

# Good golly, Miss Molly has been tarted up for her new home

Nicola Anderson

**THERE** was an audible gasp as the tarpaulin was removed. Everybody leaned forward in puzzlement.

Certainly there was something different about Molly Malone – and it wasn't just her new, more salubrious, surroundings on Dublin's Suffolk Street.

Her assets, already considerable, looked, well . . . positively augmented.

The fact that she had spent six weeks under cover between leaving her old home at the bottom of Grafton Street and her grand unveiling yesterday, was a bit of a coincidence – given that that's the normal healing time for plastic surgery.

Molly had been waxed and buffed in a beauty routine that would put Hollywood stars to shame.

There had also been steam-cleaning as well as a bit of welding, confirmed a Luas spokesperson. Surgery, but not as we know it – and her newly polished décolletage was merely catching the light.

Hoicked out of her usual spot at the bottom of Grafton Street in May in order to facilitate the cross-city Luas works, Molly was positioned outside the con-



Maya O'Mahoney (5) has her picture taken with Molly Malone  
NIAL CARSON/PA WIRE

verted church that houses the Dublin Tourism Office on Suffolk Street.

She will be returning home when the Luas works are complete – estimated at around October 2017.

The new Tourism Minister Paschal Donohue said he was "delighted" to see the statue

back on the streets, calling it "a little icon of Dublin".

"It's very appropriate for it to be located outside of the tourism offices," he said.

And as tourists gathered around to snap her picture and locals gave their verdict, it seemed that no adjustment period was necessary.

"Molly's better here," declared Ann Chapman, a Roscommon woman now living in Dublin. "I'm looking at her now and there's more space for her. She looks so different here."

And with Molly now on the route of the 1916 walking tour, guide Lorcan Collins will have to work on building in a piece

about her into his talk.

But Pauline Goodwin from Inchicore confessed that she had never liked the statue. "Her clothes are far too fine for someone who was selling cockles and mussels."

"And I hate the way everyone is always hanging off her," she said.

## Patients' groups get grants back

Eilish O'Regan  
Health Correspondent

A NUMBER of patient support groups whose future was in jeopardy due to a loss of €1.3m in state grants, will have their funding restored for a year.

Environment Minister Alan Kelly announced the U-turn yesterday, saying the Scheme to Support National Organisations is to be reviewed.

A spokesman said he could not say where the money was being found, other than it was coming from the "department's overall resources".

The grants, ranging from €29,000 to €74,000, are being restored to 23 of the original 26 organisations.

Two of the three who were left out had not made applications and another had missed the deadline.

Around 155 organisations had applied for funding under the scheme and 55 were successful. The omission of so many who had previously received the grants came as a shock.

Mr Kelly said: "While I am restoring the funding to these organisations . . . it is essential that that time is used to find a more long-term sustainable solution to the funding problems of these organisations."

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That said, according to Mary Flanagan who is the Irish representative for Budapest-based Kreativ Dental Clinic, "the quality of the treatment and the qualifications of the dentists are of the utmost importance". Kreativ Dental Clinic is the founder of Dental Tourism and has been treating Irish patients for 17 years.

"Budapest is the centre of excellence for dentistry in Europe. All of our dentists are experts in their own respective fields of dentistry, including oral surgeons, a Maxillofacial surgeon, endodontist and periodontist.

At 25, Mary began having problems with her teeth. This was due to an incorrect bite (occlusion) which was later diagnosed and rectified by Kreativ Dental Clinic.

Over the space of 15 years she had many root canal treatments, crowns fitted which later fell out, followed by eight teeth extracted due to failure of root canals, needless to say she still didn't have the smile she had dreamed of.

At 35 Mary was told by one Irish dentist that her only option was dentures. Another told her he could do the work but it would cost up to €60,000. It was at this point that a friend's uncle, who happened to be a retired Irish dentist, recommended she visit the experts at Kreativ Dental in Budapest.

What she found was a five star purpose-built ultramodern clinic

comprising of six surgeries, a laboratory, digital X-ray machines, Cat Scan machine, its own on-site laboratory and even a rooftop café. The clinic employs a range of dental specialists and offers a suite of treatments including dental implants, porcelain crowns and bridges, porcelain veneers, dentures, periodontal surgery, root canal treatment, gnathological treatment.

Mary ended up having eight implants and 26 porcelain crowns fitted at the much lower price-tag of €12,000 plus €400 for her flights. "It was absolutely brilliant." Today, Mary travels to Budapest with patients. "I travel on the plane with people, stay in the same hotel and accompany them to the clinic. For some people, this can be very reassuring."



Mary Flanagan

### Planning your trip – what should you expect to pay?

A comprehensive consultation and OPG X-ray at home can average €80, at Kreativ Dental it is completely free. In addition Kreativ Dental Clinic offers the most comprehensive written guarantee on their work, of any clinic in Europe. Aftercare is also provided in Ireland. Part of Mary's job is to advise clients of when and how to secure the best value flights, she organises free airport transfers, free Budapest travel pass, books the clinic appointments and hotel accommodation. If your treatment plan is in excess of €1,800 Kreativ Dental will reimburse your flight ticket to a maximum value of €180. Now that is something to Smile about.

For more information on Kreativ Dental clinic, log onto [kreativdentalclinic.eu](http://kreativdentalclinic.eu) or call Mary on (01) 8055526 or 086 0299998.