

FIVE THINGS to do this week...

1 VISIT the Christmas markets at The Square Shopping Centre and pick up some unique, handmade gifts and festive decorations. A number of the stands are also selling hot food which will keep shoppers warm while they browse.



chocolate for opening each window.

2 WRAP up and attend the turning-on of the Christmas tree lights at Chamber Square, Tallaght, this Saturday. The lights will be the grand-finale of a festival running from 3.45pm to 6pm called Unwrapped – which will see multi-arts performances staged beside the County Library to mark the start of the holiday season.

4 LOG onto South Dublin County Council's website for tips on how best to manage and dispose of waste over the Christmas period. Details on bottle-banks and waste disposal facilities, for those doing a winter clean-out, are also available. Visit www.sdcc.ie.

3 BUY an Advent calendar. If you haven't done so already, you're two days behind in the official countdown to Christmas. Nothing beats an Advent Calendar for building excitement – plus you get a well-deserved piece of

5 BOOK tickets for Little Miss Muffet's Magical Christmas at the Civic Theatre on December 20 or Saveus Moveus and the Santa Claus Rescue running in The Mill Theatre, Dundrum, from December 5 to 20. Visit www.civictheatre.ie or www.milltheatre.ie for details.

AN INSPIRING artist from Knocklyon is displaying his latest collection of work at Tallaght Library this week.

Derrick O'Connell, a special needs student at St Michael's House in Templeogue only took up painting seven years ago.

However, his talent for the craft has come on so much that he has already built up a list of collectors and is holding his second exhibition in three years.

The latest collection of oil paintings entitled 'Believing in Dreams', has

By Maurice Garvey
maurice@echo.ie

Don't stop believing in your dreams

created a "great buzz" around St Michael's House, according to the centre's arts facilitator Paul O'Hare.

Paul said: "Derrick's an amazing artist and his work has really developed over the last few years. He does a lot of it in St Michael's House where he is supported by Sharon Devlin. This helps to bring on his technique, include him in the community and integrate him with other people which is very important."

"He is a very visual person and a lot of that comes from his mother Grace, who is also very talented artistically."

Recession friendly prices for Derrick's abstract and carefully-crafted masterpieces are available at the exhibition, ranging in price up to €120.

The theme for the exhibition, which was officially opened by Tony Fegan from Tallaght Community Arts last Monday, comes from Derrick's dreams.

Framed pieces are expected to attract interest from



Derrick O'Connell with some of his art on display in Tallaght County Library

members of the public and art enthusiasts alike. "This is a special moment for Derrick and his family," said Paul.

"He is an inspiration to other people who might be nervous, but have the skills to follow their dreams."

"We are delighted that one of our students is doing this and next year we hope to have a group exhibition."

'Believing in Dreams' runs at Tallaght Library until this Saturday December 3.



HIGHLY
COMMENDED:
Trish Best
found joy in
writing

Come back to me by Trish Best

*Come back to me
And I will show you
How to dream in colour.
Come back with me
And I will take you
To the far side of your
Star that shines
A different light
In another world.
Stay with me
And we will please
Gods and angels,
Heroes and lost
But mainly ourselves.
As we walk on red earth
With diamond speckled sand
Filtering through our toes.
Lay down with me
And allow our souls'
Memory to fuse, like before,
Spark into flame
Light up the richness of our own sound
And let it reverberate through
Our very being.*

Trish Best

The Poet's Corner

I started writing in 2008 when I joined a night class in Old Bawn School, Tallaght, which was facilitated by Eileen Casey – and with her enthusiasm and encouragement I have found the greatest of joys in writing.

Living in Millbrook Lawns, I am now a member of Platform One Writers Group in Rua Red, Tallaght and I'm also involved with Virginia House Writers Group which is facilitated by Maria Wallace – a Hennessy Award winning writer and poet. I have had a short story included in Tallaght Sounding which was published in 2010.

It was also broadcast on Tallaght Radio. I have had a short monologue performed on stage, entitled The Find, by my niece Louise Duffy who is a student of Coláiste Dhúlaigh Performing Arts and Theatre Studies.

I have also read my poetry in Blessington Library as part of Cultural Day and recited a short story in Rua Red as part of an evening of reading.

My poem Come Back to Me received a Highly Commended award in the Jonathan Swift Poetry competition 2011.

I have also participated in a creative writing course in Crumlin College led by award-winning author Valerie Sirr and did a play writing course facilitated by author and director Tracy Ryan in Rua Red.

People in the news



Ballyboden St Enda's GAA club Art Society presented its annual charity show in its clubhouse last weekend – with all proceeds going to charity Aware. Looking at the Eastern Eyes painting, by Katie Daly, were Robert Lambert and Robert Lambert Jnr
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