleons of the streets, the sleek purple-hued Daniel-Day has proved to be a cleaner, more reliable and perhaps less controversial mode of transportation for Dubliners than the trams of old. Gone are the liveries, the brass, the canvas. Here to stay are burly ticket inspectors and robotic travel announcements. We can only guess at what Larkin would have made of the Luas strike. And let's not talk about the Dublin Metro!



# Peeling Back The Pages - 1986



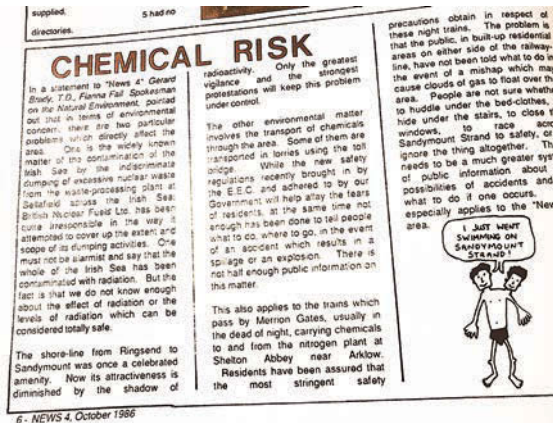
The original masthead of the paper (then News 4). But what's this I see about a 30p charge?



There was ample coverage of the funeral of Sean Moore, highly respected local TD and Councillor who passed away that year.



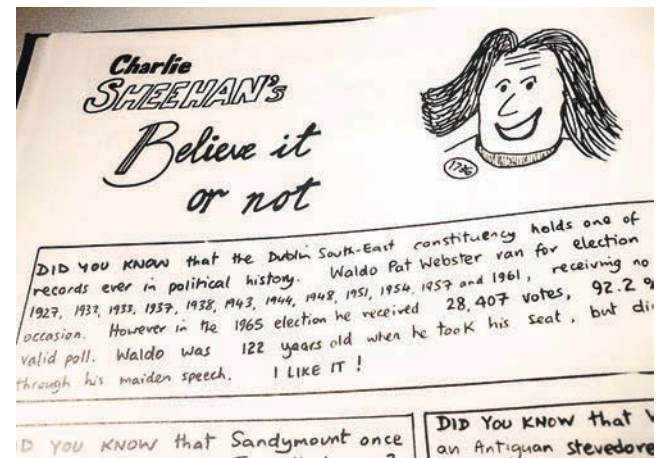
Who remembers the old Regal cinema, now Abundant Grace, Pentecostal church? In 1986 the Ringsend Community Workshop - a new initiative to provide work experience for 15-25 year olds - was officially opened in Regal House by then Minister for Labour, Ruairi Quinn, sponsored by AnCo (remember them?)



Chemical Risk is a story of a report from the then Fianna Fáil spokesman for the environment Gerard Brady, about an environmental hazard on two fronts, one from Sellafield across the water, and the other from the transportation of chemicals throughout the area. The piece was accompanied by a cartoon that read "I just went swimming on Sandymount strand." It seems some things never change!



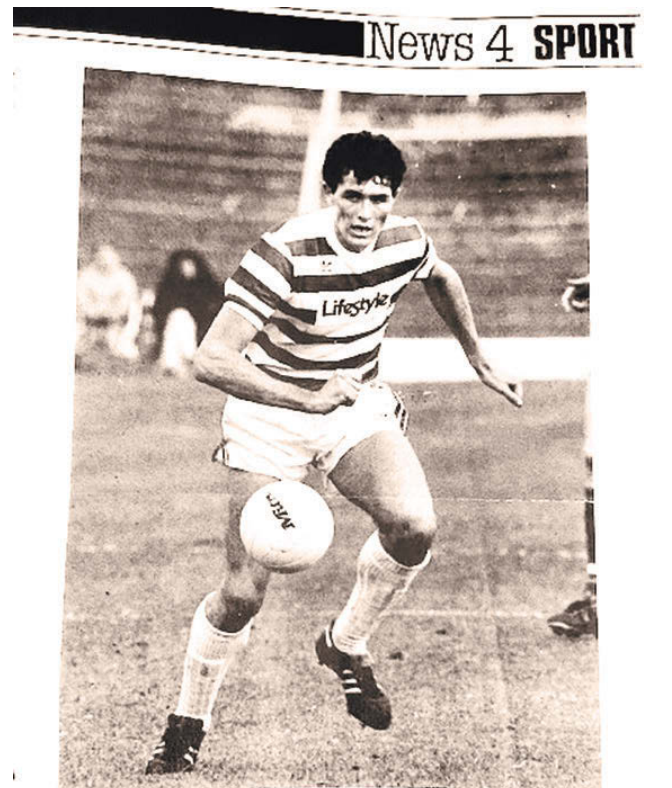
Whopper! A nice catch by sixteen year old Desmond Frazer from Bath Avenue. I wonder did they have chips with it for tea that evening?



And what happened to Charlie Sheehan's "Believe it or not" page? Charlie regaled us with tales that, shall we say, stretched credulity somewhat. Perhaps the comedy was better suited to the time.



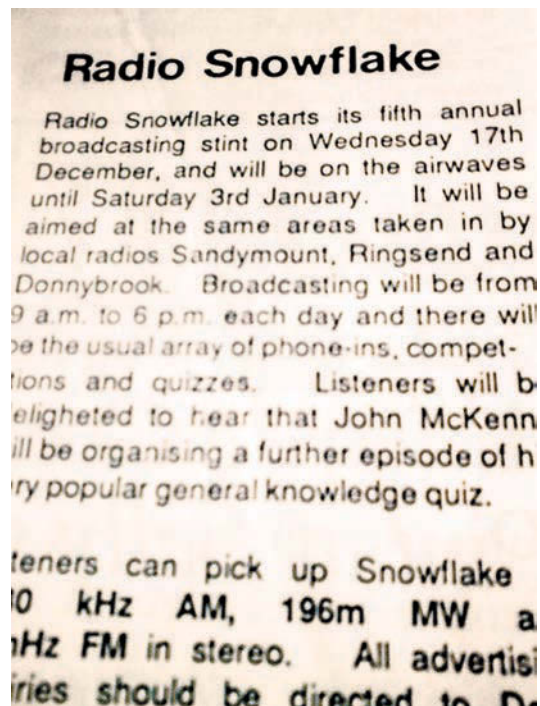
The Blades - one of the best Dublin bands of their time - story was written by journalist Rachel Doyle, who also gave us the story of another local hero, Liam O'Brien who had just signed up by MU, as well as the feature on Railway Union, still going strong.



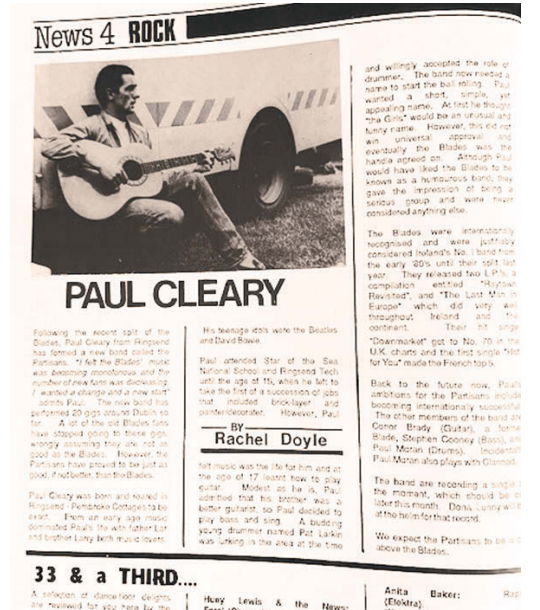
UNITED BOUND!



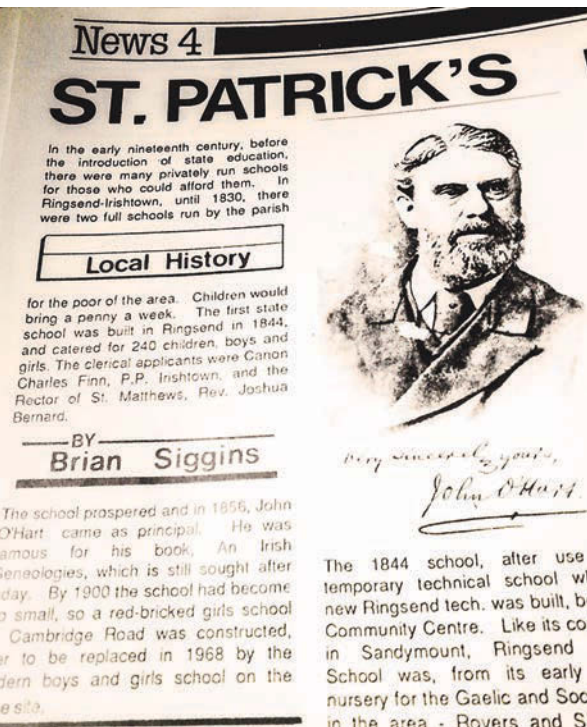
In the Christmas issue the 50th anniversary of the famous Pearse Street fire tragedy was remembered, particularly the three brave firemen who lost their lives in that event: William Malone, Peter McArdle, and Tom Nugent.



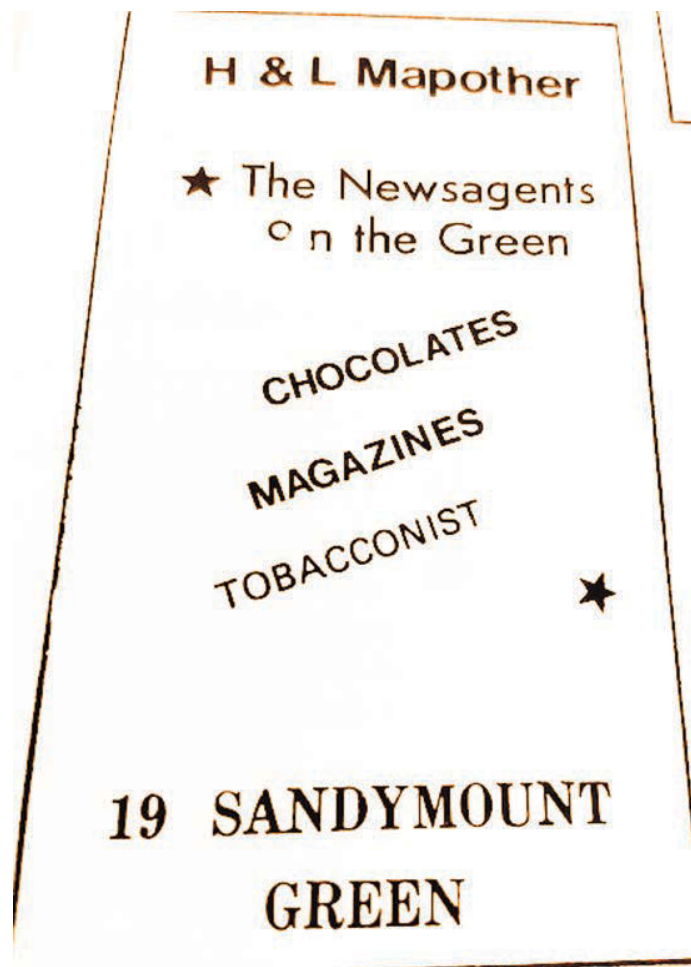
And of course that issue wouldn't be complete without mention of Snowflake Radio. Ah! The memories.



The News 4 Rock Page featured a story about Blades founder and frontman Paul Cleary. The Rock page also covered snippets on local bands as well as record reviews. This issue sang the praises of the Cocteau Twins, in particular, the voice of Eliabeth Frazer, which is described as "gloriously sweet and charming". But the writer couldn't fathom the lyrics, writing, "on the basis of these lyrics Robin and Liz must surely live in an atmospheric bedsit where they drink herbal tea and where they're surrounded by fluffy toy rabbits called Cedric and Bigwig." Hmm! Maybe it's time to bring the Rock page back.



Very interesting article by local historian Brian Siggins on schools in the area that catered for the education of the poor in the early 19th century, before state schools were introduced. Brian, author of The Great White Fair, on the Exhibition in Herbert Park, was the man who pretty much kicked off the Wood Quay excavations, as well as being father of the then editor Gerard Siggins.



Ads from yesteryear are both nostalgic and sometimes quirky. Who remembers going into Mapother's sweet shop across from the Green in Sandymount? As well as Purdy's Pantry on Serpentine Avenue? And let's not forget Sally O'Briens in Thorncastle Street, one of the first pubs in Ringsend to have live music. While this rotund gentleman appeared in all the small ads for O'Reilly's, Sandymount village, still going strong we're glad to say.

Hope you enjoyed our trip down memory lane... next time we will do it all again, this time featuring 1987.



# The “Dreway” Effect



Andrea age 12 with her beloved mum Jannette  
Andrea with her dearest Sam  
Bossmom Andrea Kirwin

■ Louise Whelan

Andrea Kirwin has an aura about her, not only is she super friendly, honest and open, she’s the kind of person that naturally radiates positivity. Andrea is an amazing beautician, an advanced skincare therapist, a semi permanent make-up specialist, and a brow and lip expert. She does collagen facials, chemical peels and microdermabrasion to name but a few and is also a single mother of two children. Her clients rave about her transformations due to her passion for the job, her sharp precision and an excellent eye for detail. Andrea uses only the best products with her clients. She was one of the first in Ireland to use the Australian brand asap skincare which she has been using for two years. Andrea is a local girl from Pearse Street who now lives in Irishtown.

But she wasn’t always so confident in herself.

Being a beautician wasn’t something that Andrea thought she was going to be, it was something she fell into. She loved school and thought she would end up being an air hostess but unfortunately her mum got sick and Andrea left school at 17 to help her at home. Sadly her mum Jannette passed away at age 38. Andrea had a job then in a factory for two years until it closed down and all of a sudden found herself wondering what she was going to do as she didn’t get to do her Leaving Certificate. So she went to FÁS for guidance and while there the idea was mooted to start a hair and beauty training course. However, the waiting list was huge, so after a walk around Grafton Street, Andrea found herself at a college called Galligans. She chanced going in and discovered they had only one spot left on their beauty course, which, as you can imagine, was really expensive. However, Andrea’s dad, Patrick Kelly, put her through college, and as well as doing the day course Andrea also studied at night to ensure she learned everything she needed. And her efforts paid off as she was awarded Student of the Year by her college, the highest award given by the college. Andrea praises the teachers there for really taking a shine to her and helping her at a time when she was going through a bad stage of her life.

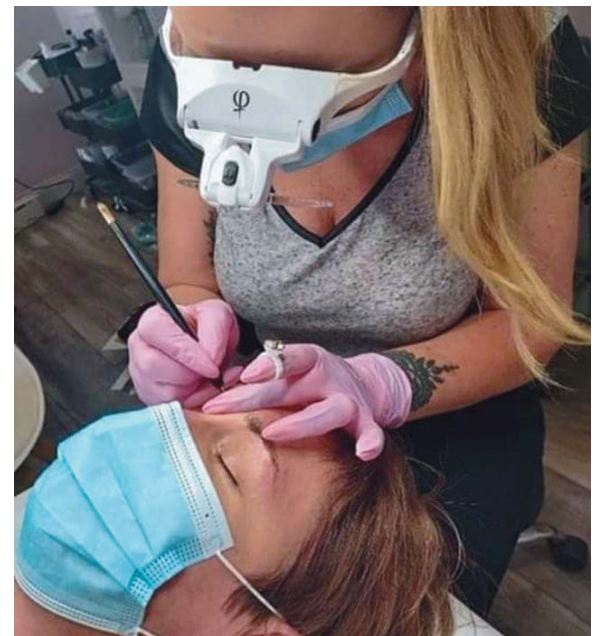
After graduating Andrea worked in Westwood, Sandymount, a luxury health club and spa. There she received further training in what was a really intense high standard working environment. This was a hard time for Andrea, having lost her best friend, her mum, and she was feeling lost and still grieving and trying to find her place in the world. Those hard times led Andrea down the wrong road because, like so many, she didn’t know how to deal with the loss. Despite loving her job, going in every day, Andrea still felt depressed and didn’t enjoy life. But things got better after having her daughter Ella (who will be 15 in May), whom she credits as her saving grace.

When Andrea was 23 and working in Lynsay’s Hair and Beauty salon in Ringsend, she noticed that most of her clients that came in were attendees of the Abundant Grace Assembly Church in Irishtown. Andrea always had a big faith in God and as a young child would go in and light candles for people. While doing a client’s eyebrows she heard about the church so Andrea decided to visit it herself. From the minute she walked through the doors she felt a sense of peace and a sense of belonging. People there loved her for who she was even in her brokenness. They taught her to go within and learn to love herself and have a relationship with God. This was a turning point in her life. Andrea met with Pastor Sharon Perry who was from Northern Ireland, and was an amazing mentor. Every year a team of young adults would come down from the North and do a summer scheme in Abundant Grace so Andrea met many like-minded people her own age which eventually led to her visiting them on the weekends up in Ballymena. Then on a whim she decided that was the life she wanted and she moved up North and went to Bible college. She also opened up her own salon with the help of Pastor Sharon, and she integrated prayer and worship music as part of her daily work and routine.



Later Andrea worked in Greystones in the prestigious salon Up To My Eyes having formed a friendship with the owner Elaine McParland after the pair met on a tattoo eyebrow course; this gave her more experience and expertise in her skill set. Andrea is a firm believer that we meet people for a reason and she speaks so highly of Elaine, like her guardian angel who always saw the potential in her, helping her rise up to be the best she can.

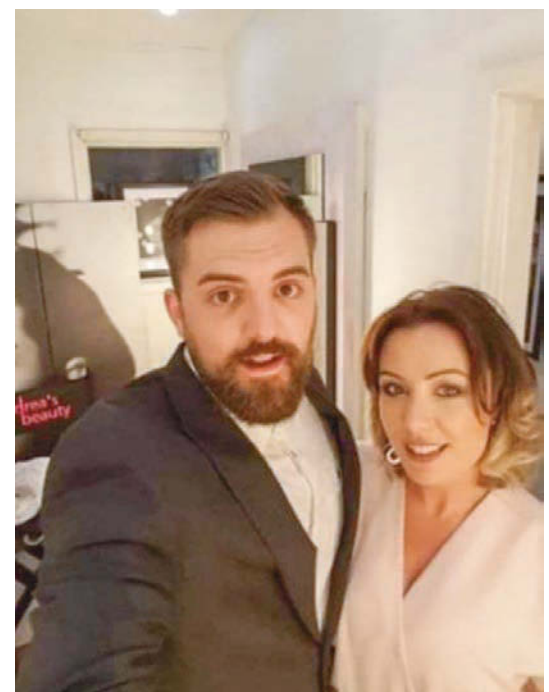
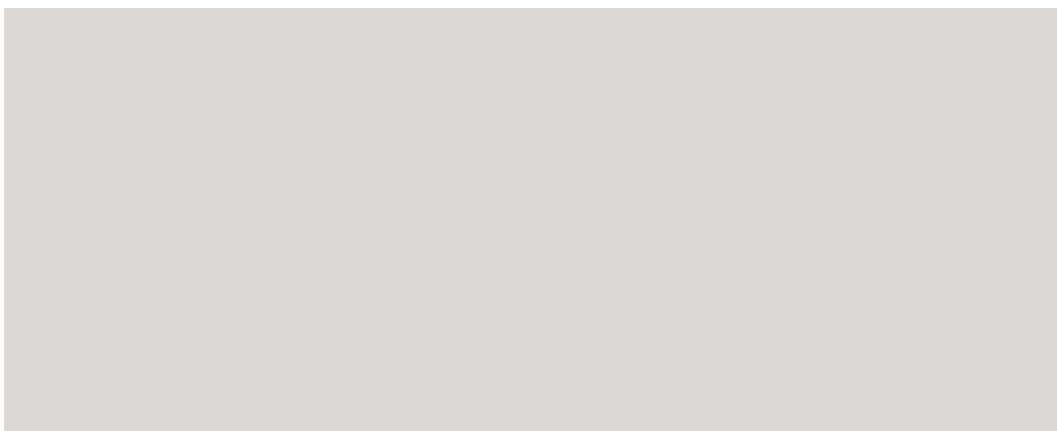
During this time Andrea met and befriended a Christian man called Sam who she ended up having a long steady relationship with. She met Sam in a church in Wales. They fell very much in love, and on a city break to Berlin got engaged and were planning a life together as a family unit. Sadly though, Sam suffered with mental health issues in his life and tragically passed away before any of that happened. Andrea decided to move back home to deal with her grief yet again and she did that with the help of people around her and her strong faith pushed her through her darkest days. That was five years ago.



Now Andrea has a beautiful 4-year-old son and she's as busy as ever, still working twice a week in Up To My Eyes salon in Greystones and also in Lloyd's pharmacy in Ringsend midweek. She also goes back and forth to the North to all her clients. Her weekends however, are spent with her children. Last year Andrea worked on herself, her self love, her mindset, her vision for the future and what she wanted her life to look like. She continuously does meditation, self image scripting, gratitude lists and will be attending courses throughout the year with her mentor Kim Calvert from Dynamite Lifestyle. Andrea joined Inner City Running Club, led by Dwayne and Carl and is now training for a half marathon. She has also put her name down to run the Barcelona city marathon in May, which she's doing as a tribute to her mum Jannette. Andrea will be the same age this year as her mum when she passed away, so this is a huge significant year for her.

Andrea's hard work, grit and steely determination, and of course her faith has seen her achieve many things and overcome many obstacles. Currently, she is in talks with Google Community Engagement in regards to the delivery of education and training in the area. This looks like a great opportunity as Andrea knows she can help so many girls get on the education and training ladder, especially those who may be vulnerable or lacking belief in themselves; with an added bonus of a journey of self discovery along the way.

So watch this space... Andrea Kirwin can be found on Facebook and Instagram on [Dreway\\_Beauty](#)



## Looking Smart – Technology You Can Wear

■ Peter McNamara

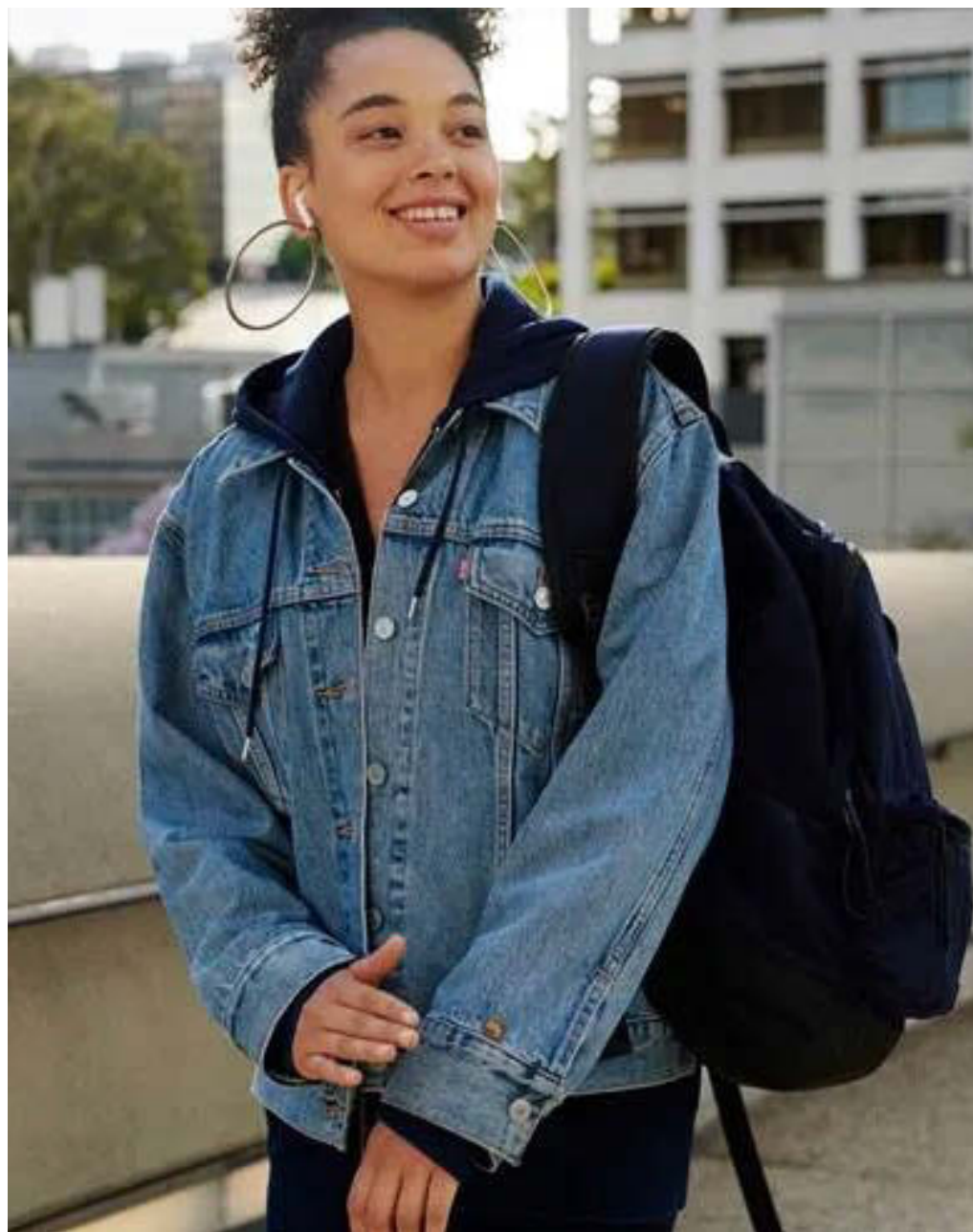
Smart clothes are those enhanced with technology to add functionality beyond traditional use. Most smart clothes are made from advanced textiles with interwoven circuitry. Sensors and additional hardware can also be embedded for further smart functionality. Also known as high-tech clothing, smart wear, smart fabrics, or electronic textiles, smart clothes can connect to apps on smartphones or devices such as laptops and PCs via bluetooth or wi-fi. Via their sensors, these garments collect activity metrics and key biometrics, depending on what functions are programmed to perform. The data is then sent to AI-powered apps.

You might have already heard the term “wearable” – that actually refers to fitness trackers, such as those made by Garmin or Fitbit. “Wearable” is also used when talking about high-tech accessories such as smartwatches, like the Apple Watch. Smart clothes refer only to advanced clothing such as swimsuits, shorts, t-shirts, or hats (like bluetooth beanies).

In general, due to the extra costs required to embed technology in smart clothes, they’re much pricier than traditional clothing. After first popping to the surface in 2015, the “e-textile and smart clothing” market segment is still looming in the sidelines. That said, more and more companies are using innovative technology to create connected garments. Will they become part of the fabric of society? The businesses that make them would certainly like to have it all sewn up!

### Athletic Androids

Under Armour have come up with an interesting Athlete Recovery clothing line. This garment absorbs heat from the body and then reflects it back onto the wearer’s skin. The absorbed heat is converted into far-infrared light, and recent studies show how important infrared light is for the human body. Overall, if



Thanks to Levi’s new smart jacket, this person is spared the humiliation of reaching into her pocket to change the song. That smile is genuine!

you’re a top-level athlete looking to enhance your muscle recovery and relaxation, this is a must-have smart clothing piece.

Athos is a patented system that can measure exactly how hard your muscles are working. The science of EMG (Electromyography) is combined with powerful AI and a mobile app gives you insights to truly understand how your body performs. The system has helped athletes at all levels train better and smarter, whatever your goal.

### Clothes that Alter You

Most fitness-related items of wearable technology that we’ve seen so far have monitored biometrics and tracked data about workouts, but that doesn’t mean it’s the only way in which technology can be used in the sports world.

The FITGuard is a mouth guard which is designed to be worn by sportsmen and women who enjoy potentially dangerous sports such as rugby or hurling. This mouth guard measures the impact of blows which the wearer receives, alerting the medics and team officials if the blow is so hard that it might require medical attention. Given the ongoing concerns around player concussions, and undetected brain damage, the FITGuard could end up saving lives.



FITGuard’s collision detection system might help athletes avoid injuries

The smart clothes with the most profound potential benefits might be those developed for people with some kind of physical impairment. Enter VEST. It won’t come as a surprise to learn that the VEST is, in fact, a vest. This is taking wearable technology in a literal sense, mirroring foundation garments rather than just being a fashion accessory. However, far from being boring, arguably the VEST (which stands for Versatile Extra-Sensory Transducer) is having a more worthwhile impact on the

world than most of the other items on this list. This wearable vest uses technology to combine different sensors in the wearer. In other words they learn to associate various touches with certain words or objects. In turn, this is changing the lives of blind and deaf people; this technology has already allowed people who have lost their sight to conquer an obstacle course, so it really is opening up a whole new world of possibilities.



The super-smart VEST could genuinely change the lives of the physically impaired.

Likewise, the medical field is one of the most intriguing and fascinating areas into which wearable technology is expanding. None more so than the Quell, which is a powerful, effective pain reliever that is entirely drug-free. It is a small, unassuming strap which wraps around the painful limb in question. It stimulates nerves, and in doing so the brain is tricked into releasing chemicals that relieve pain. This remarkable piece of wearable technology could change the lives of millions of chronic pain sufferers around the world forever.

### The Emperor’s New (Smart) Clothes

Some ideas are less useful. Bely is a motorised belt buckle which automatically loosens or tightens depending on how much you eat, bloat or grow. There’s no longer any need to undo your top button after the Christmas dinner, because this belt does all the hard work for you

Branded as a “window into your dog’s day”, the Whistle is a device which can be strapped to their collar which tracks their movement, location and fitness levels. It seems as though this is the first step towards bringing our pets into the health conscious 21st Century as well. Good for them, I suppose.!



Levis has jumped on the bandwagon with its own “commuter trucker jacket”. By building touch and gesture sensitive areas on the jacket sleeve, wearers are able to interact with a variety of services including music and map apps. You can dismiss phone calls with a swipe or double-tap to get directions – all without reaching for your phone. I’m amazed humanity has gotten this far without it.

The Neviano UV Protect swimsuit collection is equipped with a removable medallion-style waterproof sensor that stops you from staying too long in the sun. Once you’ve entered your skin type in the companion iOS or Android smartphone app, it’ll monitor the temperature throughout the day. Then, it sends out warnings when it is time to apply more sunscreen or get into the shade. It seems to this reporter that those in need of such a suit to deliver basic health and safety instructions might be worth culling from the herd altogether. Research resources might be better spent elsewhere.

Some developments are more scary than silly. Contactless payment is nothing new in the world of technology – simply place your bank card over a sensor and the payment comes straight off. The scheming folk at Barclaycard have taken this one step further by turning contactless payment systems into something wearable, in the form of a wrist strap. There isn’t even a need to get the card out anymore, because in many ways the strap acts like a card itself. There has been some discussion over whether or not this will enable fraudsters. It seems people are happy to take the risk so they wear their filthy lucre.

Google Glass is a brand of smart glasses, an optical head-mounted display designed in the shape of a pair of glasses. It was developed by X (previously Google X) with the mission of producing a ubiquitous computer. If the increasingly less fictional film ‘Terminator’ is coming to anyone’s mind, you’re not alone. Google Glass displays information in a smartphone-like, hands-free format. Wearers communi-



Tired of nearly burning yourself to death on holidays? The Neviano UV Protect swimsuit will take care of your basic self-preservation needs!



The Nadi X yoga pants could be the only yoga instructor you’ll ever need.

cate with the Internet via natural language voice commands. Indeed, there would be no escape.

Google started selling a prototype of Google Glass to qualified “Glass Explorers” in the US way back in 2013, for a limited period for \$1,500, before it became available to the public soon afterward. Arriving as it did with a 5 megapixel video camera, the headset received immediate criticism. Concerns have been raised by various sources regarding the intrusion on privacy, and the etiquette and ethics of using the device in public and recording people without their permission. Privacy advocates are also concerned that people wearing such eyewear may be able to identify strangers in public using facial recognition, or surreptitiously record and broadcast private conversations.

Google co-founder, Sergey Brin, claims that Glass could be seen as a way to become more connected and less isolated in public. Brin views checking social media as a constant “nervous tic”, which is why Glass



can notify the user of important notifications and updates and does not obstruct the line of sight, thank goodness for that.

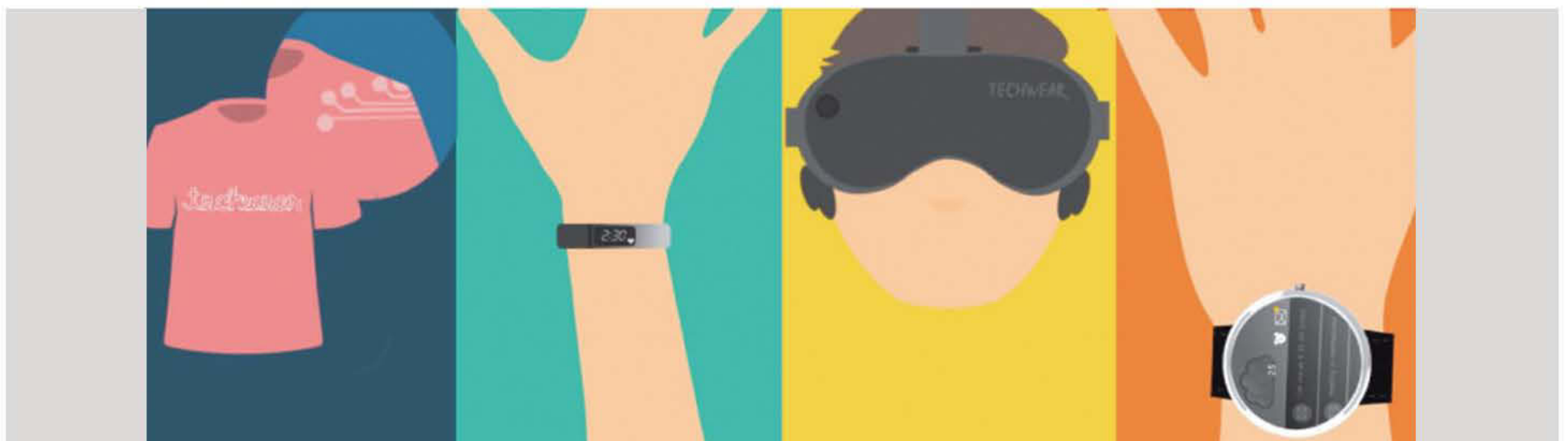
Some companies in the US have posted anti-Google Glass signs in their establishments. Far from being courageous “glass explorers”, users have been bestowed the nickname of “Glassholes.” It seems that people can see right through Google’s latest ploy for world domination.



While some of these developments seem already essential, Belty is something that humanity might do well without.



“Wearable” fitness trackers, made by Garmin, Fitbit & Apple.



## Jumpers for Goalposts - Charity Football Match



Reilly Saul pictured with Shamrock Rovers player Sean Gannon with the league trophy

**Louise Whelan**

Ringsend has a very rich heritage when it comes to football and it is steeped in football tradition. Legends are born in Ringsend, if you didn't already know. Pride of Ringsend SC are a Shamrock Rovers Supporters' Club and back in December they decided to run their own 'Jumpers for Goalposts' charity football match in Ringsend Park, with all proceeds from donations and a raffle going to Mental Health Ireland. This game was to try to get as many people together in a safe environment and motivate those who may have been struggling throughout the pandemic to have a kickabout and a chat.

The J4G is a new volunteer run movement that encourages men of different ages, races, backgrounds and abilities to come together for an old fashioned game of football using 'jumpers for goalposts'. The idea is the brainchild of Ballybrack mental health activist Keith Kelly. What was originally a one-off game, has since evolved into a campaign that has reached all corners of the island, raising awareness for mental health. It follows the success of a poem and video that Keith created for World Mental Health week back in 2018. In the poem, Keith talks about his fond memories of a life lived outdoors away

from mobile phones and computer games, when large groups would throw down their jumpers to make goalposts and spend the day playing football together. The video attracted a huge response which got Keith thinking about the possibility of recreating that experience in the form of a casual Sunday morning game of football in Ballybrack. What followed was the beginning of something special.

Approximately 65 men from their 30s through to their 70s responded, all keen to come together, have a laugh and enjoy a bit of fresh air and community spirit without taking themselves too seriously. Many of them hadn't seen each other in years. Some had been through hardships including depression, bereavement, illness, addiction, separation and more, but they all had the same goal, to get out and about and enjoy a bit of craic through social connection. Players could choose to play for just a few minutes or for an entire match. The main thing was to keep it lighthearted, inclusive, non-competitive and enjoyable for all. So it's no surprise that Ringsend with its solid community and love of football wanted

to join in and do their own charity match on December 11th. Great numbers turned up on the day from the eager young kids to the older men. Local footballers from the local teams as well as players from far afield.

There was a great buzz in the air with the camaraderie that you find on a football pitch, the back and forth slagging and banter, the oohs and ahhs when it's almost a goal, the roars and cheers when it is a goal, the patting of the back for a well-done mate, the hand stretched out ready to help up a fallen player and the team effort on both sides coming together for the love of the game and encouraging the young lads to show their skills and even score their own goals against a very agile goalkeeper! I'm sure there's still a debate going on though over who got the last goal.

But everyone was welcome and made to feel included, no matter what level they were at. Even local Sinn Fein TD Chris Andrews got in for a quick kickabout. The team spirit was amazing, it was like having an extra family, and the sup-

port was second to none. Playing football also improves general fitness. When you're out on the pitch you forget that you're exercising, you forget any troubles you might have. You just become so focused on having fun with your mates and relishing in sharing a common interest that boosts confidence in all ages, something we need more of.

Speaking to Keith afterwards, he said "It doesn't matter what ability you have, people who have been playing here with their grandfathers, their fathers and the people that played here today will go off somewhere and share the story of what happened here today with their grandparents." He also mentioned about the positive impact that football has on mental health, saying he struggled himself the past month but for him, the journey here, and the excitement is just brilliant for creating so much positivity and building mental wellbeing. He also praised Ciaran Stafford and all the organisers calling them

'champions' and added that he hopes the local clubs can build on this themselves and get the young people out playing football and away from the video games, that a lot of the young kids here today will go home to their mates and say, "Let's go out for a kickabout." Justin Mason and Donal Dunne who are on the committee for Shamrock Rovers SC both agreed that it is such a simple, but brilliant idea. "It's great for the community, it's getting people involved in something and it's something that we're going to look into doing annually from now on as you can see what it means to people to just get out," said Justin. Donal also spoke about how tough it can be for some men saying, "Men don't necessarily speak about their feelings but looking for help is never a weakness, if anything it is a strength and if we can raise awareness from today in other places, then it's been a very successful day."

Following on from the game, there was a chance to lift the Airtricity League Trophy won by Shamrock Rovers, in the Irishtown House where the raffle was held and also a draw to win a league-winning jersey from footballer Sean Gannon. Shamrock Rovers SC thanked all their sponsors, the Irishtown House, St Pats and Cambridge FC, for the facilities in Irishtown Stadium, and to everyone who played football and donated to such a worthy cause. Special mention went to Keith Kelly for his fantastic initiative and for coming up with such a simple, effective idea that works so well.



Keith Kelly's Poem

No more jumpers thrown down, such a pity, such a shame.  
 It's just a field now, not a ball to be seen,  
 It's places like this where someone spotted Roy Keane.  
 I dunno anymore – kids just don't seem to care,  
 Up in their rooms on consoles, most probably stuck to a chair.  
 In my day it was get a ball, 'n throw some jumpers down,  
 No stepovers, diving or anyone actin' the clown.  
 Some dreamed of being Keegan, Coppell or Brady,  
 Ghetto blaster on, 'n it wasn't playing slim shady.  
 18 lads here, it's gonna be good – but tough,  
 This was long before the days of Houghton, Quinn or Duff.  
 A collection of players from the neighbouring estates,  
 A time when ball was more important than going on dates.  
 Ye that mixture all added a bitta extra bite,  
 Plenty of scuffles, Offsides, but never a fight.  
 "You're in goals" someone said, "No, it's nearest to the net".  
 Not a whistle in sight, barely time to get set.  
 "I'll get in for one, but you're in next"  
 Totally free as kids, no phones or text.  
 God, when I think of the footwear on show,  
 Gola, Dunlop and Sizzlers OH NO.  
 In later days we'd all wear the Adidas TRX trainer,  
 They looked so cool, it really was a no-brainer.  
 "Goal," he shouted and then jumped for joy,  
 Others screamed, "No" as the ball soared way up into the sky.  
 Who won? Ya see it wasn't about the final score,  
 It had been about 8 hrs since I'd left my front door.  
 As darkness fell, 'n we wondered where the day had gone,  
 It was because someone had said, "Ah keep playin, next goal, come on"  
 Elbows, fair shoulders and tackles that'd give ya a fright,  
 But we all went home pals at the end of the night.  
 I know times have changed, that's for sure,  
 Technology me arse. It ain't been a cure.  
 You can decide if it's better or worse,  
 The playstation, xbox, I think they're a curse.  
 So many friendships, born outta the beautiful game,  
 No more jumpers thrown down, such a pity, such a shame.  
 It's just a field now, not a ball to be seen,  
 I dunno when we'll find another Roy or Robbie Keane.



The Jumpers for Goalposts charity football match raised an amazing €1,672 for Mental Health Ireland. So well done to all concerned.

## Reg Ryan - The Schemer

■ Gavan Bergin

Reg Ryan was born in Dublin in October 1925. He lived in the Marino area of Dublin until the late 1930s, when he emigrated with his family to England.

Reg was very good at sports. He played Gaelic football in Ireland, then when he moved to England he took up soccer. He played schoolboy football for Blackpool FC, then works football (a sports team that is financed and owned by a manufacturer or business) for the Sunbeam Cars factory team in Coventry. By the time he was sixteen he had a reputation as one of the best young players around. Sheffield United took him on trial in 1941, then Nottingham Forest trialed him in 1942. Coventry City FC signed him up in April 1943.

At that time, due to the Second World War, the Football League had been reorganised into various regional 'wartime' leagues. Coventry were in the Midland Regional League when Reg made his debut for them during the 1942/43 season. But though the wartime leagues may not have been up to the standard of the Football League, the time Reg spent at that level made him a much better player. He had arrived as a promising amateur, but he left the club as a professional footballer.

In April 1945, West Bromwich Albion paid Coventry the transfer fee of £750 to sign Reg. Back then, £750 was no small amount to pay for a player who was untested in top level football. But Reg immediately started to prove that he was worth the money. He played 17 matches for West Brom during the 1945/46 season of the Football League South. That was the last season of the wartime leagues, and West Brom were back in the Football League for the 1946/47 season.

That meant that Reg was a Football League player at last. He made his league debut for West Brom against Chesterfield on April 7th 1947, and he played five of West Brom's last ten league matches of the

'46/'47 season. Reg was working his way towards becoming a regular starter for West Brom. He played 28 league matches over the next two seasons, and he did his part in achieving success for West Brom.

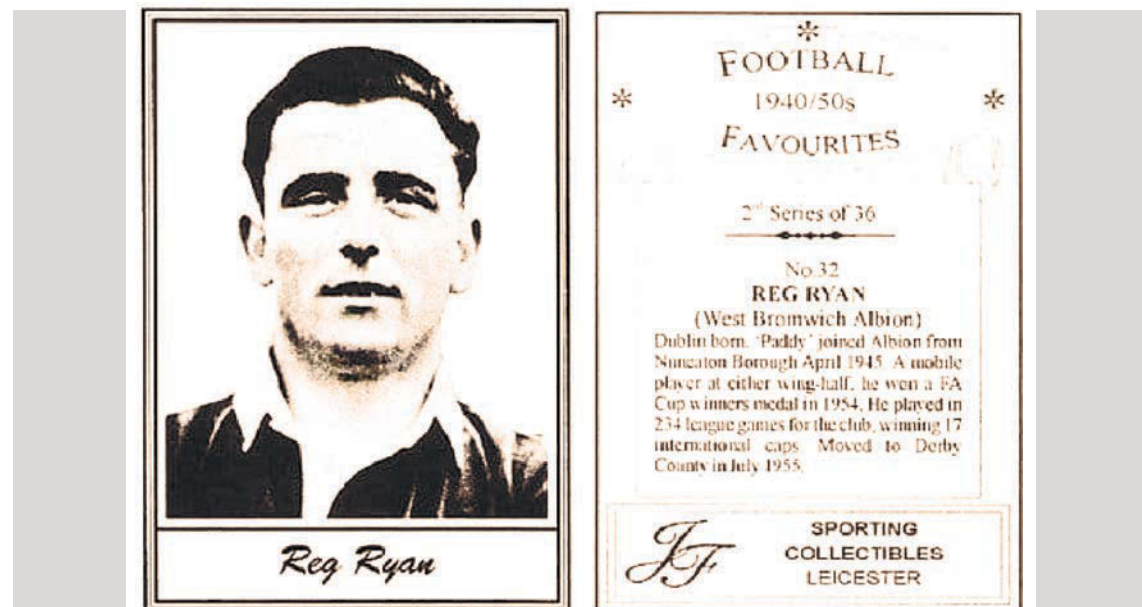
On September 15th 1948, two weeks into the '48/'49 season, Reg scored his first Football League goal in a 3-0 win against Lincoln City. That vic-

tor kicked off a run of good form for West Brom, who won eight and drew one of their next nine games. They went top of the league in October 1948, and they were still top in January 1949. They ended up in second place, earning promotion to the First Division. But they hadn't been earning many points from matches they played. They went into the last month of the season having taken only one win from their previous ten games.

By the end of March 1950 they

goal and giving West Brom the lead, Reg got to work helping them to defend it. And, despite the constant waves of Portsmouth attacks that fell on them, Reg and West Brom stood firm. They held on like grim death to that one goal advantage. They held their lead and didn't let go until the final whistle sounded and they had their victory. The newspapers were clear about who they had to thank for it.

he made his name with West Brom playing in the left-half position, as one of the three midfielders in the 2-3-5 formation that teams used in those days. The job of the left-half was to link between defence and attack, and it was a job Reg was perfectly suited to. He had endless energy, sharp defensive awareness, a sure touch on the ball with left foot or right, and he was an exceptionally fast runner. When his side were under attack he used his pace and determination to dash back, harry the opposition and win back the ball; then once he was in possession his uncommon physical strength, quick feet and excellent control made him a hard man to catch, let alone to dispossess. And he was as valuable to his team when they were going forward. His swift, forceful running on and off the ball made him a menace to opposition defences, and his powerful, accurate shooting and phenomenal heading ability meant he was always a threat on goal.



tor kicked off a run of good form for West Brom, who won eight and drew one of their next nine games. They went top of the league in October 1948, and they were still top in January 1949. They ended up in second place, earning promotion to the First Division.

Although Reg had done fairly well that season, he hadn't yet become a regular starter for West Brom in the Second Division, and when he wasn't selected by West Brom for the first few matches of the 1949/50 season, things didn't look good for him.

But Reg was not out of the team for long: he made his First Division debut in West Brom's sixth match of the season against Arsenal on September 7th 1949. He played a good game that day, and went on to play 36 consecutive league and cup matches for West Brom. He didn't miss a single game for them between September 1949 and April 1950. By then, Reg had become a favourite with the supporters at West Brom's home ground, the Hawthorns, and he had established himself as a player in the First Division. But West Brom were having a tricky time

were in 17th place, only three points above the relegation zone with four weeks of the season remaining. Although that was a perilous position to be in, they still had eight games left from which to earn the points needed to get out of trouble. But they hadn't been earning many points from matches they played. They went into the last month of the season having taken only one win from their previous ten games.

When their dismal form continued with two more defeats at the start of April, the drop was looming for West Brom. They had a tough job to do, and it started with the hardest game possible. On April 8th, 1950, they were away to the best team in England, the reigning champions Portsmouth. The match kicked off in stormy weather that made it difficult for both sides to play, but Portsmouth had much the better of it and West Brom seemed to be on a hiding to nothing. Then, in the 76th minute, Reg Ryan stepped up and hit a shot from thirty yards that flashed past the Portsmouth keeper and into the net, making it 1-0 to West Brom. After scoring that important

The Warwickshire Sports Argus reported: "In a game upset by high wind, the champion Portsmouth team had their chances to score against West Brom, who struggled until Reg Ryan scored with a grand shot that gave Albion the points."

The victory turned out to be vital for West Brom. It lifted them from 17th to 15th place in the league and set them on a magnificent run of form. In their last six matches of the season they went unbeaten, winning four and drawing two, without conceding a single goal. They ended up finishing 14th in the league, comfortably mid-table and well clear of the relegation zone. That was a more than decent end result for West Brom. They had shown that they were up to the challenge of First Division football. In the end the 1949/50 season was a good one for West Brom - and it was a good one for Reg too. He proved that he had what it took to make it as a top-level player.

Reg was not a big man, but he was sturdy and tough and fiercely competitive. No one ever pushed him around on the pitch.

However, the attribute that made Reg most dangerous in attacking areas was his excellence as a passer of the ball. Passing, long and short, forwards, backwards and sideways. And whether it was a simple square pass to retain possession, or a glorious defence-splitting, goal-making through ball, passing was his top skill, his speciality.

### End of Part One

Don't miss the next exciting installment of 'Reg Ryan - the Schemer' in the April/May edition of NewsFour.

## Old Wesley gain important lead in All Ireland League

On January 22 past Old Wesley extended their lead in AIL Division 1B with a 21-16 win over Banbridge. 2nd placed Highfield lost out to Armagh meaning Old Wesley are now 6 points clear at the top.

Old Wesley had the better of the opening exchanges spending much of the first 10 minutes inside the Banbridge half. However there were to be no early scores despite having a promising 5 metre line out and an off-target penalty goal attempt by Ian Cassidy. Then with 13 minutes on the clock spectators, and indeed some of the players, were caught by surprise. A fairly innocent Banbridge line out inside their 22 was overthrown. Cronan Gleeson picked up the loose ball and passed to Iain McGann who had a fairly simple stroll in to score the first try of the match. Cassidy converted.

Five minutes later it was the home side's turn when they had the Wesley pack under big pressure near their line. With their pack in reverse gear due to a powerful Banbridge maul, Wesley were forced to revert to

desperate measures. But they did so illegally and the referee awarded a penalty try, together with a yellow card for Reuben Pim. With the numbers advantage Banbridge now looked to exploit the situation. However their enthusiasm did not last long as Wesley upped their defence levels. Indeed it was Wesley who benefited most from this vital 10-minute period with a Cassidy penalty goal being the only score. Cassidy extended the lead to 6 points shortly after.

With half time approaching Tommy O'Callaghan looked like he might emulate his 'length of the pitch' run from last week to score another try, but a forward pass quelled the opportunity. But Banbridge had the last say of the half with an Adam Doherty penalty kick, leaving the score 13-10 to Old Wesley at half time.

Banbridge looked like they might score early in the second half after a mis-struck clearance kick. Wesley kept their line intact but conceded a penalty. However Doherty missed the relatively straightforward

effort. A fine break by James O'Donovan then brought play into the Banbridge 22. Good forward carries brought play close to the goal line and a number of forwards came very close to grounding. The honour eventually went to Josh Pim powering over 10 metres in from touch after running a penalty. For the first time in the match there was more than one score between the two sides. Approaching the final 10 minutes, Doherty got it back to a one score match with a pen-

alty and in the last five minutes Cassidy and Doherty exchanged penalties. With the game in injury time a break down the right wing by Conor Gaston gave Wesley an outside hope of a late try, but it came to nothing with the opposition defence forcing the attack to run out of space.

This was a valuable win for Old Wesley. Despite their lowly league position Banbridge are no mean side and are worth more than their 9th place.

Old Wesley Team:

Alex Molloy, Tommy O'Callaghan, Eoin Deegan, James O'Donovan, David Poff, Ian Cassidy, Ben Murphy, Cronan Gleeson, Ben Burns, Harry Noonan, JJ O'Dea, Iain McGann (capt), Alastair Hoban, Josh Pim, Reuben Pim. Replacements: Howard Noonan, Jacob Barrett, Sam Pim, Conor Gaston, Paddy McKenzie, Charlie O'Regan.



Old Wesley Scorers: Tries: Iain McGann, Josh Pim; Cons: Ian Cassidy; Pens Ian Cassidy (3) against Banbridge.



Old Wesley Scorers: Tries: Cronan Gleeson, Tommy O'Callaghan (2), Alex Molloy Cons: Ian Cassidy (3) against Armagh.

## Old Wesley take on Armagh in All Ireland League in Donnybrook

After a five-week gap Old Wesley returned to AIL rugby in January with a return fixture against City of Armagh at Donnybrook. Prior to kick-off both teams and spectators observed a minute's silence in memory of Paddy Bewley, a Life Member of Old Wesley, Paddy Horan, father of Old Wesley coach and former Captain, Darren Horan, and Ashling Murphy, who died in tragic circumstances during the week.

The match started in lively fashion with both sides looking to run the ball and create attacking moves. Ten minutes in Old Wesley were starting to show a little dominance but when the opposition kicked ahead a loose ball they looked to be heading for a try. The try was stopped short of the line but it led to a penalty under the posts. Armagh's Kyle Faloon stepped up and had no difficulty in kicking the first 3 points of the match. Wesley responded quickly. From a line out on the opposi-

tion 22 they mauled and carried the ball to the goal line where Cronan Gleeson, with the help of the pack, bundled over for the first try of the match. Ian Cassidy converted for a 7-3 lead.

Moments after the restart a wonderful break by Alex Molloy had play back up to the Armagh 22. Quick recycled ball and a neat cross kick found Tommy O'Callaghan. Taking the catch at pace he out-sprinted two defenders to touch down in the corner. Wesley continued to call the shots and paid a couple more visits to the Armagh 22, however it didn't affect the scoreboard. The Ulster side eventually got into the game following a couple of penalties conceded by Wesley. One of the penalties also meant a yellow card for Ben Burns for a deliberate knock on. This spurred on Armagh and when they kicked a penalty to find touch five metres out a try looked on the cards, especially with the extra man. The Wesley defence looked as if

they had done just about enough to hold the line but the pressure eventually told and Neil Faloon got over for a try. A few minutes later a kick ahead had the Wesley defence in desperate straits once again, with David Poff saving the day with a kick to touch near the line. Still with the extra man the impetus remained with Armagh. But when a maul was held up Wesley earned a scrum and kicked to touch for half time Score 12-8 to Old Wesley.

Two minutes into the second half there was another yellow card for a deliberate knock-on. But this time it was against Armagh with Kyle Faloon having to temporarily leave the pitch. Now back to 15 and after a powerful carry by Ben Burns the ball was passed out the back line where Molloy took a neat pass and crossed unopposed to score under the posts. Cassidy again converted for a 19-8 lead.

Armagh tried their best to respond but a knock on denied

them any form of a score. Wesley then flirted with the goal line, kicking a couple of penalties to touch inside the 22 but neither led to a score. As the hour mark approached Armagh were doing their utmost to put together some attacking moves until an intercept pass was picked up by O'Callaghan. Urged on by his team mates and spectators he sprinted over 60 metres, and crossed the line untouched to claim the bonus point try. Cassidy converted making it 26-8.

There was no way back for the visitors and with Wesley now playing with huge confidence another try or two looked imminent. And there should have been more with Armagh rarely getting back into the Wesley half for the remainder of the game. Four times in the last 15 minutes Wesley kicked penalties to touch within eight metres of the opposition line. But on each occasion a knock on or loss of possession cost them a score. And so the score remained

unchanged until full time.

This was a well-engineered win and bodes very well for the remaining matches in the league. The win promoted Old Wesley to top of Division 1B, three points clear of Highfield, with the latter only managing a draw in their fixture. Happy days in an otherwise gloomy times

Old Wesley Team:

Alex Molloy, Tommy O'Callaghan, Jack Costigan, James O'Donovan, David Poff, Ian Cassidy, Ben Murphy, Cronan Gleeson, Ben Burns, Sam Kenny, JJ O'Dea, Iain McGann (capt), Alastair Hoban, Josh Pim, Reuben Pim. Replacements: Howard Noonan, Harry Noonan, Jacob Barrett, Sam Pim, Paddy Mckenzie, Charlie O'Regan.

Image: courtesy of Ken Richardson/Old Wesley

# Crusaders Athletic Club Happy 80th Birthday!

The Crusaders Athletic Club was founded exactly 80 years ago and has been going from strength to strength ever since.

We have been situated in the Irishtown/Ringsend area for our entire existence but Irishtown Stadium has been our home for the last 22 years. We helped to build the track there and recently have built a new building which contains changing rooms for St Pats and an indoor track and gym for ourselves.

We hope to run some more community based programmes and classes in the future and give back to the local community that has supported us for so long.

## CRUSADERS ATHLETIC CLUB



### A tribute to Ashling Murphy

On January 20 our members got together in memory of Ashling Murphy. After a period of silent contemplation, prayer and reflection, we ran five miles along the strand in honour of Ashling, a runner, and as a show of solidarity to all runners.

We also ran a fundraiser in aid of Women's aid which at present stands at €350.

Website - [CrusadersAC.ie](http://CrusadersAC.ie)

We at NewsFour say well done to all at Crusaders Athletic and may they keep going for another 80 years.

All images courtesy of Crusaders Athletic Club



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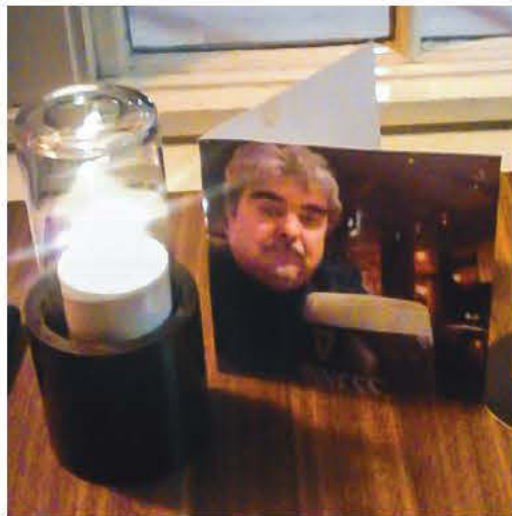
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Martin McGibney, of Inchicore and later Donnybrook who passed away suddenly before Christmas. A true friend to all who knew him. May he rest in peace.

“Let this be a loving reminder  
That someone is missing today  
Someone our hearts shall hold on to  
As we travel along life’s way.  
Someone who made life so special  
For all those who gather here  
Someone who won’t be forgotten  
But cherished year to year.”

*Lisa McNevin*

Annie Dunne, 1st anniversary 6th April...In loving memory of our dear Mam.

“Your name is always spoken,  
We talk about you still.  
You have not been forgotten,  
And you know you never will.”

Sadly missed by your loving family: Alan, Karl, Karen, and very special friend Pat – always in our thoughts and prayers.



Today we have just learned of the worst possible news. We have to inform everybody that our oldest and true Paddy’s club member Jimmy Purdy has so sadly passed away.

Jimmy had so many friends in the whole of the east coast rowing clubs. He would always go around the rowers at the regattas. He was a great moral booster to all the rowers in the Paddy’s club. We send our condolences to Jimmy’s family. RIP JIMMY. You will be so sadly missed in our club.



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