Fingal News



Fingal's St Patrick's Day parades

PLUS MetroLink, Fingal Newsdesk, Win a Family Pass for Newbridge Farm.

Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall Fingal County Council



Your Council, working for you

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Fingal County Council Parks

Ardgillan Castle Demesne and Regional Park

Malahide Castle Demesne and Regional Park

Newbridge House, Farm, Demesne and Regional Park

Swords Castle and Townpark

Santry Demesne Regional Park

Skerries Mills

St Catherines Park / Lucan Demesne

Talbot Botanic Gardens

Tolka Valley Regional Park

Ward River Valley Regional Park

For a full list of opening hours and more details, please go to:

http://fingal.ie/community-and-leisure/

Fingal County Council Recycling Centres



Coolmine Recycling Centre Coolmine Industrial Estate, Dublin 15. (Beside Coolmine Fire Station) **Estuary Recycling Centre** Swords, County Dublin (Beside Swords Business Park)

For opening hours and more details see link http://fingal.ie/environment/waste-and-recycling/recycling-centres/

Mayor's Message

Chief Executive's Message



The inclement weather conditions brought by Storm Emma are unlikely to be forgotten for some time to come. I do however want to pay tribute and thank all those who went above and beyond the call of duty to ensure that some sense of normality prevailed. To the

residents of Fingal who in so many areas banded together to take on the snow and who made sure that elderly neighbours were looked after, I say well done and thank you. The many stories that reached me relating to the wonderful community spirit that was evident during Storm Emma were heartwarming.

Huge thanks also to the staff of Fingal County Council who went out in all weathers to ensure that the main roads were kept open and that essential services were maintained right through the four days of the blizzard.

Celebrations to mark St Patrick's Day were held throughout Fingal on Saturday 17th March and I was delighted to see such large numbers coming out in cold weather at a number of parades that I attended throughout the county. As Mayor, I am extremely proud of the working relationship between Fingal County Council and the many voluntary community groups throughout the county. The work done by these dedicated groups is essential to fostering community spirit.

I hope the weather picks up now that we're into April and I hope you enjoy this issue of *Fingal News*.

Cllr. Mary McCamley Mayor Of Fingal



The recent bad weather that we experienced serves to remind us all of the vital role that Fingal County Council staff play in ensuring that roads and vital services are maintained. I was very proud of our staff and the fantastic work they carried out in dangerous conditions during the

snow storms at the start of March and I would like once again to publicly congratulate all our staff and volunteers for their efforts in keeping us safe.

This issue of *Fingal News* reports on the exciting prospects in store for us all in Fingal following the recent announcement of Project Ireland 2040 - National Planning Framework and National Development Plan. In what can only be a positive result for us all, the benefits from this plan, particularly MetroLink, will greatly help in continuing to make Fingal a better place to live, work and do business in.

Also in this month's *Fingal News* we look at Ongar Community Centre. Judging by the range of activities available to residents, and indeed the feedback I have received myself, it continues to be at the heart of its community. A selection of photos from the recent St Patrick's Day parades feature in this month's issue which truly reflect the strong sense of community and culture that exists across Fingal.

I hope you enjoy reading this latest *Fingal News* and don't forget that if you have any suggestions or feedback on the magazine then please email <u>fingalnews@fingal.ie</u>.

Paul Reid Chief Executive Fingal County Council

Metro will be a game-changer for Fingal

Fingal County Council has welcomed the announcement of a metro system linking Swords and Sandyford which was announced at the launch of Project Ireland 2040 in Sligo last month.

The Metro North project, which was to have run from Swords to St Stephen's Green, has been extended and renamed MetroLink. Under the Project Ireland 2040 - National Development Plan 2018-2027, Metro Link will be complete by 2027.

The Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, Paul Reid, said that the decision to finally give the green light to a metro system for Fingal is a major boost.

"A northbound metro system is the most crucial piece of infrastructure needed in Ireland because not only will it link the Airport with Dublin City Centre, it will also link Swords and North County Dublin with existing public transport infrastructure such as LUAS and DART. "The decision to extend it south of Dublin City Centre to Sandyford is also welcome as it makes the system even more attractive for users and the public consultation phase is now underway.

"This will be a game-changer for Fingal as the new metro system will allow for the sustainable growth of Swords in accordance with our Development Plan. The Council's Director of Strategic Infrastructure and Planning, AnnMarie Farrelly, said that Fingal has already put in place the necessary preparatory steps required to fully exploit the arrival of a metro system for the benefit of the local community and local business.

"The metro is a key piece in our planning for the sustainable development of Fingal. It will unlock the tremendous potential along the Metro Economic Corridor to the north of Swords as outlined in our 2017-2023 County Development Plan.

MetroLink:

- Committed Completion date of 2027
- Connections with DART and LUAS lines
- The spine of an Economic Corridor opening-up brownfield and other sites
- Underpinning the sustainable development of Swords
- Supports the strategic objectives of the Fingal County Development Plan
- Enhances quality of life for citizens, commuters and benefits business

"We have put in place plans which will allow us to be ready to benefit from the moment the first journey is made."

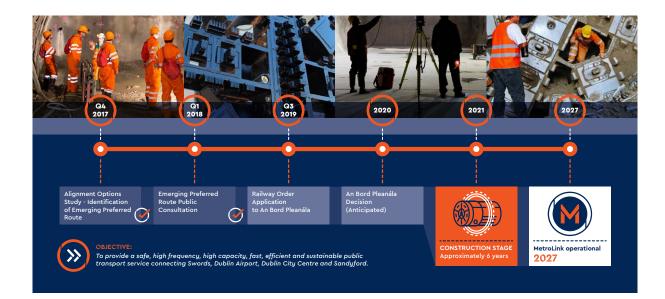
"From the point where it will cross the county boundary, we have put in place plans which will allow us to be ready to benefit from the moment the first journey is made.

"The strategic development sites along the metro route have the potential to deliver significant new housing and local employment from now to 2040. This will ensure that housing choice and high skilled employment opportunities are provided for existing and future residents," said Ms Farrelly.

The Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Mary McCamley, said: "Getting a cast-iron commitment to proceed with the construction of a northbound metro system has been a major priority for councillors on Fingal County Council for many years. On behalf of my colleagues I welcome its inclusion in the National Planning Framework and the National Development Plan and I look forward to the project being delivered as quickly as possible because it is long overdue."



Metro Map.



Metrolink timeline.

Huge benefits for Fingal in Project Ireland 2040

PROJECT Ireland 2040, which was published by the Government in February, is a policy framework aligning long-term strategic planning with strategic investments in social, economic and cultural infrastructure. It is comprised of the National Planning Framework to 2040 and the National Development Plan 2018-2027.

The National Planning Framework (NPF) is the high-level strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of Ireland out to 2040. The ultimate objectives of the NPF are to: guide the future development of Ireland, taking into account a projected one million increase in population; the need to create 660,000 additional jobs to achieve full employment; and a need for 550,000 more homes by 2040.

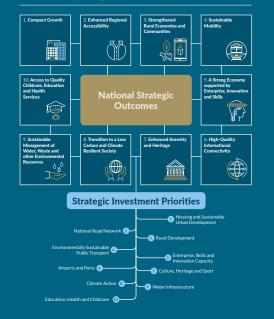
Of the one million extra people, 25% is planned for Dublin. The Plan further targets a greater proportion of this population growth taking place within the existing 'metropolitan area' of Dublin, which includes Swords and southern and western parts of Fingal, as provided for in the Fingal County Development Plan 2017-2023.

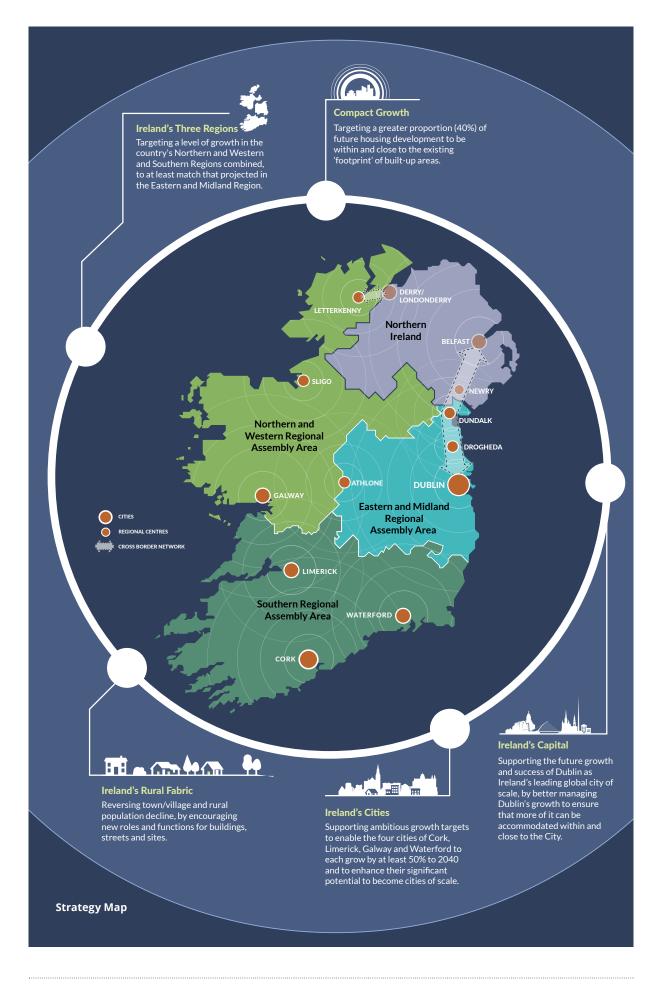
The NPF contains 10 'national strategic outcomes', which will inform the three Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSES) that will be developed to take account of and co-ordinate local authority County Development Plans in a manner that will ensure national, regional and local plans align. Fingal County Council will be engaging in the development of the RSES for the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly area.

Accompanying the NPF is the National Development Plan (NDP). This sets out the investment priorities that will underpin the implementation of the NPF and will guide national, regional and local planning and investment decisions in Ireland. This ten year strategy represents a public capital investment of almost €116 Billion. There are a number of specific projects confirmed in the NDP that will directly address some of the more pressing needs and support the future development of Fingal. These include:

- MetroLink
- DART Expansion
- BusConnects Dublin
- Second Runway for Dublin Airport
- Dublin Port Investment
- Social Housing Investment
- Second Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund
- Urban Regeneration and Development Fund
- National Indoor Arena (Phase 2)
- National Forensic Mental Health Service Hospital at Portrane
- Upgrade and expansion of the Ringsend Wastewater Treatment plant
- Greater Dublin Drainage Project
- National Broadband Plan
- DCU Capital Development Plan
- Investment in Primary and Post-Primary School Buildings
- Public realm and urban amenity projects

National Planning Framework and its National Strategic Outcomes and Priorities of the National Development Plan







FFC School Warden Bridie O'Neill at St Mochta's National School Porterstown at Christmas time.

A Day in the Life

One of Fingal County Council's 114 School wardens is Bridie O'Neill whose job it is to make sure that the school children of St Mochta's National School in Porterstown cross the road safely on their way to and from school.

Bridie has worked outside St Mochta's for six years now. She had worked previously as a Lolipop lady and had taken a break before she came to St Mochta's. In those six years she has noticed that there is a much better spirit out there. "I love it, it's my life," explains Bridie, "I have great communication with all the mothers and fathers. I get on very well with them all but I love the children, it's not what I do for them it's what they do for me and once we're all safe, the children and me, that's my priority."

Asked why she took the job in the first place, Bridie reflects "Well I always did a lot of work in the community. I was doing the summer projects and was involved in the youth club so I was always mixing very well with people and then I saw the job advertised and said that I'd like to give that a go, and then I got an interview and I was over the moon when the Council told me that I had got the job."

Bridie's typical day sees her at the school every school morning at 8.25am and there until 9.15am. "I'm back then for the younger ones between 1.25 and 1.45 when they're going home and I'm back again for the older ones from 2.25 to 2.45pm." she says.

"I'm always in the same good humour," Bridie continues, "You have to have a sense of humour, you'd lose your head otherwise and what would be the point in that. Now I don't always agree with the way some drivers behave but once the kids are safe, that's my priority. The local priest called down to the school the other day and he said to me, 'Bridie you put a smile on their faces in the morning' and that's just my way. And I'd often say to the children 'Where's that smile?' because you're never fully dressed without a smile." Bridie was very involved with Mountview Youth Club a few years ago and she used to arrange bus outings for the teenagers there. "We used to get buses and go on days out to Skerries and Butlins and lots of places like that and we used to have great fun," explains Bridie, "And now some of these kids are mothers themselves coming to the school with their own children. And they remember me and they say what a great time they had back then and that they'll never get those times back again."

"I really enjoy the children," she says, "I love them all and we have great fun. At Christmas for instance, I dress up for the children. Some of the mothers would say to me, 'Bridie, when you dress up at Christmas we can't get the kids out fast enough as they can't wait to see what you'll be dressed up as when they get to school.' Last Christmas the School Committee asked me to be Mrs Claus and I agreed and I arrived with Santa on the Fire Engine, it was great fun."

When they were getting Easter holidays recently, some of the children gave Bridie Easter eggs.

"I'd often say to the children 'Where's that smile?' because you're never fully dressed with out a smile"

"A lot of them came up to me on Friday when the schools were closing and hugged me," said Bridie,

"And I told them that I was going to miss my hugs over the Easter. These children are my life, they keep me going. I love what I do, I'd never be able to put into words how much I love what I do."

The School Warden Service in Fingal is managed by the Road Safety Unit, Fingal Co. Council. The service provides valuable assistance to the community, helping thousands of children to cross the road on their journey to school each day, and protecting our most vulnerable road users. The service is delivered at 92 locations throughout the Administrative Area of Fingal County Council, and there are currently 114 School Wardens, and 22 Reserve School Wardens.

School Wardens take up duty at their crossing at around 8.30am to ensure the safety of all children

Staff Tip

Road users should slow down when approaching schools and always follow the instructions of the School warden.

making their way to school. Some schools run "Breakfast Clubs" for children arriving earlier and, in this case, the Warden will arrive earlier to facilitate this. They return when junior classes finish at around 1.30pm, and again at 2.30pm when senior classes finish at the end of the school day. The School Wardens are identifiable by their hivisibility uniforms and the "STOP" signs they use to stop traffic. School Wardens work in all weathers conditions, every day of the school year. They are provided with full personal protective, and their hivisibility uniforms which consist of coats, hats, gloves, waterproof leggings and shoes to ensure their safety. Before starting in the role, School Wardens are fully trained in the areas of Child Safeguarding, Manual



A group of Fingal County Council School Wardens in County Hall, Swords with Chief Executive Paul Reid and members of the Road Safety Uni.

Handling, Road Safety, the importance of their personal protective clothing and equipment, and the Operating procedures at School Crossings. They then receive "on-the-job" training, where they partner up with an experienced warden until they feel proficient in managing a crossing with live traffic. There is also refresher training courses held by the staff in the Road Safety Section during the summer break, and prior to returning to duty in September each year.

Our School Wardens provide an invaluable service to the citizens of Fingal. They continue to go above and beyond at all times, to ensure the safety of children going to and from school on a daily basis during the school year.



Public Information Evenings on Fingal Heritage Plan

FINGAL County Council has prepared a Draft Heritage Plan for Fingal covering the period 2018-2023 which deals with all aspects of our natural and cultural heritage. Public Information Evenings were held on Monday March 5 in the Atrium, County Hall, Swords and on Monday March 12 in the Civic Offices, Grove Road, Blanchardstown where Council staff were on hand to answer any queries in relation to the Draft Heritage Plan.

The Draft Heritage Plan which builds on the two previous heritage plans for Fingal and the results of an initial consultation process in 2017, is available to view or to download at <u>https://consult.fingal.ie/en/browse</u>. A copy of the Draft Heritage Plan is also available for consultation at Council offices and local libraries.

Fingal Local Enterprise Office partners with Aer Lingus to roll out new competition for Start-ups

AER Lingus has partnered with the Fingal Dublin Chamber and the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Fingal to launch the Aer Lingus TakeOff Foundation Start-Up Awards which will celebrate and support the talent of up-and-coming businesses based in the Fingal area on their journey to success. The awards were launched this week at an Aer Lingus Social Media Masterclass for Start-Ups held in conjunction with Fingal Dublin Chamber and LEO Fingal that was attended by more than 100 business owners and start-ups.

This event provided start-ups from across Fingal with advice on how social media can be used to build business success, drive brand awareness, and to gain followers and new business in a really cost-effective way.

This initiative is targeted at start-ups based in Fingal that have been trading in the Irish market for the last 18 months at least, and for no more than three years. Successful candidates will be selected following a shortlisting phase and subsequent presentation to a judging panel consisting of representatives from Aer Lingus, LEO Fingal and the Fingal Chamber of Commerce.



Fingal County Council and Social Innovation Fund Ireland Announce New Social Enterprise Development Fund

A €1.6m fund to support social enterprises in Ireland has been established by Social Innovation Ireland (SIFI), in partnership with Fingal County Council and all 31 Local Authorities across Ireland. The Fund is financed by the Department of Rural and Community Development, from the Dormant Accounts Fund and IPB Insurance.

The Social Enterprise Development Fund is the largest of its kind to be invested in Ireland's social enterprise sector and will be delivered over the course of two years. Up to eight successful applicants per year will each receive a grant of €50,000. The successful applicants will also receive a place on Social Innovation Fund Ireland's six month Accelerator programme.

Additional places will be reserved for the most promising social enterprises across all 31 Local Authorities in Ireland. The programme is designed to help social enterprises develop their business skills and to provide them with ongoing support and advice so that they develop sustainable enterprises. The fund is now open for applications from social enterprises in Fingal.





Commemorative Plaque unveiled to local hero in Blanchardstown

MAYOR of Fingal, Cllr Mary McCamley unveiled a commemorative plaque in Blanchardstown to remember local hero Sergeant Hugh Gaynor, who died while serving with UN Peacekeeping Forces in the Congo in 1960. Sergeant Gaynor served with the 33rd Infantry Battalion which was deployed to the Congo in late 1960. On November 8 1960, while on patrol at Niemba, 11 members of the Platoon, led by Lieutenant Kevin Gleeson, were ambushed. Nine of the 11 men died including Sergeant Gaynor and Lieutenant Gleeson.

Mayor McCamley joined members of the Gaynor and Gleeson families, including Sgt Gaynor's daughter Sarah Tallon, members of the Irish United Nations Veterans Association, including Private Thomas Kenny a survivor of the Niemba ambush, members of the Organisation of National Ex-Servicemen, and many local people for the occasion.

This year marks the 60th year of such international service by the Irish Defence Forces which have the longest unbroken record of peacekeeping duties of any country in the world.

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Fingal students walk 2000 steps for Healthy Ireland Library Initiative

CHILDREN from Gaelscoil Bhaile Brigín walked 2000 steps to Balbriggan library to raise awareness of the Healthy Ireland at Your Library initiative taking place across Fingal Libraries. The children used pedometers provided by Fingal Libraries to count their steps.

On arrival to the library they were greeted by the Mayor of Fingal Cllr. Mary McCamley, Director of Services for Community and Housing, Margaret Geraghty and County Librarian Betty Boardman, and there followed an interactive talk on healthy eating delivered by Deirdre Doyle of the Cool Food School.

Mayor McCamley welcoming the programme said: "We know that a good diet and regular exercise are both vital elements in taking care of your health. This initiative will help educate children from an early age and provide them with tools to make healthy choices. I was delighted to see the children so enthusiastic walking to the library and promoting such a valuable initiative."



Council welcomes MSD job announcement for Swords

FINGAL County Council has welcomed the announcement by pharmaceutical company MSD that it is to create 350 jobs at a new manufacturing facility in Swords. The MSD Biotech Dublin plant will produce biologics-based medicines for the global market on the grounds of the company's previous site in the county capital. Welcoming the news, the Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, Paul Reid, said that it was another major boost for the county, and in particular Swords. "This is another endorsement of Fingal as a place to do business in and it is encouraging to see the company highlight the talent pool available as one of the main reasons for their decision as well as the strong relationships they have with the various agencies including the Council," said Mr Reid. The Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Mary McCamley, said: "This is more great news for Swords and Fingal. The creation of these 350 jobs will be a major boost to the local economy."



Fingal Libraries launch new Mobile Library Vans

FINGAL County Council's Library Department launched three new Mobile Library Vans in January. The new vans replace three older mobile libraries, which have clocked up on average 17 years and many thousands of miles on the road.

The Mobile Library Vans are a valuable service to those in rural areas, schools, crèches and residents with limited access to public transport. They also play an important role in developing new neighbourhoods and communities.

The new Mobile Library Vans can hold up to 6,000 books each and technological advances allow staff to check availability of books in every local authority library in the country. There is also on-board Wi-Fi and visitor seating available for library users who need access to the internet on their phone or tablet.

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Malahide Castle & Gardens wins Best Heritage Project

MALAHIDE Castle & Gardens has won the Best Heritage Project at the prestigious 2018 All Ireland Community and Council Awards. The award comes in recognition of the major repair and conservation work that took place at the Castle and Gardens. The Castle and Courtyard has recently undergone major repair and conservation work and the visitor experience and facilities were greatly enhanced in keeping with the demesne's heritage importance.

The garden, woodland and landscape of the Demesne is maintained by the Operations Department of Fingal County Council and welcomed over 140 thousand visitors in 2016 and was awarded a Green Flag in 2017. The Castle and 265 acre Demesne provides a space where visitors can stroll at their leisure through the wonderful gardens, and also plays host to many large events such as concerts by international artists, international Test Cricket, or the very popular weekly parkrun.

Malahide Castle and Gardens will continue to grow with opportunities to deliver initiatives and projects that capture the enthusiasm and engagement of the local and national community and to attract the international market to enjoy and experience.

Glo-Football – a first in Fingal

FINGAL County Council's Sports Office piloted Glo-Football, a unique and very different football development programme for girls. Piloted in Baldolye FC, the programme, an extension of our Late Night Soccer Programme for girls only, aged between 12 and 16 years has been a massive success. Glo-football is played in a dark hall with only fluorescent lights, the girls wear luminous (pink and green) bibs, they play with a special luminous indoor ball, and loud music, which the girls normally compile themselves on their phones and play through a speaker in the hall. There are no winners or losers, the girls play in the dark, and have fun. They even paint their faces with special face paint, supplied as part of the programme. This programme, the first of its kind in the country, has created quite a stir, with requests from many individuals, groups and teams to join the programme as well as requests from teams in England. Representatives from Sports Teams in Dublin City, South Dublin and Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown County Councils visited the programme last week and the feedback is that they will be rolling this programme out in the near future.



Cycling Safety Campaign Attracts 100 Fingal Cyclists

ONE hundred Fingal residents took part in a cycle from Swords Castle to Skerries to raise awareness of the Stayin' Alive at 1.5 safety campaign for cyclists. The campaign encourages drivers to maintain a 1.5 metre distance between themselves and cyclists to reduce cyclist deaths and injuries. Fingal is the first Dublin Local Authority and the fifth Irish Local Authority to support the campaign.

Fingal County Council's Road Safety Officer, Niamh Russell explained the importance of supporting this initiative: "As part of a wider Cycle Safety Campaign, Fingal County Council is recommending that drivers maintain a 1.5 metre distance between themselves and cyclists in an effort to reduce cyclist deaths and injuries. The roads are a shared space but cyclists have a greater risk of being hurt while commuting to work or cycling for fun. There will be road signs in place throughout Fingal to raise awareness of the campaign and to encourage safe driving so that cyclists can travel safely on our roads." The campaign also includes a School Cycle Training Programme to educate primary school children on the importance of practicing safe cycling.

Click <u>here</u> to see all recent Fingal County Council Press Releases.



St Patrick's Day Parades in Fingal

arge numbers braved the cold weather to attend the St Patrick's Day parades held across Fingal. Fingal County Council organised parades in Swords, Blanchardstown and Balbriggan while local groups arranged parades in Skerries, Lusk and Rush. Approximately 12,000 people attended the Balbriggan Parade, 20,000 attended the Swords Parade and 12,000 attended the Blanchardstown Parade. A further 15,000 attended the parades in Skerries, Lusk and Rush. There were a wide variety of community and volunteer groups taking part in the parades across the county. Over 2,000 people participated in the Swords and Blanchardstown Parade.



Approximately **12,000** people attended the Balbriggan Parade, **20,000** attended the Swords Parade and **12,000** attended the Blanchardstown Parade.











Storm Emma

Following the issuing of a red weather alert by Met Éireann on Wednesday February 28, Fingal County Council's Operations Department started preparations for responding to the event. The five day forecast for the end of February and early March was for sub-zero temperatures, heavy snowfall and storm force winds which caused disruption across the country with the east coast and Dublin getting some of the worst of the weather.

The Operations Department pre-treated Priority 1 and Priority 2 roads in advance of the heavy snow which occurred on Tuesday night and Wednesday morning, February 27 and 28, and again on March 1 and 2. The Department also used the snow plough attachments and salted Priority 1 and Priority 2 routes during and post the heaviest snowfall on March 1 and 2.

After the red alert period, crews continued to work on roads the county were passable and that hospitals, nursing homes and businesses in towns and villages could continue to deliver services. In addition to the arctic conditions, high tides caused flooding at a number of



Salting footpaths in Blanchardstown Village Clearing of snow on the Lucan Clonee Road

"Great examples of strong community spirit were on show as local residents got together to ensure that access in and out of their housing estates was cleared."





Tyrrellstown residents.

coastal locations particularly in Malahide and Portmarnock. A key focus was ensuring that schools were accessible following reopening on Monday, March 5 and in dealing with road flooding caused by the thawing snow in a number of locations across the county.

But it wasn't just Council staff who cleared roads and pathways during the bad weather. In many areas, great examples of strong community spirit were on show as local residents got together to Holywell residents.



Lohunda residents.

ensure that access in and out of their housing estates was cleared. Our photos show locals in Tyrellstown clearing the entrance to St. Lukes National School & Tyrrelstown Educate Together National School as part of their "bring a spade" idea to clear paths and car parks. Also Lohunda residents in Clonsilla who got together to clear their roads and paths. And the residents of Holywell in Swords who took on the snow on their patch. Well done all.

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Networking event for companies receiving LEO Fingal funding during Quarter 4 2018.

Fingal Local Enterprise Office

he Fingal Local Enterprise Office ("LEO Fingal"), located in County Hall, Swords, was set up in 2014 when the existing County Enterprise Board became part of Fingal County Council. The LEO is one of a network of 31 offices throughout the country that provides supports and advice to small businesses and prospective entrepreneurs. LEO Fingal recently delivered the county's biggest ever Local Enterprise Week with over 1,000 people attending more than 20 events across the county. However, during the other 51 weeks of the year the LEO will continue its work to grow the enterprise base of the county, which it does via four primary service channels: mentoring and business advice services; training and development; provision of financial supports; and promoting a culture of entrepreneurship.

For many prospective entrepreneurs, their first interaction with the LEO will be a meeting with a business advisor to find out more information about the potential supports available, or to address a solitary issue that the person is facing. From there, they may be assigned a mentor, directed towards a specific training module, or begin working towards an application for financial aid. LEO Fingal runs a large number of training programmes, catering for entrepreneurs who are at every stage of the business lifecycle. These include Start Your Own Business Courses, management development courses; a Level 6 Diploma in Online Marketing & Social Media, the regional Food Academy programme, and a plethora of training workshops in areas such as social media, bookkeeping, marketing and taxation. In 2017 alone, 805 people participated in LEO Fingal training courses.

The continued economic prosperity nationally has been enhanced by the availability of seed capital to enable start-up businesses to grow. The LEO plays a vital role in providing funding to small and start-up businesses. Last year, grant aid totalling €761,000

"LEO Fingal runs a large number of training programmes, catering for entrepreneurs who are at every stage of the buisness lifecycle." was approved to 36 businesses, a 9% increase yearon-year. This funding created 73 immediate jobs, with 241 forecast to be created in these businesses within the next 36 months. These jobs will also have a significant downstream impact in the local economy, generating additional spending and creating jobs in associated supply chains.

There are also a number of other channels of funding provided by the LEO, targeted at specific areas such as the Trading Online Voucher scheme, designed to assist Irish businesses in developing an online retail presence and in 2017, 51 "TOV" grants of up to €2,500 each were approved to businesses growing their E-Commerce platform. In addition, a grant to incentivise first time and early stage exporters is available to businesses that are investing in international growth. Furthermore, the LEO assists small businesses in accessing loans from Micro Finance Ireland.

Networking is an important part of business and LEO Fingal provides a number of platforms to encourage and enable networking, including the hugely popular "Fingal Enterprising Women Network" which currently has over 400 female-led business members. In addition, the "PLATO" programme provides a platform to established small businesses to grow within a supportive network of like-minded owner/managers.



WeBringg promoters Alan Hickey and Sean Murray being presented with their Fingal Enterprise Award by Mayor Mary McCamley. Other initiatives include a series of programmes geared at stimulating the Food sector, including Dublin Food Chain (a network of food producers, wholesalers and retailers), Food Academy (run with Bord Bia and Musgraves Supervalu) and a new Start Your Own Food Business programme called "FoodStarter".

The LEO also runs a number of initiatives designed to rewarding entrepreneurship. The National Enterprise Awards is a competition run by LEOs throughout the country and locally LEO Fingal attracts a strong calibre of applicants. In March 2018, ten shortlisted finalists battled it out for the coveted award. The winners, Castleknock-based WeBringg Ltd. will now go on to represent Fingal at the National competition in May. Last year, our winners were "Hope Beer" and they went on to win the National Best Start-Up Business prize. WeBringg Ltd. is also a finalist in this year's "Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur" competition, the final of which takes place on April 22. Fingal has a second finalist in the IBYE competition this year, Ostoform Ltd of Malahide best of luck to both at the national competition!

Encouraging the next generation of entrepreneurs is crucial if we are to continue to grow local employment. LEO Fingal runs the biggest "Student Enterprise Programme" in the country, with 2,600 Fingal students participating in the 2017/18 programme that culminated in the Awards ceremony on March 22 with projects from three schools winning the overall prizes: Donabate Community College (senior category); Castleknock Community College (Intermediate) and Loreto Balbriggan (junior). In this programme, students start-up and run their own real-life business, learning valuable entrepreneurial skills along the way.

LEO Fingal are also supporting a number of other competitions which are either underway or have recently closed. This include a mentorship competition with Aer Lingus which will include free flights to support companies in increasing their export lines and a competition for food producers, offering the opportunity to pitch for shelf space in BWG outlets.

Considering all the above, it is obvious that the LEO Fingal office is a very busy place. However, they always welcome new (and regular!) visitors with open arms! For further information on the LEO and their supports, visit their website on www.localenterprise.ie/fingal.



Libraries News

Battle of the Book

THIS programme is run in partnership with Dublin Airport and Fingal Libraries Department. The aim of the Battle of the Book is to get children reading, by using a multi-disciplinary interactive approach. The programme included author visits, a live museum roadshow and a code-breaking workshop. Finally a quiz based on the book " The Irish Civil War 1922 – 23 Ava's Diary" by Patricia Murphy took place in the Riasc Centre in Swords on January 25. The six schools that took part this year were St Colmcilles GNS Swords, Mary Queen of Ireland NS Rivermead, St Margarets NS, St Margarets, St Marnocks Portmarnock, St Patricks NS Skerries and Kinsealy NS, Kinsealy. The winning team on the day was St. Marnocks, Portmarnock.

Ríomhsheirbhísí agus Cúrsaí Foghlama Ar Líne/ E-Services & Online Learning Courses

WHY not try out Fingal Libraries online services to learn or improve your Irish or to explore the Irish language and culture?

BorrowBox

OUR online eBook and eAudiobook service – will highlight a range of books featuring the best of Ireland this March, focusing on Irish authors and subjects. You can also access a range of Irish language books for both adults and children. To access BorrowBox login in with your library card number and PIN at www.fingal.ie/community-andleisure/libraries/eservices/ or to use BorrowBox on the go, download their app from the App Store or Google Play. You can brush up on your Irish or begin a course with our Mango Languages online service. Mango Languages offers FREE language courses with over 70 languages to choose from - all with your library card! Classes are fun and interactive and you can learn at your own pace. With the Mango Languages app you can take your lessons wherever you go. For these services and so much check out our full range of E-Services at www.fingal.ie/community-and-leisure/libraries/ eservices.

Shelf-help – Bibliotherapy with Jigsaw and Fingal Libraries

SELF-help books are now recognised as a vital source of support for people experiencing mental health difficulties. So it was with this fact in mind that Jigsaw Dublin 15 and Jigsaw North Fingal, in collaboration with Fingal Libraries, launched the 'Read Your Mind' Book Project in Blanchardstown Library on Wednesday, March 21. Read Your Mind is a catalogue which brings together an invaluable collection of over 113 Jigsaw-recommended books on a range of mental health related topics, including anger, anxiety, autism, bullying, creativity, low mood, mindfulness, parenting and families, social media, and much, much more.

Now available to borrow from all Fingal Libraries, the collection is ideal for young people, their parents, guardians, family, and friends. Copies of the full catalogue are available through Jigsaw Dublin 15, Jigsaw North Fingal, and Fingal Libraries, as well as from post primary schools, primary health care providers and youth and community groups in the local area.

Spring into Storytime

AS part of the National Right to Read Strategy, Spring into Storytime forms an integral part of this programme. It involves staff in all of the libraries around Fingal taking part in public story time sessions and they would hope to encourage parent and guardians to participate in the sessions and benefit from book selection advice from library staff. Positive outcomes would include:

- Staff developing their story-telling skills.
- Increased staff engagement with library users and better assessment of their needs.
- Enjoyable worthwhile experience for all participants.
- Participants will be encouraged to join and borrow items and make return visits to the library.

Now available to borrow from all Fingal Libraries, the collection is ideal for young people, their parents, guardians, family, and friends. Copies of the full catalogue are available through

Balbriggan	01 870 4401 / 01 870 4402	balbrigganlibrary@fingal.ie
Baldoyle	01 890 6793	baldoylelibrary@fingal.ie
Blanchardstown	01 890 5563	<u>blanchlib@fingal.ie</u>
Donabate	01 890 5609	donabate.library@fingal.ie
Garristown	01 835 5020	garristownlibrary@fingal.ie
Howth	01 890 5026	howthlibrary.library@fingal.ie
Malahide	01 870 4430 / 01 870 4431	malahidelibrary@fingal.ie
Rush	01 870 8414	rushlibrary@fingal.ie
Skerries	01 890 5671	skerrieslibrary.library@fingal.ie
Swords	01 890 5894 / 01 890 5582	swordslibrary@fingal.ie
Mobile library service	01 822 1564	mobilelibraries@fingal.ie
Library Headquarters	01 890 5524	LibrariesHQ@fingalcoco.ie
Housebound library service	01 860 4290 / 1850 211466 (Freephone)	houseboundlibrary@fingal.ie
Local Studies and Archives	01 870 4495 / 01 890 4486	Local.Studies@fingal.ie

Fingal's Library Services

Fingal Libraries are on Social Media!

Extracts From The Archives

Re Vote of Condolence on the Death of the late us. John & Redmond u.P. 205 Proposed by The Chairman; Seconded by Conneillos Michael & Hearn ult Recolved :-"That this Council desires to record the expression Vole of of its sincere regard profound sorrow at the death of Might Condolence Redmond ull, and to offer to Urs bedmond and his family on Death of its deep and respectful sympathy with them in the irreparable John Stedmonifloss they have sustained. The Councel further descres to record its grateful appreciation of Ur. Redmond's untiving and invaluable services in his country's cause, which have been fruitful in securing many valuable measures of reform and in promoting the general well-being and happiness of his countrymen." Carried Unanimously The Meeting then adjourned as a mark of respectants. Thursday, the 21st day of March, 1918 at Prece oclock adjaurament 2M James Mahony

Copy of Minute from the Adjourned Quarterly Meeting of County Dublin County Council, held at No. 11., Rutland Square, Dublin on Thursday March 7th, 1918.

On March 6 1918, 100 years ago, John Redmond died, aged 61, from medical complications following a routine operation, in London. The leader of the Irish Parliamentary Party (IPP), he had secured Home Rule for Ireland in 1914, when his party held the balance of power in the House of Commons.

A political hero before the First World War, his infamous speech at Woodenbridge in 1914, a call to the National Volunteers to support the Allied Forces against Germany, and the subsequent events of 1916, cost him his standing as a nationalist leader.

Though only in his sixties, he came to be regarded as an older-generation politician from the Parnell rather than the Pearse era, pro-empire, and out of touch with current politics in Ireland. He was not in favour, for example, of women getting the vote.

Prior to the sea-change national election of 1918, which saw the IPP replaced by Sinn Fein, a result mirrored in the local elections of 1920, there were still a number of Irish Parliamentary Party councilors on Dublin County Council in 1918 so it is hardly surprising that they unanimously agreed to a Vote of Condolence with his family on his death, and indeed adjourned the Council meeting on the following day, March 7 as a sign of their respect.

The Minutes of and Records Dublin County Council 1898-1993 is just one of the many collections available to researchers at Fingal Local Studies & Archives.

Centenary of the death of John Redmond M.P.



Find Out More

Find out more about the history of Fingal through its archives by contacting; Fingal Archives and Local Studies Library, 2nd Floor, Clonmel House, Forster Way, Swords Open Mon-Fri 10-5 p.m. 01-8704486/96 archives@fingal.ie localstudies@fingal.ie

John Redmond M.P



B Storil Nersellanta Nacemin Bene Su Benedicus National School

Cinigan Community Community

Ongar A Centre for the Community

ngar Community Centre was built in 2010 as part of the Fingal Schools Model which is a collaborative initiative between Fingal County Council and the Department of Education and Skills. The state of the art campus was constructed to include both a new Primary School (St. Benedict's National School) and Ongar Community Centre. The rationale for combining the two was to maximise the availability of local recreational facilities to the community. It was seen as a way to fast track the development of community and recreational facilities in a new area, while giving the school access to a substantially larger sports hall. The community centre comprises of shared areas and community areas. The shared areas are utilised

by the school during school hours and the community outside of school hours. The community space is available to the community at all opening times. The Ongar Campus was one of the first shared community facilities to open its doors to the community during school hours. This model has proved to be very successful and has been emulated in several other areas across Fingal.

The Ongar Community Centre CLG is managed on behalf of Fingal County Council under a Management Licence by a voluntary board of directors. The board comprises of representatives from the local community, Fingal County Council and St Benedict's NS. A facility operator is appointed by Ongar Community Centre CLG to oversee the day to day operation of the facility.

The community centre provides space over two floors and comprises of a large Sports hall with a "sky fold wall" that allows the hall to be dived in to two sections. This facilitates more groups to avail of the space. The Centre also has four meeting rooms, two changing rooms, and a purposebuilt Dance Studio. In 2014 Ongar Community Centre in collaboration with St Benedict's National School and Fingal County Council submitted an application for Sports Capital Funding to develop a large all weather pitch that was located adjacent to the campus that was in a bad state of repair. The site

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"The Community Centre prides itself on being a safe, warm and welcoming place with an endless list of activities to suit all ages, backgrounds and abilities."

had been taken in charge by Nama. Fingal County Council purchased the site and the project secured funding from the Dept. of Sport and Tourism and Fingal County Council to replace the playing surface, fencing, install dividing nets and additional car parking spaces. The All-weather pitch provides excellent outdoor facilities for the local community and St Benedict's NS during school hours.

The Community Centre prides itself on being a safe, warm and welcoming place, with an endless list of activities to suit all ages, backgrounds and abilities. Groups are welcome from the voluntary and community sectors, social enterprise, and indeed all members of public wishing to utilise the facilities. The centre operates an open door policy whereby "Everyone is welcome". For details of what's on and facilities available, please see http://www.ongarcc.ie/

Win a Family Day pass for Newbridge House & Farm Donabate

ewbridge House Demesne, another of Fingal County Council's Heritage Properties is set in approximately 370 acres of gently undulating pastureland, woodland walks, a deer park, lime kiln and the ruins of Lanistown Castle. The focal point of the Demesne is Newbridge House which was built by the Cobbe family in the mid 1700s. The cobbled courtyard includes a restaurant and a range of interesting outbuildings. Other visitor attractions include Newbridge Traditional Farm where you can see old breeds of farm animals, as well as displays of machinery which were part of Irish farming life in previous centuries. The Walled Garden has extensive orchards and a collection of old Irish apple varieties. Two 19th Century glasshouses have recently been restored and sections of the walled garden have been replanted with herbaceous borders. Newbridge House and Farm also hosts the annual Flavours of Fingal county show each June.

For your chance to win the wonderful treat of a one day family pass (2 adults and 2 children) to Newbridge Farm, simply answer the question below and email your answer to fingalnews@fingal.ie before 5pm on Thursday April 26.

How many School Wardens are employed by Fingal County Council?

A. 94 B. 114 C. 214



Congratulations to Alan Byrne our winner from the last issue of *Fingal News* who correctly answered that 2,241 homes were delivered by Fingal County Council between 2015 and 2017. Alan receives as a prize, Afternoon Tea for 4 and a free guided tour of the Castle. Congratulations to Alan and thanks to everybody who entered the competition.

For more details of Fingal County Council's Heritage Properties and Parks, go to: http://fingal.ie/community-and-leisure/parks-andopen-spaces/ find-a-heritage-property-a-park- oropen-space/

Seachtain na Gaeilge celebrated in style in County Hall

A great evening was enjoyed by an enthusiastic audience at the annual Seachtain na Gaeilge Oíche Cheoil agus Amhránaíochta (Evening of music and song) in the Atrium County Hall Swords on Tuesday March 13th. Acclaimed musicians Cormac Begley and Eoghan O Ceannabháin provided the entertainment, and as well as the beautiful music the audience were given a fascinating insight into the history of the songs and tunes as well as the instruments themselves.

There was a great crowd in attendance including Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Mary McCamley, Chief Executive Paul Reid, Cllr Daire Ní Laoi and Cllr David O'Connor as well as staff and the Fingal community. Eoghan Ó'Ceannabháin , as well as playing flute, fiddle and concertina treated the audience to some wonderful songs from the ancient Sean Nós singing tradition in Conamara.



Speaking about his recent album which has been described as "nothing short of spectacular" Cormac Begley explained that he wanted to use "the full range of concertinas from bass, baritone, treble to piccolo, and to highlight some of the instrument's possibilities spanning across seven octaves". This was certainly in evidence in the wonderful music on the evening and the audience was left wishing that the evening wouldn't end.

Seachtain na Gaeilge Irish Language Festival took place from 1 – 17 March and during this time as well as the main Seachtain na Gaeilge concert in County hall Swords there were events in Local Libraries, in the Seamus Ennis Centre and many events organised by groups across the county. The Film Song of Granite came to the Seamus Ennis Centre in the Naul on Thursday March 15th. The film, in Irish with English subtitles, tells the story of internationally famous Sean Nós singer Joe Heaney from Carna in Conamara. Among the events in Libraries were Harp Recitals from the O'Donnell sisters Marie Louise and Theresa and bilingual talks from poet and screenwriter Celia de Fréine. Children from local schools were also treated to Irish storytelling from Seosamh O'Maolalaí. In Blanchardstown Library a Pop up Gaeltacht also took place.

While Seachtain na Gaeilge is over Bliain na Gaeilge continues. Fíbín Theatre group presents a new bilingual version of Diarmuid agus Gráinne called Tóraíocht in Draíocht, Blanchardstown April 17th and 18th, for information on this and other events see <u>www.draiocht.ie</u>. Events take place in our Branch Libraries throughout the year, for information contact your local Library of see our website <u>www.fingal.ie</u> or follow us on social media. For information on events in The Seamus Ennis Centre see <u>www.tseac.ie</u> "There was a great crowd in attendance including Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Mary McCamley, Chief Executive Paul Reid, Cllr Dair Ní Laoi and Cllr David O'Connor as well as staff and the Fingal community."





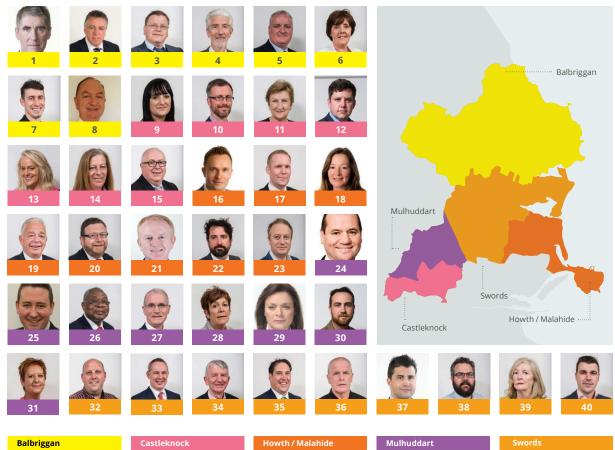
Gaeilge i bhFine Gall

Bhain lucht éisteachta meidhreach an-sult as Oíche Cheoil agus Amhránaíochta a bhíonn ar bun gach bliain le linn Sheachtain na Gaeilge i Halla Contae an Atrium, Sórd, Dé Máirt 13 Márta. Ba iad na ceoltóirí mór le rá Cormac Begley agus Eoghan Ó Ceannabháin a bhí i mbun na siamsaíochta, agus diomaite den cheol álainn tugadh léargas iontach ar stair na n-amhrán agus na bhfonn chomh maith le stair na n-uirlisí féin. I measc an tslua mór a bhí i láthair bhí Méara Fhine Gall, an Comhairleoir Mary Mc Camley, an Príomhfheidhmeannach Paul Reid, an Comhairleoir Daire Ní Laoi agus an Comhairleoir David O'Connor chomh maith le baill foirne agus pobal Fhine Gall.

Bhí Féile Sheachtain na Gaeilge ar siúl ón 1-17 Márta agus chomh maith leis an gceolchoirm seo bhí imeachtaí ar siúl i Leabharlanna Áitiúla, in Ionad Ealaíon Seamus Ennis agus bhí mórán imeachtaí eagraithe ag grúpaí ar fud an chontae le linn an ama sin. Taispeánadh an scannán The Song Of Granite in Ionad Ealaíon Seamus Ennis san Aill Déardaoin an 15 Márta. Sa scannán insítear scéal an amhránaí cháiliúil idirnáisiúnta Sean-Nóis Joe Éinniú as Carna, Conamara. I measc na n-imeachtaí sna Leabharlanna, bhí Pop Up Gaeltacht i mBaile Bhlainséir, Ceadail Cláirsí leis na deirfiúracha Mary Louise agus Theresa O'Donnell agus bhí cainteanna dátheangacha leis an bhfile agus an scríbhneoir scripte scannán Celia de Fréine. Bhí leanaí ó na scoileanna áitiúla faoi dhraíocht ag scéalta Gaeilge Sheosaimh Uí Mhaolalaí.



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