



Breast Cancer Ireland

(In The Media Jan 18-Mar 18)

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Health & Wellbeing Evening in Castlerea to aid purchase of four new defibrillators

The Castlerea Defibrillator Group held a fundraising Health & Wellbeing Evening in the Trinity Arts Centre.

The evening started with a healthy cooking demonstration from chef Una Fannon from An Chistin followed by talks from Rachel Feeley, Breast Cancer Ireland; Nial Tully, Tully's Total Health Pharmacy; Marian Keigher, Vita House; Maura Lawless, Croí, and Sinead O'Brien, Jigsaw.

There were also many exhibitors on the night including Ann Bruen, acupuncture; Siobhan Murray, podiatrist; Patricia Buckley from Castlerea parkrun; Jonathan Finan Castlerea Cycling Club; Rachel Heviken, psychotherapy and coaching and Garda Tyrone Tobin - community policing officer.

All monies raised on the night will go directly to purchasing four new defibrillators for the community of Castlerea and help with training and upkeep costs. The group is also currently in the process of setting up the first Cardiac First Responder Group in the county. Secretary Susan Gaynor explained that "a CFR group is 100% voluntary and operates in con-

junction with the National Ambulance Service to provide a rapid response to victims of cardiac arrest, chest pain, choking and stroke in the local area. The aim of the group is to provide life-

saving interventions such as CPR and defibrillation to victims should an ambulance not yet be at the scene or to provide assistance to the ambulance if they are present."

The committee thanks all those who attended, the sponsors Hester's Golden Eagle, Siobhan Murray, Ollie O'Grady & Tommy Joyce, those who donated spot prizes, Trinity Arts Centre, the exhibitors and speakers.



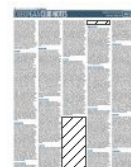
Susan Gaynor and Siobhan Murray, podiatrist, pictured at a fundraising health and well-being evening in the Trinity Arts Centre, Castlerea. Pic. Liam Reynolds



RAHENY

DEADLINE for payment of membership is 31 March. A strict 'no pay, no play' will be enforced. Due to the bad weather last week, we had no games. We are looking forward to this weekend, and hoping all pitches will be playable. On Saturday, both our ladies footballers are at home, with U18 v Clanna Gael and U17 v Round Tower Clondalkin. Our AHL2 are playing Kilmacud Crokes on Sunday at home, 10.15am. AHL7 are away to Round Tower Clondalkin at 2.30pm. Minor footballers are away to St Mary's Saggart at 11am, and minor footballers Division Four north are away to Na Fianna at 11am. And our camogie ladies are also playing on Sunday, Adult Cup One away to Good Counsel at 11am; and Adult Cup Four North at home to Whitehall Colmcille at 11am. Our Easter Camp will take place from Monday 26th-Thursdays 29th March. You can now book online by going to the club shop on our website and following instructions. Mother's Day Brunch is this Sunday. You can book by texting 0862909022, and leaving your name and the number of people your booking for. Places are filling up fast. This year, the chosen charity is Breast Cancer Ireland. A group of girls from our minor team have offered to run the event. This is being done for one of their teachers; Emma Cassidy, Manor House. It will take the same format as before, but will include a little entertainment. St Patrick's Eve, we have the band, "til death do us party", playing in the club.

Cover charge is €10, and we will have the talented James Keane mixing cocktails on the night.



Boyle Town Focus

BOYLE

TRIBUTES PAID TO BOYLE 'SPORTING AND BUSINESS ICON'

Many warm and generous tributes have been paid to the late Mr Fred Perry whose death occurred last Saturday. The deceased, who was 84 years, died after he was involved in a single car collision, on the Carrick Road outside Boyle last Saturday morning, shortly after 10 am. A leading businessman in Boyle town, Mr. Perry ran the popular 'VG Stores' for many years until his retirement. The deceased was also a leading figure in golfing circles and was a former President of the Golfing Union of Ireland (GUI) and one of the organisers of the prestigious West of Ireland championships, held every Easter at Rosses Point. The late Mr. Perry was also an active member of Boyle Golf Club and was the longest serving member of the GUI's Central Council Committee and was a GUI Trustee at the time of his death. From Buncloody, Co. Wexford, the late Mr. Perry moved to Boyle in 1953 where he lived for the remainder of his life. Predeceased by his brother John, the deceased is survived by his wife Emily, daughters Heather, Valerie, Shirley and Olwen, son Keith, brothers Des and Leslie, sister Ruth, grandchildren, in-laws and a wide circle of friends from the sporting and business communities. The remains of the late Fred Perry reposed at his home yesterday (Monday) before being removed to Boyle Church of Ireland for Funeral Service this afternoon (Tuesday) at 2 p.m. followed by burial afterwards in the adjoining graveyard.

GOLD FOR MARY & LIAM

At the annual dinner dance of the Roscommon/Athlone Region of the Pioneer Association, which took place recently in the Hodson Bay Hotel,

Athlone, Liam and Mary Clifford, Maple Drive, Boyle were presented with their Gold Pins and Certificates to mark their 50 years as members of the Pioneer Total Abstinence Association. The presentations were made by Mr James Shelvin, President of the Pioneer Association.

COMMUNITY GAMES

Boyle Community Games will be holding the following events U -10 & U-12 girls' and boys' handwriting competition in Scoil na nAingeal Naofa, Boyle

from 3.30pm- 4pm on Thursday, March 8th; U-8, U-10, U-12 U-14 & U-16 boys and girl's art competition on March 15th in Scoil na nAingeal Naofa, at 3.30pm. All competitors must reside in Boyle Parish. Entry fee is €2 per competition. If you have any queries please contact 085 832818.

DIABETES COURSE

Diabetes Ireland is running a free group education course for people with Type 2 Diabetes in St Joseph's Resource Centre, Abbeytown, Boyle commencing March 14th. For further information and booking contact Regina on 071-914 6001.

WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES

World Meeting of Families in Boyle will now take place on Thursday, March 8, in St. Joseph's Resource Centre, Boyle from 8pm to 9.30pm. These sessions will be held in an informal and friendly atmosphere followed by a cup of tea/coffee. Everyone is invited to attend.

TAWNEYTASKIN COMMUNITY CENTRE

Annual Easter afternoon tea event on Sunday and Monday, April 1st and 2nd. More details later. Phone Ann 086 8130005.

CAVETOWN CE SCHEME

Cavetown CE Scheme has vacancies for two

General Operatives. Duties will include the upkeep of all amenity areas, grass cutting, strimming, hedge trimming, litter and weed control, upkeep of flowerbeds and shrubs and landscaping. General maintenance will include repairs, stone wall building, painting and decorating. This is a developmental opportunity, no experience necessary. Accredited training will be provided to support your career. Community Employment rates apply. Eligibility to participate on a CE Scheme is generally linked to those who are 21 years or over and applicants must also be in receipt of a qualifying Irish social welfare payment for one year or more. Should you wish to apply for this CE vacancy, you must call in to your local Intreo office first to have your eligibility checked. Please send your CV with PPS Number by email to cavetownresidences@eircom.net or by post to Mr Oliver Donagher c/o Cavetown Residents Development Company CLG, Croghan, Boyle. Closing date for applications is March 9th. Please ring 087 775 0556 or 071 966 8117 if you require any further information.

LENTEN RETREAT

The rescheduled Lenten Retreat at Galilee will be held on Sunday, March 18th from 10.30am to conclude with Mass at 4pm.

BOYLE FOOD PARTNERSHIP

If you and/or your family need food please text the word FOOD + your first name to 0860496467 to receive details. Distribution times are Mondays or Wednesdays, 2.30pm-4pm or Fridays, 3pm-4.30pm at the Boyle Family Resource Centre.

BABY AND ME

Baby and Me starts Friday, March 9th, 10.30am-12.30pm in Boyle Family Resource Centre, 071963000. This is a six week group for new mums and their babies

i.e. baby yoga, nutrition, foot prints, baby massage, essential oils.

HEALTH WEEK

Health Week at Boyle Family Resource Centre takes place from March 5th - 9th. All welcome. Events include: Marie Keating Foundation Unit - Tuesday, March 6th 10am-3pm; Breast Cancer Ireland Talk with Rachel Fitzgerald - breast cancer education and awareness, Tuesday, March 6th at 12 noon; Irish Heart Foundation - blood pressure checks and

heart health information and one-to-one advice offered by the nurse, Friday, March 9th, 10am-3.45pm; Mindfulness - an introduction to mindfulness with take home tips and techniques to use mindfulness on a regular basis, Thursday, March 8th 10.30 a.m.-12 noon.

SOMATIC MOVEMENT EDUCATION

Somatic movement education is a gentle neuromuscular education programme that releases muscular tension and pain through slow safe

gentle movements. An eight week course of hour sessions will take place on Thursdays at 11am in Boyle Family Resource Centre 0719663000. Instructor, Stephen Cooke (CSE).

FIRST AID CLASSES

Basic First Aid with Absolute Safety incorporating CPR - Friday, March 23rd, 9.30 a.m.-5 p.m. in Boyle Family Resource Centre, 0719663000. Booking essential Paediatric First Aid with Absolute Safety on Wednesday, March 7th, 9.15 a.m.-2.45

p.m. in Boyle Family Resource Centre 0719663000.

WIDOW & WIDOWERS SUPPORT GROUP

A meeting of the Widow & Widowers Support Group will be held on Thursday, March 8th, 7.30 p.m.-9 p.m. in Boyle Family Re-



source Centre.

RAINBOWS TRAINING

Boyle Family Resource Centre is currently recruiting volunteers for its Rainbows Programme. Rainbows is a support programme for children

who have been bereaved through death, separation and divorce. Training dates are April 12th, 21st, 22nd and 28th from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.. If you are interested in becoming a facilitator, please contact Boyle Family Resource Centre as soon as possible on 0719663000 YOGA Yoga with Liz Dwyer on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. in Boyle Family Resource Centre.

SUICIDE BEREAVEMENT LIAISON SERVICE

Roscommon Suicide Bereavement Liaison Services is a free and confidential service that provides assistance and support to families and individuals grieving the death of a loved one by suicide. Contact Tiffany Jennings Walsh, Suicide Bereavement Liaison Officer on 0857407856. This service is funded by the HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention.

CASTLECOOTE HOUSE MYTHS & HISTORY

Castlecoote House is hosting a second series of Myth & History Series of talks. The next one will take place on Thursday, March 8th. This will be about Reading Parables in the Jewish setting. How understanding Judaism deepens our understanding of Jesus by Francis Cousins. Lectures begin at 10.45 a.m.. For further information email info@castlecoote-house.com.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE WEEK

Roscommon Local Enterprise week takes place across County Roscommon from March 4th to March 9th. On Thursday, March 8th the Enterprise Centre in Boyle is hosting one to one Business Advisory Clinic starting at 9.30 a.m.. For more information or bookings go to www.localenterprise.ie/roscommon.

CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Roscommon Women's Network invites you to the RWN Chat Show on Thursday, March 8th. The day will include a panel discussion, fun, music and song and light lunch, special guest Sharon Mannion best known for playing "Concepta" in RTE 2's hit Comedy "Bridget & Eamon". The event is taking place in Gleeson Townhouse & Restaurant, The Square, Roscommon from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free admission. For further information or to RSVP please ring

094 9621690 or email info@rwn.ie.

CURLEW WALKERS CLUB

The next meeting of the Curlew Walkers will be taking place on Sunday, March 18th, meeting on the Crescent at 11 a.m.. Your leader for the day on the day will be Tom Browne 087 2379632. This will be a Climb Grade B/C, Carrowkeel Loop. Please confirm times with leader or website prior to each walk www.walkingboyle.com.

ANGLING

Boyle & District Angling Club will host its Easter Pike Angling Festival on Saturday, March 31st and Sunday, April 1st.

BOYLE ENTERPRISE CENTRE

The following courses will take place in the Enterprise Centre in Boyle this March, Human Resource Policies & Procedures, Facebook for Business, Finance for non-financial Managers, Manual Handling Instructors QQI Level 6, Supervisory Management QQI Level 6, Training Needs Analysis for your Business, Microsoft Word/Excel/Outlook. For more information please email info@roleskillnet.com call 0719673440.

BOYLE HOLIDAY GROUP

The holiday group will travel to North Donegal on Monday, June 4th until Friday, June 8th, staying at the Mount Er-

rigal Hotel, Letterkenny. Enquiries to Mary Regan 0861298355 or 0719663544.

ST PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

Following a well-attended and very successful meeting a committee was formed to organise this year's St Patrick's Day Parade. The good attendance was a reflection on the importance of the Parade to the town. With the energy and enthusiasm of the newly elected Committee, the future of the St Patrick's Day Parade in Boyle is no longer in doubt. Boyle Chamber of Commerce and Boyle Town Team would like to wish every success to the new committee and look forward to a great day in Boyle. The parade will take place on St Patrick's Day at 3.30 p.m. The newly elected committee are as follows: Joe Ryan (Chairperson), Maura Clarke, Eddie Creighton, Derek Dooley, Martin Downes, Lorcan Egan, Maire Egan Paul, Aileen Madden, Enda Madden, Dorothy

Shannon and Keith Sufin.

COURTYARD MARKET

The market takes place every Saturday in the grounds of King House from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.. For further information, please call Una Bhan on 071 9663 033 BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT The Bereavement Support group is for those grieving the loss of a loved one. The next meeting is on this Tuesday, March 6th at 8 p.m. in Boyle Family Resource Centre, 0719663000.

STROKE SUPPORT GROUP

Roscommon Stroke Support Group invites all stroke survivors and carers to join the group. The group meets every Tuesday from 12.30 p.m. - 2.30 p.m. in Hannon's Hotel, Athlone Road, Roscommon and caters for all ages. The group provides exercise therapy, tea and a chat, support and information sessions in a friendly atmosphere. If you cannot get to the group there is a private Facebook page, search for Life After Stroke. Irish Heart Nurse Helpline 1800 25 25 50/

www.irishheart.ie. If you are a stroke survivor or carer or know of someone who has had a stroke and want further details please contact Martina Greene, Stroke Group Coordinator on 087 6057696/ mgreene@irishheart.ie

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS IRELAND - CO ROSCOMMON BRANCH AGM

The 40th Annual General Meeting of Multiple Sclerosis Ireland Co. Roscommon Branch will be held on Tuesday, March 13th at 6.30 p.m. in Claire's Meeting Room, RSG Resource Centre, Derrane, Roscommon. All members and all interested parties are invited and new members are very welcome to attend.

BRIDGE RESULTS

Results for Weekly Competition played February 21st: North/South - 1, Mrs T McMahon & Mrs T Griffin; 2, Mrs M Quinn & Dr G Greene; 3, Mrs N Lynch & Mrs M Flynn; 4, Ms E Drudy & Mrs M Gannon. East/West - 1, Mrs I Commins & Mrs G Gillan; 2, Mrs M Queenan & Mr J McMonagle; 3, Mrs M Casey & Mrs A Young; 4, Mrs M Regan & Mrs M Kennedy.

AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE REVISION COURSE

Leaving Certificate Agricultural Science Revision Course on March 26th and 27th in Carrick on Shannon. Notes provided. Contact 087 9564411 for details

MERCHANT AND CARD SERVICES

Merchant services and credit card terminals are now available for your business from only €12 per month. Call John on 086 8811692. See our main ad on page

24 HR FREE COUNSELLING

Feeling hopeless, depressed, alone? STOP provides free counselling. Freephone 1850 211 877 (Advert)

CHAMBER LOTTO

In the Boyle Chamber of Commerce Lotto on Monday, February 26th numbers drawn were 1, 11, 19, 29. No jackpot winner. Match Three will take place on Monday, March 12th in Mattie's Bar. Jackpot €12,940 unless won in previous draw. Cut off point for ticket sales at draw venue 11 p.m. Players are asked to write full first name and surname on tickets purchased. (advert)

CLUB NOTICEBOARD

BALLYMUN KICKHAMS

CONGRATULATIONS to our minor A footballers who beat St Mary's, Saggart with a strong team performance and also providing our laoch na seachtaine.

The big victory was with great displays by Jason Keating and Cillian Carroll but the hero of the week goes to three-goal hero Cillian Doyle! Take a bow Cillian, you are our laoch na seachtaine!

Well done also to our U-15 boys who beat Castleknock away with Rian Middleton, Kieron Kelly, Harry Hughes and Jake Hollywood all exceptional.

Special thanks to the dedicated Hollywood clan who made an early return journey from Mayo to get Jake there on time to play a critical part in the win. Great clubmanship right there. Well done to all on a great team performance.

Our adult ladies had their end of season awards night last Friday in the Autobahn after what was a hugely successful season winning the league undefeated and runners up in the cup. Player of the year Lorraine Fleming and player's player was Ellis Davenport. Well done ladies.

For more information on these snippets, please visit our Facebook, Twitter @BallymunGAA and website ballymunkickhams.com All with thanks to Progressive Credit Union.

CRUMLIN

U-13 girls football got their year off to a good start winning by two points over Ballyboden away in Ballyboden.

Our U-10 camogie team travelled to Round Towers on Saturday and continued to

show their excellent progress under new management.

Training is continuing for all teams. Ladies football and camogie training is on a Tuesday/Thursday night at 7pm in Bluebell Boxing.

For men's/juvenile training times and schedules, please contact your mentors as times and venues do vary week to week.

Adult subs are now due and once again we will be asking all members social and playing to pay ASAP.

Lotto was not won numbers drawn were 4, 16, 22, 30. There were five match 3 winners and next weeks winning jackpot will be €3,600.

Joker Poker was not won and this week's jackpot is €1,850.

ERIN'S ISLE

THE U-11 girls football team had a great win over ST Vincent's with Ava Travers and Alex Kilroy making their debuts for the club. Clare Dunne, Robyn Wilson, Eli Lamai, Phina Gyasi and Caitlin Barrett were the standout performances over the two games.

The U-13 boys footballers also got the upper hand over St Vincent's to leave them top of their group for the grading part of the league. This is thanks to three great wins on the trot.

Unfortunately, there were defeats for all three of our adult hurling teams, hopefully this will not be the trend for the season and we can turn things around to get back on the winning side of games.

The U-16 camogie side had a good win against Lucan Sarsfields. Abbey Harrington, Amie Trawally, Sophie McGrane, Molly King and Caoimhe O'Tolle all showing good displays throughout the match.

The U-16 ladies football team started their league campaign with a win over Foxrock Cabinteely. A clean sheet in the second half allowed them to come from behind to a great showing from the defence.

Congratulations to Conor Berigan and the Dublin North team on winning the Linester schools hurling during the week.

Good luck to all the fighters taking part in the white collar boxing night on Saturday in the club hall.

The main event sees the senior hurling team mates Gareth Cronan and Alan Keoghan take on each other.

Memberships are now due and can be paid online or in person to Jude Casey.

There was no winner of the lotto. The next draw takes place on March 1 with a jackpot of €1,600.

Live music in the bar on Monday and Sunday night along with bingo in the bar on Mondays and the hall on Thursdays.

If you have anything for club notes, please contact Aaron Wheatley on 085 829 2670 or erinsislegaclub@gmail.com before Sunday evening.

NA FIANNA

VERY proud weekend for the Horan family and all at Na Fianna as John was inaugurated as Úachtarán Cumann Lúthchleas Gael at GAA Annual Congress in Croke Park last Saturday.

Every best wish to John and family for his term of office.

Wins on Sunday for senior and both junior hurling teams. Inters drew and hard luck to our three minor football teams on Sunday's first league outing.

Good win for our U-16A ladies



on the front pitch against Ballyboden on Sunday. Adult football next Sunday with the Senior 1s against St Brigid's in Collinstown and Senior 2s away against St Anne's, both at 10.15am.

Both junior teams in Collinstown at 12pm with the As playing Round Towers Lusk and Cs against Portobello. AFL10s away against St Brendan's at 12.30pm.

Both minor hurling teams away at 11am, As play Plunkett's and Bs against St Peregrines. Best of luck to all teams, support welcome.

Na Fianna Sports Forum in the Helix on Friday, March 9. Serious panel of sports stars, raffle on the night for terrific prizes, tickets on sale from the Helix and club bar, please support.

A brand new club initiative, Na Fianna Connects, will hold its first interactive talk on Friday, March 2, 7.30pm in the club when Oisín McConville will share his own story with us, entry is free to all members.

Draíocht Players return to Na Fianna this Thursday, March 1 at 8pm with The Plough and The Stars.

Tickets €10 available from Ann Ryan or club office.

Na Fianna's Operation Transformation continues every Monday night 7pm, all welcome. Sincere sympathies are offered to the Darcy and Ainsworth families on the passing of Mr Paddy Darcy, Father of former Na Fianna personalities Fergus, Declan and Aileen and Uncle of Executive Committee member Lisa Ainsworth. Ar dheis Dé go raibha anam nacha.

O'TOOLE'S

ANOTHER great win for the Dublin ladies and our Kate v Mayo on Saturday.

It was no walk in the park for the girls, playing in bitterly cold conditions in the west of the

country.

We have a GAA foundation course on March 21. This is for all team helpers/coaches but especially aimed at those wishing to work at the Easter and Summer camps (you must be over 16) as this course must be completed.

Contact David Needham on 086 3101034. Well done to the teachers in the Donahies school, completing the first part of their course last week.

Easter Camps dates are: nursery 4 to 7yr olds on March 27 to 29; senior 8 to 12yr olds on April 3 to 5. Places are limited so book today with David 086 3010134, Kelly 085 1600381 (after 5pm) or Hellen 086 3060524.

Reminder that juvenile registrations are now due. Please contact team mentors to pay or visit our website to pay online.

Date for your diary: Friday, June 8 is O'Toole's dinner dance in the Carnegie Court Hotel, Swords.

Join us for a four-course meal, live band and DJ 'til late. Tickets €30pp. Bring your partner, your friends, your company, it will be great. To book, contact Ciaran 087 6465273, David 087 9769594 or John 087 2958398.

Condolences to Nickie Gallagher and family on the sad loss of his little niece Holly, another angel in heaven.

This weekend in our lounge, it's Friday night fun and games. Saturday 'Desire' and Sunday, 6 to 8pm, with George Murphy.

There was no winner of our live Club Lotto. The numbers were 6, 10, 14 and 19. The jackpot this week is €1,300.

RAHENY

Membership is now due for 2018, this can be paid in the club (registration forms available in the bar) or by logging on to <https://clubs.way2pay.org/>.

Best of luck to the Dubs on Saturday, match will be shown on the big screen, 7pm, Dublin V Kerry, followed by live music from "the wild rovers" 9.30pm til late.

This year Mothers Days falls on 11th March and the chosen charity for our mothers day brunch is "Breast Cancer Ireland" A group of Manor House TY students are running this event to help raise money for Breast cancer Ireland in one of their teachers names Emma Cassidy.

Many thanks to everyone who came along to support the Boys Feile Table Quiz on Friday 23rd February. A great night was had by all and funds raised will go towards kitting our young players out for the Feile na nGael and Feile Peil tournaments. We would also like to say thank you to Laura Buckley, Dara Carr, Karen Ahearne, Regina Harnett and Anna Murphy who put a huge amount of work into organising the event. Thanks also to Kevin Broderick our quiz master.

Club Shop :- Will be open on the Saturday 9:20 till 12.

Keep an eye out for details on our 60th Anniversary Ball, the date has changed to 19th OCTOBER, as we want to celebrate St Patrick's Weekend under our own roof. "Til Death do us party" will be playing in the club on 16th March and full details of St Patrick's Day will be posted shortly

Congratulations to four of our lads who are Leinster Senior College Champions Mossy Keogh, Jack Fagan, Liam Dunne and Sean Farrelly.

SCOIL UI CHONAILL

WE ARE working on plans for our major Gala Night fundraiser in Chicago next September.

To find out more, check out the news section of our website www.scoilgaa.com.

It was a busy weekend for the Club with adult and juvenile teams back in full swing with their leagues matches.

The NEIC School Club Link programme started last week with great turnouts from the girls of Mount Carmel and Larkin College.

Some of our young Stags competed in the final Gormanstown Indoor Hurling tournament and received their medals and certificates after the 5 week series.

Anyone interested in availing of very attractive pitchside advertisement opportunities should contact Aidan Mulvey on 085 7213789.

Adult Hurling and Football teams train in Scoil Mondays and Thursdays from 6.30pm. Ladies training is in Marino Hall on Mondays at 8pm and in Scoil on Thursdays at 7.30pm.

Juvenile training takes place in Scoil at 10am on Saturday mornings.

New members welcome, as always.

For any news or enquiries please contact scoil.pro.eoc@gmail.com.

ST OLIVER PLUNKETT'S/ER

OUR senior hurlers lost to Whitehall Colmcille by two points in the first league match last Sunday.

Our intermediate hurlers lost to Whitehall Colmcille by three points in the first league match last Sunday.

Our Minor A Football team lost to Cuala and the Minor B Football team had a good win over Liffey Gaels.

Congratulations to our club players on the Dublin North Schools team on their victory over St Kierans, Kilkenny in colleges final last week. Its the first time Dublin North have won this prestigious trophy.

Congratulations to St Declans for winning the Senior B Dublin Schools Hurling Final last Tuesday against a very strong team from Lucan comprising a number of Dublin minor players.

The St Declans team comprising a number of Plunketts players were dominant throughout this fiercely fought encounter and now play in the Leinster Senior Schools Final against Rathdowney of Laois.

Plunketts players from U-15 to Minor made up the backbone of this team.

Best of luck to Brian Avery and St Declans in the Leinster Final and well done lads.

Its that time of year again with memberships now due for 2018. It was agreed by the Members at the Club's AGM that memberships (including Lotto of €90) would remain unchanged for 2018.

Thanks to all those who have paid their

memberships and availed of the installment option. We would ask that all members renew their membership at the earliest opportunity using the link below

Please click the link below to go straight to the webpage. <https://goo.gl/HQqPq2>

The club extends it's deepest Sympathy to Annette Brennan and the Gavigan Family, Lanesboro, Longford in their bereavement on the death of their mother Anne.

The club also extends it's Sympathy to the Spaine Family in their bereavement on the death of Dave and to Ronnie Butler and Family in their bereavement on the death of their mother Margaret.

Ar dheis de go raibh a ainm

Best wishes to Bernard Brogan and Craig Dunleavy for a full recovery following recent injuries he Lotto results for Sunday 25th February 2018.

There was no winner of the Jackpot in last Sundays Lotto Draw.

'She was my guiding star' - writer Emma's heartbroken husband

Sean O'Grady

EMMA Hannigan's husband Cian has paid tribute to the best-selling author who died on Saturday after an 11-year battle with breast cancer.

Cian, who was married to Emma (45) for more than 20 years, took to her Facebook page to express his love for her.

"Today, my Emma found peace," he wrote. "She bravely fought a battle against a foe with no mercy.

"Emma was the epitome of strength, love and generosity, beyond anything I have ever known.

"She loved her family, loved her friends, and she left a trail of glitter and joy throughout her life... with, of course, added tinsel at Christmas.

"She was my wife and soul-mate. Mother of my beautiful children, a friend to many and an inspiration to thousands.

A loving daughter. Devoted mother.

"She was my guiding star and my hug to say everything would be OK.

"But mostly, she was just my Emma, and I would need her wonderful gift with words to tell you just how much I will miss her."

Emma, the mum of son Sacha (17) and daughter Kim (15), had battled the disease 10 times.

In 2005, she discovered she was carrying the BRCA1 cancer gene, which meant an 85pc chance of developing breast cancer and a 50pc chance of ovarian cancer.

To reduce her risk to 5pc, Emma had surgery to remove her breasts, ovaries and fallopian tubes. However, she was diagnosed with cancer in 2007, and began her 11-year battle with the disease.

Emma's funeral service will take place in the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour in Foxrock on Wednesday, followed by a burial in Shanagh Cemetery in Shankill.

Tributes poured in for the author shortly after the news of her death.

"It is with great sadness that I have learned of the death of Emma Hannigan - a campaigner to the end," said President Michael D Higgins.

"Emma Hannigan leaves a lasting legacy not only through her work as a much-appreciated author, but also through her exemplary courage in dealing with terminal illness.

"She will be remembered as a powerful advocate for Breast Cancer Ireland, a great cause worthy of our support."

Businesswoman and TV personality Norah Casey said: "A wonderful courageous woman just left our world - my heartfelt condolences to her wonderful family."

Fair City actress and fellow

author Claudia Carroll said: "Heartbroken to hear the sad news about our beautiful, brave Emma Hannigan. Tonight, there really is one more angel in heaven."

Breast Cancer Ireland, of which Emma was an ambassador, tweeted: "BCI wish to extend our deepest sympathies to the family of our dear friend Emma Hannigan who lost her battle with cancer earlier today. RIP."

Emma revealed two weeks ago on her blog that her cancer was terminal.

This prompted a successful campaign from fans that saw her book *Letters To My Daughters* reach the top spot in Ireland.

She helped to raise more than €100,000 for BCI in the weeks before her death.

SURGERY



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RUEPOINT MEDIA



Emma Hannigan died on Saturday after an 11-year cancer fight

‘It is never too late to dream big – keep dreaming’

Tributes flood in to ‘inspirational’ author Emma Hannigan

Andrew Madden

a.madden@irishnews.com

PRESIDENT Michael D Higgins has led tributes to the bestselling Irish author Emma Hannigan, who has died following an 11-year battle with cancer.

In a blog post last month, the 45-year-old revealed that her breast cancer had become terminal.

The Wicklow-born writer was first diagnosed with the disease in 2007, having discovered she was carrying that BRCA 1 gene, and fought the disease 10 times over the past decade.

On Saturday afternoon, Breast Cancer Ireland broke the

news of the death of its “dear friend” on social media.

The mother-of-two had started a fundraising campaign for the charity, which has raised more than €100,000.

“It’s never too late to dream big, keep dreaming,” she told her followers in her final tweet at the end of last month.

“Thank you so much, please keep those donations coming in and don’t stop until we reach the top.”

Fans and fellow authors had also rallied together in recent weeks to promote Ms Hannigan’s later book,



her 13th to be published, to make it another bestseller.

The novel, *Letters to My Daughters*,

pictured, tops the Irish charts with more than 4,000 copies sold last week.

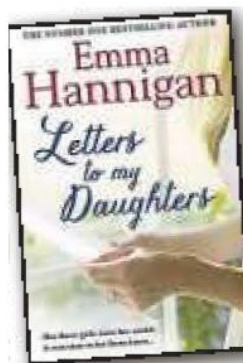
President Higgins said she “leaves a lasting legacy not

only through her work as a much-appreciated author but also through her exemplary courage in dealing with terminal illness”.

“She will be remembered as a powerful advocate for Breast Cancer Ireland, a great cause worthy of all of our support.

“To her husband Cian, her son Sacha and daughter Kim, and to her wider family and circle of friends, Sabina and I send our deepest sympathies.”

Majella O'Donnell, wife of singer Daniel, was also among the many to express their condolences online, saying the author “inspired me at a very difficult time” when she had breast cancer and “fought such an amazing battle”.



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RUEPOINT MEDIA



■ **'LASTING LEGACY':** Emma Hannigan has died at the age of 45 after an 11-year battle with cancer

'She left a trail of glitter and joy in her life'



Bestselling author Emma Hannigan, who died on Saturday aged 45 following an 11-year battle with breast cancer

Husband's touching tribute after death of author and cancer activist Emma

Seán O'Grady

AUTHOR Emma Hannigan's husband Cian has paid tribute to his wife after she died on Saturday following a battle with breast cancer.

Cian took to her Facebook page to express his love for the Wicklow woman (45).

"Today, my Emma found peace. She bravely fought a battle against a foe with no

mercy.

"Emma was the epitome of strength, love and generosity, beyond anything I have ever known," he wrote.

"She loved her family, loved her friends and she left a trail of glitter and joy throughout her life... with, of course, added tinsel at Christmas.

"She was my wife and soulmate. Mother of my beautiful children, a friend

to many and an inspiration to thousands. A loving daughter, devoted mother.

"She was my guiding star and my hug to say everything would be okay.

"But mostly, she was just my Emma and I would need her wonderful gift with words to tell you just how much I will miss her."

Emma, who was mother to Sacha (17) and Kim (15), had been fighting breast cancer for several years and had



fought it off 10 times before she finally passed away.

In 2005, the writer

discovered that she was carrying the BRCA 1 cancer gene, which meant an 85pc chance of developing breast cancer and a 50pc chance of ovarian cancer.

To reduce her risk to 5pc, the author had surgery to remove her breasts, ovaries and fallopian tubes.

Despite this, she was still diagnosed with cancer in 2007, beginning her 11-year battle with the disease.

Emma's funeral service will take place in Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church in Foxrock, Dublin, on Wednesday, followed by a burial in Shanganagh Cemetery in Shankill.

Tributes have poured in for the author since her death was announced.

President Michael D Higgins released a

statement saying: "It is with great sadness that I have learned of the death of Emma Hannigan, a campaigner to the end.

"Emma Hannigan leaves a lasting legacy not only through her work as a much-appreciated author, but also through her exemplary courage in dealing with terminal illness.

"She will be remembered as a powerful advocate for Breast Cancer Ireland, a great cause, worthy of our support."

Businesswoman and TV personality Norah Casey said: "A wonderful courageous woman just left our world; my heartfelt condolences to her wonderful family."

'Fair City' actress and

fellow author Claudia Carroll said: "Heartbroken to hear the sad news about our beautiful, brave Emma Hannigan. Tonight, there really is one more angel in heaven."

Emma announced on her

blog two weeks ago that her cancer was terminal.

This prompted a successful campaign from fans that saw her latest book, 'Letters To My Daughters', reach the number one spot in Ireland.

Dubray Books said it was donating its profits on the book to the Irish Cancer Society.

Emma also raised over €100,000 for Breast Cancer Ireland (BCI), for which she was an ambassador.

People can donate to BCI by texting CURE to 50300.



The late Emma Hannigan pictured with boxer Katie Taylor (left) and fellow author Cathy Kelly launching breast cancer awareness campaigns during her cancer battle.

Tributes as inspirational author Emma dies after battle with cancer

Sarah Slater

BESTSELLING author Emma Hannigan passed away in hospital yesterday after fighting a long battle with cancer.

The mother of two teenage children is understood to have died peacefully, surrounded by her family, at a south Dublin

hospital at around 1.30pm.

The much-loved author revealed her devastating diagnosis 13 days ago in a Facebook post, saying: "All good things must come to an end. The time that I knew was borrowed must be given back soon, so it seems.

"The conversation I nev-

er wanted to have has been said. My medical team have thrown everything but the kitchen sink at this fight but all avenues have now been exhausted."

The 45-year-old launched a fundraising campaign for Breast Cancer Ireland for which she was ambassador.

The goal of €100,000, was reached in 10 days.

In a statement, her publisher Hachette Ireland said: "So sad that our beloved author and friend Emma Hannigan passed away earlier today. She inspired us all with her immeasurable strength, her generosity and her love."

Her latest book, *Letters to My Daughters*, went to No 1 across several categories on the books charts within days of her emotional post.



BATTLE: Emma Hannigan who died yesterday less than two weeks after revealing her borrowed time was running out

Emma in her own words — page 17



Emma Hannigan: the funny, brave, kind writer I knew

Maia Dunphy

She always had an encouraging word and generously shared advice

"Faced with very little time can I tell you what screams out at me? Love. Nothing else has much meaning anymore," Emma Hannigan wrote in an extraordinary piece posted two weeks before she died.

It was in many ways, a love letter to all of us, and summed up the Emma I was lucky enough to have known. She felt it was important to share this last chapter publicly, as she had shared so much with us over the years.

My husband, who had never met Emma, said it was the bravest piece of writing he had ever read. I am always wary of hijacking other people's grief, as Emma and I were not very

close friends, but her kindness and humour were special – and not just in the face of illness. She was just one of those people it was great fun to be around. She was also someone for whom life was not a zero sum game and that is not so common in this industry.

Many people have an understandable paranoia or unease about advising or helping others "too much" in a very competitive business. Not Emma. Someone else's success was always to be celebrated.

Palpable enthusiasm

When I had my own first book

launch a few months ago, she was apologetic about missing it despite being very unwell, and her enthusiasm for my small achievement was palpable. I'm not sure I would have even replied in her situation. But that was Emma; any opportunity to big someone else up she would jump at, never in a sycophantic or fawning way.

She was very, very funny. I remember at the *Tatler* Woman of the Year awards a number of years ago, she made a joke under her breath to me that I couldn't repeat out of context here. Let's just say it was perfect comic timing.

Emma was also incredibly glamorous and I loved that she never underestimated the power of looking your best – whether dealing with cancer or not (we shared an uninterrupted desire to find the best fake tan for our Irish hue).

Textmessage

I sent her a text message after I read her post. I didn't know if it was appropriate to send it, or if she would be in a position to read it. But she replied, as she did to so many others, and I will treasure those words forever (and as usual, it was damn good advice).

When she talked about the love that screamed out in the face of knowing there was little time left, she really did include all of us. She used her inimitable and inexhaustible spirit to raise more than €100,000 for Breast Cancer Ireland in her final days, and all of us who knew her (and those who didn't), helped fast-track her latest book, *Letters to My Daughters* to number one. I have no doubt it

would have got there anyway, but I hope it went some way to showing her how highly she was regarded. Sometimes it's too late to tell people, and Emma never waited to tell anyone something positive.

I am heartbroken for Cian, Sacha and Kim and all of her family and friends. But what a legacy she has left and what a trail she blazed. As she so often said herself, love and light. That's what I'll remember; that and the cheeky joke I'm still not sharing.

Emma Hannigan's funeral will take place at 11.30am on Wednesday at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour in Foxrock, Dublin, with burial in Shanganagh Cemetery, Shankill



■ Emma Hannigan, who died on Saturday: Someone else's success was always to be celebrated. PHOTOGRAPH: CYRIL BYRNE



BOOKMARKS

Letters to My Daughters by **Emma Hannigan** was Ireland's biggest selling book last week with 4,065 copies sold, more than double the tally of its nearest rival, *The Year That Changed Everything* by Cathy Kelly.

Fans, bookshops and fellow authors had joined together to make the Wicklow author's book Ireland's No 1 bestseller after she announced last month that her cancer was terminal. Dubray Books announced it was donating its profits from the book to the charity Breast Cancer Ireland, for whom she has acted as an ambassador.

The film rights for **Gary Cunningham's** bestselling memoir *Joys of Joy: Finding Myself in an Irish Prison* have been bought by Metropolitan Films International, makers of *H3*, *Ondine*, *Inside I'm Dancing* and *The Borgias*. The screenplay will be written by playwright Frank Shouldice, directed by triple-IFTA winner Juanita Wilson and produced by James Flynn. Cunningham's follow-up volume, *Life After Joy: A Prisoner No More*, will be published by The Liffey Press in May.

Writer **Anthony Jordan** has donated his archive to the National Library of Ireland, including correspondence with Seamus Heaney and Daniel Day Lewis. A native of Ballyhaunis, Co Mayo, Jordan has published biographies of Winston Churchill, Éamon de Valera and Christy Brown. Highlights from his archive include manuscripts of books on WB Yeats, Maud Gonne and Major John MacBride, and material relating to Major John MacBride and Christy Brown, including *The Guiding Light*, an early play by Brown.

Faber & Faber will publish the second novel by **Sally Rooney** in September, just 18 months after her highly acclaimed debut, *Conversations with Friends*.

Normal People is the story of Connell and Marianne, who grow up in the same small town in the west of Ireland but are from different worlds. Connell's mother works as a cleaner in Marianne's family home.

Publisher Mitzi Angel said: "This is an exquisite love story about how a person can change another person's life – a simple yet profound realization that unfolds beautifully over the course of the novel. It tells us how difficult it is to talk about how we feel and it tells us – blazingly – about cycles of domination, legitimacy and privilege. Alternating menace with overwhelming tenderness, Sally Rooney's second novel breathes fiction with new life."

The **UL/Frank McCourt creative writing summer school** takes place at University of Limerick from May 3rd to 6th with guest speakers including Bob Geldof, Marian Keyes, Kevin Barry, Joseph O'Connor, Donal Ryan, Julian Gough, Mary O'Malley, Kerry Neville and Alan Hayes of Arlen House publishers.

Highlights include a literary brunch led by UL creative writing MA graduate, food writer Rachael Kealy; a live recording of RTÉ Radio 1's *Sunday Miscellany*; an illustrated lecture, *Don't Judge a Book Just By The cover... Punk and Creativity*, with live music by Section 17; and sessions on how to get published and writing for young adults. The summer school is open to everyone but places are limited. The fee is €200, €150 (student/unwaged). Informal queries are welcome at joseph.oconnor@ul.ie



Tragic Emma passes

BY **NEIL
FETHERSTON**

THERE was widespread shock and sadness at the death of author Emma Hannigan, who lost her battle against cancer at age 45 yesterday.

The Wicklow mum-of-two, who had cancer 10 times throughout her life, revealed that she was losing her battle in an open letter to her fans on her official Facebook page just two weeks ago.

The best-selling writer had embarked on a fund-raising campaign which raised over €100,000 for Breast Cancer Ireland.

Yesterday the charity was one of the first to send a message of condolence.

"BCI wish to extend our deepest sympathies to the family of our dear friend Emma Hannigan who lost her battle with cancer earlier today," the charity tweeted.

GRIEF

Other authors and celebrities expressed their sadness at the sad news.

"Our lovely and beautiful friend Emma Hannigan has lost her battle to Cancer," the team at TV3's Elaine wrote.

"She was such an inspiration to all of us and will be sadly missed."

Maia Dunphy, added: "The news we never wanted to hear. Even in her last days, Emma Hannigan was still blazing a trail.

Love and thoughts with Cian, Sacha and Kim. We miss her light already. XX



TRIBUTE: Maia



HEROIC: Emma



What bravery

I HAVE long admired Irish author Emma Hannigan. She has seen her cancer come back 10 times since it was diagnosed in 2005 when she was in her early thirties; and each time,

with her medical support teams, she succeeded in forcing the cancer to retreat. Recently she revealed that the time she knew was borrowed must be given back soon. Her medical team told her no more can be done.

She asked for donations to Breast Cancer Ireland, for whom she is an ambassador, as research and medications enabled her to be with her family for the last 10 years.

She requested €4 to be donated by texting CURE to 50300 and €51,000 has been raised in one week. Her new novel is *Letters To My daughters* and all its sales profits will be given to Breast Cancer Ireland. See also www.breastcancerireland.com

Mary Sullivan, Cork



The HOT LIST

What we want to see, do and buy this weekend

hotlist@independent.ie

FIELDS OF DREAMS

Irish artist Chara Nagle's latest work is inspired by the Kildare farm of her mother's youth and depicts harvest time. Called 'Haystacks', it features 12 evocative pieces, with rolling clouds, beautiful skies and golden fields, bringing back memories for anyone who grew up in the Irish countryside.

DETAILS: Running from March 7-21, Merrion Private, Heritage House, 23 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2; see charanagle.ie

HEAR OUR VOICE

'Finding a Voice' is a new festival taking place over three dates in Clonmel from Thursday. The programme has six concerts featuring the works of female composers, panel discussions and an exhibition, coinciding with International Women's Day. Featuring works by Emily Hall and Deirdre McKay, artists performing include cellist Kate Ellis and a cappella trio Voice (*below*).

DETAILS: Tickets €6-€18; see southtipartscentre.ie

next weekend...

BREWING UP A STORM

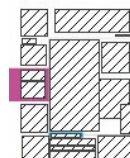
Ireland's biggest gathering of craft brewers and distillers is back at the Convention Centre Dublin next weekend for its sixth year. The Alltech Craft Brews and Food Fair is three days of showcasing exciting new innovations in drinks — and this year, reflecting the huge interest in craft spirits and mixology in general, there's a new Distillers' Quarter. There are also lots of new Irish drinks companies exhibiting here and more than 400 brews on offer, as well as live music and Six Nations rugby, with food offerings from Smokin Bones and Pieman to name but two.

BOOK: Individual tickets from €15; see alltechbrews.ie

YES TO THE DRESS

What would you say to winning a fabulous wedding dress, while also doing your bit for a very important charity? Breast Cancer Ireland has joined forces with bridal boutique The White Gallery to offer one bride-to-be the chance to win a dress by Parisian designer Rime Arodaky worth €4,000. There are only 200 tickets on sale and all the money goes to Breast Cancer Ireland. The final date to purchase tickets is Wednesday, March 7, and the winner will be chosen the next day.

DETAILS: Tickets are €50; see breastcancerireland.com/daretodreamwearingrime



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Published Date: March 03, 2018
Media Reach: 94,502
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Page Numbers: 4,5

MUM'S THE WORD

Next Sunday mummies all over the country will be getting rightly spoiled for Mother's Day. A nice event taking place in the National Museum of Country Life in Castlebar (*pictured*) is a special gift-making workshop suitable for adults and children aged seven-plus. Hosted by the National Print Museum, it's the chance for mums and their kids to work together and learn how to use both traditional materials to handcraft and decorate a hardback book that mothers will then bring home with them as a reminder of a lovely afternoon.

DETAILS: 2.30-3.30pm. Admission is free but booking is required, email educationtph@museum.ie

BAGS OF FUN

The cost of wedding paraphernalia can really add up, which is why we are extremely grateful for Penneys' newly launched bridal range. There's the fun stuff like white baseball caps and swimsuits emblazoned with 'Bride' and black bridal flip-flops, and the really useful stuff like built-up ivory balconette bras and vanity cases for storing and transporting Big Day make-up. The bridal nightwear is also well worth a look, including floral slips with matching kimono and white lace bodies.

BUY: Cake topper, €3, Penneys nationwide

HOTEL HEAVEN

Picking a wedding venue is a momentous decision, and if you're undecided you may be swayed by the fact that Wexford's Ferrycarrig Hotel was recently voted by brides and grooms nationwide as the best venue in Ireland at the 2018 Irish Wedding Awards. The hotel's Waterfront wedding suite was refurbished last year and now boasts Giorgio Armani wallpaper, while the bridal suite also got a makeover and now includes a luxurious bedroom, dressing room and lounge.

DETAILS: See ferrycarrighotel.ie

BRIDAL TOUCHES

Paul Costelloe's ninth edition of his wedding jewellery collection, The Aurora Bridal Collection, is now available. Featuring 10 elegant designs with freshwater pearls and cubic zirconia, it includes rings, earrings, necklaces and bracelets suitable for brides and their bridal parties. The price point is keen, with earrings from €95 and pendants from €120, and can be bought from selected jewellers nationwide or online.

SEE: paulcostelloejewellery.com

DRAMA QUEEN

Following on from its sold-out run at London's National Theatre, Ibsen's classic play *Hedda Gabler* — first performed in 1891 — comes to the Gaiety Theatre Dublin for one week only from March 6-10. The highly regarded Ivo van Hove directs Patrick Marber's version, with Lizzy Watts in the title role of the recently married and bored young woman whose world unravels.

DETAILS: Tickets from €21; see gaietytheatre.ie

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RUEPOINT MEDIA

Happily
Ever
after



Author hits €100,000 in cancer campaign

Geraldine Gittens

A FUNDRAISING campaign started by cancer-stricken author Emma Hannigan has raised €100,000 for Breast Cancer Ireland (BCI) in less than two weeks.

The mother-of-two (45) told recently how she was nearing the end of her long-running battle with the disease. The author has battled cancer 10 times.

After she revealed on her website that her cancer was terminal, she turned her attentions to raising funds for BCI, which backs pioneering research into the disease.

Yesterday the author tweeted that €100,000 has now been raised. "It's never too late to dream big, keep dreaming," she told her followers on Twitter.

"Thank you so much, please keep those donations coming in and don't stop until we reach the top," she added.

Thousands of people have been supporting her CURE campaign and have also helped her new book 'Letters to my Daughters' reach the top spot in Ireland, with Dubray Books also donating all profits to BCI.



[NI novelist's tribute to top author and friend Emma Hannigan after her death at age of 45](#)
Belfast Telegraph - 05/03/2018

A NORTHERN Ireland author has led tributes to acclaimed Irish writer Emma Hannigan, whose death was described as a shock to friends "who had started to believe she was invincible". Claire Allan from Londonderry said Emma was a "brilliant writer" who had "a talent for telling a story that got to people" because it "was very honest and heart-warming".

The 41-year-old former journalist also praised her friend of eight years for putting up a brave fight against the cancer that eventually claimed her, and she revealed how she refused to let the illness hold her back.

"Emma had beaten cancer so many times we all thought she was invincible," Claire said.

"There's a part of all of us who were her friends that is glad she's not in pain anymore — and she did go through an awful lot of pain. But, at the same time, I can't believe I'm not going to get another email from her and that I'm not going to see her at another book event, because she was the most inspiring, lovely, funny person."

Claire also told how mum-of-two Emma fought through her pain to finish her final novel — Letters To My Daughters — which recently became a number one bestseller thanks to a campaign supported by her peers. "Emma was incredibly unwell when she was writing and editing her last book," Claire explained.

"She had lost power in her hands and she was in immense pain.

"She was writing it propped up with heat packs and medication, but she told me it was her escape.

"It was her escape from everything else and she loved it and she was determined she wasn't going to let the cancer stop her writing, which was incredible."

The author passed away on Saturday morning aged 45 following an 11-year battle with the disease. Her husband Cian, with whom she had a son Sacha and daughter Kim, penned a moving tribute to his wife on her Facebook page.

"Emma was the epitome of strength, love and generosity beyond anything I have ever known," he said.

"She loved her family, loved her friends, and she left a trail of glitter and joy throughout her life... with of course added tinsel at Christmas.

"She was my wife and soul mate, mother of my beautiful children, a friend to many and an inspiration to thousands."

After revealing recently that she didn't have long to live, Emma turned her efforts to raising money for Breast Cancer Ireland (BCI) and hit the campaign's £100,000 goal.

Cian helped Emma through her illness battle and wrote posts on her behalf on social media to continue to gain support and donations for BCI.

"She was my guiding star and my hug to say everything would be OK," he wrote.

"But mostly she was just my Emma, and I would need her wonderful gift with words to tell you just how much I will miss her."

Last week the campaign to make her final novel a bestseller reached its target when it sold 4,065 copies, according to Nielsen, the official book sales monitor.

The book was Ireland's bestselling title by a landslide, ahead of The Year That Changed Everything by Cathy Kelly, which sold 1,893 copies.

Dubray Books supported Emma's cause by donating all profits made by the novel to the Irish Cancer Society, and bookstore Eason also made donations to BCI in line with her wishes.

In 2005 Emma discovered she was carrying the BRCA1 cancer gene, giving her a 85% chance of developing breast cancer and a 50% chance of developing ovarian cancer.

The following year she had a double mastectomy, and had her ovaries and fallopian tubes removed to reduce this risk to 5%. Despite the preventative surgery, she was diagnosed with cancer in 2007 and battled it bravely.

Her novels include Designer Genes, Miss Conceived, The Pink Ladies Club, Keeping Mum, Perfect Wives, Driving Home For Christmas, The Summer Guest, The Secrets We Share, and the memoir Talk To The Headscarf.

Irish President Michael D Higgins extended his deepest sympathies to her family.

"Emma Hannigan leaves a lasting legacy not only through her work as a much-appreciated author, but also through her exemplary courage in dealing with terminal illness," he said.

? Emma was very unwell when she was writing her last book ... she had lost power in her hands Emma Hannigan died on Saturday. Fellow author and friend ClaireAllan (inset)

EMMA'S FIGHT AT AN END

The Sun (ROI) - 05/03/2018

AUTHOR Emma Hannigan's husband has paid tribute to his "guiding star".

The inspirational writer, 45, lost her longrunning battle with cancer on Saturday. Heartbroken Cian told how Emma had "left a trail of glitter and joy throughout her life".

The Wicklow mum of two overcame the disease ten times in 11 years but recently revealed her condition had become terminal — before asking fans to donate to Breast Cancer Ireland in her name. Emma's campaign raised â¬100,000 in the past two weeks alone while her latest novel, Letters To My Daughter, reached the number one spot in the Irish book charts.

Cian said: "She bravely fought a battle against a foe with no mercy."

@aoifeban

Brave ... Hannigan

[Novelist Emma loses Big C battle](#)

The Sun (ROI) - 04/03/2018

AUTHOR Emma Hannigan passed away yesterday after raising â¬100,000 for Breast Cancer Ireland in less than two weeks.

The mother-of-two had battled the disease ten times in the past 11 years, despite undergoing preventative surgery to reduce her risk.

The Wicklow native — who has written 13 bestselling books — leaves behind husband Cian and son Sacha and daughter Kim. The 45-year-old was diagnosed with cancercausing BRCA1 in 2005 and revealed recently her condition was terminal.

Breast Cancer Ireland paid tribute to their ambassador online yesterday, saying: "BCI wish to extend our deepest sympathies to the family of our dear friend Emma who lost her battle with cancer earlier today. RIP" Broadcaster Maia Dunphy and author Sinead Moriarty were among those who paid tribute to Emma yesterday.

Sad loss ... Hannigan

[She was my wife and soul mate: husband](#)

Daily Mail (ROI) - 05/03/2018

EMMA Hannigan 'bravely fought a battle against a foe with no mercy', her heartbroken husband has said following the author's death.

The 45-year-old mother-of-two died on Saturday after an 11-year battle with cancer.

In a Facebook tribute, her husband Cian said his wife had 'found peace'. Describing her as 'the epitome of strength, love and generosity', he wrote: 'She loved her family, loved her friends, and she left a trail of glitter and joy throughout her life.' Mr McGrath spoke of the many roles the beloved author took on throughout her life: 'She was my wife and soul mate, mother of my beautiful children, a friend to many and an inspiration to thousands, a loving daughter, devoted mother, bestselling author, fundraiser, public speaker, chef, and shopaholic.' The heartbroken husband said he would need his wife's talent with words to adequately express his grief. 'She was my guiding star and my hug to say everything would be OK,' he wrote. 'But mostly she was just my Emma, and I would need her wonderful gift with words to tell you just how much I will miss her.'

Thousands of fans responded to Cian's moving words, expressing support to her widower and two children, son Sacha and daughter Kim. Breast Cancer Ireland, for which she was a tireless advocate, also paid tribute on Twitter.

In his glowing appraisal of the brave writer, President Michael D Higgins extending his deepest sympathies to her family and friends as he hailed her 'a campaigner to the end'. 'Emma Hannigan leaves a lasting legacy not only through her work as a much-appreciated author, but also through her exemplary courage in dealing with terminal illness,' he said in a statement. 'She will be remembered as a powerful advocate for Breast Cancer Ireland, a great cause worthy of all of our support.' Author and Fair City star Claudia Carroll expressed her admiration for her friend, posting on Twitter: 'Heartbroken to hear the sad news about our beautiful, brave Emma Hannigan. Tonight, there really is one more angel in heaven.' Emma was diagnosed with cancer ten times after 2007. She revealed on February 16 that her breast cancer had become terminal. 'All good things must come to an end,' she wrote online. 'The time that I knew was borrowed must be given back soon, so it seems. The conversation I never wanted to have has been said... To say that I am heartbroken doesn't begin to cover it.' A funeral service for Ms Hannigan will be held on Wednesday at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church in Foxrock, south Dublin, followed by burial in Shanganagh Cemetery, Shankill, south Dublin.

Comment - Page 12 news@dailymail.ie

'There is one more angel in heaven'

Bestselling writer Hannigan dies of cancer at 45

Sunday Times (ROI) - 04/03/2018

Irish author Emma Hannigan died yesterday, just days after her last book reached the top of the bestsellers chart.

The 45-year-old mother of two had suffered from cancer for 11 years, and announced last month that her condition was terminal.

"The conversation I never wanted to have has been said," Hannigan blogged. "My medical team have thrown everything but the kitchen sink at this fight but all avenues have now been exhausted. To say that I'm heartbroken doesn't begin to cover it."

The announcement prompted a campaign by fellow authors to get her recently published book *Letters to My Daughters* to the top of the bestsellers list. Author Anna McPartlin tweeted: "Emma can't promote her work herself so please join us. Buy it. Read it. Promote it." Marian Keyes, another bestselling author, said: "Given the awful news that Emma's doctors have stopped treatment, her fellow authors would like to get this great book to No 1 for her."

Top place on the bestsellers list was achieved last week with 4,065 copies sold, according to Nielsen Bookscan, which covers about three-quarters of the Irish market. Dubray Books had announced it was donating all profits from the book to Breast Cancer Ireland (BCI), for which Hannigan had acted as an ambassador.

It was the charity which announced news of her death yesterday, saying: "BCI wish to extend our deepest sympathies to the family of our dear friend Emma Hannigan who lost her battle with cancer earlier today. RIP."

The Bray author discovered in 2005 that she was carrying the BRCA 1 cancer gene, which meant an 80% chance of developing breast cancer and a 50% chance of ovarian cancer. To reduce these risks, she had surgery to remove her breasts, ovaries and fallopian tubes in 2006. Despite this, she was diagnosed with cancer the following year.

Her debut novel, *Designer Genes*, was based on her own experiences, and Hannigan also wrote a memoir, *All to Live For*. When announcing the bleak medical prognosis last month, Hannigan also launched a campaign to raise a €100,000 for BCI. The target was reached within two weeks.

Following the announcement of her death yesterday, her friend Maia Dunphy tweeted: "The news we never wanted to hear. Even in her last days, Emma was still blazing a trail. Her book reached number one and she raised over 100k for Breast Cancer Ireland. Just extraordinary."

Hannigan is survived by her husband Cian and children Sacha and Kim.

Even in her last days, Emma was still blazing a trail Hannigan wrote about her cancer diagnosis, made 11 years ago

Ten cancer battl never break Emm es could a's spirit

Daily Mail (ROI) - 05/03/2018

THERE has been a lot of talk about Emma on WhatsApp in the last few days. Barbara hoped that she got to see the snow. Emma Hannigan was the kind of person who'd love the snow without feeling the cold, who'd see playfulness and beauty instead of danger and hardship - a glass-half-full person, who lived much of the last 12 years of her life with that glass almost depleted.

I said I hoped she'd appreciate that the storm was named after her, but in truth, Emma wasn't a stormy sort of person. She was a soft breeze, a breath of fresh air. We're glad she made it to spring. A lamb, she went out like a lion.

We know she discovered a love of creative writing at St Gerard's School in Bray, Co. Wicklow, even if she wouldn't explore it until later in her short life.

In the meantime, there was the happy, hectic business of marriage to Cian McGrath, the son of her ballet teacher and two years behind her at St Gerard's, although she didn't meet the sports-mad triathlon competitor and owner of Base 2 Race sports shop until 1996, when he put his foot on her head while she was dancing and he was larking about on stage at a nightclub.

Ever the home birds, the couple moved into a house in the garden of Emma's parents, Denise and Philip. Two years after their wedding in 1997, son Sacha was born, with daughter Kim following two years later.

Their household was enlarged by the arrival of a small menagerie of cats and dogs. They might have had more children, a life more ordinary.

You might never have heard of Emma Hannigan.

In August 2005, when genetic screening was still in its infancy, Emma discovered she was carrying the BrCa1 gene, which meant that she had an 85% chance of developing breast cancer and a 50% chance of getting ovarian cancer.

Her mother and her maternal aunt had previously had breast cancer, a genetic risk factor that had prompted her to be tested.

After much discussion with medics and with her family, Emma, fit, healthy and then just 33 years old, decided the safest option was to have a bilateral mastectomy (both breasts removed) and a bilateral oophorectomy (both ovaries removed), in order to prevent cancer developing.

She wrote of her decision: 'I wasn't actually sick at the time, but I felt like a ticking time bomb. Opting for surgery was not a shocking or scary decision, for me. Quite the opposite, I felt huge relief. I was glad there was something I could do to make my body safer. After breast reconstruction, I thought I had pipped cancer at the post and would happily sail off into the distance.' It was while she was recuperating from her preventative surgery that Emma rediscovered her passion for creative writing, sketching out characters and scenarios that would eventually take the form of her first novel, Designer Genes, published in 2009 and partly based on her own medical history.

However, in the meantime, in a cruel real-life twist of fate that a reader might struggle to believe in a work of fiction, Emma got breast cancer.

What neither patient nor doctors anticipated was that cancer cells had already started to develop in Emma's body before her surgery. In 2007, she was diagnosed with cancer in her neck, shoulder and under her arm. She was also found to be displaying symptoms of a rare auto-immune disease, dermatomyositis.

She wrote: 'Not only was I shocked and more than a little peeved, but I really longed to have an auto-immune disease with a shorter name. It took me a week to be able to spell and pronounce dermatomyositis.' With the help of Dr David Fennelly - 'Saint David', as she would later anoint him - and his team at the Blackrock Clinic, Emma beat the cancer. But a year later, it returned.

With remarkable pragmatism and positivity, she faced into surgery and another lengthy course of chemotherapy, and in December 2008, Emma was declared cancer-free for the second time.

But if she wouldn't give up, then neither would her illness. It kept coming back, in different forms, with different names and different sites, requiring different treatments. She endured countless surgeries and cycles of drug and radiation therapy, some more successful than others, some excruciatingly painful.

A couple of years ago, when other women were falling over themselves to support breast cancer charities by posting 'no make-up selfies' (in which they were clearly wearing discreet make-up), Emma, at the coal-face, posted a photo of herself smiling brightly through an arduous radiation therapy session.

I'm not sure she was trying to make a point, but she did anyway. For what it's worth, that was the no make-up selfie that made me donate.

She once described her many battles with cancer thus: 'To sum it all up - I lost my hair and it grew back. I was very ill at one stage, weak as a kitten and limp as a dead daisy, but I am still here and willing to fight. I've had dark days (and dark hair before I could colour it again) and long sleepless nights, but the sun always comes out and shines brightly in my life. I am still here, still living life and loving it! I can't change whether or not I get cancer again, but I promise you one thing - I can damn well chose how I deal with it. So wig on, chin up and remember, nothing can banish a smile

from your face unless you allow it.' After fighting and beating the disease on an incredible nine occasions, last year, cancer returned for the 10th time. On February 16 of this year, in a moving blog post titled All Good Things Must Come To An End, Emma revealed all medical avenues had been exhausted in her fight against the disease, and that the time had come for her to 'take a bow'.

'Faced with very little time,' she wrote, 'can I tell you what screams out at me? Love. Nothing else has much meaning anymore. Just the love I feel for the people I hold dear. My two babies (OK they both tower over me, but I'm still allowed call them my babies), my husband, my parents, my family, my friends and readers.' She often described herself as a 'cancer vixen', but if the energy and positivity with which she continued to fight her illness were both relentless and remarkable, then so too was the industry she poured into her writing.

In the past eight years, she has published ten best-selling novels as well as collections of short stories and two memoirs chronicling her fight against cancer: Talk To The Headscarf and All To Live For.

Of the latter, she wrote: 'It's a tell-all with no holds barred. But it's no misery memoir. In fact I laughed out loud many times while writing it and lots of lovely folks have written to me saying they did the same.

'When I was first diagnosed, I longed to pick up a book written by a "normal" person who could tell me things were going to be okay. I hope All To Live For does just that.' I didn't know Emma before she had cancer, so I can't vouch for how positive and optimistic she was before life and luck dealt her such a rotten hand. Her dad, Philip, has said that as a child, she 'always knew her own mind' and could 'always talk her way out of anything' - and that certainly chimes with the focused, generous woman I worked with on both Midday and the Elaine show on TV3. While other panellists on those shows - this one included - sometimes seemed to have packed up their troubles just to deposit them on the floor of the make-up room in the Ballymount studios, Emma always arrived in a sunny humour, even when she was undergoing cancer treatment.

Where the rest of us complained about the weather, traffic, husbands, partners, kids, jobs and whatever you were having yourself, I honestly can't ever remember Emma saying a single bad word about anyone in her life.

Most days, she even brought buns she had made herself to share with everyone. Nobody else did that.

When you received the email the day before telling you what would be discussed on the show, you always knew that if Emma's name was on the CC line, you would be leaving that studio in better form than when you'd arrived.

And not in a 'there but for the grace of God' way either: Emma Hannigan had all the reason in the world to drown in self-pity and she was probably the least indulgent person I ever met.

A couple of years ago, a friend of mine was diagnosed with the BrCa1 gene. Like Emma, she opted for preventative surgery. Unlike Emma, her drastic and invasive procedures achieved their goals. Ahead of her surgery, my friend was confused about the options for breast reconstruction, and so I asked Emma.

Not only did she take the time to carefully talk me through the options, inviting me to examine her own reconstructed breasts, but she insisted I pass her phone number onto my friend, even though the two women had never met.

I thought, and still think, that was an incredibly generous gesture on Emma's part. Even though she had been failed by the same procedures my friend was undergoing, she was willing to ease this stranger through the daunting process ahead of her.

Emma's final book, Letters To My Daughters, was published just a few weeks before her death.

She had written in her blog that she wouldn't be able to promote it, and so a number of her fellow authors, amongst them Anna McPartlin, Cathy Kelly and Marian Keyes, took up the promotional cudgel on her behalf, helping the book to reach number one on the Irish bestsellers' list, and raising much-needed funds towards Breast Cancer Ireland - of which Emma was an ambassador and staunch supporter - in the process.

A separate fundraising campaign for BCI generated more than â,~100,000 in the fortnight after Emma announced she was in her final days. The author acknowledged the achievement on Twitter, writing: 'It's never too late to dream big, keep dreaming.' And she also had this parting advice for her friends, her colleagues, and her many readers and admirers.

'Gravitate towards the light and laughter,' wrote Emma Hannigan, brave, beautiful, inspirational author, mother, wife, daughter, friend, colleague, cancer vixen, 'like a moth to a flame, remembering not to get your pretty wings burnt. You'll like it better there, I promise.'

'I've had dark days but the sun always shines"Gravitate towards the light and laughter' Emma Hannigan: Always cheerful. Below: Her wedding to Cian McGrath

[Novelist Emma loses cancer fight at age 45](#)

Mail on Sunday (ROI) - 04/03/2018

BESTSELLING Irish author Emma Hannigan has died after a long battle with breast cancer.

Mother-of-two Ms Hannigan, 45, had battled the disease since being diagnosed in 2007. Her novel, Letters To My Daughter, is at the top of the book charts, selling more than 4,000 copies last week.

Last month on her blog, the author wrote: 'The time that I knew was borrowed must be given back soon, so it seems. My medical team have thrown everything but the kitchen sink at this fight but all avenues have now been exhausted.' Yesterday it was announced that she had died.

She is survived by her husband Cian, son Sacha and daughter Kim.

Last night Breast Cancer Ireland paid tribute to Ms Hannigan, above, who raised more than â,~100,000 for the charity.

[You never think at 32 it will happen to you.. but it's happening to loads of young people](#)

Daily Mirror (ROI) - 02/03/2018

BY SIOBHAN O'CONNOR RADIO star Georgie Crawford has revealed she is determined to fight breast cancer after being diagnosed with the disease aged 32.

The Spin 103.8 entertainment editor was told the dreaded news when her baby girl Pia was just seven months old.

Georgie said: "I breastfed Pia for five months and when I was getting ready to go back to work I found a lump on my breast in the middle of the night.

"I was diagnosed with breast cancer the next week.

"There was no cancer in my family and I breastfed so I thought it would never ever happen to me. I wasn't breast aware, it wasn't on my to-do list to have a check after having a baby."

The popular Dublin radio star is urging young women to be on their guard about the disease.

She told the Irish Mirror: "When I got cancer I was so shocked I'd lie in bed repeating to myself, 'I have cancer, I have cancer'.

"You just never think at the age of 32 this is going to happen to you, but it's happening to loads of young people.

"This is why I decided to speak out to urge young girls to check their breasts. I still had stage two breast cancer but it hadn't spread to my lymph nodes." Georgie appealed for new mums to make their health a top priority.

She added: "When you first have a baby you are on the bottom of your to-do list, baby comes first, then your husband and you don't have a clue what you're doing.

"You don't get a smear because you can't get a babysitter and you don't get your moles checked, but you need to be on top of your health and make yourself a priority.

"I was diagnosed in October and had surgery two weeks later to remove the cancer and I was really lucky it hadn't spread.

"After I had my surgery they told me I'd need 22 weeks of chemotherapy and four weeks of radiotherapy."

Panicked that chemo would make her infertile Georgie took action and got her eggs frozen.

She said: "I had a few weeks while I healed from my surgery and did IVF so we have 14 embryos up in the Beacon.

"They told me there was an 80% chance after chemo that my fertility would come back but I couldn't risk it."

The inspiring mum started treatment on December 18 and was told she'd lose her hair on the first week of January.

She admitted: "Losing your hair is a small price to pay for being alive, but when they tell you you're going to lose it there's always that small bit of hope that maybe the chemo they give you won't.

"The thoughts of losing it was worse than the reality and seeing it falling out was very tough.

"So I decided to shave it all off and I had a gorgeous night up in my house with my nearest and dearest. My hairdresser who was there on my wedding day came up.

"We had lovely candles and nice music and shaved my head and once it was done I could move on."

Georgie said her one-year-old daughter helps her face the day.

She added: "Pia gets me up every morning and she forces me to face the day. She's the first thing I think about in the morning, not the fact I've got cancer.

"I was determined not to let this cancer take away from her first year.

"It was such a disaster in my life to get it but when I found out it hadn't spread I was determined to focus on the silver lining and getting better.

"I've tried every day to be positive and when Pia goes to bed I can fall apart with my husband Jamie."

Georgie is battling it out against a whole host of celebs for Battle Of The Stars in aid of Breast Cancer Ireland on April 14 at Dublin's Clayton Hotel.

She said: "It's nice for me to get out and see people and have a bit of craic and raise awareness at the same time, there are a great people doing it

like Holly Carpenter and James Patrice.

"I rehearse for one hour a week and they're really considerate of how I'm feeling and they tell me to take it at my own pace.

"I'm doing the cha cha and it's hard to learn the steps and I've never been that co-ordinated but we're having such fun."

news@irishmirror.ie

You need to be on top of your health and make yourself a priority **GEORGIE CRAWFORD** yesterday **CHA CHA CHARITY** Holly Carpenter is taking part in **Battle Of The Stars BITTERSWEET** She was diagnosed when Pia was seven months old **LET'S TANGO** With dance partner Darragh Stokes doting mum Georgie Crawford with her daughter Pia

Emma has found peace ..I've lost my soul mate

Daily Mirror (ROI) - 05/03/2018

THE husband of inspirational author Emma Hannigan has paid tribute to his "soul mate" who passed away on Saturday.

The couple had been married for two decades and Cian took to his wife's Facebook page in an outpouring of love.

He posted: "Today, my Emma found peace. She bravely fought a battle against a foe with no mercy.

"Emma was the epitome of strength, love and generosity, beyond anything I have ever known.

"She loved her family, loved her friends, and she left a trail of glitter and joy throughout her life with of course added tinsel at Christmas.

"She was my wife and soul mate.

Mother of my beautiful children, A friend to many and an inspiration to thousands. A loving daughter. Devoted mother.

"Best selling Author. Fundraiser. Public speaker. Chef. And Shopaholic....

"She was my guiding star and my hug to say everything would be OK. But mostly she was just my Emma, and I would need her wonderful gift with words to tell you just how much I will miss her."

Emma passed away in a South Dublin hospital on Saturday following an 11-year battle with cancer.

Her funeral Mass is to take place on Wednesday in Bray, Co Wicklow.

CAMPAIGN The mum of two teenagers slipped away peacefully surrounded by her husband Cian, son Sacha, daughter Kim and her parents.

The 45-year-old revealed she had terminal cancer just over two weeks ago and launched a fundraising campaign for Breast Cancer Ireland of which she was ambassador.

The goal of raising â,-100,000 was achieved in 10 days - a sum she vowed to reach for BCI.

Dubray Books also supported the cause by donating all profits made to the Irish Cancer Society while, bookstore Eason said it would be making donations to BCI.

The best-selling author of 13 books had pleaded with the public to keep donating any spare cash to medical research and the goal was reached within two weeks of Emma making the appeal.

As well as being a hugely successful and award-winning writer, she was also known as a TV personality and blogger. Emma revealed her devastating cancer diagnosis 17 days ago, confirming her health battle was coming to an end after an 11 years.

Majella O'Donnell, wife of country legend Daniel, who herself fought breast cancer tweeted: "So very sad to hear of the passing of Emma Hannigan.

"She inspired me at a very difficult time and I am thinking of her family and friends tonight."

Chris Donoghue, former broadcaster and now political advisor to Tanaiste Simon Coveney, added: "So sad at the death of as bright a light.

"We once spoke of guilt you feel surviving a serious illness when someone like her kept getting knocked back.

"She told me to say it in how you live, not an apology. Extraordinary person, moved mountains." Her latest book Letters To My Daughters went to No1 across several categories on the bestsellers chart within days of her emotional post.

When revealing her sad news Emma said: "All good things must come to an end. The time that I knew was borrowed must be given back soon, so it seems.

"The conversation I never wanted to have has been said.

"My medical team have thrown everything but the kitchen sink at this fight but all avenues have now been exhausted."

She spoke openly about her love for her husband and children, parents me family, friends and fans adding that her love for them has been integral to her life.

thinking her and Emma wrote: "Faced with very little time can I tell you what screams out at me? Love.

tonight MAJELLA on twitter "Nothing else has much meaning anymore. Just the love I feel for the people I hold dear.

"My two babies, (OK they both tower over me, but I'm still allowed call them my babies) my husband, my parents, my family, my friends and readers." In 2005, she discovered she was carrying the BRCA 1 cancer gene.

and I am of family friends It meant she had an 85% chance of developing breast cancer and a 50% chance of developing ovarian cancer. To reduce the odds to 5%, she opted for preventative surgery. In 2006 Emma had a double mastectomy and had her ovaries and fallopian tubes removed.

O'DONNELL However, in 2007, in spite of the surgery, she was diagnosed with cancer for the first time and her lengthy battle ensued.

news@irishmirror.ie

She inspired me and I am thinking of her family and friends tonight MAJELLA O'DONNELL on twitter DEVOTED With husband Cian and children Kim and Sacha HEROIC FIGHT Best-selling writer Emma Hannigan, 45 BESTSELLER Emma's novel

[Emma loses cancer battle](#)
Sunday Mirror (ROI) - 04/03/2018

TRIBUTES have been paid to author Emma Hannigan following her death yesterday afternoon after a brave 11-year battle with cancer.

The 45-year-old mother of two revealed last month the disease had become terminal.

Breast Cancer Ireland said on Twitter: "BCI wish to extend our deepest sympathies to the family of our dear friend Emma Hannigan who lost her battle with cancer earlier today. RIP."

Broadcaster Maia Dunphy paid tribute to the courageous mum, writing: "The news we never wanted to hear. Even in her last days, @MSEMMAHANNIGAN was still blazing a trail. Her book reached number one and she raised over 100k for Breast Cancer Ireland.

"Just extraordinary. Love and thoughts with Cian, TRAGIC Sacha and Kim. We miss her light already".

In a blog post earlier this year, the bestselling author, who was the mother of two teenagers, revealed after battling cancer for more than 10 years she had been given a terminal diagnosis.

She said: "The conversation I never wanted to have has been said.

"My medical team have thrown everything but the kitchen sink at this fight but all avenues have now been exhausted.

"To say that I'm heartbroken doesn't begin to cover it."

On February 20, Emma's novel Letters To My Daughters topped the list of bestsellers with Dubray Books announcing they would be reprinting it to meet demand.

The booksellers are donating profits to the Irish Cancer Society.

Emma Hannigan news@irishmirror.ie

[Emma Hannigan's friends and fellow writers pay tribute](#)

irishtimes.com - 05/03/2018

Heartfelt tributes have been paid by family, friends and fellow writers to the bestselling author Emma Hannigan, who died on Saturday in Blackrock Clinic, Dublin, after an 11-year battle with breast cancer. She was 45, and is survived by her husband Cian, children Sacha and Kim, parents Philip and Denise, brother Timmy and sister-in-law Hilary.

Cian posted this tribute to his wife on her Facebook page.

"Today, my Emma found peace.

She bravely fought a battle against a foe with no mercy.

Emma was the epitome of strength, love and generosity, beyond anything I have ever known. She loved her family, loved her friends, and she left a trail of glitter and joy throughout her life ! with of course added tinsel at Christmas.

She was my wife and soul mate

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A friend to many and an inspiration to thousands

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She was my guiding star and my hug to say everything would be ok.

But mostly she was just my Emma, and I would need her wonderful gift with words to tell you just how much I will miss her."

Her agent Sheila Crowley said: "When I first met Emma eight years ago, I was struck by how vulnerable and fragile she looked, having just finished one of her many courses of chemotherapy. She was with her father Philip, who is her business manager, and I very soon discovered how strong Emma was throughout her life. Her determination to fight everything that was thrown at her is well documented and even in private conversations with me, she never complained.

"What saddens me most is we are just cracking the UK market for Emma's books. She and I wanted her stories to be #1 throughout the world and her indomitable spirit will urge us on in this mission. Her wonderful memoir, Talk to the Headscarf (updated last summer to All to Live For), as well as her many novels will keep her vital memory alive for many years to come. The memoir was something I suggested she wrote, and it is the most wonderful source of information for anyone diagnosed with cancer. I am delighted both it and her new novel, Letters to my Daughters, are in the bestseller list."

Her publishers Hachette Books Ireland and Headline issued this statement:

"It is with deep sadness that we learn that our beloved author and friend Emma Hannigan has passed away. Our thoughts are with her family at this sad time.

"We had the immense pleasure and privilege of working with Emma through these past years, publishing both her fiction and non-fiction, and her courage, her generosity of spirit, and her love enveloped us all.

"Emma's writing carried her through tough times. It allowed her an escape and, in turn, she created vibrant, colourful worlds to which her readers could escape - and her talent, imagination, her unique warmth and humour is evident on each and every page of her novels. Emma loved every aspect of being an author: from meeting booksellers and baking treats for them on signing tours, to the friendships she had with fellow authors, to creating brilliantly colourful stories and characters and, of course, she loved her readers. She would often share positive emails with us 'her team' because that was Emma: selfless and always wishing to share her success and happiness. Emma Hannigan will be greatly missed for her stories, for her voice as an author, and as a friend."

Authors and friends added their tributes:

Ciara Geraghty

"Cancer is not my favourite thing - I wouldn't recommend it to a friend," wrote Emma Hannigan in her memoir, *Talk to the Headscarf*. A wonderful teller of tales, this line demonstrates Emma's great capacity for humour, a capacity that never diminished throughout her daunting and lengthy battle with cancer. Emma always said that she would never let cancer define her and, right up to the end, it never did. She remained graceful under fire.

And she looked graceful. So petite and stylish, an Irish, blond Audrey Hepburn. But then she'd start talking or writing and you'd see it immediately; her strength, her resilience, her courage, her love of her family, her friends, her life. It is with such sadness that we discover this life is now at an end. I can't begin to imagine the pain of her loss for her family but for us, the women writers of Ireland who she championed with such kindness and generosity, the world today seems a duller, lesser place with Emma no longer in it.

Sinead Moriarty

I first met Emma 13 years ago and liked her immediately. She was warm, funny and smart. Over the years we did many writing events together and kept in touch on a regular basis. She was someone I admired immensely. Despite the relentless barrage of cancer battering her body, she never allowed it dampen her incredible spirit. I never once heard her complain and her capacity for empathy was vast. Some people walk through life, Emma danced, twirled and jumped through it. She has left deep footprints in the sand. Her children will always walk 10 feet tall because they stand on the shoulders of a giant of love, life and literature.

Carmel Harrington

I was a fan of Emma's long before I met her at the TV3 studios. I was more than a little star-struck when she walked into the green room. She was smaller than I envisioned. Like a glittering, beautiful fairy. Literally. She liked her sequins. The second thing I noticed was her smile. Bright, warm, sincere. Then my eyes fell on the tray of brownies she clasped. Baked by herself and I soon learned that these were trademark Emma. Always with arms full of gifts. I didn't say much to her that first day, but the next time we shared a panel, we chatted some more as we had our makeup done. And I realised that we had a lot in common. Emma was one of those people who can make a room brighter when they enter. She was funny and kind. Just all round lovely. I have so much respect for her as an author, but the way she fought breast cancer, campaigning until the end, will stay with me always.

A glittering, beautiful warrior to the end. Fiercely wise too. I'm avoiding those drains, Emma. Promise.

Claudia Carroll

Emma can't be gone. She just can't be. I think she was the most positive and buoyant and life-affirming person I ever had the privilege to meet. My heart goes out to her family to everyone who loved her - and believe me, everyone loved Emma. I like to think that's she's up above now, sharing a posthumous gin and tonic with Maeve Binchy and Anita Notaro, three greats together, happy and at peace.

Claire Allan

It's very hard to sum up in a few words what Emma meant to me. Not only was she an incredibly talented author, with a knack for pulling at the heartstrings of her readers, she was also an incredible friend and colleague to so many of the writing community.

We met almost nine years ago, when we both shared the same publisher.

She was one of the most generous, loving, wickedly funny people I ever had the good fortune to know and she radiated the love and light she often talked about - even when she was enduring so much herself. You never left a conversation with Emma feeling anything but uplifted.

I will miss her incredibly and always.

Emma Hannigan's funeral service takes place in Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church, Foxrock, Dublin 18, on Wednesday, March 7th, at 11.30am, followed by burial in Shanganagh Cemetery, Shankill. Family flowers only. Please donate to Breast Cancer Ireland. Text CURE to 50300.

Emma Hannigan at home in Bray, Co Wicklow in 2010. Photograph: Cyril Byrne.

[Husband of Inspirational Emma Hannigan Pays Tribute To His 'soul mate'](#)
rollercoaster.ie - 05/03/2018

The couple had been married for two decades and Cian took to his wife's Facebook page in an outpouring of love.

He posted:

"Today, my Emma found peace.

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Emma was the epitome of strength, love and generosity, beyond anything I have ever known. She loved her family, loved her friends, and she left a trail of glitter and joy throughout her life ; with of course added tinsel at Christmas.

She was my wife and soul mate

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A friend to many and an inspiration to thousands

A loving daughter

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Emma, a mum of two teenagers, slipped away peacefully surrounded by her family.

The 45-year-old revealed she had terminal cancer just over two weeks ago and launched a fundraising campaign for Breast Cancer Ireland of which she was ambassador.

The goal of raising \$100,000 was reached in just 10 days.

[Rachel Allen shares close friend Emma Hannigan's 'parting words' to her](#)
evoked.ie - 05/03/2018

The pair had been pals for decades and even spent some time travelling together through southeast Asia in their early 20s.

In an interview with the RTE Guide, done before Emma's death on March 3rd, the 45-year-old spoke about the heartache of learning that her friend had terminal cancer.

'She gave me parting words and reminded me to take some time for myself,' she said.

'She's always giving out to me for racing around after everyone else.

'So I want to do more of that, taking time for myself, even something like putting a rug outside on the grass and enjoying the outdoors, even just for a few minutes.'

'I've been more philosophical lately, especially with Emma and I've realised that it's OK to go for a long walk and not feel guilty that I should be working or with the kids.

'So I'd like to get to do more of that- at some stage,' the Dubliner continued.

The beloved writer passed away at the age of 45 after a 13-year battle with cancer with friends and fans quick to pay tribute to the mum-of-two.

In the days before her passing, Emma launched a fundraising campaigning for Breast Cancer Ireland and raised over a €100k for the charity.

5

In addition, a campaign was launched on social media to get Emma's new book, Letters to my Daughters, to number one in the Irish book charts.

The fiction soared to number one in the charts and booksellers Dubray Books announced that they were donating the profits from the book to the Irish Cancer Society.

In 2005, Emma discovered she was carrying the Brca 1 cancer gene in 2005, meaning she had an 85% chance of developing breast cancer and a 50% chance of developing ovarian cancer.

She shared the sad news on her Facebook page on February 17th 2018 that all of her cancer treatment options had been 'exhausted' and that she didn't have long to live.

And her husband Cian updated her Facebook page with a poignant tribute to his late wife.

'Emma was the epitome of strength, love and generosity, beyond anything I have ever known,' he wrote.

'She loved her family, loved her friends, and she left a trail of glitter and joy throughout her life ; with of course added tinsel at Christmas.'

'She was my wife and soul mate. Mother of my beautiful children. A friend to many and an inspiration to thousands,' he continued.

'A loving daughter. Devoted mother. Best selling Author. Fundraiser. Public speaker. Chef. And Shopaholic ; ;

'She was my guiding star and my hug to say everything would be ok.

'But mostly she was just my Emma, and I would need her wonderful gift with words to tell you just how much I will miss her.'

Rachel Allen. Pic: VIP Ireland.

Emma Hannigan Pic: Facebook.

Emma Hannigan with her husband Cian McGrath. Pic: Alan Rowlette.

Cathy O' Connor & Emma Hannigan. Pic: Kieran Harnett.

[Celebrate International Women's Day at Café Carleton, Newbridge on Friday, March 9, with special guest Alannah Beirne Facebook Twitter Google+](#)
kildarenow.com - 05/03/2018

Ladies, if you're ready to break out after a week of cabin fever during the recent heavy snowfall, take note Network Ireland Kildare Branch are hosting an event on Friday next at Café Carleton in Newbridge Silverware to celebrate International Women's Day.

Amongst the guests for Friday's event will be Dancing with the Stars, Alannah Beirne and the CEO of Breast Cancer Ireland, Aisling Hurley.

Alas, the Eadestown model was voted off Dancing with the Stars last Sunday, despite delivering a sultry samba with partner Vitali. However, during her six weeks on the show, she has scored successfully high points and often topped the leader board.

The quirky Newbridge restaurant will be the perfect backdrop for a lively night with guests to enjoy a Prosecco reception on arrival while listening to the talents of The Piano Man, John Forde from Naas. A three-course meal will be served in renowned Café Carleton where a cheque for €22,000 will be presented to Breast Cancer Ireland, from funds raised by Network Kildare at their charity lunch last November.

A great way to celebrate International Women's Day - ladies, this event is open to all but must be pre-booked. You'll be assured of a warm welcome so bring along your mum, sisters, friends and work colleagues to the Cafe Carleton in Newbridge Silverware for an evening of excellent company, good food and lots of fun to celebrate International Women's Day in Kildare.

Booking is essential through <http://www.networkireland.ie/events/branch/kildare/>, tickets will not be available at the door so pre-booking is essential to ensure your place at this very popular yearly event.

Network Ireland Kildare Branch is an organisation for women in business, the professions and the arts. With over 1000 members spread across 13 branches in Ireland, the Kildare branch of Network Ireland is one of the most dynamic in Ireland, hosting monthly events ranging across a variety of topics including Women in Leadership, Communication Skills, Marketing and Finance. We also celebrate International Women's Day in March, have our annual Business Awards Competition and our very successful Annual Charity lunch in November. We have over 80 members from a large variety of professions, from sole traders to CEO's of large organisations and all are very welcome.

For further information, please contact: Tara Lane, PRO, Network Ireland Kildare Branch on 087 978 9318

If you have a story or want to send photos or videos to us please contact the KildareNow editorial team. via our Facebook, via our email at content@kildarenow.com or on 045 409350 during office hours.

[Emma Hannigan's husband Cian pays a heartbreaking tribute to his 'guiding star'](#)
rsvpmagazine.ie - 05/03/2018

The 45-year-old lost her well-documented battle with cancer on Saturday.

Writing on his wife's Facebook, Cian shared an outpouring of love with the author's fans.

"Today, my Emma found peace.

She bravely fought a battle against a foe with no mercy,"her husband of two decades wrote.

"Emma was the epitome of strength, love and generosity, beyond anything I have ever known. She loved her family, loved her friends, and she left a trail of glitter and joy throughout her life | with of course added tinsel at Christmas."

"She was my wife and soul mate

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And Shopaholic | |"

"She was my guiding star and my hug to say everything would be ok."

The mum-of-two passed away in a South Dublin Hospital following her 11-year battle with cancer.

The Wicklow native passed away surrounded by Cian, son Sacha, daughter Kim and her parents.

Just two weeks ago the author announced she had terminal cancer and launched a fundraising campaign for Breast Cancer Ireland (BCI).

The goal raising â,~100,000 for BCI was reached in just 10 days.

Dubray Books also donated all profits made from her new book to Irish Cancer Society.

In her final social media post Emma wrote, "It's never 2 late 2 dream big, keep dreaming. Thank you so much, please keep those donations coming in and don't stop until we reach the top #HelpEmmaHelpOthers."

To donate to Breast Cancer Ireland visit www.breastcancerireland.com/support-us/donatenow. You can also make a donation of â,~4 by texting "Cure" to 50300.

[Husband of inspirational Emma Hannigan pays tribute to his 'soul mate'](#)
irishmirror.ie - 04/03/2018

The couple had been married for two decades and Cian took to his wife's Facebook page in an outpouring of love.

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Emma passed away in a South Dublin hospital on Saturday following an 11-year battle with cancer.

Her funeral Mass is to take place on Wednesday in Bray, Co Wicklow.

The mum of two teenagers slipped away peacefully surrounded by her husband Cian, son Sacha, daughter Kim and her parents.

The 45-year-old revealed she had terminal cancer just over two weeks ago and launched a fundraising campaign for Breast Cancer Ireland of which she was ambassador.

The goal of raising â,~100,000 was reached in 10 days - a sum she vowed to reach for BCI.

Dubray Books also supported the cause by donating all profits made to the Irish Cancer Society while, bookstore Eason said it would be making donations to BCI.

The best-selling author of 13 books had pleaded with the public to keep donating any spare cash to medical research and the goal was reached within two weeks of Emma making the appeal.

As well as being a hugely successful and award-winning writer, she was also known as a TV personality and blogger, Emma revealed her devastating cancer diagnosis 17 days ago, confirming her health battle was coming to an end after an 11 years.

Majella O'Donnell, wife of country legend Daniel, who herself fought breast cancer tweeted: "So very sad to hear of the passing of Emma Hannigan.

"She inspired me at a very difficult time and I am thinking of her family and friends tonight."

Chris Donoghue, former broadcaster and now political advisor to Tanaiste Simon Coveney, added: "So sad at the death of as bright a light.

"We once spoke of guilt you feel surviving a serious illness when someone like her kept getting knocked back.

"She told me to say it in how you live, not an apology. Extraordinary person, moved mountains." Her latest book Letters To My Daughters went to No1 across several categories on the bestsellers chart within days of her emotional post.

When revealing her sad news Emma said: "All good things must come to an end. The time that I knew was borrowed must be given back soon, so it seems.

"The conversation I never wanted to have has been said.

"My medical team have thrown everything but the kitchen sink at this fight but all avenues have now been exhausted."

She spoke openly about her love for her husband and children, parents family, friends and fans adding that her love for them has been integral to her life.

Emma wrote: "Faced with very little time can I tell you what screams out at me? Love.

"Nothing else has much meaning anymore. Just the love I feel for the people I hold dear.

"My two babies, (OK they both tower over me, but I'm still allowed call them my babies) my husband, my parents, my family, my friends and readers." In 2005, she discovered she was carrying the BRCA 1 cancer gene. It meant she had an 85% chance of developing breast cancer and a 50% chance of developing ovarian cancer. To reduce the odds to 5%, she opted for preventative surgery. In 2006 Emma had a double mastectomy

and had her ovaries and fallopian tubes removed.

However, in 2007, in spite of the surgery, she was diagnosed with cancer for the first time and her lengthy battle ensued.

Emma Hannigan, who had cancer seven times, with her husband Cian and kids Kim and Sasha.

Emma Hannigan.

Emma Hannigan - Letters to my Daughter.

'epitome of strength'Husband of late Emma Hannigan pays emotional tribute to his 'guiding star' after author loses battle with cancer
thesun.ie - 04/03/2018

AUTHOR Emma Hannigan's husband yesterday paid tribute to his "guiding star" who had "left a trail of glitter and joy throughout her life."

The inspirational writer, 45, lost her long-running battle with cancer yesterday, having overcome the disease 10 times in the past 11 years.

The motivational speaker - a mum of two - had recently revealed that her condition had become terminal and asked for fans to donate to Breast Cancer Ireland in her name.

The Wicklow woman's campaign raised â,~100k in the past two weeks, with her latest novel, Letters to my Daughter also reaching the number one spot in the Irish book charts.

Her devastated husband Cian - with whom she had children Sacha and Kim - today paid tribute to the much-loved writer.

In a moving post on her public Facebook page, he said: "She bravely fought a battle against a foe with no mercy.

"Emma was the epitome of strength, love and generosity, beyond anything I have ever known. She loved her family, loved her friends, and she left a trail of glitter and joy throughout her life ¦ with of course added tinsel at Christmas.

"She was my wife and soul mate, mother of my beautiful children, a friend to many and an inspiration to thousands.

"A loving daughter, devoted mother, best-selling author, fundraiser, public speaker, chef, and shopaholic ¦ ¦

"She was my guiding star and my hug to say everything would be ok. But mostly she was just my Emma, and I would need her wonderful gift with words to tell you just how much I will miss her."

Emma had discovered in 2005 that she was a carrier of the cancer-causing BRCA1 gene, undergoing preventative surgery to remove her breasts, ovaries and fallopian tubes.

Despite this, she was diagnosed with cancer for the first time two years later.

Having fought the disease successfully 10 times, Emma was a proud ambassador for Breast Cancer Ireland.

The charity paid tribute to Emma following her death yesterday, saying: "BCI wish to extend our deepest sympathies to the family of our dear friend Emma Hannigan who lost her battle with cancer earlier today. RIP"

Author and broadcaster Maia Dunphy, models Rosanna Davison and Holly Carpenter and author Sinead Moriarty were also among those who paid tribute to Emma yesterday.

Maia said: "The news we never wanted to hear. Even in her last days, @MsEmmaHannigan was still blazing a trail. Her book reached number one and she raised over 100k for @BreastCancerIre.

"Just extraordinary. Love and thoughts with Cian, Sacha and Kim. We miss her light already. XX"

Last month Emma posted news on her website saying that her fight with cancer was coming to an end in a moving blog post on her website.

She said: "The time that I knew was borrowed must be given back soon, so it seems. The conversation I never wanted to have has been said.

"My medical team have thrown everything but the kitchen sink at this fight but all avenues have now been exhausted.

"To say that I am heartbroken doesn't begin to cover it.

"But I feel I'd like to say something, after all that's what I've done over the years - say stuff, write stuff and tell you what's going down. So I feel it wouldn't be fair to leave you out in the cold right now.

"I've gained such strength from all of you. We've shared tips and hints and stories over the years. For all of it - thank you."

The late Emma Hannigan.

Emma with pal Elaine Crowley - who got a tattoo to raise funds for Breast Cancer Ireland.

Emma had two children with husband Cian.

[Emma Hannigan's husband speaks of how he has lost his soul mate](#)
eveningecho.ie - 04/03/2018

Cian, who was married to Emma for two decades, took to his wife's Facebook page in an outpouring of love for her.

He posted: "Today, my Emma found peace. She bravely fought a battle against a foe with no mercy.

"Emma was the epitome of strength, love and generosity, beyond anything I have ever known.

"She loved her family, loved her friends, and she left a trail of glitter and joy throughout her life ; with of course added tinsel at Christmas.

"She was my wife and soul mate. Mother of my beautiful children, A friend to many and an inspiration to thousands. A loving daughter. Devoted mother

"Best selling Author. Fundraiser. Public speaker. Chef. And Shopaholic ; ;"

He added: "She was my guiding star and my hug to say everything would be ok. But mostly she was just my Emma, and I would need her wonderful gift with words to tell you just how much I will miss her."

Funeral arrangements are being finalised following the bestselling author's death in a south Dublin hospital at 1.30pm on Saturday following an 11-year battle with cancer.

The mother of two teenagers slipped away peacefully surrounded by her husband Cian, son Sacha, daughter Kim and her parents.

The Wicklow native revealed she had terminal cancer just over two weeks ago and launched a fundraising campaign for Breast Cancer Ireland, for which she was an ambassador.

The goal of raising â,-100,000 was reached in 10 days - a sum she vowed to reach for BCI.

Dubray Books also supporting the cause by donating all profits made to the Irish Cancer Society while, bookstore Eason, also said that they would be making donations to BCI.

It is understood that Emma may be buried close to her home in Bray, Co Wicklow, with Fr Gerry Byrne, chaplain at Blackrock Clinic, co-officiating at her funeral Mass.

The author of 13 books had pleaded with the public to keep donating any spare cash to medical research and the goal was reached within two weeks of Emma making the appeal.

As well as being a hugely successful and award-winning author, she was also known as a TV personality and blogger, Emma revealed her devastating cancer diagnosis 17 days ago, confirming that her health battle was coming to an end after 11 years.

Shortly after her passing, Breast Cancer Ireland (BCI) tweeted: "We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the family of our dear friend Emma Hannigan who lost her battle with cancer earlier today. RIP."

[Tributes pour in for beloved author Emma Hannigan](#)

rte.ie - 04/03/2018

The bestselling Irish writer, who had published 13 books, died after an 11-year battle with cancer at the age of 45.

Hannigan was diagnosed with cancer for the first time in 2007. She had fought the disease ten times since then before passing away on Saturday, March 3.

Breast Cancer Ireland announced the news on Saturday afternoon, writing on Facebook and Twitter: "Breast Cancer Ireland wish to extend our deepest sympathies to the family of our dear friend Emma Hannigan who lost her battle with cancer earlier today. May she rest in peace."

[President Higgins remembers Emma Hannigan and her advocacy for Breast Cancer Ireland](#)
breakingnews.ie - 03/03/2018

The President says she will be remembered as a powerful advocate for Breast Cancer Ireland, leaving a lasting legacy through her work and her courage in dealing with a terminal illness.

Emma, a 45-year-old Wicklow native, posted an emotional message on social media last month, saying her medical team had exhausted all avenues in her fight against cancer.

It accelerated a fundraising effort which has reached 100,000 euro, for Breast Cancer Ireland, from the sale of her book 'Letters to my Daughters'.

State by President Higgins on the death of Emma Hannigan.

[pic.twitter.com/2AMvvDhmZq](#)

- President of Ireland (@PresidentIRL) March 3, 2018

Earlier:<./b> Irish author Emma Hannigan has died today following her battle with breast cancer.

She was 45.

Breast Cancer Ireland confirmed the news this afternoon and offered their sympathies to Emma's family.

BCI wish to extend our deepest sympathies to the family of our dear friend Emma Hannigan who lost her battle with cancer earlier today. RIP
[pic.twitter.com/tlIKKR5w2hX](#)

- BreastCancerIreland (@BreastCancerIre) March 3, 2018

Emma revealed last month, in a post on her website, that she did not have long to live.

"The time that I knew was borrowed must be given back soon, so it seems," she wrote.

"The conversation I never wanted to have has been said.

"My medical team have thrown everything but the kitchen sink at this fight but all avenues have now been exhausted.

"To say that I am heartbroken doesn't begin to cover it."

Our â,~100,000 goal has been reached.

its never 2 late 2 dream big, keep dreaming

Thank you so much, please keep those donations coming in and don't stop until we reach the top #HelpEmmaHelpOthers

- Emma Hannigan Author (@MsEmmaHannigan) February 28, 2018

Emma wrote several best-selling books, including her most recent book Letters to my Daughters - which topped the Irish charts last month.

The mother-of-two has battled cancer ten times after discovering in 2006 she carries the BrCa1 gene, which increased her risk of developing breast and ovarian cancer. She had her breasts and ovaries removed that year, but went on to develop cancer ten times in a decade.

She signed off on her website post by saying she is "taking a bow".

"Farewell and thank you, I am taking a bow. Until we meet again may all that is good and decent be yours."

Many people have taken to Twitter to express their sadness and to honour her memory.

Our lovely and beautiful friend Emma Hannigan has lost her battle to Cancer.

She was such an inspiration to all of us and will be sadly missed.

Our thoughts are with her family. She will always be in our hearts.

[pic.twitter.com/dEmsUYIqzD](#)

- Elaine (@tv3elaine) March 3, 2018

Rest in Peace Emma Hannigan <https://t.co/VlhsfRk8Lq>

- HollyCarpenter (@Holly0910) March 3, 2018

The world is missing a very special person today, such sad news. RIP Emma Hannigan and condolences to her family? <https://t.co/AW3d0tZpVb>

- Regina Looby (@reglooby) March 3, 2018

RIP Emma? RT @BreastCancerIre : BCI wish to extend our deepest sympathies to the family of our dear friend Emma Hannigan who lost her battle with cancer earlier today. RIP pic.twitter.com/epTzwRa7Td

- Rosanna Davison (@rosanna_davison) March 3, 2018

Emma Hannigan has passed away after a brave battle with cancer <https://t.co/yBJOsNBusd> pic.twitter.com/wQ7C0twylp

- MummyPages Ireland (@MummyPages) March 3, 2018

[Irish author Emma Hannigan passes away following long battle with breast cancer](#)
breakingnews.ie - 03/03/2018

Breast Cancer Ireland confirmed the news this afternoon and offered the sympathies to Emma's family and friends.

BCI wish to extend our deepest sympathies to the family of our dear friend Emma Hannigan who lost her battle with cancer earlier today. RIP
pic.twitter.com/tIKKR5w2hX

- BreastCancerIreland (@BreastCancerIre) March 3, 2018

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Emma wrote several best-selling books, including her most recent book Letters to my Daughters - which topped the Irish charts last month.

The mother-of-two has battled cancer ten times after discovering in 2006 she carries the BrCa1 gene, which increased her risk of developing breast and ovarian cancer. She had her breasts and ovaries removed that year, but went on to develop cancer ten times in a decade.

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- Rosanna Davison (@rosanna_davison) March 3, 2018

Emma Hannigan has passed away after a brave battle with cancer <https://t.co/yBJOsNBusd> pic.twitter.com/wQ7C0twylp

- MummyPages Ireland (@MummyPages) March 3, 2018

[Irish writer Emma Hannigan dies after cancer battle](#)

rte.ie - 03/03/2018

Breast Cancer Ireland announced the news on Saturday afternoon, writing on Facebook and Twitter: "Breast Cancer Ireland wish to extend our deepest sympathies to the family of our dear friend Emma Hannigan who lost her battle with cancer earlier today. May she rest in peace."

The author revealed in mid-February that her long-term battle with breast cancer had become terminal.

She wrote in a blog post: "The conversation I never wanted to have has been said.

"My medical team have thrown everything but the kitchen sink at this fight but all avenues have now been exhausted.

"To say that I'm heartbroken doesn't begin to cover it".

After the blog post was published, a campaign was launched on social media to get her new new book, Letters to my Daughters, to number one in the Irish book charts.

The book has since soared to number one in the charts, with booksellers Dubray Books announcing that they are donating the profits from the book to the Irish Cancer Society.

The mother-of-two also started a fundraising campaign to raise money for Breast Cancer Ireland which has raised over â,-100,000 so far.

She tweeted after the fundraising target had been reached. "It's never too late to dream big, keep dreaming.

"Thank you so much, please keep those donations coming in and don't stop until we reach the top."

[Author Emma Hannigan raises a staggering €100,000 for Breast Cancer Ireland](#)
vipmagazine.ie - 01/03/2018

"My medical team have thrown everything but the kitchen sink at this fight but all avenues have now been exhausted," she explained on social media.

Over the last two weeks she's been heavily involved with a number of campaigns to help raise funds and awareness for the disease.

She's an incredibly brave woman

Aisling Hurley, CEO of Breast Cancer Ireland said, "We are overwhelmed at the support received for our dear friend and ambassador Emma Hannigan in reaching her target of €100,000.

"These funds will continue to support our pioneering research within the Breast Cancer Ireland Research Centre, as well as nationally through our collaborative initiative with other designated cancer centres.

"We are heartbroken for Emma and her family but her dedication in raising awareness and seeking support at this extraordinarily sad time gives us the added strength and determination to continue our work in transforming the landscape of this disease in Ireland."

In a touching tribute to her dear friend - and raising vital funds at the same time - Elaine Crowley got a tattoo to honour Emma.

The two are great friends

Speaking about why she got the tattoo Elaine said: "Emma Hannigan is the best person I know. I became an Ambassador for Breast Cancer Ireland because of her, and she's still determined to raise as much money as possible for research."

"She gave me a voucher for a tattoo for my 40th, we were supposed to get one done together, but as Emma says herself, cancer robbed us of that.

"So we decided this was a good idea to raise funds for BCI, plus she knows I'm a big chicken and she got a great laugh when I sent her the picture of my Unicorn Ass tattoo!

"Friends don't come any better than Emma, and everyone involved with BCI, we're not going to give up until we find a cure."

['She was my guiding star'- writer Emma's heartbroken husband](#)

Herald.ie - 05/03/2018

Emma Hannigan's husband Cian has paid tribute to the best-selling author who died on Saturday after an 11-year battle with breast cancer.

Cian, who was married to Emma (45) for more than 20 years, took to her Facebook page to express his love for her.

"Today, my Emma found peace," he wrote. "She bravely fought a battle against a foe with no mercy.

"Emma was the epitome of strength, love and generosity, beyond anything I have ever known.

"She loved her family, loved her friends, and she left a trail of glitter and joy throughout her life ! with, of course, added tinsel at Christmas.

"She was my wife and soulmate. Mother of my beautiful children, a friend to many and an inspiration to thousands. A loving daughter. Devoted mother.

"She was my guiding star and my hug to say everything would be OK.

"But mostly, she was just my Emma, and I would need her wonderful gift with words to tell you just how much I will miss her."

Emma, the mum of son Sacha (17) and daughter Kim (15), had battled the disease 10 times.

Surgery

In 2005, she discovered she was carrying the BRCA1 cancer gene, which meant an 85pc chance of developing breast cancer and a 50pc chance of ovarian cancer.

To reduce her risk to 5pc, Emma had surgery to remove her breasts, ovaries and fallopian tubes. However, she was diagnosed with cancer in 2007, and began her 11-year battle with the disease.

Emma's funeral service will take place in the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour in Foxrock on Wednesday, followed by a burial in Shan-ganagh Cemetery in Shankill.

Tributes poured in for the author shortly after the news of her death.

"It is with great sadness that I have learned of the death of Emma Hannigan - a campaigner to the end," said President Michael D Higgins.

"Emma Hannigan leaves a lasting legacy not only through her work as a much-appreciated author, but also through her exemplary courage in dealing with terminal illness.

"She will be remembered as a powerful advocate for Breast Cancer Ireland, a great cause worthy of our support."

Businesswoman and TV personality Norah Casey said: "A wonderful courageous woman just left our world - my heartfelt condolences to her wonderful family."

Fair City actress and fellow author Claudia Carroll said: "Heartbroken to hear the sad news about our beautiful, brave Emma Hannigan. Tonight, there really is one more angel in heaven."

Breast Cancer Ireland, of which Emma was an ambassador, tweeted: "BCI wish to extend our deepest sympathies to the family of our dear friend Emma Hannigan who lost her battle with cancer earlier today. RIP."

Emma revealed two weeks ago on her blog that her cancer was terminal.

This prompted a successful campaign from fans that saw her book Letters To My Daughters reach the top spot in Ireland.

She helped to raise more than â,-100,000 for BCI in the weeks before her death.

[Husband of late author Emma Hannigan pays heartbreaking tribute](#)

her.ie - 04/03/2018

Emma Hannigan's husband has paid an emotional tribute to his "wife and soulmate" after she passed away.

The Wicklow mum-of-two, who had cancer 10 times throughout her life, revealed that she was losing her battle in an open letter to her fans on her official Facebook page last month.

Following her death on Saturday, her husband Cian shared a heartbreaking tribute to his wife, who he said "left a trail of glitter and joy throughout her life."

Writing on her official Facebook page, he began by recalling how she "bravely fought a battle against a foe with no mercy".

He continued:

"Emma was the epitome of strength, love and generosity, beyond anything I have ever known.

"She loved her family, loved her friends, and she left a trail of glitter and joy throughout her life ! with of course added tinsel at Christmas.

"She was my wife and soulmate. Mother of my beautiful children. A friend to many and an inspiration to thousands.

"[She was] a loving daughter, devoted mother, best selling author, fundraiser, public speaker, chef, and shopaholic.

"She was my guiding star and my hug to say everything would be ok.

"But mostly she was just my Emma, and I would need her wonderful gift with words to tell you just how much I will miss her."

<https://www.facebook.com/170231413020818/photos/a.206423159401643.49668.170231413020818/1715109515199659/?type=3>

After she shared the open letter with fans last month, Ms Hannigan launched a fundraising campaign with Breast Cancer Ireland, which she was an ambassador for.

The goal for the campaign was â,~100,000, which was reached within a few days.

Following the news of the campaign reaching its target, Emma said:

"It's never too late to dream big, keep dreaming.

"Thank you so much, please keep those donations coming and don't stop until we reach the top."

She was also the inspiration behind a second campaign, which had the goal to get her final novel, Letters to my Daughters, to number one on the charts.

Last week, Dubray Books tweeted that 'Letters To My Daughters'had made it to the top of the bestsellers list.

They said:

The store also announced that they will be donating all of their profits from the book to Breast Cancer Ireland which Hannigan is an ambassador for.

[Emma Hannigan's husband speaks of how he has lost his soul mate](#)
irissexaminer.com - 04/03/2018

Cian, who was married to Emma for two decades, took to his wife's Facebook page in an outpouring of love for her.

He posted: "Today, my Emma found peace. She bravely fought a battle against a foe with no mercy.

"Emma was the epitome of strength, love and generosity, beyond anything I have ever known.

"She loved her family, loved her friends, and she left a trail of glitter and joy throughout her life ! with of course added tinsel at Christmas.

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"Best selling Author. Fundraiser. Public speaker. Chef. And Shopaholic ! !"

He added: "She was my guiding star and my hug to say everything would be ok. But mostly she was just my Emma, and I would need her wonderful gift with words to tell you just how much I will miss her."

Funeral arrangements are being finalised following the bestselling author's death in a south Dublin hospital at 1.30pm on Saturday following an 11-year battle with cancer.

The mother of two teenagers slipped away peacefully surrounded by her husband Cian, son Sacha, daughter Kim and her parents.

The Wicklow native revealed she had terminal cancer just over two weeks ago and launched a fundraising campaign for Breast Cancer Ireland, for which she was an ambassador.

The goal of raising â,-100,000 was reached in 10 days - a sum she vowed to reach for BCI.

Dubray Books also supporting the cause by donating all profits made to the Irish Cancer Society while, bookstore Eason, also said that they would be making donations to BCI.

It is understood that Emma may be buried close to her home in Bray, Co Wicklow, with Fr Gerry Byrne, chaplain at Blackrock Clinic, co-officiating at her funeral Mass.

The author of 13 books had pleaded with the public to keep donating any spare cash to medical research and the goal was reached within two weeks of Emma making the appeal.

As well as being a hugely successful and award-winning author, she was also known as a TV personality and blogger, Emma revealed her devastating cancer diagnosis 17 days ago, confirming that her health battle was coming to an end after 11 years.

Shortly after her passing, Breast Cancer Ireland (BCI) tweeted: "We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the family of our dear friend Emma Hannigan who lost her battle with cancer earlier today. RIP."

Majella O'Donnell wife of country singer Daniel, who herself fought breast cancer also tweeted, "So very sad to hear of the passing of Emma Hannigan. She inspired me at a very difficult time and I am thinking of her family and friends tonight.

"She fought such an amazing battle. You have left your mark in this world Emma. Life can be so unfair !"

Former broadcaster, and now political advisor to TÃ;naiste Simon Conveney, Chris Donoghue added: "So sad at the death of as bright a light. We once spoke of guilt you feel surviving a serious illness when someone like her kept getting knocked back.

"She told me to say it in how you live, not an apology. Extraordinary person, moved mountains."

Her heart-wrenching Facebook post revealing she was losing her fight to stay alive, saw an outpouring of emotion from thousands of reading fans, and authors from here and around the world.

Her latest book, Letters to My Daughters, went to Number One across several categories on the best selling chart within days of her emotional post.

When revealing her sad news Emma said: "All good things must come to an end. The time that I knew was borrowed must be given back soon, so it seems.

"The conversation I never wanted to have has been said. "My medical team have thrown everything but the kitchen sink at this fight but all avenues have now been exhausted."

The author, blogger and TV personality, spoke openly about her love for her husband and children, parents family, friends and fans adding that her

love for them has been integral to her life.

"Faced with very little time can I tell you what screams out at me? Love.

"Nothing else has much meaning anymore. Just the love I feel for the people I hold dear.

"My two babies, (ok they both tower over me, but I'm still allowed call them my babies) my husband, my parents, my family, my friends and readers."

In 2005, she discovered that she was carrying the Brca 1 cancer gene. This meant she had an 85% chance of developing breast cancer and a 50% chance of developing ovarian cancer.

To reduce her risk to 5%, the brave mum opted for preventative surgery. In 2006 Emma had a double mastectomy and had her ovaries and fallopian tubes removed.

However, in 2007, in spite of the surgery, she was diagnosed with cancer for the first time and her lengthy battle ensued.

[Author Emma Hannigan has passed away following decade long cancer battle](#)
goss.ie - 03/03/2018

Very sad news broke today that Emma Hannigan has passed away after a lengthy 11-year-long cancer battle.

After battling cancer ten times she was given the diagnosis that her cancer was terminal.

In the lead up to her passing she did incredible fundraising for Breast Cancer Ireland, resulting in over â,~100,000 being donated to the charity.

BCI announced the awful news this afternoon and expressed their deepest sympathies.

"BCI wish to extend our deepest sympathies to the family of our dear friend Emma Hannigan who lost her battle with cancer earlier today. RIP"

[President Higgins remembers Emma Hannigan and her advocacy for Breast Cancer Ireland](#)
eveningecho.ie - 03/03/2018

The President says she will be remembered as a powerful advocate for Breast Cancer Ireland, leaving a lasting legacy through her work and her courage in dealing with a terminal illness.

Emma, a 45-year-old Wicklow native, posted an emotional message on social media last month, saying her medical team had exhausted all avenues in her fight against cancer.

It accelerated a fundraising effort which has reached 100,000 euro, for Breast Cancer Ireland, from the sale of her book 'Letters to my Daughters'.

[Irish Author Emma Hannigan Has Died Following A Battle With Cancer](#)

98fm.com - 03/03/2018

Last month the Wicklow native posted an emotional message on social media saying her medical team had exhausted all avenues in her fight against cancer.

While this week a fundraising effort reached 100,000 euro, for Breast Cancer Ireland, from the sale of her book 'Letters to my Daughters'.

[Author Emma Hannigan passes away after 11-year battle with cancer](#)
independent.ie - 03/03/2018

The 45-year old mother-of-two recently revealed that she was nearing the end of her long-running battle with the disease. She had fought cancer 10 times and passed away this morning.

After she revealed on her website that her cancer was terminal, she turned her attentions to raising funds for Breast Cancer Ireland (BCI), which backs pioneering research into the disease. She recently revealed that a ,~100,000 had been raised.

"It's never too late to dream big, keep dreaming," she told her followers on Twitter. "Thank you so much, please keep those donations coming in and don't stop until we reach the top," she added.

Thousands of people have been supporting her CURE campaign and have also helped her new book 'Letters to my Daughters' reach the top spot in Ireland, with Dubray Books also donating all profits to BCI.

The inspirational author discovered in 2005 that she was carrying the BRCA 1 cancer gene, which meant an 85 per cent chance of developing breast cancer and a 50 per cent chance of ovarian cancer.

To reduce her risk to five per cent, she had surgery to remove her breasts, ovaries and fallopian tubes.

In spite of the surgery, she was diagnosed with cancer for the first time in 2007, and her 11-year battle began.

Speaking about her terminal diagnosis in a blog post last month, she said, "Faced with very little time can I tell you what screams out at me? Love.

"Nothing else has much meaning anymore. Just the love I feel for the people I hold dear. My two babies (ok they both tower over me, but I'm still allowed call them my babies) my husband, my parents, my family, my friends and readers."

Tributes have started to pour in for the author. Breast Cancer Ireland, of which she was an ambassador, tweeted, "BCI wish to extend our deepest sympathies to the family of our dear friend Emma Hannigan who lost her battle with cancer earlier today. RIP".

Broadcaster and friend Maia Dunphy wrote, "The news we never wanted to hear. Even in her last days, @MsEmmaHannigan was still blazing a trail. Her book reached number one and she raised over 100k for @BreastCancerIre. Just extraordinary. Love and thoughts with Cian, Sacha and Kim. We miss her light already. XX"

Emma is survived by her husband Cian and children Sacha and Kim.

Online Editors

Author Emma Hannigan.

[Emma Hannigan urges people to 'dream big' after hitting €100k charity target](#)
extra.ie - 01/03/2018

The 45-year-old mum-of-two announced that she has very little time left to live as her battle with the terminal disease edges closer to an end.

Earlier this week, she put out the call through her husband, Cian, to help raise â,~100,000 for Breast Cancer Ireland.

As the official Irish book charts show her latest release has topped all categories with a phenomenal 4,065 sold, Emma shared her joy that her fundraising target had been hit.

Posting on social media after raising funds for Breast Cancer Ireland, she wrote: 'Our â,~100,000 goal has been reached.

She added: 'It's never too late to dream big, keep dreaming !'

Fans, bookshops and fellow authors has clubbed together to promote the bestselling author's new book, Letters for my Daughter, and make it another top seller after she announced her cancer is terminal.

One of Ireland's biggest booksellers, Dubray Books, said they are donating a share of the profits from the book to the Irish Cancer Society.

The Irish firm confirmed the novel had reached the number one spot last week and announced they would share profits with Breast Cancer Ireland.

The 45-year-old explained last Friday, that the love of her family, friends and fans have sustained her throughout her lengthy battle.

In 2005, she discovered that she was carrying the Brca 1 cancer gene. This meant she had an 85 per cent chance of developing breast cancer and a 50 per cent chance of developing ovarian cancer.

To reduce her risk to five per cent, she opted for preventative surgery. In 2006 Emma had a double mastectomy and had her ovaries and fallopian tubes removed. However, in 2007, in spite of the surgery, she was diagnosed with cancer for the first time and she has battled illness since then.

Thousands of people have expressed an outpouring of grief after the much loved author revealed that her battle with cancer is coming to an end.

Ms Hannigan, who has fought cancer 10 times after being diagnosed with the BrCa1 gene in 2005, last week said she was overwhelmed by the response to her campaign.

TV3's Elaine Crowley kept a promise to her pal that she would brave the pain and get inked.

She even posted a photo of being tattooed on Twitter and encouraged followers to donate to the very worthy cause.

CEO of Breast Cancer Ireland, Aisling Hurley told Extra.ie that they are 'overwhelmed at the support received for our dear friend and Ambassador, Emma Hannigan in reaching her fundraising target of â,~100,000 ².

'These funds will continue to support our pioneering research within the Breast Cancer Ireland Research Centre, as well as nationally, through our collaborative initiative with the other designated cancer centres.

'We are heartbroken for Emma and her family but her dedication in raising awareness and seeking support, at this extraordinarily sad time, gives us the added strength and determination to continue our work in transforming the landscape of this disease in Ireland.'

The monies raised will continue to fund pioneering research where scientists and clinicians are working together to speed up research discoveries to affect better treatment outcomes for patients.

Despite reaching the target, Emma is still using the time she has left to seek more help to find a cur for the illness that she has fought for the last 11 years.

She wrote on Facebook: 'Thank you so much, please keep those donations coming in and don't stop until we reach the top.'

For anyone wishing to donate text CURE to 50300 to donate â,~4

Author Emma Hannigan has a message for everyone to 'dream big' after hitting her fundraising target in less than two weeks. Pic: Collins.

Author Emma Hannigan has been fighting cancer since 2007, and set about raising a massive amount of money to find a cure for breast cancer in her final days. Pic: Facebook.

TV presenter Elaine Crowley made a touching gesture for pal and author Emma Hannigan that helped her reach her fundraising target. Pic: TV3.

['She left a trail of glitter and joy in her life'](#)

independent.ie - 05/03/2018

Bestselling author Emma Hannigan, who died on Saturday aged 45 following an 11-year battle with breast cancer

Seán O'Grady

Author Emma Hannigan's husband Cian has paid tribute to his wife after she died on Saturday following a battle with breast cancer.

Cian took to her Facebook page to express his love for the Wicklow woman (45).

"Today, my Emma found peace. She bravely fought a battle against a foe with no mercy.

"Emma was the epitome of strength, love and generosity, beyond anything I have ever known," he wrote.

"She loved her family, loved her friends and she left a trail of glitter and joy throughout her life... with, of course, added tinsel at Christmas.

"She was my wife and soulmate. Mother of my beautiful children, a friend to many and an inspiration to thousands. A loving daughter, devoted mother.

"She was my guiding star and my hug to say everything would be okay.

"But mostly, she was just my Emma and I would need her wonderful gift with words to tell you just how much I will miss her."

Emma, who was mother to Sacha (17) and Kim (15), had been fighting breast cancer for several years and had fought it off 10 times before she finally passed away.

In 2005, the writer discovered that she was carrying the BRCA 1 cancer gene, which meant an 85pc chance of developing breast cancer and a 50pc chance of ovarian cancer.

To reduce her risk to 5pc, the author had surgery to remove her breasts, ovaries and fallopian tubes.

Despite this, she was still diagnosed with cancer in 2007, beginning her 11-year battle with the disease.

Emma's funeral service will take place in Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church in Foxrock, Dublin, on Wednesday, followed by a burial in Shanganagh Cemetery in Shankill.

Tributes have poured in for the author since her death was announced.

President Michael D Higgins released a statement saying: "It is with great sadness that I have learned of the death of Emma Hannigan, a campaigner to the end.

"Emma Hannigan leaves a lasting legacy not only through her work as a much-appreciated author, but also through her exemplary courage in dealing with terminal illness.

"She will be remembered as a powerful advocate for Breast Cancer Ireland, a great cause, worthy of our support."

Businesswoman and TV personality Norah Casey said: "A wonderful courageous woman just left our world; my heartfelt condolences to her wonderful family."

'Fair City'actress and fellow author Claudia Carroll said: "Heartbroken to hear the sad news about our beautiful, brave Emma Hannigan. Tonight, there really is one more angel in heaven."

Emma announced on her blog two weeks ago that her cancer was terminal.

This prompted a successful campaign from fans that saw her latest book, 'Letters To My Daughters', reach the number one spot in Ireland.

Dubray Books said it was donating its profits on the book to the Irish Cancer Society.

Emma also raised over €100,000 for Breast Cancer Ireland (BCI), for which she was an ambassador.

People can donate to BCI by texting CURE to 50300.

[Maia Dunphy: Emma Hannigan, the funny, brave, kind writer I knew](#)
irishtimes.com - 04/03/2018

"Faced with very little time can I tell you what screams out at me? Love. Nothing else has much meaning anymore," Emma Hannigan wrote in an extraordinary piece, posted publicly two weeks before she died.

It was in many ways, a love letter to all of us, and summed up the Emma I was lucky enough to have known. She felt it was important to share this last chapter publicly, as she had shared so much with us over the years.

My husband, who had never met Emma, said it was the bravest piece of writing he had ever read. I am always wary of hijacking other people's grief, as Emma and I were not very close friends, but her kindness and humour was something special - and not just in the face of illness - she was just one of those people it was great fun to be around. She was also someone for whom life was not a zero sum game, and trust me, that is not all that common in this industry.

Many people have an understandable paranoia or unease about advising or helping others "too much" in a very competitive business. Not Emma. Someone else's success was always something to be celebrated. When I had my own first book launch a few months ago, she was apologetic about missing it despite being very unwell, and her enthusiasm for my small achievement was palpable. I'm not sure I would have even replied in her situation. But that was Emma, any opportunity to big someone else up she would jump at, not never in a sycophantic or fawning way.

She was very, very funny. I remember at the Tatler Woman of the Year awards a number of years ago, she made a joke under her breath to me that I actually couldn't repeat out of context here. Let's just say it was perfect comic timing.

Emma was also incredibly glamorous and I loved that she never underestimated the power of looking your best - whether dealing with cancer or not (we shared an uninterrupted desire to find the best fake tan for our Irish hue).

I sent her a text message after I read her post. I didn't know if it was appropriate to send it, or if she would be in a position to read it. But she replied, as she did to so many others and I will treasure those words forever (and as usual, it was damn good advice).

When she talked about the love that screamed out in the face of knowing there was little time left, she really did include all of us. She used her inimitable and inexhaustible spirit to raise over â,~100,000 for Breast Cancer Ireland in her final days, and all of us who knew her (and those who didn't), helped fast-track her latest book Letters to My Daughters to number one. I have no doubt it would have got there anyway, but I hope it went some way to showing her how highly she was regarded. Because sometimes it's too late to tell people, and Emma never waited to tell anyone something positive.

I am heartbroken for Cian, Sacha and Kim and all of her family and friends, but what a legacy she has left and what a trail she blazed. As she so often said herself, love and light. That's what I'll remember; that and the cheeky joke which I'm still not sharing.

Emma Hannigan: Someone else's success was always something to be celebrated. Photograph: Cyril Byrne/The Irish Times.

['She was my guiding star and my hug to say everything would be ok'- Emma Hannigan's husband Cian pays tribute to 'soul mate'](#)
independent.ie - 04/03/2018

Cian and Emma were married for two decades and have two children, Sacha and Kim. He shared his tribute to her on Emma's Facebook page.

"She bravely fought a battle against a foe with no mercy,"he wrote.

"Emma was the epitome of strength, love and generosity, beyond anything I have ever known.

"She loved her family, loved her friends, and she left a trail of glitter and joy throughout her life ¦ with of course added tinsel at Christmas.

"She was my wife and soul mate, mother of my beautiful children, a friend to many and an inspiration to thousands."

He concluded, "She was my guiding star and my hug to say everything would be ok. But mostly she was just my Emma, and I would need her wonderful gift with words to tell you just how much I will miss her."

Emma passed away Saturday morning following an 11-year battle with cancer. After the best-selling author recently revealed that she did not have long to live, she turned her efforts to raising money for Breast Cancer Ireland.

The Wicklow native was an ambassador for BCI, and shared with fans that over â,~100,000 had been raised by their efforts.

"It's never too late to dream big, keep dreaming," Emma wrote online following the announcement that the campaign's â,~100,000 goal had been reached. "Thank you so much, please keep those donations coming and don't stop until we reach the top."

The mother of two was also the inspiration for another campaign, supported by her fellow writers, to make her final novel, Letters to my Daughters, a number one bestseller.

Last week, the campaign reached its goal when the novel sold 4,065 copies, according to the official book sales monitor Nielsen. The book was Ireland's bestselling title by a landslide last week, ahead of the second-bestseller, The Year That Changed Everything, by Cathy Kelly which sold 1,893 copies.

Dubray Books also supported Emma's cause by donating all profits to BCI. Bookstore Eason also made donations to the charity in line with Emma's wishes.

In 2005, Emma discovered she was carrying the Brca 1 cancer gene, giving her a 85pc chance of developing breast cancer and a 50pc chance of developing ovarian cancer.

The following year, the brave author had a double mastectomy and had her ovaries and fallopian tubes removed to reduce this risk to 5pc. Despite the preventative surgery, she was diagnosed with cancer in 2007 and battled the disease bravely till the end of her life.

Her past novels include Designer Genes, Miss Conceived, The Pink Ladies Club, Keeping Mum, Perfect Wives, Driving Home for Christmas, The Summer Guest, The Heart of Winter, The Secrets We Share and memoir, Talk to the Headscarf.

Cian helped his brave wife through her battle with cancer as well as with her campaign to help others going through a similar fight. He took to her social media and wrote posts on her behalf to continue to gain support and donations for BCI.

[Best-selling Irish author passes at age 45 - she had revealed she was dying](#)
irishcentral.com - 04/03/2018

She had fought breast cancer for 12 years in a highly publicized battle that had helped thousands of Irish women cope with the same disease. She leaved her husband and two young children behind.

Thousands flocked to buy her book All to Live For, documenting her battle with cancer. Afterwards, she revealed all proceeds would go to breast cancer awareness.

Hannigan knew she was about to pass and posted in late February that "time that I knew was borrowed must be given back soon, so it seems."

The cancer that she has held at bay for 11 years could not be held off any longer. She said, "My medical team have thrown everything but the kitchen sink at this fight but all avenues have now been exhausted.

"To say that I am heartbroken doesn't begin to cover it."

In 2005, the mother-of-two was told she carries the BrCa1 gene, which increases here risk of developing breast and ovarian cancer. She had her breasts and ovaries removed in 2006 but still developed cancer 10 times over the last decade, the Irish Examiner reports.

On her website, the 45-year-old thanked her fans for their support through the years.

"I've gained such strength from all of you. We've shared tips and hints and stories over the years. For all of it - thank you.

"Thank you for taking my hand when I needed it most and for posting all sorts from doggy snaps to moggy pics and the rest.

"We've made a great team."

She went on to say that her love for her husband Cian, son Sacha, daughter Kim, family, friends, and readers is "all that matters now."

President Michael D Higgins paid fulsome tribute on Saturday evening. "Emma Hannigan leaves a lasting legacy not only through her work as a much-appreciated author but also through her exemplary courage in dealing with terminal illness. She will be remembered as a powerful advocate for Breast Cancer Ireland, a great cause worthy of all of our support. To her husband, Cian, her son, Sacha, and daughter, Kim, and to her wider family and circle of friends, Sabina and I send our deepest sympathies."

[Tributes as inspirational author Emma dies after battle with cancer](#)

independent.ie - 04/03/2018

The mother of two teenage children is understood to have died peacefully, surrounded by her family, at a south Dublin hospital at around 1.30pm.

The much-loved author revealed her devastating diagnosis 13 days ago in a Facebook post, saying: "All good things must come to an end. The time that I knew was borrowed must be given back soon, so it seems.

"The conversation I never wanted to have has been said. My medical team have thrown everything but the kitchen sink at this fight but all avenues have now been exhausted."

The 45-year-old launched a fundraising campaign for Breast Cancer Ireland for which she was ambassador. The goal of â,-100,000, was reached in 10 days.

In a statement, her publisher Hachette Ireland said: "So sad that our beloved author and friend Emma Hannigan passed away earlier today. She inspired us all with her immeasurable strength, her generosity and her love."

Her latest book, Letters to My Daughters, went to No 1 across several categories on the books charts within days of her emotional post.

[Irish author Emma Hannigan passes away after battle with breast cancer](#)
eveningecho.ie - 03/03/2018

She was 45.

Breast Cancer Ireland confirmed the news this afternoon and offered the sympathies to Emma's family and friends.

Emma revealed last month, in a post on her website, that she did not have long to live.

"The time that I knew was borrowed must be given back soon, so it seems," she wrote.

"The conversation I never wanted to have has been said.

"My medical team have thrown everything but the kitchen sink at this fight but all avenues have now been exhausted.

"To say that I am heartbroken doesn't begin to cover it."

Emma wrote several best-selling books, including her most recent book Letters to my Daughters - which topped the Irish charts last month.

The mother-of-two has battled cancer ten times after discovering in 2006 she carries the BrCa1 gene, which increased her risk of developing breast and ovarian cancer. She had her breasts and ovaries removed that year, but went on to develop cancer ten times in a decade.

Many people have taken to Twitter to express their sadness and to honour her memory.

[So Much Sadness As Author Emma Hannigan Passes Away](#)

rollercoaster.ie - 03/03/2018

The 45-year old mum-of-two recently revealed that she was nearing the end of her long-running battle with the disease. She had fought cancer 10 times.

After she revealed on her website that her cancer was terminal, she turned her attentions to raising funds for Breast Cancer Ireland (BCI), which backs pioneering research into the disease. She recently revealed that â,~100,000 had been raised.

"It's never too late to dream big, keep dreaming," she wrote to followers on Twitter. "Thank you so much, please keep those donations coming in and don't stop until we reach the top," she added.

Thousands of people have been supporting her CURE campaign and have also helped her new book 'Letters to my Daughters' reach the top spot in Ireland, with Dubray Books also donating all profits to BCI.

The inspirational author discovered in 2005 that she was carrying the BRCA 1 cancer gene, which meant an 85 per cent chance of developing breast cancer and a 50 per cent chance of ovarian cancer.

To reduce her risk to five per cent, she had surgery to remove her breasts, ovaries and fallopian tubes.

In spite of the surgery, she was diagnosed with cancer for the first time in 2007, and her 11-year battle began.

Speaking about her terminal diagnosis in a blog post last month, she said, "Faced with very little time can I tell you what screams out at me? Love.

"Nothing else has much meaning anymore. Just the love I feel for the people I hold dear. My two babies (ok they both tower over me, but I'm still allowed call them my babies) my husband, my parents, my family, my friends and readers."

Tributes have started to pour in for the author. Breast Cancer Ireland, of which she was an ambassador, tweeted, "BCI wish to extend our deepest sympathies to the family of our dear friend Emma Hannigan who lost her battle with cancer earlier today. RIP".

[Irish author Emma Hannigan passes away following long battle with breast cancer](#)
breakingnews.ie - 03/03/2018

Breast Cancer Ireland confirmed the news this afternoon and offered the sympathies to Emma's family and friends.

Emma revealed last month, in a post on her website, that she did not have long to live.

"The time that I knew was borrowed must be given back soon, so it seems," she wrote.

"The conversation I never wanted to have has been said.

"My medical team have thrown everything but the kitchen sink at this fight but all avenues have now been exhausted.

"To say that I am heartbroken doesn't begin to cover it."

Emma wrote several best-selling books, including her most recent book Letters to my Daughters - which topped the Irish charts last month.

The mother-of-two has battled cancer ten times after discovering in 2006 she carries the BrCa1 gene, which increased her risk of developing breast and ovarian cancer. She had her breasts and ovaries removed that year, but went on to develop cancer ten times in a decade.

Many people have taken to Twitter to express their sadness and to honour her memory.

[Author Emma Hannigan Has Died](#)
todayfm.com - 03/03/2018

Breast Cancer Ireland confirmed the news this afternoon.

Her most recent novel Letters to my Daughters topped the Irish charts only last month.

In 2005, Emma discovered she had a cancer-carrying gene, and since then faced 10 cancer battles.

Speaking about her experiences with the disease, she wrote: "I have found a wonderful outlet in the form of writing. If I had never been ill, I may never have started writing books."

In a blog post in February, she revealed the cancer was terminal.

She is survived by her husband Cian, son Sacha and daughter Kim.

Tributes were paid to Emma today across social media:

[Terminally ill Emma Hannigan reaches her Breast Cancer Ireland fundraising target of €100k](#)
rsvpmagazine.ie - 01/03/2018

Just two weeks ago the author announced that she would be raising the money as her longterm battle with cancer comes to an end.

After 10 bouts with the disease the 45-year-old has revealed that she has reached the end of her battle and that that her treatments are no longer working.

Now she says that doctors have done all they can and that, "all avenues have now been exhausted."

Emma has been calling for the public to donate to the CURE campaign to reach a €100,000 and it has taken only a few days to get there.

In a tweet the author said: "Our €100,000 goal has been reached. It's never 2 late 2 dream big, keep dreaming.

"Thank you so much, please keep those donations coming in and don't stop until we reach the top #HelpEmmaHelpOthers."

Just last week Emma's new book Letters To My Daughters got to number one.

Dubray Books are also supporting Emma by donating profits from book sales to the BCI.

In a heartbreaking post, the author said her goodbyes to her friends and family.

She said: "The conversation I never wanted to have has been said.

"My medical team have thrown everything but the kitchen sink at this fight but all avenues have now been exhausted. To say that I am heartbroken doesn't begin to cover it.

"But I feel I'd like to say something, after all that's what I've done over the years - say stuff, write stuff and tell you what's going down. So I feel it wouldn't be fair to leave you out in the cold right now

"I've gained such strength from all of you. We've shared tips and hints and stories over the years. For all of it - thank you."

She continued that she's "faced with very little time" and says that right now she is thinking about nothing more than love.

Emma said: "Nothing else has much meaning anymore. Just the love I feel for the people I hold dear. My two babies (ok they both tower over me, but I'm still allowed call them my babies) my husband, my parents, my family, my friends and readers. Yes you guys are up there on the short list. You've been an integral part of my existence and have championed me and held me in your virtual arms.

"The love in my heart is all that matters now. I am broken-hearted at having to say goodbye so if it's alright we'll say farewell instead. Mind each other. Be kind to each other and hold those you love close by.

"Life is so very precious. We never know the day or hour that it will be whipped away. So fill your days with as much happiness as you can muster.

"Stay away from drains, we all know them, they're the people pull the good out of everything. The ones who suck the beauty from things and change colour to black and white. Leave them to fester - I think they're secretly enjoying being grim.

"Instead, gravitate towards the light and laughter. Like a moth to a flame, remembering not to get your pretty wings burnt. You'll like it better there, I promise.

"Farewell and thank you, I am taking a bow. Until we meet again may all that is good and decent be yours."

Since first discovering she had the BRCA1 gene in 2005, Emma had cancer - and beat it - ten times in ten years

The mother-of-two has always been open and honest about her illness, and never let it define her.

In February 2006, Emma had a double mastectomy and the following July she had both ovaries removed. However, pre-cancerous cells in her breasts resulted a sad diagnosis a year later and she was hit with the life-threatening disease ten times over the past decade.

She previously told RSVP Magazine: "To try and look on the bright side of things. I know some days it's hard but if you can convince yourself that you're in a good mood, you can be. If you go around in a bad mood and think everything is awful, everything does go wrong. Life is precious so you should enjoy it."

Emma's book Letters To My Daughters is available [here](#).

[President Michael D. Higgins Pays Tribute to Author Emma Hannigan](#)

hotpress.com - 05/03/2018

President Michal D. Higgins has paid tribute to the Irish author Emma Hannigan, who has died as a result of cancer.

"It is with great sadness that I have learned of the death of Emma Hannigan - a campaigner to the end," the President said.

"Emma Hannigan leaves a lasting legacy not only through her work as a much appreciated author, but also through her exemplary courage in dealing with terminal illness.

"She will be remembered as a powerful advocate for Breast Cancer Ireland, a great cause worthy of all of our support."

President Higgins' wife Sabina Higgins joined him in a final word of condolence to Emma's family.

"To her husband Cian," the President said,"her son Sacha and daughter Kim, and to her wider family and circle of friends, Sabina and I send our deepest sympathies."

A prolific writer, Emma Hannigan wrote 14 books in all, since her debut Designer Genes (2010). Her latest Letters To My Daughters (2018) was a No.1 best-seller.

In 2005, Emma Hannigan discovered that she was carrying the BRCA 1 cancer gene. This meant she had an 85% chance of developing breast cancer; and a 5/50 chance in relation to ovarian cancer.

She decided to take decisive action, to reduce the risk to 5%. Emma opted to have preventative surgery: the following year, she underwent a double mastectomy and had her ovaries and fallopian tubes removed.

However, despite the surgery, in 2007, she was diagnosed with cancer. In the intervening decade she has fought a brave battle against a disease that knows no boundaries.

"Today, my Emma found peace," her husband Cian said, in a Facebook post. "She bravely fought a battle against a foe with no mercy. Emma was the epitome of strength, love and generosity, beyond anything I have ever known.

"She loved her family, loved her friends, and she left a trail of glitter and joy throughout her life ! with of course added tinsel at Christmas.

"She was my wife and soul mate. Mother of my beautiful children, A friend to many and an inspiration to thousands. A loving daughter. Devoted mother

"Best selling Author. Fundraiser. Public speaker. Chef. And Shopaholic..."

"She was my guiding star and my hug to say everything would be ok," he said. "But mostly she was just my Emma, and I would need her wonderful gift with words to tell you just how much I will miss her."

[Emma Hannigan's husband pays heartbreaking tribute to late author](#)
evoked.ie - 04/03/2018

He shared the heartbreaking message on the late author's Facebook page on Sunday morning.

'Emma was the epitome of strength, love and generosity, beyond anything I have ever known,' he wrote.

'She loved her family, loved her friends, and she left a trail of glitter and joy throughout her life ; with of course added tinsel at Christmas.'

'She was my wife and soul mate. Mother of my beautiful children. A friend to many and an inspiration to thousands.'

'A loving daughter. Devoted mother. Best selling Author. Fundraiser. Public speaker. Chef. And Shopaholic ; ;'

'She was my guiding star and my hug to say everything would be ok.'

'But mostly she was just my Emma, and I would need her wonderful gift with words to tell you just how much I will miss her,' he wrote.

Emma passed away Saturday morning following an 11-year battle with cancer. After revealing that she didn't have long to live, she spent her last days raising money for Breast Cancer Ireland.

The author was ambassador for Breast Cancer Ireland and shared with fans that over â,~100,000 had been raised by their efforts.

Her final book, Letters to my Daughter, became a number one best seller when her fans began a campaign to get it to the top of the charts.

Dubray Books supported Emma's cause by donating all profits from the novel to the Irish Cancer Society. Bookstore Eason also made donations to Breast Cancer Ireland in line with Emma's wishes.

Pic: Emma Hannigan.

Pic: Facebook.

'Emma was the epitome of strength, love and generosity, beyond anything I have ever known'- husband of late author Emma Hannigan pays poignant tribute
independent.ie - 04/03/2018

He wrote on Emma's Facebook page: "Emma was the epitome of strength, love and generosity, beyond anything I have ever known. She loved her family, loved her friends, and she left a trail of glitter and joy throughout her life ; with of course added tinsel at Christmas.

"She was my wife and soul mate, mother of my beautiful children, a friend to many and an inspiration to thousands."

Emma passed away Saturday morning following an 11-year battle with cancer. After the best-selling author recently revealed that she did not have long to live, she turned her efforts to raising money for Breast Cancer Ireland.

The Wicklow native was an ambassador for Breast Cancer Ireland, and shared with fans that over â,~100,000 had been raised by their efforts.

"It's never too late to dream big, keep dreaming," Emma wrote online following the announcement that the campaign's â,~100,000 goal had been reached. "Thank you so much, please keep those donations coming and don't stop until we reach the top."

The mother of two was also the inspiration of another campaign supported by her fellow writers to make her final novel, Letters to my Daughters, a number one bestseller.

Last week, the campaign reached its goal when the novel sold 4,065 copies, according to the official book sales monitor Nielsen. The book was Ireland's bestselling title by a landslide last week, ahead of the second-bestseller, The Year That Changed Everything, by Cathy Kelly which sold 1,893 copies.

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In 2005, Emma discovered she was carrying the Brca 1 cancer gene, giving her a 85pc chance of developing breast cancer and a 50pc chance of developing ovarian cancer.

The following year, she had a double mastectomy and had her ovaries and fallopian tubes removed to reduce this risk to 5pc. Despite the preventative surgery, she was diagnosed with cancer in 2007 and battled the disease bravely till the end of her life.

Her past novels include Designer Genes, Miss Conceived, The Pink Ladies Club, Keeping Mum, Perfect Wives, Driving Home for Christmas, The Summer Guest, The Heart of Winter, The Secrets We Share and memoir, Talk to the Headscarf.

Cian helped his wife through her battle with cancer as well as with her campaign to help others going through a similar fight. He took to her social media and wrote posts on her behalf to continue to gain support and donations for BCI.

He wrote: "She was my guiding star and my hug to say everything would be ok. But mostly she was just my Emma, and I would need her wonderful gift with words to tell you just how much I will miss her

['A campaigner to the end': Michael D Higgins pays tribute to author Emma Hannigan](#)
thejournal.ie - 04/03/2018

Hannigan had revealed less than two weeks ago that her 11-year battle with the disease had become terminal.

"My medical team have thrown everything but the kitchen sink at this fight but all avenues have now been exhausted," Hannigan wrote in a blog post announcing the news.

"To say that I'm heartbroken doesn't begin to cover it," she said.

In a statement, the president described Hannigan as a "campaigner to the end".

He said: "It is with great sadness that I have learned of the death of Emma Hannigan - a campaigner to the end.

"Emma Hannigan leaves a lasting legacy not only through her work as a much appreciated author, but also through her exemplary courage in dealing with terminal illness.

"She will be remembered as a powerful advocate for Breast Cancer Ireland, a great cause worthy of all of our support.

"To her husband Cian, her son Sacha and daughter Kim, and to her wider family and circle of friends, Sabina and I send our deepest sympathies."

Following the revelation that she had only a few weeks to live, several of her writer colleagues joined forces in a bid to push her latest novel, Letters to my Daughters (published on 9 February), to the top spot on the bestseller list.

On the back of that social media movement, Dubray Books announced that it would donate all profits from Letters to my Daughters to Breast Cancer Ireland, of which Hannigan was an ambassador.

Hannigan was first diagnosed with the disease, one she went on to battle a harrowing 10 times, in 2007.

Image: Twitter /Emma Hannigan Image: Twitter /Emma Hannigan.

[Tributes pour in for Emma Hannigan after author tragically dies at 45](#)
evoked.ie - 04/03/2018

Breast Cancer Ireland announced that the author, who raised over €100,000 for the charity in recent days, passed away on Saturday morning.

Tributes began to roll in for Emma, who is survived by her two children and her husband.

TV3 presenter, Elaine Crowley shared a heartbreaking tribute to the author, which read: 'Our lovely and beautiful friend Emma Hannigan has lost her battle to Cancer.'

'She was such an inspiration to all of us and will be sadly missed. Our thoughts are with her family. She will always be in our hearts.'

Breast Cancer Ireland wrote: 'BCI wish to extend our deepest sympathies to the family of our dear friend Emma Hannigan who lost her battle with cancer earlier today. RIP.'

Presenter Norah Casey tweeted: 'Such sad news - a wonderful courageous woman just left our world - my heartfelt condolences to her wonderful family.'

Irish Times journalist Roisin Ingle shared a tribute to Emma, saying: 'She was a very special woman who gave so much of herself and brought a lot of joy. Thinking of Emma Hannigan's family and friends tonight ;.'

Holly Carpenter simply wrote: 'Rest in Peace Emma Hannigan.'

The president, Michael D Higgins, made a statement which read: 'It is great sadness that I have learned of the death of Emma Hannigan - a campaigner to the end.'

'Emma Hannigan leaves a lasting legacy not only through her work as a much appreciated author, but also through her exemplary courage in dealing with terminal illness.

'She will be remembered as a powerful advocate for Breast Cancer Ireland, a great cause worthy of all of our support.

'To her husband Cian, her son Sacha and daughter Kim, and to her wider family and circle of friends, Sabina and I send our deepest sympathies.'

Pic: Facebook.

[Author Emma Hannigan passes away after 11-year battle with cancer](http://independent.ie/regional/corkman)
independent.ie/regional/corkman - 03/03/2018

The 45-year old mother-of-two recently revealed that she was nearing the end of her long-running battle with the disease. She had fought cancer 10 times and passed away this morning.

After she revealed on her website that her cancer was terminal, she turned her attentions to raising funds for Breast Cancer Ireland (BCI), which backs pioneering research into the disease. She recently revealed that â,~100,000 had been raised.

"It's never too late to dream big, keep dreaming," she told her followers on Twitter. "Thank you so much, please keep those donations coming in and don't stop until we reach the top," she added.

Thousands of people have been supporting her CURE campaign and have also helped her new book 'Letters to my Daughters' reach the top spot in Ireland, with Dubray Books also donating all profits to BCI.

The inspirational author discovered in 2005 that she was carrying the BRCA 1 cancer gene, which meant an 85 per cent chance of developing breast cancer and a 50 per cent chance of ovarian cancer.

[Emma Hannigan has sadly lost her battle with cancer](#)
vipmagazine.ie - 03/03/2018

The news was announced today on Twitter by Breast Cancer Ireland who 'expressed their deepest sympathies' to the fantastic woman and her family.

In her battle with the disease, she raised over â,-100,000 for breast cancer in Ireland and raised awareness for other sufferers and survivors.

Our deepest sympathies go out to Emma's family and friends.

[Spin 103.8 radio star Georgie Crawford reveals fight against breast cancer](#)
irishmirror.ie - 02/03/2018

Radio star Georgie Crawford has revealed she is determined to fight breast cancer after being diagnosed with the disease aged 32.

The Spin 103.8 entertainment editor was told the dreaded news when her baby girl Pia was just seven months old.

Georgie said: "I breastfed Pia for five months and when I was getting ready to go back to work I found a lump on my breast in the middle of the night.

"I was diagnosed with breast cancer the next week.

"There was no cancer in my family and I breastfed so I thought it would never ever happen to me. I wasn't breast aware, it wasn't on my to-do list to have a check after having a baby."

The popular Dublin radio star is urging young women to be on their guard about the disease.

She told the Irish Mirror: "When I got cancer I was so shocked I'd lie in bed repeating to myself, 'I have cancer, I have cancer'.

"You just never think at the age of 32 this is going to happen to you, but it's happening to loads of young people.

"This is why I decided to speak out to urge young girls to check their breasts. I still had stage two breast cancer but it hadn't spread to my lymph nodes." Georgie appealed for new mums to make their health a top priority.

She added: "When you first have a baby you are on the bottom of your to-do list, baby comes first, then your husband and you don't have a clue what you're doing.

"You don't get a smear because you can't get a babysitter and you don't get your moles checked, but you need to be on top of your health and make yourself a priority.

"I was diagnosed in October and had surgery two weeks later to remove the cancer and I was really lucky it hadn't spread.

"After I had my surgery they told me I'd need 22 weeks of chemotherapy and four weeks of radiotherapy."

Panicked that chemo would make her infertile Georgie took action and got her eggs frozen.

She said: "I had a few weeks while I healed from my surgery and did IVF so we have 14 embryos up in the Beacon.

"They told me there was an 80% chance after chemo that my fertility would come back but I couldn't risk it."

The inspiring mum started treatment on December 18 and was told she'd lose her hair on the first week of January.

She admitted: "Losing your hair is a small price to pay for being alive, but when they tell you you're going to lose it there's always that small bit of hope that maybe the chemo they give you won't.

"The thoughts of losing it was worse than the reality and seeing it falling out was very tough.

"So I decided to shave it all off and I had a gorgeous night up in my house with my nearest and dearest. My hairdresser who was there on my wedding day came up.

"We had lovely candles and nice music and shaved my head and once it was done I could move on."

Georgie said her one-year-old daughter helps her face the day.

She added: "Pia gets me up every morning and she forces me to face the day. She's the first thing I think about in the morning, not the fact I've got cancer.

"I was determined not to let this cancer take away from her first year.

"It was such a disaster in my life to get it but when I found out it hadn't spread I was determined to focus on the silver lining and getting better.

"I've tried every day to be positive and when Pia goes to bed I can fall apart with my husband Jamie."

Georgie is battling it out against a whole host of celebs for Battle Of The Stars in aid of Breast Cancer Ireland on April 14 at Dublin's Clayton Hotel.

She said: "It's nice for me to get out and see people and have a bit of craic and raise awareness at the same time, there are great people doing it like Holly Carpenter and James Patrice.

"I rehearse for one hour a week and they're really considerate of how I'm feeling and they tell me to take it at my own pace.

"I'm doing the cha cha and it's hard to learn the steps and I've never been that co-ordinated but we're having such fun."

Georgie Crawford with her daughter Pia.

Georgie Crawford.

Georgie Crawford and dance partner Darragh Stokes.

[Emma Hannigan remembered as 'epitome of strength' who left 'trail of glitter' by husband](#)
extra.ie - 04/03/2018

Cian described Emma, 45, who passed away on Saturday after battling cancer for 11 years, as his 'soul mate', and said she was an inspiration to thousands.

The mum-of-two left a legacy of bestselling novels - her latest book Letters to my Daughters is currently number one in Ireland - as well as a whopping â,~100,000 for charity.

Writing on Emma's Facebook page, Cian said: 'Today, my Emma found peace.

'She bravely fought a battle against a foe with no mercy.

'Emma was the epitome of strength, love and generosity, beyond anything I have ever known.

'She loved her family, loved her friends, and she left a trail of glitter and joy throughout her life ¦ with of course added tinsel at Christmas.

'She was my wife and soul mate. Mother of my beautiful children. A friend to many and an inspiration to thousands. A loving daughter. Devoted mother. Bestselling author. Fundraiser. Public speaker. Chef. And Shopaholic ¦ '

'She was my guiding star and my hug to say everything would be ok.

'But mostly she was just my Emma, and I would need her wonderful gift with words to tell you just how much I will miss her.'

Already an established novelist, Emma first revealed back in 2005 that she was carrying the BRCA 1 cancer gene.

She made the decision to have surgery to remove her breasts, ovaries and fallopian tubes. But unfortunately in 2007 Emma revealed that she had been diagnosed with cancer for the first time.

The author and TV talk show regular would go on to battle the disease 10 more times, before revealing in February of this year that there was no more doctors could do for her.

On her blog, Emma shared with fans: 'Faced with very little time can I tell you what screams out at me? Love.

'Nothing else has much meaning anymore. Just the love I feel for the people I hold dear. My two babies (ok they both tower over me, but I'm still allowed call them my babies) my husband, my parents, my family, my friends and readers.'

On Saturday, Breast Cancer Ireland, of which Emma was an ambassador, and for who she raised â,~100,000 through fundraising, wrote on Twitter: 'BCI wish to extend our deepest sympathies to the family of our dear friend Emma Hannigan who lost her battle with cancer earlier today. RIP.'

Dubray Books, publisher of Letters to my Daughter, announced that it would be donating all proceeds of the book to the Irish Cancer Society in Emma's honour.

Eason book shop also announced it would make a donation to Breast Cancer Ireland in Emma's honour.

Her friend and TV3 colleague Elaine Crowley already unveiled a unicorn tattoo which she got in honour of Emma.

And Irish people, including President Michael D Higgins, have been paying tribute to the late writer on social media in their droves since yesterday.

Emma Hannigan, 45, passed away on Saturday. Pic: VPIreland.

Author Emma Hannigan's latest book Letters to My Daughter reached number one on the bestseller list. Pic: Collins Photos.

Emma's friend, TV3 presenter Elaine Crowley, got inked with a unicorn design in honour of Emma. Pic: TV3.

Emma's husband has paid a touching tribute to the late author on Facebook. Pic: Charlie Collins.

Mum-of-two Emma shared with fans just two weeks ago that her cancer was terminal after 11 years battling the illness. Pic: Collins Photos.

[Emma Hannigan's husband speaks of how he has lost his soul mate](#)
beat102103.com - 04/03/2018

Cian, who was married to Emma for two decades, took to his wife's Facebook page in an outpouring of love for her.

He posted: "Today, my Emma found peace. She bravely fought a battle against a foe with no mercy.

"Emma was the epitome of strength, love and generosity, beyond anything I have ever known.

"She loved her family, loved her friends, and she left a trail of glitter and joy throughout her life ; with of course added tinsel at Christmas.

"She was my wife and soul mate. Mother of my beautiful children, A friend to many and an inspiration to thousands. A loving daughter. Devoted mother

"Best selling Author. Fundraiser. Public speaker. Chef. And Shopaholic ; ;"

He added: "She was my guiding star and my hug to say everything would be ok. But mostly she was just my Emma, and I would need her wonderful gift with words to tell you just how much I will miss her."

Funeral arrangements are being finalised following the bestselling author's death in a south Dublin hospital at 1.30pm on Saturday following an 11-year battle with cancer.

The mother of two teenagers slipped away peacefully surrounded by her husband Cian, son Sacha, daughter Kim and her parents.

The Wicklow native revealed she had terminal cancer just over two weeks ago and launched a fundraising campaign for Breast Cancer Ireland, for which she was an ambassador.

The goal of raising â,-100,000 was reached in 10 days - a sum she vowed to reach for BCI.

Dubray Books also supporting the cause by donating all profits made to the Irish Cancer Society while, bookstore Eason, also said that they would be making donations to BCI.

It is understood that Emma may be buried close to her home in Bray, Co Wicklow, with Fr Gerry Byrne, chaplain at Blackrock Clinic, co-officiating at her funeral Mass.

The author of 13 books had pleaded with the public to keep donating any spare cash to medical research and the goal was reached within two weeks of Emma making the appeal.

As well as being a hugely successful and award-winning author, she was also known as a TV personality and blogger, Emma revealed her devastating cancer diagnosis 17 days ago, confirming that her health battle was coming to an end after 11 years.

Shortly after her passing, Breast Cancer Ireland (BCI) tweeted: "We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the family of our dear friend Emma Hannigan who lost her battle with cancer earlier today. RIP."

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Majella O'Donnell wife of country singer Daniel, who herself fought breast cancer also tweeted, "So very sad to hear of the passing of Emma Hannigan. She inspired me at a very difficult time and I am thinking of her family and friends tonight.

"She fought such an amazing battle. You have left your mark in this world Emma. Life can be so unfair !"

Former broadcaster, and now political advisor to TÃnaiste Simon Conveney, Chris Donoghue added: "So sad at the death of as bright a light. We once spoke of guilt you feel surviving a serious illness when someone like her kept getting knocked back.

"She told me to say it in how you live, not an apology. Extraordinary person, moved mountains."

Her heart-wrenching Facebook post revealing she was losing her fight to stay alive, saw an outpouring of emotion from thousands of reading fans, and authors from here and around the world.

Her latest book, Letters to My Daughters, went to Number One across several categories on the best selling chart within days of her emotional post.

When revealing her sad news Emma said: "All good things must come to an end. The time that I knew was borrowed must be given back soon, so it seems.

"The conversation I never wanted to have has been said. "My medical team have thrown everything but the kitchen sink at this fight but all avenues have now been exhausted."

The author, blogger and TV personality, spoke openly about her love for her husband and children, parents family, friends and fans adding that her love for them has been integral to her life.

"Faced with very little time can I tell you what screams out at me? Love.

"Nothing else has much meaning anymore. Just the love I feel for the people I hold dear.

"My two babies, (ok they both tower over me, but I'm still allowed call them my babies) my husband, my parents, my family, my friends and readers."

In 2005, she discovered that she was carrying the Brca 1 cancer gene. This meant she had an 85% chance of developing breast cancer and a 50% chance of developing ovarian cancer.

To reduce her risk to 5%, the brave mum opted for preventative surgery. In 2006 Emma had a double mastectomy and had her ovaries and fallopian tubes removed.

However, in 2007, in spite of the surgery, she was diagnosed with cancer for the first time and her lengthy battle ensued.

Repair works are underway to return power to thousands of customers.

Wexford remains worst affected - with 6,000 homes, farms and businesses still waiting for service to be restored.

There is a risk the melting snow will cause some localised flooding.

Iarnród Áireann expects to run a full service on the vast majority of routes today.

The company said its staff have worked flat out in extremely difficult conditions to clear lines and points from snow.

The majority of Bus Áireann services are operating with some cancellations in the east.

Dublin Bus is offering a limited service while the Luas is operating on the Red Line from the Point to Red Cow. It will be mid-morning at the earliest before the Green Line service resumes.

An 83-year-old woman has died in a house fire in north Longford.

Gardaí were called to the scene at a house in Abbeylara shortly after 7pm last night.

The woman's body was found inside after firefighters brought the blaze under control.

Her body has been removed Mullingar Hospital for a post-mortem examination and the scene is preserved for technical examination.

President Michael D Higgins has led the tributes to best selling Irish author, Emma Hannigan.

The Wicklow native died at the age of 45 yesterday.

She revealed on social media last month that her breast cancer had become terminal.

It prompted a fundraising effort in her name which has raised a €100,000 for Breast Cancer Ireland.

It is that time of year again - the Oscars take place in Los Angeles later.

Saoirse Ronan is nominated for Best Actress for her role in Ladybird - while Martin McDonagh's Three Billboards Outside Ebbing Missouri will be hoping to win big.

Daniel Day-Lewis could also walk away with an Academy award - he's up for Best Actor in Phantom Thread.

[Tributes paid to author Emma Hannigan who has passed away after 11-year cancer battle](#)
extra.ie - 03/03/2018

The 45-year-old mum-of-two had been battling cancer for the last 11 years.

Bestseller Emma had revealed just two weeks ago that after fighting cancer 10 times, there was nothing more doctors could do for her.

Emma Hannigan and pal Elaine Crowley, who got a unicorn tattoo in honour of the author. Pic: TV3

In the last couple of weeks, Emma had managed to raise a whopping â,~100,000 for Breast Cancer Ireland, and her latest book, Letters to my Daughters, reached number one on the bestsellers list.

Speaking just days ago via her Twitter page, Emma wrote: 'It's never too late to dream big, keep dreaming. Thank you so much, please keep those donations coming in and don't stop until we reach the top.'

Among those paying tribute to the bestselling novelist today were broadcaster Maia Dunphy, who wrote on Twitter 'The news we never wanted to hear. Even in her last days, @MsEmmaHannigan was still blazing a trail.

Emma first revealed her battle with cancer back in 2007. She fought off the disease 10 times since then. Pic: Fran Veale

'Her book reached number one and she raised over 100k for @BreastCancerIre. Just extraordinary. Love and thoughts with Cian, Sacha and Kim. We miss her light already. XX'

The Elaine Show on TV3, hosted by Elaine Crowley, a long-time friend of Emma's, also tweeted on Saturday.

Elaine Crowley had previously revealed that she would get a tattoo to remember her friend. Elaine, 40, got a unicorn inked in honour of Emma.

Emma first revealed that she was carrying the BRCA 1 cancer gene back in 2005.

She made the decision to have surgery to remove her breasts, ovaries and fallopian tubes to minimise her risk of getting cancer.

Elaine Crowley got inked while supporting Breast cancer Ireland. Pic: TV3

But in 2007, the young mum shared the news that she had been diagnosed with the disease.

In a heartfelt post on her blog a few weeks ago, Emma shared the news with her fans that her cancer was now terminal.

She told them that 'love' was screaming out at her.

Emma Hannigan was a bestselling author and a mum to two daughters. Pic: Collins

'Faced with very little time can I tell you what screams out at me? Love.

'Nothing else has much meaning anymore. Just the love I feel for the people I hold dear. My two babies (ok they both tower over me, but I'm still allowed call them my babies) my husband, my parents, my family, my friends and readers.'

Breast Cancer Ireland, of which Emma was an ambassador, tweeted on Sunday: 'BCI wish to extend our deepest sympathies to the family of our dear friend Emma Hannigan who lost her battle with cancer earlier today. RIP.'

[Irish author Emma Hannigan passes away following long battle with breast cancer](#)
irisht Examiner.com - 03/03/2018

Breast Cancer Ireland confirmed the news this afternoon and offered the sympathies to Emma's family and friends.

Emma revealed last month, in a post on her website, that she did not have long to live.

"The time that I knew was borrowed must be given back soon, so it seems," she wrote.

"The conversation I never wanted to have has been said.

"My medical team have thrown everything but the kitchen sink at this fight but all avenues have now been exhausted.

"To say that I am heartbroken doesn't begin to cover it."

Emma wrote several best-selling books, including her most recent book Letters to my Daughters - which topped the Irish charts last month.

The mother-of-two has battled cancer ten times after discovering in 2006 she carries the BrCa1 gene, which increased her risk of developing breast and ovarian cancer. She had her breasts and ovaries removed that year, but went on to develop cancer ten times in a decade.

Many people have taken to Twitter to express their sadness and to honour her memory.

[Irish radio star Georgie Crawford is battling breast cancer at age 32](#)

[evoked.ie](#) - 02/03/2018

The mum of one learned that she had cancer after finding a lump while breast feeding her seven month old daughter Pia, and the SPIN 103.8 star is urging young Irish women to get checked.

'I breastfed Pia for five months and when I was getting ready to go back to work I found a lump on my breast in the middle of the night,' Georgie told the Irish Mirror.

'I was diagnosed with breast cancer the next week.'

The star admits that there is 'no cancer' history' in her family and that she was lucky to find it before it reached her lymph nodes.

Now, Georgie is urging young Irish mothers to make their health a priority, even if they are run ragged looking after a baby.

'When you first have a baby you are on the bottom of your to-do list, baby comes first, then your husband and you don't have a clue what you're doing.'

'I was diagnosed in October and had surgery two weeks later to remove the cancer and I was really lucky it hadn't spread.'

Post surgery Georgie began 22 weeks of chemotherapy and four weeks of radiotherapy, for which she shaved her head.

She also took action and froze her eggs in the event she was left infertile.

'I had a few weeks while I healed from my surgery and did IVF so we have 14 embryos up in the Beacon.

'They told me there was an 80% chance after chemo that my fertility would come back but I couldn't risk it.'

Georgie is battling it out against a whole host of celebs for Battle Of The Stars in aid of Breast Cancer Ireland on April 14 at Dublin's Clayton Hotel.

For more information about getting your breasts checked, go to [breastcheck.ie](#).

ROSCREA

Roscrea Trail Blazers

There was no walk last week because of the poor weather conditions. The next day trip is to Keeper Hill on Saturday March 24.

This Thursday March 8 sees the Trail Blazers keeping it local once again with a walk along the Roscrea Sli na Slainte, meeting at The Fountain Rosemary Square at 7pm.

Now that the evenings have closed in they are back to walking in the dark. This is still a great way to keep fit over the winter and can be quite a positive experience walking under the night's sky. The Trail Blazers would like to put out an open invitation to the general public to join them at some point on their winter walks programme for 2018. Walking is a great way to get into shape as well as being a great way to meet new friends and see new places.

The Trail Blazers website www.roscreatrailblazers.com is up and running with a list of 13 day trips over the coming months and they encourage you to give it a look and see what the group have planned for 2018 with a proposed day out to Slieve Donard in the North of Ireland, Tountinna Lough Derg, and a return to Lough Dan in Wicklow to name but a few. A map reading and GPS training course in is also on the cards.

If you would like to join the group on any of their walks you can contact Cathal on (086) 3399193 with an expression of interest. You will be made very welcome.

Buses To Rally For Life

The Rally For Life is taking place in Dublin on Saturday March 10. Buses travelling from Roscrea. Please contact Paul at (087) 4324602 for further information.

Choose Life 2018. www.chooselife2018.ie. The website, administered by the Catholic Communications Office, encourages discussion in families on the value of every human life, from conception to natural death.

Tower At Church Of Ireland

A slide show will be held in the Methodist Hall, The Mall, Roscrea on Wednesday March 7 at 8pm to give an up to date account of the work carried out so far on the tower at the Church of Ireland in Roscrea.

Mr Henry Thompson, Conservation Builder, who has undertaken the restoration work, will attend to explain the intricateness of the stonework on this historic building. Extensive photographing was done of all stages of the work which Mr Thompson will share on the night. This promises to be an informative

evening. Everyone is welcome.

Enrolment

St Cronan's National School, Rosemount, Roscrea Open Day will be held on Thursday March 22 from 1pm. This is a great opportunity for parents to come and visit the school, meet with teachers, hear about the variety of activities the school participate in and also the bus travel available.

If you are unable to attend the Open Day you can contact the school on (0505) 21636 and they will arrange a more suitable time. Application forms can be collected from the school or call the above number and one can be posted out to you.

Roscrea Red Cross Food Distribution

The Roscrea branch of the Irish Red Cross are operating a "Food Cloud" every Wednesday between 12.30pm and 1pm at the Parish Centre, Roscrea. The surplus food donated by Tesco is available free of charge to those who need it.

Killavilla Drama Group

Killavilla Drama Group presents Happy Birthday Dear Alice in Killavilla Hall from March 15 to March 18 at 8pm nightly. This comedy by Bernard Farrell is directed by Paul Spencer. Admission only by booking on (086) 4113520.

Cookery Demonstration

Cookery Demonstration in aid St Cronan's National School, Rosemount, by Ailish Hennessy, Fiacri House, in Racket Hall Hotel on Wednesday March 21 at 8pm. Doors open at 7pm. Local food and craft exhibition on display.

Daffodil Day - March 23

There are currently 165,000 people living with cancer in Ireland. 40,000 more will be diagnosed with cancer or a related tumour this year. More people are surviving cancer now than ever before thanks to life saving research. The Irish Cancer Society provides huge care and support to people and only 2% of their funds come from the state. Therefore they are hugely dependant on the generosity of the public to fund vital services such as night nurses, volunteer drivers and free phone cancer nurse line to name but a few. None of this would be possible without the strong support for Daffodil Day across Ireland.

Roscrea is a great supporter of Daffodil Day

and this year they are looking for their regular volunteers and anybody else interested in



working with them to contact Pamela Landy on (086) 1750913.

Those wishing to contribute fresh daffodils can also do so. For support and services contact the Irish Cancer Society on 1800 200 700.

Breast Cancer Ireland Fundraiser

Tommy's Bar at The White House, Roscrea have teamed up with Breast Cancer Ireland, to hold an Easter Festival of Darts. Tommy Murphy from Tommy's Bar has put together a committee to run a Ladies Darts Tournament for fun with all proceeds going to Breast Cancer Ireland. They are currently looking for 32 ladies to participate, 16 teams of two ladies will be randomly picked. The winning team will receive a weekend away in a beautiful hotel in Ireland. Breast Cancer Ireland are asking for support from all local businesses, clubs, organisations and individuals to come on board and make this an enjoyable weekend and more importantly raise much needed funds for this great cause. For more information please contact The White House (0505) 21996, Tommy Murphy (089) 4974797.

Annual Lenten Retreat

Annual Lenten Retreat will be held in Mt St Joseph Monastery on Sunday March 18, commencing with Concelebrated Mass at 10.30am – closing at 5pm. 12pm - Welcoming address by Br. Malachy. 1pm - Lunch. 2pm – Address by Fr Pat. Treacy, Co-PP 3pm - Divine Mercy Chaplet, Confessions, Adoration. 4pm - Afternoon Tea. 4.30pm - Holy Rosary and closing Prayers. This Retreat (organised by the Legion) is very well attended every year so early booking is advised. For further details and booking ring Mary McGee – (086) 405 5570 or Paula Sutton – (087) 742 7307 or Mgt Ryan (087) 150 9522.

St Padre Pio Mass

St Padre Pio Mass will be celebrated on Thursday March 15 at St Brendan's Church, Birr. Rosary at 7.15pm. Mass at 7.30pm. All welcome.

Cloughmoyle Whist

Cloughmoyle whist will be held on this Saturday night. All are welcome.

It Could Be You!

Have you an hour a week to spare to befriend an elderly person in the community. Roscrea

Cares-Age Friendly Roscrea now housed in the beautifully restored courthouse is looking for volunteers to visit or phone a member of the community even once a week. For further information contact Anne Keevey (083) 1133987.

Irish Classes

Irish Classes have resumed in Scoil an tSli Dala Ballaghmore on Tuesday nights starting at 7pm. Beginners welcome. All classes are free. For details contact (0505) 41810 after 1pm.

Clonlisk NS Show

Clonlisk NS proudly presents their school show "Shrekcellent" in Shinrone Hall on Friday March 16 at 7pm. It promises to be a wonderful night's entertainment full of energy, colour, music and dance.

Roscrea Community Hub And Ros Cré Listens

A listening cafe service for anyone who needs someone to talk to has been set up in Roscrea. This is a peer to peer service with an ASIST trained volunteer (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training). The service operates from Teach na Gréine in Gleann Glas Roscrea on Tuesday morning 10am to 12 mid-day. The service is confidential and free.

They can be contacted via Facebook on Ros Cré listens/Community Hub or email roscrea-communityhub@gmail.com.

Roscrea Badminton Club

Roscrea Badminton Club training will continue every Monday night in the Community Hall in Shinrone from 8pm. New members, both social and competitive, are most welcome to come along. If you just wish to try out the sport, racquets can be provided.

For information ring Danny at (087) 9482127, Brid at (087) 6482746 or Bernard (083) 3459496.

Roscrea Muintir na Tíre

Bingo on every Sunday night at 8.30pm. Over €2,000 in prize money. All are welcome

25 Card Drive on every Wednesday night commencing at 8.30pm. All are welcome.

Slimming World every Tuesday. Morning: 7.30am and 9.30am/Evening: 5.30pm and 7.30pm.

Irish Dancing Classes every Friday – Flynn O'Kane School of Dancing.

Hall for Hire: Contact Denis (087) 2468328.

Emma was 'the epitome of strength'

**AUTHOR RAISED
€100K FOR BREAST
CANCER IRELAND
IN HER FINAL DAYS**

By **MARY FOGARTY**

BRAY author Emma Hannigan had fought cancer for over a decade when she slipped away on Saturday, during a storm with which she shared a name.

Emma spent her last weeks urging her followers and fans to raise money for Breast Cancer Ireland, so her final gift to the world was more than €100,000 in donations. Her funeral takes place today (Wednesday) at 11.30 a.m. in Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church, Foxrock, before burial at Shangannagh Cemetery.

The Bray woman fought cancer time and time again, while campaigning for funds and awareness for charities.

She has also penned 14 beautiful books since 2010, some memoir and some touching on

her experience of cancer.

Emma's works of fiction and non-fiction drew many thousands of fans. The stories and characters she invented had heart, sincerity, hope, and strength.

'Today, my Emma found peace,' her husband Cian McGrath wrote last Saturday.

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'She was my wife and soulmate, mother of my beautiful children, a friend to many and an inspiration to thousands. A loving daughter, devoted mother, best-selling author, fundraiser, public speaker, chef, and shopaholic.'

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To be a successful author was Emma's dream job, she said in

an interview with the *Bray People* in 2012. Three years prior to

that, her debut novel *Designer Genes* was published.

In 2005, the busy mother and chef found out that she had a rare cancer-carrying gene BrCa1. She had an 85 per cent chance of developing breast cancer and a 50 per cent chance of developing ovarian cancer. She opted to have her breasts and ovaries removed. Despite that, cancer struck in 2007 and launched an obstinate onslaught that continued for years. Bored in hospital, Emma put pen to paper and wrote *Designer Genes*, based on her own experiences.

'If I had never been ill, I may never have started writing books,' she said in 2012, during a period of remission.

She said then that it was the simple things in life that would bring her the most pleasure - like a sunny day in Bray, with Cian and their children. The couple had a whirlwind romance, and were engaged and married within a year of meeting.

Emma was utterly devoted to her family, her community, her readers, and her writing.

She took on the role of 'offi-



cial ambassador to Bray' arising out of the town's pioneering Economic Think Tank, and she contributed tirelessly to fundraising and community

projects.

She made the heartbreaking announcement two weeks prior to her death that her time was short. Dubray Books then said that they would donate the proceeds of her latest book 'Letters to My Daughter' to Breast Cancer Ireland. The book subsequently reached the top of the Irish book charts.

Emma also appealed for €4 text donations to the charity, by sending the word CURE to 50300.

'I promise it will help,' she said. 'Without new drugs I wouldn't have had the last 10 years with my family. Breast Cancer Ireland would be so grateful. I'm an ambassador for them but I haven't been able to do much.'

President Michael D Higgins is among the many people who have paid tribute to the author.

'Emma Hannigan leaves a lasting legacy not only through her work as a much-appreciated author but also through her exemplary courage in dealing with terminal illness,' he said. 'She will be remembered as a powerful advocate for Breast Cancer Ireland, a great cause worthy of all of our support. To her husband, Cian, her son, Sacha, and daughter, Kim, and to her wider family and circle of friends, Sabina and I send our deepest sympathies.'



Emma Hannigan will be laid to rest today (Wednesday).

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To be a successful author was Emma's dream job, she said in an interview with the *Bray Peo-*

ple in 2012. Three years prior to that, her debut novel *Designer Genes* was published.

In 2005, the busy mother and chef found out that she had a rare cancer-carrying gene BrCa1. She had an 85 per cent chance of developing breast cancer and a 50 per cent chance of developing ovarian cancer. She opted to have her breasts and ovaries removed. Despite that, cancer struck in 2007 and launched an obstinate onslaught that continued for years. Bored in hospital, Emma put pen to paper and wrote *Designer Genes*, based on her own experiences.

'If I had never been ill, I may never have started writing books,' she said in 2012, during a period of remission.

She said then that it was the simple things in life that would bring her the most pleasure - like a sunny day in Bray, with Cian and their children. The couple had a whirlwind romance, and were engaged and married within a year of meeting.

Emma was utterly devoted to her family, her community, her readers, and her writing.

She took on the role of 'official ambassador to Bray' arising



out of the town's pioneering Economic Think Tank, and she contributed tirelessly to fundraising and community projects.

She made the heartbreaking announcement two weeks prior to her death that her time was short. Dubray Books then said that they would donate the proceeds of her latest book 'Letters to My Daughter' to Breast Cancer Ireland. The book subsequently reached the top of the Irish book charts.

Emma also appealed for €4 text donations to the charity, by sending the word CURE to 50300.

'I promise it will help,' she said. 'Without new drugs I wouldn't have had the last 10 years with my family. Breast Cancer Ireland would be so grateful. I'm an ambassador for them but I haven't been able to do much.'

President Michael D Higgins is among the many people who have paid tribute to the author.

'Emma Hannigan leaves a lasting legacy not only through her work as a much-appreciated author but also through her exemplary courage in dealing with terminal illness,' he said. 'She will be remembered as a powerful advocate for Breast Cancer Ireland, a great cause worthy of all of our support. To her husband, Cian, her son, Sacha, and daughter, Kim, and to her wider family and circle of friends, Sabina and I send our deepest sympathies.'



Emma Hannigan will be laid to rest today (Wednesday).

Emma was 'the epitome of strength'

AUTHOR RAISED €100K FOR BREAST CANCER IRELAND IN HER FINAL DAYS

By MARY FOGARTY

Bray author Emma Hannigan had fought cancer for over a decade when she slipped away on Saturday, during a storm with which she shared a name.

Emma spent her last weeks urging her followers and fans to raise money for Breast Cancer Ireland, so her final gift to the world was more than €100,000 in donations. Her funeral takes place today (Wednesday) at 11.30 a.m. in Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church, Foxrock, before burial at Shangannagh Cemetery.

The Bray woman fought cancer time and time again, while campaigning for funds and awareness for charities.

She has also penned 14 beautiful books since 2010, some memoir and some touching on

her experience of cancer.

Emma's works of fiction and non-fiction drew many thousands of fans. The stories and characters she invented had heart, sincerity, hope, and strength.

'Today, my Emma found peace,' her husband Cian McGrath wrote last Saturday.

'She bravely fought a battle against a foe with no mercy. Emma was the epitome of strength, love and generosity, beyond anything I have ever known.'

'She loved her family, loved her friends, and she left a trail of glitter and joy throughout her life - with of course added tinsel at Christmas.'

'She was my wife and soul-mate, mother of my beautiful children, a friend to many and an inspiration to thousands. A loving daughter, devoted mother, best-selling author, fundraiser, public speaker, chef, and shopaholic.'

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that, her debut novel *Designer Genes* was published.

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Forever BRAVE



For 12 years, author Emma Hannigan, has been giving hope to other cancer patients, with her inspirational determination to beat the odds and fight cancer. RSVP looks at the incredible journey that touched the heart of a nation.

When Emma Hannigan announced last month that after battling and beating cancer for 12 years, there was finally no more doctors could do for her, it sent shockwaves of grief all across Ireland.

Sharing the news with fans on social media, she wrote: "The time that I knew was borrowed must be given back soon, so it seems. The conversation I never wanted to have has been said."

"My medical team have thrown everything but the kitchen sink at this fight but all avenues have now been exhausted. To say that I am heartbroken doesn't begin to cover it."

And the nation was heartbroken for her – everyone had been touched by the much-loved author's story in some way, whether they were friends, had met her once, read one of her books, or simply heard her speak about her inspirational battle to beat the disease.

After remaining so strong for so long, to hear the news that she would have to say goodbye to husband Cian, son Sacha and daughter Kim, at just 45, seemed just too unjust for someone who has become such a beacon of hope against cancer.

When we look around, it is impossible to find one of us that has not been touched by this disease in our lives as it takes the life of one person

every hour in Ireland. According to the Irish Cancer Society there are currently 165,000 people living with cancer in Ireland, while 40,000 more will be diagnosed with cancer or a related tumour this year.

For the past decade, the Wicklow native has been something of a poster girl of hope for the disease. Since first discovering she had the BRCA1 gene in 2005, she was determined she would take cancer on. In February 2006, Emma had a double mastectomy and the following July she had both ovaries removed.

However, pre-cancerous cells in her breasts resulted in the diagnosis a year later that would prove to be a constant in her life. Emma had cancer – and beat it – ten times in ten years.

She was always open and honest about her illness, however she made it clear that it doesn't define you and she encouraged other sufferers to think like this too.

Battling the disease, Emma always insisted, had given her a new outlook on life – one that so many of us take for granted. She appreciated every day that came around and she refused to take anything for granted.

She spoke to RSVP previously about trying to look on the bright side of things, explaining: "I know some days it's hard, but if you can convince yourself that you're in a good mood, you can be. If you go around in a bad

mood and think everything is awful, everything does go wrong. Life is precious so you should enjoy it."

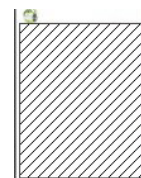
She added: "I always want people to remember if they've just been diagnosed: Just because you have cancer, it doesn't mean you have to stop living. It doesn't mean you can't have dreams – you can. Life can still be good."

She even credited it with inspiring her to finally take the plunge as an author, writing her first book, *Designer Genes*, while she was in hospital battling cancer for the first time. Since then, she has gone on to become a best-selling author of 13 books, including *Miss Conceived*, *The Pink Ladies Club*, *Keeping Mum*, *Perfect Wives*, *Driving Home For Christmas*, *The Secrets We Share* and her memoir, *Talk To The Headscarf*.

Now that brave light is finally being silenced. But cancer still hasn't won, not in Emma's eyes – and she is still fighting to raise hope among us, reminding us that there is always something to strive for.

Speaking to her fans she reminded them, her fight meant she had been granted another ten years with her family, and urged them to continue for

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RUEPOINT MEDIA





“Friends don't come any better than Emma... we're not giving up until we find a cure”

her, and donate to cancer research in the hopes that new cures can be discovered. “I can't begin to thank you all for the gorgeous comments and kind messages,” she wrote. “Each one helps me and my family during this hideous time.”

“But if you'd like to make a difference to cancer care and help create new cures I'd love it if you could text CURE to 50300. That will cost you €4 but I promise it will help. Without new drugs I wouldn't have had the last ten years with my family and you guys.”

People across Ireland have joined in Emma's fight to raise much-needed funds, showing once more the power of her words. A campaign led by Irish authors and friends – including Marian Keyes, Anna McPartlin, Melissa Hill and Sinéad Moriarty – saw Emma's new book, *Letters To My Daughters* reach number one on the book charts, with stores like Dubray Books even donating all profits from the book to breast cancer research.

TV3 presenter and friend Elaine Crowley also went ahead and got the tattoo she and Emma had joked about getting in her honour, urging viewers of *The Elaine Show* to help raise funds in honour of Emma.

“Emma Hannigan is the best person I know,” she explained. “I became an ambassador for Breast Cancer Ireland because of her, and she's still determined to raise as much money as possible for research. She gave me a voucher for a tattoo for my 40th, we

were supposed to get one done together, but as Emma says herself, cancer robbed us of that. “So we decided this was a good idea to raise funds for BCI, plus she knows I'm a big chicken

and she got a great laugh when I sent her the picture of my Unicorn Ass tattoo! Friends don't come any better than Emma, and everyone involved with BCI, we're not going to give up until we find a cure.”

A storyteller until the end, Emma's eloquent final sentiment to fans sums up the life we should aspire to, better than anyone else could. We must all stop rushing through life, taking it and all the happiness around us for granted, until something knocks on our door that makes us finally take stock. Emma reminds us to take stock now, don't wait.

“Faced with very little time can I tell you what screams out at me? Love. The love in my heart is all that matters now. I am broken-hearted at having to say goodbye so if it's alright we'll say farewell instead... Mind each other. Be kind to each other and hold those you love close by. Life is so very precious. We never know the day or hour that it will be whipped away. So fill your days with as much happiness as you can muster.”

To donate to Breast Cancer Ireland visit www.breastcancerireland.com/support-us/donatenow. You can also make a donation of €4 by texting “Cure” to 50300.

Words by Blathin de Paor



Tributes



Cecelia Ahern
 @CeceliaAhern

Dear Emma, thank you for your strength, courage, honesty and for sharing your beautiful stories with the world. You help provide escapism for so many in your fictional worlds but teach so much more about what's real. Love to you and your family. X

Anna Daly @daly_anna

I don't have the words Emma. That's your gig and you've excelled at it. You are the epitome of the light and the laughter you mention. Sending love to you and your family ☺

Lucy Kennedy
 @KennedyLucy

Emma, I feel so, so sad. You have inspired and comforted more people than you will ever know. You are quite simply amazing. All my love to you and your babies. Xxx

Caroline Grace-Cassidy
 @CGGraceCassidy

Emma. I adore you as you know. I can't find any words – there are none – but I want to say how much I love you ... so very much and you've been a wonderful friend to me and a truly wonderful person and incredible mother.

Evelyn O'Rourke
 evelyn_orourke

I always enjoyed our chats... your strength and dignity and fantastically cheeky humour has always impressed me! And your books! So many books – you're an incredibly loved writer and friend to all your many, many readers xx

INSPIRATIONAL: Emma who fought cancer ten times now says she doesn't have long to live

['I have no regrets, only that I have to leave right now'- Emma Hannigan's words read out at moving service](#)
independent.ie - 07/03/2018

Fr Gerry Byrne officiated at the service in Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church, Foxrock this morning, where he read out the words prepared by Emma. He was the chaplain at Blackrock Clinic and knew her throughout her cancer journey.

Author Claudia Carroll arrives with a friend at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church, Foxrock for the funeral of best-selling author Emma Hannigan. Photo: Steve Humphreys

In the speech she recalled her idyllic childhood, meeting her husband Cian and having her two children before settling in a house beside her parents, and how she would talk to the members of her family every day.

"I hope you know I will be there in your hearts, and you will always be in mine," she said.

Model Alison Canavan arrives at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church, Foxrock for the funeral of best-selling author Emma Hannigan. Photo: Steve Humphreys

She had a special message for her kids Sacha and Kim. "Keep dancing both you, keep having fun, be careful won't you. Never go out on our own, and stay with a group."

Her wicker coffin was adorned with a picture of Emma, sparkly shoes, one of her books and an angel.

"Yes, life was great, surrounded by my family and so many great friends. I can hold my head up and say, I never had a day where I felt lonely, or as if I had nobody to turn to. I never felt I was on my own.

"My cancer fight was up there for all to read on Facebook or through my blog.

"The peer to peer support I received there was priceless. I had such loyal readers and followers who took my hand and walked along by my side.

"To each person I met along my way, thank you. Thank you for helping to shape my life."

Mary Mitchell O'Connor arrives at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church, Foxrock for the funeral of best-selling author Emma Hannigan. Photo: Steve Humphreys

"They say all things happen for a reason. I don't want to go looking over my shoulder or waving my fist in anger. That was never my style. But the truth of the matter is this. I would never have wanted to go. There would never have been enough time. So I will try to be gracious about it," she said.

She said there is enough sadness, suffering and strife in the world. "Let the laughter be heard."

She said "let the sparkles break through."

Fr Byrne described her as a "bright star that rose high and sparked".

She had picked the music for the service herself, including Smile by Michael Jackson. A harpist and flutist played "She's Like the Wind" as her coffin left the church.

Prayer of the Faithful were said for all those who cared for Emma all the years of her illness, her "other family" in the Blackrock Clinic.

The mourners were led by her devastated husband Cian, children, Sacha and Kim, parents Philip and Denise and her brother Timmy and sister-in-law, Hilary.

Emma passed away last Saturday morning at the Blackrock Clinic following an 11-year-battle with cancer at the age of 45.

After the best-selling author recently revealed she did not have long to live, she turned her efforts to raising money for **Breast Cancer Ireland**.

The Wicklow native was the charity's ambassador.

Fr Byrne told mourners that over €125,000 has now been raised by their efforts.

There was a huge outpouring of support, when on social media on 16 February, Emma revealed that: "the time I knew was borrowed must be given back soon, so it seems."

['Let the laughter be heard,' Emma Hannigan's funeral told](#)

irishtimes.com - 07/03/2018

The writer Emma Hannigan, who died on March 3rd aged 45 after a long fight against breast cancer, bade farewell today to her family and friends, and to the many fans of her writing.

Her packed funeral service in Dublin, which she devised down to the last detail, was infused with one simple message: the most important thing above all else is love.

She entered the church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour in Foxrock in a wicker coffin, graced with a spray of pink flowers, to the strains of the song Smile, played on harp and flute.

There were no words but few of the 1,000 people there, many of them children from

St Gerard's School in Bray and Rathdown School in Glenageary, both attended by her own children, Sacha and Kim, could not but hear them in their head.

Smile though your heart is aching Smile even though it's breaking... Her character and beauty shone from the cover of the missalette. There she sat, on the floor, in washed blue jeans and a loose-fitting white blouse, bare feet crossed, red-painted toe nails, her head resting to one side, leaning on one hand, a big smile on her face, red lips and shining eyes, trim blond hair.

It was a picture of femininity, worn with lightness and grace, of happiness and of warmth.

Ms Hannigan released her family - husband Cian, son Sacha and daughter Kim - from the burden of active participation in the funeral. Instead, she asked Father Gerry Byrne, chaplain at the Blackrock Clinic, to officiate and, with him, chose exactly what would be said and read, and what would be played.

Harpist Áine Ní Dhubhghaill and flautist Ellen Cranitch played the Cindy Lauper song Time After Time, On Eagle's Wings (with Fr Byrne reading the words), Your Song by Elton John and She's Like The Wind (Patrick Swayze), and, before the final commendation, Michael Jackson's version of Smile was sung.

As it was, the only other sound in the church was of gentle sobbing.

Ms Hannigan wrote her own eulogy. It was read by Fr Byrne.

In it, she thanked the many people who helped her in life and near death, and the many who were with her in all her long years fighting the genetically-linked breast cancer to which she finally succumbed.

She wrote of her childhood, of the sibling rivalry with her brother Timmy, of training to be a chef and then a beauty therapist, of meeting Cian and having children - "all my dreams had come true", as she said.

And then she wanted to be a Spice Girl, she wrote, before "the deadly cancer gene" struck.

Writing "took me away to wonderful places where no one was sick", as she put it.

To Sacha and Kim, she said "I hope you know that I will always be in your hearts and you will be in mine."

She did not subscribe formally to any religion, she said, but she "always had my angles" - among them the staff at the Blackrock Clinic.

In the only external contribution to the service, six of them stood on the altar as David Harkins' reflection She Is Gone was read by one, Missy.

But it was Emma Hannigan's own words that carried most weight and feeling.

"I can hold my head up and say that I never had a day where I felt lonely or as if I had nobody to turn to. I never felt on my own," she said in the eulogy read by Fr Byrne.

"My cancer fight was up there for all to read on Facebook or through my blog. The peer to peer support that I received there was priceless. I had such loyal readers and followers who took my hand and walked along by my side. I could go on and on forever and I wish I had the time but that's where I am falling short.

"To each person I met along my way - thank you; thank you for helping to shape my life. I have no regrets, only that I have to leave right now. But they say that all things happen for a reason. I don't want to go looking over my shoulder or waving my fist in anger. That was never my style. But the truth of the matter is this: I would never have wanted to go, there would never have been enough time so I am trying to be gracious about it.

"I know it is practically illegal to champion all things pink in this all bustling world where being girly can be mistaken for being stupid. But I would like to be remembered as somebody who believes that fairies live at the bottom of the garden, that unicorns exist but they are simply shy and that

angles flutter on all of our shoulders.

"There is enough gray in the world already. Let the pink fluff and sparkles break through. There's enough sadness, suffering and strife. Let the laughter be heard.

"Farewell. Look after each other. Be kind. Be happy. Be grateful. And most of all, be yourself. Life is short. It is so very, very precious and it's not a dress rehearsal. So enjoy; eat chocolate, drink strong coffee, have a fabulous glass of wine and buy those clothes; walk in those high heels and let world know that you are here to work hard and to play even harder. Thank you all for making my life so amazing. I'll watch over you and please know that I am never truly gone. I will live on in the sparkles in your heart.

"Love always - Emma."

The funeral was attended by Capt Eoin Rochford representing President Mihael D Higgins. In welcoming Emma and the congregation, Fr Byrne noted that as on Tuesday, the appeal for donations in her memory to **Breast Cancer Ireland** had reached â,~140,000.

Emma Hannigan, whose most recent book, Letters to my Daughters, is No 1 on the best seller list, was later laid to rest in Shanganagh Cemetery.

Writing "took me away to wonderful places where no one was sick, " Emma Hannigan told mourners at her funeral in a eulogy delivered by Fr Gerry Byrne. Photograph: Cyril Byrne/THE IRISH TIMES.

['I will live on in the sparkles in your heart', Emma Hannigan's funeral told](#)
irishexaminer.com - 07/03/2018

Emma was laid to rest in in Shanganagh Cemetery, Shankill after a funeral service in Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church, Foxrock.

She is survived by her husband, Cian, children Sacha and Kim, parents Philip and Denise, and her brother Timmy.

Songs played at the funeral service included Cyndy Lauper's 'Time After Time', Elton John's 'Your Song', and the psalm 'Eagle's Wings'.

The service was attended by members of the media industry and fellow authors, including Claudia Carroll, Lorraine Keane, Aisling O'Loughlin and former model Alison Canavan.

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"I hope you know that I will always be in your hearts and you will be in mine," she told her children.

She thanked her family, friends and readers for their support during her cancer fight.

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"Love always - Emma."

Emma passed away on March 3 at the Blackrock Clinic.

In the final days of her life, Emma helped to raise funds for **Breast Cancer Ireland**. Fr Byrne confirmed the total had reached a €140,000 yesterday.

Her last book to be published, Letters to my Daughter, was released last month and topped the Irish book charts.

Many sellers donated the profits of its sale to charity after the announcement of Emma's terminal cancer diagnosis.

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[breakingnews.ie - 07/03/2018](#)

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An extraordinarily beautiful service for Angel Emma Hannigan this morning. I've never seen anything like it. Beautiful music, laughter, tears and Emma in her own words. Love to her family. X

- MaÃa Dunphy (@MaiaDunphy) March 7, 2018

She thanked her family, friends and readers for their support during her cancer fight.

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We are overwhelmed at the support received for our dear friend & Ambassador, @MsEmmaHannigan in reaching her target of â,~100,000. These funds will continue to support our pioneering research. We are determined to transform the landscape of this disease. #HelpEmmaHelpOthers
[pic.twitter.com/cCRwQEE65D](#)

- BreastCancerIreland (@BreastCancerIre) February 28, 2018

Her last book to be published, Letters to my Daughter, was released last month and topped the Irish book charts.

Many sellers donated the profits of its sale to charity after the announcement of Emma's terminal cancer diagnosis.

Emma Hannigan's son, Sacha, at the funeral. Photos: Colin Keegan, Collins Dublin..

The Mass booklet.

Actress and author, Claudia Carroll.

Mary Mitchell O'Connor TD.

Former model Alison Canavan.

Lorraine Keane.

Emma Hannigan's father, Philip is consoled.

Aisling O'Loughlin.

['I will live on in the sparkles in your heart', Emma Hannigan's funeral told eveningecho.ie - 07/03/2018](#)

Emma Hannigan's son, Sacha, at the funeral. Photos: Colin Keegan, Collins Dublin.

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The service was attended by members of the media industry and fellow authors, including Claudia Carroll, Lorraine Keane, Aisling O'Loughlin and former model Alison Canavan.

She wrote her own eulogy, which was read by Fr Gerry Byrne.

"I hope you know that I will always be in your hearts and you will be in mine," she told her children.

She thanked her family, friends and readers for their support during her cancer fight.

"I can hold my head up and say that I never had a day where I felt lonely or as if I had nobody to turn to. I never felt on my own.

Actress and author, Claudia Carroll

"My cancer fight was up there for all to read on Facebook or through my blog. The peer to peer support that I received there was priceless. I had such loyal readers and followers who took my hand and walked along by my side. I could go on and on forever and I wish I had the time but that's where I am falling short.

Mary Mitchell O'Connor TD

"To each person I met along my way - thank you; thank you for helping to shape my life. I have no regrets, only that I have to leave right now. But they say that all things happen for a reason. I don't want to go looking over my shoulder or waving my fist in anger. That was never my style. But the truth of the matter is this: I would never have wanted to go, there would never have been enough time so I am trying to be gracious about it.

Former model Alison Canavan

"I know it is practically illegal to champion all things pink in this all bustling world where being girly can be mistaken for being stupid. But I would like to be remembered as somebody who believes that fairies live at the bottom of the garden, that unicorns exist but they are simply shy and that angels flutter on all of our shoulders.

"There is enough gray in the world already. Let the pink fluff and sparkles break through. There's enough sadness, suffering and strife. Let the laughter be heard.

Lorraine Keane

"Farewell. Look after each other. Be kind. Be happy. Be grateful. And most of all, be yourself. Life is short. It is so very, very precious and it's not a dress rehearsal. So enjoy; eat chocolate, drink strong coffee, have a fabulous glass of wine and buy those clothes; walk in those high heels and let world know that you are here to work hard and to play even harder. Thank you all for making my life so amazing. I'll watch over you and please know that I am never truly gone. I will live on in the sparkles in your heart.

"Love always - Emma."

Emma Hannigan's father, Philip is consoled

Emma passed away on March 3 at the Blackrock Clinic.

In the final days of her life, Emma helped to raise funds for **Breast Cancer Ireland**. Fr Byrne confirmed the total had reached a €140,000 yesterday.

[Emma Hannigan's funeral told to 'eat chocolate, drink wine and buy those clothes'](#)
evoke.ie - 07/03/2018

The bubbly mother-of-two who fought a public battle with breast cancer, died on 3rd March at the Blackrock Clinic after and 11 year battle with breast cancer.

Emma who had written 13 books had revealed last month that she was coming to the end of her long battle with the deadly disease which began in 2007.

Hundreds attended her funeral mass in Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church, Foxrock, South Dublin today.

The chief mourners were her heartbroken husband Cian and her children Sacha and Kim as well as her parents Philip and Denise, brother Timmy and sister-in-law Hilary.

The congregation had been told that Emma did not want any pressure put on her family to say any readings or speeches at her funeral, however, the medical staff from the Nightingale Oncology Team at Blackrock offered to say prayers of the faithful.

The church heard from a lengthy letter Emma wrote before she died saying 'she never would have wanted to go and wanted to be gracious about it.'

She also explained that her battled with cancer was 'out of her control' and reminded everyone that life is short so 'wear those high heels.'

'Breast cancer came thundering down the corridors of our lives. I discovered that I carried this potentially deadly cancer gene so I did everything in my power to stop the beast but multiple surgeries proved to be too little too late.'

'In 2007 cancer hit for the first time. I decided not to fight it in silence however, instead that I stood up and talked on the Late Late Show, Ireland AM the Saturday night show, Midday and radio shows across the country and anywhere else that would listen to me. I became an Ambassador for breast cancer Ireland and loved my time with Aisling and Sam and all the incredible people I met along that path.

'All the while the books kept coming talked to the headscarf that chartered my own long fight with cancer. But the rest were fiction stories that took me away to wonderful places where nobody was sick, I could make fictitious friends. Each title brought fresh pride and allowed me to hold down a job which was a good thing because god knows we needed the money. After all, as a Grade A shopaholic with a firm belief that a girl can never have enough shoes or handbags.

'Behind the scenes our home life ticked along just like anyone else's. I did my best to stop the cancer from taking over and made the most of the good times that we were afforded. I never took a day for granted. I never took a day for granted.

'I always had my angels to mind me I spoke to them and begged them to give me more time.

'No matter how bad things got or how sick I was it never deterred me from fighting. I had so much to gain by sticking around. My toddlers turned to teenagers and our relationship took on a whole new role. We enjoyed days out, dinners out and lots of wonderful holidays together. But even though they lived next door mum and dad were the first people I called each day. Dad would be at the office and mum at home. And often walked through mum's front door and into her kitchen while still speaking to her on the phone. '

Emma described herself as "lazy as sin" and the only reason she went swimming was so she could enjoy "more chocolate" afterwards.

A pair of her gold coloured high heel shoes were brought to the alter during the offertory procession while some of her favourite songs echoed throughout the packed church including Michael Jackson's Smile and She's like the Wind by Patrick Swayze.

Her husband Cian whom she had been married to for twenty years had posted a tribute to his "soul mate" on Facebook after she passed away saying "Today, my Emma found peace. She bravely fought a battle against a foe with no mercy.

'Emma was the epitome of strength, love and generosity, beyond anything I have ever known.

'She loved her family, loved her friends, and she left a trail of glitter and joy throughout her life ; with of course added tinsel at Christmas.'

Emma signed off her letter by saying she 'could go on and on forever and I wish I had the time but that's where I am falling short.'

'To each person I met along my way thank you. Thank you for helping to shape my life I have no regrets only that I have to leave right now but they say all things happen for a reason I don't want to go looking over my shoulder or waiving my fist in anger that was never my style.

'But the truth of the matter is this I would never have wanted to go. There would never have been enough time, so I will try to be gracious about it. I know it is practically illegal to champion all things pink in this ball busting world where being girly can be mistaken for being stupid. But I would like to be remembered as somebody who believes that fairies live in the bottom of the garden that unicorns exist and are simply shy and that angels flutter on all of our shoulders.

'There is enough grey in the world already let the pink fluff and sparkles break through there's enough sadness suffering and strife, let the laughter

be heard. Farewell look after each other be kind, be happy be grateful and most of all be yourself.

'Life is short it is so very very precious and it is not a dress rehearsal so enjoy each chocolate, drink strong coffee have a fabulous glass of wine and buy those clothes. Walk in those high heels and let the world know that you're here work hard but to play even harder, thank you all for making my life so amazing. I'll watch over you and please know that I am never truly gone that I live on in the sparkles in your heart love always Emma.'

Emma's made her final journey to Shanganagh Cemetery in Skankill for burial.

by Alison O'Reilly

The funeral of Emma Hannigan. Pic: Collins.

The funeral of Emma Hannigan. Pic: Collins.

The funeral of Emma Hannigan. Pic: Collins.

The funeral of Emma Hannigan. Pic: Collins.

[Mourners hears heartbreaking last words of Irish author Emma Hannigan at Dublin funeral](#)
irishmirror.ie - 07/03/2018

Heartbroken mourners said their last goodbye to author Emma Hannigan at her funeral today.

The 45-year-old mum of two revealed she had terminal cancer last month and sadly passed away on Saturday.

She was laid to rest today after her funeral mass in Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church in Foxrock, Co Dublin.

Mourners heard how she had "no regrets, only that I have to leave right now", in her last words read by Fr Gerry Byrne.

"I hope you know I will be there in your hearts, and you will always be in mine," Independent.ie reports.

In a special message to her kids, Emma wrote: "Keep dancing both of you, keep having fun, be careful won't you."

After announcing her tragic news, Emma Hannigan launched a fundraising campaign for **Breast Cancer Ireland**, of which she was an ambassador.

The goal of raising â¬100,000 was reached in 10 days - a sum she vowed to reach for BCI.

More than â¬125,000 has now been raised.

Emma Hannigan's remains are carried from church (Image: Collins).

Emma Hannigan's remains, including a photograph of her, one of her books and a pair of shoes in the hearse pictured at her funeral (Image: Collins).

['I'm heartbroken': Irish author Emma Hannigan laid to rest following 11-year battle with cancer](#)
thejournal.ie - 07/03/2018

THE FUNERAL OF Irish author Emma Hannigan has taken place in Dublin this afternoon.

Hannigan passed away last Saturday at Blackrock Clinic at the age of 45 following a long battle with cancer.

Her funeral took place at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church, Foxrock, Dublin earlier today. The service was followed by a burial in Shanganagh Cemetery, Shankhill.

Hannigan's is survived by husband Cian, children Sacha and Kim, loving parents Philip and Denise, and brother Timmy.

She revealed less than two weeks ago in a blog post that her 11-year battle with the disease had become terminal.

"My medical team have thrown everything but the kitchen sink at this fight but all avenues have now been exhausted," Hannigan wrote.

"To say that I'm heartbroken doesn't begin to cover it," she said.

Source: Sam Boal via Rolling News

Hannigan's announcement two weeks ago had led to a number of her writer colleagues to join forces in a bid to push her latest novel, Letters to my Daughters, published on 9 February, to the top spot on the bestseller list.

Emma Hannigan was first diagnosed with the disease in 2007. She went on to battle cancer a harrowing 10 times.

Her family is asking for people to make a donation to **Breast Cancer Ireland** by texting CURE to 50300.

['My only regret is that I have to leave now' - Emma Hannigan in her own words](#)

irishtimes.com - 07/03/2018

Emma Hannigan wrote the words she wished to have spoken about her at her funeral on Wednesday in Foxrock, Co Dublin. The eulogy was read at her request by F r Gerry Byrne, chaplain at the Blackrock Clinic.

This is what she said, with one or two small edits: Firstly, I would like to thank Father Gerry for taking on this task today. I didn't want any one of my family having the pressure of standing up and speaking. So Gerry kindly and graciously agreed to take the baton from me.

He has been my friend over the years. We have had the best laughs, chats and doggy-driven discussions as we shared the trials and tribulations of Ned Byrne [a character in Ms Hannigan's latest book] and our darling Herbieedoodle [Emma's family dog].

I've made a living out of words. I've never suffered from writer's block. But now as I sit in my hospital bed, knowing that the sands of time are seeping away from me, I'm struggling knowing where to begin.

How do I find the words to say what I really want to say? How do I share what is nestled in my heart as it slowly breaks?

Now I will put on my big girl pants and get the job done. Just a few words from me to you before I go...

One thing is glaringly obvious: when it all comes down to the wire, all that matters is love and the people who have made my life worthwhile.

I was incredibly fortunate to have an idyllic childhood. I grew up in Bray and went to St Gerard's School from beginning to end. Mum was a Montessori teacher and ran her little school from our converted garage at home while Dad built Hard Metal, his engineering empire.

With my older brother Timmy, we bundled along and I never remember a day of hardship or strife. It has been well documented that Timmy tried to do away with me once or twice but thankfully I survived.

I don't actually remember him pushing my pram down a very steep hill where I crashed and rolled into the brambles and was found astonishingly unscathed. I do know that we fought like cats growing up to the extent that Mum would calmly push us out into the back garden and lock the doors.

Eventually, we'd say we were sorry and once she was certain the fighting was over, she wordlessly and silently let us back inside. Job done; discipline, '70s style...

Right to stand up

I was always encouraged to express myself to be heard. I had it instilled in me that it was right to stand up and to fight for what I thought was important and I thought that speaking my mind was normal and I never failed to do so.

I loved school as a little person but found it stifling and limiting by the time I did the Leaving Cert. When are they going to change the system that's all about regurgitating reams of information with no rewards for creative minds or a sparkling personality? As the final exam was done, I was more than ready to enter the real world and all that it had to offer.

I always knew I wanted to be a chef so I skipped happily down to Ballymaloe, did a cookery course and worked in a kitchen for a couple of years.

I returned to Bray and set up a catering company and cooked for anybody who wanted to be fed. After a few years of far too much hard labour for not nearly enough money, I hung up my apron and did a business course...

It soon became apparent that the corporate world and I were not the best fit. I missed the buzz of dealing with people and thought beauty therapy might be the answer.

I studied at night, got my diploma and, although I did enjoy removing hair from stranger's bits, it was not my calling in life.

During this time, Timmy and I finally put our sibling rivalry aside and decided that we didn't hate each other after all. Instead of fighting with my brother in the garden, I followed him through every nightclub door from Belfast to Cork, and being related to Mr Spring was pretty special and I idolised him along with every skanger on the underground dancefloors...

At the tender age of 23, I was ready to give up on men, deciding that you were all a shower of losers.

Minding my own business

But they say that love comes along when you least expect it. And so in February 1997, I was at the Pod in Harcourt Street, minding my own business, when a well thought up chat-up line, clearly well polished, came my way. 'Hey, I remember you from Gerard's'.

We recognised each other from school but we'd never spoken to each other. But there must have been magic in the air that night because Cian and I came together and we never looked back.

Everything seems to take on a life of its own. Within three weeks, we were living together, within a year we were engaged and six months later, we were married. We were simply meant to be together.

Not long after we were married, we went to Paris together for the weekend and for the first time in our relationship, we sat down to do some planning. We decided we wouldn't have children for a few years. Instead, we'd spend time to see the world while building sparkling careers that would set us all up for life.

Two weeks later, I found out I was pregnant.

We figured that plans were not for us after all and we decided to let life meander whatever way it resolved to take.

In January 2000, our darling son Sacha graced us with his presence. We hadn't the first clue what to do with a baby but miraculously, he survived his first year.

A year and a half later, Kim made our family complete.

All my dreams had come true. I had a loving husband and two perfect children, one of each flavour.

We eventually got planning permission and built out home next to my parents in Bray and began our lives as a family of four. Cian worked day and night while I was lucky enough to be able to stay at home and mind my precious babies. Marie was always there to come and babysit and has been a rock solid part of our lives ever since.

By the time both Sasha and Kim were happily settled in Gerard's, I was at a personal crossroads: what did I want, what did I really want? Yes, in truth, I wanted to be a Spice Girl but seeing as those jobs were already taken, I had to think of something else.

As it turned out, the decision was made for me, taken out of my control. BRCA1, standing for breast cancer, came trundling down the corridor of our lives.

I discovered that I carried this potentially deadly cancer gene, so I did everything in my power to stop the beats. But multiple surgeries proved to be too little, too late.

In 2007, cancer hit for the first time. I decided not to fight in silence, however. Instead, I stood up and talked - on the Late Late Show, Ireland am, the Saturday Night Show, midday on radio shows across the country and anywhere else that would listen to me. I became an ambassador for **Breast Cancer Ireland** and loved my time with Aisling and Sam and all the incredible people I met along that path.

All the while, the books kept coming - Talk to the Headscarf, which charted my own long fight with cancer, but the rest were fiction. Stories that took me away to wonderful places where nobody was sick [and] I could make fictitious friends.

Each title brought fresh life and allowed me to hold down the job, which was a good thing because, God knows, we needed the money. After all, I was a great shopaholic with a firm belief that a girl can never have enough shoes or handbags.

Behind the scenes, our home life ticked along, just like anyone else's. I did my best to stop the cancer from taking over and made the most of the good times that we were afforded. I never took a day for granted.

I didn't follow any formal religion but I always had my angels to mind me. I spoke to them and begged them to give me more time with my loved ones.

Along with his team, Dr David Fennelly, aka St David, minded me and went above and beyond the call of duty. The team at Blackrock Clinic became my other family.

My car went there and back on auto pilot and I can never thank them enough for what they did for me. They kept me going and they helped me to wage the war against cancer so that I could get on with living. No matter how bad things got or how sick I was, it never deterred me from fighting.

Why should it? I had so much to gain by sticking around - [the children] turned to teenagers and our relationship took on a whole new role. We enjoyed days out, dinners out and lots of wonderful holidays together.

And even though they lived next door, Mum and Dad were the first people I called each day. Dad would be at the office and Mum would be home. I would often walk through Mum's front door and into the kitchen while speaking to her on the phone.

... Cian would call [and] we probably had the same conversation, word for word, each morning but I will miss it so. And though the kids were in school, I still got a steady stream of messages from them during the day. In between classes, I assume.

So suffice it to say, there was a constant line of communication between us and that set me up for whatever else life threw in my direction. If I had one wish, it would be that I could bring my phone with me so that we could all text forever.

I know how hard it is going to be to break our wonderful habit but I hope you know that I will be there in your hearts and you will always be in mine.

The nightclubs and the parties for Cian and I have now begun in earnest for Sacha and Kim. Both have thrown themselves so beautifully into the

social scene that Dublin has to offer.

Keep dancing both of you; keep having fun but be careful, won't you? Never go out on your own and stay with a group.

Connemara became a firm fixture on the map of our lives. Several years ago, my Mum and Dad bought a house there. It's the most wonderfully unspoilt and rugged part of Ireland. And we created such gorgeous memories here.

Herbiedoodle, our great big cuddly teddy-bear of a dog, loved nothing more than being brought there. Watching him roll, the colour of his coat almost amalgamating with the sand, made the long hard journey, with several pit stops along the way, made it worth while.

Anyone who knows me well, knows that I am as lazy as sin. Me and exercise go together like oil and water. And the only reason I swim is so I can eat more chocolate and still fit into my jeans.

But nobody got me up and out like Herbie. He'd come over and give me that look, from under his long eyelashes, begging me to move, and all it took was the sentence 'does Herbie want a walk?' and the leaping and bounding would begin as he bounced and tear around in a circle while wagging his tail with such violence that he could possibly have taken out a small village with the excitement.

He was probably right about that

Our favourite haunts were Powerscourt river walk or Bray seafront where he figures everyone was there purely to see him and he was probably right about that.

Yes, life was great - surrounded by my family and so many great friends.

I can hold my head up and say that I never had a day where I felt lonely or as if I had nobody to turn to. I never felt on my own.

My cancer fight was up there for all to read on Facebook or through my blog. The peer to peer support that I received there was priceless. I had such loyal readers and followers who took my hand and walked along by my side. I could go on and on forever and I wish I had the time but that's where I am falling short.

To each person I met along my way - thank you; thank you for helping to shape my life.

I have no regrets, only that I have to leave right now.

But they say that all things happen for a reason. I don't want to go looking over my shoulder or waving my fist in anger. That was never my style. But the truth of the matter is this: I would never have wanted to go, there would never have been enough time so I am trying to be gracious about it.

I know it is practically illegal to champion all things pink in this all bustling world where being girlie can be mistaken for being stupid. But I would like to be remembered as somebody who believes that fairies live at the bottom of the garden, that unicorns exist but they are simply shy and that angels flutter on all of our shoulders.

There is enough gray in the world already. Let the pink fluff and sparkles break through. There's enough sadness, suffering and strife. Let the laughter be heard.

Farewell. Look after each other. Be kind. Be happy. Be grateful. And most of all, be yourself.

Life is short. It is so very, very precious and it's not a dress rehearsal. So enjoy; eat chocolate, drink strong coffee, have a fabulous glass of wine and buy those clothes; walk in those high heels and let world know that you are here to work hard and to play even harder.

Thank you all for making my life so amazing. I'll watch over you and please know that I am never truly gone. I will live on in the sparkles in your heart.

Love always - Emma.

Author Emma Hannigan's husband Cian, with blue tie, watches as her remains are carried from Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church, Foxrock, on Wednesday afternoon. Photograph: Colin Keegan/Collins Dublin.

[Emma Hannigan's funeral told life is precious and not to waste it dieting](#)
extra.ie - 07/03/2018

The 45-year-old writer, who died after a long fight against breast cancer, used her final days to write her own eulogy, mourners at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour in Foxrock heard.

The packed church was moved to tears as she left them one final message: 'to look after each other be kind, be happy be grateful and most of all be yourself'.

Writing on his wife's Facebook after her death, Cian said that 'she bravely fought a battle against a foe with no mercy.'

'Emma was the epitome of strength, love and generosity, beyond anything I have ever known. She loved her family, loved her friends, and she left a trail of glitter and joy throughout her life | with of course added tinsel at Christmas,' he added.

But choosing to spare him the burden of having to say a public farewell to her at her funeral, the best-selling author and cancer campaigner asked Father Gerry Byrne to read her words instead to the congregation.

Survived by her husband Cian, and their two children, Sacha, daughter Kim and her parents, she began by thanking each person that she met along the way.

'Thank you for helping to shape my life I have no regrets only that I have to leave right now but they say all things happen for a reason I don't want to go looking over my shoulder or waiving my fist in anger that was never my style.

'But the truth of the matter is this I would never have wanted to go. There would never have been enough time, so I will try to be gracious about it.'

As the song Smile played through the church, Emma's words echoed through the crowds, and prompted a smile when she noted that it was 'practically illegal to champion all things pink in this ball busting world where being girly can be mistaken for being stupid'.

Placing her personal touch on everything she did, she told them that she 'would like to be remembered as somebody who believes that fairies live in the bottom of the garden that unicorns exist and are simply shy and that angels flutter on all of our shoulders'.

'There is enough grey in the world already let the pink fluff and sparkles break through there's enough sadness suffering and strife, let the laughter be heard. Farewell look after each other be kind, be happy be grateful and most of all be yourself.'

Sharing some life advice with the congregation, she told them to seize every moment, live every minute and to have the dessert and to hell with the diets.

She wrote: 'Life is short it is so very very precious and it is not a dress rehearsal so enjoy each chocolate, drink strong coffee have a fabulous glass of wine and buy those clothes.

'Walk in those high heels and let the world know that you're here work hard but to play even harder, thank you all for making my life so amazing. I'll watch over you and please know that I am never truly gone that I live on in the sparkles in your heart love always Emma.'

Emma signed off her moving letter by wishing she had time to say more but that she had run out of precious moments.

Having used her final days to help raise money to cure cancer, Fr Byrne informed mourners that the appeal for donations in her memory to **Breast Cancer Ireland** had now reached a record €140,000.

Fans, bookshops and fellow authors clubbed together to promote the author's new book, Letters for my Daughter, and make it another top seller after she announced she was dying.

The goal raising a record €100,000 for **Breast Cancer Ireland** was reached in just 10 days.

Emma explained that the love of her family, friends and fans have sustained her throughout her lengthy battle.

In 2005, she discovered that she was carrying the Brca 1 cancer gene. This meant she had an 85 per cent chance of developing breast cancer and a 50 per cent chance of developing ovarian cancer.

To reduce her risk to five per cent, she opted for preventative surgery. In 2006 Emma had a double mastectomy and had her ovaries and fallopian tubes removed.

However, in 2007, in spite of the surgery, she was diagnosed with cancer for the first time and she battled illness since then.

Ms Hannigan, who has fought cancer 10 times after being diagnosed with the BrCa1 gene in 2005, last week said she was overwhelmed by the response to her campaign.

For anyone wishing to donate text CURE to 50300 to donate â–4

Emma Hannigan's funeral heard her own words in a eulogy that she had written before her death. Pic: Collins.

Cian Hannigan, wearing a blue tie, looks on as his wife Emma Hannigan's remains are carried from the church. Pic: Collins.

Emma Hannigan's remains, including a photograph of her, one of her books and a pair of shoes in the hearse pictured this afternoon at Emma Hannigan's funeral. Pic: Collins.

Emma Hannigan's funeral took place this afternoon. Pic: Collins.

Emma Hannigan's husband Cian is consoled at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church in Foxrock. Pic: Collins.

Actress and author Claudia Carroll. Pic: Collins.

Lorraine Keane. Pic: Collins.

Aisling O'Loughlin. Pic: Collins.

Emma Hannigan's father Philip. Pic: Collins.

Mary Mitchell O'Connor. Pic: Collins.

Adrian Kennedy. Pic: Collins.

Elaine Crowley. Pic: Collins.

Craig Doyle. Pic: Collins.

Alison Canavan. Pic: Collins.

[Irish author tells children to "keep dancing" in her heartbreaking self-written eulogy](#)
irishcentral.com - 07/03/2018

Emma Hannigan, a best-selling Irish author of 13 books, was laid to rest on Wednesday after an eleven-year battle with cancer. She bid farewell to her husband and two children, Sacha and Kim, in a touching eulogy in which she encouraged positivity and joy throughout the world, calling on people to enjoy the short lives they are given.

"There is enough grey in the world already. Let the pink fluff and sparkles break through," Hannigan encouraged in a self-penned eulogy delivered by Fr Gerry Byrne, the chaplain at the Blackrock Clinic.

"Let the laughter be heard," she continued while revealing, "I never had a day where I felt lonely."

Read more: Best-selling Irish author reveals she is dying

Hannigan was laid to rest in Shanganagh Cemetery, Shankill after a funeral service in Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church, Foxrock, Dublin.

She had fought breast cancer for eleven years in a highly publicized battle that had helped thousands of Irish women cope with the same disease. Thousands flocked to buy her book "All to Live For," documenting her battle with cancer. Afterward, she revealed all proceeds would go to breast cancer awareness.

The author had been told in February that her cancer was terminal, announcing "time that I knew was borrowed must be given back soon, so it seems.

"My medical team has thrown everything but the kitchen sink at this fight but all avenues have now been exhausted.

"To say that I am heartbroken doesn't begin to cover it."

Below is a copy of the text of her beautiful tribute to her life and the people she loved:

Irish author Emma Hannigan with her husband Damian. Image: RollingNews.ie.

Firstly, I would like to thank Father Gerry for taking on this task today. I didn't want anyone of my family having the pressure of standing up and speaking. So Gerry kindly and graciously agreed to take the baton from me.

He has been my friend over the years. We have had the best laughs, chats and doggy-driven discussions as we shared the trials and tribulations of Ned Byrne [a character in Ms. Hannigan's latest book] and our darling Herbie doodle [Emma's family dog].

I've made a living out of words. I've never suffered from writer's block. But now as I sit in my hospital bed, knowing that the sands of time are seeping away from me, I'm struggling knowing where to begin.

How do I find the words to say what I really want to say? How do I share what is nestled in my heart as it slowly breaks?

Now I will put on my big girl pants and get the job done. Just a few words from me to you before I go...

One thing is glaringly obvious: when it all comes down to the wire, all that matters is love and the people who have made my life worthwhile.

I was incredibly fortunate to have an idyllic childhood. I grew up in Bray and went to St Gerard's School from beginning to end. Mum was a Montessori teacher and ran her little school from our converted garage at home while Dad built Hard Metal, his engineering empire.

With my older brother Timmy, we bundled along and I never remember a day of hardship or strife. It has been well documented that Timmy tried to do away with me once or twice but thankfully I survived.

I don't actually remember him pushing my pram down a very steep hill where I crashed and rolled into the brambles and was found astonishingly unscathed. I do know that we fought like cats growing up to the extent that Mum would calmly push us out into the back garden and lock the doors.

Eventually, we'd say we were sorry and once she was certain the fighting was over, she wordlessly and silently let us back inside. Job done; discipline, '70s style...

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Not long after we were married, we went to Paris together for the weekend and for the first time in our relationship, we sat down to do some planning. We decided we wouldn't have children for a few years. Instead, we'd spend time to see the world while building sparkling careers that would set us all up for life.

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All my dreams had come true. I had a loving husband and two perfect children, one of each flavor.

We eventually got planning permission and built our home next to my parents in Bray and began our lives as a family of four. Cian worked day and night while I was lucky enough to be able to stay at home and mind my precious babies. Marie was always there to come and babysit and has been a rock solid part of our lives ever since.

By the time both Sasha and Kim were happily settled in Gerard's, I was at a personal crossroads: what did I want, what did I really want? Yes, in truth, I wanted to be a Spice Girl but seeing as those jobs were already taken, I had to think of something else.

As it turned out, the decision was made for me, taken out of my control. BRCA1, standing for breast cancer, came trundling down the corridor of our lives.

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In 2007, cancer hit for the first time. I decided not to fight in silence, however. Instead, I stood up and talked - on the Late Late Show, Ireland AM, the Saturday Night Show, midday on radio shows across the country and anywhere else that would listen to me. I became an ambassador for **Breast Cancer Ireland** and loved my time with Aisling and Sam and all the incredible people I met along that path.

All the while, the books kept coming - Talk to the Headscarf, which charted my own long fight with cancer, but the rest was fiction. Stories that took me away to wonderful places where nobody was sick [and] I could make fictitious friends.

Each title brought fresh life and allowed me to hold down the job, which was a good thing because God knows, we needed the money. After all, I was a great shopaholic with a firm belief that a girl can never have enough shoes or handbags.

Behind the scenes, our home life ticked along, just like anyone else's. I did my best to stop cancer from taking over and made the most of the good times that we were afforded. I never took a day for granted.

I didn't follow any formal religion but I always had my angels to mind me. I spoke to them and begged them to give me more time with my loved ones.

Along with his team, Dr. David Fennelly, aka St David, minded me and went above and beyond the call of duty. The team at Blackrock Clinic

became my other family.

My car went there and back on autopilot and I can never thank them enough for what they did for me. They kept me going and they helped me to wage the war against cancer so that I could get on with living. No matter how bad things got or how sick I was, it never deterred me from fighting.

Why should it? I had so much to gain by sticking around - [the children] turned to teenagers and our relationship took on a whole new role. We enjoyed days out, dinners out and lots of wonderful holidays together.

And even though they lived next door, Mum and Dad were the first people I called each day. Dad would be at the office and Mum would be home. I would often walk through Mum's front door and into the kitchen while speaking to her on the phone.

... Cian would call [and] we probably had the same conversation, word for word, each morning but I will miss it so. And though the kids were in school, I still got a steady stream of messages from them during the day. In between classes, I assume.

So suffice it to say, there was a constant line of communication between us and that set me up for whatever else life threw in my direction. If I had one wish, it would be that I could bring my phone with me so that we could all text forever.

I know how hard it is going to be to break our wonderful habit but I hope you know that I will be there in your hearts and you will always be in mine.

The nightclubs and the parties for Cian and I have now begun in earnest for Sacha and Kim. Both have thrown themselves so beautifully into the social scene that Dublin has to offer.

Keep dancing both of you; keep having fun but be careful, won't you? Never go out on your own and stay with a group.

Connemara became a firm fixture on the map of our lives. Several years ago, my Mum and Dad bought a house there. It's the most wonderfully unspoiled and rugged part of Ireland. And we created such gorgeous memories here.

Herbiedoodle, our great big cuddly teddy-bear of a dog, loved nothing more than being brought there. Watching him roll, the color of his coat almost amalgamating with the sand, made the long hard journey, with several pit stops along the way, made it worthwhile.

Anyone who knows me well knows that I am as lazy as sin. Me and exercise go together like oil and water. And the only reason I swim is so I can eat more chocolate and still fit into my jeans.

But nobody got me up and out like Herbie. He'd come over and give me that look, from under his long eyelashes, begging me to move, and all it took was the sentence 'does Herbie want a walk?' and the leaping and bounding would be as he bounced and tear around in a circle while wagging his tail with such violence that he could possibly have taken out a small village with the excitement.

Our favorite haunts were Powerscourt river walk or Bray seafront where he figures everyone was there purely to see him and he was probably right about that.

Yes, life was great - surrounded by my family and so many great friends.

I can hold my head up and say that I never had a day where I felt lonely or as if I had nobody to turn to. I never felt on my own.

My cancer fight was up there for all to read on Facebook or through my blog. The peer to peer support that I received there was priceless. I had such loyal readers and followers who took my hand and walked along by my side. I could go on and on forever and I wish I had the time but that's where I am falling short.

To each person I met along my way - thank you; thank you for helping to shape my life.

I have no regrets, only that I have to leave right now.

But they say that all things happen for a reason. I don't want to go looking over my shoulder or waving my fist in anger. That was never my style. But the truth of the matter is this: I would never have wanted to go, there would never have been enough time so I am trying to be gracious about it.

I know it is practically illegal to champion all things pink in this all bustling world where being girly can be mistaken for being stupid. But I would like to be remembered as somebody who believes that fairies live at the bottom of the garden, that unicorns exist but they are simply shy and that angels flutter on all of our shoulders.

There is enough gray in the world already. Let the pink fluff and sparkles break through.

There's enough sadness, suffering and strife. Let the laughter be heard.

Farewell. Look after each other. Be kind. Be happy. Be grateful. And most of all, be yourself.

Life is short. It is so very, very precious and it's not a dress rehearsal. So enjoy; eat chocolate, drink strong coffee, have a fabulous glass of wine and buy those clothes; walk in those high heels and let the world know that you are here to work hard and to play even harder.

Thank you all for making my life so amazing. I'll watch over you and please know that I am never truly gone. I will live on in the sparkles in your heart.

Love always - Emma.

[Irish author Emma Hannigan tells children to "keep dancing" in heartbreaking self-written eulogy](#)
irishcentral.com - 07/03/2018

Emma Hannigan, a best-selling Irish author of 13 books, was laid to rest on Wednesday after an eleven-year battle with cancer. She bid farewell to her husband and two children, Sacha and Kim, in a touching eulogy in which she encouraged positivity and joy throughout the world, calling on people to enjoy the short lives they are given.

"There is enough grey in the world already. Let the pink fluff and sparkles break through," Hannigan encouraged in a self-penned eulogy delivered by Fr Gerry Byrne, the chaplain at the Blackrock Clinic.

"Let the laughter be heard," she continued while revealing, "I never had a day where I felt lonely."

Read more: Best-selling Irish author reveals she is dying

Hannigan was laid to rest in Shanganagh Cemetery, Shankill after a funeral service in Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church, Foxrock, Dublin.

She had fought breast cancer for eleven years in a highly publicized battle that had helped thousands of Irish women cope with the same disease. Thousands flocked to buy her book "All to Live For," documenting her battle with cancer. Afterward, she revealed all proceeds would go to breast cancer awareness.

Statement by President Higgins on the death of Emma Hannigan.

pic.twitter.com/I09eIFNaQA

- President of Ireland (@PresidentIRL) March 3, 2018

The author had been told in February that her cancer was terminal, announcing "time that I knew was borrowed must be given back soon, so it seems.

"My medical team has thrown everything but the kitchen sink at this fight but all avenues have now been exhausted.

"To say that I am heartbroken doesn't begin to cover it."

Below is a copy of the text of her beautiful tribute to her life and the people she loved:

Irish author Emma Hannigan with her husband Damian. Image: RollingNews.ie.

Firstly, I would like to thank Father Gerry for taking on this task today. I didn't want anyone of my family having the pressure of standing up and speaking. So Gerry kindly and graciously agreed to take the baton from me.

He has been my friend over the years. We have had the best laughs, chats and doggy-driven discussions as we shared the trials and tribulations of Ned Byrne [a character in Ms. Hannigan's latest book] and our darling HerbieDoodle [Emma's family dog].

I've made a living out of words. I've never suffered from writer's block. But now as I sit in my hospital bed, knowing that the sands of time are seeping away from me, I'm struggling knowing where to begin.

How do I find the words to say what I really want to say? How do I share what is nestled in my heart as it slowly breaks?

Now I will put on my big girl pants and get the job done. Just a few words from me to you before I go...

One thing is glaringly obvious: when it all comes down to the wire, all that matters is love and the people who have made my life worthwhile.

I was incredibly fortunate to have an idyllic childhood. I grew up in Bray and went to St Gerard's School from beginning to end. Mum was a Montessori teacher and ran her little school from our converted garage at home while Dad built Hard Metal, his engineering empire.

With my older brother Timmy, we bundled along and I never remember a day of hardship or strife. It has been well documented that Timmy tried to do away with me once or twice but thankfully I survived.

I don't actually remember him pushing my pram down a very steep hill where I crashed and rolled into the brambles and was found astonishingly unscathed. I do know that we fought like cats growing up to the extent that Mum would calmly push us out into the back garden and lock the doors.

Eventually, we'd say we were sorry and once she was certain the fighting was over, she wordlessly and silently let us back inside. Job done; discipline, '70s style...

I was always encouraged to express myself to be heard. I had it instilled in me that it was right to stand up and to fight for what I thought was important and I thought that speaking my mind was normal and I never failed to do so.

I loved school as a little person but found it stifling and limiting by the time I did the Leaving Cert. When are they going to change the system that's all about regurgitating reams of information with no rewards for creative minds or a sparkling personality? As the final exam was done, I was more than ready to enter the real world and all that it had to offer.

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It soon became apparent that the corporate world and I were not the best fit. I missed the buzz of dealing with people and thought beauty therapy might be the answer.

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Not long after we were married, we went to Paris together for the weekend and for the first time in our relationship, we sat down to do some planning. We decided we wouldn't have children for a few years. Instead, we'd spend time to see the world while building sparkling careers that would set us all up for life.

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I know it is practically illegal to champion all things pink in this all bustling world where being girly can be mistaken for being stupid. But I would like to be remembered as somebody who believes that fairies live at the bottom of the garden, that unicorns exist but they are simply shy and that angels flutter on all of our shoulders.

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Thank you all for making my life so amazing. I'll watch over you and please know that I am never truly gone. I will live on in the sparkles in your heart.

Love always - Emma.

[Heartbroken mourners say last goodbye to Emma Hannigan in Dublin](#)

dublinlive.ie - 07/03/2018

Heartbroken mourners said their last goodbye to author Emma Hannigan at her funeral today.

The 45-year-old mum of two revealed she had terminal cancer last month and sadly passed away on Saturday.

She was laid to rest today after her funeral mass in Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church in Foxrock, Co Dublin.

Mourners heard how she had "no regrets, only that I have to leave right now", in her last words read by Fr Gerry Byrne.

"I hope you know I will be there in your hearts, and you will always be in mine," Independent.ie reports.

In a special message to her kids, Emma wrote: "Keep dancing both of you, keep having fun, be careful won't you."

After announcing her tragic news, Emma Hannigan launched a fundraising campaign for **Breast Cancer Ireland**, of which she was an ambassador.

The goal of raising â,¬100,000 was reached in 10 days - a sum she vowed to reach for BCI.

More than â,¬125,000 has now been raised.

(Image: Collins).

[You know I'll be there in your hearts & you will always be in mine](#)

Daily Mirror (ROI) - 08/03/2018

HEARTBROKEN mourners said their last goodbye to author Emma Hannigan as she was laid to rest yesterday.

The mum of two passed away on Saturday after an 11-year battle with cancer, just weeks after revealing she hadn't long left to live.

The best-selling author's husband Cian and children Sacha and Kim led the crowds who turned out to pay their respects.

A speech penned by the 45-year-old before her death was read out by Fr Gerry Byrne at her funeral mass in Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church in Foxrock, Co Dublin.

Mourners heard how she had "no regrets, only that I have to leave right now". She added: "I hope you know I will be there in your hearts, and you will always be in mine."

In a special message to her kids, Emma wrote: "Keep dancing both of you, keep having fun, be careful won't you."

In the touching speech, Emma thanked her family, friends and fans for their support during her long illness.

She said "there could never have been enough time" but added she had no regrets about her life, other than that it was cut short.

Emma said: "Yes, life was great, surrounded by my family and so many great friends.

"I can hold my head up and say I never had a day where I felt lonely, or as if I had nobody to turn to. I never felt I was on my own.

"My cancer fight was up there for all to read on Facebook or through my blog. The peer to peer support I had where I received there was priceless. I had such loyal readers and followers who took my hand and walked along by my side.

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"They say all things happen for a reason. I don't want to go looking over my shoulder or waving my fist in anger. That was never my style.

"But the truth of the matter is this. I would never have wanted to go.

"There would never have been enough time. So I will try to be gracious about it." In her final farewell to the mourners, Emma said, "Let the laughter be heard" in the face of sadness and to "let the sparkles break through".

The Letters To My Daughters author chose the music for her funeral herself, including Michael Jackson's hit Smile.

Meanwhile, an instrumental rendition of She's Like The Wind was played as her coffin was led out of the church.

Among the mourners at the ceremony were several famous faces, including broadcaster Aisling O'Loughlin, author Claudia Carroll and model Alison Canavan.

Fine Gael TD Mary Mitchell O'Connor also attended the funeral.

The Dublin-based writer fought cancer 10 times over 11 years after she discovered that she was carrying the BRCA 1 cancer gene in 2005. This meant Emma had an 85% chance of developing breast cancer and a 50% chance of developing ovarian cancer.

Despite undergoing preventative surgery including a double mastectomy and having her ovaries and fallopian tubes removed, Emma was diagnosed with cancer for the first time in 2007. In a Facebook post last month, Emma revealed doctors had told her battle against the disease was coming to an end.

She wrote: "My medical team have thrown everything but the kitchen sink at this fight but all avenues have now been exhausted."

After announcing her tragic news, Emma Hannigan launched a fundraising campaign for **Breast Cancer Ireland**, of which she was an ambassador.

The goal of raising â,¬100,000 was reached in 10 days - a sum she vowed to reach for BCI.

More than â,¬125,000 has now been raised.

news@irishmirror.ie INSPIRING Emma, 45

I can hold my head up and say I never had a day where I felt lonely emma's message yesterday GRIEVING Alison Canavan SORROW Mary Mitchell O'Connor MEMORIAL Items with coffin HEARTACHE Emma's parents Philip and Denise, husband Cian and daughter Kim outside church RESPECTS

Aisling O'Loughlin SOLEMN Claudia Carroll FINAL JOURNEY Emma Hannigan's son Sacha, front, carries her coffin yesterday

'Just wear those heels'... Emma's defiant message after long battle

Daily Mail (ROI) - 08/03/2018

'EAT chocolate, drink strong coffee, have a fabulous glass of wine and buy those clothes.' MOURNERS at best-selling author Emma Hannigan's funeral yesterday listened in awe - not to words of tribute from those she loved - but to her own heart-warming celebration of a life she loved.

While hundreds, including many celebrities, gathered to honour the celebrated writer, who fought a courageous 11-year battle with cancer, it was her family who had been foremost in her mind.

In an extraordinarily poignant letter, written shortly before she died and read out at the funeral Mass in Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church, Foxrock, south Dublin, she wrote: 'No matter how bad things got or how sick I was, it never deterred me from fighting. I had so much to gain by sticking around.

'My toddlers turned to teenagers and our relationship took on a whole new role. We enjoyed days out, dinners out and lots of wonderful holidays together.' The bubbly mother of two, who died on Saturday at the Blackrock Clinic and who authored 13 books, revealed last month that she was coming to the end of her long battle with the deadly disease, which began in 2007.

The chief mourners - her heartbroken husband Cian and children Sacha and Kim, as well as her parents Philip and Denise, brother Timmy and sister-in-law Hilary - heard how she understood her battle with cancer was 'out of her control', and so she reminded everyone life is short, so 'wear those high heels'.

A pair of her sparkling high heel shoes, an angel and one of her books were placed on her wicker coffin, while some of her favourite songs echoed through the packed church, including Michael Jackson's Smile and She's Like The Wind by Patrick Swayze.

Businessman Harry Crosbie, author Claudia Carroll and model Alison Canavan were among the mourners.

In her letter, Emma wrote: 'Breast cancer came thundering down the corridors of our lives... I did everything in my power to stop the beast but multiple surgeries proved to be too little, too late. In 2007, cancer hit for the first time. I decided not to fight it in silence, however.

'Instead, I stood up and talked on The Late Late Show, Ireland AM, The Saturday Night Show, Midday and radio shows across the country and anywhere else that would listen to me.' Speaking of her books, she said: 'Each title brought fresh pride and allowed me to hold down a job, which was a good thing, because God knows we needed the money, after all, as a grade-A shopaholic with a firm belief that a girl can never have enough shoes or handbags.' She added: 'I always had my angels to mind me. I spoke to them and begged them to give me more time.' Describing herself as 'lazy as sin', she said the only reason she went swimming was so she could enjoy 'more chocolate'.

Her husband of 20 years Cian posted a tribute to his 'soul mate' on Facebook after she died, saying: 'Today, my Emma found peace. She bravely fought a battle against a foe with no mercy. 'Emma was the epitome of strength, love and generosity, beyond anything I have ever known. She loved her family, loved her friends, and she left a trail of glitter and joy throughout her life with of course added tinsel at Christmas.' Fr Gerry Byrne told mourners â,~126,000 had been raised for breast cancer research thanks to Emma.

Emma signed off her letter by saying: 'The truth of the matter is this: I would never have wanted to go. There would never have been enough time, so I will try to be gracious about it. I know it is practically illegal to champion all things pink in this ball-busting world, where being girly can be mistaken for being stupid. But I would like to be remembered as somebody who believes that fairies live in the bottom of the garden, that unicorns exist and are simply shy, and that angels flutter on all of our shoulders.

'There is enough grey in the world already; let the pink fluff and sparkles break through. There's enough sadness, suffering and strife; let the laughter be heard. Farewell, look after each other, be kind, be happy, be grateful and, most of all, be yourself. 'Life is short, it is so very, very precious, and it is not a dress rehearsal - so enjoy each chocolate, drink strong coffee, have a fabulous glass of wine and buy those clothes. Walk in those high heels and let the world know that you're here, work hard but play even harder, thank you all for making my life so amazing. I'll watch over you and please know I am never truly gone, that I live on in the sparkles in your heart.' Emma then made her final journey to Shanganagh Cemetery in Shankill for burial.

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'Life is very, very precious' Tributes: Picture of Emma with an angel and pair of sparkling heels. Left, husband Cian yesterday. Centre, father Philip, mother Denise and daughter Kim. And right, son Sacha

'Let the laughter be heard,' Emma Hannigan's funeral told



Peter Murtagh

'I never had a day where I felt lonely,' says writer in eulogy delivered by priest

The writer Emma Hannigan, who died on March 3rd aged 45 after a long fight against breast cancer, bade farewell yesterday to her family and friends, and to the many fans of her writing.

Her packed funeral service in Dublin, which she devised down to the last detail, was infused with one simple message: the most important thing above all else is love.

She entered the church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour in Foxrock in a wicker coffin, graced with a spray of pink flowers, to the strains of the song *Smile*, played on harp and flute.

There were no words but few of the 1,000 people there, many of them pupils from St Gerard's School in Bray and Rathdown School in Glenageary, both attended by her own children, Sacha and Kim, could not but hear them in their head.

Smile though your heart is aching

Smile even though it's breaking ...

Her character and beauty shone from the cover of the mis-salette. There she sat, on the floor, in washed blue jeans and a loose-fitting white blouse, bare feet crossed, red-painted toenails, her head resting to one side, leaning on one hand, a big smile on her face, red lips and shining eyes, trim blond

hair.

It was a picture of femininity, worn with lightness and grace, of happiness and of warmth.

Ms Hannigan released her family – husband Cian, son Sacha and daughter Kim – from the burden of active participation in the funeral. Instead, she asked Father Gerry Byrne, chaplain at the Blackrock Clinic, to officiate and, with him, chose exactly what would be said and read, and what would be played.

Gentle sobbing

Harpist Áine Ní Dhubhghaill and flautist Ellen Cranitch played the Cyndi Lauper song *Time After Time*, *On Eagle's Wings* (with Fr Byrne reading the words), *Your Song* by Elton John and *She's Like The Wind* (Patrick Swayze), and, before the final commendation, Michael Jackson's version of *Smile* was sung.

As it was, the only other sound in the church was of gentle sobbing.

Ms Hannigan wrote her own eulogy. It was read by Fr Byrne.

In it, she thanked the many people who helped her in life and near death, and the many who were with her in all her long years fighting the genetically linked breast cancer to which she finally succumbed.

She wrote of her childhood, of the sibling rivalry with her brother Timmy, of training to be a chef and then a beauty therapist, of meeting Cian and having children – "all my dreams had come true", as she said.

And then she wanted to be a Spice Girl, she wrote, before "the deadly cancer gene" struck.

Writing "took me away to wonderful places where no one was sick", as she put it.

To Sacha and Kim, she said "I hope you know that I will always be in your hearts and you will be in mine."

She did not subscribe formal-

ly to any religion, she said, but she "always had my angels" – among them the staff at the Blackrock Clinic.

In the only external contribution to the service, six of them stood on the altar as David Harkins's reflection *She Is Gone* was read by one, Missy.

But it was Emma Hannigan's own words that carried most weight and feeling.

"I can hold my head up and say that I never had a day where I felt lonely or as if I had nobody to turn to. I never felt on my own," she said in the eulogy read by Fr Byrne.

"My cancer fight was up there for all to read on Facebook or through my blog. The peer to peer support that I received there was priceless. I had such loyal readers and followers who took my hand and walked along by my side. I could go on and on forever and I wish I had the time but that's where I am falling short.

"To each person I met along my way – thank you; thank you for helping to shape my life. I have no regrets, only that I have to leave right now. But they say that all things happen for a reason. I don't want to go looking over my shoulder or waving my fist in anger. That was never my style. But the truth of the matter is this: I would never have wanted to go, there would never have been enough time so I am trying to be gracious about it.

Angels

"I know it is practically illegal to champion all things pink in this all bustling world where being girlie can be mistaken for being stupid. But I would like to be remembered as somebody who believes that fairies live at the bottom of the garden, that unicorns exist but they are simply shy and that angels flutter on all of our shoulders.

"There is enough grey in the world already. Let the pink fluff



and sparkles break through. There's enough sadness, suffering and strife. Let the laughter be heard.

"Farewell. Look after each other. Be kind. Be happy. Be grateful. And most of all, be yourself. Life is short. It is so very, very precious and it's not a dress rehearsal. So enjoy; eat chocolate, drink strong coffee, have a fabulous glass of wine and buy those clothes; walk in those high heels and let world know that you are here to work hard and to play even harder. Thank you all for making my life so amazing. I'll watch over you and please know that I am never truly gone. I will live on in the sparkles in your heart.

"Love always – Emma."

The funeral was attended by Capt Eoin Rochford representing President Michael D Higgins. Fr Byrne noted that the appeal for donations in her memory to Breast Cancer Ireland had reached €140,000.

Emma Hannigan, whose most recent book, *Letters to my Daughters*, is No 1 on the best seller list, was later laid to rest in Shanganagh Cemetery.

“There is enough grey in the world already. Let the pink fluff and sparkles break through



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RUEPOINT MEDIA



■ Clockwise from main:
Emma Hannigan's husband,
Cian (blue tie) looks on as her
coffin is carried from the
church; author Cathy Kelly;
Minister of State Mary Mitchell
O'Connor and broadcaster
Aisling O'Loughlin PHOTOGRAPH:
COLIN KEEGAN/COLLINS DUBLIN

'Just wear those heels'... Emma's defiant message after long battle

Daily Mail (ROI) - 08/03/2018

'EAT chocolate, drink strong coffee, have a fabulous glass of wine and buy those clothes.' MOURNERS at best-selling author Emma Hannigan's funeral yesterday listened in awe - not to words of tribute from those she loved - but to her own heart-warming celebration of a life she loved.

While hundreds, including many celebrities, gathered to honour the celebrated writer, who fought a courageous 11-year battle with cancer, it was her family who had been foremost in her mind.

In an extraordinarily poignant letter, written shortly before she died and read out at the funeral Mass in Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church, Foxrock, south Dublin, she wrote: 'No matter how bad things got or how sick I was, it never deterred me from fighting. I had so much to gain by sticking around.

'My toddlers turned to teenagers and our relationship took on a whole new role. We enjoyed days out, dinners out and lots of wonderful holidays together.' The bubbly mother of two, who died on Saturday at the Blackrock Clinic and who authored 13 books, revealed last month that she was coming to the end of her long battle with the deadly disease, which began in 2007.

The chief mourners - her heartbroken husband Cian and children Sacha and Kim, as well as her parents Philip and Denise, brother Timmy and sister-in-law Hilary - heard how she understood her battle with cancer was 'out of her control', and so she reminded everyone life is short, so 'wear those high heels'.

A pair of her sparkling high heel shoes, an angel and one of her books were placed on her wicker coffin, while some of her favourite songs echoed through the packed church, including Michael Jackson's Smile and She's Like The Wind by Patrick Swayze.

Businessman Harry Crosbie, author Claudia Carroll and model Alison Canavan were among the mourners.

In her letter, Emma wrote: 'Breast cancer came thundering down the corridors of our lives... I did everything in my power to stop the beast but multiple surgeries proved to be too little, too late. In 2007, cancer hit for the first time. I decided not to fight it in silence, however.

'Instead, I stood up and talked on The Late Late Show, Ireland AM, The Saturday Night Show, Midday and radio shows across the country and anywhere else that would listen to me.' Speaking of her books, she said: 'Each title brought fresh pride and allowed me to hold down a job, which was a good thing, because God knows we needed the money, after all, as a grade-A shopaholic with a firm belief that a girl can never have enough shoes or handbags.' She added: 'I always had my angels to mind me. I spoke to them and begged them to give me more time.' Describing herself as 'lazy as sin', she said the only reason she went swimming was so she could enjoy 'more chocolate'.

Her husband of 20 years Cian posted a tribute to his 'soul mate' on Facebook after she died, saying: 'Today, my Emma found peace. She bravely fought a battle against a foe with no mercy. 'Emma was the epitome of strength, love and generosity, beyond anything I have ever known. She loved her family, loved her friends, and she left a trail of glitter and joy throughout her life with of course added tinsel at Christmas.' Fr Gerry Byrne told mourners â,~126,000 had been raised for breast cancer research thanks to Emma.

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Roslyn Dee - Page 12 news@dailymail.ie Appeal tops â,~126,000 A FUND-RAISING campaign initiated by Emma Hannigan, who herself fought cancer for 11 years, has raised â,~126,000.

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'Up to â,~126,000 has now been donated. It is a true testament to Emma and all she has done for this organisation.' Ms Hannigan had said her poor health had prevented her from doing much for the organisation of late.

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'Life is very, very precious' Tributes: Picture of Emma with an angel and pair of sparkling heels. Left, husband Cian yesterday. Centre, father Philip, mother Denise and daughter Kim. And right, son Sacha

EDITORIAL



Mairead Lavery

mlavery@farmersjournal.ie

So Storm Emma struck and a week later the country is still cleaning up the mess she left behind, especially along the east coast.

While at home in west Limerick we were looking at about 18 inches of snow with drifts of about four foot, it was an entirely different story for my brother who lives near Avoca. When he opened the kitchen door on Friday morning he faced a wall of snow. The drifts were almost up to the second floor.

After Ophelia and now Emma doing precisely what the Met Service said they would, it won't be long before Evelyn Cusack assumes the aura of an oracle. Sure the storm didn't hit some parts of the country as hard as others, but the status red warning was warranted. Even if it was only to keep the idiotic 'snow tourists' safely confined to their sitting rooms.

While most people had the luxury of being nice and warm around the fire, this wasn't an option for farmers, those in essential services and the health sector. Despite the hardship, the freezing cold, the lack of electricity and transport, so many people stepped up to the mark.

People looked out for each other and none more so than farmers, who kept the milk flowing and helped no end to clear the roads and get much-needed supplies to stranded neighbours.

Much lip service paid to food security, as we always expect the supermarket shelves to be full. But look at what happens after a few days of bad weather. Not a bit of bread or a drop of milk to be got. I'm surprised the likes of Odlums didn't take advantage of the situation, with adverts about how easy it is to make bread. However, when I look back at March

2018 it will be another Emma that I will remember. On Saturday word came through that Emma Hannigan had died. The well-loved author had lost her 11-year battle with breast cancer. Over the last few years I had met Emma several times when we were both guests on *Midday* on TV3. She was always so bright and bubbly, and had a great attitude to life.

She cherished every day and fought an unbelievable 10 diagnosis of cancer with positivity and determination. She so badly wanted to be there for her two children as they grew up.

Her latest book, *Letters to my Daughters*, has reached number one in the Irish book charts. Meanwhile Dubray, one of the country's biggest booksellers has promised to donate its profits from this book to Breast Cancer Ireland. If you want something to celebrate Mother's Day with, then go out and buy this book, not only to celebrate a wonderful mother, but also to support a great cause. May she rest in peace.

Finally, I hope you are all busy writing a few hundred words about your nominee for the Women & Agriculture Awards, supported by FBD Insurance. These awards recognise the huge breadth of enterprise and expertise that women bring to farming. You know and admire them and now is the time to reward them. Full entry details are on page 13, so get cracking and get those entries into us.

Last but not least, the not-to-be-missed Land Price Report is included in this week's paper – well worth a read. **CL**

Mairead Lavery can be heard on the *Moncrieff* show on Wednesdays from 1.30pm on Newstalk 106-108fm

newstalk
www.newstalk.ie



€126k in donations ‘is a true testament to Emma and all she has done’ – charity

Sarah Slater

A FUNDRAISING campaign which began after the late author Emma Hannigan announced she had terminal cancer has raised €126,000.

The 45-year-old Wicklow native, who was an ambassador for Breast Cancer Ireland (BCI), appealed to the public to donate to the charity in a bid to raise €100,000.

Book lovers, fans and the general public are continuing to donate since the author, TV personality and blogger died last Saturday after an 11-year battle with the disease.

A BCI spokesperson said: “Donations are still coming in thick and fast which is wonderful to see. Up to €126,000 has now been donated. It is a true testament to Emma and all she has done for this organisation.”

Emma had said that her poor health had prevented her from doing much for the organisation recently.

EMOTION

The mum-of-two's heart-wrenching social media post almost three weeks ago that she was losing her cancer battle, saw an outpouring of emotion from thousands of reading fans and authors from here and around the world.

Her latest book, *Letters to My Daughters*, went to number one across several categories on the best-selling charts within days of her post.

In 2005, she discovered that she was carrying the BRCA 1 cancer gene. This meant she had an 85pc chance of developing breast cancer and a 50pc chance of developing ovarian cancer.

To reduce her risk to 5pc, the brave mum opted for preventative surgery. In 2006, Emma had a double mastectomy and had her ovaries and fallopian tubes removed.

However, in 2007 she was diagnosed with cancer for the first time and her lengthy battle ensued.

When revealing her sad news last month Emma said: “All good things must come to an end. The time that I knew was borrowed must be given back soon, so

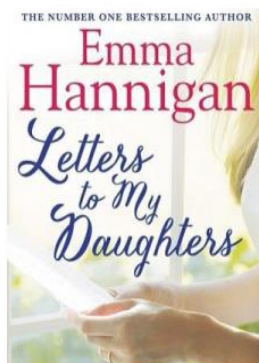
it seems. The conversation I never wanted to have has been said. My medical team have thrown everything but the kitchen sink at this fight but all avenues have now been exhausted.”

She spoke openly about her love for her children, son Sacha, daughter Kim, husband Cian, parents family, friends and fans adding that her love for them has been integral to her life.

“Faced with very little time can I tell you what screams out at me? Love. Nothing else has much meaning anymore. Just the love I feel for the people I hold dear.

“My two babies, (OK they both tower over me, but I'm still allowed to call them my babies) my husband, my parents, my family, my friends and readers.”

Donations to BCI of €4 can still be made by texting CURE to 50300.




Emma and (right) her book



AUTHOR'S FAREWELL

I WILL LIVE ON IN YOUR HEARTS

Emma's letter at her funeral



LAST GOODBYE: Coffin of Emma Hannigan (inset right) at her funeral at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour in Foxrock, Dublin

POIGNANT: Elaine Crowley at the funeral

SUPPORT: Lorraine Keane at the funeral

FRIEND: Actress Claudia Carroll

GRIEF: Emma's husband Cian, parents Philip and Denise and her daughter Kim

■ Laura COLGAN

AUTHOR Emma Hannigan left a letter to mourners at her funeral mass — telling them she will live on in their hearts.

Emma died at the age of 45 from breast cancer on March 3.

Her funeral mass took place at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour in Foxrock, south Dublin, yesterday morning and Fr Gerry Byrne read out a letter Emma prepared before she passed away.

The letter stated: "Farewell. Look after each other. Be kind. Be happy. Be grateful. And most of all, be yourself."

"Life is short. It is so very, very precious and it's not a dress rehearsal."

"So enjoy, eat chocolate, drink strong coffee, have a fabulous glass of wine and buy those clothes. Walk in those high heels and let the world know you are here to work hard and to play even harder."

Sparkles

"Thank you all for making my life so amazing... please know I am never truly gone. I will live on in the sparkles in your heart."

Songs including Cyndi Lauper's Time After Time and Elton John's Your Song were played during the mass.

Emma is survived by her husband Cian, son Sacha, daughter Kim, father Philip, mother Denise and brother Timmy.

Fair City star Claudia Carroll, author Carmel Harrington and model Alison Canavan were among the congregation.

TV host Aisling O'Loughlin and TD Mary Mitchell O'Connor also attended.

Mourners heard €140,000 had been raised for Breast Cancer Ireland in her final days.



['It's All About Love' Emma Hannigan Says Goodbye](#)
writing.ie - 08/03/2018

Yesterday on Wednesday 7th March 2018, Emma Hannigan was buried. Those words just don't work. Because although it was clear over the last year or so, that she might be losing the battle she had fought for over a decade, we still believed in Emma and that somehow, in the end, she would kick cancers ass (to use one her own expressions).

Despite the relentless onslaught of the disease, Emma was always force of nature, a power for good and a shining beacon of positivity. To me, she was a wisp of a woman, who lit up whatever company she was in, with her irreverent sense of humour and her genuine interest in those around her.

Emma touched many, many lives, through her campaigning for Breast Cancer, her best selling books and her work in the media. So, as we mourn her loss I thought I would ask some of those who knew her and had worked with her to share their thoughts and memories of this unique woman.

ANNIE GRIBBIN, Make Up Artist & proprietor of Make Up Forever.

I first met Emma as a panellist on TV3's Middy (now Elaine). She became my hero when she danced in the **Breast Cancer Ireland** Strictly Dancing fundraiser only a couple of years ago. She showed unbelievable courage, undeniable talent and strength of character. Her selfless generosity and unstoppable spirit showed us all the possibilities that are presented to us in our weakest moments and darkest hours. She leaves an indelible mark on our lives and hearts

AI SLING O LOUGHLIN, TV Journalist, proprietor of exquisite.ie

Emma was the type of person who'd cringe at being eulogized. She'd bat away glowing praise in favour of a chat about the everyday.

Over the years I was working on TV3's Xpos@, Emma showed us how to make soup for nourishment, how to choose a wig during chemo, how to buy underwear and swimwear post mastectomy and how to pack for the hospital for optimum comfort. Her love for humanity combined with a wit and experience made her a force to behold

She was so generous with her time, as limited as it was. She wasn't counting. She was living in the moment. Emma was an exceptional person and maybe that's why she's been taken so early. One comfort for her beloved family is that she has made a powerful impression and has inspired a nation to love harder and mind each other.

JEN STEVENS, Editor Irish Country Magazine

My favourite thing about Emma was how sweet she looked but how bold her sense of humour was. As well as a love of rude jokes, we also shared a love of big ridiculous dogs and would exchange messages about my lumbering Labrador, Kramer and her curly beauty Herbie, almost bragging about who spoiled their beloved pooch more.

Professionally Emma spoke at events I hosted for work and I interviewed her for magazine features but what I will remember most is her bravery, her sensible parenting, her brownies and the laughs we had about big hairy extra family members. I'll miss her.

SARINA BELLISSIMO, broadcaster & entertainment journalist.

I only met Emma a handful of times, thanks to our work together on the "Middy" panel (now "Elaine") but Emma had more of an impact on me than many people I've met. She was the genuine definition of lighting up a room. Her positivity and love were contagious. Her words of moving "away from the drains" and "gravitating towards the light and laughter" are my new motto. The world is a sadder place because Emma is not with us but her incredible sparkle and shine will never be gone. Thanks for lighting up our world Emma.

MARIA DUFFY, author.

When my first book was being published in 2011, Emma knew how excited but absolutely terrified I was coming up to the launch. I knew she had chemo on the day and so didn't expect to see her there. You can imagine my surprise when, during my speech, I looked into the crowd and there she was, giving me a big thumbs-up and a smile. She had to leave before I saw her again because she was so ill but I'll never forget that she made that journey just to support me.

SINEAD RYAN, Journalist.

I met Emma, like many others, on TV3's Middy, where we occasionally shared a panel. I was there to do the boring stuff like insurance and finances, but Emma lit up the show. Her positivity, joy and intelligence shone through, no matter what the topic, and made us all feel just that little bit better about ourselves, and less moany about our own small problems, by the time we went home.

PAUL BLAKE, TV Producer formerly TV3, now ITV in London.

Any day Emma was on the Middy panel she was guaranteed to get a message from a viewer wishing her all the best, something rare enough on a female panel show discussing the issues of the day, where comments weren't always positive ones. But they were for Emma.

She would come into the TV3 make up room always looking gorgeous, more often than not in something pink, or sparkly, or both. But don't let the pink sparkles fool you, she loved a dirty joke. And then there were her stunningly delicious brownies. It's a recipe I treasure to this day!

Just a few months ago, Emma was a guest on Lorraine on ITV and I got the chance to catch up with her. She obviously wasn't very well at this point but the whole team were truly touched when she arrived with gifts - pink sparkly pens of course, sure what else?

SINEAD MORIARTY, author & columnist

I first met Emma thirteen years ago and liked her immediately. She was warm, funny and smart. Over the years we did many writing events together and kept in touch on a regular basis. She was someone I admired immensely. Despite the relentless barrage of cancer battering her body, she never allowed it dampen her incredible spirit. I never once heard her complain and her capacity for empathy was vast. Some people walk through life, Emma danced, twirled and jumped through it. She has left deep footprints in the sand.

Her children will always walk ten feet tall because they stand on the shoulders of a giant of love, life and literature.

ANDREA HAYES author and TV3 presenter

There simply aren't enough words to describe how Emma's gift for storytelling, empathy, and connection has imprinted on the hearts of so many. She was a true flame carrier, a gifted Light Worker on this earth. I feel so blessed to have been able to share a little of her light and energy, her wellspring of illumination and I owe can never dim, her light was bright it will never lose its sparkle.

In my last radio interview with Emma on Sunshine 106.8 we talked about her infectious love of life. Her advice and mantra for other cancer warriors will always stay with me. 'So wig on, chin up, nothing can banish the smile from your face' Because of you Emma and your sparkling enthusiasm for life I will make it my intention to smile every day in your honor and treasure my family, my health, my life - not forgetting shopping, unicorns and chocolate!

Fittingly Emma wrote her own 'few words', sparing her family from speaking at her funeral service - she was thoughtful of others to the last. And those words were full of magic and sparkles, fairies and unicorns, plus her concerns that her children keep safe and always go out in a group. Emma's star soared and glittered and it will continue to light all our lives.

(c) Barbara Scully

Emma's aim to reach a €100,000 for breast cancer research was exceeded before she passed on, but you can still help by buying Letters to my Daughters and texting CURE to 50300 to make a €4 donation.

[Breast Cancer Ireland shares beautiful tribute to Emma Hannigan](#)
evoked.ie - 09/03/2018

Over the past several weeks alone, Emma raised over €100,000 for **Breast Cancer Ireland**, a charity which she was greatly involved in.

This week, **Breast Cancer Ireland** issued an emotional and beautiful tribute on social media to the mother-of-two, showing a number of events and initiatives she participated in alongside the charity over the years in a one-minute long video.

'A short tribute to our dear friend Emma Hannigan,' reads the tweet accompanying the video.

'We feel so fortunate to have known, loved and laughed with her over the years. Rest in peace beautiful Emma. Your sparkle will never fade.'

Emma's funeral was held on Wednesday, during which a final letter she wrote was read.

An extract from the letter reads: 'I would like to be remembered as somebody who believes that fairies live in the bottom of the garden that unicorns exist and are simply shy and that angels flutter on all of our shoulders.

'There is enough grey in the world already let the pink fluff and sparkles break through, there's enough sadness suffering and strife, let the laughter be heard. Farewell look after each other be kind, be happy be grateful and most of all be yourself.

'Life is short it is so very very precious and it is not a dress rehearsal so enjoy each chocolate, drink strong coffee have a fabulous glass of wine and buy those clothes.

'Walk in those high heels and let the world know that you're here, work hard but play even harder, thank you all for making my life so amazing. I'll watch over you and please know that I am never truly gone that I live on in the sparkles in your heart, love always Emma.'

Emma, who wrote 13 books, revealed in February that all cancer treatment options had been 'exhausted' and her battle was coming to an end.

She is survived by her husband Cian, son Sacha and daughter Kim.

Emma Hannigan Pic: Facebook.

The funeral of Emma Hannigan. Pic: Collins.

Celebrate International Women's Day at Café Carleton, Newbridge

Network Ireland Kildare host event on Friday, March 9 with DWTS Alannah Beirne to attend

Rose B O'Donoghue
editor@kildarepost.com



Network Ireland Kildare Branch are hosting an event on Friday next at Café Carleton in Newbridge Silverware to celebrate International Women's Day. Amongst the guests will be Dancing with the Stars, Alannah Beirne and the CEO of Breast Cancer Ireland, Aisling Hurley.

Alas, the Eadestown model was voted off Dancing with the Stars last Sunday, despite delivering a sultry samba with partner Vitali. However, during her six weeks on the show, she has scored successfully high points and often topped the

leader board.

The quirky Newbridge restaurant will be the perfect backdrop for a lively night with guests to enjoy a Prosecco reception on arrival while listening to the talents of The Piano Man, John Forde from Naas. A three-course meal will be served in renowned Café

where a cheque for €22,000 will be presented to Breast Cancer Ireland, from funds raised by Network Kildare at their charity lunch last November.

A great way to celebrate International Women's Day – ladies, this event is open to all but must be pre-booked. You'll be assured of a warm

welcome so bring along your mum, sisters, friends and work colleagues to the Café Carleton in Newbridge Silverware for an evening of excellent company, good food and lots of fun to celebrate International Women's Day in Kildare.

Booking is essential through [http://www.](http://www.networkireland.ie/events/branch/kildare/)

[networkireland.ie/events/branch/kildare/](http://www.networkireland.ie/events/branch/kildare/), tickets will not be available at the door so pre-booking is essential to ensure your place at this very popular yearly event.

About Network Ireland Kildare Branch: Network Ireland Kildare Branch is an organisation for women in business, the professions and the arts. With over 1000 members spread across 13 branches in Ireland, the Kildare branch of Network Ireland is one of the most dynamic in Ireland, hosting monthly events ranging across a variety of topics

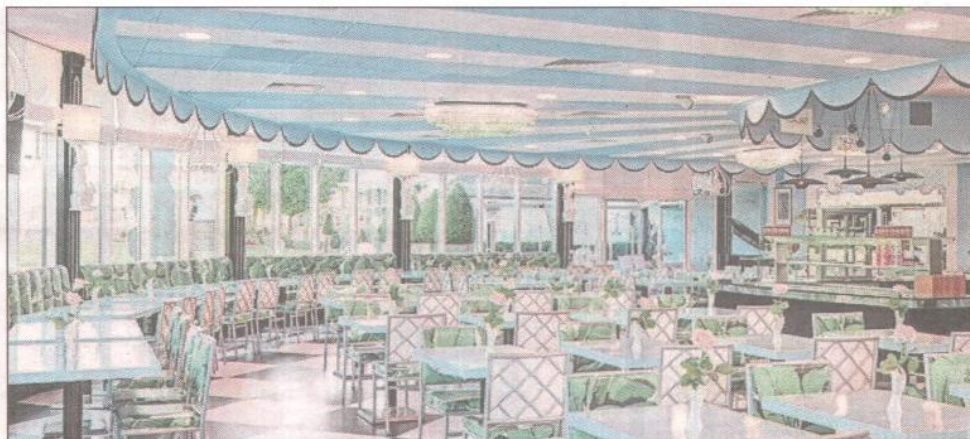
including Women in Leadership, Communication Skills, Marketing and Finance. We also celebrate International Women's Day in March, have

our annual Business Awards Competition and our very successful Annual Charity lunch in November. We have over 80 members from a large variety of professions, from sole traders to CEO's of large organisations and all are very welcome.

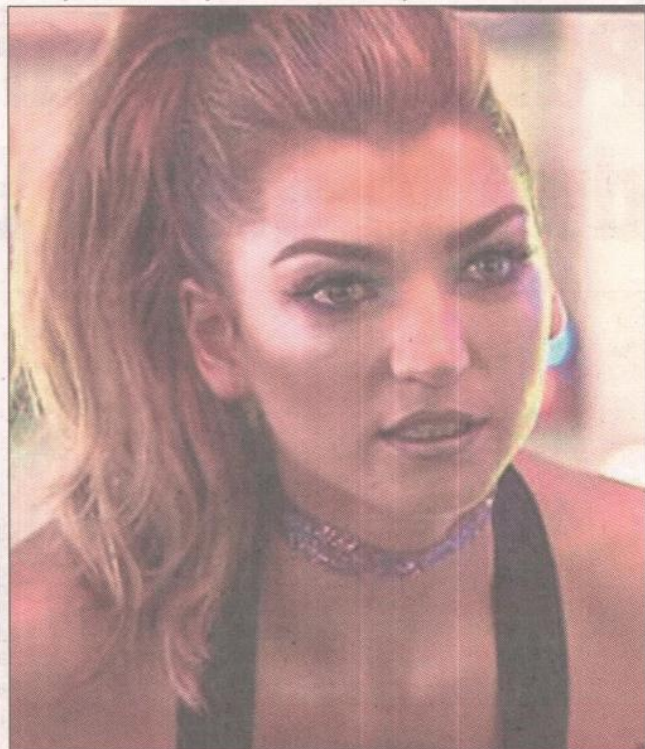
For further information, please contact: Tara Lane, PRO, Network Ireland Kildare Branch on 087 978 9318



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The quirky Cafe Carleton at Newbridge Silverware redesigned by 'decorator to the stars' Carleton Varney, will host this year's event hosted by Network Ireland Kildare



Kildare's stunning model Alannah Beirne who will be special guest at Cafe Carlton on Friday next

[Writer, blogger and ambassador for breast cancer awareness](#)

irishtimes.com - 09/03/2018

The popular fiction writer, blogger and **Breast Cancer Ireland** ambassador, Emma Hannigan who has died at the age of 45, was a warm, positive, funny and generous presence in the world of publishing and cancer awareness campaigning.

Emma Hannigan grew up in Bray, Co Wicklow, and attended St Gerard's School with her older brother, Timmy. A spirited child and feisty teenager, she met her husband, Cian McGrath - also a student at St Gerard's School - at the Pod nightclub on Harcourt Street in Dublin in February 1997. After a whirlwind romance, they got engaged within 10 months and married in June 1998.

With the arrival of their son, Sacha, in 1999 and daughter, Kim, 18 months later - she often said the next few years passed in a fog of sleepless nights and the exhaustion of tiny babies and toddlers. Having trained as a chef at Ballymaloe cookery school and later retrained as a beauty therapist, Emma then embraced motherhood. It was only, when her children were at school and Montessori, did she begin to think about a new career.

Gene mutation

In 2005, Emma discovered that she had the BRCA1 gene mutation which carries an 85 per cent risk of developing breast cancer and a 50 per cent risk of developing ovarian cancer. With her two children still so young, she opted to have preventative surgery which was said to reduce her risk of developing these cancers to 5 per cent. In 2006, Emma had a double mastectomy and had her ovaries and fallopian tubes removed. However, in 2007, in spite of the surgery, she was diagnosed with breast cancer for the first time and her lengthy battle with cancer began.

From then on, Emma Hannigan's experience with cancer paralleled her writing career as she used writing as her escape from grueling treatment regimes. She often said that she never let breast cancer silence her. She wrote|: "The disease can invade my body but not my mind." In fact, her first book, Designer Genes - which mirrors her own experience of trying to lessen her chances of developing cancer by having preventative surgery - started off as her personal musings on the subject.

First draft

Counting popular fiction writer Cathy Kelly among her closest friends, she sent the first draft of Designer Genes to her - asking for her honest opinion. Kelly shared her contacts and encouraged her to send it to publishers. Within two weeks, Emma had two offers and from that time on, she wrote relentlessly.

Comfortable in the limelight, Hannigan embraced the publicity surrounding being a writer. She would often bring homemade treats to interviews and signing tours, winning people over with her charm, style and generosity. Popular among the female tribe of Irish popular fiction writers, she also shared her love of life with her many followers on social media.

Her book The Pink Ladies Club which tells the story of three women drawn together in their fight against cancer, was shortlisted in the Eason Irish Popular Fiction Book of the Year category at the Irish Book Awards in 2011. She won Woman of the Year in the literature category of the Irish Tatler Women of the Year awards in 2013 and the Romantic Novelists Association's Epic Romantic Novel category in 2016 for The Secrets We Share. In total, she wrote 13 best-selling books published by Hachette Books in Ireland and Headline in the UK. Her most recently published book, Letters to My Daughters, is a current best-seller in Ireland. Prompted by her agent, Sheila Crowley, she wrote about her own cancer journey in Talk to the Headscarf which she updated in 2017 as All to Live For.

Fears around cancer

As an ambassador for **Breast Cancer Ireland** Emma worked hard to dispel the fears around cancer and spread hope about new treatments. Until her last terminal diagnosis, she always remained optimistic about her treatment for cancer and had great trust in her oncologist, Dr David Fennelly, and his team at Blackrock Clinic.

In an interview in 2016 when her book The Perfect Gift was published, she described her mother, Denise, as her great supporter, encourager and shopping partner. Her father, Philip, was her business manager. Having built a house next door to her parents in Bray, Emma Hannigan was never far from those she loved.

Eulogy

In the eulogy she wrote for her own funeral, she said it was love that mattered most. And, in death as in life, she wished everyone well. "There's enough sadness, suffering and strife. Let the laughter be heard. Look after each other. Be kind. Be happy. Be grateful. And most of all, be yourself."

Emma Hannigan is survived by her husband, Cian McGrath; their son, Sacha (18) and daughter, Kim (15); her parents, Philip and Denise; brother Timmy and sister-in-law Hilary.

Novelist Emma Hannigan: until her last terminal diagnosis, she always remained optimistic about her treatment for cancer. Photograph: Cyril Byrne.

[Mother's Day gift guide: Lots of nice things for the last minute gal to pick up](#)
evoked.ie - 09/03/2018

In honour of the special day, we've come up with a list of goodies that any mum would be pleased to open on Sunday March 5.

First things first, if your mum just likes a classic bunch of flowers, why not order her a unique and stunning bunch of wildflowers from The Crate?

Bunches are €50 with delivery or can be purchased at their pop up shop in Dundrum Town Centre all weekend.

If you're looking both an experience and something to remember the day by, take a trip with your mum to Bewley's on Grafton Street.

Bewley's is running a special Mother's Day menu, and will have a top photographer on hand from 11am until 4pm to capture the special day, who will then send you the memento directly. What mammy wouldn't love that?!

3

If your mum is a fan of singing, dancing and the rom-com Legally Blonde, why not take her to see Legally Blonde: The Musical in Bord Gas Theatre?

Starring Emmerdale's Bill Ward, EastEnders Rita Simmons and The X Factor's Lucie Jones, tickets begin at €20 and is sure to be an absolute howl.

For the skincare conscious mother, LIDL now sell a home spa steam kit.

With diffuser for soothing aroma applications, two power settings, LED indicator light and adjustable steam output, it costs just €12.99.

For mums that are lovers of both books and candles, the Bearded Candlemakers, inventors of the turf fire candle, are now selling candles inspired by book titles.

Treat your mum to a Lord of The Rings, Harry Potter, Narnia or Alice In Wonderland themed candle and get 10 per cent off with the code #WorldBookDay.

3

If your mother is a bookworm, why not treat her to a copy of the late Emma Hannigan's final book Letters To My Daughters?

If you buy from Dubray Books, all proceeds of the sale will go to **Breast Cancer Ireland**.

Or if you wanna take your mum for a good feed, Milano are offering a fantastic lunch deal! Three course and a complimentary glass of Prosecco for every mum will set you back just €21.95 each.

Happy Mother's Day!

Pic: Emma Hannigan.

Writer, blogger and ambassador for cancer awareness

Emma Hannigan

Born: September 25, 1972
Died: March 3rd, 2018

The popular fiction writer, blogger and Breast Cancer Ireland ambassador, Emma Hannigan who has died at the age of 45, was a warm, positive, funny and generous presence in the world of publishing and cancer awareness campaigning.

Emma Hannigan grew up in Bray, Co Wicklow, and attended St Gerard's School with her older brother, Timmy. A spirited child and feisty teenager, she met her husband, Cian McGrath – also a student at St Gerard's School – at the Pod nightclub on Harcourt Street in Dublin in February 1997. After a whirlwind romance, they got engaged within 10 months and married in June 1998.

With the arrival of their son, Sacha, in 1999 and daughter, Kim, 18 months later – she often said the next few years passed in a fog of sleepless nights and the exhaustion of tiny babies and toddlers. Having trained as a chef at Ballymaloe cookery school and later retrained as a beauty therapist, Emma then embraced motherhood. It was only, when her children were at school and Montessori, did she begin to think about a new career.

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experience with cancer paralleled her writing career as she used writing as her escape from gruelling treatment regimes. She often said that she never let breast cancer silence her. She wrote: "The disease can invade my body but not my mind." In fact, her first book, *Designer Genes* – which mirrors her own experience of trying to lessen her chances of developing cancer by having preventative surgery – started off as her personal musings on the subject.

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writer. She would often bring homemade treats to interviews and signing tours, winning people over with her charm, style and generosity. Popular among the female tribe of Irish popular fiction writers, she also shared her love of life with her many followers on social media.

Woman of the Year

Her book *The Pink Ladies Club* which tells the story of three women drawn together in their fight against cancer, was shortlisted in the Eason Irish Popular Fiction Book of the Year category at the Irish Book Awards in 2011. She won Woman of the Year in the literature category of the Irish Tatler Women of the Year awards in 2013 and the Romantic Novelists Association's Epic Romantic Novel category in 2016 for *The Secrets We Share*. In total, she wrote 13 best-selling books published by Hachette Books in Ireland and Headline in the UK. Her most recently published book, *Letters to My Daughters*, is best-seller in Ireland. Prompted by her agent, Sheila Crowley, she wrote about her own cancer journey in *Talk to the Headscarf* which



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“There’s enough sadness, suffering and strife. Let the laughter be heard. Look after each other. Be kind. Be happy. Be grateful. And most of all, be yourself



■ Emma Hannigan: Her book *The Pink Ladies Club* which tells the story of three women drawn together in their fight against cancer, was shortlisted in the Eason Irish Popular Fiction Book of the Year category in 2011. PHOTOGRAPH: CYRIL BYRNE

social

Bairbre Power Out and about



Our resident diarist calls into the best parties and events around the country

The inaugural Ursula Uí Chuinneagáin 'emerging talent' bursary at the Royal Irish Academy of Music attracted a capacity audience, testimony to the contribution she has made to the music world in Ireland.

(1) Ursula (far right), is pictured alongside (from left) Josepha Madigan, the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Luke Ó Cuinneagáin who sponsored the bursary, Define Gultoprak, the 13-year-old winner who is a student of Professor Therese Fahy at the RIAM, and classical pianist and conductor Barry Douglas who chaired the judging panel. Among the guests on the night were (2) Michael Martin and Paul Pritchard pictured with Ursula's daughter, Darina Ní Chuinneagáin-Donnelly.

Meanwhile, New York-based Irish designer (4) Don O'Neill was telling me how he flew to LA for 24 hours to dress actress Sarah Bolger for the Oscar Wilde Awards. Sarah had celebrated her 27th birthday the previous day with her mum, Monica, and younger sister Emma, who had flown out for it. Emma and Sarah starred together in *In America* 16 years ago, and Emma did Sarah's flawless make-up to match Don's green sequinned Theia jumpsuit.

Don and his florist husband, Pascal, fought the jetlag when they discovered that their great pal, hotelier Marie Chawke was also in town after flying in from Phoenix to promote Dromoland Castle. "We hadn't seen her since our wedding so we jumped in an Uber for the Roosevelt Hotel where Marie ordered up a bottle of Veuve Clicquot. We chatted for hours and then Facetimed Grainne Seoige as it was 8.30am in snowy Dublin and then we flew back to New York." As you do!



PICTURES: MARK STEWMAN

Psst! If you have a passionate foodie in your life, Trish Deseine and photographer Virginie Garnier return to gorgeous Bantry House for their second 'How to Make A Cookbook' workshop from April 6-8

GRAPEVINE

The Italian ambassador to Ireland, Paolo Serpi, and former AC Milan footballer, Gianni Rivera, were guests of honour at the annual Club Italiano Irlanda Ball 2018 at the Mansion House, where we met, from left, (5) Livvia, Pierina and Nicoletta Borza



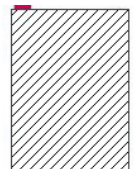
spotted

I enjoyed some post-snow drinks at the Westbury Hotel with (3) Annie Gribbin, whose Make Up For Ever store is close by on Clarendon Street. Annie is getting ready to head off on her 'Age Beautifully' masterclass roadshow which starts in the Clayton Galway on April 15, followed by Cork and Limerick on the next two Sundays. It's two years since Annie won Breast Cancer Ireland's 'Battle of the Stars' dance competition, and this year it takes place on April 14 with RTE's *Dancing With the Stars* backstage reporter, James Patrice partnering RTE's Bláthnaid Ní Chofaigh. Judges include *DWTS*'s Julian Benson, who has the best wardrobe of snazzy jackets I've ever seen.



PICTURE: BRIAN MCEVOY

DON'T MISS MIDLIFE
 BAIREBRE'S NEW COLUMN
 EVERY THURSDAY IN THE
 Irish Independent



2018

Cancer doesn't discriminate, it does not care if you have children or loved ones who need you



BY ESTHER MCCARTHY

WHEN young mum Teresa Costello was given the shocking news that she had breast cancer, she knew little about the disease. Now she shares her story and other information in a bid to demystify breast cancer for other young women.

The Tallaght native set up her own website, Breast Friends Ireland, and also blogs and has thousands of Facebook followers with whom she shares her experiences.

"I was a gym junkie, way too fit to be sick, but less than one in this part of my life was cancer doesn't discriminate, it doesn't care if you have children or loved ones who need you," she says.

"I had practically no experience or knowledge about cancer, but I learned very quickly what a diagnosis brings with it."

Teresa, mum to a son named Rhys, was just 36 when she first noticed a lump by accident while in the shower. She also had an indentation in her skin, which she didn't realise then can also be a sign of breast cancer.

She flagged it immediately with her GP and was referred to the triple assessment clinic at St James's hospital in Dublin, where she sensed during further tests that bad news was coming her way.

She was told she had stage three breast cancer and would need to begin chemotherapy right away, followed by surgery and radiotherapy later.

Two weeks later she embarked on her first round of chemotherapy – and decided to share her story.

"I was terrified of the chemo. After the first session, when I walked out a little



MUM'S BLOG IS AN INSPIRATION FOR PATIENTS

light headed but nothing more, it was a relief. That day, I thought, 'I am going to tell every woman I can what this experience is like,'" she says.

During the course of her treatment, she started taking selfies and writing down her thoughts and feelings, while also planning her website.

The toughest time, she says, was the days after she underwent a single mastectomy and reconstructive surgery. But she recovered following a lengthy battle against the disease and now Teresa is an ambassador for Breast Cancer Ireland.

Her Facebook page, Breast Friends Ire, has more than 4,000 followers and she is frequently contacted by women from all over Ireland and beyond.

BETTER

"The more people who know about breast cancer and its symptoms, the more people you can reach, the better."

"One in nine women will be diagnosed in their lifetime, approximately 2,800 women are diagnosed in Ireland every year. Unfortunately some women will die, but I want to highlight that for the vast majority, you can have your life back after breast cancer."

She recovered in time to see her beloved son make his First Holy Communion and now takes a drug which helps prevent recurrence, which she calls "my fighting chance".

"When I'm contacted by a girl who has been diagnosed and is afraid, I can say: 'Look at me. Look at my life now.'"

● Learn more at www.breastfriendsireland.com.



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RUEPOINT MEDIA



[Single smoothies take note: Holly is looking for love on dating app](#)

Daily Mail (ROI) - 12/03/2018

FORMER Miss Ireland Holly Carpenter is looking for love online and while the 26-yearold would like to meet someone special on a dating app, she laments the lack of romance in 21st-century life.

'I'm totally single, I'm 100% single,' said Holly, pictured.

m 'It's hard. I was kind of seeing someone a while ago but I just feel like I'm all or nothing with everything I do,' the Dubliner, who split from RTÃ% pundit Richie Sadlier last year, admitted. 'If I'm not head over heels obsessed, then there's a million other things I could be doing with my time. That sounds kind of cut-throat but I've stayed in relationships too long in the past where I wasn't into it anymore and I should have just left.' The jewellery designer, who launched her debut line LoveLift in September 2017, says she would be happy to meet someone on a dating site. 'I did download Bumble last week to have a look. I've used Tinder before but I've never been on a Tinder date or a Bumble date,' she said. 'But I think it's kind of handy to see who's around, to see who's single.' However, Holly laments the nature of modern dating culture. 'I look back at how my parents met and they met in a bar and in three weeks they were engaged; they're married 27 years. It's so romantic, they didn't have mobiles when they met, it was payphones and I love that,' added Holly, who was speaking at the launch of the **Breast Cancer Ireland Battle of the Stars** gala fundraiser, which she will take part in on Saturday, April 14.

Emma Hannigan

The Times (ROI) - 12/03/2018

When Emma Hannigan tested positive for an abnormal BRCA1 gene in 2005, she was told that there was an 85 per cent chance that she would contract breast cancer and a 50 per cent chance that she would get ovarian cancer. Her response was to have a double mastectomy and bilateral oophorectomy surgery to remove her ovaries and fallopian tubes and to reduce her risk of cancer to 5 per cent.

As she lay in hospital recovering, acclimatising to the abrupt change to her life as a wife and mother of two children, and tiring of watching television and reading magazines, she started to write about her cancer journey. Quickly discovering that this memoir was, in her own words, "boring" and, with the encouragement of the novelist Cathy Kelly, she turned it into a work of fiction. Her first novel, *Designer Genes*, echoes her experience of carrying a gene that can cause cancer.

Despite the preventative surgery, Hannigan was diagnosed with cancer in the neck, shoulder and under her arm in 2007. She was 34. Later describing the discovery as "a bummer", she nonetheless promised herself that she wouldn't allow cancer to "beat me down or make me bitter".

Hannigan saw off this first episode of cancer in the Blackrock Clinic in Dublin, but over the next ten years she had to find the resilience and spirit to overcome nine more bouts with chemotherapy and radiotherapy treatments as well as "PARP inhibitors", which help to keep cancer cells from repairing their damaged DNA, causing them to die. Continuing to escape through words — asserting "my body was invaded by cancer but my mind wasn't" — Hannigan went on to produce a further 13 bestsellers over the next decade at a rate of one or two a year. Such was her resolve to continue to write in the last month of her life that she took to using a dictation device on her computer when a tumour produced a weakness in her right hand.

Writing in the tradition of female Irish authors that included the late Maeve Binchy, Marian Keyes and Cecilia Ahern, Hannigan's publications included *Miss Conceived* (2010), *Driving Home for Christmas* (2012) and *Perfect Wives* (2013) as well as the memoir *Talk to the Headscarf*, updated in 2017 to *All To Live For*. Heartwarming, hopeful and humorous, they celebrated themes such as female friendships and motherdaughter relationships; Hannigan was found to have a particular talent for drawing teenage characters. The *Pink Ladies Club* (2011), which traces the bonding of three women of different ages and characters as they fight cancer, was shortlisted in the Eason Irish Popular Fiction Book of the Year category at the 2011 Irish Book Awards.

In life, as in her books, the petite Hannigan had an individual sense of style with a penchant for pink and a love of sequins. Described by her friend the author Carmel Harrington as dressing "like a glittering beautiful fairy", Hannigan fought the depressing and grim aspects of her life with a selfacknowledged taste for "tackiness". "If I ruled the world everything from lampposts to shopping baskets would be encrusted with Swarovski crystals," she writes in the preface to *Driving Home for Christmas* before going on to confirm that her house had no fewer than six Christmas trees and that she was planning the following year to put one in the bathroom. She confessed to dreaming of visiting the department store Brown Thomas on Grafton Street and the Michelin-starred Dublin restaurant Patrick Guilbaud while lying on the radiation table.

Emma Denise Hannigan was born in Bray, Co Wicklow, in 1972. The daughter of Denise, a Montessori teacher who ran a small school from their home, and Philip, who runs an engineering business in Bray, she attended St Gerard's School — where she described herself as a normal teenage "nightmare" — and went on to train as a chef at the Ballymaloe Cookery School in Shanagarry, Co Cork. This was followed by a stint as a beauty therapist. In 1998, she married Cian McGrath, who had been two years her junior at St Gerard's, but whom she first met in 1997 at the Pod nightclub in west Dublin. Cian, a keen athlete, owns a triathlon store, Base 2 Race, in Ballymount and they have two children, Sacha, 18, and Kim, 16.

A popular figure, she had friends ranging from the Olympic gold medallist lightweight boxer Katie Taylor to fellow authors, booksellers (for whom she would bake cakes on signing tours) and readers. For friends diagnosed with cancer she would recommend her hospital "starter kit" comprising pyjamas, wipes, face sprays, Clarins body lotions and perfumes, and an eye mask for falling asleep in the face of the bright hospital lights. Key for Hannigan was that no one should ever feel afraid in the face of the disease.

In her penultimate blog entry on February 16, in which Hannigan wrote, "The time that I knew was borrowed must be given back soon, so it seems", she also announced that her latest book, *Letters to My Daughters*, had come out the day before. Immediately promoted on Twitter by fellow novelists such as Harrington, Keyes and Anna McPartlin, the book leapt to No 84 in the Kindle Top 100 and the top of the Nielsen bestseller list selling 4,065 copies in a week. Dubray Books, a family owned bookseller, and DPD Ireland, a shipping company, donated their sales profits and shipping costs — which have reached — to the Irish Cancer Society.

As an ambassador for **Breast Cancer Ireland**, the woman whose books helped herself and thousands of others with the disease would have been tickled pink.

Emma Hannigan, novelist, was born on September 25, 1972. She died of breast cancer on March 3, 2018, aged 45

Emma Hannigan in 2015. "My body was invaded by cancer but my mind wasn't"

[Former Miss Ireland Holly Carpenter is looking for love online](#)
evoked.ie - 12/03/2018

The Dublin beauty sat down for a chat with EVOKE.ie to talk about single life, dating apps and why she gave up the model life.

24

The 26-year-old was crowned Miss Ireland in 2011 and carved out a successful modelling career after the beauty pageant.

She gave it up two years ago and has no regrets about that decision.

'I've given up modelling two years. I'm 26 now, I was 19 when I won Miss Ireland,' she said.

'I did it for a few years, did Britain's Next Top Model and to be honest, you do need to have a thick skin to keep up with it. And I'm such a sensitive soul. And even though people would say to me 'toughen up', that's just me.'

'Towards the last few years of modelling, I always wanted something tangible to say I created this rather than being a blank canvas who's told what to weigh, what hair to have, what make up to have, stand there.

'The main thing that I struggled with was the lack of certainty in your week. You could have a full week where you'd nothing on and then you could have five days straight and you just couldn't plan.

'Even over Christmas, you're worrying 'Should I eat that? How busy is January going to be?' she said.

The tv personality launched her jewellery line LoveLift in September 2017 and is delighted with how the brand has been received.

'It's going really well, I'm so involved in it. We've just gone into 19 Carraig Donns,' she revealed.

'And because I've modelled for companies like that and now I see my product in their stores, it gives me such a sense of pride.'

And the talented artist and illustrator is equally happy in her personal life, embracing singledom since splitting from RTE pundit Richie Sadlier last year.

'I'm totally single, I'm 100% single. It's hard. I was kind of seeing someone a while ago but I just feel like I'm all or nothing with everything I do,' she admitted.

'If I'm not head over heels obsessed, then there's a million other things I could be doing with my time.

'That sounds kind of cut throat but I've stayed in relationships too long in the past where I wasn't into it anymore and I should have just left. And everyone's done that.'

24

'But now I think time is really precious and just put yourself first. You need to be working on yourself,' she continued.

'Unless Tom Hardy rocks up or some absolute ride, I don't even know what I'm looking for!'

But the businesswoman is investigating the world of online dating and says she would be happy to meet someone on a dating site.

'I did download Bumble last week to have a look. I've used Tinder before but I've never been on a Tinder date or a Bumble date,' she said.

'But I think it's kind of handy to see who's around, to see who's single. I know so many people who've had successful relationships from meeting on line.'

'I think it's harder now with social media and in Dublin there are more bars and nightclubs than there ever used to be so everyone's spread out.

'You don't really know where to go and people don't want to come up and say hi to you on a night out if the lads are with the lads and the girls are with the girls, it's intimidating.'

And the popular media personality laments the nature of the modern dating culture.

'I look back at how my parents met and they met in a bar and three weeks they were engaged, they're married 27 years. It's so romantic, they didn't have mobiles when they met, it was payphones and I love that.

'You had to make the effort and now it's like guys will slide into your DM and be like 'Hi' and if you don't reply they're like 'you're so up yourself.'

'There's a really weird vibe going on that I don't like.'

'It's hard to find nice guys but I think Irish men are great at the same time,' she aid.

'I've been in London, I've been around the place and you know, they don't have the same sense of humour.'

And would the former beauty queen go on an Irish version of Celebs Go Dating if such a show were to come about?

'I'd be up for it! I'd even go on First Dates if I thought the producers weren't going to do something as a joke,' she said in a flash.

'If I actually could write a list and I'd find him, then I'm like grand!'

Holly was speaking at the launch of 'Breast Cancer Ireland Battle of the Stars' gala fundraiser, supported by Joe Duffy Group.

Along with Holly, Blathnaid Ni Chofaigh, Kamal Ibrahim, James Patrice, Ciara Doherty, Diana Bunici and more will take to the stage in April to compete in a series of dances and lip sync battles.

All funds raised support Breast Cancer Ireland's pioneering research and awareness programmes around Ireland.

Holly Carpenter at The Peter Mark VIP Style Awards 2017 Pic: VIPIRELAND.COM.

Holly Carpenter at the Qatar Airways Gala Event Pic: VIPIRELAND.COM.

Blathnaid Ni Chofaigh, Kerri Nicole Blanc, Denise Ashe, Emma Cassidy, Holly Carpenter and Ciara Doherty. Pic: Collins.

10 QUESTIONS WE ASK EVERYBODY!

James Patrice joins the anti-bad manners squad that TVNow is assembling—we hope that everyone is in on it...

1 What were you doing last night?

I got my hair cut – that's exciting. Then I had the Facebook live chats for Dancing With The Stars.

How are you finding that?

They're brilliant. It's just great. Everyone wants to see any little snippet they can about life behind the scenes with the dancers.

2 What's your takeaway of choice?

Oh, it's either chipper or Thai. I'd have fish and chips with curry sauce or a Pad Thai.

3 What's on your TV series link?

I'm loving Feud, the new series of Will and Grace and RuPaul's Drag Race: All Stars.

4 What's been your most embarrassing moment on air or in public?

It would have to be during Operation Transformation when I was riding a horse and things that went down south, may have gone back up north. It was quite painful.

That does sound very painful...

I had never ridden a horse before and the producers had a camera on my head so caught every facial reaction for every hurdle that was jumped. That was particularly visual for everyone, I think. I have not ridden a horse since!

5 Is there a motto or piece of advice that you live by?

You can't prevent what you can't predict. It's a line from Desperate Housewives. I used to live for that every Tuesday night!

6 Who's your broadcasting hero?

I would have to say Maura Derrane and Dáithí Ó Sé. I'm on the Today Show every week, and they're honestly the nicest people ever. They're so professional, they're the absolute craic and they make everyone in the crew feel so at ease. They're brilliant.

7 What question do you hate being asked?

I don't think there is one because I'm fairly nosy so I don't mind people being the same.

8 Tell us three things you do every day.

I do my hair - it is my crowning glory, I would relentlessly be on my phone and I tell my family I love them.

9 Tell us a secret about yourself.

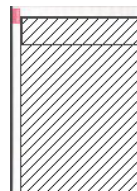
I used to do a bit of drag and that's where the name Patrice came from. My name is actually James Butler. I did it in college for a few charity things here and there, but that's where Patrice was born. It was just the most hilarious gal name we could think of, me and my friends. It was a toss up between that and Fidelma or something like that.

10 What gets your goat?

Bad manners in a restaurant or a shop. It drives me mad! Anyone who is rude to a sales assistant, waiter or a bar man, I can't take it and I'd usually speak up about that.

INTERVIEW: Michelle Dardis

James is the online reporter for Dancing With The Stars and will be taking part in Battle Of The Stars for Breast Cancer Ireland on 14th April at the Clayton Hotel, Burlington Road, Dublin 4. See breastcancerireland.com



RAHENY

WELL done to our Brians and to the Dublin senior football team on a great win on Sunday. Our 8th Mother's Day Brunch was a great success. Thank you to the TY girls (minor ladies footballers & camogie), who hosted the event for Breast Cancer Ireland. Deadline for payment of membership is 31st March. A strict no pay, no play will be enforced. You can pay online by following clubs.way2pay.org. Well done to our AHL2, who had a win over Kilmacud Crokes on Sunday. Our Easter Camp will take place from Monday 26th-Thursdays 29th March. You can now book online by going to the club shop on our website and following instructions. The clubhouse will open from 1pm on Tuesday-Friday for those Cheltenham fanatics. Our senior hurlers are running their annual fundraiser to predict the winners at Cheltenham. If you have any interest in horse racing, this is a very enjoyable competition. Last year, the first prize was over €1,000. The Cheltenham festival starts Tuesday March 13th and runs to Friday 16th. This year, you can pay online using our club shop at the following link: <https://clubshop.rahenygaa.ie/Ra-heny-GAA-Cheltenham-2018-p101652614>. Any questions, please send an email to rahenychelt@gmail.com. Deadline for Club Lotto is 8pm on Monday evening. Deepest sympathies to David Cleary and his family on the passing of his father of Richie Cleary. May he Rest In Peace. Belated congratulations to David and Barbara Henry on the birth of their second son Matthew. A little brother for Aidan. St Patrick's Eve, we have the band "til death do us party" playing in the club. Cover charge is €10 and we will have the talented James Keane mixing cocktails on the night.



Reflection

A fighter and an inspiration

Tributes have been made on the death of author Emma Hannigan

W just have to get on with it." Those are just some of the words Emma Hannigan told me the last time I interviewed her in January 2017. At the time she said 'cancer had had a good go at her' over that previous year and she was awaiting a new prescription.

On Saturday, March 4, it was announced that Emma's long and often painful journey with cancer had ended.

She was 45, married and had a teenage son and daughter and had had cancer ten times.

It was only two weeks previously that she announced her prognosis. Instead of focusing on the negative, she turned her attentions to raising funds for Breast Cancer Ireland, a charity that backs research into the disease. Within that fortnight, €100,000 had been raised.

Many of her fellow authors, and friends, championed getting her current book, *Letters to my Daughters*, to reach the number one spot in Ireland, which it did.

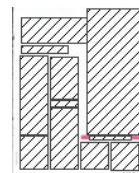
Bookstore Dubray Books donated all profits of the book's sale to Breast Cancer Ireland.

Even when faced with

seemingly no choice but accept the inevitable, she wanted everyone to think of others. Because that's how she was, she always opted for the positive thing to do. In our last face to face chat, she told *Woman's Way* about why she acted how she did during her 11-year struggle with the disease.

"Many years ago I decided that the choice I was going to make, because you don't have a lot of choices when it comes to cancer, but you can choose how you're going to act when you're dealing with it, I think I did conscientiously decide a good few years ago that I wasn't going to let it change me. I've always been a positive thinker and I zoom in on the things like my husband and my kids, the good things that I've got. I have a great life and I'm damn sure I'm not going to let cancer ruin it."

She was a friend and a support to all, even when she was going through several rough patches. She always had a kind word for other writers; Facebook feeds and Twitter posts are full of the ways in which she encouraged and supported those in the same line of work.



For *Woman's Way*, she was a true friend. Someone who didn't take herself too seriously, who threw herself into a cover shoot with best friend Cathy Kelly and who kept the crew laughing and laughing with her wry sense of humour.

She was a judge at our Mum of the Year Awards, carefully reading the nomination pack and making thoughtful, considered views.

She took it seriously and we valued and appreciated her time and ability.

When the dreadful news broke on her blog that there wasn't long left, we contacted Emma. We didn't expect a reply but she did, almost immediately, to say that there 'would never be enough time to say what's in my heart' and that 'she was broken hearted to be saying farewell.'

Even then she was thankful for the support the magazine and our wonderful readers had brought her over the years.

Because that's what we do, isn't it, and that's what Emma did for

over a decade and beyond. We support women, we support those going through horrific incidences and truly sad times because we never want someone to feel alone.

"I think the worst thing about any illness, whether it's mental or it's physical is to feel as if you're on your own. Nobody wants to feel like that and there's no reason to," said Emma to us in 2015.

"I think that by speaking you do break down that wall of silence and that in itself can be a step in the right direction for somebody who is going through cancer."

Emma never hid her feelings about cancer, she never hid how she was really feeling, she didn't sugar coat it but nor did she embellish it. She was living the best life she could and trying to help others at the same time. That's a life well lived in our opinion. *WW*

Publication Name: Womans Way
Published Date: March 20, 2018
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RUEPOINT MEDIA



Text CURE to 50300 to give €4 to Breast Cancer Ireland

Publication Name: Leinster Leader
Published Date: March 13, 2018
Media Reach: 38,000
Media Cost: €123,00
Page Numbers: 60



Breast Cancer Ireland were presented with a cheque for €22,500 at the Network Ireland Kildare Branch event. Pictured are: Deirdre O'Connor (Network Kildare Events Manager), Samantha McGregor (BCI), Grainne Slattery (Network Kildare President), Aisling Hurley (BCI), Pauline Forde (Network Kildare ex-officio) and Jess Colivet (cancer survivor). PICTURE: MICHAEL DONNELLY

Network Ireland Kildare marks International Women's Day

Dancing with the Stars contestant Alannah Beirne from Eadestown was among the guests at Network Ireland Kildare Branch's International Women's Day celebrations at Cafe Carlton, Newbridge, last Friday, March 9.

She joined the CEO of Breast Cancer Ireland, Aisling Hurley, and over 70 other guests for a prosecco reception, with entertainment from The Piano Man, John Forde.

Breast Cancer Ireland was presented with a cheque for €22,500, proceeds of a charity lunch held last November by the group.

Network Ireland Kildare Branch is part of a national organisation for women in business, the professions and the arts.



ROSCREA

Roscrea Musical Society Update

Roscrea Musical Society learned with great sadness of the death of long time member Billy McLoughlin of Limerick Road.

Billy was a very familiar face as he greeted patrons to the shows, he was part of the front of house staff stretching from the early seventies until 1996. Billy was also a committee member for a few years. A lifelong patron of the society Billy was also a regular attendee at shows after his retirement. RMS would like to extend its condolences to Billy's family, RIP.

On a happier note RMS would like to wish their very active Hon. Vice President Paddy Moloney a very happy 90th birthday.

Rehearsals for the upcoming show "Little Shop of Horrors" are in full swing at the moment. This comedy musical promises to be a very funny and enjoyable show. Watch this space for further updates.

Talk At Roscrea Library

'Raising Happy Kids in an Anxious World' a talk with Stella O'Malley will be held in Roscrea Library on Wednesday March 21 from 6.30-7.30pm.

As part of the Healthy Ireland at your Library programme, Roscrea Library is delighted to welcome psychotherapist and best selling author Stella O'Malley. Most parents want to raise happy kids however life's stressors often get in the way! This talk helps parents to rekindle the joy in family life with practical tips and strategies for parents to use in their day to day life. Stella O'Malley is a psychotherapist, best selling author and public speaker with many years' experience as a mental health professional. Much of Stella's counselling and teaching work is with parents and young people which culminated in the publication of her book "Cotton Wool Kids" by Mercier Press in 2015. "Cotton Wool Kids" reached no.5 on the Irish bestseller charts and remained on the Eason's best-selling list for some time while in August 2017, Stella's new best-selling book "Bully-Proof Kids: Practical tools to help kids grow up confident, resilient and strong" was released by Gill Books.

Roscrea Trail Blazers

Last Thursday the Blazers had a well attended walk around The Roscrea Sli na Slainte route. Weather on the night was perfect for walking after the poor weather conditions of late.

This Thursday March 15 sees The Trail Blazers heading to Golden Grove and Orange Hill. This is a moderate, 7km, two hour hike on quiet country roads. Meeting at Mulrooney's Gala at 7pm or Dromakeenan School carpark at 7.10pm. Please bring Hi Viz

jacket and hand/head torch. The next day trip is to Keeper Hill on Saturday March 24.

Now that the evenings have closed in they are back to walking in the dark, this is still a great way to keep fit over the winter and can be quite a positive experience walking under the night's sky. The Trail Blazers would like to put out an open invitation to the general public to join them at some point on their winter walks programme for 2018. Walking is a great way to get into shape as well as being a great way to meet new friends and see new places.

The Trail Blazers website www.roscrea.trailblazers.com is up and running with a list of 13 day trips over the coming months and they encourage you to give it a look and see what the group have planned for 2018 with a proposed day out to Slieve Donard in the North of Ireland, Tountinna Lough Derg, and a return to Lough Dan in Wicklow to name

but a few. A map reading and GPS training course is also on the cards.

If you would like to join the group on any of their walks you can contact Cathal on (086) 3399193 with an expression of interest. You will be made very welcome.

Host Families Required

Host families required in July for French & Spanish home stay students. For information and application form phone or text Marie Brady (087) 4154983. Advert).

Clonlisk NS Show

Clonlisk NS proudly presents their school show "Shrekcellent" in Shinrone Hall on Friday March 16 at 7pm. It promises to be a wonderful night's entertainment full of energy, colour, music and dance.

Lecture

Dunkerrin Parish History Society lecture series continues in the Obama Plaza on Wednesday, March 21 with a talk by Jim Madden on "Father Fahey" - the radical priest from Lusmagh. Lecture begins at 8pm. Admission is €5. All are welcome and please take the lift to the first floor.

Whist Drive

Whist Drive in Aghancon Hall on Thursday March 15 at 8.15pm. Usual prizes and Raffle. As this Whist Drive is in aid of Aghancon Church funds your support would be much appreciated. Supper served.

Fashion Show At Gloster House

Gloster House will be the fabulous setting for a Fashion Show being run by St Mary's Church of Ireland, Shinrone, on Thursday April 12. The evening includes an opportunity to view the main rooms of Gloster House, a cheese and wine reception followed by the fashion show at 8pm. The doors of Gloster House open at 7pm. Tickets are €25 each and as they cannot be sold at the door it is necessary to buy them beforehand. To book yours (and they're going fast!) please contact either the Revd. Ruth Gill at (087) 9484402, Eleanor Wakefield at (087) 3555839 or Cyril Stanley at (087) 2889616.

Enrolment

St Cronan's National School, Rosemount, Roscrea Open Day will be held on Thursday March 22 from 1pm. This is a great opportunity for parents to come and visit the school, meet with teachers, hear about the variety of activities the school participate in and also the bus travel available.

If you are unable to attend the Open Day you can contact the school on (0505) 21636 and they will arrange a more suitable time. Application forms can be collected from the school or call the above number and one can be posted out to you.

Roscrea Red Cross Food Distribution

The Roscrea branch of the Irish Red Cross are operating a "Food Cloud" every Wednesday between 12.30pm and 1pm at the Parish Centre, Roscrea. The surplus food donated by Tesco is available free of charge to those who need it.

Killavilla Drama Group

Killavilla Drama Group presents Happy Birthday Dear Alice in Killavilla Hall from March 15 to March 18 at 8pm nightly. This comedy by Bernard Farrell is directed by Paul Spencer. Admission only by booking on (086) 4113520.

Cookery Demonstration

Cookery Demonstration in aid of St Cronan's National School, Rosemount, by Ailish Hennessy, Fiacri House, in Racket Hall Hotel on Wednesday March 21 at 8pm. Doors open at 7pm. Local food and craft exhibition on display.

Daffodil Day - March 23

There are currently 165,000 people living with cancer in Ireland. 40,000 more will be diagnosed with cancer or a related tumour this year. More people are surviving cancer now than ever before thanks to life saving research. The Irish Cancer Society provides huge care and support to people and only 2% of their funds come from the state. Therefore they are hugely dependant on the generosity of the public to fund vital services such as night nurses, volunteer drivers and free phone cancer nurse line to name but a few. None of this would be possible without the

strong support for Daffodil Day across Ireland.

Roscrea is a great supporter of Daffodil Day and this year they are looking for their regular volunteers and anybody else interested in working with them to contact Pamela Landy on (086) 1750913.

Those wishing to contribute fresh daffodils can also do so. For support and services contact the Irish Cancer Society on 1800 200 700.

Breast Cancer Ireland Fundraiser

Tommy's Bar at The White House, Roscrea have teamed up with Breast Cancer Ireland, to hold an Easter Festival of Darts. Tommy Murphy from Tommy's Bar has put together a committee to run a Ladies Darts Tournament for fun with all proceeds going to Breast Cancer Ireland. They are currently looking for 32 ladies to participate, 16 teams of two ladies will be randomly picked. The winning team will receive a weekend away in a beautiful hotel in Ireland. Breast Cancer Ireland are asking for support from all local businesses, clubs, organisations and individuals to come on board and make this an enjoyable weekend and more importantly raise much needed funds for this great cause. For more information please contact The White House (0505) 21996, Tommy Murphy (089) 4974797.

Annual Lenten Retreat

Annual Lenten Retreat will be held in Mt St Joseph Monastery on Sunday March 18, commencing with Concelebrated Mass at 10.30am - closing at 5pm. 12pm - Welcoming address by Br. Malachy. 1pm - Lunch. 2pm - Address by Fr Pat. Treacy, Co-PP 3pm - Divine Mercy Chaplet, Confessions, Adoration. 4pm - Afternoon Tea. 4.30pm - Holy Rosary and closing Prayers. This Retreat (organised by the Legion) is very well attended every year so early booking is advised. For further details and booking ring Mary McGee - (086) 405 5570 or Paula Sutton - (087) 742 7307 or Mgt Ryan (087) 150 9522.

St Padre Pio Mass

St Padre Pio Mass will be celebrated on Thursday March 15 at St Brendan's Church, Birr. Rosary at 7.15pm. Mass at 7.30pm. All welcome.



Publication Name: Midland Tribune
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RUEPOINT MEDIA

If Could Be You!

Have you an hour a week to spare to befriend an elderly person in the community. Roscrea Cares-Age Friendly Roscrea now housed in the beautifully restored courthouse is looking for volunteers to visit or phone a member of the community even once a week. For further information contact Anne Keevey (083) 1133987.

Women raise funds for breast cancer charity

OVER 70 women celebrated International Women's Day with Network Ireland Kildare Branch last Friday evening 9 March in Cafe Carlton Newbridge. Amongst the guests were

Alannah Beirne from *Dancing with the Stars* and the CEO of Breast Cancer Ireland, Aisling Hurley. Breast Cancer Ireland was presented with a cheque for

€22,500 raised at the charity lunch held last November by the very active branch of inspiring women. Aisling Hurley spoke of the wonderful work that Breast Cancer Ireland will use the funds for.



Publication Name: The Nationalist (Kildare Edition)
Published Date: March 13, 2018
Media Reach: 12,736
Media Cost: €663,00
Page Numbers: 12



Breast Cancer Ireland being presented with a cheque for €22,500 raised by Network Kildare: Deirdre O'Connor (Network Kildare Events Manager), Samantha McGregor (BCI), Grainne Slattery (Network Kildare President), Aisling Hurley (BCI), Pauline Forde (Network Kildare Ex-Officio) and Jess Colivet (Cancer Survivor) at Network Ireland Kildare Branch International Women's Day Celebration at Newbridge Silverware

Photo: Michael Donnelly

BRIEFS

Breast Cancer Ireland

Tommy's Bar at The White House, Roscrea, has teamed up with Breast Cancer Ireland, to hold an Easter Festival of Darts. Tommy Murphy from Tommy's Bar has put together a committee to run a Ladies Darts Tournament for fun with all proceeds going to Breast Cancer Ireland. They are currently looking for 32 ladies to participate, 16 teams of two ladies will be randomly picked.

The winning team will receive a weekend away in a beautiful hotel in Ireland. Breast Cancer Ireland are asking for support from all local businesses, clubs, organisations and individuals to come on board and make this an enjoyable weekend and more importantly raise much needed funds for this eat cause. For more information please contact The White House (0505) 21996, Tommy Murphy (089) 4974797.



It's great for women to see a variety of shapes on telly

CAMOGIE star Anna Geary said she was nervous about taking part in Dancing With The Stars for fear of how the public would perceive her body.

She knew that her debut would mean extra scrutiny of her figure, which she says is "very different".

However, she was pleasantly surprised by the feedback, mostly from mothers who are grateful to have a new healthy role model for their daughters.

The Cork woman told Stellar magazine: "Mine is no better or worse than anyone else's, but it's a very different shape."

"Thankfully, I've had lots of parents getting in touch, telling me that I'm a positive role model and that it's great to see an athletic physique like mine."



I can understand why any woman may initially feel body-conscious taking part in Dancing With The Stars.

SKIMPY

The costumes are often skimpy and your fitness levels are really put to the test.

I'm currently rehearsing for The Battle of the Stars, which takes place



in a month's time in aid of Breast Cancer Ireland.

My fellow contestants include Snapchatters Rob Kenny and James Patrice, FM104 DJ Crossy, model Kerri Nicole Blanc and Blathnaid Ni Chofaigh.

My dance is very high tempo and has a number of lifts. In the first rehearsal, I was worrying whether my dress would be up over my head and I'd flash the whole audience.

It's nerve-wracking, but

I think you get to the stage where you're so focused on remembering each dance move that you don't have time to worry about how your body looks.

I think this year's diverse cast of female contestants on Dancing With The Stars has been really positive.

The line-up has every box ticked in terms of the various age categories and body types. It's encouraging for women at home to see more of a mixture.



Anna Geary in action. Inset, James Patrice

[Six books we love from Irish authors that you can order today](#)

image.ie - 18/03/2018

Almost Love-Louise O'Neill

27-year-old Sarah is in a secret relationship with an older man, but to her cost. Becoming isolated from her friends and on the verge of losing her job, she's unable to disentangle herself from this toxic obsession. Exploring the pain and addiction of abusive love, O'Neill brings her intense, insightful and feminist approach to a much-mined genre. This is her third novel but her first for adults, and asks vital questions around our perceptions of love. Buy it [here](#)

2. Letters to my Daughters-Emma Hannigan

The recent, untimely death of this prolific author has made her final novel particularly poignant. Bea, Jeannie and Rose are three sisters, devastated by the loss of their childhood nanny, yet their mother Martha cannot understand why her daughters are so upset. The heart of this novel explores the complicated bonds between mothers, daughters, and sisters and the wisdom that these important relationships impart. It's currently at number one in the Irish charts, and worth noting that all Dubray profits from Letters to My Daughters will be donated to [Breast Cancer Ireland](#), a fine legacy indeed. Buy [here](#)

3. Repeal the 8 Edited by Una Mullally

Published ahead of Ireland's landmark referendum to repeal the 8 Amendment this is difficult but essential reading for a generation who didn't get to vote in 1983. Contributions from Tara Flynn, Anne Enright and Lisa Mc Inerney are thought provoking and inclusive. Edited by award-winning journalist Una Mullally, it notes that any woman or girl found procuring an abortion can be sentenced to 14 years under Irish law. This and other uncomfortable facts are given due consideration in this timely study. Buy [here](#)

4. From a Low and Quiet Sea

Donal Ryan is an exquisite writer. A modern master he captures the idiosyncrasies and pathos of small-town Ireland with acute sensitivity and self-awareness. His fifth novel shines prescient social commentary on three men trying to make sense of their lives, Farouk a Syrian refugee, the heartbroken Lampy, and the penitent and pained John. As with all Ryan's writing it's an emotional and engaging tale, and a worthy addition to his fine canon.

Buy [here](#)

5. The Doctors Wife is Dead Andrew Tierney

Fans of The Suspicions of Mr Whicher will love this true crime novel. Gothic in tone it documents the mysterious death in 1849 of Ellen Langley in Nenagh, Co.Tipperary. Her husband the local doctor stands trial for murder, amidst controversy and parliamentary debate. This compelling, forgotten story is brought to life by Tierney's forensic reconstruction of events, his wonderful evocation of famine plagued Ireland in the grip of Victorian morality. As an archaeologist and direct descendent of Ellen Langley, he's well placed to recount this fascinating tale, ultimately exposing a shocking lie.

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Published Date: February 22, 2018
Media Reach: 15,276
Media Cost: €1,568,00
Page Numbers: 10,11

RUEPOINT MEDIA



Footloose to help a gala

PRESENTER
Blathnaid Ní Chofaigh and Dancing with the Stars backstage reporter, James Patrice are pictured at the launch of the Breast Cancer Ireland Battle of the Stars gala fundraiser supported by Joe Duffy Group.

Each of the participants will spend the next few weeks in a rigorous regime of rehearsals led by a team of professional choreographers and stylists.

Tickets, which include a four-course meal and entertainment, are on sale at €150 per person at www.breastcancerireland.com. All funds raised support Breast Cancer Ireland's pioneering research and awareness programmes around Ireland. Picture: Robbie Reynolds



EVENTS No matter what's happening in your area, Dublin Gazette's far-ranging photographers have all the events and angles covered

A MIGHTY MALAHIDE MUSICAL

THE Malahide Musical and Dramatic Society presented the opening night of their brand-new production of Sister Act recently.

The well-known musical saw the society put their own unique twist on it, hitting some heavenly high notes during the dols-out run with thanks to the great efforts of the talented cast and crew. The Malahide Musical and Dramatic Society are due to announce their production for the next season very soon.

1. Musical director Dave McGuaran, director Lynda O'Neill and choreographer Jean Gill
2. The cast of Sister Act
3. Pauline Gargon and Marie Mooney
4. Chloe Speers

CIARA Doherty and Kamal Ibrahim (top), and presenter Blathnaid Ni Chofaigh and Dancing with the Stars backstage reporter, James Patrice (above) are pictured at the launch of the Breast Cancer Ireland Battle of the Stars gala fundraiser supported by Joe Duffy Group.

Each of the participants will spend the next few weeks in a rigorous regime of rehearsals led by a team of professional choreographers and stylists.

Tickets, which include a four-course meal and entertainment, are on sale at €150 per person at www.breastcancerireland.com. All funds raised support Breast Cancer Ireland's pioneering research and awareness programmes around Ireland.

Pictures: Robbie Reynolds



Publication Name: Dublin Gazette (North Edition)

Published Date: February 22, 2018

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Media Cost: €1,591.00

Page Numbers: 10,11

RUEPOINT MEDIA



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Media Reach: 5,324

Media Cost: €1,591,00

Page Numbers: 10,11

RUEPOINT MEDIA



ABOUT TOWN

Stars don dancing shoes for good cause

SOME famous faces will be donning their finest sequins and putting their best foot forward for charity shortly.

A number of celebrities have signed up for the annual Battle of the Stars event, including Blathnaid Ni Chofaigh, TV3's Ciara Doherty, Diana Bunici, James Patrice, model Kerri Nicole Blanc and *Herald* columnist Holly Carpenter.

Also taking part will be RTE presenter Kamal Ibrahim, FM104's Crossy and blogger Rob Kenny as they do their part for a worthy cause.

Taking place in the Clayton Hotel in Ballsbridge on April 14, this year's event will see former contestant Gerald Kean helping to judge the competing celebs as they're put through their paces.

The dance and lip-sync evening is aimed at raising funds for Breast Cancer Ireland's research programmes.

Model Holly (right) said she was "so excited" to be taking part in this year's event and even attended RTE's *Dancing With The Stars* on Sunday to watch how the professionals did it.





Stars dance to fight breast cancer

Kerri Nicole Blanc and Holly Carpenter donned their dancing gear to launch 'Battle of the Stars' – a fundraising dance spectacular featuring a host of celebrities. The event takes place at the

Clayton Hotel, Ballsbridge, on Saturday April 14 to raise funds for Breast Cancer Ireland's research and awareness programmes around the country. Photo: Gareth Chaney



Publication Name: The Herald
Published Date: February 20, 2018
Media Reach: 39,093
Media Cost: €2,456,00
Page Numbers: 19

RUEPOINT MEDIA

Glittering night ahead



Kerri-Nicole Blanc and Holly Carpenter help launch Battle of the Stars, supported by Joe Duffy Group, at the Royal College of Surgeons. The dance and lip sync fundraiser takes place in the Clayton Hotel, Ballsbridge, on April 14 to raise funds for Breast Cancer Ireland



Stepping out in style



Bláthnaid Ní Chofaigh, Kerri Nicole Blanc, Denise Ashe, Emma Cassidy, Holly Carpenter, and Ciara Doherty go all glitzy to launch 'Battle of the Stars', which is supported by the Joe Duffy Group. The dance and lip sync fundraiser takes place in Dublin's Clayton Hotel, Ballsbridge, on Saturday, April 14, to raise funds for Breast Cancer Ireland's pioneering research and awareness programmes around the country.

Picture: Gareth Chaney Collins



th THIS week saw the launch of Battle of the Stars for Breast Cancer Ireland, taking me back to when I donned the most glittery sequinned shirt you've ever seen.

I was one of the 'celebrity' dancers in the very first Battle of the Stars in 2013 and, as well as supporting a brilliant cause, it was the absolute craic!

Since then Battle of the Stars has gone from strength to strength.

The night itself is exactly what you imagine — lots of wellknown personalities learning a dance and competing against each other, just like on Strictly Come Dancing.

Now that we have Dancing With The Stars, it's even better as the whole nation has got the ballroom buzz.

Even DWTS reporter James Patrice and RTE's Blathnaid Ni Chofaigh, below, are taking part this year.

They will be shaking their tail feathers with Ireland AM's Ciara Doherty, presenter Kamal Ibrahim, the gorgeous Holly Carpenter and, representing FM104 my hilarious FM104, colleague Thomas 'Crossy' Crosse.

I imagine he'll be practising his cha-chacha around the office for the next few weeks as those dance routines are way more difficult than you imagine. I was absolutely wrecked perfecting my jive — it's such a high energy dance it's like being on a treadmill on its fastest setting!

I absolutely loved it though, and if you're looking for a fun glitzy night out for a great cause, make sure you get tickets ASAP.

The best part about the whole thing is that all the money goes to Breast Cancer Ireland, an amazing charity.

We all know someone who has been affected by breast cancer so do support if you can.

Visit breastcancerireland.com to get tickets for this black tie event.

NOT IMPRESSED Fergie's rendition of the US National Anthem. What were you thinking Fergie Ferg!? OBSESSED Room To Improve. The best show on RTE is back! I dream of having a Dermot Bannon home. Don't we all? THE JUICE with Sean Munsanje Sundays 10am-12pm

[It's star wars as celebs do their bit for charity](#)

Daily Mail (ROI) - 20/02/2018

IRISH celebs will be strutting their stuff and lip syncing to raise funds for Breast Cancer Ireland when they compete in the charity's Battle Of The Stars.

The event - BCI's annual gala - takes place on April 14 and stars competing this year include BÍthnaid NÁ Chofaigh (pictured above, far left with fellow constestants Kerri Nicole Blanc, Denise Ashe, Emma Cassidy, Holly Carpenter and Ciara Doherty), Dancing With The Stars' backstage reporter, James Patrice, and presenter Kamal Ibrahim.

In addition, broadcaster Diana Bunici, FM104 Strawberry Alarm Clock's Crossy, and blogger Rob Kenny will take to the stage. Each of the participants will spend the next few weeks in rehearsals with a team of professional choreographers and stylists. Battle Of The Stars is supported by Joe Duffy Group and also features survivors of breast cancer, including Spin's entertainment editor Georgie Crawford. 2FM star Eoghan McDermott, who has taken part in the event twice, will MC and a celebrity judging panel will award scores on the night. Head judge will be Dancing With The Stars' Julian Benson who will be joined by BCI Ambassador and TV3 presenter Elaine Crowley, solicitor Gerald Kean and presenter Lisa Cannon. Tickets, which include a four-course meal and entertainment, are on sale at â,-150 per person at [breastcancerireland.com](#).

TV3: CAGNEY IS NOT QUITTING IRELAND AM

Daily Mirror (ROI) - 20/02/2018

TV3 bosses have slammed bogus reports that Ireland AM star Mark Cagney is retiring from the popular breakfast programme.

The Cork man has been presenting the show since 1999 and reports over the weekend said he planned on saying goodbye to viewers next year.

But a TV3 source told the Irish Mirror Cagney, 61, has no plans on quitting the hit show.

They said: "Mark loves his job, it's a non-story. He won't leave, he has a family to support and adores being on air, it's the first we've heard of this."

His Ireland AM co-host Ciara Doherty said she was shocked by the rumours but refused to comment any further.

She told the Irish Mirror at the launch of Battle Of The Stars in aid of Breast Cancer Ireland: "I don't even think Mark saw the story, he didn't say anything to us this morning."

The 35-year-old has presented the hit show with him for more than two years and said the early starts mean there's no faking it.

She added: "We all do get on well, you see the very best and the very worst of people at 4am."

In November, Sinéad Desmond left the show over an alleged gender pay gap dispute and since then Ciara has taken over as lead female anchor.

She said: "I don't know if they'll leave me as the only female, I don't need to put manners on the lads either, they're gentlemen."

Ciara, who said "I do" to TV producer Richard Stearn at an intimate ceremony in Barcelona last August, told how starting a family is on the agenda.

She added: "I don't mind being asked and it's absolutely in our future plans."

The Donegal native is getting ready to hit the floor for Battle of The Stars at Dublin's Clayton Hotel Ballsbridge on April 14.

Balls She'll be dancing against a host of well-known faces including model Holly Carpenter, author and broadcaster Diana Bunici and RTE's Blathnaid inclu broadca Ni Chofaigh to raise much needed funds.

Ch Be sur sac4 Best-selling author and breast cancer survivor Emma Hannigan danced in the same contest in 2014. Having beaten cancer 10 times since 2007, the brave 45-year-old revealed at the weekend "all avenues have been exhausted" in her battle with the disease.

b Since the devastating news broke a campaign to get the mum of two's latest novel Letters To My Daughter to No1 on the bestsellers' list.

n t hop y Ciara explained: "She's a beacon of hope because she has absolutely survived for years against the odds. I remember her saying to me, cancer might have taken over my body but I'll never let it take over my spirit."

news@irishmirror.ie

I don't even think Mark saw the story, he didn't say anything CIARA DOHERTY dublin yesterday RUMOURS Ciara and Mark with former host Sinéad BEST FEET FORWARD Dancers back charity event SUPPORT Kerri Nicole Blanc and Holly Carpenter HAVING A BALL Ciara Doherty at the launch of Battle Of The Stars yesterday

[Holly's keeping a low profile when it comes to love](#)

Daily Mirror (ROI) - 23/02/2018

SINGLE Holly Carpenter has revealed she's looking for love online after three failed high-profile relationships.

The formed beauty queen previously dated a string of well-known faces including rugby star Cian Healy, Corona's frontman Danny O'Reilly and soccer ace Richie Sadler.

The 26-year-old told the Irish Mirror: "Being in high-profile relationships can be stressful particularly being called the Wag.

"If you're going out with someone in the public eye no matter what you are achieving yourself they'll always draw in what your partner is doing and if you're being called 'the girlfriend' or 'Wag of ' etc, it's really frustrating."

"This happened when I was with Cian and it was a bit much when you're trying to do your own stuff."

The former Miss Ireland admitted she's in no rush for love but would be keen to meet a fella with the same qualities as her father.

At the launch of Battle Of The Stars in aid of Breast Cancer Ireland, she added: "I'd like to find someone like my dad, a normal, funny, protective man."

The brunette revealed she's even embraced looking for love online.

She said: "I downloaded Bumble last week in a moment of madness, it's like Tinder but the women have to speak first. I'd never actually go on a Tinder date though but I'm just doing it for a laugh."

The model-turned-jewellery designer just launched LoveLift, which has gone into 19 Carraig Donn stores nationwide.

Her brand is about loving yourself for who you are and female empowerment and having studied ceramic glass and metals at university it was the perfect fit for a jewellery line.

Inspired by the MeToo campaign, she said: "I do really support it, I think it's really good now that men are watching themselves and how they speak to women.

"It doesn't have to go as far as having a girl locked in her hotel room and assaulting her.

"It's little comments that dig at women's self-esteem day to day, it's about changing the whole language that's acceptable for men to use."

Having carved a career in modelling in her late teens, the Dublin beauty has been on the receiving end of inappropriate remarks.

She said: "I was lucky nothing terrible ever happened, but when I was younger and I had started modelling, you'd get the odd sexual comment about what you'd be wearing.

"When I was 19 there were men saying odd things, the same age as my dad, but nobody ever made an advance but they'd make sexual comments."

news@irishmirror.ie

FROCK & AWE Battle of Stars launch single lady Holly Carpenter Model dated the Leinster and Ireland rugby star for two years from 2012 to 2014
CIAN HEALY Holly broke up with The Coronas frontman last year having got together in 2015 DANNY O'REILLY Model split with the former Ireland soccer star citing their 13-year age gap as a big reason RICHIE SADLIER

[SEAN MUNSANJE Battle of the Stars for Breast Cancer Ireland returning brings back fond memories of my time time on the dancefloor](#)
thesun.ie - 22/02/2018

THIS week saw the launch of Battle of the Stars for Breast Cancer Ireland, taking me back to when I donned the most glittery sequinned shirt you've ever seen.

I was one of the 'celebrity' dancers in the very first Battle of the Stars in 2013 and, as well as supporting a brilliant cause, it was the absolute craic! Since then Battle of the Stars has gone from strength to strength.

The night itself is exactly what you imagine - lots of well-known personalities learning a dance and competing against each other, just like on Strictly Come Dancing.

Now that we have Dancing With The Stars, it's even better as the whole nation has got the ballroom buzz.

Even DWTS reporter James Patrice and RTE's Blathnaid Ni Chofaigh, below, are taking part this year.

NOT IMPRESSED

Fergie's rendition of the US National Anthem. What were you thinking Fergie Ferg!?

OBSESSED

Room To Improve. The best show on RTE is back! I dream of having a Dermot Bannon home. Don't we all?

They will be shaking their tail feathers with Ireland AM's Ciara Doherty, presenter Kamal Ibrahim, the gorgeous Holly Carpenter and, representing FM104, my hilarious colleague Thomas 'Crossy' Crosse.

I imagine he'll be practising his cha-cha-cha around the office for the next few weeks as those dance routines are way more difficult than you imagine.

I was absolutely wrecked perfecting my jive - it's such a high energy dance it's like being on a treadmill on its fastest setting!

I absolutely loved it though, and if you're looking for a fun glitzy night out for a great cause, make sure you get tickets ASAP.

The best part about the whole thing is that all the money goes to Breast Cancer Ireland, an amazing charity.

We all know someone who has been affected by breast cancer so do support if you can.

Visit breastcancerireland.com to get tickets for this black tie event.

Battle of the Stars launched this week.

The show promotes breast cancer awareness.

[Holly Carpenter on her love life, dating and the MeToo campaign](#)
irishmirror.ie - 22/02/2018

Single Holly Carpenter has admitted that she's currently looking for love online after three failed high profile relationships.

The former beauty queen previously dated a string of well known faces including rugby star Cian Healy, The Coronas frontman Danny O'Reilly and soccer ace Richie Sadlier.

Speaking to Irish Mirror Holly, 26, said: "Being in high profile relationships can be stressful particularly being called the Wag.

"If you're going out with someone in the public eye no matter what you are achieving yourself they'll always draw in what your partner is doing and if you're being called 'the girlfriend' or 'WAG of' etc, it's really frustrating.

"This happened when I was going out with Cian and it was a bit much when you're trying to do your own stuff."

The ex Miss Ireland admitted she's in no rush for love but admitted she'd be keen to find a man like her dad.

At the launch of Battle of the Stars in aid of Breast Cancer Ireland, she added: "I'd like to find someone like my dad, a normal, funny, protective man."

The leggy brunette revealed she's even embraced looking for love online.

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"It doesn't have to go as far as having a girl locked in her hotel room and assaulting her.

"It's the little comments that dig at women's self esteem day to day, it's about changing the whole language that's acceptable for men to use."

Having carved a career in modelling in her late teens, the Dublin beauty said she witnessed derogatory sexual comments.

She said: "I was lucky nothing terrible ever happened, but when I was younger and I had started modelling, you'd get the odd sexual comment about what you'd be wearing.

"But when I was 19, there were men saying odd things, the same age as my dad but nobody ever made an advance but they'd make sexual comments."

Holly Carpenter and Danny O'Reilly.

Holly Carpenter (Image: Instagram: hollycarpenter).

Cian Healy and Holly Carpenter arrive at a reception at Farmleigh House to honour the Six Nations winning Irish Rugby team in March 2014 (Image: Collins).

Holly Carpenter (Image: Brian McEvoy).

[TV3 bosses slam reports that Ireland AM star Mark Cagney is leaving hit show](#)
irishmirror.ie - 20/02/2018

The Cork man has been presenting the show since 1999 and reports over the weekend said he planned on saying goodbye to viewers next year.

But a TV3 source told the Irish Mirror Cagney, 61, has no plans on quitting the hit show.

They said: "Mark loves his job, it's a non-story. He won't leave, he has a family to support and adores being on air, it's the first we've heard of this."

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She added: "We all do get on well, you see the very best and the very worst of people at 4am."

In November, Sinead Desmond left the show over an alleged gender pay gap dispute and since then Ciara has taken over as lead female anchor.

She said: "I don't know if they'll leave me as the only female, I don't need to put manners on the lads either, they're gentlemen."

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She added: "I don't mind being asked and it's absolutely in our future plans."

The Donegal native is getting ready to hit the floor for Battle of The Stars at Dublin's Clayton Hotel Ballsbridge on April 14.

She'll be dancing against a host of well-known faces including model Holly Carpenter, author and broadcaster Diana Bunici and RTE's Blathnaid Ni Chofaigh to raise much needed funds.

Best-selling author and breast cancer survivor Emma Hannigan danced in the same contest in 2014. Having beaten cancer 10 times since 2007, the brave 45-year-old revealed at the weekend "all avenues have been exhausted" in her battle with the disease.

Since the devastating news broke a campaign to get the mum of two's latest novel Letters To My Daughter to No1 on the bestsellers' list.

Ciara explained: "She's a beacon of hope because she has absolutely survived for years against the odds. I remember her saying to me, cancer might have taken over my body but I'll never let it take over my spirit."

Ciara Doherty (Image: Gareth Chaney Collins).

Mark Cagney (Image: Gareth Chaney Collins).

[Irish celebs go head to head to raise funds for Breast Cancer Ireland](#)

evoke.ie - 20/02/2018

Battle of the Stars is the charity's annual gala fundraiser where a host of high profile faces shimmy and sing for their supper as much-needed funds are raised.

Stars competing this year include RTE's Blathnaid Ni Chofaigh, TV3 Ireland AM's Ciara Doherty, presenter Kamal Ibrahim, Dancing with the Stars backstage reporter, James Patrice and Holly Carpenter.

In addition, author and broadcaster, Diana Bunici, FM104 Strawberry Alarm Clock's Crossy, model Kerri Nicole Blanc and fashion presenter and blogger Rob Kenny will take to the stage.

Each of the participants will spend the next few weeks in a rigorous regime of rehearsals by a team of professional choreographers and stylists.

Battle of the Stars is supported by Joe Duffy Group and also features survivors of breast cancer, including Spin's Entertainment Editor Georgie Crawford

2FM star Eoghan McDermott, who has taken part in the event on two occasions in the past, will MC and a celebrity judging panel will award scores on the night.

Head judge will be Dancing with the Stars critic Julian Benson and he will be joined by BCI Ambassador and TV3 presenter Elaine Crowley, solicitor Gerald Kean and presenter Lisa Cannon.

Speaking at the launch, Ireland AM anchor Ciara Doherty said she was delighted to be involved.

'It's a fantastic charity. It's something I'd always wanted to try and get involved with in some way,' she said.

'I don't think there is anybody in Ireland, and I'm certainly not one of them, who doesn't know somebody or has loved and lost somebody who's been affected by breast cancer.

'It's a no-brainer for anybody who's asked to take part. It's fun and it's ultimately for a great cause.'

'I am quite good at self-checking because of my work in Ireland AM because it's something that we cover on the programme so regularly,' she continued.

'We have spoken to breast cancer survivors, young and older women, from 25 to 70 who have been diagnosed.

'It's a one-minute thing in the shower, it's a habit.

'When you're sitting watching the television in the evening, when you're waiting for the kettle to boil, when you come out of the shower and you're putting on body lotion, just take 30 seconds and it can actually save your life.'

Tickets for the event, which include a four-course meal and entertainment, are on sale at a €150 per person at www.breastcancerireland.com.

All funds raised support Breast Cancer Ireland's pioneering research and awareness programmes around Ireland.

Blathnaid Ni Chofaigh, Kerri Nicole Blanc, Denise Ashe, Emma Cassidy, Holly Carpenter and Ciara Doherty. Pic: Collins.

Holly Carpenter. Pic: Collins.

Blathnaid Ni Chofaigh and James Patrice. Pic: Robbie Reynolds.

Ciara Doherty. Pic: Collins.

Kerri Nicole Blanc and Holly Carpenter. Pic: Collins.

[Ireland AM's Ciara Doherty: 'I would be delighted to stay on'](#)
evoked.ie - 20/02/2018

The Donegal woman has been filling the role previously held by Sinead Desmond for the past four months.

The Donegal native has been with the station for years, starting out as a presenter on the current affairs show Midweek.

She has also produced documentaries such as 'At Home with the Healy Raes' before making the move to Ireland AM full time in 2015.

And the 35-year-old has told EVOKE.ie that she would be happy to stay on the show.

'I've been on Ireland AM for two-and-a-half years, anchoring full time for four months,' she said.

'I absolutely love it, I have to say. I feel completely at home, totally comfortable, love working with the team and would be delighted to stay on.

'It's not my decision but I would absolutely love it.'

And the Letterkenny native has found a way to cope with the early mornings.

'This morning my alarm went off at 4am, it's incredibly early. It's not easy but you just have to be really disciplined,' she said.

'That's the only way to manage it so that you are able to be pleasant and on air and effective and that you continue to be pleasant when you come off air to your friends and your family.

'And to your husband who doesn't want to be listening to someone who's moany and exhausted because they've been up since 4am!

'I aim to go to bed at 9pm, I watch the news headlines and go to bed at quarter past.'

Ciara was speaking at the launch of 'Breast Cancer Ireland Battle of the Stars' gala fundraiser, supported by Joe Duffy Group.

Along with Ciara, Blathnaid Ni Chofaigh, Kamal Ibrahim, James Patrice, Holly Crpenter, Diana Bunici and more will take to the stage in April to compete in a series of dances and lip sync battles.

All funds raised support Breast Cancer Ireland's pioneering research and awareness programmes around Ireland.

Ciara Doherty Pic: Rolling News.

Ciara Doherty Pic: VIPIreland.

Kamal Ibrahim and Ciara Doherty. Pic: Collins.

Ciara Doherty. Pic: Brian McEvoy.

ROSCREA

Roscrea Toastmasters

Roscrea Toastmasters met on Thursday last and President, Brian McLoughlin welcomed all members. It was a very enjoyable night.

Toastmaster for the night was Liz Ryan. Topicsmaster, Ronan Sherlock had a very entertaining range of topics with lots of contributions from the members. On the night there were prepared speeches from Edward Healy and Michael O'Carroll. Their guest, Tom O'Keefe, Pathways coach also gave a presentation.

Why not come along to Roscrea Toastmasters where in a warm, relaxed and welcoming atmosphere they help each other improve self-confidence by developing public speaking.

Give Brian (086-3657168) or Sean (086-0291809) a ring if you would like to find out more.

Roscrea Trail Blazers

Last Thursday the Blazers had a another well attended walk around The Golden Grove and Orange Hill Loop. Despite the poor weather on the night, this did not deter the group from having another great night with lots of banter and fun.

This Thursday March 22 sees The Trail Blazers heading Mount St Joseph Abbey just outside Roscrea on an easy walk, 7km, two hour hike around the grounds of the Abbey. Meeting at Mulrooney's Gala at 7pm or the main gate carpark at 7.10pm. Please bring Hi Viz jacket and hand/head torch.

The next day trip is to Keeper Hill on Saturday next March 24. This is a moderate/hard 11km hike. Meeting at Mulrooney's Gala at 10am or the upper Silvermines carpark at 10.45am.

This is still a great way to keep fit over the winter and can be quite a positive experience walking under the night's sky. The Trail Blazers would like to put out an open invitation to the general public to join them at some point on their winter walks programme for 2018. Walking is a great way to get into shape as well as being a great way to meet new friends and see new places.

The Trail Blazers website www.roscreatrailblazers.com is up and running with a list of 13 day trips over the coming months and they encourage you to give it a look and see what the group have planned for 2018 with a proposed day out to Slieve Donard in the North of Ireland, Tountinna Lough Derg, and a return to Lough Dan in Wicklow to name but a few. A map reading and GPS training course in is also on the cards.

If you would like to join the group on any of their walks you can contact Cathal on (086) 3399193 with an expression of interest. You will be made very welcome.

Talk At Roscrea Library

'Raising Happy Kids in an Anxious World' a talk with Stella O'Malley will be held in Roscrea Library on Wednesday March 21 from 6.30-7.30pm.

As part of the Healthy Ireland at your Library programme, Roscrea Library is delighted to welcome psychotherapist and best selling author

Stella O'Malley. Most parents want to raise happy kids however life's stressors often get in the way! This talk helps parents to rekindle the joy in family life with practical tips and strategies for parents to use in their day to day life. Stella O'Malley is a psychotherapist, best selling author and public speaker with many years' experience as a mental health professional. Much of Stella's counselling and teaching work is with parents and young people which culminated in the publication of her book "Cotton Wool Kids" by Mercier Press in 2015. "Cotton Wool Kids" reached no.5

on the Irish bestseller charts and remained on the Eason's bestselling list for some time while in August 2017, Stella's new best-selling book "Bully-Proof Kids: Practical tools to help kids grow up confident, resilient and strong" was released by Gill Books.

Lecture

Dunkerrin Parish History Society lecture series continues in the Obama Plaza on Wednesday, March 21 with a talk by Jim Madden on "Father Fahey" - the radical priest from Lusmagh. Lecture begins at 8pm. Admission is €5. All are welcome and please take the lift to the first floor.

Fashion Show At Gloster House

Gloster House will be the fabulous setting for a Fashion Show being run by St Mary's Church of Ireland, Shinrone, on Thursday April 12. The evening includes an opportunity to view the main rooms of Gloster House, a cheese and wine reception followed by the fashion show at 8pm. The doors of Gloster House open at 7pm. Tickets are €25 each and as they cannot be sold at the door it is necessary to buy them beforehand. To book yours (and they're going fast!) please contact either the Revd. Ruth Gill at (087) 9484402, Eleanor Wakefield at (087) 3555839 or Cyril Stanley at (087) 2889616.

Enrolment

St Cronan's National School, Rosemount, Roscrea Open Day will be held on Thursday March 22 from 1pm. This is a great opportunity for parents to come and visit the school, meet with teachers, hear about the variety of activities the school participate in and also the bus travel available.

If you are unable to attend the Open Day you can contact the school on (0505) 21636 and they will arrange a more suitable time. Application forms can be collected from the school or call the above number and one can be posted out to you.

Roscrea Red Cross Food Distribution

The Roscrea branch of the Irish Red Cross are operating a "Food Cloud" every Wednesday between 12.30pm and 1pm at the Parish Centre, Roscrea. The surplus food donated by Tesco is available free of charge to those who need it.

Cookery Demonstration

Cookery Demonstration in aid St Cronan's National School, Rosemount, by Ailish Hennessy, Fiacri House, in Racket Hall Hotel on Wednesday March 21 at 8pm. Doors open at 7pm. Local food and craft exhibition on display.

Daffodil Day - March 23

There are currently 165,000 people living with cancer in Ireland. 40,000 more will be diagnosed with cancer or a related tumour this year. More people are surviving cancer now than ever before thanks to life saving research. The Irish Cancer Society provides huge care and support to people and only 2% of their funds come from the state. Therefore they are hugely dependant on the generosity of the public to fund vital services such as night nurses, volunteer drivers and free phone cancer nurse line to name but a few. None of this would be possible without the strong support for Daffodil Day across Ireland.

Roscrea is a great supporter of Daffodil Day and this year they are looking for their regular volunteers and anybody else interested in working with them to contact Pamela Landy on (086) 1750913.

Those wishing to contribute fresh daffodils can also do so. For support and services contact the Irish Cancer Society on 1800 200 700.

Breast Cancer Ireland Fundraiser

Tommy's Bar at The White House, Roscrea have teamed up with Breast Cancer Ireland, to hold an Easter Festival of Darts. Tommy Murphy from Tommy's Bar has put together a committee to run a Ladies Darts Tournament for fun with all proceeds going to [Breast Cancer Ireland](http://BreastCancerIreland.org). They are currently looking for 32 ladies to participate, 16 teams of two ladies will be randomly picked. The winning team will receive a weekend away in a beautiful hotel in Ireland. Breast Cancer Ireland are asking for support from all local businesses, clubs, organisations and individuals to come on board and make this an enjoyable weekend and more importantly raise much needed funds for this great cause. For more information please contact The White House (0505) 21996, Tommy Murphy (089) 4974797.



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The Lions Club of Roscrea who this year are celebrating 50 years of service to the community of Roscrea and District. The Lions are celebrating with a dinner dance in Racket Hall Hotel on Saturday next March 24. Tickets, €50, available from Farrellys Dental Practise and Redmond Photography.
Front (l. to r.) B Redmond PRO, D Walsh, M Lupton, J Carroll, Treas., J Cahill, President, L Delaney, Sec., B Hanly, P Marrinan. Middle; B Hyland, B Smith, S Fitzpatrick, M Ramsbottom, N M Heenan, M Fitzgerald, M McGrath, J Byrne, J Dwyer, D Meagher. Back; P Collison S Mullaney, C Williams, P Hartnett, D Kelly, T Farrelly, P O'Gorman, S Dennison, L Spooner. Missing from photograph, C Lorigan, P Cody, M Carroll, G Hayes. Photograph Theresa Redmond. MT12911BR

OUT&ABOUT
Planning a party or celebration?
Text details to 087-9111198 or phone us at 088-7148600



THREE BIRTHDAYS: Triple celebrations for the O'Shea and Duggan families as Lucy O'Shea, Shona O'Shea and Molly Duggan (all seated) celebrated their birthdays together with family in the Derry Lane on Friday night. Standing l-r: Kathy Horan, Evonne Duggan, Kathleen O'Shea and Jaimelee Duggan.



LEAVING DO: Jennifer Snook, Killarney, enjoying a meal out with her friends in Ristorante Uno on Thursday night last, as she is leaving the Ballygarry House Hotel. Seated l-r: Elaine Young, Jennifer Snook and Marie Galvin. Standing l-r: Michelle Diggins, Aine Connell, Emma Hickey, Liz Carey and Linda Stack.



The darts side from Mike Murt's Bar in Cahersiveen who defeated Gráinne's Bar in the final of the 2017 Guinness Cup in Sigerson's Bar, Ballinskelligs on the 3rd March, pictured here l-r: Mike 'Murt' O'Connell, Paulie O'Shea, Mark O'Shea, Joe O'Donoghue (Chairman, South Kerry Darts), Declan Corcoran and Sean Garvey.



Carmel Galvin from Castlecove presenting a cheque to Tigh an Oiléain residents and staff, from monies raised by the St Stephen's Day Swim, at the White Strand in Castlecove, pictured here l-r: June O'Mahony, Carmel Galvin, Patrick O'Sullivan, Earl Leahy, Diarmuid O'Connell, Alan Healy, Mary O'Connor, Joe Curran, Caroline Heffernan and missing from photo Geraldine Casey.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Dylan O'Connor, Tralee, who was out celebrating the occasion of his 20th birthday with family in Ristorante Uno on Thursday night last. Seated l-r: Kiara, Vincent, Dylan, Regina and Shauna O'Connor. Standing l-r: Breda and Patrick Dennehy, Aaron Lamb, Craig Henry, Leanne O'Connor, Denis and Trudy O'Connor.



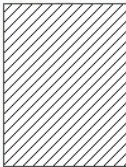
Stephen O'Shea, Tralee who was confirmed in St Brendan's Church, Tralee on Friday celebrating with his parents Alan and Karin, family and friends at Bella Bia afterwards.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Adam Looby Lugandu, Tralee (seated centre) was out celebrating his birthday with his friends in La Scala on Friday. Seated l-r: Luke O'Callaghan, John O'Sullivan, Adam Looby Lugandu, Padraig Harrington, Moya Noctor. Standing l-r: PJ O'Sullivan, Kieran O'Sullivan, Olan Murray, Nathan Looby Lugandu, Kian Lydon and Pablo Lopez with Cassandra Looby (at back).



CHEQUE THIS OUT: The River Island Hotel Card club presented cheques to five charities in the Hotel last Sunday night, front l-r: Breda Dyland (Cork Kerry Health Link Bus), John O'Sullivan, Davie Walsh (Leukaemia Ireland), Maureen O'Brien (Recovery Haven). Back l-r: Trish Kelly, Ann Barrett, Tom Brennan, Donie Cremins (Oncology Unit), Michail O'Donoghue (River Island Hotel), Kathleen Walsh, Marian Barnes and John O'Connell (Breast Cancer Ireland).



[Yvonne Connolly shows support for fundraising effort in Emma Hannigan's memory](#)
evoke.ie - 22/03/2018

The best selling author passed away earlier this month following an 11-year battle with breast cancer.

Emma, who has 13 book titles to her name, had launched a major campaign to raise money for **Breast Cancer Ireland** before her death.

After she passed away on March 3rd, Emma's family and friends encouraged people to continue donating what they could to the worthy cause.

Model Yvonne added her voice to those asking for donations this week with a post on her Twitter page.

The 44-year-old revealed that Emma's family were continuing their efforts to raise money for **Breast Cancer Ireland**.

Encouraging her followers to contribute, she said: 'After the untimely passing of inspirational author Emma Hannigan, her family are continuing to try raise as much funds for **Breast Cancer Ireland**.'

Including details on how people can donate, she added: 'By texting the word "CURE" (all capitals) to 50300 you will donate â¬4 to Breast Cancer Research in Ireland. Thank you!'

Less than a week before Emma passed away, the fundraising campaign surpassed it's â¬100,000 target.

In February, Emma's fans made a huge push to get her most recent book 'Letter to my Daughter' to the top of the Irish book charts.

Breast Cancer Ireland made a touching tribute to Emma on social media in the form of a short video after she passed away, to thank her for all she had done to raise awareness and funding for the charity.

Her funeral was held in Foxrock, South Dublin on Wednesday March 7th, during which a final letter she had written was read out to the congregation.

An extract from the letter reads: 'There is enough grey in the world already let the pink fluff and sparkles break through, there's enough sadness suffering and strife, let the laughter be heard.'

'Life is short, it is so very very precious, and it is not a dress rehearsal, so enjoy each chocolate, drink strong coffee, have a fabulous glass of wine, and buy those clothes.'

'Walk in those high heels and let the world know that you're here, work hard but play even harder, thank you all for making my life so amazing.'

'I'll watch over you and please know that I am never truly gone that I live on in the sparkles in your heart, love always Emma.'

The funeral of Emma Hannigan. Pic: Collins.

Yvonne Connolly. Pic: Brian McEvoy.

Emma Hannigan Pic: Facebook.

[TV3's Elaine Crowley gives fans a gas insight into her struggle with makeup application](#)
rsvpmagazine.ie - 23/03/2018

The TV3 presenter took to Instagram to show her first attempt at contouring.

Much beloved with celebs contouring is used to flatter and define facial features.

However the popular technique has remained elusive to the 40-year-old.

Sharing the snap of herself with the typical light and dark cream shades, the presenter of the Elaine show did not appear to be convinced.

"Sooooooo.... my wonderful attempt at contouring... #makeuptutorial" she joked to her 12.1k followers.

Many commiserated with her failed attempt, "Gotta a bit of a fright there" said one, while another one joked, "You look like you are going into battle."

Elaine recently went under the needle in aide of her friend Emma Hannigan.

The author died last month and her dear friend got inked to help raise money for **Breast Cancer Ireland**.

Taking to Instagram, Elaine shared a collage of herself and Emma, her new tattoo and another photo of Emma with an inspiring quote.

The writer's quote is: "I am still me. I have never allowed breast cancer to silence me.

"The disease can invade my body but not my mind."

Elaine told the Irish Sun that she got a unicorn tattoo in particular for Emma because of it's special meaning.

She said: "Emma is the best person I know. I became an ambassador for **Breast Cancer Ireland** because of her, and she's still determined to raise as much money as possible.

"We were supposed to get one done together but as Emma says herself, cancer robbed us of that.

"We decided this was a good idea to raise funds for **Breast Cancer Ireland**, plus she knows I'm a big chicken and got a great laugh when I sent her the pic of my ass tattoo!"

[Let's talk tatas! How exactly should you perform a self breast exam?](#)

shemazing.net - 24/03/2018

It seems like an easy way to boast awareness, wearing a bright yellow flower on your coat, right?

Well as helpful as those donations are to cancer research, we should also be helping ourselves.

According to **Breast Cancer Ireland**, 1 in 9 women will develop breast cancer in the course of their lifetime.

This brings us on to the discussion of checking our breasts - has to be done.

We know we should do it, an a lot of us do, but do we do it correctly?

Usually I just have a poke around, and decide I'm perfectly fine, and very quickly move on with my life.

But there is a knack to checking your boobs, a knack we really all need to learn.

There are 5 simple steps:

1. Begin by looking at your breasts in the mirror with your shoulders straight and your arms on your hips.

What are you looking for here? If you notice any of the following, you should consider going for a breast screening: Dimpling, puckering, or bulging of the skin, a nipple that has changed position or an inverted nipple (pushed inward instead of sticking out) or redness, soreness, rash, or swelling.

2. Now, raise your arms and look for the same changes.

3. While you're at the mirror, look for any signs of fluid coming out of one or both nipples (this could be a watery, milky, or yellow fluid or blood).

4. Now, feel your breasts while lying down, using your right hand to feel your left breast and then your left hand to feel your right breast. Use a firm, smooth touch with the first few finger pads of your hand, keeping the fingers flat and together. Use a circular motion, about the size of a quarter.

Cover the entire breast from top to bottom, side to side, all the way from your collarbone to the top of your abdomen, and from your armpit to your cleavage.

5. Finally, feel your breasts while you are standing or sitting. Many women find that the easiest way to feel their breasts is when their skin is wet and slippery, so they like to do this step in the shower. Cover your entire breast, using the same hand movements described in step 4.

'The greatest of all gifts is peace of mind'

PAUL
KIMMAGE



Twenty years on from her London Marathon win, Catherina McKiernan is in a good place again

I THOUGHT I was well used to seeing big hotels but the Thistle Tower, where they set up the headquarters for the London marathon, was particularly impressive. I sat through various radio and TV interviews before the main press conference. I know I'm every journalist's worst nightmare but that's just the way I am. I don't like being in the spotlight and worse still the centre of attention at a press conference.

I tried to give the English journalists some decent stories about playing camogie in school, and Pat Spillane being my hero, but no one seemed to get that. Paul Kimmage was one of the Irish journalists present, and he came up to me afterwards asking for another interview. I didn't know him at the time, but I thought we'd had the press conference over with, the questions went around to everyone, and he sat at the back and didn't open his mouth.

It irritated me that he did not ask a single question during the main press conference. He could even have asked something that might have interested the other journalists and helped them get more information out of me. Anyway, I just said, well, you had your chance. I wasn't trying to be smart. I didn't know who he was. But I'm sure I sounded a bit cheeky. So he went off and did a piece with Joe (Doonan, her

coach) later that week instead.

Catherina McKiernan
'Running for my life'

IN December 1997, four months before Catherina McKiernan won the London Marathon, one of my favourite all-time movies opened in Hollywood. *As Good As It Gets* was the story of Melvin Udall, a cranky, compulsive-obsessive and gifted writer of romantic fiction whose life is turned upside down when he is smitten by a local waitress.

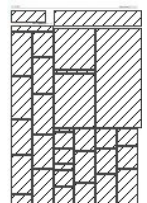
In one of the great scenes, he visits his publisher and is accosted by the receptionist who just happens to be his number one fan: "You've no idea what your work means to me," she gushes, rushing from her desk.

"What does it mean?" he replies, cussedly.

"When somebody out there knows what it's like . . . (she places one hand on her forehead and the other over her heart) . . . to be in here."

"Oh God! This is a nightmare," he howls, looking for the exit.

"Oh come on! Just a couple of questions. How hard is that?" she insists.



“How do you write women so well?”

He smiles and fixes her with an acid gaze: “I think of a man,” he says, “and I take away reason and accountability.”

Confession: I don’t write women well. Actually no, that’s not true, I rarely write about women at all. There was an enjoyable dinner once with Anna Kournikova, and a memorable breakfast with Maria Sharapova, and some great times on the road with the legendary Fanny Sunesson but generally, given the option, I prefer to interview men.

Blame Catherina.

In April of ’97, at a time when it was almost as cheap to travel to New York, I convinced my editor, Adhamhnan O’Sullivan, to send me to London to interview her before the marathon. The argument was compelling. Six months previously, McKiernan had captured the Berlin marathon in 2:23.44 — the fastest debut in women’s marathon history. The girl from Cornafean had spent a decade playing second-fiddle to the legend of Sonia O’Sullivan but was now, indisputably, front-page news. And that was my pitch to Adhamhnan.

“This is a great f***ing story!” I enthused.

“She’s nailed on to win next week!”

“She could break the world record!”

“I know she’ll give me some time.”

He never forgave me.

Five days later, McKiernan did what she had been promising to do all her life and then followed it in November with another brilliant win in Amsterdam. She was now the gold-medal favourite for the Sydney Olympics but was forced to withdraw with injury and travelled to the Games as an analyst with RTÉ.

On her return from Sydney, she married her sweetheart, Damien O’Reilly, and was happy to embrace a new chapter in life as the competitive fires dimmed. Her last major race was the Great North Run in September 2004. She had won three world class marathons, a European cross-country championship, four world cross-country silver medals and cemented her place as one of the greatest Irish athletes of all time.

The 20th anniversary of her London marathon triumph seemed a fitting opportunity to reach out to her again, but there was a lingering trepidation when we pulled up two chairs.

“Now listen,” I announce. “You’re not going to run off if I switch this (recorder) on, are you?”

“Not this time,” she laughs. “Do you remember what happened in London?”

“Oh I do,” I reply. “I’ve still got the scar.”

1.

WHEN it ends and the journalists

abandon their seats, the expressions say it all. If you didn’t know better you would swear they had just witnessed an horrific traffic accident. The man from *The Guardian* looks like he is about to weep. The man from *The Times* seems green around the gills and about to be sick.

It is Tuesday afternoon at the Tower Hill Hotel in central London and this gathering of top English sportswriters have just discovered what their Irish colleagues have known for years. Mainly, that there is nothing, nothing, absolutely nothing that compares with a Catherina McKiernan press conference.

For 20 minutes they have pummelled her with questions about her preparation and ambition for the London marathon, and for 20 minutes she has smiled and answered politely but given nothing away. She is the Bermuda Triangle of our profession, our ultimate nightmare, our Friday the 13th.

Stories abound of those who have travelled north, filled with hope in search of the real Catherina, and then reported in sick for the week. But don’t, as she would say herself, be quoting me on that. Try carving some interesting anecdote out of these:

“Catherina, can I ask you about your decision to return to Dublin immediately after this press conference?”

“Youse and the likes of youse,” she replies.

“Catherina, is it true that you are tested before all of your big races?”

“Come again now, what’s that?”

“Is it true that you are physiologically tested before you race?”

“To see how many pints of Guinness I’ve had do you mean? Ahh no. No, that’s right. I had one a week ago. Things went well. Things are going good.”

~ "Catherina, whose achievements do you most aspire to follow in the marathon?"

"No one in particular. Any of them."

"Catherina, are you more at home in the marathon than in any other event?"

"Ahh, I don't know. People have said that more than I've said it. I've just run one and it's gone well for me."

Catherina, there's been a lot of talk about the possibility that you might break the world record?"

"I haven't thought about the world record at all. I just hope to get to the finishing line in London. It's a long way. A lot of things can happen."

"Catherina, you're being pretty circumspect about your chances."

"Well, you don't say things before a race that you shouldn't say. If I was to say here that I'm going to win, regardless of what happens — which I'm not so don't (write that) — I'd end up twisting and turning for the rest of the week. You do your best. That's all you can do."

When the press conference ends, the journalists stumble out of the room like they've been smacked with a wet sponge. One, who is quite clearly working to a deadline, flips open his laptop and gazes vacantly into the screen for a full 20 minutes before typing a word. Then immediately deletes. Noting his distress, the race administrator Tim Hutchings approaches to sympathise. "Incredibly reticent, isn't she," he observes. But don't take it personal. She is genuinely like that."

Is she? Those close to her present a different picture. Her coach Joe Doonan describes her as the 'best craic in Ireland'. Noel Berkeley, who competes today in the men's race and who accompanied her recently on a training camp to the US, also acknowledges her brilliant sense of fun. And it's true that not all of her interviews have been bland and uninteresting. Asked last October by Lindie Naughton in the *Irish Independent* what impressed her most in the week just gone, she replied: "My sister giving birth to a child in a time faster than I've run the marathon."

Is it possible she has been badly portrayed all these years? Will the real Catharina McKiernan please step forward?

Sunday Independent
April 26, 1998

2.

TELL me about your upbringing.

"What would you like to know?"

Start with your parents.

"My mother is 85 next month; my father passed away four years ago — he was 85 when he died. My mother was from Longford originally, and moved to Cavan when she was 13."

How did they meet?

"I don't know should I say this, but I think it could have been a match."

A matchmaker?

"Yeah, in those times that's the way it was done."

What were they like?

"My mother was very quiet, very spiritual, hard-working. She baked all her own bread, we had hens for the eggs, turkeys at Christmas, chickens all the time. We had our own milk, our own beef, our own vegetables. It was a fantastic upbringing. I got a fantastic start."

And your Dad?

"Very hard working, very hard on himself, but very straight. If he brought calves or cattle to the mart and he felt he wasn't getting the right price, a fair price, he would bring them home again."

There was no messing with him — absolutely no messing."

Who did you take after?

"A bit of both. I was quiet like my mother, but in terms of the hard work and the harshness, I took no shit like my father (laughs). My mother would give people the benefit of the doubt, but my father wouldn't be like that at all."

You've six siblings?

"Yeah."

You're the youngest?

"Yeah, the shakings of the bag I was told."

What are they doing now?

"A lot of them are farming: Thomas is farming, Seán is farming, Peadar is working in food science; Dympna worked in the bank but retired a couple of years ago; Eileen is in accountancy and Rose worked in the bank but has four children. And they're all still living around Cavan."

Your primary school was Coronea National School?

"Yeah, it was small, there were only 32 of us there."

And only four in your class?

"Yeah."

Secondary was Loreto in Cavan?

"Yeah."

What about sport?

"I played camogie with another primary school because we didn't have enough on our team. I was very active ... hit the sliotar against the wall ... kicked the football to the brothers ... played tennis ... badminton ... I was handy at the camogie, I loved the camogie. I played in midfield with my sister Eileen — she would mark the two midfield players, and I would run up and down."

You say you loved it?

"Yeah."

But you gravitate towards running?

"Yeah, I've often asked that question: Why did I run?"

Have you found the answer yet?

"One of the reasons was the confidence it gave me, and the feeling of well-being — from a very young age I would have gone out the back and just run around the fields. I had no interest in racing until the last year of secondary school and that's when I took off. When I ran I felt ... alive! I felt more confident in myself."

Were your brothers or sisters as shy or reserved?

"I would have been the shyest."

Which is odd given you were the youngest?

"Yeah. I was very different to them. They all lived 'normal' and went out on Saturday nights. I had no interest in any of that. I remember them dragging me a couple of times to the disco in Cavan and spending most of the time in the toilet. It's the same today. I'm comfortable in certain situations but would hate going to a pub to stand there talking — I wouldn't be able to handle that."

Despite what you've achieved?

"Yeah, I loved the running; I loved pushing myself; I loved racing but that was it. I didn't like the stuff that went with it ... the interviews ... the publicity ... because a big write-up brought expectation and that was pressure. The phone would ring and I'd say to my mother: 'I'm not here! I'm not here.' And I don't want to blame Joe (Doonan) but that was his way as well: 'Tell them nothing,' he'd say. It's a country thing."

A country thing?

"Yeah, you keep your cards close to your chest. I grew up in that environment and was comfortable in that environment. One of my uncles was a creamery manager and he wore a suit, and for some reason I had a terrible fear of him because I wasn't used to that. He would come and visit us (dressed) in a suit and I wasn't used to that. I was much more comfortable at mass talking to the neighbouring farmer. That was my upbringing. It was very rural, very remote. And look, there were no secrets. There was nothing to tell. I was just running up and down the hills in Cavan and eating normal food."

But we weren't looking for secrets. We just wanted a sense of who you were?

"Yeah, well, there were two people in me — this competitive person, and this plain, simple, easy-going person."

When did you first become aware of getting a name?

"I won the Ulster Novice Cross Country and there was a big dirty photograph in the 'Celt' (the Anglo-Celt newspaper)."

A dirty photograph?

"I was covered in muck."

Then you won the All Ireland Schools and were interviewed by Brendan O'Reilly?

"Yeah."

You've said you were embarrassed looking at it? That you didn't crave success, you just loved to run.

"That's it."

Interesting.

"I'm sure there are a lot of other sportspeople like that."

Yeah, but I'm just trying to think if I've met any.

"People have often said to me — actually, it was said to me only two days ago — that I (raced) was in the shadow of Sonia. But I'm glad Sonia was around, because otherwise I would have been in the spotlight all the time."

I'm going to show you something. This is the piece I wrote on the day you won the London marathon in '98. Read the headline for me.

(laughs) "Emerging from Sonia's shadow."

3.

AT their recent training camp in Albuquerque, Noel Berkeley remembers the phone ringing early one morning. Catherina answered. It was Damien, her boyfriend, phoning from Dublin with news of home and a long conversation ensued. When it was over, Catherina put down the phone and brought him the news. Sonia O'Sullivan had just won the World Cross Country Championships. Twice in the same weekend!

"I could see she was disappointed," Berkeley said. "I got up and put on the Jumbo oats for the porridge and we sat down and had a chat. She says: 'I would have liked to have won the World Cross.' But what do you want to do most?" I asked. 'Win the World Cross or win the London marathon?' But it was understandable that she was disappointed . . . an Irish athlete winning after she had tried so hard for so long."

Sunday Independent
April 26, 1998

4.

I'VE always been fascinated about your relationship with Sonia. You were born two days apart?

"Yeah."

You competed together as kids?

"Yeah."

You travelled to two Olympics together — Barcelona and Atlanta?

"Yeah."

And you're working for RTÉ in Sydney when she wins a silver medal?

"Yeah."

This is how you recall that moment in your book: 'Some people might think that must have been hard for me watching Sonia win her silver medal. I was absolutely thrilled. I don't know what kind of person you'd have to be not to. And I believe she would have felt the same had the situations been reversed.'

"Yeah."

I'm not buying that. It would not have been natural not to have felt some degree of envy?

"Well, of course, but I wasn't going to lose any sleep over it. I would like to have been out there competing myself but that wasn't a reflection on Sonia."

Let's go back to that press confer-

ence in London. There was a significant moment, about ten minutes in, when you were asked how you felt about her winning the World Cross Country in Morocco. You brushed it off and said there would be another one the following year for "real cross country runners." And that was the giveaway, the emphasis you put on *real*.

"Yeah, well, look, if there was a real cross-country course I would beat Sonia. I had beaten Sonia in real cross country — she couldn't manage those conditions in the way that I could. I was the Cross-Country Queen; Sonia was the Track Queen and, yeah, she did pull it from under me."

And that hurt?

"Oh, God, not hurt, Paul."

You were gutted.

"No."

You were gutted.

"No."

Tell the truth.

"I know what gutted means now. I know how hurt feels, and I surely wasn't either of those."

Yes, but that's hindsight. At the time, when those words meant something else, you were gutted.

"No."

You were in Albuquerque when you heard the news?

"Yeah, it was near the end of the (training camp) and we had our last threshold run to do. Noel was making the Jumbo oats and the news came in by phone or whatever — but I wasn't . . . gutted is a strong word. I don't know what I said."

Let me remind you.

"Fuck! probably."

(I laugh) Here's how you remember it in your autobiography: 'I had run the World Cross Country nine times and finished second four times in succession. The first year I decide not to run it, Sonia wins. I was gutted.'

"Yeah, okay, but sure it's only a word, Paul."

It's a strong word.

"Yeah, but it was short-lived, because we had that session to do and it went well and (the rest) was forgotten. I had the London Marathon to look forward to."

See, I don't accept that you two can come along at the same time and do what you were doing and there not to

be an edge between you?

"We were two competitive people."

You've been denying it up until now.

"No! I'm very competitive. There's a difference between a competitive edge and two competitive people — a big difference!"

Why can't you just acknowledge that you were rivals? What is that so hard for you to do?

"Rivals? We ran in some races together."

Why can't you accept that you were rivals? It doesn't make you a bad person.

"I don't accept the way it's expressed. Of course, when we were lining up against each other, Sonia wanted to beat me and I wanted to beat her. That was the competitiveness, it wasn't a rivalry."

Can I keep going?

"Fire ahead?"

There's a line about you in Sonia's book that I find interesting. It's about a race you ran together at the Grand Prix Final in Paris in September of 1994: 'Catherina McKiernan caught me that night in the 5,000 meters but I hung on through sheer bloody mindedness and won. You can do that when you're obsessed.'

"Yeah."

You caught her with three laps to go.

She was gone, out of it. You move onto her shoulder and look like you're about to blow her away but you don't do it?

"Well, obviously I wasn't able to."

No, something stopped you.

"Maybe I respected her too much."

Ahhhhh.

"That's no harm."

No, but it's interesting. Your brother asked you about it after the race: 'Why didn't you go by her?' He couldn't understand it.

"It must have been something psychological."

Killer instinct?

"Hmmm."

You couldn't do her?

"Well, I had seen her kick so often in races. It was almost as if I was programmed not to."

You couldn't go by her?

"No, I believe that now. I understand that now."

Would you go by her now?

She laughs: "Yeah, I would."

Good.

"No, look, I am competitive. And when you get two girls of the same age from the same country there is always going to be an edge to see who is the best."

You could have acknowledged that 20 minutes ago?

"You could have asked me straight up."

So it's my fault?

"No, what I'm trying to say is . . .

Sonia is shy in certain ways; I'm shy in a lot of ways, and when we did meet we were awkward around each other. She would have liked to have run the way I ran marathons; I would have liked to have run the way she ran on the track. But we both knew how hard we had to work and respected each other."

5.

Meryl Streep: 'The Post'

Margot Robbie: 'I, Tonya'

Saoirse Ronan: 'Lady Bird'

Sally Hawkins: 'The Shape of Water'

Frances McDormand: 'Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri'

6.

"WHAT'S this?"

The nominations for Best Actress at the Oscars.

"Yeah? And?"

How many of those performances have you seen?

"None."

None!

"No."

Not one?

"No. I can't go to the cinema, I need to get that sussed. I might need glasses or something because I get a sickly feeling with the closeness of the screen and the flashing lights."

Really?

"And I don't have the time. Some evenings I do running classes and the other evenings the children have activities. I still hold a lot of the traits I did as an athlete. I still love going to bed early and getting up early."

What time is early?

"Well, during the winter I'd be in bed by ten o'clock. And I'd get up about seven to get the children out."

What other traits have you retained?

"Eating properly. I don't drink tea; I

don't drink coffee."

At all?

"No."

What about alcohol?

"No."

Not even a glass of wine?

"No."

Jesus!

"I don't have much opportunity."

Don't give me that!

"No, I like a simple life, a peaceful life, and probably more so now than before. I'm not like any of my brothers or sisters — they are much more outgoing. I'm very simple, very plain. What's my favourite meal? Potatoes. I remember Joe Doonan telling me I'd have to start eating spaghetti and thinking 'That's not food!' So I'd eat the spaghetti and have potatoes as well. Look, it was just the way I was brought up — very simple, and very naïve as well."

What's naïve?

"Well, I see my daughter now, she has just gone 16 and she's completely the opposite. She's constantly with her friends and knows stuff that I certainly didn't know when I was 16. I was hidden away from that real world out there."

How do you feel about her world?

"I've just got to go with it to be honest; I'd like a little bit more of a balance though. She's going to discos, going to balls, there's fake tan, makeup, eyelashes, short skirts . . . all that sort of thing. But all her friends are doing it. She's happy and has good manners and treats people with respect, and from a parenting point of view that's the most

important."

Does she run?

"She does a little bit of running, and she's talented but not . . . she doesn't have the hunger that I had. She doesn't like racing."

How do you feel about that?

"I don't mind to be honest. Being a parent, you want them to be happy and healthy. I'd like them to be fit and do some kind of sport, but it doesn't bother me that they're not (competitive). Patrick is 12 and plays hurling and soccer and is very much his own man: 'Just because you ran, doesn't mean I have to run.'"

Let's go back to '98: you had won in Berlin and set the fastest time ever

for a debutant in a marathon. Seven months later you win in London and are acknowledged as the best marathon runner in the world. It's the first time in your career this has happened to you: a four-time silver medallist at the World Cross Country Championships you're now a world number one.

"Yeah, life was good at that stage, and things had changed. I had met Damien and moved to Dublin. I had more friends, a different life, and that gives you energy. I was winning every race from 3,000m to cross country to half-marathon to marathon. It was a winning streak."

You're now a professional?

"Yeah."

So things change?

"Absolutely. Being a full-time athlete is not an easy game. It was too much. Too much pressure. Too much running. I ran myself into the ground, basically. I'm not a car. The body can only take so much. I just got tired and broke down."

Looking back, I can see exactly what happened but you see nothing when you're in the middle of it. I was spun-out and lost the hunger to compete and train hard."

And it all comes to a head in the build-up to Sydney: 'I'm not going to the bloody Olympics!'

"Yeah, I'd enough of it at that stage. I was being sent there to win — it had been mentioned a couple of times in interviews — and that brings pressure. You're running for your family and your relations and your neighbours; you're running for the people in Cavan who are flying to the races. You lose the real love of it — you're not doing it for yourself. And at that stage I wanted to settle down and have children and just move on with things."

Your last major race is the Great North Run in September 2004. A year later your autobiography is published which, given your nature, seemed an odd thing to do?

"It wasn't my choice."

Of course it's your choice.

"No, I didn't really want to."

Then why do it?

"Damien had a lot of stuff written on the computer and encouraged me to do it. I was pregnant with Patrick in the middle of it and it wasn't my

priority, that's for sure. I wasn't excited about it or anything."

It's well written, and not uninteresting, but I still had no real sense of who you are when I put it down. Did you know?

"Did I know?"

Did you know who you were when that was published in '05?

"No. I think you only really find yourself when you go through some hardship in life."

7.

I AM a strong person physically but when it comes to emotional stuff I struggle somewhat. Over the past three years, I have had some very dark days. I have just gone through a separation which knocked my confidence and self-esteem. Without the support of a fantastic family and great friends, I wouldn't have got through it.

Irish Examiner
September 2, 2016

8.

WHAT happened?

"Damien met somebody else. It had been going on for a while and I found out. I never thought he would do that. We had been married 13 years. It was tough. I remember my brother saying to me: 'This will be your longest marathon ever.' He wasn't wrong. I'm strong when it comes to running; I'd go through a brick wall to get to training, but emotionally I'm soft."

How did it feel?

"You go through all of the different stages . . . anger, and I'm not an angry person, but I couldn't speak to Damien, I couldn't look at Damien, and I didn't like that because I'm not that sort of a person. I felt rejected — no self-worth — and sorry for the children. Memories of running great races meant nothing. I would have given all of them away just to have peace of mind but that's only come in the last six months. We had to sell the house and go through all that hassle. It was a tough few years."

What about that period from the moment you retired to the moment you found out?

"It was nice. It was lovely."

You were happy?

"I was happy."

There was no hankering to be 'the great runner' again?

"No. I ran every day, well, most days, but they were little runs."

For the pleasure?

"Yeah, just half an hour or so. What I loved most was bringing the children for walks or to the zoo or . . . I just loved rearing the children. That was my focus. What I had done was what I had done in running terms, but my focus now was the children and the joy they were bringing me."

Where did you keep all the medals?

"They were in a cabinet at home. My mother had put them into a nice frame."

So they obviously meant something?

"Yeah, of course."

Until this happens?

"Yeah, then they meant nothing. They say the greatest of all gifts is peace of mind and there is no surer saying — it is 100 times better than being a world champion. I had a horrible lump in my stomach for about four years. I was grasping (at straws): 'How am I going to gain my confidence again? How am I going to make myself feel good?' I started running races again to seek approval, and to make me feel good about myself."

Because that had always worked?

"Yeah."

And?

"I found comfort in punishing myself. I could push myself harder than during my competitive years and would always finish in the top three. You feel a high for a couple of hours but . . ."

It doesn't work?

"No."

It's only a patch? It can't heal?

"No, not at all. It probably prolongs it. And I was just draining myself."

Are your brothers and sisters still married?

"Yeah."

So it was a first for the family?

"Yeah, and I'm the youngest. I said, 'I gave you a lot of joy, but I gave you a lot of hardship as well', because they took it very badly. We're real country people. They felt bad for me. They wanted to protect me — particularly my oldest brother — but look, you grow and you learn from it and you appreciate life more."

What did you learn?

"I feel I'm a better person."

What does it teach you?

"To be nice to people."

You were always nice to people.

"I was, but you want to do more; simple things like helping people with their bags in the supermarket, or letting that car pull out in front of you."

You become more aware?

"Yeah. I know how sad I was, and I would do anything to make people happy because I survived. I came out the other end. And there were days when I didn't think I would."

How do you survive?

"Well, it's a personal thing. I went to counselling but that didn't help; the only thing that helped me was getting a bit more spiritual. I started praying. That's what worked for me."

Prayer?

"Yeah. You do stupid things when you are not in a good place, and I wasn't in a good place. I wasn't thinking right. But I started praying and I started to feel peace of mind knowing that God was helping and directing me in the right way."

You were asked a couple of years ago about what kept you awake at night: 'Thinking too much. Sometimes the mind races when you're lying down and you start thinking the worst. Your mind can rule you to a certain extent. You really have to be careful and not allow that to happen. As the saying goes, we are here for a good time, but not a long time. All we can do is our best.'

"Yeah, the mind can play havoc."

The mind is everything. Again — and I have learned this — but you don't put bad thoughts in there because what you put in is what you get out. There's a saying: 'My mind is a garden, my thoughts are seeds, I can grow flowers or I can grow weeds'."

Nice.

"Yeah, like you can get all of the help in the world but at the end of the day it's up to you."

Time is a healer and I feel I'm a different person now. There are people who will hold a grudge for the rest of their lives but that's not healthy. It took me four years to speak to Damien again but we get on well now and that's a good thing. It's good for me and it's good for the children and it's good for Damien."

9.

THE Meath Spring Half Marathon and 10k was a huge success for host club Bohermeen AC. The long-established club with a high reputation certainly knows how to put a road race together. Runners from all over the country attended the event due to its high profile and potential for fast times. The 10k was won by the Bohermeen AC member, Darragh Rennicks. The ladies winner was the popular Catherina McKiernan.

myrunresults.com
March, 2018

10.

SO, still running?

"Yeah, I ran well. I ran nicely."

And still competing?

"It's the natural instinct — if there was a woman in front of me I would have been annoyed. But it was nice. I was comfortable. It was very enjoyable. I met a friend I hadn't seen since secondary school — one of the Gunner Bradys. Do you remember them?"

Yeah.

"It was funny. I could feel my accent getting stronger: 'Jesus Ann Marie! Would you look at the state of you!' Because she had shorts on and was always a bit of a messer. But it was great. We were easy with each other."

It will be 20 years next month since you won in London?

"Yeah."

What does it mean to you now?

"It didn't mean anything six months ago when my mind wasn't good but I've a nice picture in the kitchen at home that was presented to me by Cavan County Council: 'Queen of the Mall.'"

Are you going back?

"To London?"

Yeah.

"No. We have a race — a celebration of it — in Cavan on the evening before. The children don't show much interest but I'm sure they will in time."

Is there a video?

"There is, but they'd be only satisfying their mammy by watching it (laughs). But it does mean a lot."

Here's a blank sheet of paper. What

would you change?

"It's a good question. I didn't like that feeling I had in the last few years. I wouldn't wish that on anyone."

What about your career?

"No, I'm thankful for what I achieved but the most important thing is peace of mind."

Okay, great, we're done.

"Was that hard work?"

I laugh: No, that wasn't even hard work.

She smiles: "Good."

'I had a horrible lump in my stomach for about four years. I was grasping (at straws)'

'One of the reasons was the confidence it gave me, and the feeling of well-being'



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RUEPOINT MEDIA



Catherina McKiernan raises her arms in triumph as she crosses the finish line to win the London Marathon in 1998 and (below) with Sonia O'Sullivan after competing in the Great Pink Run 2013

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RUEPOINT MEDIA



[I'm doing the Charleston for charity..but I'd love to stretch myself on Dancing With The Stars](#)

Daily Mirror (ROI) - 28/03/2018

TV presenter Diana Bunici has set her sights on competing in Dancing With The Stars next year as she takes on the Charleston in aid of **Breast Cancer Ireland**.

The Moldovan beauty who moved to Ireland when she was eight is gearing up to hit the floor for Battle Of The Stars at the Clayton Hotel in Ballsbridge, South Dublin, on April 14, supported by the Joe Duffy Group.

The 29-year old former RTE presenter will be dancing against a host of well-known faces including model Holly Carpenter, TV3's Ciara Doherty and RTE's Blathnaid Ni Chofaigh to raise much-needed funds for the charity.

Speaking ahead of the event Diana told the Irish Mirror : "I am terrified, when I signed up I thought it would be easy, as each week goes on and I learn more and more steps I realise it's not that easy at all.

"It's so tough trying to remember the steps and with lifts involved because you're trying to wow the audience, it can be very hard.

"I'm dancing the Charleston so I'm trying to find that place where you get into a character and you can be a little bit cheeky with the dance, so if anything goes wrong I can cover it up with a little whoops.

Setting her sights landing a spot on the RTE hit show next year she added: "I love the likes of Strictly Come Dancing in the UK and Dancing With The Stars here.

"I've always wanted to take part in a show like that, I did ballroom dancing as a kid.

When you start taking part in something like this you realise how tough it can be but we're only rehearsing for one hour a week.

"I feel like if I was on a show like Dancing With The Stars I'd be properly immersed in it.

"I'd absolutely consider it if I was approached. You learn a skill and become part of a new TV family.

"It's obvious watching the show how much fun everyone is having, it's a real positive family show to potentially get involved with. "Everyone was so amazing on the show. I loved Bernard and wished he could have been there until the end."

Personally affected by cancer, Diana said the disease impacts on everyone in one form or another.

She added: "My mums' best friend passed away when I was in secondary school and the effect of that on the kids she left behind and her husband. It was a really aggressive cancer and took her life away really quickly.

"Everybody knows somebody who has been badly touched by cancer."

Currently writing her first novel and focusing on a career at the BBC in Scotland, Diana also revealed she has deleted many of her social media apps because they were giving her anxiety.

She said: "Social media is a great thing to have in our lives but it can become all consuming.

"It's a weird one, I made a conscious effort to delete apps that weren't giving me any joy.

"I have a lot of young girls following me and I often think how will they be affected by something I post. I'm almost 30, I'm excited, I've never been worried about growing up, the older you get and with life experience you just feel more comfortable in your skin and grounded."

The broadcaster turned author has been dating Kodaline frontman Steve Garrigan for more than four years but insisted life is not necessarily as exciting as it may seem from the outside. She explained: "Sometimes it can look very glamorous, if I post something where Steve's involved and I'm at a gig or something.

"For example I put up a picture with pretty well-known DJ Kygo recently after I went to his gig with Steve.

"To a young person who loves Kygo they'll be like oh my God I'll never get this opportunity.

"But the reality was I flew to London, ended up in Gatwick and the train wasn't running. I spent a lot of money on a cab just to get to the venue on time. So a picture can seem so glam, but the reality is those two seconds were cool but the rest of it was different.

Diana is just back from Dubai supporting her other half.

She said: "I was very lucky to escape to Dubai to see Kodaline, when I heard the guys were going over I literally booked my flight first and then was like, 'Steve is it OK if I come along?' It was such a fun way to spend St Patrick's.

"It was lovely to spend some time with Steve we spent two or three days off at the end where we could just be naff and get excited about being at the world's tallest building.

"It's hard for the guys to be away, but they're doing what they truly love.

I g "We're lucky we get to go and see them and experience those things too.

"I wish I could see him every day but it means we always look forward to seeing each other."

news@irishmirror.ie

Everybody knows somebody who has been badly affected DIANA BUNICI on cancer affecting families CONTENT Stroll by the Thames COUPLE With Kodaline's Steve Garrigan a split decision Diana Bunici and dance partner Leroy Mlauzi

ROSCREA

Roscrea Trail Blazers

On Thursday night last the Blazers had another well attended walk around The Mount St Joseph's Abbey Loop. Weather on the day started out quite poor and looked set to stay that way for the evening but it stayed clear long enough for the group to have another enjoyable walk with great company. Well done to Peg Bolger and Mary McLoughlin for checking the condition of the route prior to the evening.

Now that the clocks have changed and the evenings are getting brighter the group will start heading further afield with some new walks on the cards. This Thursday March 29 sees The Trail Blazers heading to Gloster Lake and Woods. This is a 7km, two hour hike on country lanes and mature woodland. Meeting at Mulrooney's Gala at 7pm. please bring Hi Viz jacket and hand/head torch. Their next day trip is to Lugnaquilla Co Wicklow on Saturday next March 31. This is a hard/strenuous 12km, 5.5/6.5 hour hike. Meeting the bus (€25.00) at Mulrooney's Gala Roscrea at 7am.

Now that the evenings have started to stretch out, they are back to walking further afield. This is still a great way to keep fit over the coming spring and summer months. The Trail Blazers would like to put out an open invitation to the general public to join them at some point on their walks programme for 2018. Walking is a great way to get into shape as well as being a great way to meet new friends and see new places.

The Trail Blazers website www.roscreatrailblazers.com is up and running with a list of 13 day trips over the coming months and they encourage you to give it a look and see what the group have planned for 2018 with a proposed day out to Slieve Donard in the North of Ireland, Tountinna Lough Derg, and a return to Lough Dan in Wicklow to name but a few. A map reading and GPS training course in is also on the cards.

If you would like to join the group on any of their walks you can contact Cathal on (086) 3399193 with an expression of interest. You will be made very welcome.

Roscrea Toastmasters

Why not come along to Roscrea Toastmasters where in a warm, relaxed and welcoming atmosphere they help each other improve self-confidence by developing public speaking.

Give Brian (086-3687168) or Sean (086-0291809) a ring if you would like to find out more.

Fashion Show At Gloster House

Gloster House will be the fabulous setting for a Fashion Show being run by St Mary's Church of Ireland, Shinrone, on Thursday April 12. The evening includes an opportunity to view the

main rooms of Gloster House, a cheese and wine reception followed by the fashion show at 8pm. The doors of Gloster House open at 7pm. Tickets are €25 each and as they cannot be sold at the door it is necessary to buy them beforehand. To book yours (and they're going fast!) please contact either the Revd. Ruth Gill at (087) 9484402, Eleanor Wakefield at (087) 3555839 or Cyril Stanley at (087) 2889616.

Roscrea Red Cross Food Distribution

The Roscrea branch of the Irish Red Cross are operating a "Food Cloud" every Wednesday between 12.30pm and 1pm at the Parish Centre, Roscrea. The surplus food donated by Tesco is available free of charge to those who need it.

Breast Cancer Ireland Fundraiser

Tommy's Bar at The White House, Roscrea have teamed up with Breast Cancer Ireland, to hold an Easter Festival of Darts. Tommy Murphy from Tommy's Bar has put together a committee to run a Ladies Darts Tournament for fun with all proceeds going to Breast Cancer Ireland. They are currently looking for 32 ladies to participate, 16 teams of two ladies will be randomly picked. The winning team will receive a weekend away in a beautiful hotel in Ireland. Breast Cancer Ireland are asking for support from all local businesses, clubs, organisations and individuals to come on board and make this an enjoyable weekend and

more importantly raise much needed funds for this great cause. For more information please contact The White House (0505) 21996, Tommy Murphy (089) 4974797.

It Could Be You!

Have you an hour a week to spare to befriend an elderly person in the community. Roscrea Cares-Age Friendly Roscrea now housed in the beautifully restored courthouse is looking for volunteers to visit or phone a member of the community even once a week. For further information contact Anne Keevey (083) 1133987.

Irish Classes

Irish Classes have resumed in Scoil an tSli Dala Ballaghmore on Tuesday nights starting at 7pm. Beginners welcome. All classes are free. For details contact (0505) 41810 after 1pm.

Roscrea Community Hub And Ros Cr  Listens

A listening cafe service for anyone who needs someone to talk to has been set up in Roscrea. This is a peer to peer service with an ASIST trained volunteer (Applied Suicide Intervention



Skills Training). The service operates from Teach na Gréine in Gleann Glas Roscrea on Tuesday morning 10am to 12 midday. The service is confidential and free.

They can be contacted via Facebook on Ros Cré listens/Community Hub or email roscreacommunityhub@gmail.com.

Noel Heenan Memorial Rock Night

This Easter Sunday sees the annual 'Noel Heenan Memorial Rock Night' at Friar's Tavern, Lorrha. A great night of rock music. Doors open at 10pm. Starting the night are five piece Rock Band Trouble with Mandy Mynx as lead singer. A very entertaining band, getting people out on the floor. To finish off the night is Heavy rock band 'Origin'. No strangers to Lorrha, they have played the last number of years in Lorrha. Not only a great entertaining night but proceeds go to Living Links - bereavement support to families of suicide. Doors open 9pm. Admission €10. Please support and spread the word.

Dance In Aghancon

Dance in Aghancon on Wednesday March 28. Music by Glen Flynn. Dancing from 9.30pm to 12.30am.

Birr Garden Club

Birr Garden Club will meet on Tuesday April 10 at Birr Resource Centre at 8pm. Ethel Mitchell will show some of her skills on flower arranging. All welcome. Please note change of date. There will be light refreshments.

Seir Kieran Church Of Ireland

The Easter Eve Service of Holy Communion will be held in Seir Kieran Church of Ireland Church on this Saturday March 31 at 9.30pm. All are welcome.

Atlantis Seafoods

Atlantis Seafoods will be in Roscrea on this Friday March 30 with fresh sea fish for Good Friday. 10% off all fish on the day.

Roscrea Badminton Club

Roscrea Badminton Club training will continue every Monday night in the Community Hall in Shinrone from 8pm. New members, both social and competitive, are most welcome to come along. The club would like to wish their Grade G and H teams the best of luck in the semi finals of the League.

If you just wish to try out the sport, racquets can be provided. For information ring Danny at (087) 9482127, Brid at (087) 6482746 or Bernard (083) 3459496.

Roscrea Muinir na Tire

Bingo on every Sunday night at 8.30pm. Over €2,000 in prize money. All are welcome

25 Card Drive on every Wednesday night commencing at 8.30pm. All are welcome.

Slimming World every Tuesday. Morning: 7.30am and 9.30am/Evening: 5.30pm and 7.30pm.

Irish Dancing Classes every Friday - Flynn O'Kane School of Dancing.

Hall for Hire: Contact Denis (087) 2468328.

North Tipperary Dyslexia Support Group

North Tipperary Dyslexia Support Group tutorials are running every Tuesday afternoon in Roscrea and Wednesday afternoon in Puckane, 4.30-6.30pm during school term. If your child is struggling or has been diagnosed with dyslexia or specific learning difficulty and needs extra help with English or Math, they provide a service at a reasonable cost for children from junior infants up to 6th class in National School and second level students up to Leaving Certificate level. For further information contact Michelle on (087) 9833843 (Puckane) or Gillian (087) 7641866 (Roscrea).

87 Bridge Club

The 87 Bridge Club Roscrea continues on Thursdays in the White House at 7.15pm. Beginners and improvers welcome.

Lend Your Time To NCBI

The NCBI Roscrea Store is looking for volunteers. Can you spare a few hours a week? Turn your valuable time into a much needed resource for the NCBI. Phone Jane on (086) 3521134. Fashion donations, bric-a-brac, footwear, handbags, small furniture also much needed and welcome. Please call into shop for application form or ring (086) 3521134 for information. Thank you.

Support Group For People Bereaved By Suicide

Have you been bereaved by suicide? Tipperary Living Links are facilitating a Support Group for people bereaved by suicide at the Business Innovation Centre, Nenagh (opposite the Arrabawn Co-op). If you are interested please contact Michael at (086) 6029684.

Roscrea Sli Na Slainte

If you have some time to spare you could do worse than take advantage of the new Sli Na Slainte walking route around Roscrea. This route starts at Rosmary Square and follows a marked route around Roscrea and the surrounding area. The walk is designed to encourage people who wish to get back to fitness or for people who have been advised by their GP to get some exercise. The route can be downloaded when you log onto www.irishheart.ie with The Irish Heart Foundation. The route has 1km markers from the start to the end of this 6.5km walking route,

enabling walkers to know what distance they have covered as well as having directional arrows at each junction. The route is all on footpath which makes it a safe option for the people of Roscrea. For information on the walk contact (086) 3399193 or log onto www.irishheart.ie. Looking forward to meeting you all soon.

Library Membership Is Free

Library membership is now free for all members, and patrons can now borrow up to 12 items at a time. Earlier in the year, they visited all the schools in the area to encourage all the children to join the library. Many of the children did fill in the membership forms and their Library cards are now available for collection in the Library. Even if you didn't fill in and form and would still like to join, just call to the library and they will give you a form. You can also join online by visiting their website at www.tipperarylibraries.ie and selecting the "join online" tab.

Country Market

The market is held in the Abbey Hall every Friday from 10am to 12.30pm with a regular supply of homemade cakes, tarts, buns, bread, jams, hen eggs, etc. Also fresh flowers in season.

Roscrea Bereavement Community Support

If you are an adult residing in Roscrea or surrounding areas living through grief and loss, the

Roscrea Bereavement Community Support Group are available to support and help. For more information contact (085) 1918550.

Farmers Vegetable Market

The Farmers Vegetable Market takes place every Friday from 9am to 6pm in the Auburn Lounge car-park in Roscrea. (Advert)

Knitting Circle

The Knitting Circle continues to meet every Wednesday night from 7-8pm in the library - no charge, just bring your needles and wool. All are very welcome. Any questions ring (085) 1671899.

St Vincent de Paul

St. Vincent De Paul helpline is (087) 4441835.

Roscrea Citizens Information Centre

The Citizens Information Centre is in Rosemary Street, Roscrea and it has been providing a free and confidential service to the community for forty years. Its opening hours are Monday 10a.m. to 1p.m., Thursday 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 4pm and Friday 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 4pm. Tel: 0761 07 6480, fax: (0505) 22313, email: roscrea@cit-info.ie.

Narcotics Anonymous

Narcotics Anonymous meetings will take place

on Monday nights at 8.30pm in the New Institute, Friar's Street, Nenagh and on Thursdays, at 6.30pm (note change of date) in St Cronan's Legion Hall, Roscrea (in the Catholic Church grounds).

Divine Mercy Prayer Meeting

Divine Mercy Prayer meeting takes place every Thursday evening at 7.30pm in St Cronan's Parish Centre (Church Grounds). All are most welcome.

Alcoholics Anonymous

A new meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous has commenced in the Legion Hall, St. Cronan's RC Church Grounds every Monday at 1pm. All are welcome.

Gamblers Anonymous

Meetings of the newly formed Gamblers Anonymous group in Roscrea will be held in the Legion Hall, Church grounds on Friday nights at 8.30pm.

[Presenter Diana Bunici sets her sights on competing in Dancing with The Stars next year](#)
dublinlive.ie - 28/03/2018

TV presenter Diana Bunici has set her sights on competing in Dancing With The Stars next year as she takes on the Charleston in aid of **Breast Cancer Ireland**.

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Speaking ahead of the event Diana told the Irish Mirror: "I am terrified, when I signed up I thought it would be easy, as each week goes on and I learn more and more steps I realise it's not that easy at all.

"It's so tough trying to remember the steps and with lifts involved because you're trying to wow the audience, it can be very hard.

"I'm dancing the Charleston so I'm trying to find that place where you get into a character and you can be a little bit cheeky with the dance, so if anything goes wrong I can cover it up with a little whoops.

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"I've always wanted to take part in a show like that, I did ballroom dancing as a kid.

When you start taking part in something like this you realise how tough it can be but we're only rehearsing for one hour a week.

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"Everyone was so amazing on the show. I loved Bernard and wished he could have been there until the end."

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She added: "My mums' best friend passed away when I was in secondary school and the effect of that on the kids she left behind and her husband. It was a really aggressive cancer and took her life away really quickly.

"Everybody knows somebody who has been badly touched by cancer."

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She said: "Social media is a great thing to have in our lives but it can become all consuming.

"It's a weird one, I made a conscious effort to delete apps that weren't giving me any joy.

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"For example I put up a picture with pretty well-known DJ Kygo recently after I went to his gig with Steve.

"To a young person who loves Kygo they'll be like oh my God I'll never get this opportunity.

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"I wish I could see him every day but it means we always look forward to seeing each other."

(Image: Brian McEvoy).

[Is Diana Bunici set to take part in series three of Dancing with the Stars?](#)

vipmagazine.ie - 28/03/2018

A third series of hit reality show Dancing with the Stars was confirmed following the final of series two, which saw Jake Carter and Karen Byrne take home the trophy.

And though it's not set to air until next January, we're sure there will be plenty of rumours about possible contestants.

One person who has already expressed an interest is TV presenter and author Diana Bunici.

The star is already taking part in Battle Of The Stars, a charity event in the Clayton Hotel in Ballsbridge.

She will battle it out against other stars such as Model Holly Carpenter, presenter Ciara Doherty and Blathnaid Ni Chofaigh in the charity competition.

"I'm terrified, when I signed up I thought it would be easy, as each week goes on and I learn more and more steps I realise it's not that easy at all," The girlfriend of Kodaline's frontman Steve Garrigan said.

Diana Bunici

Though the presenter, who works for the BBC is nervous, she says she's always been a fan of reality dance shows.

"I love the likes of Strictly Come Dancing in the UK and Dancing With The Stars here. I've always wanted to take part in a show like that, I did ballroom dancing as a kid," she told the Mirror.

"When you start taking part in something like this you realise how tough it can be but we're only rehearsing for one hour a week.

"I feel like if I was on a show like Dancing With The Stars I'd be properly immersed in it.

"I'd absolutely consider it if I was approached. You learn a new skill and become part of a new TV family."

"It's obvious watching the show how much fun everyone is having, it's a real positive family show to potentially get involved with."

Would you like to see her on the show?

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RUEPOINT MEDIA

Breast Cancer Ireland

~~Tommy's Bar~~ at The White House, Roscrea, has teamed up with Breast Cancer Ireland, to hold an Easter Festival of Darts. Looking for 32 ladies to participate. For more information please contact The White House (0505) 21996, Tommy Murphy (089) 4974797.



Tribute to brave Emma

A CANCER charity is set to mark the life of its much loved ambassador, the author Emma Hannigan who passed away last month.

The mum of two teenagers died almost four weeks ago on March 3 following a very public 11-year battle with cancer.

Charity

The 45-year-old Wicklow native, who was an ambassador for Breast Cancer Ireland (BCI), appealed to the public to donate to the charity — which raised €126,000.

“We continue to have a strong relationship with Emma’s family and will be hoping to mark her life in a very special way over the coming months with their consent and guidance,” a BCI spokesperson said.



WRITER: Emma Hannigan



NEWCESTOWN newcestown@southernstar.ie

Pink Fun Run

A group from Newcestown Older Members Foróige Club is organising a 5km Pink Fun Run / walk in aid of Breast Cancer Ireland. The event will be held on Easter Saturday, March 31st. Registration is at 10.30am at the Parish hall.

The run/walk is to start at 11am and the route will finish at the hall also. Participants are free to walk or run, whatever you feel like. They would like people to wear something pink if possible, tying in with the theme.

Entry fee is €5 with donations accepted on the day. All proceeds will go to Breast Cancer Ireland, so all support

will be greatly appreciated

GAA lotto

There was no winner of this jackpot of €6,250. Consolation prizes went to Julie Hickey c/o The Brinny Inn, Megan Knowles c/o Kevin O'Sullivan, Fiona Murphy, Bandon; Lorna Chambers c/o Kevin O'Sullivan and Lily & Callum O'Donovan c/o Kevin O'Sullivan.

Next week's draw takes place on Monday night in The Welcome Inn with a jackpot of €6,500.

Beamish Cup

On Sunday last Spartak Mossgrove were defeated in

the Beamish Cup by Lyre Rovers 1-0.

Senior hurling

On Saturday evening last, the senior hurlers drew with Ballyhea in the senior hurling league.

Broken Harvest

The film 'Broken Harvest,' which was made locally in West Cork, is showing in the Community Hall, Castletown Kenneigh, on Friday, April 6th, at 8pm. This film was shot with the help and co-operation of the local people. It boasts a wonderful feel for rural life and evokes memories of a way of life that is passing.



Card Players bring up the €50,000 mark

Another milestone this week achieved for our feel good barometer with the local Castleisland Card players (Pictured below left) adding a further €4,000 to the pot to break the €50,000 mark as the generosity of local people seems to know no bounds.

Presenting four cheques of €1,000 each to the Oncology Unit, the Cancer Support Bus, Breast

Cancer Ireland and Recovery Haven, it brings the new total to €50,497.48, which is amazing considering that is just March.

If you have made a cheque presentation to a charity or are holding an event and would like it featured with us, contact us by email at news@outlookmags.com and we will let the people of Sliabh Luachra know.

