FIVE THINGS to do this week

1 Finish off the last bits of Christmas decorating so you can sit back and enjoy the run up to December 25. No-one wants to be busy decorating in the last couple of days before Christmas – those days are for last minute shopping!

2 Post your Christmas cards, especially the overseas ones. The last day for posting standard letters or post to Britain and Europe is December 18 while you can send to family and friends in the Republic of Ireland until December 19. If you leave it late send by Express Post which can be sent up until December 22. For a list of dates check www.anpost.ie

3 See top notch music talent on Saturday at Midnight @ The Olympia when Bell X1 will take to the stage. Doors open at 11pm and there are still a limited number of tickets left for the special gig are still available. The brilliant live band are sure to add some cheer to the season.

4 Treat yourself to the second installment of Sherlock Holmes on the big screen from Friday. In the follow-up to the 2010 smash hit, Robert Downey Jr and Jude Law return as Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson. Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows hits screens this weekend.

5 Visit the picturesque Winter Wonderland in Corkagh Park on Sunday December 18. The SDCC event will see Santa greeting visitors from his High Throne, the snow queen, elves, a real live reindeer and plenty of refreshments and hot food. The event is ticket only but there is no fee for the tickets. For more information visit www.sdcc.ie.

WDAR looks out for the smaller guy

By Mary Dennehy
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FRIDAY December 23 is set to be a big day for West Dublin Access Radio with a special Christmas Show broadcast throughout the afternoon.

The Christmas Show will take place from 12 o'clock to 4pm on the station's last day of broadcast before the Christmas break.

Local bands and acts will be in the studio to chat and play some live music as well as a range of other music from a selection of artists.

Presenter of the show Keith McLoughlin is "really looking forward" to the show with plenty of new emerging talent on the radio throughout the year.

The Session Suite with Frank Phelan on Tuesdays from 2.30pm to 3.30pm and During the Week with Ballyfermot native Keith on Wednesdays from 4pm to 5pm both give artists the chance to come on air to chat and play live music.

The local station also offers a huge opportunity for new and emerging artists to get some airplay.

Keith said: "There is an opportunity for unsigned artists to get their music played on The Unsigned Music Chart Show on Thursdays from 4pm to 5pm. The show picks 10 artists each week for the public to vote on with the Top Five in the chart getting a spin each week. The chart is rotated each week with the bottom five artists taken out and a fresh five put in.

"It's great because it is up to the fans of artists to vote for their favourite acts to keep them in the chart for as long as possible. Some acts may only get one week in the chart while others may get a few weeks in the chart."

BRINGING CHRISTMAS CHEER: WDAR's Keith McLoughlin looking forward to December 23

Artists interested in appearing on the chart or getting airplay should contact Trevor Halpin of Music Review Unsigned who runs the programme for WDAR.

Keith got involved with Music Review Unsigned earlier this year when he co-hosted the show.

He said: "It all came about when the station, along with RAPID, organised Ballyfermot Rocks in August. [Myself] and Trevor teamed up to organise acts for the event which saw 30 artists play over one day in the Ballyfermot Road Park beside the Civic Centre on the Ballyfermot Road."

For more information on what is going on in WDAR and MRU see www.wdar.ie and musicreviewunsigned.com

The Poet's Corner

In the long run

by Ann Marie Mullen

Smelling sweetly of face
cream and soap
she said my name with love.
Touched my hand,
looked into my face,
cared about my reply.

With clear eyes,
a smiling mouth,
curly red hair
tied softly with a black ribbon
at the nape of her neck.

And a voice with no indignation
anger or rage,
only friendliness
she inspired me,
showed me beauty,
creativity,
gave me hope.

Found her way into my heart
where she remains to this day.

Miss Curran, my first teacher
at primary school,
who left a lasting impression,
changed me and my world
for the better,
really did make a difference.

I am new to writing. I write to remember the past, to chronicle my daily life and the life of my loved ones, to express my hopes and passions and to understand my emotions.

My main interest in it is the creative/emotional release and joy it brings to me and I hope it will continue to be this way.

Every week I write a new piece of prose or poetry which I take to The Virginia House Creative Writers Group which meets in Rua Red on a Friday night.

That night has become the highlight of my week.

The friends I have made there give me encouraging feedback and positive criticism on my work and I truly treasure being a member

I find the feedback of the group encouraging and a great help for my creative development.

Ann Marie Mullen

REMEMBERING THE PAST: Writer Ann Marie Mullen

WIN WIN WIN A BIKE WITH OUR
Christmas Colouring Competition
McDonalds Restaurants, Mill Centre Clondalkin, Superquinn Centre Lucan, Lucan Village & Liffey Valley Food Court & Drive Thru
MUST BE WON 1 x Bike for 4-8yrs 1 x Bike for 8-12yrs
Bikes with Thanks from Wheelworx

Name ..... Age .....
Address .....
Signature of Parent or Guardian .....
CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES IS TUESDAY 20TH DECEMBER
free Hamburger or regular Soft Drink for every entrant
Valid after 10.30am only at McDonald's® Restaurants Mill Centre, Clondalkin, Superquinn Centre Lucan, Lucan Village & Liffey Valley Food Court & Drive Thru
Cash value 0.001p. Please present this voucher when ordering. Subject to availability. Voucher is to be retained by McDonald's. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer. Limit one offer per customer, per visit. No photocopies accepted
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