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Contact us for more details: Tel. 087—76 152 76 or editor@traleetimes.com

REPORT-A-ROAD Campaign

You can now report a damaged road surface, water-logged road, potholes, dangerous surfaces, poorly maintained road etc. on our website—www.traleetimes.com and we will send a monthly Report to either Tralee Town Council or Kerry County Council based on the reports that you the public send to us.

Check it out now!

Ireland—FACT

6,586 serious criminals were out on bail at the end of 2006, including 33 homicide suspects, 595 assault suspects and 97 sexual offence suspects.

A KIDS CORNER page on www.traleetimes.com coming soon!

Local Directory on www.traleetimes.com

Contact details for Voluntary and other Organisations Add your Organisation if it's not on the list! Contact Us.

Kerry Archaeological and Historical Society

Tuesday, April 10th LECTURE "The Cailleach in Beara and Beyond" by Dr. Gearóid Ó Cruallaigh, U.C.C. in Kenmare Library 8.00 p.m.

Buildings and Lands Lying Idle

Throughout the town many factory buildings and land are lying idle. Could these lands and buildings be put to use for the benefit of the people as they are unlikely to be used as manufacturing facilities again?

Is it time for the Nuclear Debate?

Pros and Cons of Nuclear Energy
www.traleetimes.com/files/NUCLEARdebate.html

Weather in Co. Kerry

The good news is, I hope (!) that April, on average is the second driest month of the year (!). In 2006 we had a year of excessive rainfall with a total of 1730 mm (Valentia) or some 300mm more than the annual average.

So far in 2007 (19/3/07) we have had 8mm less than average for the first three months of the year. However, we are 6% up on the total for the first 3 months of 2006. Well, most of the rain fell in the autumn-winter period of 2006, and we can probably expect that trend to continue.

Temperature wise, the average temperature for the first 3 months of the year is given at 7°C. In 2006 it was 7.5°C and in 2007 to date it is 8.3°C.

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar
Rainfall Ave. 1961-1990(mm)	167.0	123.1	121.7
Rainfall Ave. 1991-2006(mm)	113.7	128.3	168.3
Temp. Ave. 1961-1990 (°C)	8.8	6.6	7.6
Temp. Ave. 1991-2006 (°C)	7.4	7.6	8.4

NOTE: The above figures are compiled using the www.met.ie and the www.cso.ie websites.

More information is being updated on our website www.traleetimes.com, just go to the LINKS and CONTENT page and find the Weather link.

Traleee Times

Caherslee News

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www.traleetimes.com

The main content of Tralee Times magazine is available on the web: www.traleetimes.com free of charge. We would like to encourage you to sample our website and send us an e-mail or use the FEEDBACK page to send your comments.

editor@traleetimes.com

Just Not Good Enough..!

For the past decade the Irish economy has been better than at any time in this nation's past. Employment and revenue has grown year on year. Emigration in the past ten years has been at the lowest levels since records began. Wages and standards of living have increased substantially for many (not all). Ireland has become one of the better economies of Europe.

Yet, while we outwardly portray such affluence and economic success, inwardly the lives of many of our people, our society and the day to day tasks and struggles leave a lot to be desired.

Health: A & E departments are struggling to cope; our children and older people have serious difficulties accessing quality health care; the elderly fear the outcome of having to pay for nursing home care.

Education: Classrooms are seriously overcrowded; our children, in many cases, have to endure very unhealthy conditions in dilapidated buildings.

Infrastructure: Motorists have to endure seriously damaged road surfaces daily; traffic congestion in our towns is all too common. Broadband services are too slow, too expensive, unreliable and inaccessible for many.

Poverty: Poverty has not gone away,

you know! Thousands of people are still homeless.

Crime: Anti-social behaviour is rampant; elderly people live in fear in their own homes; Gardai are inadequately resourced; murder and gun related crimes are more common.

These are just some of the issues and concerns of ordinary people in our society today. Many of these have been around for many years and as a nation we have struggled to address these issues and concerns. In a time of plenty these are the things that should be prioritised.

There has been untold waste of tax payers money (your money) on ill conceived and poorly developed projects and ideas, in the past decade.

While we complain among ourselves about the state of the nation are we prepared to do anything about it. We should demand accountability, we should demand better services, we should demand that the needs of the most vulnerable in society be cared for more than adequately.

Demand higher and better standards from our public representatives, from government, from public services.

Your vote is your voice in 2007! Use it.

A Directory of Contact Details for

All Local Services is available FREE on: www.traleetimes.com

www.traleetimes.com

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Fixing the Date for 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. As a result, the earliest possible date of Easter is 22 March, the latest 25 April.

Class Size—An Educational Tragedy

FACT: Class sizes in Ireland are the second highest in the European Union. While we have one of the most advanced economies in Europe there is no excuse for this situation to prevail.

Promises have been made by government to reduce class size but these have not materialized. Class-size is NOT the same as pupil-teacher ratio. Reducing class size would have a real positive impact on your child's education.

There is little doubt that with a reduction in class-size your child would benefit from more individual attention and assessment.

This issue must be prioritised so that all our children can gain maximum benefit in preparation for an even more competitive environment in the years ahead.

Green Spaces or No Green Spaces

There is an unease among many residents in many areas of Tralee about the manner in which Tralee Town Council are actively targeting open or green spaces within the town for the development of new houses.

Most of the targeted areas have been open or green areas for many years and are located in mature and older residential areas. As such, in many peoples view, are therefore unsuitable for new housing developments. If Tralee Town Council do succeed in developing even one such open or green areas then they will have set a precedent. No open or green space will be safe thereafter.

We in *Tralee Times* would suggest that there should be a Residents Associations Forum, to which delegates from all residents associations in Tralee are invited. This Forum should be organized by residents, for residents and not be hi-jacked by any political grouping or individual.

The purpose of this Forum would be to inform, educate and share with residents how best to deal with issues and concerns that arise periodically.

As an initial step to gauge interest in this process we have developed a page on our website:

www.traleetimes.com where residents associations can register an interest to explore such a concept.

Job Vacancies can be Advertised on our Website
www.traleetimes.com Contact us.

MRSA Survey by the HSE

The results of the latest HSE survey on the prevalence of Healthcare Associated Infections suggested that 1 in 200 patients in Irish hospitals contracted a serious infection. The survey also showed that there had been no reduction in the levels of MRSA.

The survey placed an emphasis on four major sites of infection - primary bloodstream infection, pneumonia, urinary tract infection and surgical site infection. The results mean that one in every 200 hospital patients is contracting a very serious infection, like blood poisoning or pneumonia, while in hospital. This doesn't even take into account the thousands of patients who are colonised by MRSA or who contract a minor infection. A relevant example is a contrast between Ireland, where 592 people were infected with blood borne MRSA in 2005, and Norway where, with a similar population, 4 bloodstream infections were recorded in the same year.

Irish Inflation Figures

Ireland is the most expensive country in Europe and we are accelerating away from the rest. In the last 12 months Irish inflation has increased 60% faster than in the rest of the Eurozone.

Prices set or regulated by the Government have risen 2.5 times faster in Ireland than in the EU.

The source of Ireland's surge to become the most expensive country in Europe is to be found in Government-fixed or regulated prices.

According to **Brainwave**, The Irish Epilepsy Association, 1 in 131 people in Ireland have epilepsy but many have to wait up to two years to see a neurologist.

Schools Projects (?)

79 schools were given the go-ahead for new buildings or major works over the past 18 months showed that zero construction had actually taken place at 84% of these projects since getting the go-ahead.

The physical conditions at many schools are sub-standard, and overcrowding is endemic. Some schools even face big health and safety concerns regarding faulty wiring, unsafe structures or toilet facilities that wouldn't look out of place in a school from 1907.

GARDAI
Tralee 066—71 22 0 22
Confidential Line: 1800 666 111

APRIL in Irish History

April 1 1911 - The Titanic is launched in Belfast

April 4 1994 - Riverdance appears in public for the very first time at the Eurovision Song Contest in Dublin

April 5 1962—Guinness formally adopts the harp as its symbol

April 9 1916 - The merchant ship Aud leaves Germany for Ireland with arms for the Irish Republican Brotherhood

April 12 1847 - The American relief ship, Jamestown, lands supplies in Cork for famine victims

April 13 1829 - The Catholic Emancipation Act receives royal assent on this date; it permits Catholic men who can afford the poll tax to enter Parliament and hold civil and military offices

April 15 1912 - The Titanic sinks on her maiden voyage with the loss of 1,513 souls, many of them Irish; 732 survive

April 17 2003 - The country sizzles as the temperature soars to 24°C/72°F in places.

April 19 1780 - Henry Grattan moves resolutions in favour of legislative independence in Irish House of Commons

April 20 1176 - Strongbow, Anglo-Norman lord, dies in Dublin

April 23 1014 - The Dublin Norse and the king of Leinster, with Viking allies from overseas, are defeated by Brian Boru's army at Clontarf. Brian, now an old man, is killed. This thwarts the potential domination of Ireland by the Norse, but they are well established in the coastal towns, and will continue to have a major influence. Máel Sechnaill succeeds Brian as high king

April 27 1923 - De Valera announces end of operations against the Irish Free State, effectively ending the Irish Civil War

April 30 1942 - Because of petrol rationing, all private motoring in Ireland is banned, and bicycle thefts soar overnight.

FULL TEXT:
www.traleetimes.com

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e-mail news from your Club or Organisation and we'll place it on our website.
Contact:
editor@traleetimes.com

WORLD HISTORY—March 15:

44 BC: THE IDES OF MARCH:

Gaius Julius Caesar, dictator of Rome, is stabbed to death in the Roman Senate house by 60 conspirators led by Marcus Junius Brutus and Gaius Cassius Longinus.

Caesar, born into the Julii, an ancient but not particularly distinguished Roman aristocratic family, began his political career in 78 B.C. as a prosecutor for the anti-patrician Popular Party.

Caesar was assassinated on March 15, 44 B.C., by a group of conspirators who believed that his death would lead to the restoration of the Roman Republic. However, the result of the "Ides of March" was to plunge Rome into a fresh round of civil wars, out of which Octavian, Caesar's grand-nephew, would emerge as Augustus, the first Roman emperor, destroying the republic forever.

FULL TEXT ON:
www.traleetimes.com IN THE LINKS PAGE

EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) Report on Climate Change and it's impact on Ireland.

Key findings:

- an increase in mean (average) temperatures by 2 °C
 - autumn temperatures to increase by 2.7 °C
 - summer temperatures to increase by 2.5 – 3.0 °C
 - winter precipitation to increase by between 11% and 17%
 - summer precipitation to decrease by between 14% and 25%
 - the Midlands is likely to have the highest % increase in temperature in winter
 - the South and East are likely to have the greatest reductions in temperature in the summer
 - in the period 2021–2060 an increase in January temperatures of 1.25 °C and 1.5 °C in July temperatures
- precipitation increases in all months except March, June, July and December of between 10% and 25% is expected

Happy Heart Campaign

Volunteers required to help with the Campaign in May. Weekend of May 11th to 13th., 2007. If you would like to help, please contact: Ann Riordan, Tel. 021-4505 822 or email: ariordan@irishheart.ie

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Thomas Jefferson [3rd president of US (1743 - 1826)]