

May 25, 2025 €3.20 (Stg£2.60)

SUNDAY WORLD



EXCLUSIVE



**COMPO
CLAN'S
LUXURY
MANSION**

SEE PAGES 6&7



**SAOIRSE'S
DAD IN LAND
ROW WITH
NEIGHBOURS**

SEE PAGES 4&5

PATRICK O'CONNELL



EXCLUSIVE

GAINÉ 'SUSPECT' REFUSED ASYLUM



PROBE:
'Suspect'
Michael
Kelley and,
inset above,
farmer
Michael
Gaine

REVEALED:
FAMILY INFORMED
DNA IS THAT OF
TRAGIC MIKE
P8&9

**American quizzed
by cops over Kerry
murder was given
deportation notice**

Harvey Norman®

THE

BIG SALE

**NOW
ON!**

**0% APR
NO FEES**

UP
TO

36 MONTHS

**INTEREST FREE*¹
ON BEDS & MATTRESSES**

For full terms and conditions visit harveynorman.ie/finance

Offers end 30/04/2025. *1. Finance offer valid on purchases of Furniture and Bedding products only. All finance subject to credit assessment and approval. Fees, terms and conditions apply. See harveynorman.ie/finance for full details. Representative example of Interest Free Finance Offer for 36 Months. Cash price of €1000. Your monthly repayment will be €27.78 with 0% APR. Finance provided by FlexiFi Europe Ltd. A 20% deposit is required on all customised orders. See in store for details.

527429_NIE

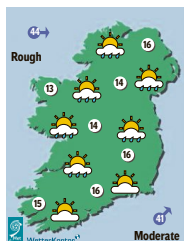
INSIDE

DEIRDRE REYNOLDS	15
MOTORS	34
FR BRIAN D'ARCY	35
DANIEL O'DONNELL	36
PUZZLES	42843

SEE MAGAZINE+
NATHAN CARTER AND PUB SPY



DON'T MISS
YOUR FREE
MAGAZINE



TODAY: A cooler and fresher day, with sunny spells and scattered showers.

FOUR-DAY FORECAST

MON	TUES	WED	THURS

This is a subscription service.
LOTTERY RESULTS
To Get The Winning Numbers Call
1550 501 605
OR TEXT SWLOT TO 53307
Updated every Wednesday and Saturday at 6.05pm
Calls to 1550 cost €0.15/min. Texts to 53307 cost 2c per text per week maximum. This is a subscription service. To unsubscribe text STOP to 53307. SP Promotion: 0818 217 100

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

At the *Sunday World*, we take great pride in the quality of our journalism and aim to correct any errors as quickly as possible. If you wish to report an inaccuracy, please email corrections@sundayworld.com

■ This publication supports the work of the Press Council of Ireland and the Office of the Press Ombudsman, and our staff operate within the Code of Practice for Journalists in Ireland. You can obtain a copy of the Code, or contact the Council, at www.presscouncil.ie. Lo-call 1890 208 080, or email: info@presscouncil.ie



HAVE
YOU GOT
A STORY?

Phone us on (01) 884 8873 or
email news@sundayworld.com

ACTING UP: TENSIONS RISE AMONG LOCALS AS

'I was forced to put up a high wall and gates to stop all sorts of people coming through my property'

SAYS HOLLYWOOD STAR

THE father of Hollywood movie star Saoirse Ronan claims he has been constantly terrorised by trespassers, who he says have even threatened to burn down his house, trying to get through his property to gain access to a scenic river.

Fair City actor Paul Ronan (60), who is about to become a grandfather after his Oscar-nominated daughter Saoirse announced this week she is pregnant, is also in a bitter dispute with some neighbours over a wall and fence which has been erected at Aghade bridge in Co Carlow.

Paul called Gardaí on Saturday after a local farmer tried to remove fencing to again gain access to part of the scenic River Slaney, four miles from Tullow.

"I was forced to put up a high wall and gates to stop all sorts of people coming through my property at all hours of the day," he tells the *Sunday World*.

He adds that the neighbour, who owns lands adjacent to the river, was forced to put up a fence at the bridge to stop hordes of people descending onto her land to hang out on the banks.

"I raised it because there were people climbing over it and sitting on it. It was so bad. People were coming through, before the fence was there. People would walk through the grounds to get to the river," he says. "If I'm in my living room, they're walking along and they can look straight in. If they have an accident here, I've no public liability insurance."

PARTY

"During Covid, the word got out that this was a great place for cider-drinking and parties. There were hundreds of people, fellows doing doughnuts. From 10 in the morning until 1.30 at night, this was being used as a party venue."

"I got so sickened with the littering and the anti-social behaviour." Paul, who plays postman Anto Collins in the hit RTÉ soap, maintains he was not only forced to Gardaí on numerous occasions, and also on occasion ambulances.

"Over the years I've lost track of the amount of times I've called the Guards. Their hands are tied, I suppose, because it's private property and they don't want people anymore," he complains.

"One girl came up screaming, there was a little boy attacked by three bigger boys. They were 16/17, he was 11/13, he was beaten up."

He claims he too has been threatened.

"They'd be all the way up along the river screaming and shouting. They were coming from all over Co Carlow. Local people would drop their kids off during the summer."



PREGNANT: Saoirse Ronan

EXCLUSIVE
BY EUGENE
MASTERTSON

"I have been threatened before. I have been told I'd have my house burned down, and being shouted and stuff like that. I've had rocks put through my windows."

"It has been very disruptive. And they just litter everywhere. It was unbelievable. They'd be sitting at the other side of the wall, sitting there drinking and tossing the bottles into my garden."

"There was no control. You'd call the police, and they'd tell them to move on, they'd go away a little bit or hide and come back again."

Dubliner Paul moved to Co Carlow with his family 26 years ago. "I went over to New York. My

daughter (Saoirse) was four or five. I was doing a couple of films over here, Ordinary Decent Criminal, and Ballykissangel. There was stuff happening for me over here so we just decided to stay," recalls the father-of-one.

"We decided to look around here for a place, and we came across this and it's on the banks of the lovely Slaney. It was at the right price and everything, so we jumped at it."

"I grew up in Ballymun flats, Crumlin, East Wall, Summerhill, inner city and housing estates and the Bronx, so I was just sick of being surrounded by buildings. Saw this... heard that river and the birds singing, went 'Jesus'. It's only an hour from Dublin."

"I love around here. I even taught Saoirse to swim in the river here." For nearly three years, up until

recently, Paul was in Dublin looking after his elderly parents, who are now in care.

He admits his bungalow and grounds are currently in some disrepair as he's been away, but he hopes to stay and improve his home and surroundings.

But lately he has had trouble from some neighbours, who have been trying to remove obstacles to get onto the riverbank.

He fears if they succeed it will allow gangs of youths and troublemakers to descend on his property, and so has put CCTV cameras up to monitor the area.

He points out there is a local park with water facilities, Altamont Gardens, which caters for those wanting a day out, but he speculates that some want to go to the river beside him as they can get away with more mischief

THEY CLAIM RIGHT TO ACCESS RIVERFRONT AT ACTOR'S HOME



'I love living around here. I even taught Saoirse to swim in the river here'

ACCES ROW: Above and right, Paul shows Eugene Masterson the area under dispute. Below, Paul with daughter Saoirse

MESSY: Rubbish at the riverside close to Paul's home



SAOIRSE RONAN'S FATHER

in an unsupervised area.

The woman who owns the land next to Paul by the river, who does not want to be identified, insists there is no public access allowed.

"It's private property, there is no right of way," she says. "I'm legally responsible for everything half way into the river. If somebody takes drugs and drowns in the river I'm actually legally responsible. I can't get insurance to allow people to go there." She said she had

been in touch with Carlow County Council and claims they agree with her stance.

"The only person I have to let in there is the inland waterways. I rang them and Teagasc and also the Tullow Anglers. They wanted it fenced as there was so much drug dealing," she adds.

TRESPASSING

"I rang the local kayakers, I told them it was about the drug dealers, and if they want to kayak to ring me. I can give access through my field."

She acknowledges she and Paul are in conflict with other landowners who want access to the river.

"They don't accept that they have been trespassing. They have taken an angle grinder to

it. I have had my tyres slashed on a trailer and complaints about how I care for my donkeys, it has got that bitter."

Local farmer Tom Cummins confirmed to the *Sunday World* he used an angle grinder to try and cut open the fence and was questioned by Gardai on Saturday about trying to pull more of it apart.

"I have never before been in trouble, they came to my house on Saturday night, three Guards. The first time ever," he sighs. "I did cut it, but it's an illegal fence and it's on council property."

"I'm a fisherman, I can't get to there (the river). That land has a burden on it that says there's fishery rights to it."

"I have walked that riverbank since the age of four and

this is all around right of way.

"I put stiles all along the bank with her grandfather for the right of way."

"He (Paul) has no planning permission for that wall. Yes, it has got bitter."

Another local farmer, Joe Rothwell, claims he too is denied access.

"I used to go down, and with the kayak club. My wife and my sister used to walk the bank of the river. It is the best stretch of the river for kayaking. We can't understand why it's being blocked."

A spokesperson for Carlow County Council asked us to email them with our request to clarify the position about the fencing and right of way, but they did not reply to our communication.

BREAK-UP: FAIR CITY ACTOR REVEALS COUPLE HAVE BEEN

SAOIRSE Ronan's parents sadly divorced just weeks before the Hollywood star happily announced she was pregnant with her first child.

So reveals the Oscar nominated actress's father Paul in an exclusive interview with the *Sunday World*.

Fair City actor Paul confirms he is "heartbroken" that he and his wife Monica Brennan have parted ways.

He revealed the couple have been separated for 10 years.

"The divorce came through a few weeks ago," said Paul, who plays postman Anto Collins in the RTE soap.

Asked how he feels about the conclusion of their marriage, Paul becomes reflective.

"I feel like, I don't know, it's a strange feeling," he ponders.

"The barrister asked me when it was over, 'how do you feel?' I said, 'I don't know, it's a weird feeling, of feeling happy but wanting to cry, sick but wanting to throw up, but wanting to jump for joy'.

CHAPTER

"It's just a combination of a bunch of feelings, you know. It's moving on. I have done that as far as the relationship is concerned.

"To know that it was all over and not hanging over your head. It's a new chapter and it's a new opportunity for a new start."

The 60-year-old Dubliner becomes emotional when talking about the separation.

"I am heartbroken about it," he sighs.

"We separated 10 years ago, it was 2015. And now we are divorced, just in the last few weeks."

Paul does not currently want to talk publicly about his relationship with his famous 31-year-old daughter.

The only thing he wanted to make public about her was that "I taught Saoirse to swim" in the nearby river Slaney, where she grew up in the house Paul and Monica once shared next to Aghade bridge, four miles from Tullow.

He now lives there alone and is in dispute with some neighbours about access to the river.

SACRIFICES

Saoirse is the couple's only child, and last Friday week announced she and her Scottish actor husband Jack Lowden are expecting their first child.

Paul married Monica Brennan in 1992, having met her in the 1980s.

"My mam and dad left school at 15 or 16 and have been working ever since. My mam was a cleaner and a nanny and my dad worked in a bar and then was an actor, with a proper job for years," Saoirse said previously.

"We weren't poor but we didn't have money. So, I knew the value of money from an early age. I knew that whatever we had, it was because of sacrifices made by them. So I think that's given me a great appreciation for money."

Monica played a major role in Saoirse's early career, accompa-

CLOSE: Saoirse with her mum Monica and dad Paul



'I'm heartbroken about my split and now divorce from Saoirse's mum'

SAYS HOLLYWOOD STARLET SAOIRSE

WORLD EXCLUSIVE

EUGENE MASTERSON



nying her on set as a chaperone when she was a child.

The star's mum has credits in a couple of her movies, including *Atonement*, for which a teenage Saoirse gained one of her three Oscar nominations.

Monica now lives in Dublin,

Saoirse in London — she also owns a house in Ballydehob in west Cork — and Paul has moved back to Co Carlow after spending much of the last three years looking after his elderly parents in the capital.

Saoirse admits there is a close

bond between her and her mother.

HOMESICK

"We've always been very, very close, but when I moved away a few years ago to London, where I lived for a year and a half, I remember feeling so homesick," she recalls.

"I always need to talk to her, but she really helped me through it and helped me to get the courage to keep going with it."

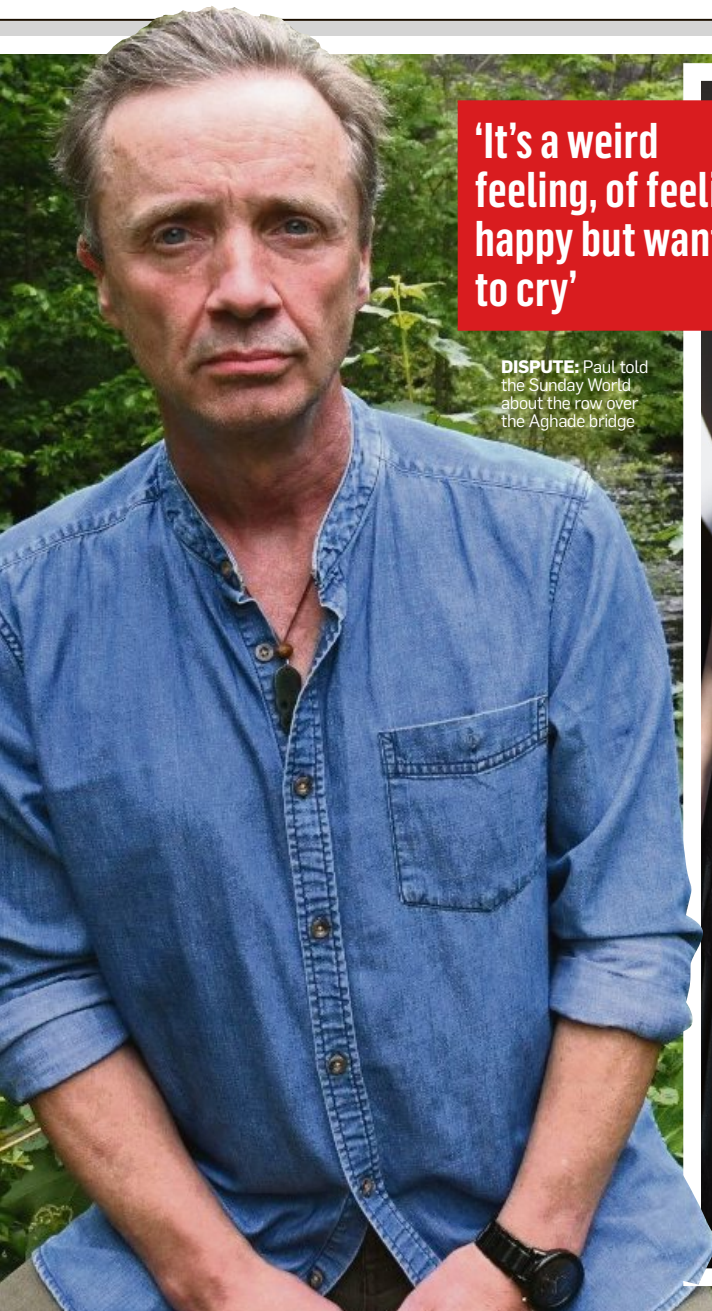
"I had such new-found respect for my mom once I left.

When you're on your own, you don't have anyone to clean your clothes, you don't have anyone to cook for you, you don't have anyone at the end of the night to give you a cuddle."

"So I think then my appreciation for her went through the roof. We're best friends."

Saoirse and Paul appeared side by side on *The Late Late Show* in a joint interview in December 2010. They recalled how Saoirse got into acting and how they worked together on RTE's *The Clinic*.

SEPARATED FOR 10 YEARS AND HE HAS NOW 'MOVED ON'



'It's a weird feeling, of feeling happy but wanting to cry'

DISPUTE: Paul told the Sunday World about the row over the Aghade bridge



PREGNANT: Saoirse showed off her baby bump last week



BLOCKED: Paul Ronan shows the area

Council's notices over bridge dispute

BY EUGENE MASTERSON

CARLOW County council has confirmed enforcement notices were issued about the controversial erection of fencing at a bridge next to Paul Ronan's property.

Some people living near Aghade bridge in Co Carlow are up in arms about what they see as an unauthorised fence put up to stop access to the river Slaney.

"As this development is the subject of an active enforcement case, I regret to inform you that I am unable to disclose any information at this time, as it may be subject to legal proceedings," a spokesperson for the council told us. The notices were issued in 2021 and 2022.

The row began after a landowner, who does not want to be named, put iron fencing up on the bridge.

Paul Ronan had built up his wall next to that fence. His property lies directly beside the bridge and he too does not want strangers going to and from the river.

GENERATIONS

Carlow Weather frontman Alan O'Reilly, who has gained fame with his meteorological forecasts and has more than 150,000 followers on Instagram, claims both the fencing and wall have no planning permission.

"I grew up a mile from that bridge and people have been going to that area for the river for generations," he told us.

"That fence was put up at the start of Covid when young people flocked there when there were restrictions on where they could go. There was an element of anti-social behaviour, which should have been stamped out and was allowed to go on too long. But that fence is illegal and there are two active files by the council, demanding it be taken down," he said.

E RONAN'S ACTOR DAD PAUL

"From the age of two I spotted something in her. She was an amazing kid, very friendly and sociable. More so than any kid I have seen," Paul told Ryan Tubridy.

NERVOUS

"Eventually, when she was seven or eight, I put her in a short film I was doing. They needed a kid and I said 'I have got one'."

He also took her on set when he was in *The Devil's Own* and *Veronica Guerin*, and got her a role alongside him in RTE series *The Clinic*.

"In the scene [in *The Clinic*],

she was nearly knocked down by a car. I knew the stunt guys but we were still nervous so they put me driving the car. I was glad to be around when she was filming her first scene, it was a big honour," he raved.

He always knew Saoirse would make it big in acting.

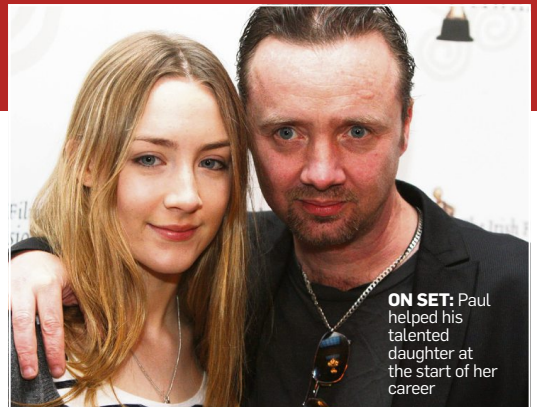
"From the day she was young, she was always a very confident little child — and I knew she'd make a good actor. I loved it so much that I encouraged her and I put her in a short film when she was five years of age," he told the

Irish Daily Star's Chic magazine.

"She was on set with me a lot — pretty much with everything I ever did, I was bringing her and her mother on-set. So when she was making her own films and doing plays with her friends and stuff, I saw that she was really into it.

AUDITIONS

"After the short film, I introduced her to my agent and we started doing auditions. Her third job was with Michelle Pfeiffer in *I Could Never Be Your Woman*, and from there, that was it."



ON SET: Paul helped his talented daughter at the start of her career