

FIVE THINGS to do this week...

1 Look out for black magic, bad luck and ominous signs as Friday the 13th looms. Although the day is said to bring bad fortune many find it a great day to celebrate so why not throw yourself a Friday the 13th party. Those who are superstitious should exercise caution though as January 13 is just the first of three Friday the 13ths this year – April and July are the others.



2 Sweep a loved one off their feet by bringing them to see the stage show of Dirty Dancing. Get yourself along to The Grand Canal Theatre from Tuesday January 17 to catch the show. A great night out for couples, groups and families – I dare you to try not sing along with your favourite hits from the film. The show runs until February 25.

3 Get on the road to a healthier you by taking part in the Operation Transformation community walk on Saturday January 14. South Dublin County Sports Partnership are asking participants to gather at the car park in St Enda's Park Rathfarnham at 10.45am before heading to Marlay Park for a 4km walk from 11.15am. This will be followed by light refreshments for those taking part.

4 Do something nice for someone you love. Buy flowers for your best friend, take your mother for lunch, help your dad with gardening, share a drink with your sister or tell your girlfriend/boyfriend how awesome s/he is. They will be delighted and you'll feel better for it.

5 Check out 3D movie The Darkest Hour which opens in cinemas nationwide on Thursday. The film tells the story of five young people trapped in Moscow during an alien invasion. They must battle to save the earth against the electricity-stealing monsters. Hardly intellectual viewing but an entertaining take on the possible end of civilisation.

The Mill to host fastest fiddler

Frankie Gavin and De Dannan to play in Dundrum during tour

HAILED as Ireland's greatest fiddle player, Frankie Gavin is coming to the The Mill Theatre this January – with the current ensemble of Irish folk music group De Dannan.

Frankie Gavin and De Dannan has performed all over the world from The

White House to the Beijing Opera House.

The talented five-piece has also played alongside musical luminaries such as The Rolling Stones and has played for three US Presidents and Prince Albert of Monaco.

De Dannan, which is led by Frankie Gavin, who recently entered the Guinness Book of Records as the world's fastest fiddle player.

He will be joined on stage by Barry Brady on accordion, Eric Cunningham on flutes, percussion and whistles, Mike Galvin on bouzouki/guitar and Michelle Lally on vocals.



Responsible for bringing some of Ireland's talented traditional performers to the world stage, the original De Dannan line-up released its debut album in 1975.

Since then, various musicians have joined and left the traditional supergroup, which has been in its current state since 2009.

Following the

reaction that Frankie and De Dannan received during their 'Up Close and Personal Tour', the band are back on tour visiting many of the same venues – including The Mill.

The group also released an album featuring the current line-up called Jigs, Reels and Rock 'n' Roll last September – which includes a guest appearance by Ronnie Wood.

Frankie Gavin and De Dannan are playing The Mill Theatre in Dundrum on January 21. Tickets cost €20 or €18 with concession. To book call 2969340 or visit www.milltheatre.ie



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Poet's corner

Brian Kirk is a poet, prose writer and playwright from Clondalkin. He was shortlisted for Hennessy Awards for fiction in 2008 and 2011, placed third in the People's College short story Competition 2009 and shortlisted for the Over The Edge New Writer of the Year Award in 2008 and 2009. He won the inaugural Writing Spirit Award in 2009 with his story Perpetuity. In 2010 and 2011 he was a featured reader at the Lonely Voice platform for new writers at the Irish Writers' Centre. His one act play And the Word was Made Flesh was runner up in the 'From Page to Stage' playwrighting competition run by Dublin Public Libraries in 2010. His radio play Story was shortlisted for the PJ O'Connor Award 2011 with RTE. He recently read at County Library Tallaght as part of the series of readings developed and facilitated by Eileen Casey. He blogs at <http://briankirkwriter.com>

Suburban Sonnet by Brian Kirk

*I never thought that I would find him
Cold and dead, stretched out in a stranger's yard,
As if sleeping – but not sleeping – numb, hard
As the frozen ground, draped in a fine skim
Of winter's leavings. Only an old cat,
An insignificant death you might say –
Aristotle certainly saw it that way –
When compared to a human life lost; that
Is what vexes some people, that feline
Or canine can be treated like human,
Cried over like lovers, valued like someone
You lived with and loved
throughout their decline.
The divine in me with apt insouciance
Digs a shallow grave and buries nuisance.*

