

SIXTH BID TO PLUG FRAZER

By STEPHEN BREEN



COPS have foiled an attempted hit on gangland target Michael Frazer. Members of the Garda Emergency Response Unit arrested two men, aged 34 and 38, last night at

Continued on Page Six

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EXCLUSIVE: SON'S DJ TRIBUTE

By KEN SWEENEY
Showbiz Editor

THE son of broadcasting legend Gerry Ryan has opened up for the first time about the heartache of losing his dad.

Rex Ryan, 27, told how the pair used to get together for a sip of whiskey and to watch war movies before the radio and TV giant's shock death in 2010.

Actor Rex revealed to the Irish Sun: "I was a kid who enjoyed hanging around with his dad more than his mates."

Full Story — Pages 4&5

REX:

My dad Gerry

FIRST EVER FULL CHAT

Pride...
Rex, left,
and father
Gerry, right



SEE
PAGE
3

**Angela's
Strictly
hopeful**



Murder rap... Molly

**Jason's
'blood
wants
justice'**

By MICHAEL HEWLETT

JASON Corbett's "blood speaks truth and screams for justice", the jury in his US murder trial were told yesterday as prosecutors closed their case.

His wife Molly Martens Corbett, 33, and her father Thomas Martens, 67, have denied the second-degree murder of the Limerick native in 2015.

Full Story — Pages 6&7

REX: MY DAD

GERRY RYAN'S SON ON DEATH AND 'GREAT LIFE' OF IDOL

By **KEN SWEENEY**
Showbiz Editor

GERRY Ryan's eldest son has opened up about life with and without one of the greatest broadcasters this country has ever known.

Rex Ryan was just 21 years old when his dad suffered a massive heart attack and died on April 30, 2010.

In a first in-depth public chat from any of the broadcaster's family, the young actor recalls a "great life" with a "great dad" who loved enjoying a whiskey with his son as they sat together watching the movie *Saving Private Ryan*.

He told the Irish Sun: "You always feel you want to tell someone you love them one more time but if you had a great life with them, that's irrelevant. It would have been a tragedy if I wasn't talking to him when he died but I got on so well with him."

"He was a great dad. We were always on the same page."

"There was never anything forced between us. I was a kid who enjoyed hanging around with my dad more than my mates."

"I am so grateful for the happy times we had and I am so proud of what he achieved with his limited time on earth."

"There is that ridiculous word 'closure'. I don't want closure. I don't want to close anything. It happened and I don't think you ever have a day where you think I am cool with that."

"It is always going to be what it was. The best way you can honour someone who has died is to live your life with vigour and love."

"Dad wouldn't want me to sulk. He would want me to go out and embrace life like he did. I think my whole family embraced that."

It was never difficult growing up the son of the country's most famous radio DJ.

Rex, 27, explained: "I think everyone has different issues or problems whether their parents were public figures or not."

"Yes it was great he was successful but I always felt lucky because I got along with my dad."

Gerry, held up as an inspiration by the BBC's top earner Chris Evans, was the voice of 2fm and also helmed TV shows including *Ryan Confidential* and *Operation Transformation*.

He also fulfilled a lifelong dream when he sat in for old pal Pat Kenny to present the *Late Late Show* in October 2008.

Rex was in his final year in college when his dad was found dead at his home on Leeson Street in Dublin, where he was living following his split from wife Morah.

Gerry was just 53. The funeral – which was broadcast live on 2fm 16 years to the day since he presented *Eurovision 1994* – was attended by international stars Bono and Colin Farrell, and 10,000 people signed the book of condolences.

Speaking for the first time about the day he died, Rex said: "That whole day is a blur. I was at home, the information was trickling through from loads of sources."

"When you hear that, your brain just doesn't compute. It doesn't make sense. Then after a while it sinks in."

"Then the process of thinking about what has happened begins. It's no different to what anyone else goes through when they lose someone out of nowhere."

But with Gerry being such a loved national figure, the grieving Ryan family had to share their last goodbye with the public as the funeral was a major media event.

Rex explained: "Anyone who has to deal with a funeral knows your body goes into survival mode. You are floating through everything. You're thinking 'Okay, what can I do here?'"

"You know you have to be responsible, and not freak out, and do everything that is required of you."

"I had to get up and make a speech to honour him. I would tell anyone getting stressed in that situation to concentrate on the small and immediate things."



Family ties . . . Gerry and his ex-wife Morah were hugely proud of their children Lottie, Rex, Bonnie, Elliott and Babette



Picture: ROBERT DOYLE

You always want to say 'I love you' one last time..but I'm so proud of all that he achieved

ation to concentrate on the small and immediate things.

"That way you don't get overwhelmed and I didn't get overwhelmed. That was a good lesson."

Rex has his dad's talent for talk, which he says comes naturally to him. Known as a rising stage star, he has quietly entered the world of talk with his own podcasts.

Let's Have Rex features the Clontarf man going off on flights of fancy, breaking into impressions, raving about things he loves and

then getting inside the head of well-known actors and personalities. Rex is such a natural that listeners can be in no doubt they are listening to the son of Gerry Ryan.

He said: "I didn't study my dad's radio show or anything like that. This is a natural thing."

"But I suppose dad's sensibilities are ingrained into me. He loved the performance and I'm definitely influenced by all that."

"I suppose the great tragedy, or the great miracle is that we all

morph into our dads and mums. I'm very happy with that."

Rex admits he is blown away by the reaction to his podcast which first went up on iTunes last month.

He said: "It came out of me recommending things I loved to friends, and those friends told me I should try doing this on a podcast. That made me curious. I wondered would people connect with it."

"It was so different to acting, in terms of being

able to just spew out what I was feeling but I thought if I was honest people would connect with it."

Asked if he wanted to bring his hit podcast to broadcasters such as RTE Radio One or Newstalk, Rex replied: "I haven't sent it to anybody yet. I just wanted to let the podcast build up so if I did decide to approach someone I would have a portfolio of interviews."

But would being the son of Gerry Ryan help or hinder his chances of getting a job?

Rex admitted: "Probably a bit of both. I don't give it too much thought so as not to over-complicate

it in my head. I suppose showbiz and communications is the family business."

Although born the son of one of the country's biggest media stars, Rex is as far from being a spoiled brat as possible.

Modest, quiet and with impeccable manners, he often listens more than he talks.

In 2009 this journalist told history fanatic Gerry the house he was living in on Upper Leeson Street had been the home of the head of the Nazi Party in Ireland Dr Adolf Mahr who was also director of the National Museum of Ireland during

the 1930s. His response to the news was pure Gerry: "The Germans always had useless spies. I'll try not to follow in his footsteps."

Son Rex recalls his dad's delight at the connection. He said: "Dad was like a child with that news. I can remember him saying, 'you are never going to believe this'."

"He later found a gold pocket watch in that house with a swastika on the back interwoven with an Olympic ring. He loved the historical connection."

@KenSweeney

Neil Cotter on Gerry Loss – See Page 11



Like father, like son . . . Rex, left, follows in Gerry's footsteps with his new podcast



Tribute . . . Rex with sister Lottie and dad's pal Dave

I'm so grateful for the happy times we shared

At the funeral, I went into survival mode



Shouldering the burden . . . brave Rex helped to carry his father's coffin

Life and times of chat DJ legend

GERRY Ryan became a household name as a result of a TV and radio career that spanned more than three decades. Born in Dublin, Ryan studied law at University College Dublin and began working as an apprentice solicitor.

During his time at college he kept his interest in broadcasting alive by working part-time in pirate and community radio.

Having decided law wasn't for him, Ryan started his broadcasting career as a rock and pop music DJ on pirate radio in Dublin, before graduating to RTE Radio 2 to share a late night slot with Dave Fanning and Mark Cagney.

His obvious talent for talk radio landed him a slot on 2fm's mid-morning programme which became known as *The Gerry Ryan Show*, a slot he held until his death 20 years later.

His presenting style was considered by many to be that of a shock-jock, and his show was subject to several complaints to the Broadcasting Commission of Ireland for his discussion of topics which often included sex, bodily functions and food.

As well as dominating Irish radio, Gerry boasted an impressive TV presence, hosting shows such as *Secrets*, *Gerry Ryan Tonight*, *Ryantown*, *Gerry Ryan's Hitlist*, *Ryan Confidential* and the first three series of *Operation Transformation*.

He married Morah Brennan in 1988 and they had five children together, Lottie, Rex, Bonnie, Elliott and Babette. Gerry and Morah split in March 2008, something he described as "the most painful thing I've ever done" in a newspaper interview that year.

He soon began seeing former South African Ambassador to Ireland, Melanie Verwoerd.

Gerry Ryan was found dead after suffering cardiac arrhythmia at his home on Leeson Street in Dublin on April 30, 2010.

Tributes immediately poured in for the RTE legend, with messages from the likes of Bono, former Taoiseach Bertie Ahern and former President Mary McAleese as well as staff and friends at RTE.

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SEE PAGE 5

**Ruby
blues
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WALSH BREAKS
LEG - PAGES 4&5



Failed bid . . . McDonald

**On-run
lag left
ice trail**

EXCLUSIVE
by STEPHEN BREEN

A HITMAN'S jail escape was foiled when his trail was spotted in the Beast from the East snow. Christopher McDonald, 35, who killed innocent Keith Walker in a bungled hit on crim Jason O'Connor, slipped his cuffs after being hospitalised with 'chest pains'. But he was then caught hiding on a shed roof.

Full Story — Page 11

DWTS JUDGES UNDER FIRE

O'KANE SEXISM FURY

'Men get easier time' from show panel

EXCLUSIVE by KEN SWEENEY

DEIRDRE O'Kane has said the judges on *Dancing With The Stars* are tougher on the women with their scoring. She said "it's plain to see" the men get an easier time. But judge Brian Redmond, left, said: "She just doesn't bring as much as the rest."

Full Story — Page Nine



Voting row . . .
Deirdre says she
gets a tough time

'I AM SICK OF IT... THE JUDGES ARE TOUGHER ON ALL THE WOMEN'

O'Kane slams DWTS scores

EXCLUSIVE by KEN SWEENEY
Showbiz Editor

DANCING With The Stars has become embroiled in a sexism row after Deirdre O'Kane accused the judges of favouring men.

The comedian, who ended up with the lowest score of 23 last Sunday, spoke of her upset over the markings which could have cost her a place in the finals.

But a surge in public votes saw her escape the dance-off, with Rob Heffernan exiting the competition instead.

Speaking to the Irish Sun, mum-of-two Deirdre said the women are constantly achieving lower scores than the men on the hit show.

She raged: "I set a personal best but we can't control the judges' scores. I am sick of it (low scores). But thank God the public got behind me, because it would have been a horrible ending if I had gone last Sunday night."

The stand-up added: "The judges are not just tougher with me. They are tougher with all the women without a shadow of a doubt."

"The men get an easier time on Dancing With the Stars and that's plain to see. I'm not asking for better scores for being a woman. I'm asking for better scores on the standard of my dancing."

Deirdre even challenged judge Brian Redmond backstage over the low score of seven he gave her foxtrot.

She said: "I said to Brian, I don't think I deserved that seven, and he said, 'I don't care.'"

The 49-year-old was also raging she was later the first of the five celebrity dancers the judges called to leave the floor during the swing-a-thon.

However, Brian defended the decision. He told the Irish Sun: "We called Deirdre to leave the floor first because she lacked energy."

"In her favour, she is not as young as some of the other competitors but she brings a huge amount of determination. She is fabulous at what she does but she just doesn't bring as much as the rest of them."

Dance coach Brian, who runs his own school in Newbridge, Co Kildare, also defended the poor scores she received from the panel.

He said: "Deirdre doesn't get big scores simply because in our eyes, she isn't as good as the rest of them."

"It's very hard to make these decisions on scores. As judges we don't have the hassle of practicing five days a week but we do have the hassle of making tough decisions which people sometimes don't like."

Drogheda woman Deirdre has been hailed for making the biggest transformation over the past few weeks from novice to confident mover. She was rehearsing for the RTE show this week as well as organising a massive comedy fundraiser gig for the 3Arena which takes place on St Patrick's Night.

Angry... Deirdre challenged judge Brian, below, backstage

'She doesn't get big scores simply because, in our eyes, she isn't as good as the rest...'

BRIAN REDMOND

Deaf Rog plugs call

THE Who frontman Roger Daltrey has revealed he is "very, very deaf" after years of gigs.

The star has urged fans to wear earplugs to concerts after more than 50 years on the road.

At a solo show at the Hard Rock Resort in Las Vegas, Daltrey said: "I advise you all - all you rock 'n' roll fans - take your f***ing earplugs to the gigs."

"If only we had known when we were young."

NIGHT ON REPTILES

Inspectors found boa constrictors and iguanas stuffed in bottles of mezcal booze set for market in Oaxaca, Mexico.

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CRISPS DAMAGING CHILDREN'S TEETH

By NICK McDERMOTT

SALT and vinegar crisps are rotting children's teeth, a new study warns.

They were found to contain dangerously high levels of acid — upping the risk of harmful erosion by a third, researchers claim. A record number of kids are having gnashers removed.

Full Story — Page 25

PANTO WAR EXCLUSIVE

I PAID TWINK'S MORTGAGE DEBTS



Saved . . our Ken at Twink's swanky home

By KEN SWEENEY, Showbiz Editor

TWINK and Rory Cowan are at war — despite the former Mrs Brown's Boys star having helped her to keep her plush home.

Rory told how he coughed up €18,000 to spare the panto dame's Dublin pad from repossession in December 2016, but they fell out months later over her comedy clips TV show.

Cowan now says he wants "nothing more to do with her". Twink hit back: "Rory is a rat."

Full Story — Pages 4, 5, 6 and 7

She rages: I'll never speak to 'Rory the Rat'

PANTO WARS



HOW STARS FELL

OUT OVER COMEBACK PLANS

TWINK
GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT: A successful stint on telly hit Play The Game and four decades on stage.
FAMOUS FOR: In 2006, Twink left a voicemail on her husband David Agnew's phone urging him to "zip up your mickey" after his girlfriend gave birth to a child.
BIGGEST SPAT TO DATE: She fell out with Linda Martin in 2009 during Menopause: The Musical.
EARLIEST CLAIM TO FAME: Maxi, Dick And Twink was an early girl band.

RORY
GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT: He shot to global prominence as the title character's son Rory in the hugely successful Mrs Brown's Boys.
FAMOUS FOR: Helping to turn Brendan O'Carroll into a superstar as his publicist for two decades.
BIGGEST SPAT TO DATE: He was the victim of cruel homophobic abuse by Twitter trolls in 2016.
EARLIEST CLAIM TO FAME: After leaving his job at EMI, he managed Christy Dignam and Mr Pussy.

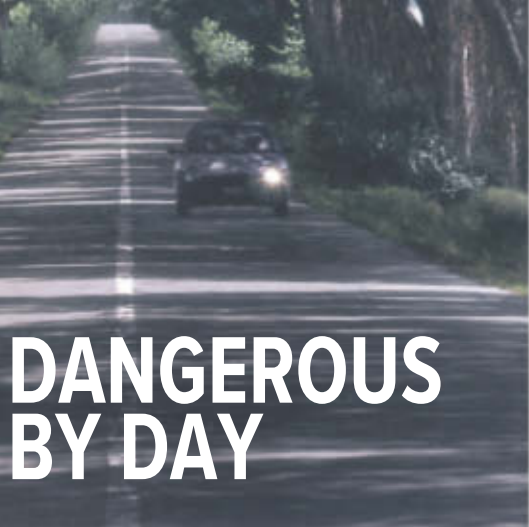


No luvvie lost . . . ex-pals

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PANTO dames Twink and Rory Cowan are embroiled in a bitter war of words after a massive bust-up over her TV comeback special.

Former Mrs Brown's Boys star Rory and stage legend Twink are at loggerheads following a falling out over plans for a new clip show on RTE. Although Cowan is no longer involved, Twink spoke yesterday of her delight as she revealed that a major UK TV company is now set to produce the show. Cowan insists the falling out happened after he offered to help her career with a TV project but now says he wants "nothing more to do with that woman". Twink has accused him of ditching her like he did Brendan O'Carroll

EXCLUSIVE by KEN SWEENEY
Showbiz Editor

and dubbed him "Rory The Rat". Rory told the Irish Sun he was moved by a TV interview in late 2016 in which the showbiz icon spoke of losing her home, and contacted her offering to help get a pilot off the ground. He also helped out with her mortgage arrears. But following a series of disagreements which ended their relationship in May 2017, Twink ended up writing Cowan a 19-page letter in December accusing him of taking her job in the Olympia Christmas panto. He had stepped in for shamed Al Porter when the comic was forced to withdraw following allegations of inappropriate behaviour. Twink's letter to him read: "To add insult to injury, you're now working instead of me for Xmas. In my role, in my shoes, in my job - in my

Olympia Theatre. And they say there's a God." Rory, who quit Mrs Brown's Boys last year, was unhappy when Twink went on national TV last Friday to reveal that a "very close showbiz friend" metaphorically "kicked the teeth" into the back of her head. He told the Irish Sun: "The letter is incredible. I want nothing more to do with that woman. "The whole reason I got involved was because Twink was losing her house at the time. I was telling her I can get you back on TV." "I went to RTE and got Twink a pilot for her own TV show. There was a pilot, then the option for six episodes and a Christmas special. "She would have had money and been back on TV. There was no money in it for me. I was trying to help her keep her house." But he said the project stalled. Rory continued: "Everything was

there waiting to go. There was a film crew waiting, we had a director who had been nominated for a Bafta but then some issues arose. She asked for a PA. She wanted somewhere to rehearse. "All we needed was for her to pick her clips and she didn't do it. Then she told me she had written a play which was going to be the biggest thing ever. "She even went on television, talking about the row last Friday." Rory explained how he contacted Twink in May last year telling her he wanted nothing more to do with the television clips project. He said: "I texted Adele and said, 'I am going to leave you to do things your way. I

don't understand what you are doing but it's your business and not mine. You take the project whatever way you want to take it. "I'm done with you and if and when the show is broadcast, I will enjoy watching it." And the 56-year-old strongly denies any claim he sabotaged the comeback. Rory said: "I didn't pull the project, I wasn't involved in that end of it. I wasn't producing it. "It was her TV show. I had no role in it." But a furious Twink responded: "I will never speak to Rory as long as I live again. He is a rat. "In my phone... he is in my phone as Rory The Rat Cowan. He's a rat." She

added: "Rory already ditched Brendan. Rory is doing a line of ditching his friends." And she said of her former pal: "He did sabotage (the project). It's a year ago. He did sabotage it but you know what? As I said, sometimes the good guys win. Of course I had demands, I wanted to get the programme made. "Of course I deserved a PA, I wanted someone to type up the stuff I was writing for hours." She also lashed out at Rory's claims about "not looking at clips" saying: "The clips weren't digitised yet, you couldn't look at them. He didn't understand that. It's nothing to do with stardom, it goes much deeper than that." Rory hit back: "Everything I've done has been successful. I was the producer of the Mrs Brown stage show and an executive producer of Mrs Brown's Boys D'Movie. I got

Twink a pilot of her own show. I went to RTE and they said it was a great idea." He also strongly denied dumping O'Carroll, saying he quit the show to look after his ill mum. Twink is hopeful the series will air, and revealed how she had the most important meeting of her life on Wednesday in RTE. She told us: "The meeting went brilliantly. A major TV company in the UK will now be producing it. "I kept this under wraps for a whole year. Now, no thanks to him, I am in recovery mode, no thanks to Rory." Asked about 2017, Twink had told TV3's Six O'Clock Show: "I had my teeth kicked into the back of my head, metaphorically, by a very close showbiz friend of mine, over a television production I was meant to do and (it) really knocked the stuffing out of me."

‘It’s incredible, I want nothing more to do with that woman..’

Says RORY COWAN

‘I’ll never speak to Rory again as long as I live, he’s just a rat’

Says TWINK



PANTO WARS



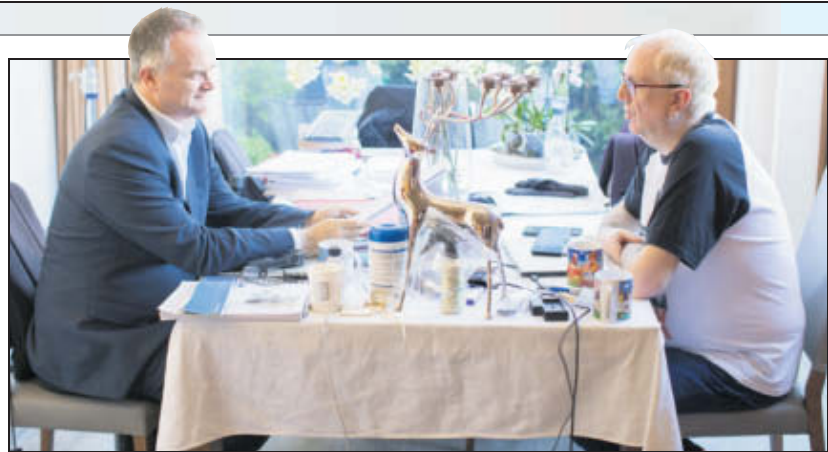
FURY OF ACTOR

WHO SAVED TWINK'S HOUSE

BROWNED OFF BOY



- **Rory paid Twink's €17,892.63 arrears**
- **He made 5 €209 mortgage payments**
- **Twink: No favours with Rory.....EVER**



Friendship's behind you . . . Rory opens up to our man Ken about the row

FORMER Mrs Brown's Boys star Rory Cowan has told how he helped save Twink from eviction by paying her mortgage arrears but slammed his former pal after a huge falling out.

Twink spoke publicly of her delight after she was able to clear nearly €18,000 in mortgage arrears on her stunning home at Idrone House in Knocklyon, south Dublin.

But the Irish Sun can now reveal that Rory cleared the debt with a one-off payment of €17,892.63 to Start Mortgages on December 19, 2016 and went on to make payments of €209.80 in December 2016, and in January, February, March and April of last year.

The 58-year-old said he shelled out money worries and concentrate on a new vintage clip show they were working on for RTE.

But Rory stopped making the payments on the plush gaff after he pulled out of the TV project – for which, he told Irish Sun, he was working on unofficially and was not being paid – in May of last year.

The telly star, who played Rory Brown in Brendan O'Carroll's hit television and stage show, said he never expected the money back and had planned to never speak about the dig-out – until Twink, when speaking to us, branded him 'Rory The Rat'.

Rory told the Irish Sun: "I never wanted to say anything about the mortgage payments in public. You are the first person I have told about this. I never wanted or expected the money back either. I did it so Twink wouldn't have to worry about money while she was working on this TV project with me. I am coming out and talking about this now because I want to clear my name."

"I never wanted to say anything about this but when she said recently about her TV show getting going that 'this shows the good guys win' – the cheek of her saying the good guys win as if I am one of the bad guys? I'm not!"

The Dubliner, who left the Mrs Brown's Boys set-up last year to look after his dementia-suffering mother, also showed us itemised slips which proved the amounts and dates of the payments he made to Start Mortgages on Twink's behalf.

Contacted by the Irish Sun and asked to comment on the claim that he had covered her arrears as well as five months of payments as a favour to her, Twink said: "No favours with Rory... EVER. It's all business. He is strictly a 'bread head'!"

And Rory told us: "If I was a 'bread head' I wouldn't have paid her mortgage arrears."

Back in December 2016, when he had paid off €17,892.63, as well as a mortgage payment of €209.80 for that month, he claimed the panto legend – real name Adele King – had praised and thanked him for saving her life, her home and her career.

Rory said: "Twink told me I'd saved everything – her life, her career, her home."

"She said to me, 'I will never forget you for all of this. Rory. You have saved my life, my home.'"

And in January, Adele spoke of her delight after it was announced that she would keep her €1.2million home.

The stage star had been forced to put the Georgian property on the market after a court battle with Start Mortgages.

However, the cash so Twink could forget her

EXCLUSIVE by KEN SWEENEY
Showbiz Editor

Circuit Civil Court heard in January 2017 that she had managed to clear the €17,892.63 arrears – a move that took Idrone House out of arrears debt.

Barrister Shaula Connaughton-Deeny told Judge Jacqueline Linnane that repossession proceedings against King and her estranged husband, David Agnew – who, the court was told, had not been living at the property – could be struck out.

Counsel confirmed Twink had paid off all mortgage repayment arrears of €17,892.63 as joint defendant Agnew had not been engaging with the bank.

When the bank issued proceedings against the couple, Ms Connaughton-Deeny told the court that it was owed about €250,000 overall, including the near €18,000 arrears.

Twink's clearance of the arrears meant she continued to own her plush home and returned to making monthly repayments of €209.80 on the remaining mortgage.

The current value of Idrone House is worth several times more than the outstanding mortgage.

In an extensive post online at the time, Twink thanked people for their kind messages of support.

She said: "I now truly know where my friends are. The end (for now) of an ENDLESS battle."

Previously owned by a builder, the 300-year-old detached, five-bedroom home came on the market in 2000 with an asking price of IR£850,000.

Agnew moved out of the family home in 2004 after the couple ended their 21-year marriage.

In a previous interview, Twink had spoken of her emotional ties to her gaff, adding: "If I lose it, I will lose a lot. I worked all my life for every cent to make my home what it is. I put everything I had into it."

"I really don't know how I can get out of this but I will try everything in my power to get through this."

Twink was a ratings winner for RTE over the years with telly hits including The Live Mike and Play The Game but she later criticised the broadcaster, saying: "If you look at how the BBC stuck with their women comedy actresses like Victoria Wood, RTE's attitude to me is baffling. I just don't get it."

Happily, RTE is now set to recognise Twink's talent and a new show featuring the panto queen is in the pipeline.

The production will feature Twink reviewing vintage clips of her comedy skits down through the years.



'Endless battle' . . . Adele in Knocklyon home

Oh yes he did give her a dig-out . . . Cowan and, left, the slips he provided proving he paid off some of Twink's mortgage for Idrone House, far left

@Irish SunOnline