

# Tralee Times

Volume 1 No. 1

'Now Is Never Too Late For The Future'

April 2006

## Welcome to Your Community based Newsletter

Over the past 15 months I have been publishing *Caherslee News* a community based monthly newsletter for all the residents of the Caherslee—Mounthawk areas of Tralee. The principal aim of the newsletter, has been and remains, to provide a public forum through which all residents can air their views, issues, concerns, ideas and stories etc. There is also scope for the dissemination of information e.g. education, safety, transport, advertising etc.

The response to *Caherslee News* to date has been overwhelmingly positive. It is through this experience that I have now decided to branch out and afford other local communities in Tralee the same opportunity—a public forum for their area.

I would like to take this opportunity therefore, to invite you to contact me with information about your concerns, issues, views, ideas and stories etc. that are relevant to you and your area. Issues and concerns about Tralee in general are also welcome. Your suggestions on how this newsletter can be improved are also welcome. Contact **Tralee Times**: Tel. 087—76 152 76 or email: editor@traleetimes.com or post to: Hillview Drive, Caherslee, Tralee, Co. Kerry. Thank you for your time, and I look forward to hearing from you, Leonard O' Donnell, Editor.

## Radon Gas

Exposure to radon gas at high levels has the potential of being dangerous to your health. As you will read below the Radiological Institute of Ireland is advising that there are areas in and around Tralee that have the potential of being high risk areas. It is suggested that you do have your home tested in order to assess the level of radon gas you are exposed to on a daily basis. Furthermore, you should ask for your place of work to be tested and if it has been tested you should be made aware of the results. Those of you with children in schools in the area should also seek the results of the radon tests that have been carried out in the school, without delay, as you are entitled to do so.

Radon is measured in units called becquerels (Bq). When inhaled, radon results in a radiation dose to the cells of the lung, which can eventually lead to lung cancer. Radiation dose is measured in units called millisieverts (mSv). An occupant of a home exposed to radon concentrations at the Reference Level of 200 Bq/m<sup>3</sup> would receive an annual radiation dose of 5 mSv. This calculation is based on an assumed occupancy of 7,000 hours each year.

Since July 1998, every new house is required to incorporate some degree of radon preventive measures at the time of construction in accordance with the revised Building Regulations. The degree of protection required is dependent upon whether or not the site is located within a High Radon Area.

A "high radon area" is one in which more than 10% of houses are predicted to have radon levels in excess of the 200Bq/m<sup>3</sup> reference level.

Geology does however allow us to predict more generally that high indoor radon is also likely to be found in homes overlying or adjacent to Namurian shales around Tralee and in a broad band between Killorglin and Killarney. The GSI detected high radiation levels in carborne surveys of these areas in 1981. The Institute has classified the area around Tralee as a High Radon Area with over 25% of homes predicted to exceed the Reference Level.

The Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 2005, requires employers to identify hazards in the workplace, assess the risk to health and safety from these hazards and put in place measures to eliminate or reduce the risk. In order to assess the risk from radon, the Health and Safety Authority has stated that all indoor workplaces in High Radon Areas must have radon measurements carried out.

In 1998, the Institute was commissioned by the Department of Education and Science (DES) to survey radon levels in all primary and post primary schools in the country. The project was undertaken on a phased basis over three years. In November 2001, the Institute issued results to schools participating in the final phase of the project covering the south and west of the country.

To arrange for a radon measurement to be carried out contact the radon department on:

**FREEPHONE RADON 1800 300 600** or email [radon@rpil.ie](mailto:radon@rpil.ie).

Alternatively, the RPII's Radon in Homes brochure and an application form for a domestic radon measurement can be downloaded. The application form should be printed out, completed and returned to the Institute with the appropriate payment. Two detectors are sufficient to carry out a radon survey. The cost of a survey is €50. Extra detectors, if required, are available at a cost of €27 each. **Prices are valid until 31 December 2006.**

## Tralee Community Extension Needed to Bus Routes in Tralee Hospital

For almost a decade, since 1998, a group has been campaigning for a Community Hospital to be built in Tralee. This group has met with three different Ministers for Health and has had continuing discussions with the HSE and other parties and as yet there has been no tangible result. Many members of the original action group who began this campaign have since passed away, and great credit is due to those who have continued to campaign and apply pressure to progress this very vital project.

A Community Hospital in Tralee is a vital element in our health infrastructure. Such a Community hospital would cater for older people who require long-term care close to their homes, friends and relatives; post-operative patients who need convalescent care and those who need residential hospice care. Currently, they must go to St. Columbanus Home in Killarney for these services. While the care given in Killarney is excellent, for these elderly people traveling and their relatives, it is very inconvenient.

The Census of 2002 revealed that, nationally, just over 11% of the population was in the 65+ age group and 20% of the population was in the 55 + age groups.

Therefore implementing a strategy - not just talking about one or making false promises - to cater for the needs of the older people in our society, especially when they are unwell, is today long overdue. This is especially the case in Tralee.

A **Public Meeting** about the Campaign for a Community Hospital in Tralee will be held on **Thursday 11th May 2006**, in the **Meadowlands Hotel** at 8pm. Please do attend as this issue affects all of us. **All are invited to attend this meeting.**

The outskirts of Tralee, in all directions have grown and developed significantly in the past decade. Newer housing is now further from the town centre than ever. Residents of these areas have further to travel in order to avail of the facilities and services offered in town. Traffic congestion and parking are real every day problems in the town. By allowing the extension of the existing Peoples Bus Service and applying new routes, not only would it be very convenient for residents, but it may well alleviate traffic and parking problems that are the real nightmare of every day life in Tralee. .Continued Page 2

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SURROUNDINGS

## Public Bus Service

continued from page 1

Pressure needs to be applied, by residents groups in all areas, on local politicians to open their eyes to this issue. The principal reason why there has been no action on this issue is because Tralee Town Council who, as a body, have failed to progress it.

In Killarney, apparently, extensions to such a service have been acted upon. Why not here in the capital of Co. Kerry? Tralee Town Council is failing to adequately address this issue.

Wondering What This Is?  
Caught You Looking!  
Advertise Here

'Sure, I'm for helping the elderly.  
I'm going to be old myself  
some day.'

Lillian Carter

mother of Jimmy Carter, Former US President

## Parking Problems

All users of the streets of Tralee, whether in the town centre or in residential areas of the town have been experiencing increasing problems with parking.

Non-residents parking in residential areas causes problems of access for local residents. Also serious delays can occur in the event that emergency vehicles need access to these residential areas. In town, illegal parking and parking in obviously dangerous places not only leads to inconvenience and dangers for other road users but also adds to the already serious traffic congestion that occurs frequently.

The recent proposed increase in Parking Fines from €19 to €40 may be an added deterrent, but if enforcement is not strict and frequent enough then the problem will persist.

A random, once a week campaign to fine, in particular illegally parked vehicles with no exceptions, should be carried out in conjunction with the introduction of the new fine charges.

We are all too aware of the bottle neck locations, throughout the town, caused by illegally parked vehicles, these are the places that need to be specifically targeted. Parking outside Barry's Shop in Rock Street has particularly serious effects on traffic in Rock Street, Stacks Villas and Caherslee—this must be addressed urgently.

Vehicles parked in places designated for parking and which do not obstruct traffic flow, will for the most part have paid the parking fee. Target, for fines, the illegally parked vehicle first!

There are other locations within the town where Tralee Town Council has allowed certain business types e.g. taxi-hackney offices, to locate where parking is very restricted.

In Tralee Town Development Plan 2003—2009 it clearly states that: 'Taxi-hackney offices will not be permitted where they are likely to cause traffic congestion or traffic hazard....'. The question is then is Tralee Town Council serious about the implementation and enforcement of this Development Plan and the alleviation of traffic issues that concern so many of us.

Traffic issues need to be addressed now, as a matter of priority in Tralee.

BARRY Print—Rock Street  
Tel. 066—71 21 600

## Caherslee-Mounthawk Area Plan

On behalf of residents in the area I have written on more than one occasion to Tralee Town Council

Mr. Michael Scannell, Town Clerk; Mr. Gerry Riordan, Town Engineer both received the following on 17th February 2006.

Local residents, in the Caherslee-Mounthawk areas have approached me in relation to the following matters;

- A Caherslee – Mounthawk area plan – is there a draft plan for the area in the process of being prepared at this time?
- Is there any plan to install adequate, necessary, road safety-speed restrictions in the areas at the entrances to The Grove, The Orchard and Quarryvale in Mounthawk with the advent of the opening of the link road (currently under construction)?
- What is the time-scale, if there is one, for the development of the proposed road from Kingdom Co-Op Mart to the Kerries Road? and
- Will this lead to the construction of a roundabout or traffic-lights at the present entrance to the Kingdom Co-Op Mart off the main Caherslee road?
- Is it necessary to acquire planning permission from Tralee Town Council for the erection of a satellite dish to the front of a residence (house) – if so, what is the procedure and what is the procedure for submitting a complaint in relation to this matter?
- Many residents have been complaining about the unreasonable level of illegal parking at or near the junction of Rock St. – Pembroke St., particularly by hackneys and taxis, usually at night. According to Tralee Town Development Plan 2003 - 2009, 'Taxi-Hackney Offices will not be permitted where they are likely to cause traffic congestion or traffic hazard or where they would injure the amenities or civic dignity of the area....' (?)
- The Planning Office has previously indicated to me that they are working on plans for the development/sale of a parcel of land at the entrance to Carraigeendaniel. Is there a time-scale for this proposed development? If so, residents in the area would very much like to know more about it.
- Are there plans by Tralee Town Council to provide a route license for the Caherslee-Mounthawk to Tralee People Bus Service? There are over 200 signatures collected, to date, from residents of this area in relation to this matter.

These are some of the issues that I have highlighted in this letter dated 17th Feb. 2006 and to date I have not received any reply from either office. If there are plans or if there is progress being made on these and other issues surely the residents that are affected should be made aware of the situation.

## Your Home Security

A lot of burglaries, not all, are spur of the moment, as a burglar may see an open window or other easy point of entry and take their chance.

Here are some basis tips worth considering.

1. When you are out, always lock the door and close the windows—even if you will be away for only a short time.
2. Window locks, especially on older windows, will help stop people getting in (and remember, a burglar is less likely to break in if they have to smash a window).
3. If you have deadlocks on your door, use them. They make it harder for a thief to get out again. But don't leave the key near the door or in an obvious place.
4. Don't leave spare keys outside or in a garage or shed, and put car keys or garage keys out of sight in the house.
5. Use timers for lights and radios if you need to be away from home overnight. They will create the impression that someone is in the house.
6. Visible burglar alarms, good lighting, and carefully directed security lighting can put burglars off. But make sure that lights don't disturb your neighbours, and that alarms do turn off after 20 minutes.
7. Fences at the back of the house may make this area more secure, but walls and solid fencing may let a thief break in without being seen. A good compromise is chain-link fencing, or trellises with prickly shrubs.
8. Fitting a 'spy-hole' on your door allows you to see who is at the door. Having a door chain means that you can open the door a little in order to talk to them.

These are some very basic points on home security—the main point being—do not give the would be burglar the opportunity or invitation to visit your home. This and other security articles can be viewed on www.traleetimes.com.

## Road Traffic—Safety

There are still a number of issues needing to be addressed in our area with regard to increasing safety on our roads. It has been brought to my attention that the roadway along Lioscarraig does need some form of traffic calming measure, such as ramps. There are too many housing areas and the potential for accidents is high. The roadway also needs to be lined from the entrance along the whole length of the road. Stop signs and painted lines must be installed as a matter of urgency.

One exit which I find particularly dangerous is at Parc na Dun. Here there is a complete absence of an indication that one is entering onto a main road—there is no stop sign and—there is no painted line. This is a hazard and must be remedied promptly.

I for one am not happy that, on weekends particularly, there is an excessive number of vehicles parking outside the GAA grounds in Caherslee. This situation will be increasingly obvious from now on as matches will become more frequent at this location. The road is too narrow at this point and passing traffic and pedestrians are at risk. As stated previously in Caherslee News, there is land inside the wall which is not used for matches and could be used for parking. I have asked the Town Council if they have any input into this matter and as yet I am awaiting a reply.

There are I am sure other hazards on the roadways of our area, if you have noticed anything that needs to be pointed out do let us know and we will highlight it.

'Time is the most valuable thing  
a man can spend.'

Theophrastus

(372 BC - 287 BC)

## April Fool's Day

In sixteenth-century France, the start of the new year was observed on April first. It was celebrated in much the same way as it is today with parties and dancing into the late hours of the night. Then in 1562, Pope Gregory introduced a new calendar for the Christian world, and the new year fell on January first. There were some people, however, who hadn't heard or didn't believe the change in the date, so they continued to celebrate New Year's Day on April first. Others played tricks on them and called them "April fools." They sent them on a "fool's errand" or tried to make them believe that something false was true. In France today, April first is called "Poisson d'Avril." French children fool their friends by taping a paper fish to their friends' backs.

When the "young fool" discovers this trick, the prankster yells "Poisson d'Avril!" (April Fish!)

Today Americans play small tricks on friends and strangers alike on the first of April. One common trick on April Fool's Day, or All Fool's Day, is pointing down to a friend's shoe and saying, "Your shoelace is untied." Teachers in the nineteenth century used to say to pupils, "Look! A flock of geese!" and point up. School children might tell a classmate that school has been canceled. Whatever the trick, if the innocent victim falls for the joke the prankster yells, "April Fool!"

The "fools' errands" we play on people are practical jokes. Putting salt in the sugar bowl for the next person is not a nice trick to play on a stranger. College students set their clocks an hour behind, so their roommates show up to the wrong class - or not at all. Some practical jokes are kept up the whole day before the victim realizes what day it is. Most April Fool jokes are in good fun and not meant to harm anyone. The most clever April Fool joke is the one where everyone laughs, especially the person upon whom the joke is played.

"The first of April is the day we remember what we are the other 364 days of the year." - Mark Twain

## Kerry International Airport

Kerry International Airport currently has; four daily direct flights to Dublin; daily flights to London; three times weekly flights direct to Manchester and a daily flight to Frankfurt Hahn.

New scheduled service to Lorient, France starts in April 2006. Liverpool in June 2006. Return fares are available from under €39 including all taxes. Liverpool by air is cheaper than the train to Dublin from Kerry. Denis Cregan, Chairman Kerry Airport said:- "This is a big boost to the local tourism industry as it will give low fares year round access to the second largest market in the UK for visitors to Ireland." The Airport also offers a sun charter series with Slattery's direct to Lanzarote. The airport handled approximately 450,000 passengers in 2005. It has a 2,000 metre runway capable of taking large jet aircraft. Kerry Airport Revenue in the financial year 2004 surpassed EURO €6.4 million for the first time with an Operating Result of €385K and passenger traffic grew to 376,000. Kerry Airport plans to increase the passenger arrivals and terminal area in 2006 and has a target to double passengers to 800,000 by 2011. Kerry Airport has recently opened a €1 million Public Transport Terminal facility and upgraded traffic management systems. This will allow Bus Eireann to offer a great new public transport service from Kerry in 2006.

Aer Arann receive a Government subsidy of **€3 million each year** for providing the service to Kerry Airport. However in the past Aer Arann have at times been found wanting in the service they are providing to and from Kerry. This service, particularly to and from Dublin, is an essential part of the transport infrastructure of this county. Business people in particular need this service to be reliable since the alternative modes of transport to and from the capital are non-viable. Aer Arann does not receive a subsidy for their flights from Cork to Dublin and yet they charge similar fares as the flight from Kerry to Dublin!

Kerry Airport won Irish Airport of the Year in 2005 from the CCI.

**KERRY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT Farranfore, Killarney, County Kerry, Ireland, Telephone: ++353 (0) 66 9764644 Fax: ++353 (0) 66 9764134 www.kerryairport.ie**

## Kerry Archaeological & Historical Society

Events in May 2006

**Sunday May 7th**

Field Outing: Ballylongford

Leader: Pdraig O' Conchubhair

President of the Society

Meet at: Ballylongford Church, 2.30pm.

**Tuesday May 16th**

Annual Mass for the Feast Day of St. Brendan in

Our Lady & St. Brendan's Church, Tralee at 9.30am

**Sunday May 21st**

Field Outing Sceilig

Leaders: Frank King Member and Sceilig Guide

Meet at: Portmagee Pier, 10am

Book direct with Boatman, List at County Library.

Contact: Hon. Treasurer, Kerry County Library, Moyderwell, Tralee—for details of membership Tel. 066—71 21 200

## Energy Generation in Ireland

Ireland's dependency on imported energy, currently running at 87%, is significantly higher than the EU average of 50%, according to the findings of a new report published by Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEI).

Ireland currently **imports** 87% of its primary energy requirement and costs to industry have increased by 29% since 2000, and are likely to continue to increase over the coming decade. Industry currently accounts for 18% of all energy consumed in Ireland, and current forecasts indicate that consumption will rise with growth in output.

Current **renewable energy production** in the Republic of Ireland stands at 325 kilo tonnes of oil equivalent, which is a 94% increase on 1990 levels. However, Ireland's overall energy demand has grown by 59% in that same period, meaning that the contribution of renewable energy to our total primary energy requirements has actually remained almost static at 2.2%. Renewable energy now accounts for approximately 5.2% of the country's gross electricity consumption with wind being the largest contributor.

**Security of supply** has been the focus of considerable attention by governments and the media in recent years. Sustained high oil and gas prices are putting ever increasing pressure on global economies and their ability to deliver goods and services.

By 2020 71% of our electricity generation is predicted to be fuelled by natural gas, up from 45% in 2004.

Commenting on the new report, David Taylor, Chief Executive of SEI said "Ireland's demand for energy has increased significantly in recent years, resulting in a consequent increase in energy-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. While it is encouraging to see growth in renewable energy, albeit from a small base, it is imperative that the uptake of sustainable energy technologies continues and accelerates, to ensure we are less reliant on imported fuels in future years".

The **"Greener Homes" Scheme** will allow individual householders, for the first time ever, to obtain grants for the installation of renewable technologies including wood pellet stoves and boilers, solar panels and geothermal heat pumps. Grant aid of €1,100 to €5,000 will be provided depending on the individual technology used.

The scheme will be rolled-out over a five year period, it will potentially support the conversion to renewable energy in up to 10,100 homes. By its final year, it is expected to save energy equivalent to 54,000 barrels of oil per annum and 23,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per annum. This is the equivalent to meeting 100% of the heating needs of 7,100 homes from renewable energy. The following are examples of some of the grants being offered—more details from [www.sei.ie](http://www.sei.ie)

Technology	Grant amount	Typical cost
Wood Pellet Boilers	4200	9000 – 16000
Wood Pellet Stoves	1100	2000 – 5000
Heat Pump - Horizontal Ground Collector	4300	13000 – 15000
Heat Pump - Vertical Collector	6500	18000 – 21000
Solar (per m <sup>2</sup> )	300	800 - 1300

### Wave Energy

The power of the Atlantic is about to be harnessed in a Marine Institute / Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEI) initiative to open a wave energy test site a mile and a half off the coast of Spiddal, Co. Galway.

The 37-hectare site will be open to entrepreneurs and engineers to test prototype ocean energy generators. The first wave energy generator, 'Wavebob,' has arrived at Spiddal in County Galway.

News—the National Grid cannot, apparently cope with extra capacity, even from alternative energy sources!

## Recent Trends in Irish Tourism

The number of Irish going abroad exceeds the tourist number coming here by 34,000, for holidays in January. The number of Irish who travelled abroad in January 2006 = 442,300. Tourists entering Ireland in January 2006 = 408,400.

Between 2002 and 2005 the opposite was the case i.e. more tourists arriving here than Irish people going abroad.

There are many reasons for this trend, which will most likely continue. Besides cheap flights, the other main reason for more people going abroad on holiday is of course the value for money. It can be cheaper to fly to Milan, stay in a nice hotel for a night and go to a fancy restaurant than to do just the same in Ireland!

During the traditionally slow period October—December 2005, 1,316,000 took trips outside Ireland, nearly a third of the country's entire population and an 11 percent gain on 2004.

Research from the CSO indicates that the number of people on flights to continental Europe rose 17 percent, while travel to Britain rose 7 percent. But the figures pointed to trouble for ferry services, with a 24 percent drop in outbound passengers.

The Irish also were bigger spenders, on average, than their visitors. The report said tourists to

Ireland spent €929 million (US\$1.1 billion) here, while a smaller number of Irish people managed to spend €1.035 billion (US\$1.278 billion) abroad.

Total Overseas Tourists to Ireland 2004 = 6.4m

Total Revenue from Tourism 2004 = €4.5 billion

Most Popular Activity by tourists 2004—hiking & hillwalking.

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*Will Rogers*

US humorist & showman,  
(1879 - 1935)

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Tel.: 066—71 948 37  
Email: [cwtralee@cartridgeworld.ie](mailto:cwtralee@cartridgeworld.ie)

**FACT**—22% of Austria's total energy supply comes from renewable energy sources with half of this coming from agricultural sources.

## Ireland Census 2006

**What is the Census?** The census is an account of everybody in the country on Census Night. On Census Night, everyone in the country must be included on a census form and be part of the official count of people and dwellings that usually happens every five years in Ireland. The about the census section of this site gives more detailed information.

**When is the Census?** The next census will take place on the night of **Sunday 23rd of April 2006**. On this night everybody who is in the country will be included in a Census Form, including people for example staying with friends or relatives, staying in a hotel, hospital, guest-house or on board a vessel.

**Is it Compulsory?** Yes. Everybody present in the country on Census night must be included. This is the law

All information collected in the census will be treated as strictly confidential by the CSO and will be used only for statistical purposes.

The names of individuals will not be entered onto any computer database.

No other Government Department or Agency will have access to identifiable information relating to individuals or households.

The confidentiality of all information collected by the CSO from individuals, households or business is guaranteed by law.

**Why do we have a Census?** At national level current population statistics are necessary for planning the provision of health care, education, employment, etc. At regional and local level the figures help to identify likely demand for schools and hospitals, areas of relatively high unemployment, the best location for new shops, etc.

The census is also the only means of accurately measuring the exact extent of migration.

**Who carries out the Census?**

The Census is organised by the Central Statistics Office (CSO).

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Sincere sympathy to the family and friends of those who have died in the recent past and to those whose anniversary occur at this time.



**Tralee Volunteer Bureau**  
Contact  
Geraldine O' Sullivan  
066—71 179 66

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Contact: Mary Tuohy

**A Piece of History**

A reader of this newsletter has informed me that he has come across a piece of history in his attic. It is a school report from St. Enda's School, Rathfarnham, Dublin written and signed by Padraig Pearse in July 1915. It was passed on to him by a relative in 1982 who found it in a second-hand book in Oxford in 1953. Given the apt timing of the find I suspect that our reader is excited, and perhaps wondering at what the value of such a document is today! If the document is what he says it is and not just a copy then I suspect that it does have a significant value. Suffice to say—well done on your find and the best of good luck in your endeavor in getting a fair price!

**CH THE MALL TRALEE**

**CH THE MALL TRALEE**

**Tel. 066—71 21 331**

Let Us know about events that are happening in **Your** area of Tralee. Meetings, fund-raising, sports, clubs, Societies, residents associations etc. all news welcome.

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**A History of Tralee in 1843**

**All of this report is available to view in [www.traleetimes.com](http://www.traleetimes.com)**

The streets are repaired by county presentment, and are partially paved and flagged, but not lighted; neither is there any nightly watch. An attempt to introduce the provisions of the new paving and lighting act (9 Geo. IV, c. 82) was resisted by the inhabitants.

The sewers in the town are bad, and the streets are very dirty. There is no regular market-place, and the business of the market is conducted in the streets.

Some of the streets are lined with respectable dwelling-houses (several of them of a superior description) and good shops; and the town has undergone great improvement within the last few years.

The church is a large and handsome building, with a square tower crowned with pinnacles: the congregation averages 700 persons, and is increasing.

There is a large and handsome **Roman Catholic** chapel (attended by 3,000 persons), a small Methodist meeting-house, and another small one for Independents.

Detached from the town, half a mile to the south-east, are the county gaol and a barrack; they are both substantial buildings; the gaol, built on the radiating principle, is capable of accommodating more than 200 prisoners; the barrack is capable of accommodating nearly 500 men, and has an hospital for 30 patients.

A considerable **brewery** and a distillery are near the gaol. The county court-house, a handsome building of modern erection, is in the town; and in the same street as the court-house is the county club and news-room.

There are an extensive brewery, besides that already mentioned, and a smaller brewery, both in the town.

The **trade** of Tralee is considerable, and it has been for some years rapidly progressive.

In 1831, 991 persons were employed in the town and borough in retail trade and handicraft; and there were 214 capitalists, bankers, professional, and other educated men.

There are two **weekly markets**, well supplied, and five yearly fairs. There are three banking establishments.

The town is well supplied with fish, and on reasonable terms.

Tralee is a **port**, but vessels have had to take in and discharge their cargoes at Blennerville, on the shore of the bay, a mile and a quarter distant: a ship-canal is in progress, perhaps finished by this time, by which vessels of 300 tons will be enabled to come up to the town, at the west end of which a large basin has been constructed.

The port is visited yearly (taking the average of the seven years from 1827 to 1833) by about seven vessels (having a total of 1500 to 1600 tons) from foreign parts; in the same years nearly forty coasters (about 3000 tons) from Great Britain entered inwards, and about twenty-five coasters (800 to 1000 tons) from other ports in Ireland; while about fifty-five coasters (about 4000 tons) cleared out for Great Britain, and about fifteen or sixteen coasters (500 to 700 tons) for other ports in Ireland.

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**Starry, starry night**

By Martha Brassil

"You're late"  
Lisette sat down and smoothed out her petticoat.

"I've been busy." Her voice sliced through his imaginings.

"Busy?" Vincent's eyes narrowed.

"A girl has to make a living. Its not easy you know."

The proprietor served coffee, thick, black as night.

"I just wish...."

"Wish. You can't afford to wish," she mocked "You can hardly afford to live."

"As long as I breathe I can wish."

A single candle between them highlighted Vincent's sickly pallor. Lisette studied his sunken features and eyes, so thirsty, always insatiable.

"I ..I ..missed you yesterday" he stammered. I called to your house."

"I was sleeping. Only crazy people work in the crucifying heat" she added.

"Ah but colours need light my darling, lots of light. You prefer I work in the dark eh ? Flowers drenched in moonlight sleep, they sleep and forget. I bring them to life and make them dance."

Lisette sighed. His intensity was beginning to smother her.

"My beautiful Lisette. Lie with me tonight," he smiled trying to placate her.

"Some people have to work."

"Please I don't want to be alone. I can't be alone. Not tonight."

"When did you last eat?" she enquired.

"Yesterday. No, the day before yesterday, I think I shared some bread with Paul and a carafe of cider. A meal for the gods."

"And today what did you eat? All you do is paint. You don't look after yourself," she shouted.

"Ah someday soon I will sell my paintings and eat like a King"

"In the meantime you starve. Me what do I want? I want more. What can you give me? Nothing," she spat.

"How can I make you understand what you mean to me? Vincent implored, "Don't go, please. Stay with me."

Lisette stood up. She placed a kiss on his blistered brow and crushed a franc into his hand.

"You must eat," she whispered, "I won't be coming back."

The proprietor, apparition like in his white suit gave Vincent the bill. The infernal colours of the dingy café, alien reds and greens became his feelings.

The hell of loss. Vincent moaned. Tonight he must paint. Tomorrow, a personal gift perhaps for the lovely Lisette.

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**Our Weather**

Valentia Observatory in South Kerry is the nearest metrological station from which the statistics in the following article are taken. Visit [www.meteireann.ie](http://www.meteireann.ie) to find out more.

In order to accurately gather data of weather conditions and to give a reasonably accurate picture of the state of our weather the average or mean data is calculated over 30 years. In the statistics below the 30 year period is from 1961 to 1990.

**Rainfall (mm):**  
Annual average = 1430.2 mm  
2005 Total = 1500.1 mm

Month	Ave. 2005	2006
January	167	185.6
February	123	88
March	121.7	80.4
April	150.7	

We have had a wetter 3 months in 2006 (378.7mm) than in 2005 (354mm) and yet the total is well below the 30 year average of 411.7mm.

The wettest months with the highest average rainfall figures are January 167mm; Decemmer 159.3mm and October 157.3mm.

The driest months with the lowest average rainfall figures are July 73.3mm; April 77mm and June 79.9mm

**Temperature (°C):**  
Annual average = 10.4°C  
2005 Average = 11.3°C

Month	Ave. 2005	2006
January	6.8	8.4
February	6.6	6.8
March	7.6	9.0
April	7.4	

The warmest months with the highest average temperature figures are July and August with 14.8°C and September with 13.5°C.

The coldest months with the lowest average temperature figures are February 6.6°C; January 6.8°C and March and December with 7.6°C; November 8.7°C.

There will be variations from the norm or average figures in our weather from time to time, however it is almost certain that the annual average figures for rainfall and temperatures will not vary significantly from the 1961—1990 figures. Remember weather changes but climate does not (usually). Yet there will be interesting comparisons made between the 1961-1990 figures and the figures for 1991-2020. It is then that we will really have a better idea of how or if our weather (or indeed our climate) has changed much due to global warming, the greenhouse effect and the burning of fossil fuels.

**'One swallow does not make a summer'.**  
*Aristotle,*  
(384 BC - 322 BC)

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**Letter to the Editor**

Dear Editor,  
Whatever the motivation for commemoration of 1916, it has had the effect of causing people to reflect on the state of the nation as it is 90 years after the Proclamation.

There is no doubt that the country is far removed from the oppression and widespread poverty of the time. Now we have a successful economy, an educated and a much wealthier population.

However I would contend that we are still impoverished in many ways and that the ideal nation espoused by Pearse in 1916 is still some years away if not another dead generation away.

We have a health system which is a national disgrace; where there is no respect for and too few service providers – doctors and nurses. For instance in spite of the increase in population in Tralee in recent years, there has been no corresponding increase in nurses and doctors. I am not mentioning the many other problems facing the health system. What a country?

Our Garda Siochana cannot enforce the law effectively. Crime has risen across the board. You can go through Tralee any day, drunk, drive without tax and insurance, break speed limits, intimidate local residents in housing estates, even sell Easter lillies and you will meet no Garda. There are too few Gardai. It is no wonder that a correspondent from a Tralee resident to *Questions and Answers* recently said he didn't realise there was a police force in Ireland.

Our education system is not able to respond effectively to changes in society. Children now are coming from more complicated backgrounds – family, ethnic and language. The teaching profession is becoming feminised with 83% of all teachers in primary school now female. This will mean that children will not be encouraged to play games and exercise – this may be politically incorrect to say but the fact is that women teachers are less inclined to go outdoors with their pupils than their male counterparts. Children need active and not lazy teachers and not even lazy male teachers.

Our children are fatter, less active, more amenable to sickness that 20 years ago. They are desensitised to violence and indecency. They live in a plastic reality. The average child watches 4 hours of TV per day.

Our adults are also fatter, less active and more amenable to sickness than before. They live longer with unhealthier lives. The majority never exercise even once a day and are car-bound. They drink a lot more and eat more rubbish. This can be borne out by statistics which indicate that our adults will spend 9.5 billion euro on alcohol and tobacco this year alone – up from 7 billion in 1995. As a nation we spend more on drink and tobacco than we do on food.

I believe that there is no moral guidance for people any longer. Holy, Catholic Ireland has vanished. It seems that in trying to figure out what the right thing to do, people chose what suits them. There is no regard for others. There is very little willingness to help others. People are more selfish and self-obsessed.

I think, during this Easter time, the Church needs its own resurrection. It

should stand up and assert its extraordinary mission. Let go of its ill-doings of the past, get out there and spread the Word whether in the church or in schools. Let it take on this materialization of society, the abandonment of core Christian values summed up by Christ in his statement 'do unto others as you would have them do unto you'. Why should people's lives be secularised when they clearly need moral guidance?

Consumerism, secular living, materialism, instant gratification, laziness, slothfulness and hedonism and plain old fashioned selfishness are all false gods.

I admire this newsletter for the simple reason that someone has got up, got out there and tried to create a sense of community that has become lost in Caherslee and the general Tralee area in recent years. Our country needs this type of leadership, where people are willing to make a difference, raise issues of real importance and do something for others beginning in their own locality. I think Padraig Pearse would proud of this initiative, this newspaper!

Thank you, editor - for your vision. (Name and Address with Editor)

**Austin Stacks Park**

There are many people out there who would view the sale, if and when it happens, of Austin Stack Park as bordering on sacrilegious. It has been the home of the GAA in this county for many years. The almost weekly pilgrimage to this site lives long in the memory and hearts of the old stock of this town. Our country cousins will also have many of the same memories of the stadium. We cannot stand in the way of progress, but I do suggest that a fitting, substantial memorial be erected to the memory of those greats who graced the field to the applause, cheers and shouts of many thousand of spectators, at or near this location—maybe on the roundabout currently being completed outside the grounds.

The proposed sale of the grounds does however present both Kerry County Council and Tralee Town Council with the opportunity to reassess the traffic flow, street pattern and road alignment at this location. In the event of future redevelopment being sought for the site a stipulation in approving planning should be inserted—that a portion of the site be set aside solely for the purpose improving road infrastructure in the immediate area.

**Dating Easter**

Easter Sunday is the first Sunday which occurs after the first full moon (or more accurately after the first fourteenth day of the moon) following the 21st of March (Spring Equinox). As a result, the earliest possible date of Easter is 22 March, the latest 25 April. This is the rule that applies, however for many centuries there was disagreement on the issue among various regions throughout Christendom, most notably in Ireland.

The dating of these (most) religious events and celebrations do have links to our very distant past and the rituals of a pre-Christian world including most notably to the Jewish tradition and ancient Roman festivals.

**Direction Words In Essay Tests**

Most essay test items are not presented in the form of a question. Instead, they are often presented as a statement that includes a **direction word**. The direction word tells you what you should do when you write your answer to the item. Look for the direction word and be sure to do what it tells you to do.

Here are the direction words that are most frequently used by teachers when they write essay test items. The meaning of each direction word is provided and is followed by an example of an essay test item using that direction word. Get to know what each of these direction words tells you to do.

**Analyse** - *Analyse* tells you to break something down into its parts and show how the parts relate to each other to make the whole. *Analyse* the factors that contribute to good health.

**Compare** - *Compare* tells you to show how two or more things are BOTH similar and different.

*Compare* the forms of government found in the United States and in China.

**Contrast** - *Contrast* tells you to show how two or more things are different.

*Contrast* the Communist and Democratic political platforms.

**Define** - *Define* tells you to explain the meaning of something in a brief, specific manner.

*Define* what is meant by "living life to the fullest."

**Describe** - *Describe* tells you to present a full and detailed picture of something in words to include important characteristics and qualities.

*Describe* what it was like to live in ancient Rome.

**Diagram** - *Diagram* tells you to illustrate something by drawing a picture of it and labeling its parts.

Draw a *Diagram* to illustrate the development of a river meander

**Evaluate** - *Evaluate* tells you to present both the positive and negative characteristics of something.

*Evaluate* the impact of the Irish Civil War on Irish politics.

**Explain** - *Explain* tells you to provide facts and reasons to make something clear and understandable.

*Explain* giving three reasons why World War I occurred.

**Justify** - *Justify* tells you to provide reasons and facts in support of something.

*Justify* the need for income tax.

**List** - *List* tells you to present information about something as a series of brief numbered points.

*List* the ingredients needed to make concrete.

**Outline** - *Outline* tells you to present the most important information about something in a carefully organized manner.

*Outline* what it takes to be successful in school.

**Summarise** - *Summarise* tells you to present the main points about something in a brief form.

*Summarise* how Thomas Edison's inventions have made our lives better.

**Trace** - *Trace* tells you to present the order in which something occurred.

*Trace* the major events that led to the Battle of Kinsale.

Recognising these direction words and knowing what they tell you to do will help you do well when taking an essay test.

**FACT** - Over 3,100 children and adolescents are awaiting psychiatric assessment in Ireland.

Since 1997 the proportion of the health budget, in Ireland, catering for mental health has dropped from 11% of the total health budget to under 7%. Mental health has been neglected for too long.



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**€55 million spent on Kerry Roads last year**

According to statistics based on the last census of population in 2002 Tralee with a population of 21,987 has the 4th highest population outside of the Dublin region and other cities, in the country. Outside of Dublin city and county and the other cities Co. Kerry (according to the 2002 Census) has a population of 132,527 which is 6th highest in the country. According to information I have researched Co. Kerry had the 6th highest private car ownership in the country at 52,989 in 2004 and an income from motor taxation of these private cars amounted to €18,615,629 or an average of €351 per private car.

Based on these facts then do we really believe that we are getting value for our money and for all the other taxes we pay? Many streets in this town have been and still are a disgrace—surfacing works have been delayed for too long now—Ballymullen, Rock Street, Ashe Street, Castle St.—Denny Street corner, are but a few examples. *The Irish Examiner* reported recently that major road projects in Kerry could be delayed indefinitely because of the emphasis on providing new routes in the east coast and the western corridor linking Donegal, Galway and Limerick. Kerry county engineer Tom Curran stated that, "Our only chance is that if other major schemes get held up through legalities, or otherwise, the money may then become available. Otherwise, the rate of progress achieved up to now will slow down considerably." This includes the Tralee Ring Road project.

This situation is just not good enough, we are being treated a second/third-class citizens again.

Our road infrastructure is the lifeline of our county and our towns. The majority of the population of this region are over-dependent on private transport since the provision of public transport options are very limited, if they exists at all for some areas. Motorists are paying a heavy price for the poor quality of our roads, not only in wear and tear of their vehicles but also the increasing danger of accidents due to poor surfaces, water-logged roads, subsidence etc. Surface dressing and the pothole-filling are archaic methods and short-term methods only. The quality of the materials being used is questionable also—e.g. the main Caherslee road was surfaced in 2000, but to look at it today the surface has deteriorated badly.

There is also the issue of re-instating surfaces after they have been dug up by contractors—invariably this reinstatement is patchy and poorly executed and frequently never put right. This is just not good enough!

Why do we put up with these situations—the longer we don't complain the longer this will go on.

**IRELAND TODAY 2006**

Organisations like **Combat Poverty** warn that **150,000** children nationwide live in consistent poverty.

In the first three months of this year **5,902** people lost their jobs, compared to **4,332** last year, a rise of 1,570 employees. This means an average of **523** people lost their jobs every month since January 2006.

Each family will on average pay **€1,000** more in taxes.

**32%** of Workers Now Paying Top TAX Rate Compared to **28%** in 1997.

On average, **7 Farmers a day** Leave Agriculture.

**Kerry Football—League 2006**

Kerry have once again qualified for the League Final, nothing too unusual about that given the history of Gaelic football in this county. Some would argue that as with the Championship in recent times they really had only one tough match (v Tyrone) which they lost, all be it by a couple of points. The question that most followers of the game ask is, is the present Kerry team Championship material? Too early to tell, probably. A League win for Kerry may be the catalyst that is needed to inspire Jack and the lads to progress beyond the disappointment of last years All-Ireland Final defeat.

There is no doubt about the commitment of the management and the players to achieve success and we all wish them success in this endeavour this year. Given this commitment by all concerned and given the gate receipts that they generate (gate receipts for last September's showpiece final totaled €3,744,540 - Kerry received €160,460 in team expenses and finalists' grants from the GAA) is it not time that these players and management get a fair return for the work and effort, not to mind the entertainment value—win or lose. In total the GAA received €22,446,643 in gate receipts last year and that final figure includes both football and hurling games.

The players (GPA), in my view, should invoice the GAA to the value of each player according to the stage they get to, each year, in the Championship.

**Ryder Cup 2006—in Ireland**

This prestigious golf event will only be available to 1 in 5 households as it will only be available live, on satellite TV. Many people including non-golfers, young and old, look forward to such sporting events on TV. Thousands of fans will now have to take out a subscription or wait for the highlights programmes. There is also a danger that young people will be encouraged to spend more time in pubs in order to watch the event.

Tax payers money will be spent by Failte Ireland, and government ministers will no doubt have some of the best, reserved seats, at the event!

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