

WORKS

Council's pipes replacement project set to hit milestone this month

Water mains contractors to reach 100km mark

■ DAWN LOVE
dundrum@gazettegroup.com

THE mammoth task of replacing the antiquated water mains system in Dublin and its surrounding areas will reach the 100km mark this month.

There are more than 9,000km of water mains in Dublin and, since the rehabilitation project started in 2007, 100km of old mains have been replaced, and 11 million litres of water per day that was leaking through the old water mains has been saved.

Since work commenced in 2007, the Dublin Region Watermains Rehabilitation Programme has replaced corroded and leaking pipes across Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown, including Blackrock, Mount Merrion, Deansgrange and Monkstown.

The mainly Victorian water mains have been replaced with new heavy-duty polyethylene pipes.

An Cathaoirleach of Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, Councillor John Bailey, said: "The Dublin Region

Watermains Rehabilitation Project is making tangible progress to reduce Dublin's water leakage, and saving the 11 million litres of water per day that were previously leaking through the old water mains is equivalent to the water needed to supply 27,000 homes.

"The 100km of leaking water mains that have so far been replaced across Dublin is the equivalent of the width of the Irish Sea from Dublin to Holyhead.

"This is a great achieve-

'Every day, Dubliners use 510 million litres of clean drinking water – that's equivalent to 204 Olympic swimming pools'

ment, and I thank motorists, residents and business people for their co-operation during these vital works," he said.

Every day, Dubliners use 510 million litres of clean drinking water – that's equivalent to 204 Olympic swimming pools.

Alongside continuous maintenance and repairs

work by the local authorities in the Dublin region, there will always be a need to replace water mains, due to their age and wear and tear.

Dublin City Council, who manage the project on behalf of the local authorities, says that even if it continued to replace 60km of water mains

per annum indefinitely (which is the minimum level required to continue to reduce leakage), based on current population levels and economic activity, rehabilitation alone is not enough to ensure a sustainable future water supply for the Dublin region, and an alternative water source is required.

This project is managed by Dublin City Council on behalf of the local authorities in Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal, South Dublin, Kildare, Wicklow and Bray.



A tram to remember: Celebrate the area's rich literary heritage

FAIR City actress, Margaret Twomey (left), donned period costume to help promote the upcoming Meet the Writers – All Aboard the Dalkey Tram literary event.

WB Yeats and Maeve Binchy are just two of the writers set to be featured in the event, which will take place at 8pm in Dalkey Castle and Heritage Centre on Saturday, October 29; Sunday, October 30 and Monday, October 31.

Selections from the writers' work will be woven together by "Tim, the Dalkey Tram driver", who – allegedly – knew all of these writers as he travelled back and forth from Dalkey to Dublin, and all stops in between.

Meanwhile, live musicians will feature through the live theatre performances, while a duet of dancers from Damhsa Dance Company will complete the show. Meet the Writers will give you a taste of the broad sweep of the work of the award-winning writers, which led to Dublin securing the prestigious designation of UNESCO City of Literature. Admission costs €15.



Models Georgia Salpa and Rosanna Davison help Emer O'Connor tee-off at Rainforest Adventure Golf

RETAIL: DUNDRUM TOWN CENTRE'S NEW VENTURE

'Ancient' mini-golf is centre's newest hit

■ DAWN LOVE
dundrum@gazettegroup.com

A STATE-of-the-art mini-golf-themed indoor venue opened its doors at Dundrum Town Centre last weekend.

At more than 16,000 sq ft, Rainforest Adventure Golf is a purpose-built, high-tech facility that will be the only themed indoor mini-golf venue of its kind on such a scale in Ireland.

The new facility will house two 18-hole South American-themed mini-golf courses in a rainforest setting; one "Aztec" and the other "Mayan".

Both courses weave through lush tropical

foliage, authentic Mayan/Aztec carvings, and animatronic special effects.

Meanwhile, the Canopy Cafe will stock ice-cream from Ben & Jerry's, and will offer organic Fair Trade coffees, speciality teas, snacks, and souvenirs.

The cafe will cater for birthday parties, corporate events and all types of get-togethers, from casual to black tie. WiFi will allow visitors to stay in touch with the outside world.

The new, indoor-themed venue is the brainchild of businessman, Ross Ivers, who said it was on a wet Irish holiday with little to do

for the kids that he felt something like the Rainforest Adventure Golf would work in Ireland.

"Similar leisure concepts are very popular in America and in Britain, but there is no themed indoor venue like this in Ireland.

Got idea on holiday

"It was on yet another wet Irish holiday, with little to do for the kids, that I thought something like this would really work here.

"There are many indoor play venues around for younger children, but it's baffling that, for such a wet country as Ireland is, there is still

so little variety in indoor venues which also cater to older children, teens and adults.

"Rainforest Adventure Golf is somewhere that all age groups can spend time having fun together, no matter what the weather is like outside," he said.

The venue is located at Dundrum South, Level 3 and opposite the entrance to the Tesco car park.

It can be accessed from the main shopping centre on Level 3, through the main doors beside Tesco.

Rainforest Adventure Golf will be open seven days a week, from 9.45am to 11pm.