

DWTS FAVOURITE JOHNNY

Choking man's appeal for help

A 64-YEAR-OLD man choking on a piece of steak ran next door to neighbours seeking help, an inquest heard.

Edward Healy of Dromheath Avenue, Mulhuddart, Dublin 15 was struggling to breathe as he banged on his neighbour's front door on June 17, 2017.

Aidan Burke, who is trained in first aid, answered the door and attempted the Heimlich manoeuvre in a bid to save Mr Healy's life.

Throat

"It was around 7pm I heard banging on the front door. It was loud and kept going so I got out of the shower. Mr Healy was standing there holding his throat, struggling to breathe," Mr Burke said.

Dublin Coroner's Court heard Mr Healy had had surgery for neck cancer in 2008 and had a hernia removed in hospital the day before his death.

Neighbour Liz Burke returned to the house to find Mr Healy at the front door looking distressed.

"He was grabbing his throat and trying to tell us he was choking. He was clearly choking," Mrs Burke said. She phoned an ambulance. The Burkes tried to calm Mr Healy as he started to panic. He became weak.

Meat

Paramedics were called at 7.30pm and worked to save Mr Healy's life at the scene. He was transferred to Connolly Hospital arriving at 8.31pm.

A large piece of meat, measuring 6cm by 1.5cm was removed from his windpipe. However, resuscitation efforts failed and he was pronounced dead at 8.37pm.

A post-mortem gave the cause of death as asphyxia due to choking on a piece of meat.

Coroner Dr Myra Cullinane returned a verdict of accidental death.

Student in conviction dispute

A UNIVERSITY student has brought a High Court challenge over what she says is the wrongful inclusion of a criminal conviction against her on a disclosure by the Garda National Vetting Bureau.

Kathleen Joyce, who is studying at Trinity College Dublin, has brought proceedings over the disclosure which states she received a custodial sentence from a Welsh court in 2017.

Ms Joyce, of Mayeston Green, Finglas, Dublin 11, says another person with the same name received the conviction.

'We love you Dad and we're glad you're at peace...'



GRIEF: Johnny Ward at his father John's funeral mass in Dublin yesterday



CLOSE BOND: Actor Johnny Ward with his late dad, John Ward

ACTOR'S FAMILY PAY TRIBUTE AT FUNERAL

ACTOR Johnny Ward was comforted by his fellow Dancing With The Stars contestants — as he laid his father to rest yesterday.

Johnny's father John died on Saturday, at the age of 72, following a cancer diagnosis.

And brave Fair City actor Johnny insisted the show must go on — as he danced on the RTE1 show less than 24 hours later in his dad's honour.

Johnny's funeral took place yesterday at the Dublin Unitarian Church, where John had been a member for over 30 years and also served as secretary.

Music

Gifts, including a guitar, Buddha statue, family photographs and a copy of his music and poems that will feature in a book, *Poems and Music for the Metaphysically Maladjusted*, were laid out in his memory.

Flowers that spelt out 'Dad', 'Grandad' and 'Friend' were also displayed at the altar.

Johnny read out a poem entitled 'When The Long Day Is Done' which was written by his father.

■ Laura COLGAN

His sisters, Maureen and Susan, also read out poetry written by John while the choir sang a song composed by him, entitled *St Stephen's Green*.

During the gathering, the sound system cut out as the choir sang — and John's eldest daughter Maureen joked that it was her dad "telling them they're out of tune".

John is survived by his wife Kathy, children Maureen, Susan and Johnny, granddaughter Susie and extended family.

His eldest daughter Maureen said her father will be remembered not only as a loving father and grandfather but as a joker, musician and poet.

She said: "I'm honoured, blessed and privileged to say that me, my sister and brother are the three children of the most wonderful

father we could wish for.

"We're grateful that Susie had the most exceptional grandfather in the world."

"John Ward was the most intelligent, caring, courteous, kind, multi-skilled, multi-talented gentleman."

"Everyone calls him a gentleman and that is exactly what he was."

"There was never anything he

couldn't help us with. He

was a walking encyclopedia or Mr Google. He knew something about everything and everything about something.

"Sometimes, he was a mind of amazing, useful information and sometimes it was not so useful."

"He was always highly-versed. He

will be a sadly-missed adviser, singer, writer, musician, joker, poet, composer, teacher, builder.

"He was an unreal man. Dad, you left such a legacy in your book, *Poems and Music for the Metaphysically Maladjusted*, that will soon be published as well as your countless musical compositions for voice, piano, choir and instrumental."

Peace

She said the family has been devastated by his death but take comfort in knowing that he is now at peace.

Maureen said: "Dad, we're absolutely devastated you have left us. "It was horrific to see what you went through over the last while, particularly in those final days."

"We, your family, take comfort now that you are finally out of pain and distress. We love you, Dad."

John was cremated at Newlands Cross Crematorium following the funeral mass.

Dancing With The Stars contestants Clelia Murphy, Fred Cooke, Mairead Ronan and Cliona Hagan attended the funeral to pay their respects, along with professional dancer John Nolan.

BRAVE: Johnny on Dancing With The Stars with pro Emily Barker

BURIES HIS BELOVED FATHER.



SUCCESS: Jennifer Zamparelli

Jen's instant TV hit

TELLY star Jennifer Zamparelli has said *Dancing With The Stars* is the first show she has ever worked on that has been an instant success.

The Dubliner co-hosts the glitzy RTE One show every Sunday night with Westlife singer Nicky Byrne.

The 2FM Breakfast Republic star has a string of shows to her bow including Republic of Telly and Bridget and Eamon.

She said: "I've been working in telly for so long, producing, writing, in it and on the red carpet...But this is the first show that I have done that I have put my heart and soul into that people actually watch so that is nice."



FUNERAL: The remains are brought into the church yesterday



MASS: (L-R) Model Michele McGrath; actor Ryan Andrews and actress Seana Kerslake



SUPPORT: Johnny Ward with his partner Rachel Tracey; (inset) DWTS's Emily Barker



FRIENDS: Actress Clelia Murphy and comedian Fred Cooke at the funeral



CO-STARS: Mairead Ronan and pro dancer John Nolan outside the church yesterday



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