



Glanmire Area News

FREE

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Annual Procession to OUR LADY OF LOURDES Grotto, Glanmire

On Sunday 3rd May we will also continue our longstanding tradition of the May Procession from St Joseph's Church to the Marian Grotto in Glanmire. (T45 TW72) The procession will leave from the bottom of the church steps at 3pm, all are welcome. Meet us there or join in along the route as we pray the Rosary together in honour of Our Lady.

...continued on page 5



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**GLANMIRE
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE**



Our April meeting was AI themed with an informative talk by Susana Marambio, Business Advisor with Beacon Business Commercial Services (BBCS). It was our first 'Lunch & Learn' event and was well attended and enjoyed by members with delicious food from Vienna Woods.



**GLANMIRE
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE**

MAY MEETING



SNEAK PEEK

New AIB Bank Branch
Crestfield Centre, Glanmire



**WEDNESDAY
13TH MAY**



6.00PM



**NIBBLES
PROVIDED**

CONNECT | SUPPORT | GROW

We are looking forward to our May meeting which takes place at the new AIB branch in Crestfield Centre. Members will be treated to a sneak peek of the new branch which is highly anticipated by the people of Glanmire and a great addition to the centre.

We will also be hearing from Anna O'Driscoll, Employer Relations Officer, Department of Social Protection who will be in attendance to speak about financial assistance available for employers.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



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Glanmire Parish News



We wish the joy and peace of Eastertide to the whole community. Our recent Holy Week and Easter Ceremonies were very well attended this year. The Parish Assembly would like to express our thanks to our priests, the choirs, and everyone who contributed in any way to making our liturgies so meaningful. Pop into St Joseph's Church over the coming weeks to see the beautiful altar tableau and spend a quiet moment in contemplation...the tomb is empty, He is Risen, Alleluia! Many thanks Joanna, Lukas and Joe for their creativity.

St Joseph's Choir will be going on the Sacred Trail (Choral Festival) to the Church of the Real Presence in Curraheen on April 26th. The Gaudate Choir from Estonia will be here in Glanmire, in St Joseph's Church, Springhill on Sunday 3rd May at 10.30 am Mass.

On Sunday 3rd May we will also continue our longstanding tradition of the May Procession from St Joseph's Church to the Marian Grotto in Glanmire. The procession will leave from the bottom of the church steps at 3pm, all are welcome. Meet us there or join in along the

route as we pray the Rosary together in honour of Our Lady. The Grotto Committee work very hard all year to maintain this little oasis of calm on the busy approach to Glanmire, and they always make a special effort for the May Procession. We are very grateful to them.

This coming June we mark the 100th anniversary of the Cork Eucharistic Procession. On Sunday June 7th, Bishop Fintan Gavin invites all the parishes of Cork and Ross Diocese to join in this public witness of faith, which commemorates a century of tradition in the city. Details of times and assembly points etc will be published by diocese closer to the date.

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This month I thought it would be a good idea to concentrate on container grown flowers and vegetables as well as herbs.

As May is the best month for buying all your bedding plants, I thought we might have a look as to which plants will tolerate drought best, as well as looking good for as long as possible.

First of all, it is best to decide how much time you have to spare for the care of the pots. It is best to be honest with yourself at this stage, because that will determine how many containers you can care for.

In my garden I have roughly 30 mins a day (usually early in the morning) to spend watering and feeding all my containers which can be as many as 45plus.

The next thing I do is figure out what plants I like, and which plants do the best in my garden.

In my containers I love Geraniums, these plants are quite drought tolerant and can even flower better when a bit on the dry side.



In my hanging baskets I use upright and trailing Geraniums. This works quite well as the baskets get full sun from midday onwards.

I do like Lobelia and Impatiens as well, but these need a bit more care as they can dry out quicker, so I put them in a more shady spot and they only get early morning sun.

Another great plant for containers in a sunny location is Begonias. There are many different varieties as well as growth habits. There are trailing as well as upright varieties. Their waxy leaves will help to keep in moisture.



When you are filling the containers with compost, it is a good idea to add some granular fertiliser to the compost. You can buy this fertiliser in any good garden centre and the instructions will be on the packaging.

Always use fresh compost from a sealed bag. That way no pests should be in the compost. If the compost is very dry then moisten it before planting.

All containers should be relatively clean and free from any old soil or compost. Check under the rims of pots for slugs or snails hiding underneath. Check the containers for cracks or any sharp edges.

Anything can be used as a container; from pots you buy in a garden centre right through to old wellies and shoes. Just make sure whatever container you use that they have good drainage.



When you are buying your plants, buy them from a garden centre rather than a Supermarket. The plants will be of better quality and you will have a better selection to choose from.

The best time for planting up a container is in the evening when it is cooler. Always start with the biggest plants and then move through to the smaller ones. After planting make sure they are given a good watering.

If possible, leave the freshly planted containers in the shade for a few days to give the plants a chance to establish and then move to their selected position.

The best thing about containers is that you can move them around so that the containers that look the best at any time can be on show.

When you are growing vegetables in containers it is best to just plant one variety in each pot. However, with herbs a varied selection looks a lot more appealing and useful for the kitchen.

The only exception to this is Mint. Mint does not like to share its container and it is also a very rampant plant which is why we put it in a container.

Jobs for May

1. Pot up containers.
2. Keep lawns trimmed and apply any fertilisers that may be needed.
3. Watch out for pests.
4. Keep sowing salads.
5. Weed regularly.
6. Dead head spent flowers.
7. Enjoy the garden.

Chris Troy



Anna Crouch receiving her bouquet of flowers and a €50 Voucher compliments of Supervalu.

Glanmire Local Hero Award

The Glanmire Area Community Association along with SuperValu Glanmire have come together celebrate those who work behind the scenes, often without seeking recognition.

Every month, we will highlight one outstanding nominee who exemplifies compassion, leadership, and community spirit. Every month, a new nominee will receive a beautiful bouquet of flowers and a €50 voucher to spend in SuperValu. At the end of the year, we will bring all nominees together for a December Community gathering. We at

the Community Association are delighted for the support of Ryan's SuperValu in this endeavour.

This month our nominated LOCAL HERO is **Anna Crouch**.

Anna Crouch, who runs UParty in the Crestfield Centre, is a familiar face to Glanmire residents and schoolchildren as the store is a hub of activity and a popular drop-in point for school items, party balloons, greeting cards, gifts, office supplies and much more.

Anna received her nomination for her dedication to Glanmire over many years. Quietly and selflessly, we are told that Anna

regularly helps people in the area, never saying no to any request – whether it's regarding a collection point or a work enquiry, Anna has always obliged, even before she knows the full extent of what's needed. Also, when school starts back, she's always ready to offer a safe place to wait at UParty when a parent is delayed enroute to collect the child. Anna always has a smile and a kind and friendly word for customers and is a worthy contender for the local hero nomination. Congratulations Anna!

How to Nominate

If you know someone who deserves this recognition, we'd love to hear from you. Simply send us a short email or letter telling us:

- Who the person is
- What they do for you/others or the community
- Why you believe they should be our monthly Local Hero

Send nominations before May 14th to: gacacork@gmail.com (with Local Hero in the subject line) or drop in or post to Local Hero Nomination, Glanmire Community Centre, Riverstown, Cork

Each nomination helps shine a light on the kindness, generosity, and community spirit that so often goes unrecognised. We want to take a moment to celebrate those who give their time, their heart, their energy to others often without expecting thanks. Together, we can remind them just how valued they truly are.

SPRING STYLING INSPIRATION by Lynda Di Blasi

IMAGE CONSULTANT, STYLIST, COLOUR ANALYSIS, PERSONAL SHOPPER

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A recent reader got in touch with a question many women will recognise:

"I'm heading away for a weekend with the girls—shopping, lunch, dinner, maybe a bit of sightseeing—and I want to look stylish without overpacking. What should I pack?"

It's such a common dilemma, and the answer lies in choosing versatile, hard-working pieces that can shift effortlessly from day to night.

A pair of cream trousers paired with a crisp cotton shirt creates a fresh, polished base for daytime—add a trainer or soft loafer and keep accessories minimal with a crossbody bag and simple gold jewellery.

Layer on a structured blazer for instant refinement (and warmth), and you've a look that works beautifully for browsing shops or a relaxed lunch.

As you move into evening, it's all about elevating what you already have—swap to a heeled sandal, add a statement earring, a bolder lip, and perhaps drape the blazer over your shoulders for a more styled finish.

A flattering dress is your perfect dinner option, but again, think versatility.

Choose one that works with the same blazer and accessories so you're not starting from scratch. It's these thoughtful combinations that allow you to feel effortlessly put-together, without the stress of an overfilled suitcase.

If you love the look of a waistcoat but feel a little conscious about your arms, don't let that hold you back—it's all about how you style it. Simply layering a lightweight top underneath can make all the difference. A soft cotton T-shirt creates a relaxed, modern feel for daytime.

Look for breathable fabrics that sit neatly under the waistcoat without adding bulk. You still get that flattering, waist-defining shape, but with added coverage and comfort. It's a simple adjustment that allows you to wear the pieces you love with confidence, rather than feeling restricted by them.

Co-ords are evident in the shops this year, I love a Co ord, an absolute wardrobe essential as they solve one of the biggest frustrations my clients have: *what goes with what?*

A matching top and skirt or tailored trouser set removes decision fatigue when you are creating a complete look and results in effortless dressing and also looking incredibly put-together effortlessly.

A co ordinating outfit gives you the ability to create several looks.

- Wear them together
- Style the skirt with a classic t shirt or knit
- Pair the top with your cream jeans or trousers, that's the beauty of a neutral trouser it will result in many outfits.
- Invest in your neutral's



If you would love outfits that can be created easily daily from a wardrobe where everything mixes and with pieces you wear and rely on to make you feel polished. Zero stress when packing for weekends away.

- ***I am here to help you.***
From wardrobe edits, private style consultations. Professional styling tips for the figure you have now, Personal shopping sessions tailored to your preferences and budget.

Get in touch today consultations available in my private studio locally or in a private consultation room in the Hubmire located in the center of Glanmire

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Lynda Di Blasi

In today's world, the surname Punch is often linked to shoe polish and colour catcher sheets. However, if we journey back to 1851, we discover a different story – one that revolves around tea and coffee. This historical connection is acknowledged on the packaging of some current products, proudly claiming that Punch & Co has been 'caring since 1851'. It was indeed in this year that the company came into existence, founded not by a gentleman sporting a distinguished moustache, but by a forward-thinking woman named Abigail Punch. Her achievement was notable, especially considering the male-dominated retail environment of the mid-19th century.



Figure 1: 'Caring since 1851'

Abigail Kirby was born in the early 1800s, married Philip Punch and raised at least six children. One son, Philip Edward, would ultimately take over the family business in Cork. Her maiden name is irrefutable, as is revealed in her brother, Richard Kirby's will, which includes bequests to his sister, Abigail, as well as appointing his nephew, Philip Punch, as his executor. Richard died in 1877, by which time Philip had taken charge of the business begun by his mother. An advertisement in the Cork Examiner from 18

September 1868 showcases Philip E. Punch's 'Tea, Coffee and Spice Warehouse, 78, Patrick Street, Cork' where he offered an array of teas, including 'souchong-flavoured kaisow' and 'finest morning congou' – the latter described as 'a delicious, ripe full-flavored tea, possessing great strength and quality!' Abigail Punch died in 1896, leaving her estate to her sons, John and Philip. A decade later, tragedy struck when Philip died from injuries sustained after being hit by a tram in Cork. At that time, he was married to Mary (née Harrington) and had at least eight children, four of whom died in childhood. In his will, probate was granted to his son John. By now, the tea business had expanded, operating from Academy Street, but the company would achieve global renown largely due to the efforts of Philip's other son, George.



Who would have believed 10 years ago that this factory in Glanmire, lying idle for 30 years or more, would now be the foremost factory in Ireland for the finest leather preservative known, Science Boot Polish, and also for Science Furniture and Floor Polishes? Good quality always tells, this is the interesting secret of such extraordinary and rapid development—but there will be more developments, the public have shown their high appreciation, and we will not disappoint the public.

PUNCH & CO., CORK.

Figure 2: 'Science Polish Factory', Glanmire.

By 1912, George Punch was producing shoe polish on a small scale, using a formula he developed in his garden shed in Glanmire. As his business expanded, additional space became necessary. By 1919, the mill in Glanmire (behind Monkey Maze) was producing the company's boot polish and leather creams, as evidenced by

this advertisement in the Evening Herald, 17 June 1924. However, the business faced challenges; by 1928, George had relocated to Berkshire and officially changed his surname.

I, GEORGE HARRINGTON, of The Yellow Bungalow, Harman Water, Bracknell, in the county of Berkshire, heretofore called and known by the name of George Harrington Punch, hereby give notice that on the 24th day of October, 1928, I renounced and abandoned the use of my said surname of Punch and assumed in lieu thereof my Christian name of Harrington as my surname; and, further, that such change of name is evidenced by a deed dated the 24th day of October, 1928, duly executed by me, and attested and enrolled in the Enrolment Department of the Central Office of the Royal Courts of Justice on the twenty-sixth day of October, 1928.—Dated this 27th day of October, 1928.

GEORGE HARRINGTON, late George (1893) Harrington Punch.

Figure 3: London Gazette, 30 October 1928.

Despite these changes, the business thrived from the 1930s to the 1960s, although a fire at the mills in 1964 caused significant and permanent damage. Fortunately, the family home in front of the factory was saved. With the economy opening up to competition in the 1960s, Punch & Co began diversifying by acquiring companies in soaps and detergents, even buying ERCO, a plastic packaging firm, in 1985. In 2006, the Punch family sold the enterprise to the Spotless Group, a European cleaning products company, marking the end of a 150-year relationship with Cork. Today, the mill in Glanmire and the historic 'Science Polish Factory' sign stand as potent reminders of the area's industrial history.



Members of the Punch family set out their belongings, while firemen fight the blazing factory (behind the house) of Messrs Punch and Co., Ltd., Glanmire, Co. Cork.

Figure 4: Irish Independent, 31 July 1964.

Join the Upper Glanmire Choir!

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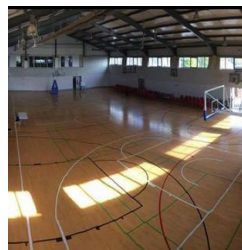
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It's The Real McCoy cast with director Catriona O'Gorman

Standing Ovation for Glanmire Players' Debut

The curtain has fallen on a hugely successful debut production for the Glanmire Players, who have expressed heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported their recent run of *It's The Real McCoy* at Riverstown National School.

In what proved to be a truly community-driven effort, the newly formed drama group was met with enthusiastic, sold-out audiences across their performances. The Glanmire Players acknowledged that "it takes a village" not only to raise a child, but also to bring a new creative venture to life—and this was evident in the overwhelming encouragement they received. Rosemary Horgan, PRO for Glanmire Players said, 'We could have filled a fourth night, such was the response from the community for tickets.'

They extended sincere appreciation to their sponsors, Elevate Credit Union, along with the Glanmire Area Community Association for their ongoing support. A special mention too, to Riverstown National School, and to Carrignavar Drama Group for their invaluable guidance, advice, and encouragement.

Catriona O'Gorman, Director

said, 'We were thrilled by how the wider community rallied behind us, helping to create a welcome space for live theatre here in Glanmire.' Buoyed by this positive response, Catriona said, 'The Glanmire Players are already looking ahead, with plans for further performances later in the year.'

People clearly enjoy live drama with local actors on a local stage, playing to local audiences. And in the age of artificial intelligence and automation, local drama is certainly a breath of fresh air helping, as it does, to foster connection, creativity, and community spirit.

Audience members for the Glanmire Players, 'Its the Real McCoy' in Riverstown National School in April.





Audience members for the Glanmire Players, 'Its the Real McCoy' in Riverstown National School in April.



Dermot O'Connell 1st Anniversary

On April 12th we especially remember Dermot O'Connell on his 1st anniversary away from home. He is often talked about by us here at GACA & we miss his many words of wisdom and helpful guidance.

Our thoughts and prayers go to out to Dermot's wife Nellie, his children Maria, Patrick, Claire, Brendan, Bryan and the extended family.

"Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day, unseen, unheard, but always near, still loved, still missed and very dear"



GLANMIRE COMMUNITY POLICING CLINIC



Drop in and say hello!
We'd love to see you.

No appointment needed.

Monday 4th of May 2026

- Knockraha Community Hall
12:30pm - 1:30pm
- Glounthaune Community Hall
3:00pm - 4:00pm

Come along and meet your local Gardaí for a friendly chat. Whether you'd like some advice, need a form signed, want to report an issue, or just fancy saying hello – we're here and happy to help!

MEET YOUR LOCAL GARDÁÍ

Glanmire MACRA News



All the 2026 Mr Personalities

Glanmire Macra have been keeping busy, travelling around the country for events and other activities closer to home.

We had a great start to the month, with some of our members heading to the Limerick Easter Ball on Easter Sunday in the Charleville Park Hotel, I guess they knew they need to head to the rebel county to have the best parties. This was a brilliant night, with plenty of fun and great music from Up in Smoke.

Some of our members also headed off to the annual Mr Personality Festival, hosted by Kilkenny Macra on the 10th and 11th of April in Langtons in Kilkenny city. There was plenty of local interest this year with Pa Kelleher from Kinsale Macra representing the Séandun Region and Jack Murphy representing UCC Macra taking part this year. The weekend started out with on stage interviews of all the candidates on the Friday night and Pa and Jack

performed brilliantly in front of the judges.

The night then finished off with music from The Deere Johns.

The Saturday night started out with a banquet dinner. We had some after dinner entertainment too from a Hypnotist, providing at the expense of some of the Mr Personalities including Pa. This was followed by some brilliant entertainment from Sweet Freedom. But of course, the main event came at midnight, with the announcement of the winners of Mr Personality 2026. With third place going to Jack Murphy from UCC Macra!! Second place went to Joe Hennessy from Limerick Macra, and the top Prize went to Patrick Walton from Kilkenny Macra. As always, the Mr Personality weekend was a brilliant weekend of entertainment and despite the fuel protests still had an enormous attendance.

But it hasn't all been national events this month, with plenty of things going on closer to

home too. We decided to make the most of the Spring weather on the 18th of April, fuelling up with some coffee and tea in the Well Bean and then heading off for a walk around Glanmire and the always beautiful Rocky road. Séandun Macra also recently organised a very interesting farm walk. The Séandun Macra round of Volleyball also took place recently. Unfortunately Glanmire Macra didn't have a team this year, but we wish the best of luck to Whitechurch Macra who will be going forward for the national finals of Volleyball.

We have plenty of plans for the coming month too and our weekly sports night in Little Island Sports Complex also continues every Wednesday from 7.30-9pm. If you're interested in coming along to any of our events, keep an eye on our social medias for the latest updates, and feel free to reach out to us on social media or by contacting us at glanmire@macra.ie. We would love to hear from you!

Sarsfields Hurling Club



Sarsfields Hurling Club proudly took part in a recent Community Clean Up initiative, held as part of a Cork County Board incentive encouraging clubs across the county to give back to their local areas. Recognising the importance of such an event, Sars were delighted to play their part in what proved to be a hugely positive and meaningful day.

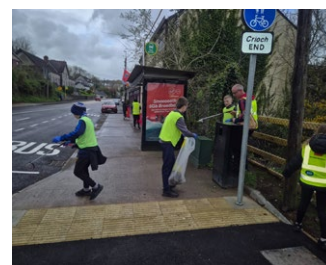
Despite challenging weather conditions, with heavy rain throughout, there was an fantastic turnout from club members of all ages. Players, coaches, parents and volunteers came together with great enthusiasm, demonstrating a shared commitment not only to their club, but to the wider Glanmire community.

A particularly heartening aspect of the day was the involvement of the club's younger members. The children embraced the initiative with energy and pride, learning valuable lessons about environmental responsibility, teamwork and the importance of caring for their surroundings. Their efforts did not go unnoticed.

Members of the local community in Glanmire frequently stopped to thank and encourage the group as they worked, creating a strong sense of connection and appreciation. These interactions added greatly to the occasion, highlighting the close bond between Sarsfields Hurling Club and the community it represents.

Following the clean-up, participants gathered back at the clubhouse where well-deserved refreshments were enjoyed. The warm atmosphere was a fitting end to a day defined by teamwork, resilience and community spirit.

Sarsfields Hurling Club would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of the day. Initiatives such as this reinforce the values at the heart of the GAA – community, volunteerism and pride of place – and Sarsfields are proud to continue playing an active role in supporting and strengthening Glanmire.



Glanmire Ladies Football

Christine O'Brien Memorial Cup was held in the Pike on Sunday 19th April, in honour of our past player and teammate, Christine O'Brien, who played football with Glanmire from a young age but sadly passed away early last year.

Christine was also part of our All-Ireland winning Junior Team in 2018. The 4 Clubs in attendance were St Finbarrs, Inch Rovers, Midleton (Christine was a teacher in Midleton) and Glanmire.



Anne O'Brien, Julia Kelleher (captain), Terry O'Brien and Tadhg O'Brien



Glanmire Team



St Finbarrs, Inch Rovers, Glanmire and Midleton



Glanmire Ladies Football



Glounthaune Indoor Bowls Club



Patty White, Marie Crowe, Rory Canning and Terry O'Keeffe winners over Mitchelstown in the Martha Tracey Cup semi final.

Glounthaune Indoor Bowls Club newsletter

With the closing stages of the indoor bowls season approaching Glounthaune indoor bowls club continued their record of winning a Cup competition every year for the past 11 years.

continued their good form over Watergrasshill team winning through to the final against Mitchelstown who had recently beaten them in the Martha Tracey Cup quarter final.

The final was a great event with Glounthaune taking a 10-5 lead



Mitchelstown beaten semi finalist.

The club playing in the Douglas Community School cup competition had a fantastic win last weekend. The competition which attracted over 80 teams was played over two days. The club had three teams entered, two teams were beaten in the second round matches but the team of Joe Kirby, Tony O Shea, and Liam O Connell beat strong competition from Watergrasshill and Crosshaven to advance to the last sixteen in the competition.

Facing a team from the host club Glounthaune again played great bowls to advance to the quarter final where another victory was scored over Douglas GAA. In the semi final Glounthaune

after six ends. With three ends to go Mitchelstown struck back to take a one shot lead with two ends remaining. A fantastic last shot in the second last end



Liam O Connell, Tony O Shea and Joe Kirby winners of the Douglas Community Cup.

saw the teams tied entering the last end. The last end saw great bowls from both teams before the umpire's measure saw Glounthaune win the cup by millimetre measure

In the league the Div 4 team had a great 2-1 win over the Rockies in the league which ensured they retained their division four status. The Div 1 team suffered a 2-1 loss to Watergrasshill and will finish their disappointing season with an away game to Conna.

Martha Tracey semi-final

Our Martha Tracey team of Terry O' Keeffe, Rory Canning, M Crowe and Pat White faced Mitchelstown at home in the semi-final of the Martha Tracey Cup. A good attendance saw a very competitive game of 15 ends played over two hours. Glounthaune took an early lead with all players hitting form and continued to control the game and never relinquished their lead.

Glounthaune played their way into the final with a comprehensive 18- 11 victory. This team will take stopping after a great display of bowls and will face Conna in the final.

The Club are open for new members and anyone interested can contact the following

Marian Canning
087 900 6471

Joe Kirby 087 979 5005



Playing Matters

White's Cross GAA have enjoyed a highly successful and encouraging run across their junior football and hurling teams, with multiple squads performing strongly in their respective leagues.

The junior one footballers currently sit top of their league after an impressive series of results. They began their campaign with a notable away victory over St. Michael's, setting the tone early. This was followed by a strong home win against a highly regarded Glanmire side. Their attacking strength was particularly evident in their latest outing, where they defeated St. Nicholas away, scoring an outstanding five goals. In addition, they were awarded a walkover from St. Finbarr's, further consolidating their position at the top.

The junior four football team are also leading their league, showcasing consistency and scoring power. They recorded a convincing eight-point win over Ballyphehane in their most recent match. One of their standout performances came against Whitechurch, where they delivered a dominant display to win 4-15 to 0-07. They also demonstrated resilience in securing a hard-fought

draw against Ballincollig, finishing level at seven points each.

Meanwhile, the junior hurling team have had a competitive campaign. They opened with a high-scoring draw against Whitechurch (1-17 apiece), before producing an impressive win over Blackrock, scoring four goals in a commanding performance. Their final game saw a narrow home defeat to Nemo Rangers. Overall, White's Cross GAA are enjoying a strong period, with both football teams leading their leagues and the hurlers showing plenty of promise.

Underage Activity

St. Colmcille's GAA club has enjoyed a busy and encouraging return to action across all underage grades, with teams from U12 through to U18 involved in a demanding run of fixtures, often with multiple games taking place on the same evening.

A major milestone for the club is the Under 14 footballers competing in the Rebel Óg Coiste Premier 1 League – the first St. Colmcille's team to play at this level. They made an excellent start with a win over Glanmire (2-05 to 2-01) in their opening game. This was followed by a hard-fought draw

against Ballincollig (2-04 apiece) and another evenly contested match against Carrigaline, finishing level at 0-09 each. Their early performances show they are well capable of competing at Premier grade.

The Under 16 footballers have also been in strong form in Division 1 of the Rebel Óg East league. They began their campaign with an emphatic victory over Mitchelstown (9-13 to 1-08). This was followed by a narrow defeat to Kilworth & Araglen Óg (4-05 to 1-12), before they bounced back with a solid win over Fermoy (1-09 to 0-13).

At Under 18 level, the hurlers have been competitive in Division 2. They opened with a draw away to Castlemartyr (2-10 each) and then suffered a narrow defeat to Kildorrery (1-14 to 0-15) in a closely contested game.

Overall, it has been a very positive spell for St. Colmcille's, with strong performances, competitive matches, and valuable experience gained across all grades as the season gathers momentum.

Short stories can be anything from 1000 words up to 7,000 and beyond. Short story competitions normally ask for 2000 words. So, 500-word fiction can be an ideal gateway into the short story. The limited length removes the pressure of building a longer narrative while still allowing you space to develop a character, a moment, or a twist. For beginners, a 500-word challenge feels achievable; for more experienced writers, it offers a chance to experiment with style and ideas in a compact form. In many ways, these 500-word pieces act as steppingstones, building confidence and momentum toward longer work. Here's a moving 500-word story, one of the winners of the *NYC Fiction Challenge in 2025*:

'Tomorrow is the last day of your life.' By Melissa Jornd

You're ready, have been since you saw your father's deterioration, then took your test confirming the worst. You survived a few decades, but lately doctors have become familiar, beeping rooms your vacations, pastel-patterned gowns your daily outfits.

This final time you dress in your own clothes, fighting the tremors, showing your enemy, with its claws in your brain, mouth full of grey matter, that it hasn't won. In another victory you walk to the car by yourself, one unsteady step at a time, you even buckle yourself in, safety first, on your way to die.

Solo challenges over, you watch your husband slide in and start driving. You know his face like you know your fate, but still: you absorb every laugh line, every freckle, every grey hair creeping into his temple.

Once there, the rest is formality: the hello-agains, the final forms, the room. The nurse reminds you that you can still change your mind; the tremble that shakes your head acts as your response.

Your husband's silent, his expression bittersweet acceptance. He cups your face, kisses you, steady, so steady, the breath between your lips holding everything you've ever told each other, and ever will.



In your final moments, the in-between beats between dying and death, he climbs onto the table with you. You don't fit well, it's uncomfortable, your hand slaps his chest, he places his ear on your heart, and all of it, every sensation, you soak up until you go still.

But that's tomorrow.

Today you're at the cabin, nestled inside deciduous trees alive with the cries of hidden fauna, a wildflower path leading to its backyard lake. You frolic in the shallows, and when you tumble, he follows, digging up shells and pebbles to make you a lakebed bouquet.

Climbing the porch, a momentary tremor has you squeezing the banister, where a splinter burrows into your palm. He retrieves the tweezers, apologizes as he digs around. You tell him this isn't pain, not in the grand scheme, not when you count up all the other pains in your world. Your head. His heart. What's a bit of wood in comparison?



As the sun falls asleep and the moon threads its way across the sky, you lay together and trace the stars. They're everywhere, tiny little lights that you can't see at home, not like this. Out

here, the world is everlasting, timeless and unfettered. You point out Pegasus; he counters with a made-up swan, ruffled wings spread like the one you tried to hug senior year after too many wine coolers. You laugh, make up more constellations, again and again. Your entire history, drawn in the stars. They shine down, bright and faint and all long-dead, but still beautiful. You are a star, you think, and so is he, and so is the life you were able to live. Tomorrow is the last day of your life, but today – today, despite it all, is the best.

500-word Fiction Challenge

The annual 500-word NYC Fiction Challenge is a competition that challenges writers around the world to create short stories no longer than 500 words in 48 hours. In the 1st Round, taking place from May 29-31, 2026, writers are placed randomly in groups and assigned a genre, action, and object assignment.

Writers have 48 hours to craft an original 500-word story. The judges choose a top 10 from each group to advance to the 2nd Round from July 17-19, 2026. Writers receive new assignments and again have 48 hours to craft original stories.

Judges select the top four writers in each group from the 2nd Round to advance to the Final Round, taking place September 11-13, 2026, where writers will receive their final assignment. Feedback from the judges is provided for every submission, and there are thousands in cash prizes for the winners.

If this sounds like something you'd enjoy, get ready for May 29th. Details on www.nycmidnight.com/500.

Happy Writing
Eleanor

Eleanor O'Kelly-Lynch is an author, living in Glanmire. Her novels, *'The Girl with Special Knees'* and *'The Girl with Stars in Her Eyes'* are available on www.eleanorokellylynch.ie, Amazon and buythebook.ie

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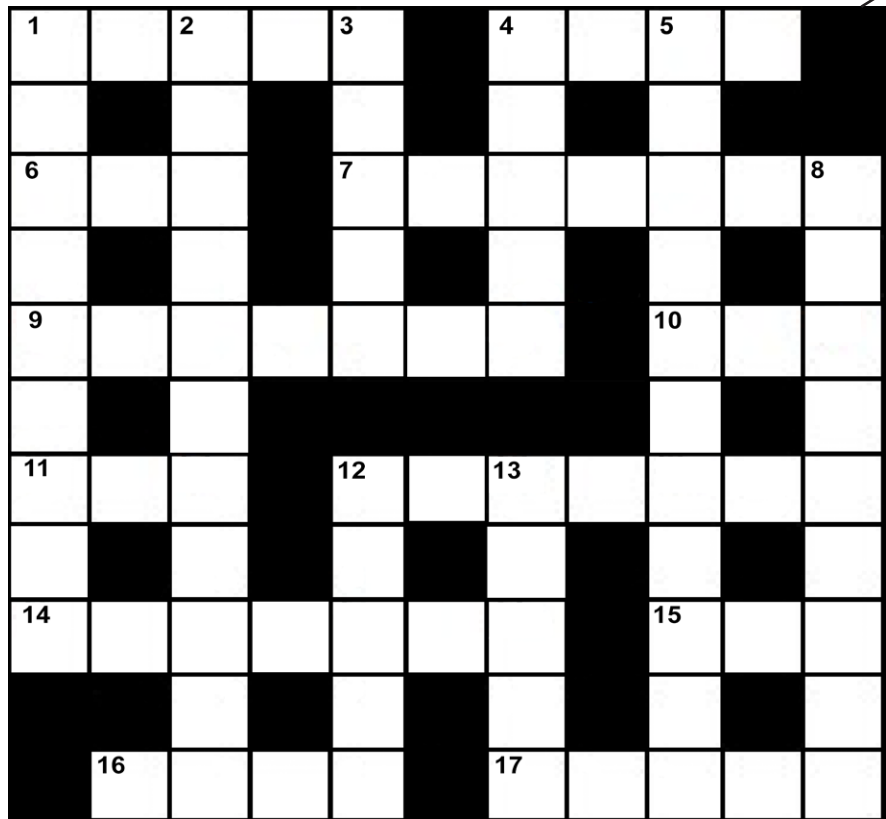
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Crossword Puzzle



Across

1. Scavenging African mammal (5)
4. Assists or helps (4)
6. Small round mark (3)
7. Connection between groups (7)
9. Volume containing several works (7)
10. Persistently complain or criticize (3)
11. Egg cells (3)
12. Female reproductive tube (7)
14. Arctic region in northern Scandinavia (7)
15. Large constrictor snake (3)
16. Plural of serum (4)
17. Mysteriously unsettling (5)

Down

1. Fast water craft with underwater wings (9)
2. Fruit variety for fresh consumption (6,5)
3. Improvise without preparation (2,3)
4. Accumulate in large quantities (5)
5. Free from burden or hindrance (11)
8. Discuss terms to reach agreement (9)
12. Major Japanese port city (5)
13. Independent record label genre (5)

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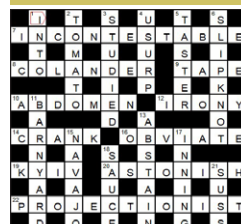
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April Crossword Winner: **Marie Dunlea, Glenville**



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