

Extended DART set to roll on Monday

By NIAMH HOOPER

AFTER five years of promises, Greystones and Malahide will finally get a full-time DART service from Monday morning.

The £20m extension to the line from Bray to Howth was first announced back in 1995 and will get on track at 6.14am from Greystones and 6.28am from Malahide.

After a week in which commuters from Greystones were without any train service due to a mudslide, and a period of limited services to Malahide and Portmatock, the new service will come as a welcome relief.

Jarrod Eireann say there will be a 100pc increase in services to both stations including for the first time a peak-hour service from Malahide, an off-peak time trains to Greystones and a Sunday service.

OFF-PEAK

Commuters from Greystones can look forward to more frequent peak time DARTs and an off-peak service for the first time. The first train will depart at 6.14am and the last one at night will be at 11.05pm. Trains to Greystones start at 8.49am from Tara Street in the city centre and the last one leaves at 11.21pm.

From Malahide, the first train will depart from the station at 6.28am and the last at 11.30pm while the first from Connolly Station to Malahide leaves at 5.50 and the last from Tara St at 10.58pm.

The Dalkey to Greystones lines reopened yesterday afternoon after a week of remaining closed since a mudslide at Killiney station halted services last Friday.

Over 1,000 tonnes of material had to be removed from the embankment surrounding Killiney station. The embankment has now been filled and secured.



● Limerick businessman John Walsh leaving court after the hearing yesterday

Picture: Courtpix

£235,000 returned as missing director turns up

By JOHN MADDOCK

A DIRECTOR who disappeared from outside the High Court on Thursday, turned up again yesterday and the court heard that £235,000 which had been transferred out of his company's bank accounts has been returned, as had £22,000 in cash.

On Thursday, Mr Justice Iarfaidh O'Neill had made an order committing John Walsh to prison for failing to comply with a ruling to reveal where the monies were. After the court adjourned briefly to allow Mr Walsh a "last chance" to reveal the whereabouts of the sums, he disappeared.

Following yesterday's moves by Mr Walsh in relation to restoring the money

to the company's accounts, it was stated by counsel for his wife Mrs Jean Walsh, that it was her wish that an order by which he was in custody should be lifted and that he be released.

The judge said he would make no order for attachment and Mr Walsh was freed.

Felix McEnroy SC, for Mrs Walsh, said his client's position that Mr Walsh had been acting under "an external influence" but that his co-operation yesterday had been impeccable.

On Thursday, an application was made by Mrs Walsh, who with her husband are directors of Jean-swear Ltd, Thomas Street, Limerick. Mrs Walsh sought a freeze on company monies which had been lodged in an Irish Life and Permanent account, but were not there on Thursday.

SEMINAR

Mrs Walsh said on affidavit her husband had recently become involved with an organisation for physical and mental well-being, and that last September, he spent £15,000 of company money attending a seminar in Egypt.

Mr McEnroy stated that it had been indicated that this organisation was under the auspices of a business run by Tony Quinn.

In recent times, added Mrs Walsh, her husband had been behaving in an uncharacteristic manner and she had started excluding her from company matters.

On December 9, she discovered her husband had transferred £235,000 from the company's bank accounts with AIB in Limerick to an account he had opened in his own name in Irish Life and Permanent. Her husband had retained £22,000 cash takings.

Yesterday, Mr McEnroy said the missing sums had been returned to the firm's current account. The company was also in possession of the cash proceeds (£22,000).

The only order which his client wished to continue was that giving Mrs Walsh control over the company's affairs for a limited period.

Mr Justice O'Neill said he would continue that order until January 22.

'Shocked' judge raps unhelpful probation service

By SEAN O'DRISCOLL

A HIGH Court judge has expressed "shock" at the lack of support provided by the probation services for prisoners wanting to rehabilitate.

Mr Justice Dermot Kilen at the Central Criminal Court said the Probation and Welfare Services could not "wash their hands" of the situation. He also said that prisoners were being moved from one prison to another and from one probation officer to another.

There was "an appalling" lack of alcohol awareness programmes in Mountjoy Prison, he added, and other prisoners would be better off in mental hospitals, which should not be closed down.

Mr Justice Kilen made his remarks after senior probation officer Ursula Fernee told him that a paedophile before the court had not availed of therapy offered to him.

UNEDUCATED

The judge said that prisoners should not just be informed, but encouraged to join such programmes, because many were uneducated or suffered from addictions. Others suffered from mental illness and needed greater assistance than they were being offered.

He said that merely informing prisoners of therapy sessions was "grossly inadequate" and he criticised the "lack of probation officers available".

He added that the probation services could interrelate better with prisoners and said he intended to publish his findings. He asked Ms Fernee to pass on his comments.

He adjourned a review of the defendant's sentence to May 16, 2001. The man, who cannot be named for legal reasons, was before the court on a sentence review.

RAPE

He had been jailed for 10 years in 1995 after pleading guilty to three counts of rape, 23 counts of indecent assault and 12 counts of sexual assault committed on his daughter, son and two neighbouring children.

Ms Fernee said she had informed the man that group therapy and counselling was available. He had declined to attend or make any inquiries.

Mr Justice Kilen said the accused had a constitutional right not to attend group therapy. He should be encouraged to attend individual counselling and not merely informed that the service was available.

Mr Justice Kilen said the man would have to undergo therapy for six months before he was released. He ordered an updated probation, psychiatric and prison governor's reports.

Date fixed for sentencing in cannabis case

By EUGENE HOGAN

A MAN charged in connection with a £1.29m cannabis haul and who failed to appear in court last week has been arrested in Galway.

Pat Scanlon (40), with an address at Davis Street, Limerick and Loughill, Co Limerick, failed to appear for sentencing at Limerick Circuit Court last week on charges relating to the cannabis find last year.

It was thought that he was out of the jurisdiction and a bench warrant was issued for his arrest and his £30,000 bail was forfeited.

However, on Thursday afternoon he was tracked down to Salthill in Galway where he had been staying for the last number of days in a hotel under the alias of Patrick Jones, with a Dublin address.

The charges relate to a Garda swoop on the Mount Kenneth apartments close to Limerick city centre on June 25, 1999.

A previous court heard the total haul was worth £1.29m.

The case has been adjourned to Thursday next for sentencing.

Islanders see the light

INHABITANTS on five off-shore islands got an early Christmas present yesterday when it was announced over £200,000 is to be made available towards the provision and improvement of electricity supplies.

Islands Minister Eamon O Cuiv said the ESB will carry out the necessary work to bring light and power to Islandmore, Co Mayo, and Turbot, Inishurk South and Inis Mhic Chionnaith, Co Galway.

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