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CALLS TO RESTORE COUNCIL'S CUSTOMER CARE WALK-IN SERVICE

Cllrs William Carey and Derren Ó Brádaigh have called upon South Dublin County Council to reverse their decision to restrict "Customer Care" opening hours to the public.

SDCC have recently cut back the opening hours of their customer care desk to 2 hours per day (10am -12pm). This is despite the heavy footfall of activity at SDCC offices for assistance by the public. Previously the customer care desk was open to the public, both in the morning, and the afternoon (10-12pm

& 2-4pm). Customers who had difficulty accessing council services by phone or have issues with addressing services online quite often present at SDCC offices seeking information, register their complaints and make maintenance requests. The cut back in opening hours follows recent statements from SDCC management that services continue to move to their digital platforms. They are encouraging more engagement of services through the online portal.

According to Cllr Carey "There is an obvious need to

maintain the public facility that is one-to-one Customer Care. Slashing the opening hours will simply mean doubling the queues at the offices in both Clondalkin and Tallaght. The other aspect to be considered here is very often people may not be able to attend the offices in the mornings due to work commitments and can only attend later in the day.

The issue is further exacerbated by the council refusing to take new maintenance request either by email or telephone and to make matters worse are

now apparently denying public representatives the opportunity to make requests on their behalf as these are the primary method of request by public representatives such as TDs and Cllrs.

Also remarking on this decision Cllr Ó Brádaigh stated "The decision to curtail services is in this way is a worrying development and does not reflect the actual needs of the councils own customers. I understand that the councils own staff were only made aware of this decision days before

changes came into effect. Furthermore, councillors had no prior notification regarding the sudden specific closure of services or times.

I witnessed first hand the frustration being felt by customers at the building from last Monday, unaware of the changes and being turned away from services they need! I understand that the only communication that was circulated to the public was via the councils website and social media on the Friday prior."

Cllr Carey further added

"There remains a large cohort of people who have real anxiety using technology and the use of online services. People are not robots, nor do they wish to engage with a robot or a computer response.

There are a lot of people who are reluctant to use online services either through mistrust of technology or inability to navigate through these portals. As a public service SDCC and other authorities should be compelled to offer a human contact option for their customers and clients".

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SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP LAUNCH THEIR FIRST TRISHAW IN DODDER VALLEY

South Dublin County Sports Partnership, in partnership with Age Friendly Ireland, introduce South Dublin County's first Trishaw at Dodder Valley Park.

The Trishaw, named "Sonas", will offer older adults and those with mobility issues the opportunity to experience the beauty and sounds of Dodder Valley Park in comfort, at an easy pace all while being cycled around by a pilot volunteer. Cycling Without Age in partnership with Dodder Valley Cycling will manage the day to day of the Trishaw

"Sonas," along with their 30 plus dedicated local volunteers who will pilot the Trishaw passengers. Thomas McDermott, South Dublin County Sports Partnership Coordinator said "Our aim is to encourage and support increased activity, and wellness in our communities. We hope introducing the Trishaw will make the outdoors more accessible, inclusive, and enjoyable to all in our community".

Alan O'Flaherty Chairperson - Dodder Valley Cycling said "Dodder Valley Park is such a perfect location for a



Cycling Without Age chapter. CWA is all about letting older people, and those with mobility issues, experience the joy of a bike ride and just getting out into nature again to feel the wind in the hair. Having a Trishaw in the park really is a dream come true. The volunteer pilots are all looking forward to

keeping Sonas the Trishaw busy over the coming months and years! I am so very grateful to everyone who has supported this project along the way to launch, and the list is a long one! Huge thanks to South Dublin County Council for providing the funding through the Active Cities Dublin

initiative. I am very grateful to Thomas McDermott in the South Dublin County Sports Partnership for taking my initial call all those months ago and being very positive and encouraging from the outset."

The Trishaw is free to book, and booking slots are

available now. Bookings can be made on <https://doddervalleycycling.com/booking/>, by email bookings@doddervalleycycling.com or by texting 'info' to (089) 406 6746. For more information on Cycling without Age and cycling accessibility please visit <https://cyclingwithoutage.ie>.

NEWS GROUP

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AN TAISCE IS ASKING VOLUNTEERS TO JOIN THE NATIONAL SPRING CLEAN 2023

Registrations are now open for the National Spring Clean 2023. Throughout the month of April, the National Spring Clean will encourage communities to tackle the problem of litter in local areas and to see the benefits of a litter-free environment.

National Spring Clean is operated by the Environmental Education Unit of An Taisce in partnership with Local Authorities and supported by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment and Mars Wrigley. Over the past 24 years, the National Spring Clean has been focused on the message of the collective responsibility we share in tackling and preventing our national litter problem. By participating in organised clean-ups, groups and individuals of all ages come together to make a meaningful and positive contribution to their communities - to date this has resulted in the collection of almost 45,000 tonnes of litter across Ireland!

This year, the National Spring Clean is also raising awareness about how the adoption of a circular economy model, will reduce our litter, and climate impact. The circular economy is a waste prevention approach to keep resources in use for as long as possible, enabling us to extract the maximum value from them before recovery

and regeneration. This is based on three principles: eliminating waste and pollution, keeping materials and products in use (through re-use and recycling), and protecting nature. This means that as we transition to a more circular economy, we'll see less waste, less litter, and lower emissions, and thus, cleaner planet.

These principles of a circular economy have been central to the ethos of National Spring Clean for the past 24 years. Last year some 35% of all waste collected was recycled, thanks to recyclable waste bags provided to groups and individuals who register, while the removal of litter from our natural environment has helped tackle biodiversity loss. Throughout this year's campaign, National Spring Clean also hopes people will consider their waste output and moderate consumption behaviours that produce excess waste, and look at alternatives that will move us away from a throwaway culture to a more sustainable circular culture.

Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, Eamon Ryan TD, said "An Taisce's National Spring Clean continues to showcase the dedication of volunteers all over the country. The commitment of volunteers in continuing to organise local clean-ups each year

is a testament to the spirit in Irish communities and I would urge as many people as possible to get involved in the campaign. My Department will continue to support the campaign and An Taisce, whose role in organising this successful campaign each year, deserves to be acknowledged. I look forward to the many events that will be held all over the country in the coming months."

Mars Wrigley Ireland Corporate Affairs Manager, Nicola Forde added "National Spring Clean is about removing waste and litter to protect our biodiversity and create cleaner and healthier communities. We welcome initiatives of the Circular Economy Act such as the ban on single use plastics, the proposed 'latte levy' and the deposit return scheme which will help us to eliminate this waste at the first stage" Mars Wrigley Ireland is proud to support programmes like the National Spring Clean, which has played a significant role in reducing litter across the country over the past 24 years bringing people together with these invaluable community cleans ups.

We're also delighted to see this year's campaign highlight the importance of the circular economy model, something which is a core element of our 'sustainable in a generation' mission. Our goal is to switch to 100% recyclable packaging

by 2025. " In 2022, over 460 groups registered for the initiative in Dublin. With the support of people all around

Ireland, the National Spring Clean is hoping to have an even bigger campaign this year. To register to be part of

Ireland's largest anti-litter campaign, people can visit www.nationalspringclean.org.



ENERGY COMPANIES MUST PASS ON SAVINGS TO DOMESTIC CUSTOMERS

TD for Dublin South West Seán Crowe has called on the government to intervene to ensure energy companies pass on savings made on wholesale charges to all customers. Teachta Crowe said "Energy prices for ordinary citizens remain sky-high, and workers and families across the state were left dismayed that there were no additional measures in the government's cost-of-living to reduce extortionate bills for electricity, gas, and home heating oil.

"Some families were getting bills of €300 and €400 more than they were a year ago. That puts extraordinary pressure on families to keep up with household expenses. These price increases are particularly hard on carers looking after children with special needs and elderly relatives who may need 24/7 care. "At the same time, energy

companies reported record profits for 2022 while those families struggled to pay their bills. "Why is the government still dithering over windfall tax? Why has the government failed to introduce a cap on energy prices? Why do big businesses get a pass while families are left out in the cold again and again? "Confirmation that Electric Ireland will reduce bills for small and medium enterprises by 10% from Wednesday is very welcome relief for those businesses.

"We need to see these savings passed on to all customers, not just a small group of business customers, and the government must intervene to make that happen. "The Minister and this government must stop treating energy companies with kid gloves while they make record profits on the backs of Irish families."



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O'CONNOR CALLS FOR ACTION ON TALLAGHT HOSPITAL ED

Local Councillor, Charlie O'Connor, has called for action in respect of pressures on the Emergency Department of Tallaght University Hospital. He raised the issue at the February meeting of the Regional Health Forum

Dublin Mid Leinster through a motion. "That this Regional Health Forum, Dublin Mid Leinster, calls for action to be taken in respect of ongoing pressures on the Emergency Department of Tallaght University Hospital; may we have details of

additional funding being made available to the Hospital which caters for a wide catchment area"

The HSE told Charlie O'Connor that "a number of posts were approved for TUH under the "Winter Funding Plan 2022/2023" representing estimated funding based on the first point of the HSE pay scale. The total 32 posts included ED Consultants, Registrar, Clinical Nurse Manager and Staff Nurses.

In addition to the permanent funding for posts, the hospital also received funding to facilitate additional staff cover at weekend, this was across all areas of the hospital with a focus on improved patient flow at weekend. The Hospital also had very positive engagement with our community colleagues in relation to the reduction of the number of patients who are waiting on nursing home placement and home care to facilitate discharge.

According to Charlie O'Connor, who is a former member of the Tallaght

Hospital Board, the situation at the Emergency Department remains difficult

and he complimented the staff of the hospital on their endeavors. He committed

to continuing to pursue the needs of the Hospital at every opportunity.

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LOCAL STUDENTS INVESTIGATE THE SCIENCE BEHIND LIFE'S QUESTIONS



Deputy Emer Higgins pictured with Geraldine Ruane, Chief Executive of the RDS and students from Lucan CNS, investigating the question "Why is the sea blue?" at this year's ESB Science Blast at the RDS

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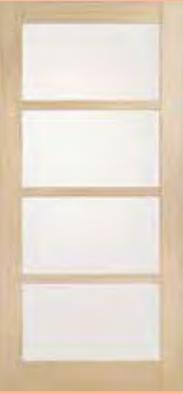
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SOD TURNED ON CLONBURRIS SOUTH LINK STREET

On the 27th February, the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH), Darragh O'Brien TD and the Mayor of South Dublin County, Councillor Emma Murphy officially marked the commencement of works at the Clonburris Strategic Development Zone (SDZ).

These works include construction of the first major new street 'South Link Street' and commencement of the first new housing development of 563 homes. This marks a major milestone in kick starting the delivery of the Clonburris SDZ that will become a sustainable urban neighbourhood and home to 23,000 people over the next 10 years.

The Minister and Mayor were joined by Daniel McLoughlin, SDCC Chief Executive, along with representatives from the three other major private landowners of Cairn Homes, Kelland Homes and Quintain. DHLGH is providing €186m of Urban Regeneration and Development Funding (URDF) and the NTA is providing €18.8m for Active Travel

works. This funding will enable the timely delivery of new streets, parks and community buildings that will help to accelerate the delivery of over 8,700 new homes. This funding reflects the implementation on the ground of Project Ireland 2040 and the Government's Housing for All policy.

In tandem with the funding and delivery of this critical infrastructure, the delivery of new homes is also well underway. To date 944 new homes have been granted planning permission, Cairn Homes have commenced delivery on-site of 563 homes, and a further 1,045 homes are being assessed as part of live planning permissions, which include a mix retail and community facilities. SDCC is also a significant landowner in the area with the potential for over 2,500 social and affordable homes. The Council has secured planning permission for 381 homes and are planning to commence construction of these social and affordable homes in summer 2023.

Clonburris is a huge

opportunity of national, regional, and local significance, with the potential to enhance housing provision, regenerate neighbouring communities, improve transport, and create a high-quality neighbourhood in a strategic location less than 15 minutes to Dublin City Centre by train.

Minister O'Brien said "It's fantastic to be here today to mark the commencement of works at the Clonburris Strategic Development Zone (SDZ). I am particularly delighted that South Dublin County Council will commence construction of their first tranche of social and affordable homes in the coming months. Increasing housing supply is at the heart of the Government's Housing for All plan. Clonburris is a prime example of a sustainable neighbourhood, and the state is investing substantial funds to ensure that the necessary infrastructure is in place, this includes parks, community buildings and active travel works. In the future there will be some 23,000 people



Pictured: Cllr. Emma Murphy Mayor of South Dublin, Minister for Housing Darragh O'Brien and Danny McLoughlin SDCC Chief Executive with local councillors, SDCC staff and representatives from the construction

living here and enjoying all the amenities."

Chief Executive of South Dublin County Council Daniel McLoughlin said "The Clonburris South Link Street is a first step in delivering the Clonburris SDZ. With a credible delivery programme for 8,700 public and private homes as well as the provision of 90 hectares of new public parks, community facilities, new streets and utilities, Clonburris SDZ is a major part of the County's development strategy for the next 10 years. As a major landowner in Clonburris, it is a particularly important part of the Council's own social

and affordable housing delivery commitments under the Government's Housing for All plan. South Dublin County Council are fully focused on working through the next stages of the approval processes to release funding and build these projects and we welcome the continued partnership of Government, the Minister and his Department, the NTA and other house builders in Clonburris."

Mayor of South Dublin County Council, Cllr. Emma Murphy said "The development in Clonburris here in South Dublin is a massive opportunity of

national, regional, and local importance. A huge effort has gone into getting to this stage since the Clonburris SDZ was passed in 2018. There is huge potential to provide much needed housing here in the County, to enhance and regenerate neighbouring communities, develop and improve transport links, and to create a high-quality neighbourhood in a strategic location less than 15 minutes to Dublin City Centre by train. As Mayor of South Dublin I am very proud to see significant progression and development of the SDZ which will have a hugely positive impact on our County."

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NEWLY OPEN CELBRIDGE LINK ROAD TO HELP RELIEVE LOCAL TRAFFIC CONGESTION



TD for Dublin Mid West, Deputy Emer Higgins, has welcomed the much-anticipated opening of the Celbridge link road which is set to relieve traffic congestion in the area by providing an alternative route to the N4. Deputy Higgins said: "We've all been waiting for the opening of the Celbridge Link Road to help alleviate traffic congestion in Lucan. This new route was funded through an overall allocation of over €10m from Government for parks and roads in Adamstown. It will offer an alternative route to the N4 which many commuters may opt to use which in turn will reduce pressure on places like Dodsboro and the Newcastle Road. The road was due to open before Christmas but hit a couple of construction issues and it's great to have it now available for use by local residents and commuters," stated Deputy Emer Higgins

LUCAN ST PATRICK'S DAY PARADE 2023

The Lucan Parade takes place at 3pm on St. Patrick's Day. This year the group are very pleased to welcome Sorcha Furlong as 2023 Parade Marshall. They are all avidly following her current storyline as Orla Molloy in Fair City.

Sorcha is also an accomplished writer and singer with upcoming performances with her live band project 'Forever Hits' at the Crescent Concert Hall in Drogheda, The Well St. Stephen's Green Dublin, and the Civic Theatre, Tallaght. Sorcha performs 80's anthems from Starship, Gloria Estefan, Kim Wilde, Cher, Genesis, Pat Benatar, etc. etc. 2 hours of nonstop 80's hits. The group are delighted that Sorcha will lead the parade this year.

The parade will assemble and commence at the large green located at Green Park Road / Westbrook Park / Hillcrest Close in Hillcrest (adjacent to Tesco) from 2pm, be in place by 2:30pm. The Parade commences at 3pm sharp and proceeds down Dodsboro Road, under the N4 bridge onto the Leixlip Road, past McDonalds, onwards towards The Bally Alley pub, and into Lucan Village, turning left at Courtneys, past the review stand located outside the Muintir na Tire hall, and disperses

up through the village past the Italian Embassy. The parade takes two hours approximately to complete the route.

Road closures from 2pm to 6pm; 1. Dodsboro Road / Tandys Lane, 2. Old Celbridge Road, 3. Lucan Road from the Village to St Marys Church, 4. Adamstown Road from Courtneys to N4, 5. No through road through the village and 6. Chapel Hill Open for north bound traffic crossing the Liffey Bridge.

The group need your help to steward the parade on St. Patrick's Day, please contact Caroline Brady 085 2551602 if you would like to volunteer.

Local Parents, Barabara Cummins & Mary Meehan, came together with the late Peter Brady and established the first Lucan St. Patrick's Day Parade in 1991. Over 30 years ago the children of Lucan didn't have a parade and it was impossible to get into the Dublin parade, either as participants or to view the parade. Caroline Brady said "It's not very easy for local children to get into the Dublin parade today, plus going into town to see the parade puts a big cost burden on parents for the day. The parade committee in Lucan is all about giving local Children and families

a day out that they can enjoy. We want to give children an opportunity to come together, parade on our national day, demonstrate their skills, and celebrate what it is to be Irish, each in their own individual way."

The parade presents an opportunity for community organisations to present and showcase what they do, especially the children's groups. Caroline said "It's designed to be a family day out with activities for all the family to enjoy. It's great fun watching the children's energetic and colourful performances demonstrating skills like dancing, tai chi, cricket, football, hurling, all at the review stand in the middle of Lucan village, plus we have marching bands, music, face painting, balloons, etc., great craic for the day and free with the support of South Dublin County Council, business in Lucan and the Gardai"

The group is a non-profit, volunteer lead, organisation funded by a Community Grant from South Dublin County Council, donations from Lucan Traders, and various fundraising events held during the year. For further information contact LucanParade@gmail.com

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COUNCILLOR EXPRESS CONCERN AFTER HUGE CONSTERNATION ABOUT TREE FELLING IN CORKAGH PARK

Cllr William Carey has called upon SDCC to clarify the reasons behind the removal of mature trees in Corkagh park, this despite a commitment to retain existing mature trees?

In Feb 2022, councillors passed a Part 8 proposal with a budget of circa €5m, aimed at enhancing and upgrading facilities in the park. Included in this was “Enhancements to the Fairy Woodland Trail including new play features; new seating; new pedestrian link from the lakes; retention and protection of existing mature trees”. In a recent communication from SDCC, councillors were informed that tree felling was due to be undertaken around the entrance to the park at St Johns Green/Grove. According to SDCC this was largely due to Ash-dieback disease.

According to Cllr Carey however, “at no stage were councillors made aware that the large mature trees were to be removed at the councils compound in the park”. Cllr Carey added, “What has been of particular concern has been the felling of the large Monterey Cypress”. I only learned of this when I was alerted through social media and the comments on the “Friends of Corkagh Park” facebook page. Shortly after which I began receiving emails and texts expressing outrage about the removal of this glorious tree. In a communication from SDCC, they have suggested that a



report from a professional Arboriculturist indicated that this tree was suffering with a fungal infection called Cypress Canker - 46 No. trees were planned for removal from Corkagh Park. 31 No. of these were small Ash trees at St. John’s Wood carpark, all suffering with Ash-dieback disease. The remaining trees were in poor structural and physiological condition, as per the Tree Survey, carried out by a professional Arboriculturist; as part of the Part 8 planning. The largest tree to be removed was a Monterey Cypress. According to the Tree Report, this tree was suffering with a fungal infection called Cypress Canker. This disease was beginning to cause die-back in some of its larger limbs, thus creating a risk to park users.

The Clondalkin Councillor further added that whilst he accepts the diagnosis from



the arboriculturist, we do need to know how extensive was this disease in the tree and if any other action could have been taken to save the tree. Cllr Carey concluded by saying that, “councillors rely on the expertise that is provided through the management of SDCC, but it is incumbent upon the council to provide a full and detailed explanation when such a huge decision is being made. There are many people who have grown up in Clondalkin and walked beneath that tree, some would say it was iconic but sadly “it is no more”.

Cllr. Mick Duff

Independent Councillor Tallaght

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ACCESS TO JIGSAW MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS SHOULD BE BASED ON NEED AND NOT ON LOCATION

Deputy Mark Ward has said the waiting times for the Jigsaw youth mental health service right across the state are worrying. Deputy Ward has called on the Minister to urgently engage with the service to provide a solution. There is also an element of postcode treatment, that depending on where you

live you may get treated quicker. Some areas have a 4-week waiting time while other areas children are left waiting for 30 weeks.

Teachta Ward said "Figures released to me by the HSE through a Parliamentary Question have shown there are significant wait times for counselling appointments with Jigsaw, the mental health service which provides vital supports to young people. "Demand for the Jigsaw service right across the State continues to grow, however, as a result youths are waiting up to 30 weeks to get an appointment as of mid-January. "Every expert in child and adolescent mental health will tell you that early intervention is absolutely vital in avoiding enduring and worsening problems in the future.

Yet, these figures reveal that if a child or young person seeks out care they are in all likelihood going to be faced with extended waiting periods which are simply

unacceptable and put them and their mental health at a very serious risk.

"Young peoples' mental health has been adversely affected during the pandemic. Loss of schooling, sports, peer supports and even their ability to socialise with friends have impacted on their mental health. "There is also an element of postcode treatment, that depending on where you live you may get treated quicker. Wicklow, for example, has a 4-week waiting time while young people in Cork are left waiting for 30 weeks. "In my own area there is a 12 week waiting list for a child to receive this vital mental health treatment

"Uniformed mental health treatment is needed so our young people can access the care they need, when they need it and where they need it. "Jigsaw provide a very good service to young people who are experiencing mental health difficulties, so it is vital that young people

can access treatment at the earliest opportunity. "I have contacted the Minister

and asked that she urgently engage with the service to provide a solution."

DOUBLE-DOWN' FITNESS CALL TO DUBLIN PUPILS



Dublin primary pupils whose schools are competing in the 'Ireland's Fittest School' search are being encouraged by event patrons, Olympians David Gillick and Phil Healy to 'double-down' on their exercise and fitness routines as the event heads towards its March 31st finishing line. Winner will be announced in April. In its second year, the 6-months programme - in which 150 schools from 24 counties are competing - is supported by Fyffes and administered online. Its purpose is to promote the importance of exercise, fitness and healthy eating amongst young people. Details can be seen online at www.fyffesfitsquad.ie

Cllr. Charlie O'Connor PC Living in Tallaght ...Working for Tallaght



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CLAUDIA THANKS LATE LATE VIEWERS AS €325,000 RAISED

A brave teenager battling a debilitating skin disease has thanked big-hearted TV viewers after more than €325,000 was raised for 'Butterfly skin' charity, Debra Ireland.

Claudia Scanlon, 19, and Debra Ireland ambassador Johnny Sexton generated the huge public donation as they appeared on RTE's Late Late Show recently to talk about the painful condition,

EB. Claudia, from Dublin's Terenure, has the severe form of the genetic disorder, which has left 80% of her body covered in blisters - and needs a wheelchair because it is too painful for her to walk.

She told host Ryan Tubridy that Debra Ireland is desperately trying to fund research into finding a cure for the disease, which affects around 300 people

in Ireland. "It is one of the worst conditions out there and I wouldn't wish this upon my worst enemy," she said. "It is a living hell and that is the only way that I can describe it. But despite the immense pain she has to contend with, the teenager said she does not want "to sit in a corner and cry about it". "I don't want to throw my life away. I have a life to live and I want to do the best I can." Viewers responded in their droves on Friday night and over the weekend by donating €325,000 after a link to the charity's

website was broadcast during the show. "This is a tremendous amount of money, and I cannot thank everyone enough for their generosity," said Claudia. "This fundraising means so much - not only to me but to the whole EB community.

"The money raised will hopefully help fund a cure." During the show, Ireland rugby captain Sexton, who has worked with the charity for 12 years, praised Claudia for her bravery. "The first thing that you see it how incredibly brave they (EB

patients) are.. it makes you feel a little bit bad about yourself when you come home with an injury or after a bad game and you're giving out about the world. "What they go through is worlds apart, and their families as well, Claudia's mum and dad are here tonight and what they do for her is incredibly inspiring."

Debra Ireland CEO, Jimmy Fearon, said he wanted to thank everyone who helped raise the six-figure sum for the charity. "Once again, the Irish public have shown how

incredibly generous they are. We cannot thank them enough," he said. Tubridy, on his RTE 1 radio show recently, described the public's response to the fundraising appeal as "extraordinarily generous". EB is caused by missing proteins which bind the skin together. As well as funding medical research into finding a cure for the disease, Debra Ireland also supports patients and their families with day-to-day care and psychological supports. If you missed your chance to donate, you can still do so at: debra.ie.



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Seolann Méara Chontae Átha Cliath Theas agus Jim Gavin Seachtain na Gaeilge go hoifigiúil



Tá an-áthas ar Chomhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas (CCÁCT) agus Leabharlanna Átha Cliath Theas i gcomhpháirtíocht le hÁras Chrónáin Seachtain Na Gaeilge Átha Cliath Theas (SnaGÁCT) na bliana seo a chur i láthair.

Sheol Méara Chomhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas, an Comhairleoir Emma Murphy féile SnaGÁCT go hoifigiúil ar an 21 Feabhra i Leabharlann Bhaile Uí Ruáin, in éineacht le Jim Gavin, pátrún fhéile na bliana seo, agus in éineacht le daltaí ó bhunscoileanna áitiúla. Beidh an clár ar siúl ón 1-17 Márta.

Tá imeachtaí ar fáil do chách agus do gach aois ar fhéilire na bliana seo, ina measc gig speisialta le KILA ar an Aoine 10 Márta in Áras Chrónáin, Dianchúrsa Deireadh Seachtaine Gaeilge le Ray McManus in Áras Chrónáin, ranganna Gaeilge Labhartha i Leabharlanna ar fud an Chontae, tob-Ghaeltacht agus oíche Cheoil agus Rince ar Oíche Fhéile Pádraig in Áras Chrónáin. I mbliana beidh paráidí ar fud an chontae chomh maith, seisiúin cheoil thraidisiúnta Ghaelaigh, agus ar ndóigh maidineacha caife in áiteanna éagsúla, agus iad go léir eagraithe ag Leabharlanna Chomhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas agus Áras Chrónáin, Ionad Cultúir.

Tá CCÁCT bródúil as

tacaíocht a thabhairt do Sheachtain na Gaeilge agus tá sí chun tosaigh i gcur chun cinn an fheachtais 'Gaeilge le Chéile' trí níos mó deiseanna a chruthú agus daoine a spreagadh chun Gaeilge a úsáid agus a labhairt gach lá, ag tosú leis na frásaí simplí cosúil le 'Go raibh maith agat' agus 'Slán', agus an téama Gach Lá, Gach Áit agus le Gach Duine á úsáid.

Ag labhairt di ag an seoladh, dúirt Méara Chomhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas, an Comhairleoir Emma Murphy: "Táimid bródúil tacaíocht a thabhairt don fheachtas Gaeilge le Chéile trí níos mó deiseanna a chruthú agus a spreagadh chun an Ghaeilge a úsáid gach lá, ag tosú leis na frásaí simplí cosúil le 'Go raibh maith agat' agus 'Dia

Dhuit' agus trí úsáid a bhaint as an téama Gach Lá, Gach Áit agus le Gach Duine. Ar an iomlán ba mhaith linn an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn mar theanga bheo ar bhealach spráil, taitneamhach agus oscailte." Bhí áthas an domhain ar Patrúin SnaGÁCT na bliana seo, Jim Gavin, an ócáid a sheoladh in éineacht leis an Méara agus dúirt sé: "Tá breis agus 100 imeacht á n-eagrú ar fud Chontae Átha Cliath Theas i mbliana. Ba mhaith liom buíochas a ghabháil le gach duine a chabhraigh leis an bhféilire a chur le chéile. Is deis iontach é dúinn ar fad níos mó Gaeilge labhartha a úsáid."

Le haghaidh tuilleadh eolais agus chun an bróisiúr a íoslódáil tabhair cuairt le do thoil ar www.sdcc.ie nó www.athcliaththeas.ie.

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MINISTER FOR EDUCATION VISITS TALLAGHT



Pictured at the Dublin West Education Centre at T.U. Tallaght on the occasion of the visit of Minister for Education were (L to R) Councillor Charlie O'Connor, Norma Foley T.D., Minister for Education and Mayor Emma Murphy.



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COMPLETION OF THE CELBRIDGE LINK ROAD IN ADAMSTOWN STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT ZONE



Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD joined the Mayor of South Dublin County, Cllr Emma Murphy, South Dublin County Council Chief Executive Daniel McLoughlin at Adamstown to mark the completion of 2,000 new homes, including 800 affordable homes. Delivery of these 2,000 new homes, has been made possible with €20million of LIHAF (Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund) funding from DHLGH (Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage) along with funding from South Dublin County Council for the construction of two new public parks at Tandys Lane Park and Airlie Park and a new access road into Adamstown called the Celbridge Link Road. The affordable homes have been delivered at a range of prices including 300 homes below €300,000 and another 500 homes below €320,000.

The Celbridge Link Road in Adamstown delivers significantly improved accessibility and connectivity on the western side of Adamstown - to not only the existing and future residents of Adamstown but also the residents within the adjoining communities of Celbridge and Leixlip. This

north/south connection from the R403 provides a direct link from the R403 to the Adamstown Rail Station, which will provide for shorter commuter times and more sustainable and environmentally friendly commuting patterns within the area. This vital piece of infrastructure will also assist in unlocking the significant housing delivery potential of currently zoned, yet undeveloped lands within the southern extents of Adamstown.

The Department for Housing, Local Government and Heritage is also providing a further €10million of URDF (Urban Regeneration Development Fund) funding to support the delivery of a new public plaza, a third park and a new Library in Adamstown which will facilitate a further 585 new homes, 118 of which will be social and affordable homes. These three projects and the homes are expected for completion in 2026.

The first project to be delivered is the public Plaza, which will open the Adamstown District Centre, that will include key housing, the opening of two large scale stores, as well as up to 18 smaller retail stores around the Plaza. The Plaza will also provide a key setting

for the future delivery of the aforementioned library, as well as a permeable route from Adamstown Station into the Strategic Development Zone. It is likely that the Plaza will be substantially completed this summer. To date a total of 3,650 homes have been completed in Adamstown and a further 3,500 homes have planning permission.

Minister O'Brien said, "It's important to mark the significant progress which has been made to date by South Dublin County Council with the support of my Department. We're now looking forward to the future and delivering more large scale projects like this which provides vital infrastructure and unlocks the potential for thousands of new homes. Under Housing for All we are looking to deliver at least 300,000 new homes between now and 2030 and we will use every lever we have to help us do just that."

Chief Executive of South Dublin Daniel McLoughlin added, "I am delighted with the Government's continued support for the delivery of critical infrastructure that will continue to unlock the development of a diverse, vibrant and sustainable residential

community within the Adamstown SDZ. The delivery of large-scale infrastructural projects such as; Tandy's Lane Park, the Celbridge Link and forthcoming delivery of Adamstown Plaza and Airlie Park are having - and will continue to have - a transformative impact on the existing and future Adamstown residents.

The projects have been designed to a high contemporary standard and quality that will not only enhance the identity of the Adamstown but also the quality of life for the existing and future residents. Of significant importance, the delivery of these key infrastructural projects will continue to unlock the delivery of approximately 2700 homes within one of the most accessible, diverse, and vibrant communities in Ireland.

South Dublin County Council are fully focused on working through the next stages of the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund and Urban Regeneration Development Fund funding processes and are committed to working in partnership with the Department, residents and existing landowners in the Strategic Development Zone to deliver much needed new homes and public

amenities within Adamstown as a matter of priority." Speaking at the ceremony Cllr, Emma Murphy, Mayor of South Dublin said, "Today we are marking a number of significant developments in Adamstown. The first notably being the Celbridge Link Road in Adamstown which will deliver significantly improved accessibility and connectivity on the western side of Adamstown - to not only the existing and future residents of Adamstown but also the residents within the adjoining communities Celbridge and Leixlip in our neighbouring county of Kildare. This infrastructure will not only provide connectivity but it will support and attract local enterprise to South Dublin.

The provision of a further €10million of URDF (Urban Regeneration Development Fund) funding from Minister O'Brien's Department for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to support the delivery of a new public facilities here in Adamstown will be a significant step for this area. A public plaza, a third park and a new Library in Adamstown will be delivered as part of this funding which will also pave the way for the facilitation of a further 585 new homes, 118 of which will be social and affordable homes here in South Dublin".

CANCER BREAKTHROUGH FOLLOWING DRUG TRIAL AT TALLAGHT UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

Medical researchers at Tallaght University Hospital (TUH) have taken part in a ground-breaking Clinical Trial which has discovered that the drug Rucaparib is successful in the treatment of certain prostate cancers. The trial which began in TUH in 2017, was called TRITON 3. The purpose of the study was to determine how patients with prostate cancer (which had spread) responded to treatment with the drug Rucaparib versus treatment with other drugs (such as Abiraterone Acetate, Enzalutamide or Docetaxel). The trial only involved men who had either a BRCA or ATM gene mutation.

period, TUH screened 120 men for this study. Patients were then asked if they would like to participate in this trial. Once consent was given, a blood sample was shipped to Foundation Medicine in the USA. Here, the blood was tested for a panel of genes. If the patient sample was positive for certain genes they were contacted and asked if they would like to participate in the trial. They were then randomised to receive the study drug Rucaparib.

Clinical Professor of Medical Oncology at TUH, Ray Mc Dermott was one of the principal investigators for this TRITON 3 Trial.

All of the patients who took part in this study also had what is known as castrate-resistant prostate cancer. In short, this means that prostate cancer keeps growing even when the amount of testosterone in the body is reduced to very low levels. Over a 5 year

Professor McDermott is the National Cancer Control Programme lead in guideline development for prostate cancer. He was also the second highest recruiter globally for the TRITON 3 trial and supervised care to the men taking part in this important new research



which was partly carried out in Ireland to find better treatments for prostate cancer. 17 patients (13 of these in TUH) had the required genes and met all other eligibility criteria and proceeded to the main trial.

Patients were reviewed

regularly by the Oncology Clinical Trials team in TUH and all scans were reported by Prof William Torreggiani, Consultant Radiologist. The drugs were supplied via the TUH pharmacy department.

The highly regarded New England Journal of Medicine

has just reported that the TRITON 3 Trial demonstrated that progression-free survival was significantly improved when patients with metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer were treated with Rucaparib versus other medications. It also discovered that

Rucaparib provides a potential treatment option for eligible men, with earlier-stage disease. The results have just been released in San Francisco at a conference organised by the American Society of Clinical Oncology which focused on genitourinary cancers.



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MOTORING LIFE WITH

Skoda Fabia Monte Carlo – A Legacy in Style



By Breda Corrigan

Previous generations of the Skoda Fabia have always offered practicality, quality and value by the bucket load, but the latest generation of Skoda's big-selling supermini builds on these strengths, and adds stylish good looks and desirability into the mix too. More than 4.5 million Fabia's were sold around the world over the last 20 years, with customers enjoying the affordable running costs, space, reliability and strong build quality on offer. The new Fabia is longer (by 111mm) and wider (by 48mm) than its predecessor, but an 8mm reduction in height provides the car with a sleeker and more modern look than ever before.

Modern Underpinnings.

The original Skoda Fabia made its debut in 1999 and replaced the ageing Felicia, which was based on the Favorit, the last car designed and developed by the brand before it was taken over by Volkswagen. A second-generation Fabia arrived in 2007, followed by an all-new model in 2014. Now in its fourth generation, the new Skoda Fabia is the last of the Volkswagen Group's core superminis to switch onto its MQB-A0 platform.

Other cars currently using this platform are the Seat Ibiza, VW Polo and Audi A1 - all of which are from brands within the VW Group itself. The major benefits of the new platform include improved

refinement, extra cabin space, and improved cabin quality, along with cutting-edge safety technology. Despite the continued growth of SUV's and Crossovers, superminis such as the Skoda Fabia are still very popular, with many owners favouring the compact dimensions of a supermini when manoeuvring in and out of tight parking spaces.

Petrol-Only Power.

The engine line-up in the new Fabia consists solely of petrol powered units, with no plans to introduce a diesel engine, or electrification to the range. The entry-level engine is a 3-cylinder 1-litre MPI naturally-aspirated unit with a choice of 65hp or 80hp and mated to a 5-speed manual gearbox, while a 3-cylinder 1-litre TSI turbo-charged unit comes with 95hp or 110hp in 5-speed manual or 7-speed DSG automatic transmission guises respectively - with power sent to the front wheels.

Buyers of the new Skoda Fabia can choose from Active, Ambition, Style and Monte Carlo trim levels - all of which consist of LED headlights with daytime running lights, numerous airbags, remote central locking, Lane Assist with Active Steering, Hill Hold Control, Driver Alert, Forward Collision Warning with Emergency Brake & Pedestrian Recognition, a Tyre Pressure Monitoring System, ISOFIX with top tether attachments, and

eCall emergency assist.

Impressive Safety.

The new Fabia scored the maximum five stars in the Euro NCAP crash safety test. Achieving 78 per cent of the maximum available points, the Fabia is one of the safest vehicles in its class. The Fabia received 85 per cent of the maximum points for adult protection and 81 per cent for child safety, and thus performed particularly well in these two areas. The top rating for the new Fabia builds on Skoda Auto's impressive record; since 2008, each of the 14 new Skoda models evaluated has received the highest five-star rating. With almost 80 per cent of the new Fabia's components made of high-strength steel, the MQB-A0 platform not only provides the Fabia with a highly torsion-resistant body, but also supports the integration of several advanced assistance systems for the first time.

Test Car Details.

My Fabia Monte Carlo 1.0-litre TSI test car was finished in striking Phoenix Orange exclusive metallic paintwork with a black roof, door pillars and door mirror casings. The car's sporty character is also accentuated by the black radiator grille trim, distinctive front bumper and sills, and stylish diamond-cut alloy wheels with Aero trims. In order to make

the Monte Carlo model's driving experience complete, the interior is fitted with proper sports seats. Robust yet comfortable, these sports seats (boasting the unique Monte Carlo design) will hug the driver and front seat passenger close at every turn.

The carbon-effect and red-metallic décor in the cabin contribute to the car's interior dynamic appearance, while ambient lighting and white stitching on the seats, armrest and dashboard trim add extra elegance. Other key 'Monte Carlo' standard equipment includes a panoramic roof with fixed glass, Bolero infotainment system with an 8-inch touchscreen display, 3-spoke sporty leather multifunction steering wheel, aluminium pedals, dark tinted rear privacy glass, black rear spoiler, black 'SKODA' and 'FABIA' lettering, and unique 'Monte Carlo' badges. Producing 95hp and 175Nm of torque, the Fabia's refined 999cc engine enables the car to sprint from 0-100km/h in 10.6-seconds, while a fuel return of 5.1l/100kms is achievable on a WLTP combined driving cycle. The car feels solid and secure through corners, and handles like a car from a class above.

A natural feel to the Fabia's steering, along with excellent handling characteristics, precise gearing, and comfortable ride quality make the new Fabia very relaxing to drive. The standard

five-speed manual transmission in my test car proved its worthiness when driving in city traffic, but the Fabia is equally impressive at motorway speeds too. Suspension still comprises steel coil springs, with MacPherson struts at the front and a torsion beam at the rear, while ventilated disc brakes at the front, and drums at the rear ensure that the Fabia responds well to soft and hard braking.

Thanks to a wheelbase that has grown by 120mm over that of its predecessor, cabin space within the new Fabia is impressive, with ample head, leg and shoulder room for 3 occupants in the rear of the car. Boot capacity weighs in at an impressive 380-litres behind the rear seats, and a full-size spare wheel and tool kit can be found beneath the carpeted boot floor (a rarity these days).

Verdict & Pricing.

The new Skoda Fabia Monte Carlo excels in all of the important areas, with its ride quality being a particularly impressive stand-out feature. The Fabia is the most spacious car in its class, and it makes the most of the space on offer with useful storage solutions - including an umbrella concealed within the drivers door trim.

The new Fabia is priced from just €19,820 (ex-delivery), with the sports-inspired Monte Carlo model priced from €25,690 (ex-delivery).

DUBLIN MOUNTAINS PARTNERSHIP LAUNCHES ITS STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-2026



The Dublin Mountain Partnership (DMP) has launched a new five-year strategic plan, which aims to further provide for recreation, protect the environment and raise awareness of the multiple benefits the Dublin Mountains provide, aimed at those who live in, use, visit or have a role to play in shaping the future of this area.

The strategy sets out a new vision for the Dublin Mountains as an area of outstanding beauty and a place for sustainable outdoor recreation, where people can enjoy the hills, learn about and care for their environment and culture whilst respecting resident communities, neighbouring landowners and other recreation users. The DMP partners include Coillte, Dublin City Council, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and South Dublin County Council. The plan provides a strategic framework to guide resourcing, inform decision-making and launch initiatives over the next five years.

It includes a wide range of actions under four key themes Protect the Resource - Maintain and enhance the ecological integrity of the Dublin Mountains. Provide for Recreation - Facilitate the active enjoyment of the Dublin Mountains through providing, maintaining, and managing infrastructure and services. Partner for Success - Work with relevant stakeholders to align strategy, policy and funding, share expertise and expand resources to achieve the outcomes of the strategic plan. And Promote the Benefits - Promote the Dublin Mountains as a wonderful destination for recreation and learning about the outdoors, for both outdoor enthusiasts and the wider public.

The new strategy builds on the work of the DMP over the past 14 years, which has seen €3.2 million invested to improve recreational facilities and access to the Dublin Mountains, including the development of the Dublin Mountains Way, Bike Tracks at Ticknock, Orientation Courses at four sites and much more. It resulted in the decision by Coillte to transition from commercial forestry to managing nine forests in the Dublin Mountains for biodiversity and recreation, known as the Dublin Mountain Makeover.

Launching the DMP Strategic Plan the Mayor

of South Dublin, Councillor Emma Murphy said "South Dublin County Council is delighted to support the DMP in ensuring that recreation within the Dublin Mountains is compatible with the conservation of natural, built and cultural resources and minimises impact on neighbouring resident communities and landowners."

Malcolm Noonan TD, Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform, said "The Dublin Mountains Partnership (DMP) is a fantastic initiative and I am delighted that the National Parks and Wildlife Service have been involved since its formation in 2008. Over 2000 hectares of lands in the DMP area are part of National Park and some are also designated as part of the Natura 2000 network of protected European Nature Conservation sites. This new strategy will guide the further promotion and provision of sustainable recreation opportunities in the Dublin Mountains, whilst ensuring the protection and restoration of these important habitats and biodiversity. It is a priceless natural resource on the doorstep of our capital city cherished and protected both now and for future generations."

Ms. Sakinah Brennan Coillte's ESG Strategy Director said "Coillte is a proud partner in the DMP, and this latest strategy is the most ambitious yet, and reflects our commitment to further enhance the Dublin Mountains for recreation use, while protecting the landscape and biodiversity values for future generations. The plan aims to respond to the growing population of Dublin, our goal to provide green spaces for health and wellbeing, as well as the need for green infrastructure to tackle climate change."

The new strategic plan was launched in Coillte's Cruagh Wood by the Mayor of South Dublin County Council, Councillor Emma Murphy, who was joined by The Lord Mayor of Dublin, Caroline Conroy, Mr Frank Curran, Chief Executive of Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, Ms. Sorcha de Brúch, Principal Officer from National Parks and Wildlife Services and Sakinah Brennan; Environmental Social Governance Director from Coillte. The members of the Dublin Mountains Partnership planted trees in the new native woodland at Cruagh, one of the nine Dublin Mountains Makeover sites.

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LAURALYNN AND IRISH HOSPICE FOUNDATION TO BENEFIT FROM INVESTMENT IN RESEARCH

New research addressing knowledge and evidence gaps that exist in data on life-limiting conditions (LLCs) in children - Improving Children's Palliative Care Outcomes in Ireland (iCPCi) - commenced recently, having been awarded a Health Research Board Applied Partnership Award in December 2022. In Ireland it is not known how many children have life-limiting conditions and need palliative care. At present there are only UK-based estimates which are out-of-date and not detailed enough to assist in planning palliative services.

Dr Samantha Smith, Centre for Health Policy and Management, Trinity College

Dublin said "Children's palliative care is not just about managing pain at end-of-life, it is about living in every sense of the word, providing supports to children with life-limiting conditions and their families to enable them achieve goals within their own limitations. Children's palliative care makes a positive difference throughout a child's life by managing symptoms, arranging short breaks, and planning what to do if/when symptoms change or treatment fails."

LauraLynn, Ireland's Children's Hospice and Irish Hospice Foundation (IHF) are co-funders in the research project. Principal investigator Dr

Samantha Smith, alongside Dr Joanne Balfe, Tallaght Hospital and LauraLynn Ireland's Children's Hospice have been announced as recipients of the award. The data gathered will guide and improve children's palliative care policy, planning, and service delivery in Ireland.

LauraLynn CEO Kerry McLaverty commented "We are really pleased to kick off this monumental piece of research, which will have a transformative effect on our understanding of and future planning for children's palliative care, in Ireland and in LauraLynn. Finding answers to the many questions there are regarding the number of children with palliative

care needs living in our country and how they need healthcare to support them day to day, is fundamental to ensuring that those children and their families have access to and choice in the care and support they need to make the most of every day together.

LauraLynn is proud to co-fund this research project with Irish Hospice Foundation and Health Research Board, and to be part of the fantastic project team collaborating on the research. Today is a huge milestone in LauraLynn's commitment to reach more children and families that need our hospice care."

Policymakers, planners, and providers of palliative care will use this information to update CPC policy on defining who the service is for, quantify resource and

workforce needs, improve CPC referral process, and other changes to improve CPC access.

Irish Hospice Foundation CEO Paula O'Reilly said "We are delighted to announce, alongside LauraLynn, this ground-breaking research which is vital to fully understand the landscape and requirements for children's palliative care in Ireland. IHF is very proud to fund this research in partnership with LauraLynn and Health Research Board. Our mission at IHF is to ensure best end-of-life and bereavement care for all. IHF look forward to the completion of this body of work which will inform and support the evolution of children's palliative care in Ireland in the coming years."

The research project will

enable the team to review different definitions of life-limiting conditions and palliative care needs. There are concerns that children with life-limiting conditions have lengthy hospital stays and have difficulty accessing palliative care across the country. Examining national datasets on hospital stays, deaths, children's palliative care activity and others to learn about children who are at different stages.

Comparisons on the geographic location of children's palliative care services with where children with life-limiting conditions live will be made. All of this information will be used to guide and improve children's palliative care policy, planning, and service delivery, supporting the goal of universal access to palliative care in Ireland.



NOVENAS FOR LAURALYNN

MIRACLE PRAYER Dear Heart of Jesus in the past I have asked for many favours. This time I ask you for a very special one. Take it, dear Heart of Jesus, and place it within your own broken heart where your Father sees it. Then in His merciful eyes it will become your favour and not mine. Amen. Say this prayer for three days. Promise publication and favour will be granted no matter how impossible. Never known to fail. With grateful thanks to Our Lady for favours received. And thanks to the Sacred Heart for favours received. H.B

MIRACLE PRAYER Dear Heart of Jesus in the past I have asked for many favours. This time I ask you for a very special one. Take it, dear Heart of Jesus, and place it within your own broken heart where your Father sees it. Then in His merciful eyes it will become your favour and not mine. Amen. Say this prayer for three days. Promise publication and favour will be granted no matter how impossible. Never known to fail. With grateful thanks to Our Lady for favours received. And thanks to the Sacred Heart for favours received. C.L

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MIRACLE PRAYER Dear Heart of Jesus in the past I have asked for many favours. This time I ask you for a very special one. Take it, dear Heart of Jesus, and place it within your own broken heart where your Father sees it. Then in His merciful eyes it will become your favour and not mine. Amen. Say this prayer for three days. Promise publication and favour will be granted no matter how impossible. Never known to fail. With grateful thanks to Our Lady for favours received. And thanks to the Sacred Heart for favours received. S.B

If you would like a Novena published please send a postal order or cheque (Minimum of €10 per prayer) made out to Laura Lynn Children's Hospice, along with your Novena to:

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