



Aaron Connolly was found guilty of the murder of Cameron Reilly (above)

GUILTY VERDICT ON MURDER OF TEEN CAMERON

Fiona Magennis

A MAN has been found guilty of the murder of Cameron Reilly, the teenager found dead in a field in Dunleer, Co Louth, in May 2018.

The Central Criminal Court jury of seven women and five men returned a unanimous verdict yesterday on what was their third day of deliberations. Mr Justice Tony Hunt thanked the jury for their hard work telling them they had put in a "very hard and long shift". "These are terribly difficult matters," he added. He exempted each of them from jury duty for 15 years.

The jury had been deliberating for a total of 10 hours and 39 minutes.

Socialising

Aaron Connolly (23), of Willistown, Drumcar, had pleaded not guilty to the murder of Mr Reilly (18) at Shamrock Hill, Dunleer, on May 26, 2018.

Mr Reilly, a Dundalk IT student, had been socialising with friends on the night of May 25, 2018, in a field just outside Dunleer.

His friends told the trial a group of about 15 young people gathered in the field, and alcohol and cannabis were consumed. The group went to a local takeaway to get food shortly after midnight before moving away at 12.40am.

Mr Reilly's body was found by a man walking his dog.

State pathologist Dr Linda Mulligan told the jury Mr Reilly's cause of death was asphyxia due to external pressure on the neck. There were no contributing factors.

During the trial, the court heard that in his initial statement to gardai, Connolly said he and Mr Reilly went in different directions at the end

of the night and after the pair parted near the Beechwood housing estate in Dunleer, he "never looked back" to see which way Mr Reilly went.

Last week, lawyers for Connolly, who denied murder, told the court the accused had oral sex with Mr Reilly on the night he was killed.

Counsel for the defence, Michael Bowman SC, made a proof by formal admission to the court on behalf of Connolly.

He said Connolly performed oral sex on Mr Reilly and when he left, Mr Reilly was still alive and standing up.

In his garda interviews, Connolly said he could not remember what he was doing during a "missing hour" on the night Mr Reilly died as he had taken a combination of drugs that made him black out.

Connolly told investigat-

'I know I didn't kill him, I'd know if I killed someone'

ing officers he had taken two grammes of cocaine and half a gramme of MDMA.

He told gardai: "I know I didn't kill him, I'd know if I killed someone."

The jury also heard Connolly had initially denied anything sexual happened between him and Mr Reilly and told gardai that he was "straight".

Forensic scientist Dr Clara Boland told the court an immunological test on a penile swab of Mr Reilly revealed human saliva that was a mixture of two people, the major sample being Mr Reilly's own and the minor being an incomplete profile that matched Connolly's DNA.

Mr Reilly's friends told the trial that the teenager had confided in them shortly before his death that he was bisexual.

The trial also heard from Jack Conway, who said he and Connolly had sexual relations on a number of occasions.

Mr Conway said Connolly would tell people he was straight.

Pressure

Dr Mulligan told the court that during a post-mortem examination, she found evidence of external injury to the neck in the form of abrasions and bruising and there was also evidence of deep bruising around the neck and the hyoid bone.

"All of these features are in keeping with the application of external pressure on the neck. This was the cause of death," she said.

In his closing statement to the jury, prosecuting counsel Dean Kelly SC contended Aaron Connolly had "lied from the beginning of this investigation to the end" because he murdered his friend.

He said the "constant fox-like evolution" of the lies told by Connolly rebuts the suggestion that a young person might lie to protect his personal sexual preferences.

However, defence counsel Mr Bowman said "strategic lies" were told by several young people who were there on the night.

He said people had lied about drug and alcohol use in a murder trial because they were afraid.

Mr Bowman told the jury: "The law says the mere fact that the defendant lies is not evidence enough. They may lie out of panic and confusion; they may lie because they're afraid for all sorts of reasons."

Murder probe launched after Laois mum stabbed to death

Ken Foy

GARDAÍ have launched a murder investigation after a woman in her mid-30s was stabbed to death in Co Laois.

The mother of a young child has been named locally as Sharon Crean.

The woman died at an apartment on College Avenue in Mountmellick.

A man who is known to the victim was being held at Portlaoise garda station last night.

Gardaí were alerted to the incident on Wednesday afternoon.

A woman's body was removed from a first-floor apartment in a residential complex on College Avenue and taken to the Midlands Regional Hospital in Portlaoise.

Gardaí confirmed an

investigation into the death of the woman is ongoing, saying: "The woman, aged in her 30s, was discovered with serious injuries at approximately 4.45pm at a residence in Mountmellick, Co Laois.

Appealing

"She was later pronounced dead at the scene. The Office of the State Pathologist has been notified.

"A man in his 30s has been arrested."

The scene was preserved for forensic examination by the Garda Technical Bureau.

Gardaí are appealing to anyone who has any information that can help with the investigation to contact Portlaoise garda station on 057 8674100, the

Garda Confidential Line on 1800 666 111, or any garda station.

Meanwhile, in a separate investigation, gardaí have said they do not believe a man aged in his 40s whose body was found in a property in Newbridge, Co Kildare, was the victim of foul play.

He was found by gardaí who were investigating an alleged assault on a woman in the town.

The woman, in her 30s, presented at Newbridge garda station in the early hours of Wednesday morning. She had severe facial injuries and required hospital treatment.

Gardaí then went to the scene of the alleged assault in Newbridge and found the body of the man, who was known to officers.

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Teachers and parents delighted to see kids back on stage after two years of pandemic restrictions

Kate Donaghy



IT'S showtime. After two years of restrictions putting traditional Christmas celebrations in primary schools on ice, the nativity plays, pageants and pantos are back.

For parents, watching their child perform on stage is the stuff of Christmas magic and schools are going all out to welcome families back following the pandemic.

While the nativity is still going strong, schools are also embracing plays that reflect the diversity of their populations as well as looking at themes of inclusion and climate change.

At Scoil Naomh Feichín, a 300-pupil school in Termonfeckin, Co Louth, pupils and teachers have prepared a host of ambitious shows. While the junior classes took on the nativity, the senior classes' Panto Pandemonium took parents on a whistle-stop tour of the best bits of lots of traditional pantomimes.

School principal Bryan Collins said the school was full of colour and excitement as pupils prepared to take to the stage in front of their families.

"It's a really great feeling for everyone. Some of the parents have never been to a concert or play at the school before. Well-being levels in the school have rocketed this week as everyone gets together," said Mr Collins.

Penguins

"We have 11 class groups with everything from the traditional story of the nativity to *Hosanna Rock-Hosanna Roll*, which is a kind of *Jesus Christ Superstar* musical on stage. Each class group has about 25 minutes for their show."

Sinéad Dowd, who teaches first class, worked hard to ensure her pupils, dressed as polar bears and penguins with an elaborately decorated Arctic and Antarctic-style set, were ready for their production of *Eddie the Penguin*.

While it's a fun story, Ms Dowd was keen to explore the serious elements of care for the environment and the dangers of global warming with her students.

Seven children from Ukraine enrolled at the school this year. Mr Collins said pupils wanted to do something as a gesture of welcome and kindness for them this Christmas.

"They are having a raffle and the proceeds will go to buying vouchers for toys for the Ukrainian children so they can get something they like," he said.

Mr Collins said the only downside to this week's show-time highs was there was still more class time to go.

"It's like watching two *Late Late Toy Shows* in a row. You get to the top of the excitement scale - it's hard to maintain that," he said.



Students of Scoil Chliodhna Community National School in Carrigtwohill, Co Cork, in rehearsal for their school Christmas show. PHOTO: MICHAEL MAC SWEENEY/PROVISION

Festive joy for children and teachers as school shows make Christmas comeback

At Rush National School in north Co Dublin, principal Morgan Doran said it was not only the parents who had really missed the Christmas plays: his teachers were also keen to get their pupils back on the stage.

"This year the teachers came to me, they wanted assurances that the nativity was going ahead. They really missed it," said Mr Doran.

Every year the school, which has 724 pupils, uses the Millbank Theatre across the road for its Christmas productions, bringing a professional touch to the occasion. This year is no

'To have the pupils back on stage is very exciting'



Pupils at Scoil Naomh Feichín in Termonfeckin, and (right) Rush National School in north Co Dublin rehearsing for their Christmas performances. PHOTOS: MARK CONDREN

different, with the four infant classes putting on their own version of the nativity for their families.

Children from the school's senior classes choir are visiting two nursing homes in the area to put on a carol service for the residents. This visit, which has become a tradition at the school, had to be put on pause during Covid.

Meanwhile, the school choir packed the local church yesterday for a carol service for parents and grandparents.

Scoil Chliodhna Community National School in Carrigtwohill, Co Cork, opened its doors with three students in 2015.

The multi-denominational school, which has grown to 348 students and 31 staff, pre-

pared for the magic of the season in its own special way.

Principal Teresa Coughlan said as a multi-denominational school, they try to bring in every child's values. The school uses an inter-faith calendar to spread out different celebrations over a three-year cycle and this year they looked at the celebration of Christmas all over the world.

"Every year we take one main celebration and we delve deeply into why this is happening. We have lots of different cultures in our school and Carrigtwohill is a very diverse community now," said Ms Coughlan.

"This year, all of the children are learning about the history of Christmas and why it happens.

"On December 21 we are doing 'Christmas around the world'. All our teachers, from second class to sixth, are going to take a different country each and then each class will visit that teacher.

"The children have a passport which they get stamped on their visits."

Each class will also perform for their families with songs, poems and short plays with a focus on the different cultural traditions of Christmas.

"These are the times that bring great joy. To have the children back on stage performing for their families is very exciting," she said.

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PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Fingal Co.Co. We the Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny are applying for Planning permission for a New single storey extension to the rear of existing nursing home comprising 8 bedrooms with en-suites and one assisted bathroom. Proposal for new Suds system comprising soakaway and disposal to ground in accordance with BRE 365 Digest and all associated ancillary works at Mount Sackville Nursing Home, College Road, Chapelizod, Dublin 20. This application may be inspected/purchased between 9.30am-4.30pm, Monday-Friday, at the offices of Fingal Co. Co., County Hall, Main Street, Swords, Co. Dublin. A submission or observation in relation to the Application may be made in writing to the Planning Authority on payment of a fee of €20, within the period of 5 weeks, beginning on the date of receipt by Fingal County Council of the Application, and such submissions or observations will be considered by the Planning Authority in making a decision on the application. The Planning Authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions, or may refuse to grant permission.

LEGAL NOTICES

Aeon Funds ICAV, having never carried on business, having its registered office at 2nd Floor, Block 5, Irish Life Centre, Abbey Street Lower, Dublin 1, and having no assets exceeding €150 and/or having no liabilities exceeding €150, has resolved to notify the Central Bank of Ireland, in its function as Registrar of ICAVs, that the ICAV is not carrying on business and to request the Registrar on that basis to exercise its powers pursuant to section 161 of the Irish Collective Asset-management Act 2015 to strike the name of the ICAV off the register. By Order of the Board Shane Coman, Director

The Workday Ltd Pension Plan is proposing to make a bulk transfer to the Mercer Master Trust for all members. If you were a member or are likely to be a beneficiary of the Scheme and have not received any correspondence on the bulk transfer, please immediately contact Fiona Donaghy, Irish Life by email at workday@irishlife.ie

HOUSES WANTED

HOUSE OR SITE WANTED PRIVATE BUYER Any condition South Side Dublin, Phone Peter in confidence. 087 25 87 661

ARTICLES WANTED

WANTED - COLLECTOR medals, badges, silver, 1916 items, banknotes and militaria, pub stuff and old signs, Phone: 085 7 4 4 0 3 3 3 bedlam2016@gmail.com

GARAGE DOORS

A1 SHUTTERS AND DOORS Manufacture & Install All Kinds of Garage Doors, Roller Shutters & Industrial Doors. Garage Doors From €755 Installed. T&Cs apply to all offers. Eric: 01 849 7399 Mob: 087 765 4979 a1.shutters@hotmail.com www.a1shuttersanddoors.ie

THANKSGIVING

Miracle Prayer - Sacred Heart of Jesus in the past I have asked You for many favours. This time I ask You for a very special one, (mention request). Take it Dear Jesus and place it in Your broken heart where Your Father sees it. Then with His merciful eyes it will become Your favour and not mine. Amen. Say this for three days and promise publication and your favour will be granted. BH

THE MIRACLE PRAYER Thanks for favours received. SC

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL, We Sarah Courtney, Annemarie Courtney and David Courtney intend to apply for permission for the development of 3 Nr dwellinghouses at Cooldrinagh Lane, Leixlip, Co. Dublin, in the townland of Cooldrinagh. The site is located to the south of 'Cooldrinagh Lane' (house), and to the west of Cooldrinagh Lane. The proposed development will consist of the construction of 3 No. 2 storey detached 4-bedroom houses. The proposed development will be served by a new vehicular access off Cooldrinagh Lane along with all associated Car Parking, landscaping and boundary treatment works, the provision of private open space areas comprising hard and soft landscaping, site services (foul and surface water drainage and water supply) and all associated site works. This application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of South Dublin County Council during its public opening hours of 9am - 4pm, Mon-Fri, and a submission or observation may be made to South Dublin County Council in writing and on payment of the prescribed fee (€20.00) within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by South Dublin County Council of the application.

ACCOMMODATION WANTED

PROFESSIONAL LADY, seeks accommodation, bedsit / ensuite / granny flat / studio apt., or to share house with one other mature, senior, lady. Non-smoker & must have car parking space, Dublin area (Any previous replies please reply again as lady didnt receive the post) Reply to Box No. 243693

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

DESMOND J. HALPIN & ASSOCIATES PLANNING & BUILDING CONSULTANTS PROJECT MANAGERS 15 Carriglea Drive, Firhouse, Dublin 24 Phone: 01 4523710 Mobile: 087 9734595 Registered Company No: 11 1360 E-Mail: desbalpin@gmail.com

Dublin-County Council. Planning Permission sought for new single storey extension with a tiled roof to the rear of the existing two storey end of terraced dwelling with internal alterations: new detached single storey gym structure located in the rear garden with a tiled roof: extend existing dish footpath to front for vehicular access & associate site works at 406, Carnlough Road, Cabra, D.7., D07Y027 for Andre Curley & Nadine McDonnell. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of Dublin City Council, Planning Department, Block 4, Ground Floor, Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin 8, during its public opening hours (9.00am to 4.30 pm). A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the planning authority on payment of the prescribed fee (20.00e) within the period, of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application, and such submissions or observations will be considered by the planning authority in making a decision on the application. The planning authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions, or may, fuse to grant permission.

DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL - We Oxana and Quentin Marchal intend to apply for planning permission for development at this site 55 Celestine Avenue, Stella Gardens, Dublin 4. THE DEVELOPMENT WILL CONSIST OF: A rear dormer roof window and first floor extension with attic conversion for extended living accommodation. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of the Planning Authority during its' public opening hours and a submission or observation IN RELATION TO THE APPLICATION may be made to the Planning Authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL Howden Joinery (Ireland) Limited are applying for planning permission and permission for retention of development at Unit 4a, Feltrim Business Park, Swords, Co. Dublin, K67 AY90. Retention permission for 1) change of use from light industrial warehouse (with ancillary offices) to wholesale warehouse with ancillary retail trade counter and ancillary offices and 2) External alterations including a new recessed entrance and ramp, new external doors, new roller shutter door and infill of existing door to the North elevation. Planning Permission for new signage to North, East and South elevations. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the planning authority during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to South Dublin County Council in writing and on payment of the prescribed fee (€20.00) within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Dublin City Council - We, Tusla Child and Family Agency intend to apply for planning permission for development at this site: St. Helena's Resource Centre, St. Helena's House, St. Helena's Road, Finglas South, Dublin 11, D11 N928. The development will consist of the repair and restoration of existing slate roofs, existing flat roofs, valleys, chimneys, gutters & downpipes, and ancillary works at St. Helena's House, a Protected Structure RPS nr. 7575. The planning application may be inspected, or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of Dublin City Council during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

Fingal County Council: Planning permission is sought by Peter and Hannah Shipman for a new two-storey over ground level extension (area 87.1 sqm) at front, side, and rear of existing dwelling house to contain additional bedrooms and living space at 103 Inbhir Ide Malahide, Co. Dublin, K36 HH61. Works to include landscaping to front and rear gardens including widening of front vehicular entrance and replacement of front boundary fence with new low masonry wall. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of the planning authority during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of this application.

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL - We, Clara and Barry Cronin, are applying for permission for 01) Construction of proposed single storey porch extension to front of house, 02) Raising of window sill to front window at ground floor level by approx. 300mm, 03) Ancillary site works required to facilitate the development all at 17 The Rise, Boden Park, Dublin 16, D16NY96. This application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of South Dublin County Council during its public opening hours of 9am - 4pm, Mon-Fri, and a submission or observation may be made to South Dublin County Council in writing and on payment of the prescribed fee (€20.00) within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by South Dublin County Council of the application.

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL Howden Joinery (Ireland) Limited are applying for permission for retention of development consisting of: Works to a commercial warehouse to include - (i) demolition of existing extension and ancillary accommodation, (ii) internal alterations include general reconfiguration of the space to create ancillary office accommodation, (iii) trade counter and warehouse space, (iv) external alterations include installation of new cladding system, signage and reconfiguration of existing south and east elevations, (v) all ancillary works associated with the development. At: Unit 2A Smurfit Packaging Systems, Ballymount Road Lower, Dublin 12. This application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of South Dublin County Council during its public opening hours of 9am - 4pm, Mon-Fri, and a submission or observation may be made to South Dublin County Council in writing and on payment of the prescribed fee (€20.00) within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by South Dublin County Council of the application.