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SOUTH DUBLIN TO BENEFIT FROM OVER €1 MILLION UNDER COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION FUNDING

South Dublin is set to benefit from over €1 Million in funding to support initiatives like community gardens, solar energy, EV charging, and community composting, a local Minister has said.

The Community Climate Action programme supports projects which focus on building low carbon communities across the State, and also supports cross-border projects that contribute to climate and energy targets.

Minister for Business, Employment and Retail and Local TD Emer Higgins said: "I am delighted that so many communities across South Dublin have been successful in receiving this funding, with a total of €1,073,000 for projects

in our area, especially with it being Dublin Action Climate Week recently.

"This funding will support a diverse range of organisations, including sports clubs, tidy towns, local enterprises, arts groups, as well as our own local groups that have a significant impact on our communities.

"Some of these groups include Recycle IT, Rathcoole FC, Rathcoole Community Council, Lucan Harriers Athletics, Clondalkin Tidy Towns, North Clondalkin Community Development Programme, Round Towers GAA, Ace Enterprise Park, and Clondalkin Addiction Services Programme. Congratulations to these local groups; I am confident

this funding will contribute to enhancing our area and advancing our climate goals."

"I'm particularly pleased to see Recycle IT on the list. I've worked closely with the team at Recycle IT, South Dublin County Council and Councillor Caroline Brady to organise several recycle events across Lucan, and these events have been hugely welcome by local residents. They have recently held recycling drives in various locations across South Dublin, you can recycle anything with a plug or battery. Please feel free to reach out to my office if you have any questions."

"These projects are brilliant examples of climate action being taken at a local level

in Dublin, underpinned by local authority leadership and community ownership. €27m in funding nationwide will ensure community groups are equipped to improve their areas, save energy, save money, and support their members. "The additional water refill stations, lighting upgrades and other amenities will make a real difference for people across South Dublin.

"Not only will they contribute to reaching our climate targets but will make a practical, positive difference for people in their day to day lives. "I look forward to seeing these projects coming to fruition and seeing the benefit they have for our communities," Minister Higgins concluded.



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BRENDAN GLEESON ENCOURAGING PEOPLE TO BACK HOSPICE COFFEE MORNING

Hollywood star Brendan Gleeson is encouraging coffee lovers all across South Dublin to get behind Bewley's Big Coffee Morning for Hospice this September.

Now in its 32nd year, this national fundraiser has raised an incredible €45.3 million for frontline Hospice care across Ireland since 1992. This year's event takes place on September 26th - but supporters can host a coffee morning on a date that suits them or attend a local coffee morning. Both of Gleeson's parents spent their final days supported

by Hospice care in Dublin. "I am asking everyone in South Dublin on September 26th, or whenever suits them, to organise, support or donate to a coffee morning, wherever it might be held."

Mary Flanagan, Interim CEO, Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services at Harold's Cross, Blackrock & Wicklow, said: "We are delighted Bewley's Big Coffee Morning for Hospice, one of Ireland's longest established and most loved fundraisers, now in its 32nd year, continues to raise funds in support of Hospice in-patient and

community services across Ireland. "The long-standing support of this campaign in the local community is a testament to the generosity and commitment of our coffee morning hosts. "This ongoing, unwavering support is invaluable and funds vital services and quality initiatives, enhancing care for patients living with life-limiting illness across our hospice sites of Harold's Cross, Blackrock and Wicklow."

Jason Doyle, Managing Director at Bewley's Ireland, said the company was immensely proud to again support the event, now in its 32nd year and making it the country's most successful and longest charity partnerships.

"Bewley's, as an iconic Irish brand, was founded on the principle of caring for people and communities, which ties in perfectly with the ethos of Together For Hospice," he said. "We encourage everyone to host a coffee morning to help support

the incredible, and often unseen, work that hospices nationwide carry out every day."

Bewley's Big Coffee Morning for Hospice is coordinated by Together for Hospice, The

National Hospice Movement, representing 24 Hospice and Specialist Palliative Care providers across Ireland.

Register to host a coffee morning on Thursday, September 26th - or on

a date that suits you - at hospicecoffeemorning.ie or call 0818 995 996. If you cannot host or attend a coffee morning, you can make a donation at hospicecoffeemorning.ie/donate



Pictured Actor Brendan Gleeson with hospice heroes Tanya Kelly (l) and Jennifer Kinsella (r) and Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services representative Ann Julian at the launch of Bewley's Big Coffee Morning for Hospice, one of Ireland's biggest fundraisers. Picture: Conor McCabe.



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20 YEARS OF CHAMPIONING ENTREPRENEURS

Social Entrepreneurs Ireland (SEI) is this year marking 20 years of championing entrepreneurs, uniquely on a mission to tackle social problems and improve society. Established in 2004, the not-for-profit national organisation supports high-potential social entrepreneurs to drive lasting change in Ireland, with the support of some of

the country's leading local and global companies and business people.

Social Entrepreneurs Ireland was founded as an initiative of the One Foundation in 2004, the first organisation in Ireland to focus solely on supporting social entrepreneurs. In 2008, it supported its 100th social entrepreneur. This

year, it celebrates its 20th anniversary and to date, over 600 social entrepreneurs across the country have been given over €14 million in funding and pro-bono support, including around €7.5m in financial grants.

Social Entrepreneurs Ireland alumni have directly impacted the lives of millions of people throughout Ireland

and have contributed significantly to addressing critical social problems and driving systemic change. Noted advocacy and support groups backed by SEI include Ireland's National Autism Charity, ASIAm, founded in 2014 by Adam Harris, who describes

himself, at that time, as a nineteen-year-old with big ideas!

The Shona Project, run by Tammy Darcy, to empower young women, Sharon Vard of Anam Cara bereavement supports, John Evoy of Irish Men's Sheds Association, a

community-based project supporting rural men, and Frances Black's, The Rise Foundation have all benefited from the unique community and ecosystem that helps social entrepreneurs work together to transform Ireland for the better.



Pic Credit: Damien Eagers / Julien Behal Photography

O'CONNOR CALLS FOR ACTION ON BUS SERVICE

Former Councillor, Charlie O'Connor, has called on the community to become involved in protecting the bus service to Tallaght West estates. He was speaking following a meeting of the Tallaght Transport Forum which had heard of 16 incidents involving Dublin Bus in August. The Tallaght Transport Forum meets monthly and is attended by Tallaght Gardai, management and unions of Dublin Bus, Go Ahead Ireland management, management of Luas, South Dublin County Council staff, community and political representatives, Tallaght youth workers and Foroige.

The incidents involving Dublin Bus services covered Blessington Road, Brookfield, Cheeverstown, Fortunestown Lane, Jobstown, Killinarden, Kiltalown,

MacUilliam and Tallaght Village. Among the incidents reported on the Forum report were anti social behavior, fireworks and stone throwing at the buses.

At the meeting, Charlie O'Connor who is a long time community rep on the Tallaght Transport Forum praised the endeavors of Tallaght Gardai in supporting the transport services. He said that everything possible must continue to be done to protect and preserve the services, particularly the Dublin Bus services which had been the subject of the 16 incidents in the month. He added that the local community had a clear role to play as many of the incidents involved children. Charlie O'Connor also said that contact with the local schools was so important in that regard.

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FROM TENT IN TALLAGHT TO HOMELESS WORLD CUP IN SOUTH KOREA

Brendan's addiction led to him surviving in a tent, feeling worthless and forgotten, embarrassed and ashamed. At six feet tall, he weighed just eight stone and was a shadow of himself. In just two years, he has completely turned his life around. With the support of his family and Merchants Quay Ireland (MQI), this September Brendan will represent Ireland in the Homeless World Cup in South Korea.

Quay Ireland client explains "I had tried many times to become drug free. This time was different, I was physically and mentally broken, I'd given up. I used to pray to my brother who died, 'please just get me, just take me'. One night, my two sisters came looking for me with torches. They brought me home to their house and got me into treatment. That was the start of my recovery journey, and I haven't looked back."

South Korea. Once you stay drug-free, anything in life is possible, I'm living proof of that. I gave up on myself, but my family never gave up on me. Now, I have a job, I have an incredible support network around me and I'm very grateful for that."

The Homeless World Cup will be held in Asia for the first time, at Hanyang University, Seoul from 21-28 of September. The event aims 'from feeling forgotten to being celebrated on a global stage'.

Carol Casey, Head of Communications and Fundraising at MQI concludes "We admire Brendan's bravery for sharing his story, as one of the biggest obstacles our clients face is stigma. So, we hope Brendan's incredible journey highlights that there is always hope, and recovery from addiction is always possible, when people are



Pic credit: *Conor Healy / Picture It Photography*

For many people who are homeless, addiction isn't very far away. Sometimes addiction is what brings people into homelessness. For others, the trauma of being homeless can send them into a downward spiral. This can result in a rapid decline in mental health, which in turn can lead to taking drugs to be able to cope, or in some cases, to be able to sleep.

After completing MQI's Aftercare Service, Brendan reignited his love of football and joined The Irish Homeless Street Leagues. The organisation uses the power of sport to transform the lives of individuals from underprivileged, poorly educated, socially excluded, and conflicted communities.

Brendan continues "We had trials recently and they picked four of us to go to the Homeless World Cup in

given the right support. We are constantly in awe of the resilience of our clients and the adversities they overcome to become drug free. Recovery from addiction is a long road,

a huge achievement and should be celebrated.

We are very proud of Brendan and all he has achieved. We wish him and the Irish team every success in South

Korea." To donate to Merchants Quay Ireland, so the charity can continue to support those experiencing homelessness and addiction, please visit www.MQI.ie

Brendan, former Merchants

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CLONDALKIN VACANCY RATES IN CHILDREN'S DISABILITY SERVICES UNACCEPTABLE

TD for Dublin Mid-West, Mark Ward, has voiced his disappointment at the level of vacancies in local services for children with disabilities. Deputy Ward was speaking after receiving a parliamentary question response in relation to vacancy rates in Clondalkin's Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT). The Dublin Mid-West TD expressed his disappointment at the government's complete failure in delivering fully staffed services and supports for disabled children and their families.

Teachta Ward said "One of the biggest issues that parents contact my office with is them trying to get vital disability services for their children. "Vacancy rates for specialist disability workers in Clondalkin's CDNT are unacceptable. Figures returned to me show vacancy rates between 14% to 100% across various positions within the CDNT. "14% of physiotherapist,

35% of psychologist, 64% of occupational therapists, 67% speech and language therapists positions are vacant in the Clondalkin area

"There are currently no social workers or behaviour specialists working in the Clondalkin CDNT. "It breaks my heart every time I have to send a letter I received from the HSE to desperate parents, telling them that their child may have to wait years for these vital services. "Children are being denied the opportunity to reach their full potential.

"The government is not doing enough to ensure the recruitment and retention of vital therapy staff to deliver desperately needed assessment of need reports and follow-up therapeutic interventions.

"Following on from this PQ response there is a national trend where there are now 817 staff vacancies in CDNTs compared to 707 in 2022 and

524 in 2021, as indicated in a census report.

"We keep hearing from the Minister and her Government colleagues that they are putting in place the necessary resources to improve the situation in CDNTs, but this census report indicates that the opposite is happening. "The situation in CDNTs is getting worse and worse each year and affirms that the government are failing disabled people in general and disabled children in particular. "This is placing an extremely heavy burden on the staff who are in post as they try to cope with the additional workload placed on them by the fact that over a third of their teams have not been filled.

"The high and increasing level of staff vacancies in CDNTs is undoubtedly the main factor that has led to extremely high waiting lists for assessments and follow-up services for children. "This government have

completely failed people with disabilities and their families. Their promises are sounding increasingly hollow. "It is time for a new government, led by Sinn Féin, that will deliver for disabled people and their families."

TWO DUBLIN ORGANIC PRODUCERS SHORTLISTED FOR NATIONAL ORGANIC AWARDS



Recently, Bord Bia announced the shortlist of organic food and drink producers for the National Organic Awards 2024, held in association with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to celebrate the achievements and high standards of the increasing number of organic growers, producers, and manufacturers in the country. The winners of the National Organic Awards will be revealed at an awards ceremony that takes place on Thursday, October 17th in the Bord Bia Global Hub in Dublin.

Judges reviewed the shortlisted companies at the National Organic Food Fair which took place in Merrion Square in Dublin on Saturday. Judges included chef Clodagh McKenna, food writer Suzanne Campbell, chef Janine Kennedy, food consultant Annie Dunne, and retail expert John McDonagh.

The shortlisted companies were judged across seven categories including a new award for 2024, The Organic Sector Champion which will be announced alongside the other winners at the ceremony in October. Among those shortlisted for the awards are Nik's Tea from Rathcoole and Culinary Microherbs from Fingal.

Nik's Tea is an award-winning supplier of bespoke and speciality teas from around the world. They are committed to an ecological production process & packaging plan and aim to create organic herbal teas that are

healthy and full of exciting flavours. They are shortlisted for the Best New & Innovative Irish Organic Product for their Organic Cherry Spice Iced Tea.

Culinary Microherbs is a family-run farm based in Dublin. They produce high-quality culinary grade microherbs year-round, free of herbicides and pesticides, and are hand harvested to order. They are shortlisted in the Best Irish Organic Private Label Product Award for their Live Microgreens Mix Box, as well as Best New & Innovative Irish Organic Product for their single unit Live Microgreens.

Commenting on the selection of short-listed producers, Emmet Doyle, Organic Sector Manager in Bord Bia, said "The National Organic Awards is an opportunity to shine a light on the quality of Ireland's thriving organic sector and highlight some of the producers who continue to drive the sector from strength to strength. From speaking to our esteemed judges, the calibre of entries was excellent this year, which is reflected in the companies shortlisted. We would like to extend our congratulations to them, and thank all who entered this year."

Winners of the National Organic Awards 2024 will get a one-to-one session with Bord Bia's Client Capability team, who will help develop a bespoke package of supports to meet individual company needs up to the value of €5,000.

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COMHAIRLE NA NÓG UNVEILS NEW WEBSITE AND VIBRANT REBRAND

Comhairle na nÓg, the national network of child and youth councils, on the 10th September launched its newly redesigned website, along with a fresh, new brand identity. Developed on behalf of the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY), by RedDog Creative Agency, the rebrand reflects a vibrant, fun, and collaborative spirit that resonates with young people across Ireland. The new look also celebrates Comhairle na nÓg's position as the permanent structure representing young voices in

decision-making at local and national levels.

Young people involved in Comhairle na nÓg were facilitated to play a central role in the creation of the new brand identity and the development of the website. The new Comhairle na nÓg website features a modern design with an emphasis on accessibility, easy navigation, and visual appeal, making it a valuable resource for young people, parents, educators, decision-makers and stakeholders. It serves as a central hub for information on how

young people can engage with their local Comhairle and exercise their right in influencing decision-makers on the topics most important to them. It also provides information on how adults and decision-makers can consult with young people on topics that affect them.

Kevin McCarthy, Secretary General, Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth "Comhairle na nÓg is the well established recognised structure for youth participation in decision making, and the new branding and website brings its public image up to date in a dynamic, exciting way....it is also an accessible starting point for decision makers who want to involve children and young people in their decision making process and young people who want to get involved."

influence policy and practice on key issues that matter to them through consultations,

focus groups, and direct engagement with decision-makers. This is especially

crucial for those under 18, who do not have a voting platform.



Comhairle na nÓg enables young people aged 12-18 to *Pictured South Dublin Comhairle na nÓg representative, Ash Kennedy, as part of new branding and website launch.*

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RED LINE BOOK FESTIVAL LAUNCHES AN EXCITING NEW PROGRAMME

An exciting new programme has been announced for the Red Line Book Festival coming up on October 14th - 20th 2024 with over 40 literary events and an eclectic mix of established writers and new voices. Highlights include an evening with international bestselling author, Marian Keyes; the ever-popular True Crime Night with former detective Pat Marry and investigative journalist Mick Clifford in conversation with Muireann O'Connell; Donal Ryan, and comedian Emma Doran talking about her debut book, Mad Isn't It? Authors Sean Murray, Nicky Ryan and Christine Bohan as they share the harrowing Stardust Tragedy as they discuss The Last Disco. For those consumed by Wanderlust; Rory King,

Pól Ó Conghaile and Fionn Davenport will chat to travel blogger Nadia El Ferdaoussi

The events will take place in South Dublin County in locations such as The Civic, Rathfarnham Castle, Brú Chrónáin - Clondalkin Round Tower Visitor Centre, and the Pearse Museum highlighting the richness of the county's built heritage as well as introducing dynamic new venues such as Work IQ in Tallaght Innovation Quarter. The Red Line Book Festival is a celebration of literature, storytelling, and creativity and has grown to become one of the highlights of the cultural calendar. It offers an incredible opportunity to connect with the written word in its many forms whether you're a reader,

writer, or simply a lover of stories. From engaging discussions with authors to exciting workshops and performances, this festival creates a space for reflection, imagination, and community.

"Festivals like this one play a crucial role in bringing people together, igniting conversations, and inspiring new generations of writers and readers alike. I would like to thank our partners and venues for their continuing commitment to the festival. To all attendees, I hope you enjoy the diverse programme of events, discover new perspectives, and leave inspired." said Cllr. Baby Pereppadan, Mayor of South Dublin County. The festival also aims to foster

local writing talent, with a range of writing workshops in different genres taking place in our libraries, as well as our Comedian in Residence programme with Sharon Mannion which will mentor participants in a series of workshops looking at all aspects of comedy writing and performance, culminating in a showcase event during the festival.

The festival's Family Fun Day returns to Tallaght's cultural quarter on Saturday 19th October, and promises to be a day of literary magic and Halloween fun for all ages with activities including storytelling sessions, illustration workshops from top Irish artists working in children's literature as well as live music, creative events, children's entertainment and lots more. 'Tallaween' will also be unleashed on Saturday 19th bringing the library's darkest tales to life. Monsters, demons, and zombies will escape the pages and haunt Parthalán Place every night from 5 PM to 9 PM until October 31st.

Now in its 13th year, The Red Line Book Festival is produced by South Dublin Libraries and Arts at South Dublin County Council offering a programme of

events and workshops that appeals to people of all ages and interests, from children to adults, casual readers

to bookworms. See www.redlinefestival.ie for the full programme of events taking place across all venues.



Pic credit: Gareth Chaney



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OVER €170,000 FOR SOUTH DUBLIN LOCAL SPORTS PARTNERSHIPS AND ACTIVE DISABILITY IRELAND

Local Fianna Fáil Councillor Teresa Costello has welcomed over €170,000 in funding for South Dublin Local Sports Partnership (LSP) announced by her party colleague, Minister of State Thomas Byrne. The funding is part of a total of over €5m announced recently in Dormant Accounts Funding awarded to Local Sports Partnerships and Active Disability Ireland.

The Dormant Accounts Funding allows unclaimed funds from accounts in credit institutions in Ireland to be utilised for projects focused on overcoming the barriers and challenges to participation in sport for those who are economically

or educationally disadvantaged, or those affected by a disability. Cllr Costello said: "I am delighted to welcome this latest round of funding that proves Fianna Fáil's commitment in government to bring the benefits of sport and physical activity to those experiencing disadvantage or with disabilities.

"Funding for dormant accounts has a real impact on individuals in our communities in South Dublin and this new round of funding will help support those living with disadvantages or with disabilities to have greater opportunities to participate in activities they have a passion for. "In

South Dublin we have a very strong sporting community. You have seen how well our fantastic Olympians and Paralympians performed in the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Paris this year. We must continue to build on this momentum and that starts within the grass roots of our community."

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PEOPLE IN CRISIS DESERVE APPROPRIATE MENTAL HEALTH CARE

Mark Ward TD, has called for better services for people experiencing crisis mental health difficulties. Deputy Ward was speaking following the publication of Sinn Féin's Mental Health Action Plan recently.

Teachta Ward said "Mental health difficulties do not just occur between the hours of 9-5, Monday to Friday. People in crisis often turn to A&E for help. This is not always the most appropriate place for someone in crisis. "In recent weeks, Sinn Féin launched our Mental Health Action Plan where we focused on key issues for crisis intervention. "What we need is 24/7 care. This can consist of community-based multidisciplinary services to provide rapid assessment and varying degrees of support to people who are in a mental health crisis.

"Our cities need to be resourced with Crisis Cafés, places where medical professionals are based within the community. "We also need services for when a person is a danger to themselves or others. I have highlighted the positive impacts that a pilot programme for a crisis de-escalation team was in Belfast several years ago and have called for similar teams to be available across the state.

"The teams can be deployed to assist the Gardaí where necessary and appropriate. These teams would comprise of mental health professionals and a paramedic. These professionals can make the most appropriate interventions and referrals where necessary.

"A pilot programme in Limerick has been promised for the last two years but has not been delivered. This must now be prioritised. "If a person does need to access the emergency department in mental health crisis, then Sinn Féin would fund liaison psychiatrists in each ED around the state. "A priority of ours is to fund the National Clinical Programme for Suicide Intervention, which has not received new funding for several years. "Sinn Féin have a vision and plan for delivering crisis intervention, and we will deliver this if in Government."

MOONEY'S LONG MILE ROAD RECOGNISED AT CARSIRELAND DEALERSHIP AWARDS

Cars Ireland, Ireland's leading online classified marketplace, is thrilled to announce the Q2 winners of its 2024 Dealership Awards, proudly supported by PTSB Asset Finance. The Dealership Awards recognise the online automotive marketing efforts of dealerships throughout Leinster. Winners were selected from a highly competitive pool of entries, and judged by a panel of automotive and marketing experts.

Mooney's Long Mile Road won the Leinster award for Best Social Media, for their expert use of online platforms as a tool for sales

and brand development.

Donal Walsh, Head of Motor Finance at PTSB Asset Finance, said: "We are delighted to sponsor the Cars Ireland Dealership Awards which recognise the very best of Motor Dealership marketing strategies. We extend our sincere congratulations to this quarter's very worthy winners for showcasing such fantastic innovation and creativity."

Ger Toher, Chief Operating Officer at Cars Ireland added: "Recognising excellence in online marketing is essential in today's digital landscape. We believe that celebrating

these achievements drives continued innovation and growth across our dealer network. We're proud of our dealers who are making a significant impact, and we look forward to seeing how

their efforts continue to shape the way people buy and sell cars." Entries for the Q3 PTSB and Cars Ireland Car Dealership Awards are now open via Cars Ireland's most recent subscriber email.



TALLAGHT REHABILITATION PROJECT



Pictured at Tallaght Rehabilitation Project, Kiltalown House, on the occasion of the Launch of Recovery Month were (L to R) Grace Hill Tallaght Drugs & Alcohol Task Force, Mayor Baby Pereppadam, Charlie O'Connor and Jacqueline Sheehy both TDAF Community Group.



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EDUCATION & TRAINING FEATURE**APPLICATIONS WILL SOON CLOSE FOR THE 2025 BT YOUNG SCIENTIST & TECHNOLOGY EXHIBITION**

BT Ireland has announced that there is just days to go before applications close for the 2025 BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition (BTYSTE), at 5pm on September 27, 2024. This year, BT Ireland opened entries for the BTYSTE earlier than ever in May, to allow students as much time as possible to turn their creative ideas into project entries. Next year's BTYSTE will take place from January 08 - 11, 2025 and will once again showcase incredible projects from students across the five categories of Technology, Social and Behavioural Sciences, Biological and Ecological Sciences, Chemical, Physical, Mathematical Sciences, and Health and Wellbeing. Hundreds of prizes will be on offer to finalists across the various categories and age groups, amounting to a total prize fund of €50,000.

The overall winner(s) of the BTYSTE 2025 will also take home the BT Young Scientist & Technologist(s) of the Year Award, worth €7,500, and will go on to represent Ireland at the European Union Contest for Young Scientists (EUCYS) in 2026.

Speaking ahead of the 2025 BTYSTE project entries deadline, Mari Cahalane, Head of the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition said: "Throughout BT Ireland's 25 years as lead sponsor of the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition, it has been fantastic to see first-hand the impact that the Exhibition, and the students taking part, have had on Ireland's science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) sector.

"The BTYSTE is an opportunity like no other for secondary school students

in Ireland to turn ideas into initiatives and develop a lifelong passion for STEM. We are thrilled that this year we are able to provide further funding to schools through the Accommodation Grant Scheme to support as many schools as possible to participate in Exhibition week."

Since BT Ireland launched the Accommodation Grant Scheme in 2006, the company has contributed €1,358,950 in funding to qualified projects from schools located 70km or more outside of the exhibition venue in Dublin - including €46,050 in funding to Dublin schools.

Donal Enright, teacher at Desmond College, Limerick said: "The accommodation grant has really made all the difference for us in being able to send our students

to the BTYSTE to represent their school. Desmond College has participated in the BTYSTE for over 50 years now, with many of our students going on to win awards across the various categories. "The BTYSTE has been the first step for many of our students into the world of STEM and lots of our alumni have gone on to enjoy successful careers in STEM after school. We're delighted that thanks to the grant scheme, we can continue to send pupils to the BTYSTE each year."

To give more support for schools in the DEIS schools programme taking part in the BTYSTE, DEIS schools located 70km or more from the RDS in Dublin will now be eligible for 20% more grant funding under the Accommodation Grant Scheme. In those schools, an individual project finalist



will receive €180 and a group of finalists €360 towards their accommodation costs for attending the BTYSTE in Dublin. For those DEIS schools that are not eligible for the accommodation grant, they will receive separate funding of €50 for each shortlisted project, to a maximum grant of €500 per school. Entrants will need to

fill out an application form and the all-important one-page proposal outlining their idea. To submit a project to the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition 2025, please visit: btyoungscientist.com (<https://enter.btyoungscientist.ie>). For more information visit btyoungscientist.com.

Tallaght Community School

Balrothery Estate, Tallaght, Dublin 24

OPEN NIGHT

Monday 23rd September at 7pm.

ENROLMENT FOR 1ST YEAR 2025/2026

Applications will be accepted from Tuesday 1st October 2024

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ADAMSTOWN COMMUNITY COLLEGE SUPPORTED BY AMAZON DUBLIN

The team from Amazon's fulfilment centre in Baldonnell Business Park has made a €2,000 donation to a local Lucan school.

The donation was made to Adamstown Community College in Lucan. The college

is committed to providing equal opportunities for students through high-quality education, in a supportive and encouraging learning environment. The donation was put towards a state-of-the-art 3D printing facility that has become

a hub of creativity and innovation for students.

Speaking on the donation, Darragh Kelly, General Manager at Amazon, said "At Amazon, we recognise that schools play a pivotal role in our community. They not only provide education to young people, but they also cultivate a community spirit. Adamstown Community College builds and nourishes the ambitions of young people, and we hope this donation can contribute to its mission."

Aine Flynn, an employee from Amazon in Dublin, added "I'm delighted Amazon is supporting Adamstown College through this donation. Adamstown College is known for its commitment to fostering a learning environment that sparks intellectual curiosity and empowers students to reach their full potential."

Padraig Concannon, Technology Teacher from



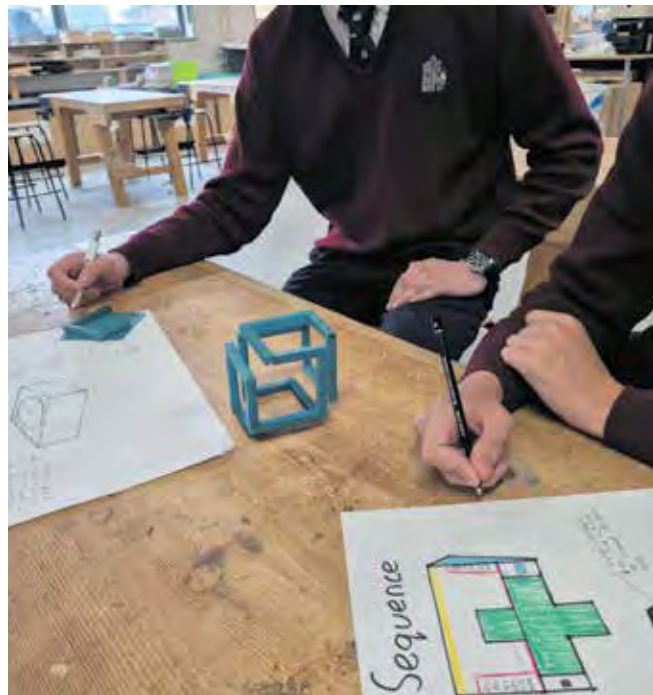
Adamstown Community College, added "We'd like to say thank you to Darragh and the Amazon team in Dublin for this donation. This support has helped students combine STEM concepts with real-world projects, fostering hands-on learning. With Amazon's contribution, we've been able to

inspire and equip the next generation of innovators and problem-solvers."

The donation to Adamstown Community College was made as part of Amazon's programme to support the communities in and around its operating locations in Ireland. Since opening its

doors in 2022, the Dublin fulfilment centre has supported many community organisations locally, with donations totalling €53,338.

Charities supported by the team at the fulfilment centre include Cliona's Foundation, Jigsaw and LauraLynn Children's Hospice.



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GAS NETWORKS IRELAND LAUNCHES NEW GRADUATE PROGRAMME FOR 2025

Gas Networks Ireland has announced the launch of its 2025 Graduate Programme, aimed at recruiting energised and ambitious graduates for roles with the national utility.

The two-year programme offers students due to graduate next year, and recent graduates, the chance to secure a position within the company, starting in Autumn 2025. Gas Networks Ireland is now accepting applications for its 2025 Graduate Programme, inviting recent or prospective graduates in STEM (science, technology, engineering or maths) disciplines to apply. To be considered, applicants must have a proven academic record or expecting to have a Graduate or Postgraduate Qualification (minimum Level 8, achieving a 2.1 or higher).

Gas Networks Ireland's People Director, Nicola Mc Sweeney said "We are looking for candidates who are natural problem solvers with excellent communication skills, who enjoy working collaboratively in diverse teams, and demonstrate initiative, energy, and pride in their work.

"Our Graduate Programme offers participants the chance to gain valuable hands-on experience through multiple rotations across different business areas. With full-time placements starting in September 2025, we are proud to offer a competitive salary, the flexibility of hybrid working, significant learning offerings, wellbeing initiatives and our ibelong diversity, equity and inclusion programme provides fantastic opportunity to get involved in groups such as our Rainbow, Neurodiverse & Ability and our NextGen employee resource groups as examples.

Graduates can be based in either Dublin or Cork,

ensuring they have options that suit their needs as they begin their careers with us."

As part of the Graduate Programme, participants will receive mentoring and on-the-job development, supported by an extensive range of learning and development opportunities. Additional benefits include hybrid working options, participation in the ibelong programme, which promotes diversity, equity, and inclusion and involvement in various charitable initiatives such as fundraising campaigns, seasonal donation drives and volunteering opportunities.

Participants will also have the chance to gain experience working on some of the country's largest energy infrastructure projects through rotations in areas such as future technology and materials development, engineering projects, IT/operational technology, sustainability, gas transportation and grid control, gas safety and asset management.

This graduate programme has been instrumental in shaping the careers of many successful professionals at Gas Networks Ireland. Graduates from Dublin have found great success through the programme, leveraging their skills and education to build rewarding careers in the energy sector.

One such success story is Aakash Sridhar, originally from Hyderabad, India, who holds a BEng in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from Anna University and completed an MEng in Electronics and Computer Engineering from Dublin City University. Aakash chose to join Gas Networks Ireland's Graduate Programme because of its flexibility, offering exposure to various departments and opportunities to gain extensive knowledge across

different roles. He was particularly impressed by the company's clear vision for the future, which aligned with his own career aspirations. Aakash believes the rotations help participants get out of their comfort zones, explore

new areas, and acquire unparalleled experience, making it an ideal way to start a career in the energy sector.

Gas Networks Ireland's People Director, Nicola Mc Sweeney added "We are

excited to offer students the opportunity to start their professional journey in a national utility straight out of college. This is an exciting time for graduates to join our company, and with the right ambition, they can shape a fulfilling career with

us, just like Aakash Sridhar has done." Applications are now open and will close on October 18, 2024. Interested candidates are encouraged to apply early through the Gas Networks Ireland website: www.gasnetworks.ie/gradprogramme



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CLONDALKIN SCHOOL WILL JOIN CREATIVE SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

The Arts Council announced recently that 184 new schools and Youthreach centres across Ireland will join its Creative Schools programme including St. Bernadette's National School, Clondalkin. This brings to 1,100 the number of Irish schools who have participated since the programme began in 2018.

One in four Irish schools will have now been part of the Creative Schools programme. This is a critical development for the arts and young people in Ireland and helps to fulfil the Arts Council's aim for all children to have the opportunity to participate fully in a range of art forms within our education system. The Arts Council works to ensure that all children can fully enjoy their right to arts and culture.

There were 300 applications to the programme this year, a significant increase on 2023 numbers. This year's Creative Schools intake includes 53 DEIS schools and 23 Irish language schools as well as seven youthreach centres and eight special

schools. The 184 schools chosen will each receive a €4,000 grant and will work with a professional Creative Associate for two years who will support them to develop and implement their own bespoke Creative School Plan.

Participating in the Creative School programme empowers children and young people to develop, implement and evaluate arts and creative activity throughout their schools and Youthreach centres. The initiative also enables schools to discover additional ways of working and uncover the impact of creativity on children and young people's learning, development and well-being.

Schools who take part explore creativity in all its forms and embrace how it can be celebrated in so many ways. From baking to creating and designing gardens, from photography to performance, from working with other community groups to transforming areas of their own schools, the impact of Creative Schools is

already felt in every county. Minister for Education Norma Foley TD said "It is wonderful to welcome the 186 schools to the Creative Schools initiative 2024. I would like to personally welcome these new schools into this unique programme. I'm very excited to see how these creative and captivating projects will develop over the coming two years."

Also speaking, Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media Catherine Martin TD said "I would like to congratulate the 186 schools and Youthreach centres that have successfully applied to become a Creative School. This new cohort of schools and school communities have the opportunity to embark on a unique two-year journey of creativity and discovery. With this additional set of schools, it now means that, since inception in 2018, 1 in 4 schools in Ireland will have experienced Creative Schools.

Again, this year sees a continuous increase in the diversity of settings in

receipt of support. This is a testament to its impact and the strength of the partnership between the Art Council, the Department of Education and the all-of-government Creative Ireland Programme."

Speaking about the announcement Director of the Arts Council Maureen Kennelly said "We warmly welcome our new cohort of 186 schools to Creative Schools. Following the wonderful success of Creative February for schools this year, we are heartened to see a clear increase in applications for this incredible resource. By this stage of the programme, we're delighted to say that 25% of all schools in Ireland have connected with us.

We know that arts experiences with, for and by children can be transformative. Working with our partners in the Department of Education, and in the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and in Creative Ireland, we are looking forward to

another school year full of thinking, discovery and most importantly fun".



Pictured Students from St. Bernadette's National School, Clondalkin. Photo Credit: Brian Cregan



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NYCI LAUNCHES LOCAL CHAMPIONS INITIATIVE TO ADVOCATE FOR INCREASED INVESTMENT

The National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI), which represents organisations working with young people nationwide, has launched its Local Champions initiative for 2024. It aims to ensure increased investment in young people and youth work locally and nationally. Jessica Moffitt from Dublin has been selected as Local Champion for Dublin South-Central.

Grace McManus, NYCI Campaigns Manager, explained: "As part of the Local Champions initiative, a group of passionate young individuals has been selected

as representatives from their communities to engage with their local politicians and champion the cause of youth work."

The Local Champions received training and support from NYCI to effectively convey the positive impact youth work has on their lives and the lives of young people in their communities, as well as the importance of investing in youth work. NYCI is calling for an additional €15 million investment in youth work in Budget 2025 to support services under increasing pressure and ensure equal

access to youth work for all young people nationwide. The representative Local Champion in Dublin South-Central are engaging with include Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Deputy Joan Collins, Deputy Patrick Costello, and Deputy Brid Smith.

Jessica Moffitt said: "I'm really looking forward to meeting our local representatives and sharing some of the amazing experiences I've had with Comhairle na nÓg, Catholic Girl Guides, Scouting Ireland, Youth Work Ireland, Spunout, and ISSU. There's so much important work happening in our area to support young people, and I want to ensure our local representatives carry that message to the national level, so that youth work in our area and beyond gets its fair share come budget time."

The Local Champions initiative, will involve engaging with policymakers, sharing personal stories, and using social media to raise awareness and mobilise support. Through these efforts, NYCI and the Local Champions aim to create a

broader understanding of the significance of youth work and its positive impact on society.

These initiatives are part of NYCI's broader campaign ahead of Budget 2025 on 1st October 2024, to ensure that young people and youth work receive the necessary investment and support they deserve. The Local Champions initiative is supported by the Community

Foundation Ireland.

Denise Charlton, Chief Executive of Community Foundation Ireland added: "Empowering Generations is central to our mission as a philanthropic hub for Ireland. To achieve that goal we're delighted to be partners with NYCI. The Local Champions network aims to amplify the voices of young people and showcase the transformative power

of youth work. It is bringing together an inspirational group of young people, and we look forward to seeing them connecting with their local representatives to share how youth work changes lives."

To learn more about the Local Champions Initiative and NYCI's efforts to advocate for increased investment in youth work, please visit youth.ie



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CHADWICKS ROBINHOOD ROAD SHORTLISTED IN OCTABUILD BUILDERS MERCHANTS EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Brooks Bluebell and Chadwicks Robinhood Road have been shortlisted in the the Octabuild Builders Merchants Excellence Awards 2024.

Brooks Bluebell has been shortlisted for the Excellence in Business Management Award and Chadwicks Robinhood Road has been shortlisted for the Leinster Regional Award, the Excellence in Sustainable Business Award, and the Excellence in Business Management Award.

They are among the three builders merchants to be shortlisted in Dublin. The other shortlisted builders merchant is Chadwicks Coolock, who have been shortlisted for the Leinster Regional Award, Excellence in Customer Service Award, and Excellence in Sustainable Business Award.

Brooks Bluebell employs 29 full-time staff and is part of Brooks Timber & Building Supplies LTD, which has been in operation for over 200 years. Brooks Bluebell

is the largest of nine Brooks branches in the country. We prioritise exceptional customer service, constantly innovate our product range & engage in comprehensive colleague training & development programmes," said Eddie Holly, Branch Manager.

Chadwicks Robinhood Road has been in business for 56 years and employs 47 full-time and part-time staff. The branch hosts a full range of products including building, plumbing, timber, steel, Sam Hire, fixings, civils, paint, workwear, power and hand tools.

Pictured are some of the Chadwicks Robinhood Road team left to right: Mark Cleary, Una Madden, David Small and Chloe McKillion.

The Octabuild Awards, which have been recognising excellence in the builders merchant trade for over 35 years, continue with an all-island competition this year. There are 21 shortlisted builders merchants competing for four regional



awards and five category awards . In addition there are nine contenders for the Rising Star Award, acknowledging the up-and-coming talent in the industry. The full shortlist is also available at www.octabuild.ie/news/

The judges will be visiting all shortlisted merchants in the coming weeks to select the winners in each region

and category as well as an overall winner. The winners will be announced at an awards event on Thursday, 17th October in the Round Room at the Mansion House in Dublin.

Commenting on the entries received, judge Joe Harlin, said: "The diverse range of excellence displayed in the entries this year reflects the evolving landscape of the

builders merchant trade. From sustainable business practices to exceptional customer service, the shortlisted candidates have shown remarkable dedication to advancing the industry."

Speaking on behalf of the eight Octabuild members - Dulux, Etex Ireland, Glennon Brothers, Grant Engineering, Gyproc, Irish Cement,

Kingspan Insulation and Wavin Ireland - Octabuild Chairperson, Declan Conlon, commented: "The commitment to excellence in the builders merchant trade is fundamental to the successful growth of the industry and we are delighted to be in a position to both highlight and celebrate the high standard of excellence that is evident across the country."



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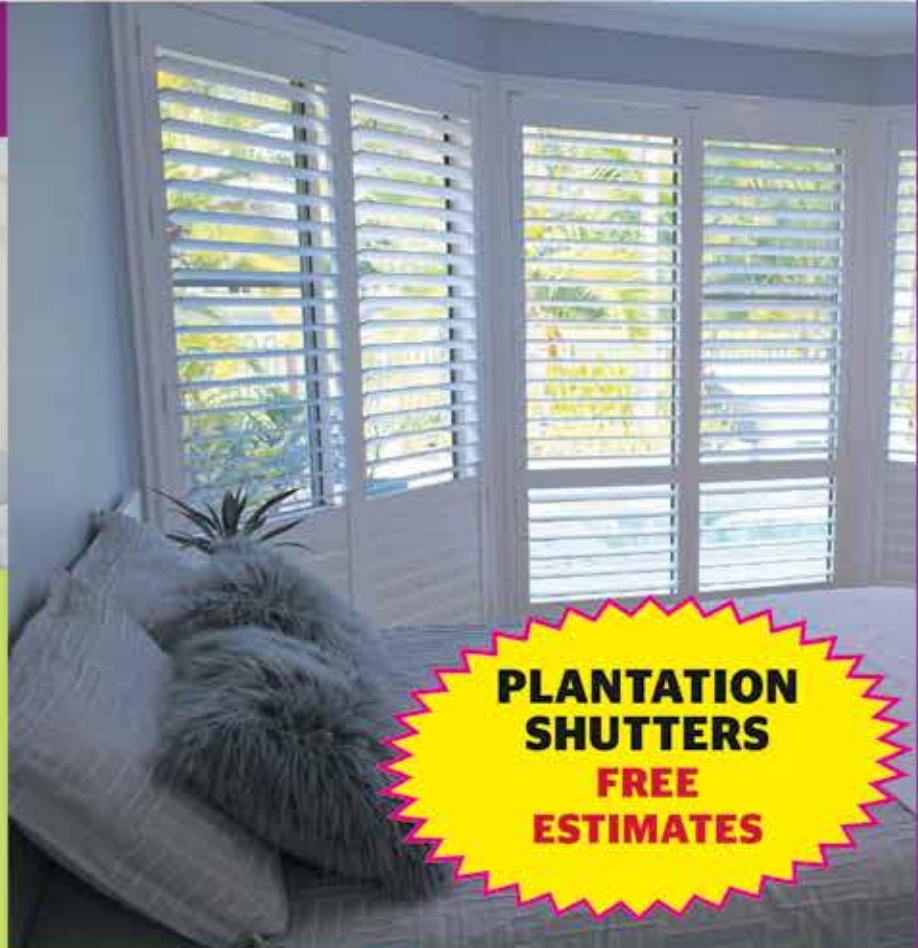
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