

# The South Circular

## Staff Newsletter December 2021

Welcome to the Winter 2021 edition of the South Circular.

We would like to thank all those who contributed to this edition. If you are interested in submitting articles, photographs or have suggestions regarding the newsletter's content please contact: The Editorial Team, Communications Unit, Corporate Performance and Change Management, South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Tallaght, Dublin 24.

Tel: 01 414 9285 | Email: [communications@sdblincoco.ie](mailto:communications@sdblincoco.ie)



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# Message from our Chief Executive



I can scarcely believe that yet again this year my Christmas wishes are set against the backdrop of COVID and the personal and workplace consequences that arise. There is little I can say by way of messaging beyond what you have already heard and know. Notwithstanding the very significant progress we have made, recent events continue to give rise to high levels of stress, anxiety and mostly frustration. Across the organisation the clear impression I get is that staff are good humoured, getting on with it and committed to doing the very best they can in the circumstances. In saying this, I don't want for a minute to downplay the personal experience of the 85 staff across the organisation who have contracted the coronavirus this year. Likewise, others will have family members or close friends who have been impacted. I want to wish everyone the very best and a speedy return to full health.

The ongoing efforts of staff have as ever been exemplary and great credit is due for this. I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge this and say a big thank you to everyone. I want to particularly acknowledge the work of the COVID Engagement Forum which is doing an excellent job. For those of you who have joined us this year I know it has not been ideal, but I hope you have managed to settle in well. We all know things will improve. The only course of action in the interim is to take every precaution without sacrificing all that is good in life, in doing so.

In this regard I hope you manage to have an enjoyable end of year break with your families and friends. You have all done tremendous work for the organisation and the public across the last year. I will highlight that again in more detail in the new year. I want to wish you and yours a safe, healthy, and happy Christmas and a prosperous and less eventful new year ahead.

A stylized, handwritten signature in white ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke.

**Danny McLoughlin,**  
Chief Executive, South Dublin County Council

# South Dublin County Council welcomes new staff July to November 2021

Name	Department
Matthew Hourigan	Corporate
Minaz Shaikh	Corporate
Rex Ogbeifo	Corporate
Manling Chu	Economic Development
Ankit Gour	Housing
Ian Jackson	Water
Mayuir Srinivasan	Planning
Lauren Doyle	Corporate
Gareth Meagher	Corporate
Rachel Barron	Corporate
Valerie Ennis	Human Resources
Shannon Fitzpatrick	Human Resources
Margaret Gargan	Corporate
Conor Sheehan	Corporate
Katarzyna Wisnicka	Corporate
Tara Mc Assey	Corporate
Colman Mc Gann	Human Resources
Darren Gavin	Corporate
Abigail Anah	Corporate
Sharon Conroy	Environment
Linda Conway	Forward Planning, Sdz and Schools
Ben Duignan	Planning
Fergal Healy	Planning
James Kelly	Water
Geraldine Tiernan	Law
Lorna Janson	Law
Keith O'Neill	Water
Aoife O'Connor Massingham	Planning
Conor Doyle	Planning
Trudy Jackson	Housing

Name	Department
Paul Johnston	Planning
Ronan Cathcart	Planning
Edel Mc Grane	Corporate
Keith Connolly	Environment
Colm Corcoran	Environment
David Farrelly	Environment
Robert Byrne	Environment
Derick Ready	Water
Ciaran Duffy	Transport
Alanagh Gannon	Transport
Cara Dinnegan	Human Resources
Kevin Lawless	Environment
Stefan Sprinceana	Housing
Elaine Wall	Law
Audrey Higgins	Water
Sylvester Asiedu Appiah	Water
John Mc Gee	Transport
Ben Frost	Environment
Dylan Hayes	Transport
Alan Donnelly	Human Resources
Louis O Donoghue	Transport
Minh Tri Lam	Environment
Louise Daly	Planning
Paul Fusco	Libraries
Fiona Redmond	Planning
Deirdre Mc Gennis	Planning
Liam Mc Neela	Transport
Shane O Driscoll	Housing
James Devlin	Environment
Brendan Lynch	Housing
Abhijith Gopakumar	Water

# Staff profiles

## Jason Frehill

Director of Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development



Jason with his daughter Cooper

### What is your career background?

Like many people, when I left school, I didn't know what path my career would take but I eventually found myself studying Planning in UCD and fell in love with the idea of making a difference to society and helping to shape the future direction of Ireland's urban landscape. With that, I started my career as a Town Planner, spending over 13 years working in Dublin City Council before joining South Dublin County Council in 2016.

My career in planning was a small bit unconventional, as I ended up working in a diverse range of areas, such as business model development, designing and introducing new Local Authority services, delivering digital transformation projects, managing infrastructure programmes, as well as working on large scale regeneration projects such as the Dublin Docklands SDZ and more recently the City Edge project.

Throughout my career, I've always sought to push myself to operate outside my comfort zone, to be exposed to new ways of working, not being afraid to make the odd mistake and most importantly to learn from it, whilst at the same time always looking to upskill and develop, whether this be through practical experience or further education. I recently took up the position of Director of Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development, which is a great opportunity and there is a fantastic team in place to have a positive impact on the lives of South Dublin's citizens.

### What does your role involve?

I am responsible for ensuring that the Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development Directorate contributes to the achievement of the vision and strategic direction of South Dublin County Council. As a team we are doing this in so many different ways; through the delivery of our library services where we have seen the recent opening of two new libraries in Castletymon and North Clondalkin; actively supporting 3,652 LEO clients; managing Grange Castle Business Park and creating an environment for a further 10,000 jobs; promoting the tourism economy with the delivery of projects such as the Dublin Mountains Visitor Centre; supporting a vibrant Arts and Cultural sector in the County, as well as overseeing the redevelopment of Tallaght Stadium.

### What are the most rewarding things about working for a local authority?

Undoubtedly, it's the positive difference you can make to people's lives. I've been in the privileged position to be able to do this in my career, whether this be by delivering projects

such as the dublinbikes scheme in the city where 90,000 people use this service on an annual basis or by working on the development of 9,000 homes and a new town in Clonburris for 23,000 people.

It's about making things happen and you get to work with some amazing people on truly great initiatives, whether this be the City Edge project, which will create a new place for 150,000 people to live and work in Dublin or the delivery of the new €14 million Tallaght Innovation Centre, which will have a transformational impact on the start-up sector in the Dublin region.

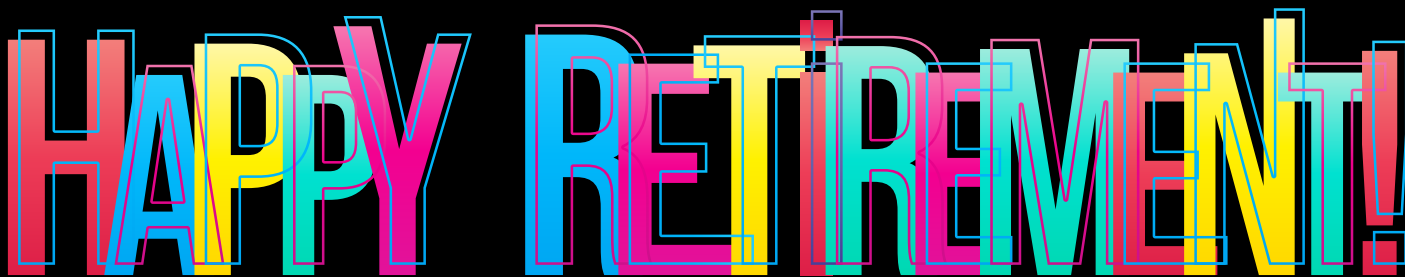
One of the most rewarding aspects relates to the collective accomplishment in achieving something as a team; learning from your peers every day; developing your skills and enhancing the performance of the Department where you work.

The further you develop, it also becomes more about developing others and supporting people with their career aspirations, as there is such a great sense of satisfaction in seeing other people grow and prosper in their own professional lives.

### Why should someone consider a career with their local authority?

Local Authorities play a central role in delivering services to local communities, enhancing people's lives, and shaping the future direction of society, so by working in a Local Authority you can play an active role in bringing all of these different dimensions to life.

Not only do you get to work with some great people and to work on some fantastic initiatives; working in a Local Authority also provides a platform for you to really understand yourself and see what's important to you from a career perspective. Given the diversity of different Departments within a Local Authority, there are significant opportunities for you to be exposed to a variety of work environments and different areas of work. There is something there for everyone, it's just about finding it.



## South Dublin County Council retirements July to December 2021

The staff of South Dublin County Council would like to wish our colleagues  
a happy retirement and best wishes for the future.

NAME	DEPARTMENT
Pauline Scully	Land Use Planning And Transportation
William Purcell	Land Use Planning And Transportation
Michael Anderson	Land Use Planning And Transportation
Christopher Mccarville	Environment, Water And Climate Change
David Lawlor	Environment, Water And Climate Change
Francis Nevin	Economic, Enterprise And Tourism Development
John Walsh	Finance
Sylvia Temple	Land Use Planning And Transportation
Christopher Mcgann	Environment, Water And Climate Change
Michael O'reilly	Environment, Water And Climate Change
Michael Glynn	Land Use Planning And Transportation
Noel Fitzgerald	Architects
Gillian Mcdonough	Land Use Planning And Transportation
Marie Malone	Housing, Social And Community Development
Anne Lynch	Architects
Bernadette Fennell	Economic, Enterprise And Tourism Development
Sean O'Hara	Land Use, Planning And Transportation
Ann Byrne	Environment, Water And Climate Change
Marguerite Staunton	Housing, Social And Community Development
James Garvey	Environment, Water And Climate Change
Gerard Walsh	Land Use Planning And Transportation
Ann Ryan	Housing, Social And Community Development
Cathy Purdy Fitzgerald	Housing, Social And Community Development
Margaret Leonard	Corporate Performance And Change Management
Patricia Hickey	Land Use Planning And Transportation
Sharon Tobin	Housing, Social And Community Development
Brendan Hynes	Corporate Performance And Change Management
Katherine Nicholls	Finance

# CoCo's Golf Society

CoCo's Golf Society is made up of staff from all corners of the organisation including outdoor staff, staff based in HQ and Libraries as well as retired staff. Over the past two years we have seen a lot of new staff take up membership and going forward we hope for that to continue, we welcome all new players including beginners.

2021 was another strange year for the Society and our Captain Jim O' Hare with just six of our scheduled nine outings taking place during the year. Our main prizes this year were the Presidents Prize won by Padraic Larkin and Jim O'Hare's Captains Prize won by Tony Shanahan. Our year long Golfer of the Year prize was won after a fight down to the final hole of the final outing with Brendan Kenny prevailing. The Committee would like to congratulate all prize winners over the past 12 months and thank all who attended our outings this year for their continued support of the Society.

It is hoped that in 2022 we will get to play our full list of events. The year will start with a friendly scramble on Friday, 25 March followed by the first full outing of the year in Powerscourt on Thursday, 14 April.

Any person interested in joining the Society can contact the Secretary Keith Purdy at [kpurdy@sdublincoco.ie](mailto:kpurdy@sdublincoco.ie)

## Golf society fixtures 2022

Venue	Date
Beechpark	25/03/2022
Powerscourt West	14/04/2022
Lutterlstown	13/05/2022
Kilkea Castle	10/06/2022
Macreddin	08/07/2022
Tulfarris	19/08/2022
Craddockstown	16/09/2022
Curragh	07/10/2022
Rathfarnham	28/10/2022





**IT'S BACK!**

## Choose To Reuse

A new 40c levy will be placed on all single use cups. Now is the time to choose to reuse.

**RELAUNCHING JANUARY 2022**

- 1 Order your hot drink to go
- 2 Deposit €1 for your 2GoCup
- 3 Return and get your €1 back or a fresh 2GoCup!

**Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas**  
South Dublin County Council



**Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas**  
South Dublin County Council

# Congratulations



Donna O'Reilly (Community) and her partner John on the birth of baby Daniel. Congratulations also to aunts Natasha O'Reilly (CPCM) and Emma O'Reilly (Housing)



Deirdre Sheehan (Finance) and her husband Ronan on the birth of their second child, baby Diarmuid



Julie Cummins (Planning) and her husband Shane on the birth of their third child, baby Luke. Congratulations also to Nana Carol McDonnell (Community).



Niamh Delaney (Housing) and her partner Alan Dunne on the birth of their daughter Robyn Sophia Dunne born 3 November.



Sinead Kelly (Housing) and her husband Dylan on the birth of their third child, baby Zach

# INNOVATION WEEK 2021

Innovation Week 2021 took place from 8 to 12 November. South Dublin County Council worked hard at organising a range of different events to showcase innovation across the organisation. This year the week focused on four different areas.

## Citizen centric innovation

The presentations and videos at this event demonstrated how South Dublin County Council has sought to put citizens at the heart of the services we provide. Videos included for their innovative approach were from the new North Clondalkin Library and the Teenspace Project, and presentations on Cycle South Dublin and Climate Action.

## Scale up innovation

The scaling up innovation event showcased successful innovations across our organisation to provide staff with the chance to learn from and mirror these successes in their own area. Projects included the Smart Mobility Hub, the development of the Staff App and the Pitch Booking system.

## Transformative innovation

This was a panel event and explored what is required to anticipate changing needs and secure long-lasting transformation. Our Transformative Innovation event focused on three of our flagship projects which will change the landscape of South Dublin as a county. These projects are: HeatNet, CityEdge and Tallaght's Innovation Quarter.

## Innovation culture

The final event of the week event saw the re-launch of the Lean Six Sigma programme and we are looking forward to this recommencing in 2022. Last but not least as part of innovation culture were the much anticipated staff awards. The three categories were innovation in citizen engagement, innovation in service delivery and innovation in the workplace. There was also one overall winner which was awarded to the IT Department for their implementation of remote working solutions during COVID-19.

These events were delivered both online and live streamed from the Rua Red Arts Centre. This year was the inaugural year of the staff awards, they were a great success and staff got hugely involved. We were out the door with nominations and 204 members of staff submitted votes online. This will now be an annual event so get your thinking caps on for the ideas you or your team could be nominated for next year. Overall Innovation week was a huge success with over 400 people logging on to the various events across the week.

Staff can now really involve themselves further in the innovation process through either the upcoming Lean Six Sigma and Digital Transformation Programme or through the South Dublin County Council Innovation Network.

Please forward expressions of interest for the Innovation Network to [vhartnett@sdublincoco.ie](mailto:vhartnett@sdublincoco.ie)

If you missed any of the events, they are now available on the intranet under the innovation page. Thanks to everyone who joined the events during the week and thank you to all of the presenters who took part in making Innovation Week 2021 such a success.





# wellbeing

## WEBINARS

The Attendance Management section in HR have been running a number wellbeing Webinars since Summer 2020, covering a variety of topics.

The current Corporate Plan has specific objectives on health and wellbeing which are reinforced in The Council's Health and Wellbeing Plan. Within this Plan, we have identified three key wellbeing pillars which underpin the development of improved employee health and wellbeing in SDCC, they are as follows:

- > Physical activity
- > Nutritional wellness
- > Mental wellness

From these three pillars, the Attendance Management Unit have been running a number of topical health and wellbeing seminars to staff on the following topics:

- > the new normal
- > Mindfulness – a practical introduction
- > Self care for remote workers
- > Making time for exercise and fitness
- > Technology, the new and mental wellbeing
- > Exercise for the mind
- > Improve your self confidence
- > The psychology of healthy eating
- > The role of sleep in improving your health
- > Optimising your work life balance
- > Coping strategies for life

Due to the pandemic, the activities have been restricted to online webinars. However it is the intention that there will be workplace challenges, cookery demonstrations and other in person events once restrictions allow.

The above Webinars are available for all staff to view at their convenience in the following locations:

- > the Intranet under both Events and Health and Wellbeing page.
- > SDCC Wellbeing Portal under SDCC Wellbeing Resources.

If you would like an invite to issue to you or if you have any difficulties accessing the Wellbeing Portal please contact [amu@sdublincoco.ie](mailto:amu@sdublincoco.ie)

Our Wellbeing Webinars will continue during 2022.

Staff are also reminded that the following resources are also available to them:

Staff Wellbeing Portal – at [www.sdccwellbeing.com](http://www.sdccwellbeing.com)

EAP Services from Spectrum Life accessible 24/7 at 1800 814 243 or Text or Whats app Hi to 087 369 0010.

Staff Welfare Officer – Cara Dinnegan  
email: [cdinnegan@sdublincoco.ie](mailto:cdinnegan@sdublincoco.ie)

## A POWRful solution.

Users answer clinically validated questions confidentially in six key areas of wellbeing.



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Food.



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Dynamically assigned wellbeing plans empower users to proactively manage their mental and physical health.  
Personal growth is maximised by regularly checking POWR for new plans, challenges, articles and more.



## Recycle more this Christmas

### Déan níos mó a athchúrsáil an Nollaig seo

Wrapping paper, Christmas cards, Glass, Cans, Plastic, Christmas trees, Batteries and WEEE can all be recycled, so this Christmas South Dublin County Council is encouraging everyone to recycle. Please visit [www.sdcc.ie](http://www.sdcc.ie) for Christmas Tree recycling locations.

For more information on how these items & more can be recycled go to [www.sdcc.ie](http://www.sdcc.ie)

Le haghaidh tuilleadh eolais maidir leis an athchúrsáil, tabhair cuairt ar [www.athcliaththeas](http://www.athcliaththeas)

## Trans community “disproportionately affected by COVID”

On Saturday 20 November, Cllr. Peter Kavanagh, Mayor of South Dublin County Council, paid tribute to the county's Transgender community and said that they were disproportionately affected by the global COVID-19 pandemic. Mayor Kavanagh was speaking as he raised the Trans flag at County Hall in Tallaght to mark Transgender Day of Remembrance, when the victims of transphobic violence are commemorated.

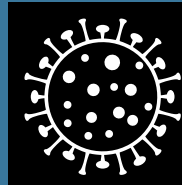
“Trans people, especially young trans people, rely on their community for support. Lockdowns and restrictions have meant that accessing these communities hasn't been as easy, and has disproportionately affected trans people who don't get to be themselves outside of their community,” Mayor Kavanagh said, “I am very grateful to South Dublin's LGBTQ+ Network for all the virtual events and support they have provided for trans people in our county, and I hope that we can all take note of their work. Trans people want to be themselves, and it's an act of common human decency to facilitate this.”

Mayor Kavanagh also cautioned against the rise of transphobia in the media, saying, “I'm old enough to remember the debates around decriminalisation of



homosexuality, and it's upsetting to see the same tired talking points coming to the fore in Irish media today. Since 2015, trans people have had the legal right to be who they really are, and we don't need to ape other countries and platform discrimination and hate under the guise of concern.”

# Layer up to protect from COVID-19



Coronavirus  
**COVID-19**  
Public Health  
Advice



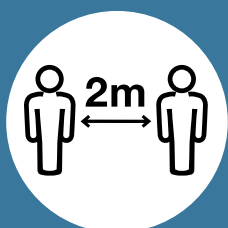
Get your  
vaccine



Clean your  
hands



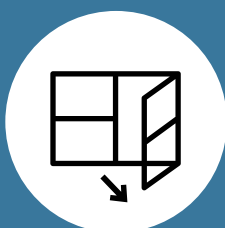
Wear a mask



Social  
distance



Avoid crowds



Open windows

## #LayerUp #ForUsAll

[www.gov.ie/covid-19](http://www.gov.ie/covid-19)  
[www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie)



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



# South Dublin Climate Innovation Fund

Do you have an idea that you have seen elsewhere that could help us tackle climate change? Or maybe you have an idea that you haven't seen anywhere else?

Did you know that South Dublin County Council has a Climate Innovation Fund which anyone can apply to?

A €300,000 allocation was put in place in 2019 to support projects from any part of the local authority that demonstrate innovative approaches to managing the many challenges that climate change will present.

Staff are invited to submit innovative projects or ideas to the Climate Innovation Fund which can help us in tackling climate change. If you have a project or an idea please let us know.

To date a diverse range of projects have been provided funding. These include:

- **Installation of drinking water fountains:** In 2019 / 2020 funding was provided for the installation of drinking water fountains at strategic locations. The drinking water fountains were placed in prominent locations in village centres and parks to encourage active travel and to reduce the amount of single use plastic bottles. The water fountains have provided in excess of 42,000 litres of water to citizens since they were installed, this is equivalent to 84,000 plastic bottles(500ml).
- **Climate Action Workshops** designed for community groups were delivered in 2020 and 2021. The workshops presented participants with information and tools on how to make personal lifestyle changes to reduce and negate the impacts of Climate Change on their communities. The workshops were delivered in person at community venues prior to COVID-19 and subsequently were delivered online. The workshops presented community groups with opportunities to network and share ideas and experience
- **Eco Driver Training** is an advanced programme developed to train participants on driving techniques that will reduce engine emissions, reduce wear and improve road safety. The programme was run as a pilot course in 2019.
- **Rehabilitation of Rural Hedgerows:** This project was developed to re-establish the native hedgerows in Kiltipper Park. It is vitally important that we maintain and protect our native hedgerows as these are corridors for the movement of wildlife and the protection of biodiversity. The Green Infrastructure Strategy is mapping this type of infrastructure to help ensure its protection and the Climate Innovation fund has also made a contribution to this Strategy
- **Roadside Pollinator Bulb Planting:** These projects are huge biodiversity gains for the county helping pollinators and align with the policies in the Climate Change action

plan, the Biodiversity Action plan and the National Pollinator Plan. More than 290,000 pollinator bulbs were funded by the Innovation Fund.

- **WeCount:** South Dublin County Council have collaborated in the WeCount project with UCD by funding air quality monitoring equipment at schools in the county. The project empowers citizens to measure road traffic and air pollution in their own neighbourhoods. WeCount is a European citizen engagement project with case studies in six cities: Dublin, Cardiff, Barcelona, Madrid, Leuven and Ljubljana. Citizens and community groups within each city are provided with low-cost sensors that count heavy vehicles, cars, bicycles, pedestrians and air pollution at the street level. Data collected will be used to provide evidence of the need of sustainable mobility policies around schools, such as the 30km/h speed limit around schools, the School Zone initiative, etc.
- **Grand Canal Lighting Upgrade** – Funding was provided through the Climate Innovation Fund to upgrade 4000 SOX lamps. The upgrade resulted in significant energy savings. It also allowed minimum lighting level when there is no human presence to benefit wildlife.

The Climate Team welcomes applications from any Department in the Local Authority.

You can contact [climatechange@sdbulincoco.ie](mailto:climatechange@sdbulincoco.ie) for a copy of the application form or if you would like to know more.



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Check loan  
approvals

Calculate loan  
repayments

Loan  
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### How do I get CuMobile?

Android phone users:

Step 1: Download CuMobile App for free from the Play Store on your Android phone.

Step 2: Open the app, select Black Raven Credit Union. Click on login and enter your login credentials. You do not need to re-register; your existing login credentials remain the same. You will be asked to generate a one-time passcode which will be sent to your mobile device. You will be given the option of enabling biometric login. Sit back and enjoy all the features of our new mobile app.

iPhone users:

Step 1: Download CuMobile App for free from the Apple Store on your iPhone.

Step 2: Open the app, select Black Raven Credit Union. Click on login and enter your login credentials. You do not need to re-register; your existing login credentials remain the same. You will be asked to generate a one-time passcode which will be sent to your mobile device. You will be given the option of enabling biometric login.

Sit back and enjoy all the features of our new mobile app.

If you have not registered for CuOnline banking, you can register through our website [www.blackravencu.ie](http://www.blackravencu.ie)

If you would like to contact a member of staff with any queries, please email [enquiries@blackravencu.ie](mailto:enquiries@blackravencu.ie) or phone 01-4610682.

### Benefits of CuMobile

- Easy login process, Biometric login.
- Manage your credit union account anywhere 24/7.
- Transfer funds online.
- Lodge money into your credit union account from a bank account or building society account.
- Pay bills online at no charge.
- Apply for loans online.
- Calculate loan repayments.
- Collect your loan online.
- Check your account balances and latest transactions on your accounts.
- Full Online Statements – View and Print your statements.
- Contact Black Raven Credit Union via secure messaging section.
- Secure document upload facility.
- Transfer money between your Credit Union accounts

# Christmas craft fairs at South Dublin Libraries

Christmas craft fairs were held in Tallaght Library, Lucan Library and Ballyroan Library on Saturday, 27 November. It was great to welcome back previous stall-holders who had missed this showcase event last year due to the COVID restrictions. It was also wonderful to welcome some new stall-holders who hadn't taken part in the Fairs before. Items on offer included handmade Christmas decorations, candles, jewellery, woodcraft, cards and prints, knitted items, jams and puddings and much more.

Tallaght Library's fair spilled over into the courtyard outside the library, where food trucks offered many different delicious snacks on the day.

As part of the celebration, Waffles the Wonderful entertained children in both Ballyroan Library and Lucan Library and Santa dropped in to Ballyroan Library to wish everybody a Happy Christmas.



Between the three craft fairs there were 63 different local crafters and they were attended by over 2000 people.



# THE CIVIC

## EVENTS COMING UP EARLY 2022



For More Info See [www.civictheatre.ie](http://www.civictheatre.ie)

