
THE HIGHLIGHTER NEWS

ACCESSIBLE NEWS FOR EVERYONE

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The Highlighter News aims to help make the news feel more accessible for people, including people with learning disabilities and autism.

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The
Highlighter
News

OUR INTERVIEW WITH JAMES MARTIN

Written by Olivia Gallagher

James Martin has achieved amazing things, from winning awards including an Oscar and BAFTA (British Academy of Film and Television Arts), to meeting many celebrities like President Joe Biden and actor Colin Farrell. James will also be in the Guinness world record book next year for being the “first leading actor with Down syndrome in an Oscar-winning film”.

The Highlighter News writer Olivia Gallagher met up with James for an interview to find out about his experiences and ask ‘what’s next’ for our local superstar.

Being at the BAFTAs and Oscar Awards Ceremonies

“It was the atmosphere and closeness of people was thrilling. Obviously winning was amazing even down to the host who was lovely but it was amazing to be involved in anyway. It’s really great travelling to America, as they really do love the Irish people and the Irish movies, and you think to yourself isn’t that just really lovely.” When asking James what it was like meeting so many actors and celebrities he focused heavily on all actors and celebrities being equal to each other.



James told The Highlighter News that the crew of the film ‘An Irish Goodbye’ found winning both awards surreal and couldn’t believe they had won. They were all looking forward to the experience and opportunities of meeting people rather than the awards. Winning for James wasn’t just about the standard of acting but the incredible directing and producing that made ‘An Irish Goodbye’ the film it is.

“When you’re making a film like an Irish goodbye it was funny, and when you’re reading the script six or seven times, you do hope something big like an award will happen.” James says that even if they won or lost, they were prepared and were “ready to just enjoy the experience as it was.”

OUR INTERVIEW WITH JAMES MARTIN CONTINUED

James just couldn't get over his father, Ivan Martin, who in James's words was "sobbing and crying his eyes out." It really brought James to the realisation that he was in a "different ball game now." Winning the awards has been a massive moment for James in all aspects of his life.

The timing of the Oscars couldn't have been better for James as it fell on his birthday. One of the directors, Tom Berkeley who announced James's birthday and he really had no idea what to expect but next thing he knew all his colleagues, friends and fellow actors in the audience were singing Happy Birthday!

Meeting Joe Biden

Meeting American President Joe Biden was a very surreal day for James, when he was going through security the officer checking him seemed to be starstruck, even asking him for a picture, which he of course agreed to alongside the many other pictures taken that day.

He described the meeting between himself and President Biden as very nice. The President even told James Martin that he and his whole family sat down in the Whitehouse to watch his movie together and they all loved it so much. President Biden's daughter even requested that she got a private picture with James!

What's next for James

James told The Highlighter News that his dream job is to work in pantomime. James is an avid pantomime watcher and fan himself, so he would love to give it a go if he had the chance and the right opportunity presented itself.

However, he has also been working on another short drama called Fairview Park, filming in Leeds, which will be hitting all the big festivals soon enough, which was another great experience to film. When asked if he is working on anything at the minute, James told us, "Not yet...but I will be quite soon!".

Whatever James does in the future, here at The Highlighter News, we're sure it will be brilliant!

NORTHERN IRELAND LOCAL ELECTION RESULTS

What are local elections?

Written by Ben Smylie

In local elections people vote to decide who they want to represent (speak on behalf of) them in their local council. The people they choose will then work as a councillor (a member of the council) until the next election.



What is a councillor and what do they do?

A councillor is someone who has been chosen to be a member of a local council, to discuss things that affect the people who live in the area. Councils are responsible for managing local services like street lighting, community centres, and police and fire services.

How did people decide who to vote for?

There are many things that people across the country care about, and not everyone agrees on the best way to run things. In local elections, people are usually voting for the people they agree with and who they think will do the best job getting the council to agree as well. For example, if a candidate says they want to make roads safer for children by introducing speed bumps near schools, more people who want the same thing might vote for them so they can make it happen. Sometimes the same person is elected again because the public trusts them to continue doing a good job.

Northern Ireland Local Election Results Continued

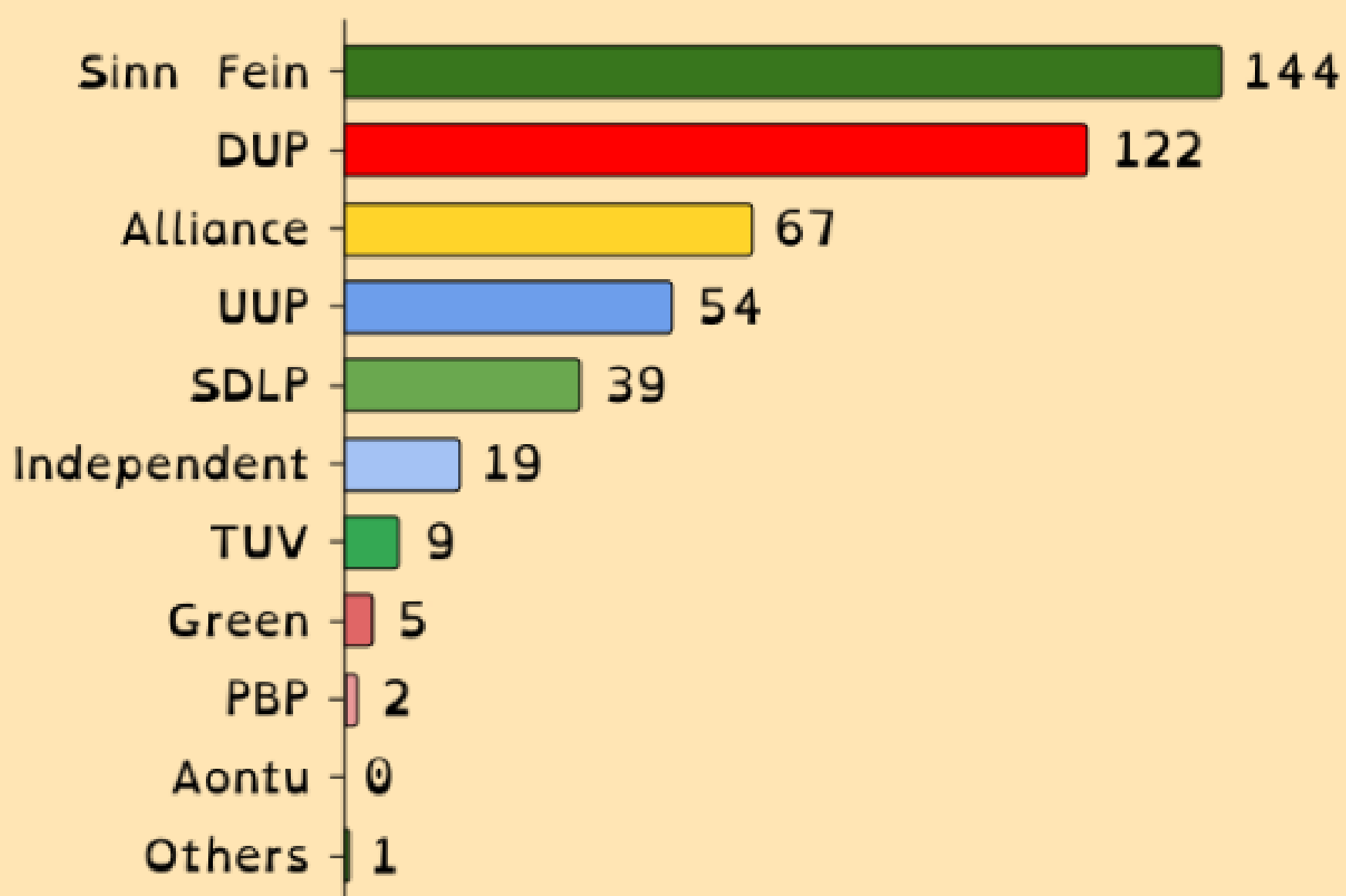
Why was this election important?

In the 2023 local elections, many people have been worried about the cost of living. You may have read about this in our November 2022 issue. One thing people think that councillors should do is make council tax lower. Council tax is the money paid to councils to run services like bin collection and community centres. Making it lower would mean people would have more money for important things like food and heating.

The two biggest political parties (groups of politicians who feel the same way about how things should be run) are called Sinn Féin and the DUP. These two parties tend to disagree on a lot of important issues, like whether Northern Ireland should leave the UK and become part of the Republic of Ireland. You might remember that the Assembly (Northern Ireland's government) hasn't been running since May 2022 when the DUP refused to work with Sinn Féin. A lot of people are worried and angry that the Assembly still hasn't started working again.

WHAT WERE THE ELECTION RESULTS?

Number of councillors elected from each party in 2023



THE KING'S CORONATION

Written by a Highlighter News volunteer



Image from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport

On Saturday 6th of May a new King was crowned. His mother, Queen Elizabeth the second, died in September 2022 which meant that Charles became the new King.

What was the Coronation?

The Coronation was the service when King Charles officially became King. He was crowned at a religious service at Westminster Abbey. The chair that he sat on to be crowned is called St Edward's chair and is 700 years old!

2,200 people were at the Coronation, including lots of world leaders and their husbands/wives, young people, and other people who are involved in charity work across the UK. The service had lots of music and singing by choirs, opera singers, and a Gospel choir. There were big celebrations across parts of the UK and the world. There was a big concert the day afterwards at Windsor Castle which had lots of musicians and pop stars performing.

Why did some people protest?

Not everyone likes the fact that the Royal Family is not elected by the public. Protesters don't like this and also they don't like how rich the family are. They think someone shouldn't be important just because of the family they are born into.

ACCESSIBILITY NEWS Written by Lynsey Burrows

A selection of good news stories about disability, autism and learning disability accessibility



VOGUE MAGAZINE RELEASES BRAILLE EDITION

Fashion magazine Vogue has released a braille and audio edition of the magazine. Braille is a style of writing for blind people that can be physically felt. Letters and words are created by a series of raised dots on paper.

The May issue of Vogue, which was titled 'Reframing Fashion', also included interviews with disabled people who work in sport, art and fashion.

WREXHAM FOOTBALL CLUB WINS AUTISM AWARD

The football team Wrexham FC has won an award from the National Autistic Society for their support and inclusion of people with autism and their families.

Wrexham football club is owned by American actors Rob McElhenney & Ryan Reynolds. The stadium has a range of different features that are designed to help people with autism who are attending the match, including an autism-friendly quiet zone and a sensory room.

TECHNOLOGY COMPANY APPLE TO ADD NEW ACCESSIBILITY FEATURES

Products made by the technology company Apple, including iPhones, iPads and Mac laptops, will have new features added to them for people with disabilities later this year. The new features will include:

- 'Point and Speak'. This feature helps people who are blind or have vision issues. People using an iPhone, Mac or iPad can point the phone or device's camera at text and the text will be read out loud.
- 'Assistive Access'. This feature will help make screens easier to read as people will be able to change the colours and text size. People who prefer to communicate with others visually (instead of with words) will also be able to change the keyboard to 'emoji-only'.

NATURE NOTES!

Written by a Highlighter News volunteer

Welcome to our very first Nature Notes!

What is "Nature Notes"?

Each month we will give advice to help you to enjoy nature. Being out in nature is good for our mental and physical health. It's also a lot of fun! You don't even have to go outside or have a garden to enjoy nature. Maybe your home has a window box or a hanging basket. Have a look outside and see if you can spot any birds, butterflies, or bees.

No Mow May



You might have heard of No Mow May, that's when people stop mowing their lawns for the month of May so that wildflowers can grow. Mowing lawns also means cutting the grass in a garden. Long grass and wildflowers attract bees, butterflies and other insects. Not cutting the grass also can help reduce pollution, that's the fumes that come from traffic that are not good for our health.

Bug Hotels

What is a Bug Hotel?

This is a fun way of making a place in your garden so that bugs, also known as insects, can stay...like in a hotel! Insects love hiding under old bits of wood or sticks. They even love being under garden pots and other dark spaces.

There's lots of free and easy ways to make a bug hotel so you could try making a bug hotel yourself!



Watching Nature in June

June is a great time to get outside and see nature as birds, bees and butterflies are easy to see in our gardens and parks. But you can also enjoy nature from home by watching the TV programme Springwatch.

Springwatch is on BBC2 most week nights from 8pm between the 29th of May until the 15th of June.

SPORTS

Written by a Highlighter News volunteer

PREMIER LEAGUE

Manchester City have been named Premier League champions for the 2022/23 season after collecting more points than Arsenal who finished second.

Manchester City Football Club has won the Premier League five times in the six years.

Manchester United came in third place.



2023 FIFA WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

The 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup is a large football tournament for women's teams representing the countries that give the players their passports. Teams will come from all over the world. It will start on July 20th and end on August 20th, 2023 and will take place in two countries - Australia and New Zealand. This is the first time two different nations will host the FIFA Women's World Cup together. It usually takes place in just one country.



The competition takes place every four years and there will be more teams playing in this one than in previous years. 32 teams will play games instead of 24 that competed in previous tournaments. This is the same number of teams that play in the men's FIFA World Cup.

The first match of the tournament will be played in New Zealand, in a place called Eden Park, Auckland, between the teams from New Zealand and Norway on July 20th, 2023. The last match, known as the final, will be in Australia, at the Sydney Olympic Stadium on August 20th, 2023.

The United States women's team won the last two FIFA Women's World Cup tournaments in 2015 and 2019, so they are the champions everyone will be trying to beat.

Have you enjoyed reading this month's copy of The Highlighter News?

Is there a topic or news story you'd like us to write about in next month's issue?

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