

Tralee Times

Caherslee News

Volume 2 No. 3

May 2007

www.traleetimes.com

Log onto our website, which is constantly in the process of development and is also updated very regularly.

We have put together a truly helpful and comprehensive LINKS page which is very easy to use.

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NOVENA 2007 IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA

At
Holy Cross
Dominican Church, Tralee
Preacher: Fr. Joe O'Brien O.P.
(Cork)

Sat. 5th May—Sun. 13th May

Saturdays & Weekdays:

Masses 11am & 7.30pm

Sunday 6th May :

Mass for Healing 3pm

Sunday 13th May:

Closure

(Benediction, Sermon & May
Procession: 3pm)

Decision by Town Council on Marks & Spencers

Marks and Spencers should have been welcomed to Tralee in the best interests of the town. The Town Council has not represented the majority of those that elected them in voting against the proposed move by Marks and Spencers.

The public outcry that resulted in a U-turn by these politicians does nothing for the reputation of these councilors who voted against it in the first place.

That said, the electorate must recognize that it is they who put these people in the responsible position of looking after and furthering the best interests of the town and its entire population.

There are other areas of concern that have not been tackled effectively by our councilors, on behalf of the people: The town may have improved in how our streetscape looks but it does not function well—traffic management issues are unsatisfactorily dealt with; parking within the town centre is not user friendly; derelict buildings throughout the town still not dealt with; planning issues relating to high rise developments; there is no real alternative to bring ones car into town—a very limited public bus service.

These are just some of the latest issues that people have spoken to me about. There are other issues—Contact *Tralee Times* if you have other issues that affect you.

Water Crisis in Galway— Could It Happen Here?

Road Fund Allocation for Co. Kerry in 2007

According to Kerry County Council, the total sum available for roadworks in 2007 is €48,658,780 which does not include Public Lighting, Local Improvement Schemes, Clár Allocations, Gaeltacht Grants or Administration. This is an overall **reduction** of €4,547,124 from the 2006 allocation and is reflective of a decrease in the National Road Authority Allocation to the County where at present there is no major capital project under construction.

The sum available for national roads is €22,036,980 and the non-national allocation is €26,621,800.

**Austin Stacks Juvenile
Club Notes updated
weekly on
www.traleetimes.com**

Health, Education, Infrastructure, Employment.....Investment.....etc

North Kerry has not seen its fair share of funding or initiatives in these areas in the past decade. When a downturn in the economy appears on the horizon it is likely we will be one of the first areas to suffer also. Kerry needs a major boost in investment to be competitive in the long-term.

Condition of Caherslee Main Road

Try cycling on the main Caherslee—Mounthawk road, as I did recently and prepare to carry with you a radar devise that alerts you to the latest and unexpected pothole or what I describe as the 'infant' pothole. The 'birth-rate' for potholes on this road in quite high for a so called developed economy. Remember too that infants grow up and get bigger, especially when fed with a mixture of nutrients. In the case of the 'infant potholes' rain, heat and plenty of rubber (as in tyres) contribute to exceptional growth.

Road surface conditions throughout the town have improved significantly in recent years. However there are still many roads in need of immediate attention. See www.traleetimes.com for photos and see also our **REPORT-A-ROAD** campaign page—your chance to report a road that needs immediate attention.

One hopes that the materials used in road resurfacing has improved in quality and that sufficient screening and testing of these materials is done before they are laid.

Junctions throughout the town that cater for significant traffic volumes need to be surfaced with an asphalt type material to maintain the integrity of the surface, particularly in the winter months i.e. Listowel Rd. /North Circular Rd. /John Joe Sheehy Rd etc.

Happy Heart Weekend
National fundraising event
Happy Heart Weekend
Thurs 10th May – Sat 12th
May 2007

Schools Promised

79 schools 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 nod from the Education Minister

'Towards 2016' Pay Deal

Is this pay deal already unraveling? 10% over 27 months. It seems unlikely that this will adequately compensate workers when inflation rates and interest rates and fuel prices etc. are taken into account. This does not include the cost of various 'stealth taxes'.

www.traleetimes.com

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Fuel Price Survey—'At the Pumps'

We conducted a survey on petrol/diesel prices throughout the town on Saturday 28th April 2007. The lowest price for Unleaded was 111.9 cent/litre and the lowest for Diesel was 103.9 cent/litre.

The full survey results, which will be conducted and updated weekly, is available on our website: www.traleetimes.com

Exiting Lioscarraig

Tralee Times is highlighting once again the hazard that is, **exiting** Lioscarraig for motorists. The vision of the exiting motorist is very limited due to the presence of vehicles parked in or near the exit on the main road, and speeding vehicles on the main road.

Furthermore it is suggested that there is a need to install **ramps** along the main road within the Lioscarraig area.

Pairc na Dun does not have either a stop sign or a solid white stop line at its exit onto the main road—this too must be remedied.

If you have any issues of this nature or other issues you want addressed please do contact us.

Those on a disability pension have discovered that the All-Ireland free travel scheme does not apply to them.

**Kerins O' Rahilly GAA
Green & Gold LOTTO Results on
www.traleetimes.com**

Irish History in MAY

May 1 1794 - Catholics are enabled by law to attend Trinity College.

May 2 1882 - Charles Stewart Parnell is released under the terms of the "Kilmainham Treaty"; writing off the debts of tenants in arrears. A landmark in the land agitation movement (and Parnell's career).

May 3 1916 - Patrick Pearse, Thomas Clarke and Thomas MacDonagh executed by firing squad in Kilmainham jail.

May 6 2000 - Large crowds turn out in bright summer sunshine in Fenit, Co. Kerry, where President Mary McAleese officially christens the three-masted, famine ship replica, the *Jeanie Johnston*.

May 13 1981 - Pope John Paul II survives an assassination attempt in St Peter's Square, Rome.

May 24 1921 - 1st parliament for Northern Ireland is elected.

May 29 1917 - Birth of John Fitzgerald Kennedy, the 35th US president, in Brookline, Mass.

Visit www.traleetimes.com for the full list of selected historical events in Irish history for the month of May.

**Kerry Deaf Resource
weekly updates on
www.traleetimes.com**

Education Needs Change

Even though **maximum class** guidelines are set at 28 pupils per teacher, the reality is that more than 110,000 primary school children are in classes of 30 or more.

National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS), 50% of primary schools are still outside the service?

Over the coming five years, it is estimated by the Department of Education and Science that the **number of children at primary school level** will increase by close to 60,000. We will need about 2,300 classrooms to accommodate them alone.

A **review of retention figures** is needed - we need to build some flexibility into the current system, which can allow schools lose a teacher if one family and one child leaves the community. We also need to examine **the rules governing developing schools** and ensure that schools which are growing in size substantially and quickly are awarded the resources they need.

In terms of local planning, the disconnect between the provision of housing, and the provision of schools, must be ended. **Local authorities** should have the power to require that the provision of sites for community buildings such as schools - or payments towards such facilities - is a part of new residential developments.

Local authorities award the **planning permissions** for new housing, but often take a back seat in planning for school development. Why should the authority that awards planning for housing developments not also consider the future educational needs of those living in their authority areas?

Pre-school works. It puts in place vital buildings blocks which help the child to learn. It gives the child the opportunity to develop important social, as well as educational, skills. And, pre-school education is linked to later educational achievement and success, giving children the best start in a world full of learning.

There is **no one solution** to the problems that our schools face. An **agenda for action** on a number of fronts, which places a high priority on delivering for children with special educational needs, driving down class sizes, giving schools greater autonomy in planning for their future and in meeting the needs of their pupils, and reform of our approach to education will lead to the best solution to the challenges our schools now face.

A new agenda for reform is achievable, and when delivered Ireland's education sector could be significantly enhanced to serve the best interests of all children and young people.

'I was always taught to respect my elders and I've now reached the age when I don't have anybody to respect.'

George Burns (Actor 1896—1996)

Tralee Times wants to hear from you. Visit www.traleetimes.com and submit a comment or two in on our FEEDBACK page. All comments will be treated with confidence. Or simply 'phone or text comments to 087—76 152 76.

Road Safety

A new report showing that Ireland has the worst level of road deaths for young people in the EU reflects the fact that Ireland has one of the laxest driving regimes in Europe. Not surprised that young Irish people are dying in greater numbers than those in any other European country. From the moment they first take to the road they are driving in a regime which lacks any standard of performance, let alone excellence.

New drivers are not required to take lessons or pass a test. Even if they want to take a test they have to wait for up to ten months. Rules which require them to be accompanied by a qualified driver and to avoid motorways are ignored.

Speed limits outside cities and towns are still wholly inappropriate. The promised widespread introduction of speed cameras never materialised and the Traffic Corps is virtually invisible.

Many aspects of the Road Safety Strategy 2004-2006 have still not been implemented, such as a nationwide network of speed cameras. Young peoples' driving behaviour is shaped by the driving regime administered by officialdom. The official approach has been lax, undemanding and indifferent. It's small wonder that our young people are picking up these signals and driving accordingly. That will only change when the approach to driving instruction, testing, licensing and enforcement changes.

Suggestions might include:

- a compulsory minimum number of driving lessons;
- new teaching methods including regional driver training centres to teach driving skills in safe conditions;
- additional driving testers to cut the appalling backlog;
- a nationwide audit of non-national roads to ensure they meet minimum safety standards;
- a nationwide review of speed limits and inaccurate direction signs;
- roll out the long-awaited nationwide system of speed cameras, which currently only operate in Dublin, Louth and Meath.

Road Safety and Education

I suggest that there should be in-service training for a teacher, in every school in the country, on road safety issues so that the message of road safety can become part of the curriculum at both primary and secondary level.

Road safety awareness for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists is a life-skill that cannot be neglected, particularly in young people.

Today in World History—May 2nd 1945 : German troops in Italy surrender to the Allies, while Berlin surrenders to Russia's Zhukov.

On this day in 1945, approximately 1 million German soldiers lay down their arms as the terms of the German unconditional surrender, signed at Caserta on April 29, come into effect. Many Germans surrender to Japanese soldiers-Japanese Americans. Among the American tank crews that entered the northern Italian town of Biella was an all-Nisei (second-generation) infantry battalion, composed of Japanese Americans from Hawaii.

Early that same day, Russian Marshal Georgi K. Zhukov accepts the surrender of the German capital. The Red Army takes 134,000 German soldiers prisoner.

Visit www.traleetimes.com for more world history events.

FACT: Ireland's Overseas Development Aid target for 2007 not achieved, despite promises.

Weather Update—April 2007

Valentia Observatory recorded 50.9mm of **rainfall** for April. The average (mean) is 77.0mm for the month. The total rainfall for the first 1/3 of this year is 471.4mm (Average is 488.8mm).

The average or mean temperature for April is 8.9°C, in 2007 it was 10.9°C.

The wettest period was from the 20th—25th April. Sunshine hours exceeded more than 12 hours a day on at least 5 different days.

On the 2nd of May, according to Valentia Observatory, the maximum temperature was 22.5°C, and there were 13.4 sunshine hours.

We have witnessed therefore one of the driest, brightest and warmest months of April in many years. Further information on www.traleetimes.com and on www.met.ie

Age Group	Males	Females	Persons
0-14	443,044	421,405	864,449
15-24	321,007	311,725	632,732
25-44	681,988	663,885	1,345,873
45-64	468,037	460,831	928,868
65 years +	207,095	260,831	467,926
Total	2,121,171	2,118,677	4,239,848

What the Latest Census Figures Reveal

The following are some of the statistics that are revealed by the latest Census figures from Census 2006. The total population in 2006 was 4,239,848 (3,917,203 in 2002) an increase of c. 8.24% since the last Census. This is the second highest % increase since 1901. (Highest increase in 1981 = 15.26% increase on 1971 Census).

0 – 14 age group accounts for 20.39% (864,449 persons); 15 – 24 age group at 14.92% (632,732 persons); The 25 – 44 age group is at 31.74% (1,345,873 persons); 45 – 64 age group accounts for 21.90% or (928,868 persons) and the 65 + age group is at 11.04% (467,926 persons).

There are a number of interesting factors emerging from these statistics, including that we have had a higher birth rate during the past few years and therefore the demand for pre-school and primary school places are on the increase. The numbers of persons needing secondary school places will increase as will the places in colleges in due course.

Since the 25 – 44 age group is highest (31.74%) then the assumption is that there will be more marriages and the consequent increase in birth rate to continue is likely. There is also the fact that if marriage rates increase the housing demand will continue. 32% (c. 1/3) of the population is over 45 years and therefore provision for pensions and aged care is significant for the medium future.

Almost 1½ a million people in Ireland today are 45 years old + and this has serious implications for the provision of health care, pensions and services for this older segment of the population.

Broadband Availability and Irish Business

IrelandOffline today said that the current business broadband statistics from ComReg were “startling”. The statistics showed that for the second year in a row 47% of businesses using dialup and ISDN had no choice in the matter after trying and failing to get broadband because of lack of availability.

Damien Mulley, chairman of IrelandOffline stated “While a lot has been done of late, including the national broadband tender (to be announced tomorrow), these ComReg statistics show that our knowledge economy is being further damaged when businesses throughout the country still cannot avail of broadband. We can't run a 21st century economy using 20th century technology”

Mulley added “All candidates in the upcoming election need to make broadband availability a top priority as it directly affects education, health and jobs. Broadband is not just about surfing the web but about making life easier for businesses and consumers by connecting them.”

www.irelandoffline.org (2nd May 2007) also visit www.comreg.ie

Examination Time

While most of us will enjoy the fine weather, or whatever is left of it (!) please be aware that there are hundreds of students in second level and third level studying and preparing of examinations at this time.

Try to make life as easy as possible for them and try to remember how you felt when you did exams. ‘in the distant past’ (!)

Tralee Times wishes all those students the best of good luck with the papers they sit in the coming weeks.

Teaching Foreign Nationals in Our Schools

Most primary schools in larger urban area throughout the State have many pupils enrolled whose native language is not English. While enrollment figures are strong and therefore the retention of teachers in these schools is assured, there is little or no evidence that extra resources are being made available to cater for the needs of these students and their teachers.

A programme of in-service training and extra resources must be made available to ease the integration of these pupils into our existing educational programmes. Teachers already dealing with overcrowded classrooms must, as a priority, be catered for also. A review of existing educational programmes to cater for these students may be necessary too. We cannot ignore this issue and we must embrace change and our approach to assisting these students and their teachers.

‘The ability to focus attention on important things is a defining characteristic of intelligence.’

Rober J. Shiller

Irrational Exuberance

www.traleetimes.com
Links Page for ALL local services and contact details

1 in 3 adults has high cholesterol

One in three Irish adults has a cholesterol level greater than five - the maximum level recommended by health professionals, a national screening initiative has revealed.

Current European guidelines state that the average person should try to maintain a total cholesterol level of less than or equal to 5mmol/L (millimoles per litre).

Over 3,000 people in 22 counties were screened to assess their heart health. Of these, 33% had a cholesterol level higher than five, while 32% had never had their cholesterol or blood pressure checked before.

Those screened were aged between 18 and 91, although the average age was 48.

Despite the fact that heart disease is Ireland's number one killer, many of those screened admitted that they never gave their heart much thought and were not even aware what their cholesterol level should be.

A breakdown of the figures meanwhile revealed that women were more likely to have high cholesterol than men, with 36% of women testing higher than the recommended level of five, compared to 29% of men.

The screening results also revealed a number of regional differences. While nationally, 33% of people had high cholesterol, this figure changed significantly depending on the county. Mayo came out worst, with 63% of people tested registered cholesterol levels of above five. It was followed by Tipperary (52%), Offaly (48%), Sligo (46%) and Westmeath (42%).

Those in Donegal recorded the lowest average of people with high cholesterol, with just 16% testing higher than five. This was followed by Carlow and Laois (both 17%), Galway (20%) and Leitrim (23%).

www.irishhealth.com

Balloonagh Primary School

Balloonagh Primary School is the largest primary school in Co. Kerry with well over 650 pupils. More than 40% of the pupils in the school are taught in pre-fabricated buildings many of which date back to the mid-1970's or earlier.

Intense lobbying has taken place in the recent past to seek funding for a new building in the current site, the land is available on site but the necessary government funding isn't. The staff and parents at the school have drawn up detailed plans of what is required and great efforts have been made to try and secure the necessary funding.

This situation is not good enough and is replicated in many other areas throughout the country.

Rogue Tradesmen

Beware these people do still exist and do not entertain them. These people prey on the most vulnerable in our community.

Alternative Energy—Wind Farms in Ireland

Ireland's total capacity is 866.15KW generated from 88 wind farms in 19 counties. In Co. Kerry there are 7 wind farms which supply a total capacity of 77.90MW or just 9% of the total capacity in Ireland.

No.	Location	Capacity	Comissioned
1.	Beenageeha	4.00MW	1 January 2000
2.	Tursillagh 1	15.20MW	1 January 2000
3.	Beal Hill 1	1.70MW	1 January 2000
4.	Beal Hill 2	2.60MW	1 January 2003
5.	Tursillagh 2	6.80MW	1 January 2004
6.	Mount Eagle	5.10MW	1 January 2005
7.	Kilgarvan/ Coomagearlachy	42.50MW	1 January 2006

Visit www.iwea.com for more information

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in 2007. Use it!**

Motoring Statistics

Petrol consumption in 2005 was 93% higher than in 1990, an almost doubling of consumption.

Diesel consumption was 249% higher than in 1990, three and a half times the 1990 level.

The number of vehicles on Irish roads exceeded two million for the first time in 2004 reaching 2,138,680 vehicles by the end of 2005. Of these there were 1.66 million private cars or 77.7% of the total. Private car ownership increased by 5% in 2005 and resulted in an increase in car density to 507 cars per 1000 adults, compared to an EU-15 average of 594. There is now one car for every two adults in Ireland.

There is an increasing preference towards larger cars. The number of cars in the 1.7 to 1.9 litre range grew by 478% since 1990 and cars with engine size greater than 1.9 litre range grew by 236%.

The specific fuel consumption for new petrol cars on the roads in Ireland in 2005 was 7.2 litres/100km (40 miles to the gallon, mpg). This represents a increase of 1.6% (decrease in fuel efficiency) on the average consumption in 2000 and indicates that, overall, the weighted average of newly purchased petrol cars is becoming less fuel efficient. The comparable 2005 figure for new diesel cars was 6.3 litres/100km (45 mpg.), which was 2.1% higher than in 2000.

Average emissions for all private cars in Ireland in 2005 were 166.2 CO₂/km.

The combined average mileage for petrol and diesel cars in 2005 was 16,892 kilometers (10,498 miles).

Diesel car average = 23,811 km (14,799 miles)

Petrol car average = 15,966 km (9,923 miles).

Average mileage for all private cars has fallen by 9.9% (2.3% per annum on average) over the period 2000—2005.

Diesel car average mileage fell by 2.7% per annum.

Petrol car average mileage fell by 1.8% per annum.

Many households now own two (or more cars) which will typically increase the transport energy usage per household but will also reduce the per car average mileage.

Total mileage by all private cars increased by 13% over the period 2001-2005. Mileage by petrol cars increased by 11% and diesel cars by 23%.

Information available from Sustainable Energy Ireland website—visit www.traleetimes.com and the www.sei.ie link in our LINKS page.

Recommended

If you have an interest in green energy alternatives etc. do visit <http://wood-pellet-Ireland.blogspot.com/> created by a local Caherslee resident Tony McGinley.

Election Posters—LITTER! - Comment

Election posters litter every available post and pole throughout the town and county. I suggest that there should be designated site(s) where election posters can be posted and grouped together rather than littering all areas. Furthermore, why not return to the days when all candidates, for all elections, stood on a platform in public and seek election by outlining why we should vote for them. This might curtail the massive spend on posters and paper and waste.

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www.traleetimes.com

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