

Prison term for setting car on fire in Tarmonbarry

A 30-year-old man was sentenced to two years imprisonment, for arson, with the last nine months suspended at a recent sitting of Roscommon Circuit Court. Judge Francis Comerford heard that the accused was staying in Tarmonbarry for the weekend with a friend he had met at Castlereagh Prison in August 2018, when he set fire to his friend's girlfriend's Volkswagen Golf in what the judge described as a strange crime. There was no animosity between the two and the accused was very intoxicated on the date in question.

Ivan Gethins, with an address at 2 Seaview Park, Cliffoney, County Sligo, was also sentenced to prison for two months for failing to remain at the scene of an accident. He was also sentenced to three months in jail for driving with no insurance and disqualified from driving for six years. All the sentences are to run concurrently.

The arson incident happened on Sunday, June 16th, 2019 at a car-

park in the village of Tarmonbarry.

Giving evidence, Garda Brendan Murray from Roosky Garda Station said that the fire caused €3,000 damage to the Volkswagen Golf, which was completely burnt out, and also more than €8,000 of damage was caused to a Ford Kuga which had been parked beside it. He said that the fire started at around 11.45 p.m.. When questioned by Gardaí the accused admitted the offence.

The court heard that the accused had arrived in Tarmonbarry having got the train to Carrickon-Shannon. He and his friend had been out socialising in the village. During the course of the early evening, he tipped a third party's vehicle while driving. From CCTV footage, the accused parked the car in a car-park at around 9 p.m. before returning to the house on foot on his own. Later at about 11.35 p.m., he returned to the car and broke the driver's side window. A fire was

then started in the car at 11.45 p.m. and the accused was seen walking away towards the main street. He admitted the offences and told Gardaí that he did not know why he started the fire.

In his evidence, he said that he had just been released from prison and had smoked, drank, and taken tablets on the night and he apologised for his actions. He was now trying to get his life back in order.

Sentencing, the judge said that the accused had not appeared to have been motivated by malice, but had shown blatant disregard to previous court orders and had been driving while disqualified.

Taking the guilty plea into account, Judge Comerford sentenced him to two years imprisonment for arson, suspending the last nine months for a period of one year. A condition of this suspension was that Mr Gethins be placed under the supervision of the Probation Service for one year.



A photo take of the boys attending Taughmaconnell NS.



A photo take of the boys attending Taughmaconnell NS.



A photo take of the girls attending Taughmaconnell NS.

Unseen photographs from Taughmaconnell NS in 1924

Taughmaconnell native, Brendan Flynn made a surprising discovery when he opened a trunk belonging to his grandfather, who was a teacher at the old Taughmaconnell NS.

Brendan found photographs from 1924 of the school's students which have never been seen be-

fore. The extraordinary photos are vivid and give a window into a world almost a century ago.

A retired school principal, Brendan, who is a native of Carla, Taughmaconnell, is a founding member of the Clifden Arts Festival in Galway. When he made the dis-

covery, he provided copies of the photos to Micheál Moore of the Taughmaconnell Heritage & Historical Society.

Mr Moore contacted the Herald, hoping readers will be able to help identify people in the photos.

To contact the society

please visit their website on www.taughmaconnell.ie.

Mr Moore also expressed the society's condolences on the recent passing of one of its members, Michael John Foley, who had made a great contribution to his community and would be sadly missed.

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