

SUNDAY, AUGUST 22, 2021 €2.60 (Stg£1.90)

SUNDAY WORLD

THE PEOPLE'S PAPER



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IT'S SMALLER...BUT BIGGER!

48-PAGE
BUMPER
EDITION

EXCLUSIVE

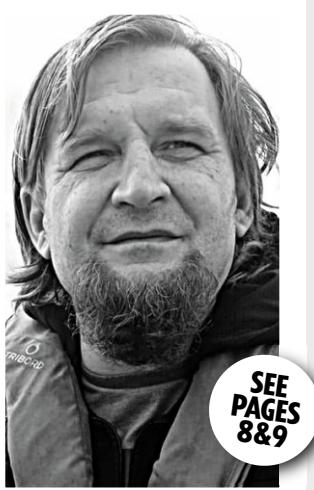
KATHRYN THOMAS
ON HER ROAD TRIP
WITH HER TOT ELLIE
FOR RTE SHOW...KATH' TO
FREEDOM

DON'T MISS YOUR

NEW-LOOK

7-DAY
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INSIDE

PIC EXCLUSIVE

SEE
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8&9

M6 death
crash driver
suffered with
mental health



SEE PAGES 10&11

SHOWBIZ EXCLUSIVE

BARRY KEOGH IN HORROR ATTACK

**VICTIM**

Actor Barry
Keoghan was
found with
serious facial
injuries

Hollywood A-lister Keoghan rushed to hospital with facial injuries after vicious assault during night out in Galway

FULL SHOCKING STORY SEE PAGES 4&5

SHOWBIZ EXCLUSIVE: SUPERSTAR

KEOGHAN IN HORROR ASSAULT

As he gets ready for the release of his new movie, Hollywood star Barry is rushed to hospital after a night out in Galway city centre ends with an attack

HOLLYWOOD superstar Barry Keoghan required hospital treatment after he was the victim of an assault in Galway.

The star of the upcoming Marvel film Eternals was found with serious facial injuries outside the city's G Hotel in the early hours of last Sunday.

He was rushed by ambulance to Galway University Hospital, where he was treated for his injuries, including cuts to his face, and later released.

Gardai were alerted to the situation when the actor was found walking outside the hotel.

It's understood the 28-year-old has not made a complaint in relation to the matter.

The actor had earlier been spotted in the MP Walsh bar on Dominick Street in Galway city centre.

EXCLUSIVE BY EUGENE MASTERSON & KEN FOY

He also posed for a picture with a local hairdresser, who uploaded a snap of the pair onto her private Instagram page.

"He was spotted around town a bit. He said he was down to see a few people he had become friends with when he was abroad," revealed one local.

QUIET

"It was known he was staying up in the G Hotel, which is one of the poshest hotels in the city. But no one heard anything about any assault or anything and it was obviously kept very quiet."

A Garda spokesperson said: "Gardaí did attend an incident at a hotel in the Wellpark area of Galway City on Sunday August 15, 2021 after 3.30am.

An ambulance was also called and a man in his 20s was treated for non life-threatening injuries. Enquiries are ongoing. No arrests have been made."

A representative for Barry declined to comment.

Keoghan is also fronting the current TV 'welcome back to the pubs' advertising campaign for drinks giant Guinness.

The assault on the actor, who starred in the box-office smash Dunkirk, comes just days after Irish Olympian Jack Woolley was hospitalised after he was beaten up in Dublin city centre.

The taekwondo fighter was the victim of a random assault on the River Liffey boardwalk in the capital and required medical attention for his injuries.

Barry is currently preparing for the release of the new Marvel blockbuster Eternals, in which he stars alongside Angelina Jolie, Salma Hayek and Kit Harington.

Such is the standing of the Dublin-born star, who plays Druig in the movie, that this week he is the cover star on American celebrity publication Entertainment Weekly.

Film industry experts reckon Barry will collect at least €2 million for his role and that he currently has a net worth of about €13 million.

CAT KILLER

The young Dubliner first sprang to fame in 2013 as the 'cat killer' Wayne in RTE's crime series Love/Hate, having started his acting career in 2011 when he saw a casting notice for Irish gangster movie Between the Canals.

He grew up in the Summerhill area of north inner-city Dublin, close to where Olympic gold medallist Kellie Harrington hails from.

Barry has endeared himself to TV view-

ACTOR VICTIM OF VICIOUS BEATING



ACTING MARVEL

BIG NAME:
Barry Keoghan stars in new Marvel movie Eternals and will also star in the upcoming Batman film



MAKING A PINT: Barry is the face of the current Guinness 'welcome back' ads



A-LISTER STAR ON THE RISE: Barry with Colin Farrell (above), at the Baftas in 2019 (right) and on the current cover of Entertainment Weekly



ers with a likeable personality.

He still visits his inner-city haunts and feels very much at home there, where locals jokingly have nicknamed him 'Hollywood'.

"All I get is, 'Alright Hollywood, get us a drink there, would ye?'," he once said. "That's all I'm referred to as, 'Hollywood'. I've no first name. But it's great to have that sense of humility and being brought back down."

He has also bravely spoken about his mother, who died of a heroin overdose when he was 12 years old.

He told Ryan Tubridy on the Late Late Show in 2018 that he and his brother Eric were shuttled between 13 foster homes during their childhood because their mum was addicted to heroin.

"The drugs hit the area and af-

fected all the families. She was one who got caught," the star said.

"We went into foster care. The families were good to us that we went to, we went to a few of them. As a kid you don't know what's happening ... you get attached and them – boom – let's move over here ... it's only when you get older you can look back and get a bit of perspective."

ADDICTION

He was aged just 12 when his mother succumbed to her addiction.

"I have great memories of her. Very proud of her," he added.

During the interview, he also revealed how he one day hopes to win an Oscar.

"I'll put the Oscar there," he said, pointing to Tubridy's desk. "Put the other one there, and the other one there."

Barry also briefly featured in Fair City,

but 2014 saw him win his cinema breakthrough role in the Northern Ireland set flick '71, which starred Jack O'Connell in the lead role.

He then featured as George Mills in Dunkirk and starred as Martin Lang in The Killing of a Sacred Deer, alongside Colin Farrell and Nicole Kidman and for which he won an IFTA awards for Best Supporting Actor.

The following year he was in Black '47 as Hobson, an English soldier stationed in Ireland during the Great Famine.

He also starred in American Animals the same year, in which he portrayed Spencer Reinhart in the movie based on a real-life robbery of rare books from a university.

In 2019 he starred in the TV mini-series Chernobyl and had a major role last year in Calm With Horses.

Barry is also soon set to star in another superhero movie, The Batman, in which he plays Stanley Merkel.

INSIDE TODAY

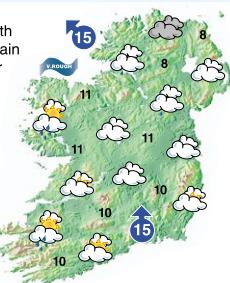
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DON'T MISS YOUR ACTION-PACKED SPORTSWORLD

STARTS ON PAGE 60

Today: It will be rather cloudy with the occasional rain possible. Similar conditions into the evening. Moderate southerly winds. Max temp 8-11C (46-52F).



Four day Outlook

MON	TUES	WEDS	THUR
9C (48F) 0C (32F)	9C (48F) 3C (37F)	9C (48F) 6C (43F)	8C (46F) 2C (36F)

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WORLD EXCLUSIVE: SOUL STA



KILLER SCENE:
Robert fronts the show in London, and below, Andrew Strong on song in the film



THE COMMITMENTS

TAKE a good look at Robert Arkins fronting the cast of *The Commitments* for the first time.

Robert, who starred as manager Jimmy Rabbitte in the much-loved film, is rumoured to have initially auditioned to play lead singer Deco Cuffe, eventually played by Andrew Strong.

Our world exclusive pictures show Robert and several of the cast paying a touching tribute to Alan Parker, the late director of one of Ireland's most favourite movies.

Among others from the cast who joined Robert to re-enact the famous 'Heroin Kills' concert from the flick at a special memorial bash for Parker in London last weekend, were Angelina Ball (Imelda Quirke), Bronagh Gallagher (Bernie McGloughlin), Ken McCluskey (bassist Derek Scully) and Michael Ahern (keyboard player Stephen Clifford).

We can also reveal that Andrea Corr – who played Jimmy Rabbitte's younger sister Sharon in the hit 1991 picture – also took part in the event at the Savoy

Robert Arkins aka Jimmy Rabbitte tells the World how the inspirational band that brought soul to the city reformed... for just one night

EXCLUSIVE
BY EUGENE MASTERTON

theatre and performed a song from *Evita*.

She starred as Juan Peron's mistress in the 1996 movie, which was directed by Parker and featured Madonna in the lead role of Eva Peron.

At the London gig, Colm Meaney, who played Jimmy Rabbitte snr, read out a tribute from

PARKER PICKS:
Robert Arkins, and right, Andrea Corr

Roddy Doyle, who wrote the book, published in 1987.

Among those who attended the star-studded bash, organised by Parker's widow Lisa Moran, were actress Emily Watson and film directors David Puttnam and Stephen Frears. Park-

er, who also directed *Midnight Express*, *Mississippi Burning*, *Fame*, *Angel Heart* and *Angela's Ashes*, died in London last July at the age of 76 after a lengthy illness.

Robert (52) started his career in a band called *Housebroken* and became a household name at the age of 21, as *Jimmy*. He works as music composer for commercials and artistic projects.

His most memorable line from the film was: "The Irish are the blacks of Europe, Dubliners are the blacks of Ireland and the northsiders are the blacks of Dublin ... so say it loud – I'm black and I'm proud!"

He tells the *Sunday World* about the Parker tribute. "We barely got time to rehearse," he says. "We had one rehearsal here and on the day it was just production."

"We did five songs, I did three. I



ARTISTS ARE BACK AND THEY'RE PROUD



SOUL-OH RUN

ALIVE AND GIGGING:
From left, Ken McCluskey,
Angeline Ball, Bronagh
Gallagher, Michael Aherne,
and front Robert Arkins

“Andrew happened to turn up to cover for his dad, Rob Strong, and everything changed with that.”

VENTS ARE BACK! (WELL, KIND OF...)

was also playing bass. Angeline and Bronagh did one each and we had Ken and Michael, as well as a backing band, including Conor Brady and Ronan Dooney, who played guitar and sax on the soundtrack.

Although Robert did not get to sing in the film he did perform two songs on the soundtrack, Treat Her Right (which features on the opening credits of the film) and Slip Away.

“Nobody was expecting us to play,” he recalls of last weekend’s event. “We were in the gods for most of the gig and then came down secretly – all of a sudden the curtain went up and there we were.”

“There was some footage from the DVD shown, where there was a bet between him (Parker) and me about getting on the soundtrack, even though I wasn’t in the band in the film.”

“It went down really well. There were lots of Lords and Sirs there. There were a lot of tributes from friends, producers he had worked with down through the years.”

But what about previous reports that he originally auditioned for the role of Deco Cuffe. “I don’t

know if that’s strictly true,” he reflects. “There was one point when my band Housebroken were in the Factory (the Dublin studio used for auditions). I don’t think I ever sang Mustang Sally.”

“I think Andrew happened to show up in the studio and cover for his dad (Rob Strong) on some songs in the rehearsals, and that changed everything.”

“They saw him and said ‘OK!’ And they knew because of his voice he was going to be the singer. They then had to pick the band and figure things out.”

SWAPPING

“I remember him (Parker) in his hotel, in Jury’s, the night before he made the decision, with all the pictures of us on the ground and he was swapping them around. So, it was last minute.”

He last saw Parker in Dublin around 2005 when the director and several of the cast did a photoshoot for Vanity Fair for a theme about music in films.

Despite his groundbreaking role in The Commitments Robert avoided the limelight and at the

age of 25 became a lone parent to his son Milo and devoted his time to raising him rather than pursue a career in acting.

“I guess we just have to think of it that way, fate. A lot of people are in it for themselves. If you have that gene, the acting bug, I guess after a while you learn you have to push yourself,” he says.

Robert, originally from Drumcondra, north Dublin, now also has a young daughter Aoise from a different relationship and is living with his wife Vanessa near Dublin city centre.

Earlier in the week he attended a dedication ceremony in Dublin for actor Johnny Murphy, who played Joey the Lips Fagan in the film and who died in 2016 at the age of 72.

President Michael D Higgins unveiled a memorial bench for the late actor in Drimnagh.

“It’s really funny because Colm (Meaney) and Patrick Bergin were there with the President and I kept on being pushed to get into the picture by photographers and reluctantly did, and then the locals realised it was me (from the film) and started screaming,” he laughs.



RECESSION ROCKERS:
Director Alan Parker, left, with the cast of The Commitments

INSIDE TODAY

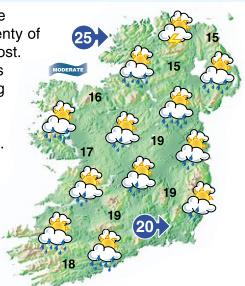
Roy Curtis	12
Deirdre Reynolds	18
Nathan Carter	63
Motors	64&65
Fr Brian D'Arcy	66
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Puzzles	70&71



FREE
GLOSSY 7-DAY
TV MAGAZINE+

DON'T MISS YOUR
24-PAGE
PREMIER
LEAGUE
PULLOUT
STARTS ON PAGE 33

Today: It will be cloudy with plenty of showers for most. Thunderstorms in Ulster during the afternoon. Moderate westerly winds. Max temp 15-20C (59-68F).



Four day Outlook

MON	TUES	WEDS	THUR
18C (64F) 11C (52F)	19C (66F) 14C (57F)	19C (66F) 12C (54F)	18C (64F) 11C (52F)

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TRIBUTES TO TRAGIC BUS DRIVER AND 'PROUD DAD'

BY CATE McCURRY

A bus driver who died after suffering a heart attack at the wheel has been described as "loyal, fun and mischievous" and a man who put his life at risk during the pandemic.

Mark Wills died on Tuesday after suffering a suspected heart attack while driving for Bus Éireann. Tragically he lost control of the bus in Monkstown, Co Cork.

The 51-year-old from Ballincollig died at the scene and the bus also hit local priest Fr Con Cronin who died from his injuries at the scene.

The funeral of Mr Wills, a father-of-two, took place at St Mary and St John church in Ballincollig yesterday.

Mr Wills' son Cillian said his family are very proud of his dad.

He also paid tribute to Fr Cronin's family, and said they too are having a "tough time".

"All the memories I made with (dad), the golf, going fishing when we were younger, was everything. I hope he is proud of us as we are of him," he said.

"It's tough but we will be strong for him as that is what he would have wanted. It's hard but unfortunately it's life, you can't take anything for granted."

STRONG

"I still can't believe it, it's surreal. It felt like a movie on Tuesday, I couldn't wrap my head around it. But we will be strong for him."

"I love him and will never stop and I know he loves us."

Scores of Mark's Bus Éireann colleagues gathered outside the church, while around 100 people lined the street as the hearse passed by.

Fr Cian O'Sullivan told mourners: "The normality and the privacy became surreal and very public with the passing of Mark."

He said: "Mark's life, and particularly his role as a bus driver working for Bus Éireann, is one of those roles in our community which is so, so vital."

And he added: "I looked up the route that Mark used to drive and you would need to have certain qualities and certain patience to drive that route every day because if you were just doing it for a job, you would be finding it very, very difficult to say, 'I start here and I'm returning here'."

Among the gifts brought to the altar in recognition of Mark's

**GRIEF:** Fr Cronin's funeral

interests were a rugby tie, a Manchester United jersey and a pair of Ray-Ban sunglasses.

His brother Brian said that their lives were now changed forever.

He thanked the emergency services and his brother's colleagues at Bus Éireann.

"The support from all our friends, family and Mark's friends has been amazing over the last few days," he said.

And he addressed the family of Fr Cronin, saying: "To the Cronin family and the people of Passage West and Monkstown, they have been so good and we really are truly sorry for your loss."

"We heard stories about Fr Cronin yesterday, a great man, good fun and I think cut from the same cloth as Mark, by the sounds of it."

"To all of Mark's colleagues and former colleagues, we are humbled by your support."

"The camaraderie and friendship and heart-warming stories that we have received from everyone in Bus Éireann has been fantastic and we are so lucky that Mark had that support."

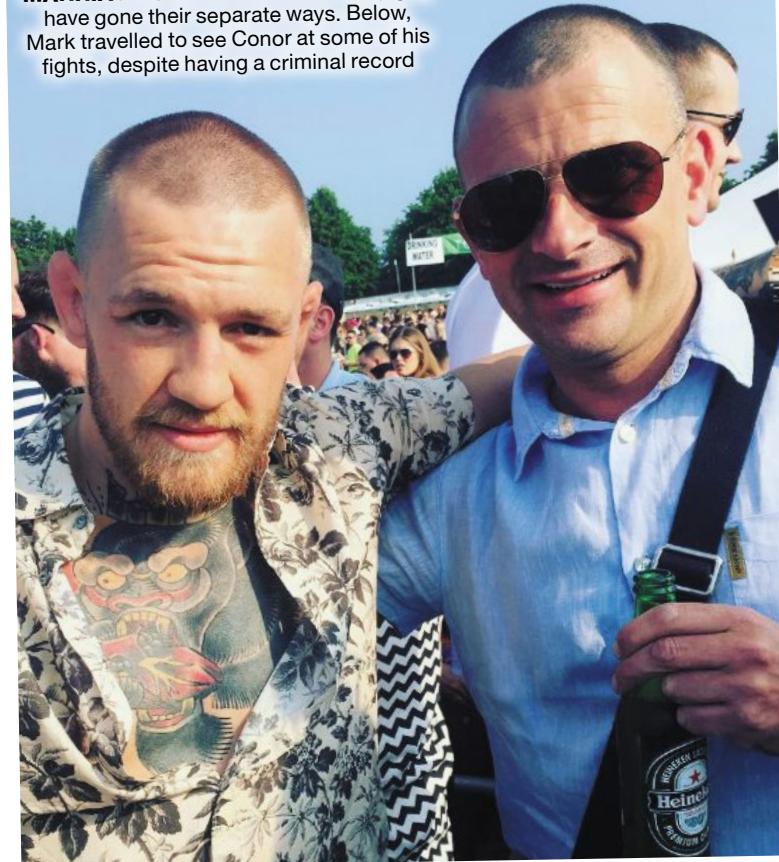
"Mark was loyal, fun, mischievous, always had a glint in his eye."

"He was a fabulous son, brother and father."

EXCLUSIVE: CONO



MARRIAGE OVER: Aoife and Mark (right) have gone their separate ways. Below, Mark travelled to see Conor at some of his fights, despite having a criminal record



McGREGOR

CONOR McGregor's brother-in-law Mark Elliott last night confirmed his marriage to the UFC star's sister Aoife has ended.

"It was basically to do with kids – she wanted a baby and I didn't," Mark disclosed to the *Sunday World* last night. And in a remarkable insight into one of Ireland's most-famous families, Mark detailed the fallout from the marriage-break up, admitting that Conor and others could see the split coming a long time ago.

"We almost made it to our four-year anniversary – which is a long time to be married in this day and age," he laughed.

UFC star's sister

EXCLUSIVE
BY EUGENE MASTERSON

Dubliner Mark (45), who has twin 20-year-old daughters from a previous relationship, said the marriage stopped working.

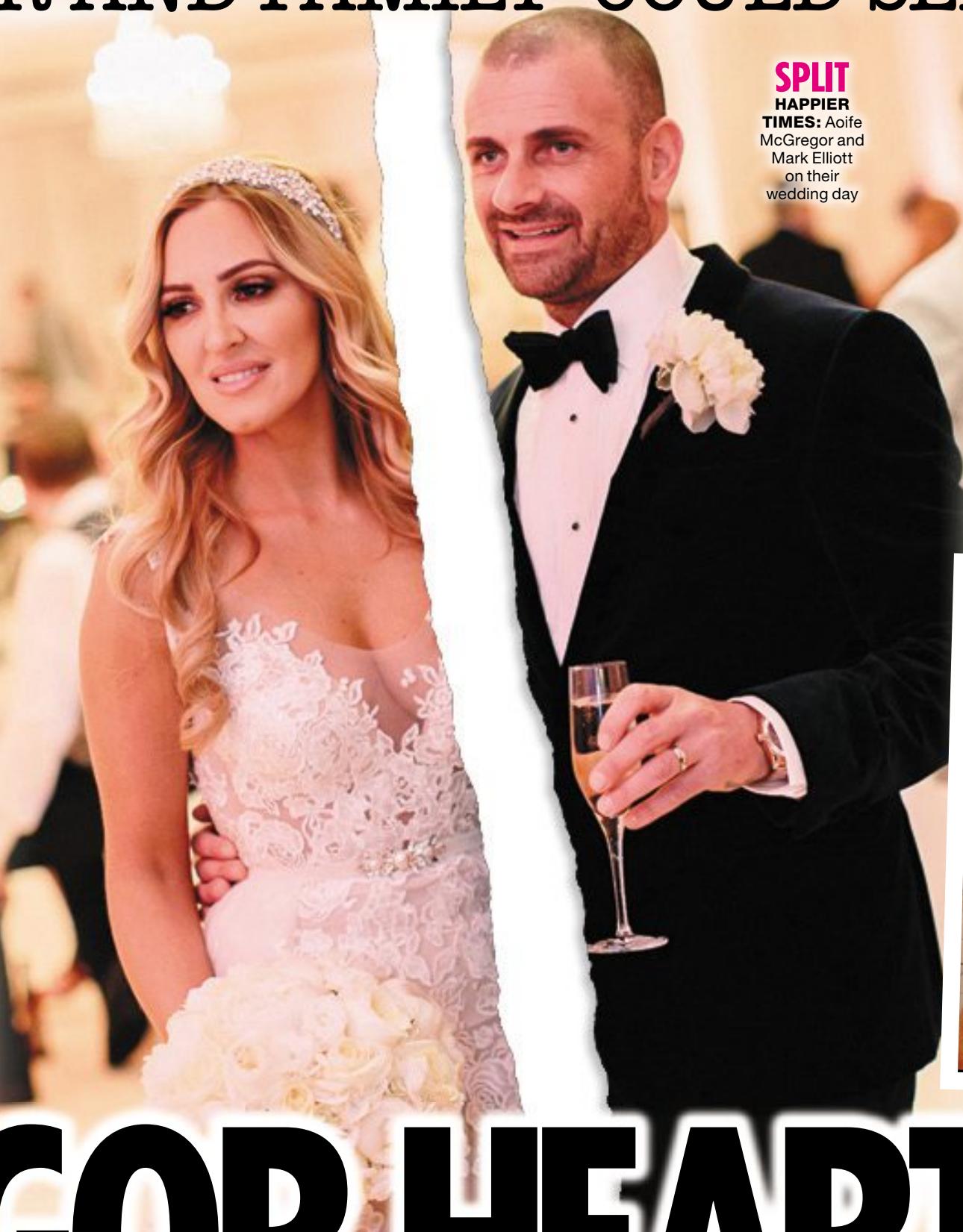
"The life we were living together it just wasn't working. It wasn't for me and it wasn't for her. She wanted to do one thing, and I wanted to do the other and that's it."

"We're not talking, but we're not fighting either. We were in contact until around Paddy's Day and then we had a row and we just don't talk since. It is what it is. We are just two different people."

Mark added that Aoife (35) has been living in her parents' house since Christmas, while he is still living in the house

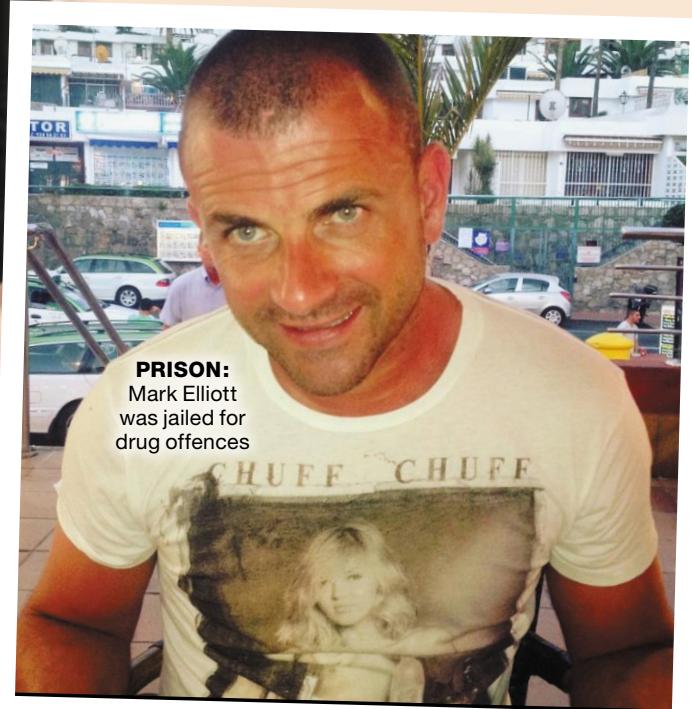


R AND FAMILY 'COULD SEE IT COMING'



SPLIT
HAPPIER
TIMES: Aoife
McGregor and
Mark Elliott
on their
wedding day

'Break-up was basically to do with kids...she wanted a baby and I didn't.'



PRISON:
Mark Elliott
was jailed for
drug offences

GOR HEARTACHE

splits from her husband after four years of marriage

they used share in the grounds of the K Club in Co Kildare.

He admits that Conor and others knew the relationship had broken down long ago.

"We spent time with each other for the Christmas just for family sake, but since November we are living apart and that's really it."

Aoife is one of three children of Tony and Margaret McGregor – Conor (33) being the youngest, and hairdresser Erin who became a panto star and featured on RTÉ's *Dancing With The Stars*.

Make-up artist Aoife met Mark through mutual friends over 10 years ago and they hit it off straight away.

When they got engaged Mark went down on bended knee before a heli-

copter arrived and whisked the happy couple off to celebrate at the luxury Powerscourt hotel in Co. Wicklow, where they eventually got married on New Year's Eve 2016.

Many of the public would be familiar with Aoife from her infamous run-in with her dog groomer, which went viral after she went berserk and fumed "the neck of ye".

Mark declined to comment on that audiotape and in fact he is bighearted in his attitude to his estranged wife.

"Let her move on and be happy and have a baby," he valiantly insists. "I don't want to have a baby."

"It was cool at the start when we were together and then got married and all. Then you just realise I'm a bit older than

her. There's a 10-year gap between us.

"I wanted to live a simple life, and she spends most of her time travelling the world minding Conor's kids with Dee, so we were mainly apart for most of the year – which put a strain on her marriage."

Mark works as a mini-digger operator and has changed his life around since he served time for dealing in cannabis.

Gardaí raided his then home on February 16, 2009. During the search officers discovered two kilos of cannabis herb on the property, with a street value of €40,000.

Mark was charged with possession of the drug for sale and supply, at Dublin Circuit Court the following June.

He received a total sentence of six years in prison in connection with the raid. However, two years of the sentence were suspended and with 25 per cent remission applied Mark walked free from Wheatfield jail in June 2013.

"Its 'Mark Elliot the drug dealer and he was 'convicted and sentenced in Wheatfield,'" fumes Mark about coverage of him previously. I live in the K Club and all my neighbours know me and know I'm a good bloke. What happened was in the past."

Mark confesses he lied on American immigration forms that he had no criminal convictions so he could go see McGregor fights in Las Vegas.

On several other occasions he even travelled over on Conor's private jet

on excursions with the sports star.

But four years ago, Mark was one of over 50 McGregor fans who were turned away at Dublin Airport by US immigration officials, who deemed them *persona non grata* for access to America.

Fashionista Aoife is currently Los Angeles, where she has joined Conor and his fiancée Dee Devlin and their three children and has recently been flaunting her new life on Instagram.

The blonde hinted in recent posts that she had split from Mark.

"Swapped the Diamond on my Finger for Diamonds on my shoes @ machandmach till death do us part," Aoife wrote in a snap of a new pair of stilettos.

And in her most recent picture, Aoife showed off her stunning figure as she posed for a black-and-white snap.

"I ain't looking back...but here's a throw back," she captioned the post.