

IRISH FARMERS JOURNAL

IRISH COUNTRY LIVING

15 JUNE 2024



Family footsteps

To celebrate Father's Day, Eliza and Evie Ward chat about following in the entrepreneurial footsteps of their dad Peter



PEAK GROWTH

As gardens and growth head for their summer peak, make the most now of the best growing conditions of the year



FLOWER POWER
Mary Keenan picks a selection of popular flowering shrubs and perennials.



WHAT TO DO NOW
15 pages packed with timely advice from *The Irish Garden* team of expert gardeners



SEDUCTIVE SUCCULENTS
Join the trend for growing these fascinating, exotic-looking plants

EDITORIAL



Ciara Leahy
cleahy@farmersjournal.ie

It's going to be busy on John Dunnes' farm in Shanagarry in east Cork this Thursday evening and Friday morning as hundreds of farmers attend Goldcrop's open days. Years ago, I remember the excitement of the open days but not as a journalist, from a very different perspective – inside the doors of Goldcrop. For 25 years, my Dad worked there. After leaving school, he made his way down the South Mall in Cork to work in Suttons and later, he followed the path down Centre Park Road to Goldcrop.

Probably 20 years later, I remember helping to pack up the office as they made the big move to Carrigtwohill. As Dad and I drove away from Centre Park Road for the last time, I remember him saying that, after every big event in his life – getting married, children being born, he got up on the Monday morning and drove to that office.

I was thinking about this recently writing our front cover feature with Janine Kennedy. On page 6, we feature three Irish family businesses – Keoghs Crisps, Finline Furniture and Nutshed. The common theme throughout is family working together. Tom Keogh, Ciaran Finane and Eliza and Evie Ward all followed in their parent's footsteps and talk about how their father is still a constant support as they bring their business forward.

HUFFING AND PUFFING

In my situation, it isn't a family business but when I went to college, I worked in Goldcrop during the summers. All I can say is, my poor Dad. My father is a man that likes to be in the office early, and probably never was late a day in his life...until I started working with him and he had to haul me out the door. I remember him huffing and puffing as we sat in traffic in the Jack Lynch tunnel on the way to Carrigtwohill; and querying my questionable filing system. If Dad hadn't ended up in Goldcrop though, he would have made an excellent teacher and I also remember him teaching me about different crops and how to balance books; lessons I didn't think I would need later in life, but turned out to be quite valuable. I also remember us laughing in the car together listening to *Gift Grub* on the radio and being glued to the sports coverage when Cork hurling was in their golden days in the early noughties. Indeed, they are happy memories.

In Ireland, there are 173,000 family businesses. Collectively, these businesses employ nearly a million people and there are many families working together every day on farms. I'm sure it's not always easy. In fact, when people have very different views on the direction of a business, there can be difficult days. But as Tom Keogh says, it can also be a privilege to work with family and spend that time together, and it's an important one to remember this Father's Day.

While we have lovely uplifting reads this week, there is an article that some readers may find tough. Sadly, Katherine O'Leary recently found out that her cancer has returned. Her column (page 40) is raw and heartbreaking as she recounts the devastating moment when her doctor delivered the news. Although Katherine had told me her news before sending her column, I still read it through watery eyes. I know many readers have followed Katherine's journey, not just in the last year when she had her first diagnosis, but over the last 20 years that she has been writing in *Irish Country Living*, so I'm conscious it may be difficult to read.

However, I remember the editorial that I wrote back in February when Katherine had gotten the all-clear and Brenda O'Donoghue had visited the farm with RTE Countrywide. She spoke about how touched she was by our readers and the support she received. The well-wishes came from far and wide and I'm sure you'll join me once again in wishing Katherine and her family good health and happiness. Katherine, we're right here with you. **CL**



10 FARMING FILM STAR

Philip and Marina Dolan pictured at their renovated train station home in Knockcroghery Co Roscommon. Philip makes his film debut in *That They May Face the Rising Sun*



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The wedding cake viburnum is in full flower and it's a beautiful sight to see

A WEEK IN THE COUNTRY

Poetry Corner

DROP A LINE

From *Bar Stool Notions of Poetry*
by Jonathan Roth

*“Penny dropped me a line yesterday”
Any news?
No, not much to say
Did you reply?
No, I’m getting some paper today*

*Where does to “drop a line”
come from?
Many hundreds of years ago
Our forefathers went to the post box
And ‘dropped’ their letters in to go.*

*Will you drop me a line
when you arrive?
This custom no longer survives.
No more dropping in the mail
Now it’s all WhatsApp and email.*

*But maybe it is the same
Email versus snail mail
But the pen in the hand is
still the best
As most Elder Lemons will attest.*

*The lovely weight of the
Montblanc pen
Is the signature of men
The ink flows on the page
To drop a line at any age.*

NUMBER OF THE WEEK

500,000

500,000 people identified as carers countrywide in 2023, according to Family Carers Ireland. Read more about the challenge of balancing care with the needs of the carer

PAGES 10-11

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“ We found it the time of the war, in the west side of the bog. ‘Twas a three sod bog. We were cutting away and the next thing we saw this little bit of timber falling out

PAGE 29

Picture of the week



Three-year-old Paddy Burke just loves watching the JF850 Harvester in action at silage time.

Submitted by Gerard Burke, Co Mayo

ONLINE PICK OF THE WEEK

Do you have an idea for a regenerative tourism project in the midlands? Don't forget that 30 June is the closing date to get your proposal in for the Regenerative Tourism and Placemaking Scheme. Co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the EU Just Transition fund, its ambition is to attract more visitors to the midland counties and lengthen their stay by expanding the range of attractions to see and enjoy.



Paddy Mathews, head of operations for Ireland's Hidden Heartlands at Fáilte Ireland

Cock's foot seed heads



Growing Wild

With Dr Catherine Keena, Teagasc Countryside Management Specialist

Look out for cock's foot seed heads which are tufted, triangular flowerheads comprising clumps of spikelets. As its name as Gaelige suggests, garbh fhéar or rough grass becomes coarse and unpalatable after flowering. It does yield well especially early and withstands drought because of its deep roots.

While normally best to let nature take its course and not sow 'wild' flowers where ground cover is needed to outcompete problem weeds or invasive alien species, sowing cock's foot seed is recommended and is sown in arable grass margins in ACRES. Cock's foot grows in dense tussocks ideal for overwintering spiders and sites for egg laying invertebrates and is part of our native Irish biodiversity.

EVENT

Garden and Galleries

Innishannon in Co Cork celebrates its 7th Gardens and Galleries event over the weekend of 29 and 30 June.

Beginning at the Parish Hall, your €10 ticket offers access to all the events, details of all the participating venues, and free transport to some of the beautiful gardens in outlying areas.

Don't forget to tour the many varied gardens and exhibitions in the heart of the village either, like for example, the new Linen Garden created to celebrate the local GAA field's past use as home to a linen industry in years gone by.

There will be history walks of the village, nature walks through Dromkeen Wood, gramophone recitals in Rohu's Country Market and a mini vintage show.



Preparing for Gardens and Galleries in Innishannon is from left; Gerry Foley, Alice Taylor, Mary Nolan O'Brien and Peter Fehily



It is important to structure a farm business to lessen the stress of bereavement, should a partner pass away, writes **Aisling Meehan**

Recently, my friend's husband sadly passed away unexpectedly. As well as it being a very sad time, it has also been stressful as their affairs were not in order. Like ourselves, they were farming together for years. Now she is snowed under with administrative details from banks, accountants and other entities that her late husband used to deal with.

Hopefully, both my husband and I will be around to enjoy our later years but my friend's situation has certainly given me a wake-up call. What should we do to get our affairs in order?

ANSWER: I am sorry to hear about your friend's situation. Bereavement, especially when the death was unexpected can mean spouses or partners have to face sudden legal issues as well as emotional and financial turmoil. This is at a time when they are least able to cope. I'm sure you are a good support to her but you're also right to look at your own situation. A few simple steps while both people are hale and hearty can make things a lot more manageable when a death occurs.

PROPERTY IN JOINT NAMES

Many people incorrectly assume that if they are married, their spouse automatically owns half of what they own. That is not the case. Unless property is legally transferred into both their names as co-owners, they have no automatic ownership rights. It is important to look at your own situation.

If it is not in both names, it would be worth amending. Property can be held as either joint tenants or as tenants in common.

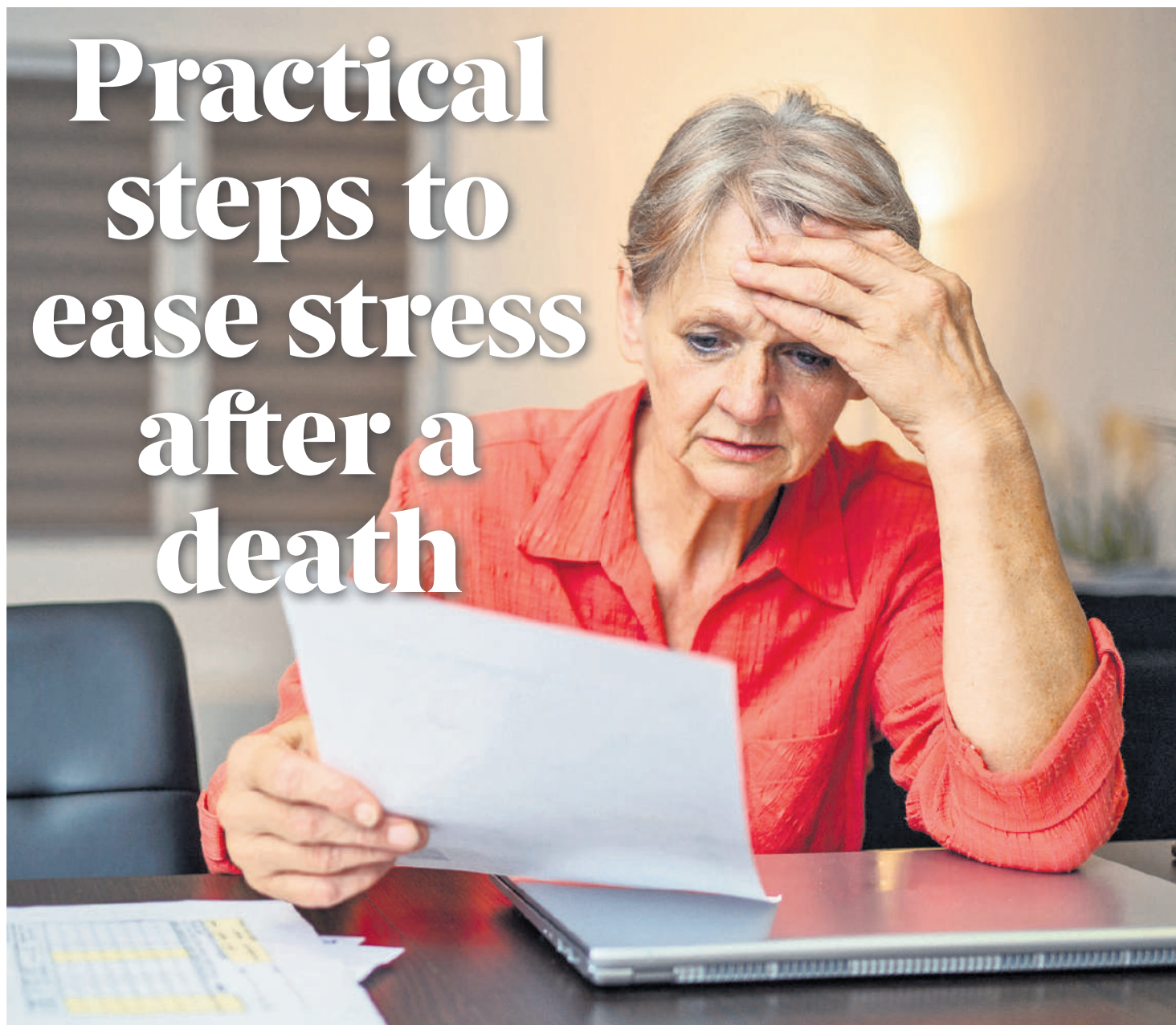
In the case of joint tenancy which would be typical of how property is held between spouses, the property will automatically pass to the surviving spouse on the death of the other co-owner.

The benefit is that it can avoid probate having to be taken out. The drawback is if the co-owner that passes intended to transfer the farm to someone else, such as a son or daughter under a Will, that would not take effect – as the property would automatically go to the spouse.

In the case of tenants in common, which would be typically how siblings hold property, the property will not automatically pass to the other co-owner in the event of a death. Instead, it would pass to whomever that person left their property to in their Will.

If the land is in joint names, it is

Practical steps to ease stress after a death



important to ensure that both owners are regarded as trading as farmers. This means asking your accountant to ensure that both spouses are registered for tax with Revenue as farmers and the farming income is returned in both names. This is especially important when it comes to succession and passing on the family farm to the next generation as the owners will have to be able to avail of Retirement Relief if they pass the assets while they are alive as opposed to a Will.

In order to avail of Retirement Relief, both owners need to be able to show that they have owned and farmed the land for 10 years prior to transfer. If both owners are not registered for tax as farmers, they might struggle to prove that they are farming for the requisite 10 years.

It would be important also to put the herd number into joint names as well as the entitlements. A good time to do this is the start of the calendar year when the DAFM payments have already been made. Again it's something your Agri Advisor should be able to help with as part of the annual BISS application.

It is worth having a conversation

with your spouse as to what your wishes would be regarding the farm should something happen unexpectedly.

It can be really difficult for a widow/widower to make those big decisions, not having their spouse as a trusted advisor to bounce ideas off. Often they are left wondering what their spouse would do were they alive. So have the conversation to say whether you would be comfortable with the farm being leased; or sold; or indeed divided up; or left to one or more children or nieces/nephews. While you might not know at this stage how to divide up assets, having a conversation to give your spouse a steer could at some stage, be invaluable.

WILLS AND ENDURING POWERS OF ATTORNEY

Without a Will, your assets will be divided up according to the rules of intestacy. This means that if you are married and have children, your spouse would be entitled to two thirds of the share while the children equally would be entitled to the other one third of the share. In the normal course, the children would disclaim their share leaving the spouse to in-

Having a will is really important, as many people incorrectly assume that if they are married, their spouse automatically owns half of what they own. istock



It is worth having a conversation with your spouse as to what your wishes would be regarding the farm should something happen unexpectedly

herit the entire and thereafter, decide what way the assets would be distributed amongst the family.

However, if the children are under 18 years of age, they cannot disclaim their share as they do not have capacity to do so. Consequently, they become co-owners with the parent. This causes legal and tax problems trying to deal with the asset until they are old enough to make decisions.

This is why it's really important to have a basic Will if you have young children. The most common Will in this situation is leaving property to each other and thereafter, on trust for the benefit of the children until the youngest child is 21. An Enduring Power of Attorney (EPA) is important to allow someone make decisions on your behalf should you lose capacity but are still alive. **CL**

Disclaimer: The information in this article is intended as a general guide only. While every care is taken to ensure accuracy of information contained in this article, Aisling Meehan, Agricultural Solicitors does not accept responsibility for errors or omissions howsoever arising. E-mail aisling@agrisolicitors.ie

Family legacy

Celebrating Father's Day, three Irish businesses who are keeping it in the family talk about following in their father's footsteps, writes Janine Kennedy and Ciara Leahy



Keogh's Crisps

When founder and managing director of Keogh's Crisps, Tom Keogh, approached his father, Peter, and uncle, Tony, with his idea of turning their Co Dublin farm's potatoes into crisps, he says he was met with a bit of scepticism coupled with some solid support.

"The idea for crisps came on the back of that very sharp decline in potato sales between the years 2000-10," he explains. "Around 50% of national consumption declined in those 10 years. We had competing carbohydrates, trends like the Atkins diet, and there was a big image issue with the potato."

So when he thought a good way to diversify their harvest was to invest in crisp-making equipment, the initial reactions of his dad and uncle were: "You're mad."

"Because the crisp market is so competitive," he explains. "It's probably the most competitive landscape in the whole food industry, globally, and it's dominated by few global players. In the early days, I didn't even think I'd get a supermarket listing at any stage, but we proved that wrong."

Despite their initial doubt, Tom says his father and uncle took a chance and let him rent one of their older potato stores, which he modified into a high-care food production facility during the summer of 2011 (the same year he sold his first bags of crisps).

HUMBLE BEGINNING

"I bought my first fryer from an Amish community in Pennsylvania after developing all of my recipes here in my mam's kitchen," he recalls, smiling. "My mam had a cookery school here on the farm, so I had access to that commercial kitchen, which was fantastic."

Far from those first low aspirations from over a decade ago, Keogh's Crisps have grown to such an extent that the majority of the family's 400ac harvest now goes into the crisp business as opposed to fresh produce. Tom has since expanded their offering into popcorn, and is now supply Keogh's popcorn to schools throughout Ireland for lunch programmes. Keogh's can now produce up to 400 bags of crisps per minute, but as opposed to using large equipment, they have kept with the ethos of cooking in small batches.

In light of all this success, how has the father-son relationship fared?

"I consider myself extremely blessed that I grew up here on the family farm," he says. "The highlight of my day was being able to run out and help Dad. From a very young age they had us out helping – and right up until recently, I worked shoulder to shoulder with my dad. There's not a lot of people who can say that. I feel very lucky to have had that opportunity, to have worked with my father."

"He has the patience to let us learn from our mistakes," he continues. "That's a big bonus in a family business. The crisps were completely self-funded. There were no hand-outs, and it developed the family brand into what it is today. People often meet me and they say, 'I love your crisps – and I see you're doing potatoes now.' We've been doing potatoes hundreds of years!"



Main: Tom Keogh with his father Peter, his brother Ross and cousin Derek
Top: Tom Keogh started making crisps using his family farm's potatoes in 2011, they later expanded into popcorn.

Philip Doyle

“I consider myself extremely blessed that I grew up here on the family farm. The highlight of my day was being able to run out and help Dad”

Finline Furniture

'Dad was always very fair and this is definitely something he has passed on to us. He's a sociable man and loves networking'

There is a good chance you've sat on a Finline Furniture couch or armchair. Whether you've purchased one yourself, sat on a friend's chair or got comfy on one of their pieces in a hotel, they have been selling to Irish customers for 45 years.

Starting in Emo in Co Laois, the focus from day one has been on high-quality furniture. Run by brothers Ciaran and Cilian Finane, they are following in the footsteps of their parents Kieran and Bridget.

"Dad spent years working in the furniture business but back in the 80s and 90s, there were a lot of small factories focused on the lower to middle-end market. My parents wanted to focus on quality high-end furniture and it's a strategy that is still paramount to our business model today."

Ciaran says growing up, some of their earliest memories were in the factory. "Ann Beehan has been working with us 45 years and I remember her minding me as a baby, sleeping on cushions next to her desk. As we got older, we would play football out the back of the factory with the lads when they were on their lunch break, we loved that. And lots of farmers around us in Laois have childhood memories jumping into hay but we used jump from the lofts onto big foam packs, and Dad would be giving out, saying we're wrecking the foam," says Ciaran, laughing.

VALUABLE LESSONS

"As much as we enjoyed it though, myself and Cilian didn't think we would actually go into the business. After school, I worked with a stockbroker while he was a quantity surveyor. When we reached our late 20s though, as many people do, we started to look at things through a different lens, and with a bit of maturity on our side, we both followed the road home. Now we are co-owners of the business."



Kieran Finane; below, Cilian and Ciaran Finane

Sadly, their mother Bridget passed away in 2013. "After that, Dad started to step back, but he continues to be involved in his own way. He still goes to trade shows and he has a huge depth of knowledge about fabrics and raw materials. He has had relationships with people since he first started the business and he is always there for advice. For example, although our main premises is still the one that Mam and Dad set up in Laois, we also have shops in Dublin and Cork. Next month, we are moving premises to a shop that is double the space on the Long Mile Road. It's great to have Dad there to chat these things out."

The best lesson that both he and Cilian have learned from their father though is around people. "Treating your employees with respect is so important. We have 80 staff and the majority of them have been with us for over 20 years. I think it's because Dad was always very fair and this is definitely something he has passed on to us. He is also a sociable man and loves networking. He always says, 'never refuse a meeting with anyone, you never know where it may lead.'"

This is certainly the case as the company have a new project which has both a social and sustainable message. "We're working on a project with Aiséirí rehabilitation clinic in Waterford, which provides treatment for adults and young people who are struggling with alcohol, drugs and gambling addiction."

"It's called the Revive programme in which we buy back people's old Finline Furniture sofas. They are then sent to Waterford and the people there work on the furniture as a project (as part of their treatment), ripping out the old materials. However, instead of the frame going to a landfill, it will be sent back to us to be re-purchased and re-sold as pre-loved. It's definitely a new idea, something different but it all goes back to having furniture that lasts a lifetime, which was my parent's mantra from day one."

Nutshed

'We grew up with Dad always saying 'to have the courage of your convictions' – so we always felt we've been able to trust our voice'

Evie and Eliza Ward are sisters who co-own and operate the artisanal peanut butter business, Nutshed. Two of the most confident young women in business you might ever meet, they never had any doubt in their minds that they could do anything they set their minds to. This, they say, is down to the support and example set by their parents, Peter and Mary Ward of Country Choice market in Nenagh, Co Tipperary.

This February, Peter and Mary were honoured with a lifetime achievement award at the Irish Food Writer's Guild Awards – they have been in business for over 40 years and, in that time, have been a constant champion to small producers and local farmers. Of course, their capabilities and passion for food rubbed off on their children.

"First, we had an events business, which was Eliza's baby," Evie tells *Irish Country Living*. "We did great festival food at festivals and events. I grew up baking in Country Choice. I fell in love with plant-based, high-energy food and we started giving them to our friends and colleagues in the events space.

AWARD-WINNING PEANUT BUTTER

"At the same time, we started a market stall at the Milk Market in Limerick and our most popular product was our peanut butter energy balls," Evie continues. "We were going through buckets of [hand-made] peanut butter every week and selling over a dozen jars. So then Eliza said, 'Hold on a minute – we need to focus on this a bit more.' From there, we moved into a production unit and Eliza took on a massive project to plan all of that."

Eliza adds, "I was able to use my skills from being 10 years on the festival circuit, working markets and events around the country, and then Evie has been baking since she was a kid, so bringing those two skills together is the foundation of what we do at Nutshed."

Today, the pair make six different flavours of their natural award-winning peanut butter. Their production unit in Nenagh is found just around the corner from Country Choice. The sisters say their father always inspired them to go off and see the world, but in a sense, this is also what brought them back home. Peter says it would be wrong to expect the girls to take over the family business, in the traditional sense.

"Business is like the weather – there are good days, there are wet days and you just deal with what comes," he says. "Retail today is more challenging than it has ever been in my 43 years. I am very happy to see the girls with a specialist business where they're able to contain it and marry a lifestyle with it, as well. We managed to tie our lifestyle and our business together. I'm not sure people want to do that anymore. I hope the girls will keep something going in some form, but I have to be very careful. When I was 17 and sitting at home on a lovely farm in Co Meath and dipping sheep all summer, I didn't really want to stay there."

"With how we manage our business, it's almost like we're in Country Choice every day," Eliza says. "We've taken all the principles we've learned from Mom and Dad and we're just selling a different product. We grew up with Dad always saying 'to have the courage of your convictions', so we always felt we've been able to trust our voice."

"My Dad gave me my first cookbook when I was 11 and he wrote a very inspiring note in it because he knew I was really into baking," Evie adds. "Regardless of what our interests have been, he has always been so incredibly encouraging of just us finding our own path." **CL**



Evie and Eliza, sisters and owners of Nutshed, with their dad Peter. Peter alongside his wife Mary Ward run Country Choice in Nenagh. \ Claire Nash

“Retail today is more challenging than it has ever been in my 43 years. I am very happy to see the girls with a specialist business where they're able to contain it and marry a lifestyle with it, as well

In short

- Father's Day is on Sunday, 16 June
- In Ireland, there are 173,000 family businesses
- Collectively, Irish family businesses employ nearly a million people - that's more than the State and foreign businesses combined
- Approximately seven out of ten Irish businesses are family owned
- Considered essential for regional development, family businesses keep people living and working in rural Ireland.

ANN DEVINE: ‘I can’t go through with it Mam. The hassle and the money – we’re not even going to Mass’

Ann plays sleuth at the Stepping Stones ceremony above in the hall, writes Colm O’Regan

I was surprised at Deirdre when she said her youngest wasn’t making her First Communion. She’s my eldest and she’d be the most ‘camogie and cake sale’ of my children. Even my niece Freya did Communion and her mother is as alternative as spelt bread. But one day, there she was waiting for me in my own house while I was out doing the shopping, and she was off. “I can’t go through with it Mam. The hassle and the money and the dress and all the competing and we’re not even going to Mass. Are you even a Catholic any more? I only see you going to big funerals.”

That’s Deirdre all over. Hitting me with ecumenical questions and I only just in the door from the Lidl.

“What’ll your Nana think?” is the best I can manage.

“Ah Mammy,” she says. “It’s not all about what other people think.”

Even though she asked me what I think. But look it, I let her off to make her own decisions and I’ll handle the woman above – my mother. She took it well and she said she’d be praying for them anyway, extra hard so they’d be covered that way.

As it turned out, Deirdre was right about the lack of stress. There was no competing on dresses and shoes and gloves and all of that, and before long there were a few others not doing it as well. And they were going to have their own ceremony. Stepping Stones, it was called. Above in the hall. A young wan from Dublin was going to be the celebrant. There was nearly as much prep for that. They had to do all this stuff about being good citizens. Deirdre’s says to me one day – she’d nearly swap the odd “I Confess” for one of the projects.

But then Deirdre’s aunt-in-law got involved. Noeleen Carmody. All notions. And she thought our side weren’t good enough for their family. On account of the bit of trouble my father had long ago. She hit the roof. “What is going on with all of ye,” she said to her sister, Deirdre’s mother-in-law. “Letting this happen. This out

modern secular nonsense.” But she was too late.

That was grand. It was a lovely ceremony. Even if Noeleen was there with a puss on her. And Denis was delighted not to be doling out money to grandchildren of people he didn’t like. Every child got a little goodie bag and that was that.

STEPPING STONES

But afterwards, Deirdre was agog. “Mam the Stepping Stones WhatsApp is buzzing. They all found rosary beads and miraculous medals in their goodie bags. And no one knows how they got in there.”

I soon found out. Donie The Hall sends me a video on WhatsApp. It’s the CCTV in the room next to the hall where the goodie bags were. And there she was. Noeleen. All done out in her finery. Skulking around putting



“They all found rosary beads and miraculous medals in their goodie bags. And no one knows how they got in there”

things into the goodie bags. And having a good root in them as well.

Blissfully unaware, Noeleen calls into us a few days later with Ailbhe’s jacket. “She left it at the hotel where we had the meal Ann. I couldn’t let the day pass without a proper meal and not those awful hall sandwiches.”

“Grand so, Noeleen. Now will you excuse me, I have to go up to the hall. There was a break-in and we’re having a look at CCTV for the whole weekend.” (I’m making it up)

“CCTV?” she says. She is as shook. “Oh yes,” I say, “CCTV for the whole place. Every inch of it covered.”

“And Ann would you be looking at the CCTV yourself?”

“We’ll all be looking at it together Noeleen. There’d be the whole committee. In case we know someone.” She grabs my arm. There’s a pleading look in her eyes. “Ann can you get in before them? I might be on it and it might look like I’m up to something at the Communion thing but I’m not, I swear. It would make a show of me.”

“Don’t worry Noeleen,” I smile. “I’ll have a look. It’s the Christian thing to do.” **CL**

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For further particulars and maps contact the Auctioneers.
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Intending purchasers must register and pay a bidding deposit to GVM Auctioneers at least 3 days prior to the auction.

VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

TULLAMORE OFFICE: Tel: (057) 932 1196

• Email: tullamoreproperty@gvm.ie

MURTAGH BROS

044 9342512 | 046 9543324

AUCTION

MOYVORE, MULLINGAR, CO. WESTMEATH

WEDNESDAY 3RD JULY AT 3PM



SUPERB C. 262 ACRE RESIDENTIAL FARM WITH EXCELLENT ROAD FRONTAGE, SUITABLE FOR ANY FARMING ENTERPRISE. 6 BED PERIOD STYLE RESIDENCE WITH GENEROUS ACCOMMODATION AND STONE CUT COURTYARD. (IN ONE OR MORE LOTS).

REGISTER WITH MURTAGH BROS TO BID

Solrs: N.J. Downes & Co. Solicitors Tel: 044-9348646

AUCTION

GARRYANDREW, EDGEWORTHSTOWN, CO. LONGFORD

THURSDAY 20TH JUNE AT 3PM



BEAUTIFUL 4 BED RESIDENCE SET ON C. 27.5 ACRES WITH YARD/ STABLES. EXCELLENT ROAD FRONTAGE TO THE N4 (IN ONE OR MORE LOTS).

REGISTER WITH MURTAGH BROS TO BID

Solrs: Flynn & McMorow Solicitors, Carrick on Shannon Tel: 071-9620033

AUCTION

SLANEMORE, MULLINGAR, CO. WESTMEATH

FRIDAY 12TH JULY AT 3PM



ATTRACTIVE C. 18 ACRE NON-RES. FARM WITH GOOD ROAD FRONTAGE. LAID OUT IN NEAT TIDY DIVISIONS, IDEAL FOR BUILDING A RESIDENCE

REGISTER WITH MURTAGH BROS TO BID

Solrs: Kelly Caulfield & Shaw Solicitors Tel: 044-9348412

info@murtaghbros.ie | www.murtaghbros.ie

MULLINGAR | ENFIELD

PSRA Licence No. 002043



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KILTYCREEVAGH, BALLINAMUCK, CO. LONGFORD

**c.75 Acre Lakeside Holding
(In one or more lots)**

Good quality elevated lands with no waste set in picturesque area overlooking Clooncoose Lough. Ideal for the construction of a dwelling, subject to the necessary planning consent

Lot 1: c.63 acres, Lot 2: c.12 acres, Lot 3: The Entire

AUCTION: 3.30pm on Tuesday 9th July 2024 at The Longford Arms Hotel, Co. Longford & LSL Auctions Online.

Solrs: Mr. Gerard M. Kilrane & Co., Mohill, Co. Leitrim. **Ph:** (071) 963 2880

KILBEG, CARLANSTOWN, CO. MEATH

**Period residence on c. 32 acres
(In one or more lots)**

Imposing residence extending to over 3,700 sq. ft. set on highly productive lands. All in permanent pasture and tillage, bounded by mature native beech, oak and ash trees.

Lot 1: Residence on c.4.5 acres, Lot 2: c.27.5 acres

Lot 3: The entire

Auction: 4.30pm on Tuesday 16th July 2024 at the Ardboyne Hotel, Navan and LSL Auctions Online.

Solrs: Ms. Aoife Moynihan, Moynihan & Co., Mullingar, Co. Westmeath. **Ph:** (044) 93 34438

**PORTERSTOWN, KILLUCAN,
CO. WESTMEATH**

Superb c.6 acre Holding

Top quality limestone lands with no waste whatsoever. Excellent road frontage and ideal for the construction of a dwelling – subject to the necessary planning consent.

AUCTION: 4.30pm on Wednesday 19th June 2024 at the Greville Arms Hotel, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath and LSL Auctions Online.

Solr: Ms. Aisling Penrose, Kelly Caulfield Shaw, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath. **Ph:** (044) 9348412

**BARONSTOWN, BALLYNACARGY,
CO. WESTMEATH**

**c.24 acre Non-Residential Farm
(In one or more lots)**

All in permanent pasture, laid out in 3 neat divisions with single and dual road frontage - Ideal for the construction of a dwelling – subject to the necessary planning consent.

Lot 1: c.19 acres Lot 2: c.5 acres Lot 3: The entire

Auction: 3.30pm on Friday 12th July 2024 at the Greville Arms Hotel, Mullingar & LSL Auctions Online.

Solrs: Mr. John Shaw, J.A. Shaw & Co., Mullingar. **Ph:** (044) 934 8721

**SHANVOLEY, AUGHIRM,
CO. GALWAY**

**c.42 acre with Derelict Residence thereon
(In one or more lots)**

Majority good quality lands, with excellent road frontage and bounding the Ballinure River with derelict residence thereon.

Lot 1: Residence on c.24.5 acres, Lot 2: c.17.5 acres Lot 3: The Entire

AUCTION: 3.30pm on Thursday 18th July 2024 at Gullan's Hotel, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway and LSL Auctions Online.

Solrs: Ms. Karen O'Malley, Karen O'Malley & Co., Westport, Co. Mayo. **Ph:** (098) 27757
Joint Agency: Raymond Clarke, Clarke Auctioneers, Castlebar, Co. Mayo
Ph: (094) 925 0885

**BRACKLAGH, FINEA,
CO. CAVAN**

c.21 acre Roadside Farm

Laid out in several neat divisions with excellent road frontage and c.5.5 acres of forestry lands. Ideal for the construction of a dwelling – subject to the necessary planning consent.

AUCTION: 3pm on Wednesday 10th July 2024 at the Crover House Hotel & Golf Club, Co. Cavan & LSL Auctions Online.

Solrs: Robert B. Marren & Co., Mullingar, Co. Westmeath. **Ph:** (044) 934 3826

**DRUMRORAGH, BALLYJAMESDUFF,
CO. CAVAN**

**Derelict residence on c.13 acres
(In one or more lots)**

Excellent quality lands laid out in two neat divisions with dual road frontage and derelict residence thereon.

Lot 1: Residence on c.1.12 acres, Lot 2: c.12 acres, Lot 3: The entire

AUCTION: 4.30pm on Wednesday 10th July 2024 at the Crover House Hotel & Golf Club, Co. Cavan & LSL Auctions Online.

Solrs: Cliadhna M. Sheridan Solicitors, Granard, Co. Longford. **Ph:** (043) 668 7778

**KILGOLAGH, FINEA,
CO. CAVAN**

**c.21 acre Non-Residential Roadside
Farm (In one or more lots)**

Good quality lands laid out in 2 adjoining divisions with excellent road frontage. Ideal for the construction of a dwelling – subject to the necessary planning consent.

Lot 1: c.17 acres, Lot 2: 4 acres, Lot 3: The Entire

Auction: 3.30pm on Wednesday 10th July 2024 at the Crover House Hotel & Golf Club, Co. Cavan & LSL Auctions Online.

Solrs: Robert B. Marren & Co., Mullingar. **Ph:** (044) 934 3826

KILOOLEY HALL, TULLAMORE, CO. OFFALY



c.145.5 acre Model Farm

(In one or more lots)

Prime lands which benefit from central roadway, an extensive range of top quality farm buildings/livestock accommodation and excellent road frontage.

Lot 1: c.100.8 acres, Lot 2: c.44.5 acres
Lot 3: The entire

AUCTION: 3.30pm on Friday 19th July 2024 at the Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Co. Offaly and LSL Auctions Online.

Solr: Donal O'Hagan Solicitors, Dundalk, Co. Louth Ph: (042) 933 4134

SLANEMORE, MULLINGAR, CO. WESTMEATH



Superb c.66 acre Non-Residential Farm

(In one or more lots)

Excellent quality lands which are laid out in neat divisions with good quality farm buildings thereon. Picturesque panoramic views overlooking Lough Iron.

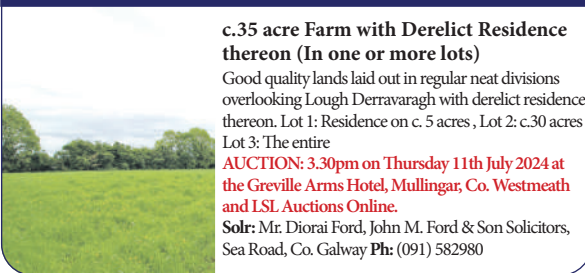
Lot 1: c.61.5 acres Lot 2: c.4.5 acres Lot 3: The Entire

AUCTION: 3.30pm on Thursday 25th July 2024 at the Greville Arms Hotel, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath and LSL Auctions Online.

Solr: Mr. Barry McCormack, Mc Cormack Solicitors, Newbridge, Co. Kildare

Ph: (045) 438 305

LISPOPPLE, COOLE, CO. WESTMEATH



c.35 acre Farm with Derelict Residence thereon (In one or more lots)

Good quality lands laid out in regular neat divisions overlooking Lough Derravaragh with derelict residence thereon. Lot 1: Residence on c. 5 acres, Lot 2: c.30 acres Lot 3: The entire

AUCTION: 3.30pm on Thursday 11th July 2024 at the Greville Arms Hotel, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath and LSL Auctions Online.

Solr: Mr. Diorai Ford, John M. Ford & Son Solicitors, Sea Road, Co. Galway Ph: (091) 582980

CLONEYHEIGUE, BALLINAGORE, CO. WESTMEATH



c.38.5 acre Roadside Farm (In one or more lots)

Good quality lands with derelict residence.

Lot 1: Residence on c.16.5 acres, Lot 2: c.16.5 acres Lot 3: c.5 acre (Bog), Lot 4: The entire

AUCTION: 3.30pm on Wednesday 17th July 2024 at the Greville Arms Hotel, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath and LSL Auctions Online.

Solr: Mr. John Shaw, J.A. Shaw & Co., Mullingar, Co. Westmeath Ph: (044) 934 8721

Joint Agent: Mark Maxwell Auctioneer & Valuer, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath Ph: (087) 269 3394

BATTSTOWN, DELVIN, CO. WESTMEATH



c.14 acre Roadside Farm (Unless Previously Sold)

All in permanent pasture with excellent road frontage. Bounded by mature native trees and ideal for the construction of a dwelling – subject to the necessary planning consent.

AUCTION: 3.30pm on Wednesday 19th June 2024 at the Greville Arms Hotel, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath and LSL Auctions Online.

Solr: Mr. Matt Shaw, Kelly Caulfield Shaw, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath. Ph: (044) 9348412

AUCTION REMINDER

34 Mount Street, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath | 38 -39 Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin 2

PSRA 001974

BALLYHARNEY, MULTYFARNHAM, CO. WESTMEATH



c.54 acre non-residential farm

Good quality lands, laid out in large regular shaped divisions, bounded by the River Inny.

AUCTION: 4.15pm on Friday 26th July 2024 at the Greville Arms Hotel, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath and LSL Auctions Online.

Solr: Mr. Matt Shaw, Kelly Caulfield Shaw, Mullingar.

Ph: (044) 9348412

Joint Agent: Eddie Tormey, Tormey Auctioneers, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath

Ph: (044) 933 3377

TINODE, STREETE, CO. WESTMEATH



c.45 acre Residential Farm

(In one or more lots)

All in permanent pasture of majority good quality, laid out in easily managed divisions with central roadway.

Lot 1: Residence on c.1 acre, Lot 2: c.44 acres, Lot 3: The entire
AUCTION: 3.30pm on Friday 26th July 2024 at the Greville Arms Hotel, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath and LSL Auctions Online.

Solr: Mr. Matt Shaw, Kelly Caulfield Shaw, Mullingar.

Ph: (044) 9348412

Joint Agent: Eddie Tormey, Tormey Auctioneers, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath Ph: (044) 933 3377

GLASCORN, BALLINEA, CO. WESTMEATH



Superb c.30 acre Farm with Derelict Residence thereon (In one or more lots)

Charming farmhouse in need of repair and yard set on prime fattening lands with no waste whatsoever.

Lot 1: Residence on c.4 acres, Lot 2: c.26 acres, Lot 3: The entire
AUCTION: 4pm on Friday 26th July 2024 at the Greville Arms Hotel, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath and LSL Auctions Online.

Solr: Mr. Matt Shaw, Kelly Caulfield Shaw, Mullingar.

Ph: (044) 9348412

Joint Agent: Eddie Tormey, Tormey Auctioneers, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath Ph: (044) 933 3377

SHESKIN, CADAMSTOWN, CO. OFFALY

C.26.6 ACRES

Prime elevated land with extensive road frontage and beautiful views of the surrounding countryside

For Sale By Online Auction



Friday 9th August 2024 @ 3pm (U.P.S.)

Via www.lslauctions.com

Solicitor: Mr. Donal Dunne, James E Cahill & Co. Solicitors, Main Street, Abbeyleix, Co. Laois.

Intending purchasers must register and pay a bidding deposit to GVM Auctioneers at least 3 days prior to the auction.

Viewing Highly Recommended

JOINT AGENTS

GVM Auctioneers

Arden Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly
Tel: (057) 9321196
Email: Tullamoreproperty@gvm.ie
PSRA No: 002030

DNG Kelly Duncan

Water Lane, Tullamore, Co. Offaly
Tel: (057) 9325050
Email: info@dngkellyduncan.com
PSRA No: 002289

This property is in a fine location, close to beaches



Oh we do like to be beside the Wexford seaside...

PAUL MOONEY
PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

A c33.5ac holding of good quality Wexford farmland, in a lovely seaside location has been brought to the market by Quinn Property. The guide price is €10,000/ac to €12,000/ac.

The location is south Wexford, on the Hook Peninsula, 1km from Fethard-On-Sea village. The land for sale is approximately 400m from

Baginbun Beach and within walking distance of a number of other local beaches.

The property has lengthy frontage on two public roads and the land lies in seven fields and is currently in a mix of grassland and tillage.

The farm will be sold in an online auction on Wednesday, 12 June at 12 noon. It will be offered in the following lots: Lot 1 is c13.1ac. Lot 2 is c18.8ac. Lot 3 is c1.4ac. Lot 4 is the entire. **CL**

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farmersmarket.ie

TOM McDONALD & ASSOCIATES

PORTARLINGTON, CO. LAOIS, R32 V076

TEL: 057 8623643

EMAIL: info@tommcDonald.ie

For Sale by Online Auction

Approx. 33 Acre Residential Farm Holding in 4 Lots. Bishopswood, Portarlinton, Co. Offaly (R32 NT67).

Online Auction Wednesday, 26th June 2024 at 3pm via the LSL Platform.



The farm is laid out in 3 divisions approx. 2 km from Portarlinton:

Lot 1 Old Farmhouse in need of modernisation with a number of outbuildings on approx. 16 Acres

Lot 2 Approx. 2.4 Acres of Agricultural Land

Lot 3 Approx. 14.6 Acres of Agricultural Land

Lot 4 The Entire

Lot 1 is Ideal for a Small Holding /Equestrian Farm. All Lots have Road Frontage. Site Development Potential with Lot 2. The lands are in permanent pasture with some requiring reclamation/reseeding. Mains water & Electricity with Lot 1. Mains Water adjacent to Lot 3.

The property will be sold by online auction on the LSL Auction Platform. All intending bidders must register with Tom McDonald & Associates by 1pm on Monday, 24th June 2024 and a bidding deposit will need to be paid prior to the sale.

Solicitor for the carriage of the sale: Robert White, Bolger White Egan Flanagan Solicitors, Lismard Court, Portlaoise, Co. Laois. (Telephone 057 8621468)

DNG

ROYAL COUNTY

FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION

RESIDENCE & C.5 1.5 ACRES OF AGRICULTURAL LAND AT GIBBSTOWN & TANKARDSTOWN, NAVAN, CO. MEATH

DATE & TIME: 4TH JULY 2024 @ 3PM

VENUE: THE SILVER TANKARD, TANKARDSTOWN, NAVAN, CO. MEATH



DNG ROYAL COUNTY ARE DELIGHTED TO BRING THIS LAND COMMISSIONED RESIDENCE AND C. 5 1.5 ACRES OF TOP-QUALITY FARMLAND

TO THE MARKET ON 4TH JULY @ 3PM IN THE SILVER TANKARD, TANKARDSTOWN, NAVAN, CO. MEATH

LOT 1: RESIDENCE ON C.1.5 ACRES AT GIBBSTOWN, CO. MEATH

THIS IS A LAND COMMISSIONED BUNGALOW, BUILT IN C.1960'S WITH INTERNAL ACCOMMODATION COMPRISING OF ENTRANCE PORCH, LIVING ROOM, KITCHEN, SCULLERY, THREE BEDROOMS AND BATHROOM. THE HOUSE REQUIRES COMPLETE REFURBISHMENTS. EXTERNALLY, THE HOUSE IS SET ON C.1.5 ACRES WITH A DETACHED SHED AND HAYSHED TO THE REAR. VIEWING BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.

LOT 2: C.21.5 ACRES AT GIBBSTOWN, NAVAN, CO. MEATH.

TRACT OF LAND EXTENDS TO C.21.5 ACRES AND IS SITUATED TO THE WESTSIDE AND REAR OF THE RESIDENCE IN LOT 1. THIS IS TOP QUALITY LAND IN PERMANENT PASTURE, LAID OUT IN THREE DIVISIONS WITH DEFINED BOUNDARIES, MAINS WATER SUPPLY AND C.170M OF ROAD FRONTAGE ON TO MILESTOWN ROAD.

LOT 3: C.30 ACRES @ TANKARDSTOWN, NAVAN, CO. MEATH. RI

THIS PARCEL OF LAND EXTENDS TO C.30 ACRES AND IS SITUATED C.700M OFF THE R147 NAVAN TO KELLS ROAD. AGAIN, THIS IS TOP QUALITY LAND IN PERMANENT PASTURE, LAID OUT IN THREE DIVISIONS WITH DEFINED BOUNDARIES, NATURAL WATER SUPPLY AND C.80M OF ROAD FRONTAGE.

AGENT: JOHN V FARRELLY, DNG ROYAL COUNTY, NAVAN, CO. MEATH

CONTACT: 046 9073737 | 086 2585 154 | info@dngroyalcounty.ie

SOLICITOR DETAILS: PATRICK ROGERS, MICHAEL O'BYRNE SOLICITORS, KENLIS PLACE, KELLS, CO. MEATH

A quiet holding with good level land in Galway

PAUL MOONEY
PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

A 30ac holding of good level land and clean pasture has come on the market in Co Galway.

The split holding is close to the villages of Abbeyknockmoy and Barnaderg, which both offer excellent residential amenities

It is being sold by David Moggan Property Consultants by private treaty.

The holding lies in two divisions.

The larger one is c23ac at Feigh West. It sits on a quiet countryside road and has road frontage and a water supply. Offers of over €10,000 per acre are invited for this land.

The second block is 7.7ac at Carrowgorm. This parcel lies in one square shaped field, is level and has good road frontage.

The ground is elevated and has exceptional views over the surrounding countryside.

Offers in the region of €100,000 are invited for this parcel. **CL**



The land is level and the pasture clean



The parcel at Carrowgorm has good road frontage

Raymond Potterton

046 9027666

BARTRAMSTOWN CLONALVY, CO. MEATH



Auction - Tuesday 2nd July 2024 at 3pm

20 ACRES (8.09 HA)

Free draining elevated farm laid out in two neat divisions, all currently in permanent pasture.

Laid out in two regular shaped fields with good road frontage.

Great location situated on the Meath/ Dublin border just 2km from Clonalvy while only being 7.5km from the N2.

Auction will be at our Navan Auction Room at 3pm and Online. Pre registration for online bidding by 1st July. Solicitors: Ritchie & Co. 36 Baggot Street Lower, Dublin 2

TOWNSPARK KELLS, CO. MEATH



Auction - Wednesday 3rd July 2024 at 3pm

13.7 ACRES (5.54 HA)

A super parcel of land located in the rapidly expanding and popular town of Kells with obvious future development potential.

This land is of the highest quality, is an excellent shape and is adjacent to recently completed Residential Developments.

Located less than 1km from Kells Town Centre, easy access to the M3 Motorway and the N52, close to all main services and amenities.

Auction will be at our Navan Auction Room at 3pm and Online. Pre registration for online bidding by 2nd July. Solicitors: Sheehan & Company LLP, 1 Clare St, Dublin 2

MAHONSTOWN MOYNALTY, CO. MEATH



Auction - Thursday 4th July 2024 at 3pm

53 ACRES (21.45 HA)

Quality gently rolling land with the Owenroe river running along its boundaries. All in a single block under permanent pasture with cattle handling facilities at the entrance.

Great location situated between Moynalty and Carlanstown just 6km north of Kells and the N52 and M3 road links.

Auction will be at our Navan Auction Room at 3pm and Online. Pre registration for online bidding by 3rd July. Solicitors: John C. Kieran & Co., Castle St, Ardee, Co. Louth

HERONSTOWN LOBINSTOWN, CO. MEATH



Auction - Tuesday 9th July 2024 at 3pm

32 ACRES (12.95 HA)

Quality farm laid out in six neat divisions, separated by mature hedgerows.

The land is all currently being utilised for tillage purposes with minimal waste.

There is valuable road front along the land's western boundary. Great location just 3km from Lobinstown while being only 8km from the N51 and N2 beside Slane.

Auction will be at our Navan Auction Room at 3pm and Online. Pre registration for online bidding by 8th July.

Solicitors: Richard H McDonnell Solicitors LLP. Ardee

raymondpotterton.com
38 Watergate Street, Navan, Co. Meath C15 PT8X

PSRA No: 002488

QUIRKE

COLEVILLE RD, CLONMEL



FOR AUCTION (UPS) 25th June 2024
41.75 Ha (103.16 acres) of top-quality lands.
Currently in grass, may have future development potential.

Lot 1 - 13.84 hectares (34.2 acres).

Lot 2 - 27.91 hectares (68.96 acres).

Lot 3 - The entire 41.75 hectares (103.16 acres)

Outstanding opportunity to purchase on the outskirts of Clonmel.

Lot 1 is an excellent plot of ground with a fabulous elevation providing great views.

Lot 2 has 1.26 km of river frontage with fishing rights to the South bank of the River Suir.

DEERPARK, CASHEL



12.39 Ha (30.62 acres) on the outskirts of Cashel.

Fabulous farming/investment opportunity. All in grass, immediately adjacent to a completed housing estate. Good cattle handling facilities.

TULLAMAINE, FETHARD



30.5Ha (75 acres) Residential farm, nicely situated between Fethard and Cashel.

Good 4-bed bungalow, assorted farm buildings.

052-6121622 | 087-2588030 | www.pfq.ie
PSRA: 001721

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Adventure time

Located at the south-east corner of Clew Bay, Westport is a great destination for an active weekend away while taking in the scenic wild west landscape, writes **Sarah McIntosh**

Nestled along the picturesque coastline of Mayo, Westport offers a blend of natural beauty, vibrant culture, and historic charm for a weekend getaway.

As you arrive in the quaint Irish town, you're greeted by the sight of tree-lined streets and colourful Georgian buildings, set against the majestic backdrop of Croagh Patrick.

Whether you're exploring the scenic Great Western Greenway, indulging in the local food, or simply soaking up the friendly atmosphere, Westport is a rejuvenating escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

THINGS TO DO

Westport House and Estate has expanded its offering by transforming the 300-year-old quarry into an action-packed adven-

ture park. Opening its doors for the first time this summer, the park invites visitors to 'awaken your wild' – to find adventure and experience the wonders of nature.

The Net Park is the largest in Ireland with an enclosed jumping playground spanning across the treetops. It is suitable for anyone curious about heights because it is completely enclosed through a network of tunnels, aerial bridges and giant areas to bounce.

The Twin Zipline allows you to zip across 100m, side-by-side against someone else, in a race to the bottom of the course. Launching from the very top of the quarry, participants can observe the panoramic views of the adventure park as they bolt towards the quarry's floor.

Another activity to try is aerial trekking – although it isn't for the faint-hearted. With suspended obstacles and challenges, the elevated course is designed to test balance,

agility, and courage. Starting at a comfortable height, two levels allow you to take on the challenge and feel the fear of heights.

The giant swing looks over the quarry. As you are hoisted above the ground, you sit into the harness and slowly watch the ground get further away. All of a sudden you are released over the edge of the cliff swinging in between the trees; it feels like a real sense of adventure.

•Ticket prices start from €5 for individuals and €75 for families depending on the activity. It is currently 10% cheaper to book online at westportadventure.ie

CYCLE THE GREENWAY

The Great Western Greenway is 42km long starting in Westport and ending in Achill. It passes through the towns of Newport and Mulranny, overlooking Clew Bay.



1. Caitriona Twomey, David Rischke and Sarah McIntosh at Westport Adventure Park; 2. Sarah at the starting point of the Great Western Greenway



WHERE TO STAY

A stay in Westport doesn't come any better or cosier than Knockranny House Hotel. The hotel and spa is perched on a hill on the edge of the town. It has views of Croagh Patrick that are as picturesque at sunrise as they are at sunset.

A four-star hotel, the rooms are elegant and the spa is renowned for top-quality treatments, with a stunning pool and thermal suite.

However, it is the cuisine at the hotel that is the standout experience, with award-winning chef Seamus Commons, a Mayo man himself, at the helm of the kitchen. The menus across all parts of the hotel, from breakfast to lunch in the Brehon Bar, or dinner in La Fougère are thoughtful, with local producers highlighted on the menu. The local area has an abundance of producers including Glen Keen Farm lamb, Clew Bay scallops, Killary Fjord mussels and Silver Hill duck.

The food is complemented by an extensive wine list and an all-Irish cocktail menu. Created by mixologist David Hacobian, he used local tipples such as spirits from Lough Measc Distillery.

• Prices to stay in Knockranny House Hotel during the summer months start from €190. knockrannyhousehotel.ie

WHERE TO EAT

There is no shortage of top-quality restaurants to try as Westport's culinary scene is full of award-winning restaurants. 'La Bella Vita' translates to beautiful life in Italian. This bistro-style restaurant serves classic Italian food and specialises in traditional dishes using fresh seasonal ingredients and authentic Italian produce. They are only open for dinner, and it is recommended to call ahead of time to make reservations.

• [Instagram @labellavitawestport](https://www.instagram.com/labellavitawestport)

RECOMMENDED PITSTOP

Located in the heart of the town behind the Clock Tower, 'This Must Be The Place' is the perfect spot for a coffee and treat while watching the world go by.

Since opening in June 2018, owners Susan Timothy and Andrew McGinley,

have been working alongside head chef Dominique Miralles to serve up fresh and original dishes.

At the core of their inventive menu is a host of local products, with Patrick O'Reilly's famous sourdough bread, Joe Kelly's organic salads and Kelly's pudding all appearing on the menu. It is definitely one to put on the list

• [Instagram @thismustbethetheplace_westport](https://www.instagram.com/thismustbethetheplace_westport)



ELEMIS

Summer Spa Retreat

Slip away to The Johnstown Estate for a lavish mid-week spa break. Enjoy a relaxing Rooftop and Indoor Thermal Experience, indulge in a luxury spa treatment and spend time enjoying the pleasures of your deluxe bedroom. By night, relax over dinner in The Coach House Brasserie.

€395 per couple

To find out more, visit

thejohnstownestate.com

OR CALL 046 954 0000



From top left: 3. the stunning Knockranny Hotel; 4. food in the Brehon Bar at Knockranny Hotel; 5. Spa Salveo, Knockranny House, Westport; 6. La Bella Vita; 7. This Must be The Place cafe

Previously a railway line, it offers mild gradients, making it suitable for all abilities. You can choose the distance you want to complete as there are many starting points at each town with different distances and estimated cycling/walking times. There is also a shuttle bus available to bring passengers back if they want to cycle one way.

Renting a bike and cycling this trail is one of the top things to do in Westport for families, travellers and large groups. In fact, it was voted one of the top three cycle trails in the world by the *New York Times*. While cycling through the bogs, woodlands and active farmland, there is no shortage of wildlife and flora along the route.

The routes include:

- Westport to Newport is 11km and the access point is 500m from Westport town centre

- Newport to Mulranny is 18km and the official access point is located just off the N59

- Mulranny to Achill is 13km and an access point is located at the rear of the Mulranny Park Hotel.

- Westport bike hire starts at €25 per day. westportbikehire.com

Folklore: bog butter, lightning and small lies

Folklorist **Shane Lehane** transports us back to the bog in the month of June and reveals the hidden wonders found therein

Standing proud on a hilltop in the month of June makes you feel that you are on top of the world. With clear views in all directions, you are at the very centre of the cosmos and you cannot be but fully conscious of your own existence.

The distant sounds of sheep bleating and the trill of the curlew calling, along with a gentle breeze blowing the white bog cotton and a blue sky, amplify this idyllic locus.

This feeling of contented majesty was regularly my sense, almost 20 years ago, when I would pause from the work on top of Inchamay bog when we were cutting turf. Stripped to the waist, the sun beating down, you could look up and see the weather coming in; and almost as if you had control over it, you knew how long you would have before it would change.

ENDLESS DRUDGE

There was an endless drudge and monotony to all aspects of turf – from its cutting to the spreading, to the turning, to the footing,



Bog butter. \The Butter Museum/National Museum of Ireland

and the stacking – yet like all hard graft it was also deeply meditative and satisfying.

In August or September, when a full supply of good dry black turf used to be brought home and clamped in the reek, those who toiled at the turf could allow themselves a moment of pride and contentment for labour well done.

My fuller appreciation of the bog and turf came in the summer of 2002, when I took it upon myself to record the experiences of the people who lived in the boglands on top of the Boggeragh mountains, Co Cork. Anxious to learn about the tradition and using my naivety as my calling card, I used to sit for hours in their kitchens, my small tape-recorder whirring, asking questions while drinking tea and eating swiss-roll. Here, I registered the complexities and detail of this fundamental aspect of our vernacular survival as it was meticulously and generously revealed.

Of all the lovely people I interviewed that summer, the most forthcoming was Johnny Katie Looney, who lived with his sister Hannie near the summit of Barrachauring. Their house was so close to the top of the hill that one of their great fears was the danger of lightning. To my utter amazement I was shown the pieces of cutlery that sat one day on the kitchen table but were then left entirely mangled and twisted following a flash of intense lightning which came in the open door.

There were only two reasons, according to Johnny, that men who were dedicated to working a full day in the bog would have to leave: one was the lightning, and the other was the ‘small flies’. The midges are ecologically suited to the wet boglands with its moist air in the mornings and evenings, and they settle in their droves on the turf. Once disturbed, they rise in a dense cloud and start to bite and once you are bitten, they excrete a signal to tell the others to join in. You had no choice but to leave the bog when the flies were at their peak and Johnny remarked that those who tried to stick it out often got very sick from inhaling them.

RANCID BUTTER

Johnny spoke about every aspect of his experience in the bog, but I remember the day I asked him about bog butter. Here is his account:

“We found it at the time of the war, in the west side of the bog. ‘Twas a three sod bog. We were cutting away and the next thing we saw this little bit of timber falling out. ‘Twas stuck to the sod, so we stopped and we dug our way around it.

“The bog was block solid and we brought out, a little barrel of butter about that size. ‘Twas in staves, they were sound



Johnny Katie Looney, Barrachauring, Co Cork

enough, the cover got broke off. ‘Twas like cheese. ‘Twas the very same as the block cheese. ‘Twas yellow out. And I took home a little square of it and put it into the fire and it melted. ‘Twas perfect. The little barrelin had a track cut down into the rim.”

In Ireland’s ancient past, the hilltops were not just the focus of turf for the summer months but they functioned also as the ‘buaile’ or booley where the cattle were driven to profit from the summer pastures.

Here the cattle were milked and the butter churned and it is perhaps one reason that we have found so many containers of bog butter planked in the bog. Over the years, around 500 or so examples of bog butter have been recorded, many neatly packed in to tidy wooden churns and staved barrels. The majority of these date between the Iron Age circa 500BC and circa AD 1500. It is possible that they were placed in the wet bogland as an offering to the local goddess, while equally, it may have been a



Some scholars have suggested that the butter was buried to rid it of its rancidity while there are historic accounts of the cool, anaerobic bog being used to flavour the butter with garlic

way of preserving the butter in the warm summer months.

Some scholars have suggested that the butter was buried to rid it of its rancidity while there are historic accounts of the cool, anaerobic bog being used to flavour the butter with garlic. If left over a long period, the butter placed in the bog resulted in a complete change in its chemical composition and the resultant mass of grease might have been used for other important purposes such as easing the friction of an axel on a cart or tanning a hide.

With all the many changes, the days in the bog in the summer are quickly fading to a distant memory. I can picture Johnny Katie’s smiling face as he took pride in retelling the detail of a lifetime of hard toil and I am glad that I took the time to sit and listen. **CL**

•Shane Lehane is a folklorist who works in UCC and Cork College of FET, Tramore Road Campus.



Main: Rathlin Island makes for a great day out. \ Joshua McMichael/Tourism Ireland
Above: For a gentle stroll, you can't beat Whiterocks Beach. \ Chris Hill Photographic
Below: A hike from Ballintoy Harbour will reveal hidden gems. \ Matthew Woodhouse

The local's guide to... Causeway Coast

Planning an Irish staycation? Who better to ask for tips than a local? **Maria Moynihan** chats to Portrush-based wedding photographer, Lauren Chambers, about her top spots along the Causeway Coast



My favourite spot for breakfast is...
 Ground in Portrush. I spend so much time there. The staff are so lovely and welcoming, and the vibe is just really relaxed. The coffee is also spectacular; though I am more of a tea gal. You have to try their Portrush eggs and if you are visiting in spring/summer, I love their iced tea.

For a gentle stroll, you can't beat...
 Whiterocks Beach. It is such a beautiful beach that changes every time I'm there. Most people go to the left where you can walk into Portrush and back (less than 5km). I normally go to the right when the tide is out as it takes you to the most beautiful arches, caves and rocks. The tides change literally every week, so it's worth keeping an eye on optimum times.

But for a more challenging hike, I love...
 Walking from Ballintoy Harbour around the coast. Park at Ballintoy and go to the left of the car park. You will have to climb over a few stiles, but if you follow the coast all the way around, you can walk to White Park Bay and round to Portbradden. The trail actually goes all the way to the Giant's Causeway via Dunseverick Falls and Dunseverick Castle, if you want to take the day. It will involve some clambering over rocks, but you will find little hidden gems.

For lunch, I love...
 The Tartine in Bushmills; particularly for Sunday lunch. I don't think you will find a nicer Sunday lunch. Funny story, my husband

Meet the local

Lauren Chambers is a wedding and elopement photographer and planner based in Portrush, Co Antrim.

"I have been photographing weddings for six years and have specialised in weddings along the Causeway Coast for the last five," she says. "In the last few years, I have become a planner for international couples who are coming to Northern Ireland to get married. I love showing off our incredible coastline and showing people the place I'm lucky enough to call home."

•visit litphotography.com



A hike from Ballintoy Harbour will reveal hidden gems.
 \ Matthew Woodhouse

tried to take me here for our first date, but I thought it was too sophisticated for me. It took until our 10-year anniversary for us to go and I regret that decision immensely. It is a beautiful restaurant.

For some retail therapy, you can't beat...

The White House in Portrush or Moore's of Coleraine. They showcase so many local products, art and produce. They also have everything you need, from gifts to clothing. Olivia's Haven is a local candlemaker based in Coleraine. Her scents are based around stories. My favourite scent is 'Downhill Forest', which is rich and earthy.

If the sun is shining, get some Vitamin Sea at...

Benone Beach. You can drive on (though be careful of the soft sand). It has some great cafes nearby, as well as a sauna on the beach, which is great if you want to go for a dip and then warm up. It's super relaxing.

To learn more about the history/heritage of the area, check out...

Kintra Boat Tours based in Ballycastle. There is no better way to see the coastline than a boat tour and this local company know the area so well. They have a few options and they also run the Rathlin ferry; Rathlin is also worth a trip for a great day out.

Younger visitors will love...

Curry's Fun Park in Portrush, of course. My kids both have autism, so we always avoid it during peak season. Instead, we visit in the evenings when it's at its quietest. Portrush

Coastal Zone is a great place to visit with children to see some local sea life. Then take a walk to the park at Ramore Head, which has recently been refurbished. If you'd like to avoid crowds, head to Ballintoy where there is a small park in the little village. It's normally pretty quiet and you can call in to the Fullerton Arms for a bite to eat after.

For dinner, you can't beat...

Shanty in Portrush. Situated right over the water, it is Portrush's old lifeboat shelter. The food is exceptional – it's high-level local cuisine. They even produce their own in-house gin and whiskey. What really sets it apart though is the service. The staff are so knowledgeable about each dish on the menu and the attention to detail is second to none. The steaks are always cooked to perfection, and I love the truffle and parmesan smashed potatoes. I absolutely adore this spot.

For a great night out, visit...

Kiwi's Brew Bar in Portrush. They have live music regularly and a comedy night once a month. They have a great selection of craft beers including some locals and a great cocktail list too.

For a good night's sleep...

Check out Corrstown Village in Portrush for luxury self-catering accommodation. It has an incredible location being close to the town, but you feel like you're on your own. Each cottage has a hot tub and comes with a hotel finish.

If you want a hotel, I really rate the Golf Links Hotel in Portrush. It is budget-friendly, and they have some great offers. **CL**

GARDENING WITH GERRY

GERRY DALY

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The wedding cake viburnum is in full flower these days, and with its tiered, layered branches it is quite a sight to see, writes **Gerry Daly**

Viburnum plicatum, commonly known as Japanese snowball or wedding cake viburnum, is renowned for its stunning spherical flower clusters resembling snowballs, and layered branches that suggest its common name – the wedding cake bush.

Family: The full botanical name is *Viburnum plicatum* 'Mariesii', and it is part of the honeysuckle family, the Caprifoliaceae, which also includes deutzia, weigela and snowberry. The name of the honeysuckle family is Latin for goat leaf from capri meaning goat and folius meaning leaf. The word plicatum is Latin for pleated, which the leaves are. 'Mariesii' refers to French botanist Jean Marie Delavay. This shrub is native to China and Japan.

There is a smaller form called 'Nanum Semperflorens', which means small, ever-flowering. This one is also known as 'Watanabei' after a noted Japanese plantsman which does not have as pronounced a tiered shape. The lacecaps are smaller and more filled. It flowers all summer and into autumn even. It is rarely without a few flowers and it only makes half the height. 'Rowallane' is also a more compact form with very good autumn leaves colour, which they all have. 'Pink Beauty' is a pretty form with white flowers that take on a pink flush as they age.

GARDEN VALUE

The wedding cake viburnum is in full flower these days and it is quite a sight to see. The plant gets its catchy common name from the way it holds its branches in tiers. These might not be quite horizontal but they are near enough. This plant is not to be confused with the wedding cake dogwood, which is also famous for its tiered habit.

This shrub holds its branches in tiers and this is emphasised by the way the flowers grow, carried as a flattened cluster exhibiting a lace-cap shape with large, sterile flowers



Wedding season

Japanese snowball trees (*Viburnum plicatum*) are likely to win a gardener's heart with their lacy white globes of flower clusters.

ViStock

“When fully grown, it is spectacular in flower but it is a touch too big for smaller gardens”

at the outside and smaller flowers grouped at the centre. The lace-cap shape draws pollinating insects to visit the fertile flowers at the centre of the flower cluster. The fertile flowers have no petals or reduced petals and they depend on the sterile flowers to attract pollinators.

The flat lace-cap flowers are held at right angles to the upright stems so they seem to float over the branch that holds them and the white flowers have a look that is vaguely reminiscent of white cake icing.

Even though it has a rather fanciful name, the decorative effect of the plant is very striking. This is partly due to the white flowers and how they are arranged but also to the fresh green foliage. It has a softness and liveliness that are very seasonal and suggestive of early summer.

Later on, when the flowers are shed and the foliage has turned to dark green, the bush is not so showy

but it still retains a certain grace that makes it an asset in any shrub border or mixed border.

GROWING WEDDING CAKE VIBURNUM

This viburnum is a fast grower and capable of making a spreading bush to four metres wide and nearly as tall. When fully grown, it is spectacular in flower but it is a touch too big for smaller gardens. It can be pruned to reduce its size, if this is done carefully after flowering, shortening large branches and taking out whole branches, so as not to spoil its elegant, tiered shape. Branches that grow upwards can be shortened back for the same reason. These viburnums grow in any ordinary soil which is not very wet in winter. Soil that is continuously wet can cause the plant roots to rot and the plant dies. Hardy and resistant to frost, they look best in a sheltered spot where wind cannot spoil the flowers and foliage. **CL**

Early evening primrose

Evening primrose is flowering exceptionally early this year. The name reflects the way the flowers open towards evening, and they are a bright yellow colour. They each last just a few days but are carried in succession over a long period through summer. The common evening primrose is an annual or biennial, late-sown plant flowering the following year. The plants, once raised from seed and planted out, tend to self-sow thereafter. Even if no plant appears for a few years, plants can pop up years later after soil disturbance.

For flowers next year, the seeds could be sown between now and September to flower where they are sown, or they could be sown in seed trays and transferred to small pots for planting out in autumn. It is very easy to grow but likes well-drained soil in full sunshine. If you have an area of mixed border, or a semi-wild area with dry soil, open to the sunshine, and you like to let plants meander to some extent, this could be a very suitable flower. Evening primrose gives a lovely cottage-garden feel to an area.



Oenothera biennis or common evening primrose is flowering early this year

»This week's reminders

TREES, SHRUBS AND ROSES

Check young trees and shrubs for signs of drought, namely, loss of leaves, dry soil and poor or absent growth. Reserves are built up in summer to survive the following winter and they die at that time. Prune spring-flowering shrubs if they need it to reduce size and improve shape.

FRUIT, VEGETABLES AND HERBS

Make repeat sowings of fast-maturing vegetables and herbs, such as lettuce, radish, coriander and rocket. Thin out and transplant vegetables that have reached suitable size, and control weeds early. Liquid-feed sweetcorn and other tender vegetables if they are slow to get moving.

LAWN

Less mowing is required as the peak of grass growth declines. If grass growth is poor, apply a dressing lawn fertiliser. Ideally, this should go on when rain is on the way and the ground is already damp after rain. Otherwise there is a chance of the grass becoming scorched and dry.

FLOWERS

Snails can destroy bedding plants in a single damp night. Feed all containers if they have not had slow release fertiliser pellets added to the compost. Watch for greenflies on bedding plants and container plants. Patio plants such as petunias, osteospermums and marguerites are ready for planting.

GREENHOUSE AND HOUSE PLANTS

Continue to feed greenhouse plants and water freely to maintain strong growth. Use a shading material if the greenhouse gets too hot. Check greenhouse plants for scale insects, greenflies and red spider mites, which can build up rapidly at this time of year.

Semple pleasures

A visit to Thurles is something that will never be taken for granted, writes **Denis Hurley**



These days, one can scarcely move for GAA autobiographies. In the interests of full transparency, I should acknowledge that I have written one myself but there's almost an Andy Warhol-like feel to it – in the future, everybody will be a GAA ghost-writer for 15 minutes.

Three decades ago, they were scarce, which is what made *Beyond The Tunnel*, by Nicky English with Vincent Hogan, so ground-breaking. Lifting the lid on the vulnerabilities behind the heroic figure we were familiar with, it was rightly lauded and is highly recommended. If you can, somehow find a copy.

On Sunday morning, high on the anticipation of a trip to Thurles for the Munster hurling final, I tweeted a passage from the book, describing the scene as the Tipperary team bus worked its way through the throng for the 1984 provincial decider against Cork.

Tipp had been without a Munster title since 1971 and now, in the GAA's centenary year, there was a chance to end that wait, knowing that the final would also be taking place in the association's founding town.

"The atmosphere in the town was like nothing any of us had known

before," English wrote. "There was an electricity, a raw tension in the air."

On Sunday, the raw tension was as present as ever, but, for a good while, the electricity was absent – literally.

Leaving home in Cork at 12.30pm, the hope was to be in my seat in the Ryan Stand press box an hour before throw-in. While the motorway was far quieter than normal for a pilgrimage to Thurles, I hadn't banked on being caught in such a tail-back after Holycross – but the lack of power and subsequent delaying of the game by 30 minutes meant I was an hour early anyway.

PILGRIMAGE

I used the word 'pilgrimage' and it's only the slightest of exaggerations as there is always an almost-spiritual quality to visiting FBD Semple Stadium.

We all know our own hometown or village fairly intimately and those that travel regularly for work will be familiar with plenty of urban centres in a passing-through way. However, it's surely not a stretch to say that a hurling fan in Munster has Thurles as the place second on their list of towns they are most used to.

The hub-bub around Liberty Square, then out past Bookworm bookshop and Stakelum's, up over the



Mark Rodgers of Clare is tackled by Kyle Hayes of Limerick during the Munster hurling final at FBD Semple Stadium on Sunday.

Ray McManus Sportfile

railway bridge and you catch sight of the place that has housed so many iconic moments. There's no denying that it could do with a refreshing in parts but it's still so special.

My first time there was in 1990, when Cork upset the odds to dethrone the Munster and All-Ireland champions Tipp. Two days short of my sixth birthday, I can't remember much of what was an epic match but I can recall my father pointing out a pickpocket, which made me rather paranoid, but he had his sights set on bigger things than sweets and Club Orange.

In those days, the trip took longer, with all the usual staging-points ticked out, but the motorway has made the journey more straightforward – I still turn off at Cashel, though.

If not for the GAA, the bypassed Thurles would be largely forgotten by the rest of the country but the link is indelible.

Of course, I write all this as something of a fraud – on Sunday, my

economic output was €5 for parking. I had the opportunity to attend for free and then put a report together. All around me, I saw people whose bill for the day no doubt stretched into three figures but they chose to be there, for the chance to witness something special. A power cut was but a small inconvenience – and credit to the public-transport operators for delaying their timetable as a result.

On the pitch, the Limerick-Clare game didn't crackle with the same level of drama as the previous two editions and the Shannonsiders had six points to spare at the end. It was a fitting figure as it marked the first time a county had won the Munster SHC six years in a row.

For the team and the fans on the pitch at the end, success shows no sign of being diluted by over-indulgence and it will take a great team to stop them winning a fifth straight All-Ireland.

The traffic was fairly heavy getting out of the field I had parked in – it was a small price to pay.



There was an electricity, a raw tension in the air

Ciara Mageean: 'I didn't grow up playing camogie to get boxed in'

The quote of the weekend related to Gaelic games but was not among those uttered by any player or manager in the wake of a game.

Instead, it came from newly minted European 1500m champion Ciara Mageean on Sunday night, after she had moved through a slight gap between British runners Jemma Reekie and Georgia Bell to power home for the gold medal.

"I didn't grow up playing camogie to get boxed in!" was how the Portaferry native put it in her post-race interview and there was certainly a streak of determination

that she could not be stopped.

In a way, it was microcosmic of how her career has gone. A top junior athlete, she won bronze at the 2016 European Championships but struggled to build on that, not helped by injury or the pandemic.

While she won silver in 2022 in Munich, she had reached the age of 30, and few would have expected the graph to keep going upwards.

It says much about Mageean that, in her moment of greatest success – up to now, – she took time to remember all of those who had given their time to her and so many others in their for-

mative years. Without those helping hands, nothing else follows.

There is never a stage where a competitor ever fully believes that she or he has truly made it, but that insecurity can act as a driving force. Having an end-goal in sight always helps. "I went out on that track today super nervous, but I had a plan and a mission, that was to hear Amhrán na bhFiann."

As anyone who has played golf knows, sometimes you can perform as well as humanly possible only to find that someone else has carded a slightly better score. So it goes.



Ciara Mageean celebrates winning gold on Sunday night.

Sam Barnes Sportfile.

That's the prism through which we should analyse Rhasidat Adeleke's performance in finishing second in the women's 400m.

Poland's Natalia Kaczmarek had to rely on all of her experience to win in 48.98 seconds – the fastest time in the world this year. Adeleke's 49.07 was faster than any Irish competitor has ever managed and the 17th-fastest of all time. Already with a gold medal from the relay, another first place would have been amazing but, as Sonia O'Sullivan said, she will learn from finishing 2nd and put that education to good use. **CL**

THE IRISH HORSE

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COMMENT HELEN SHARP

Reasons to be cheerful

Irish Sport Horses are making waves in the USA eventing circuit, reports Helen Sharp

Let's hear it for the Irish breeders and producers. I'm unashamedly whooping and hollering this week with the marvellous news that three out of four horses representing the USA eventing team for the 2024 Olympics are Irish Sport Horses. That's such an incredible achievement and truly illustrates the ambition and reach of today's breeders and producers here in Ireland.

Off the Record (ISH) was bred by Peter G Brady and is now competing with Will Coleman and owned by the Booth family; Cooley Nutcracker (ISH) was bred by Gary Doherty, produced at Cooley Farm and is competing with Liz Halliday Sharp; and HSH Blake (ISH) was bred by Justin Burke, produced by Mary Mangan and Kelly Hutchinson and is now competing with Caroline Pamukcu.

Olympic fever is building, and this wonderful achievement offers our community so much to be proud of. A medal for an Irish-bred horse is as much to be shouted about as the ones won by our talented Irish riders. My heart rate is already up at the very thought of Irish glory at Versailles!

OLYMPIC FEDERATION

Other Olympic news to make us all smile is that dressage high performance director Anne Marie Dunphy has chosen the combination of Co Down's Abigail Lyle and Giraldo for consideration by the Olympic Federation of Ireland (OFI) to represent Team Ireland in Individual Dressage at the Games in Paris.

Abigail burst onto the international dressage scene in just 2022 and has shone ever since. After convincing her non-horsey parents to buy her a horse following her GCSEs, this talented dressage rider who began her riding career on a little thoroughbred, now heads to the Olympics.

The individual reserves for the competition which starts on 30 July are Anna Merveldt with Esporim and Judy Reynolds with Rockman Royal NG.

FARM WORKSHOP

Teagasc are hosting a farm workshop on the topic of pasture management for equines tomorrow (Friday, 14 June) at Kenilworth House Stud, Clonmel, Co Tipperary (10am to 1.30pm). Teagasc equine, countryside management and sustainability specialists will all be joined by the stud farm hosts and by Irish Equine Centre nutrition and environment specialists.

Another helpful event is being held on Friday, 21 June at 6.30pm at Glenamaddy Equestrian Centre. Up for discussion and demonstration is the role of equine linear scoring evaluation systems for the market and for sport. Speakers include Irish Horse Centre (IHC) inspectors as well as the IHC and Mayo Roscommon Breeders Group.

Chatting to one of the organisers, Patrick Hester, said: "It is a practical event with real-time evaluation and feedback of foals and young horses. With a predicted 250 foals and young horses to be evaluated in 2024, breeders can gain insights to the trials and tribulations of the IHC automated Foal & Young Horse Evaluation system which aims to be clear and transparent as an industry standard." **CL**



OLYMPIC CONSIDERATION: Abigail Lyle and Giraldo at the FEI World Championships in Herning. \ Tomas Holcbecher

Is Shane Cotter a future champion jump jockey?

Shane Cotter has made a big impression in point-to-points and looks likely to turn professional, writes Mark Costello

Keep an eye out for the name Shane Cotter in your racecards this summer.

The 17-year-old from Britland/Ballynoe in Co Cork only began race-riding last October and only had his first winner in December.

Last month he ended the point-to-point season with 15 winners, winning the under 21 riders' title and he defeated the reigning champion Dara McGill in the process.

Unlike many point-to-point riders (all of whom are amateur) Cotter is light enough to turn professional and ride on the racetrack. Top amateurs like Derek O'Connor and Patrick Mullins tend to be 'normal' weights in that they hit the scales at around 11st, which greatly reduces their opportunities in 'proper' racing, so they mainly just ride in bumpers and hunter chases.

But Cotter – and McGill – are in a

position to do a 'Rachael Blackmore' and turn professional, making the switch from points to the racecourse.

If they do so, the biggest challenge for them will be getting themselves attached to a powerful stable. Such is the lopsided nature of Irish jump racing, if you are not working for Willie Mullins, Gordon Elliott, Henry de Bromhead or Gavin Cromwell, then you are likely to end up on outsiders in most races.

In 2019, Michael O'Sullivan was champion under-21 rider and looked to have the world at his feet. He went back to college to finish his Agricultural Science degree before turning professional in 2022.

Even though he is extremely talented and mature for his years, O'Sullivan had to scrimp for rides on the professional circuit. By

luck, as much as anything else, he fell in with Co Kildare trainer Barry Connell who gave him a chance and put him on promising young horses such as Marine Nationale and Good Land.

Both horses went on to be stars that season and many observers hailed O'Sullivan as a future champion. But his career hit a bump in the latest season – the O'Connell horses were either injured or out of luck a lot of the time – and with the top riders such as Paul Townend, Jack Kennedy and Rachael Blackmore all staying injury-free, there simply was not many opportunities to get on the good horses.

In these instances, the next step for a young up-and-coming rider is to try their luck in England. Last season, 19 British-based trainers had 40 winners or more, so the chances are there.

It will be fascinating to see if Shane Cotter and Dara McGill turn professional this summer or if they decide to stick to point-to-points for the time being. Watch out for them. **CL**



Shane Cotter: a star in the making. \ Healy Racing

Foreign buyers underpin decent trade at Cavan Sale

Performance and temperament appeared to count more than pedigree, reports Sally Parkyn

The appetite for well-produced riding horses has held up well in recent months. As a result, last week's early summer renewal at Cavan was a lively affair.

Business was brisk and competitive from the outset as customers from Belgium, Canada, England, Sweden and Ireland tussled for the major spoils. Those from the trade sector were particularly active, but in a few cases had to make way for the more determined private buyer.

At the close of play, 72% (69% in 2023) of those on offer changed hands, while the average, which returned a healthy €6,080, showed a slight deficit from 12 months ago (€6,244).

Heading the one-day edition at €14,000, and one of six lots to realise five figures, was Marleese Carey's five-year-old gelding *Allegre*. Standing at just 158cm, and with no recorded breeding (although believed to be by Cheeky Bobby Sparrow), the grey was an obvious stand out on the day, and was finally secured by agent Louise Hollywood on behalf of absentee Canadian customer Tamarack Ridge Farm.

"I didn't think I would have to pay that much, but it's not easy to buy them and the opposition was determined," said Hollywood. "He's a lovely type of horse, who rode beautifully and the vendor seemed very genuine."

Indeed, Carey, who had sourced the gelding privately two years ago, is a great believer in giving her horses time, and had produced this one carefully and slowly throughout. Lightly competed, he was placed second in his first dressage show, and this year had been shown in some working hunter classes.

One heading for a more high-powered career was Rachel Moloney's imported seven-year-old show jumper *Holmoak Kina*. The winner of 37 SJI points to date, the German bred daughter of Van Gogh (dam by Cador) was knocked down to Newbury based producer Robert Stronge for €12,000 and will now be campaigned by his daughter Poppy.

TOP RETURNS

Marleese Carey's *Allegre*, 5 year-old gelding 158cm (no recorded breeding), €14,000

Rachel Moloney's *Holmoak Kina*, 7 year-old mare by Van Gogh (dam by Cador), €12,000

David Reilly's *Tullycommon Ashy*, 5 year-old gelding (no recorded breeding), €10,800



The five-year-old gelding *Allegre* has no recorded breeding but still topped the sale at €14,000. \ Cavan Sales

Throughout the day, and yet another without recorded breeding was David Reilly's five-year-old palomino gelding *Tullycommon Ashy*. Originally bought from Granard market as a foal, the home produced gelding was snapped up by Donegal trader Ian Smith for €10,800.

British based dealers were a dominant force, and accounting for two of the better priced lots was Michael Kelly.

First up, he paid €10,400 for Lorraine Trenier's *Cloverhills Quality Dancer* by *Bailies Rebel* (dam by *Huntingfield Rebel*), a seven-year-old mare with a career total of 28 SJI points. A few lots later Kelly was back at ringside, to secure the five-year-old *Renkum Rendition* for €10,100. A useful sort, this son of *Irco Balou* was out of *Renkum Colitas* by *Renkum Valentino* and having competed in age classes also showed eventing potential.

As regular vendors at the venue, *Fairview Stud* achieved a good result when their *Can Do It*, a six-year-old mare by *Sligo Candy Boy* out of *Good Touch* (by *Touchdown* but unrecorded) realised the final five figure return at €10,000. The winner of ten SJI points, she was secured by British customer *Veronica Delicata*.

ROUND-UP

The opening session of ponies delivered a solid trade which was topped by the sale of *Brendan Keown's Simply Marigold* at €9,800. This six-year-old 148cm mare by *Moyan Mirah* (CP) was out of the thoroughbred mare *Dance*

Lorraine Trenier's *Cloverhills Quality Dancer*, 7 year-old mare by OBOS Quality (dam by *Huntingfield Rebel*), €10,400

Stacy Watling's *Renkum Rendition*, 5 year-old gelding by *Irco Balou* (dam by *Renkum Valentino*), €10,100

Fairview Stud's Can Do It, 6 year-old mare by *Sligo Candy Boy* (dam unrecorded), €10,000.

with *Destiny* (Key of Luck) and looked well bought by regular pony buyer Niall Daly.

While the trade for the older stock was solid, demand dipped with the appearance of the younger horses.

The best four-year-old return at €7,800 fell to Sean

Kearney's *Connemara* bred 154cm gelding by *Tullymore Dew* (dam by *Blackwoodland Basil*), while heading the three-year-olds at €4,500 was *Vincent Meaney's Genfidich Rebel* by *Gleneven Rebel* (dam by *Figaro Z Van Paenal*). **CL**

CLASSIFIEDS

HORSES

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HORSE SPORT IRELAND

NOTES

- National Breeding Schemes are now open <https://www.horsesportireland.ie/breeding/initiatives/>

New ePassport system coming soon!

- Visit breeding.horsesportireland.ie for pedigree, progeny and performance information on the Irish Horse Register.

- Remember to follow @HorseSportIreland on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter for the latest updates from our Irish equestrian athletes, both at home and abroad.

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'He wants our son to go to boarding school'

Dear Miriam, Our only son will be going into sixth class in September in our local country school. He is a shy, sensitive boy, but is lucky to have some good friends there. Most of these boys will go on to attend secondary school in town, and I think that this would make the most sense for my son too.

However, my husband attended a boarding school for his secondary education, as did his brothers. He has always expected our son to follow in his footsteps. But the thing is, my husband was very sporty and outgoing, so I think that's why boarding school suited him.

He believes that boarding school will be good for our son and help him to come out of his shell. But I just can't see him thriving there at all. It's also a boys' school, whereas I would prefer him to attend a co-ed.

My husband says that I can't molly-coddle our son and that he will have to fly the nest at some point. But Miriam, we're talking about a 12-year-old boy!

I always read your column and I would appreciate your view on this.

Concerned Mother, Munster



GET IN TOUCH

Do you have a problem you would like to share with someone who may be able to help? If so, you can write to Miriam, Irish Country Living, Irish Farmers Journal, Irish Farm Centre, Bluebell, Dublin 12, or send an email to miriam@farmersjournal.ie

Dear Concerned Mother,

Thank you for your email. I hear what you are saying, and your husband has also made his point of view clear. There's just one voice missing though: your son's. What does he actually want?

Look, I'm sure there are convincing arguments on either side. Many will say that boarding school fosters a sense of independence, forges firm friendships and allows young people to explore a range of extra-curricular activities as well as academic subjects. Equally, there is much to be said for your son continuing his education with his established friend group, in that co-ed environment, closer to home. While you have different viewpoints as parents, I'm sure that ultimately, you both want the best for your son. Agree on that at least; and go from there.

I think the best approach would be to allow your son to explore both options, but without any pressure either way. There may be open days for both schools. Go along together with an open mind. Talk to current students about what they like about their school. Explore what extra-curricular activities/clubs are on offer. You might all be surprised at what you find.

Whatever the end result, your son is most likely to thrive in the setting where he

feels he had a say in choosing, rather than feeling pushed to please either parent. Supporting him to make his own decision is probably the best lesson you can both give him. I wish you the best of luck. **CL**

Readers write

Dear Miriam,

In reply to the recent letter, "Can I ask my friend to help with petrol money?" (published 25 May edition).

The next time you and your friend are going out, stop at the petrol station to get a fill of petrol. When done and you are driving off, just mention how expensive it is now to fill your car. Continue on the conversation regarding how expensive the cost of living has gone now i.e. ESB, heating oil, recycling charges, insurance parking charges, grocery shop. Your friend might take the hint and offer to help you with petrol money etc.

It would be a pity if you had to cut back on your outings. We are all feeling the pinch of the cost of living now.

Wishing you luck,
Tipperary reader

“ He has always expected our son to follow in his footsteps ”

AGRIWORD 1266

BY FINÉAGAS

Some clues are cryptic, some more straightforward and some have an agricultural theme

ACROSS

- The supporter can bring a breath of fresh air. (3)
- Pamper Ms Malone with a bacon stew. (11)
- The Upper House of the Irish or US government. (6)
- Member of a criminal group. (8)
- The more elevated end of an evening snack. (5)
- Gullible. (5)
- Picture how warm it is in an Italian river. (5)
- Examples of petrified remains. (7)
- These cause reactions that limit us, strangely enough. (7)
- Mr Teamster organized this to measure your electricity usage. (5,5)
- Aches. (5)
- Town in Offaly where you might have seen Ms Schumann or Ms Bow? (5)
- Footwear of Native American origin. (8)
- 27a & 19d. Get on with life and tidy up that jigsaw! (4,2,3,6)
- Court bins to move? That's a hindrance. (11)
- See 25 across.

DOWN

- Practise this technique, and you're for the high jump! (7,4)
- Skittles. (8)
- See 20 across.
- Written record, detailing wood chopped by volume? (7)
- Musical instrument most associated with church music. (5)
- Hold in custody. (6)
- Be mistaken. (3)
- The cause of banishment from Eden? For Pippin, maybe, but not Bramley. (6,5)
- Loads of haemorrhoids. (5)
- Group of eight. (5)
- Presented as appealing to the rich. (8)
- Knifelike weapon affixed to a rifle. (7)
- See 25 across.
- Street song is an aid to upward mobility. (5)
- Ancient burial site consisting of a pile of stones. (5)
- This historic Chinese leader murdered all opponents at first. (3)

» Answers

AGRIWORD 1264

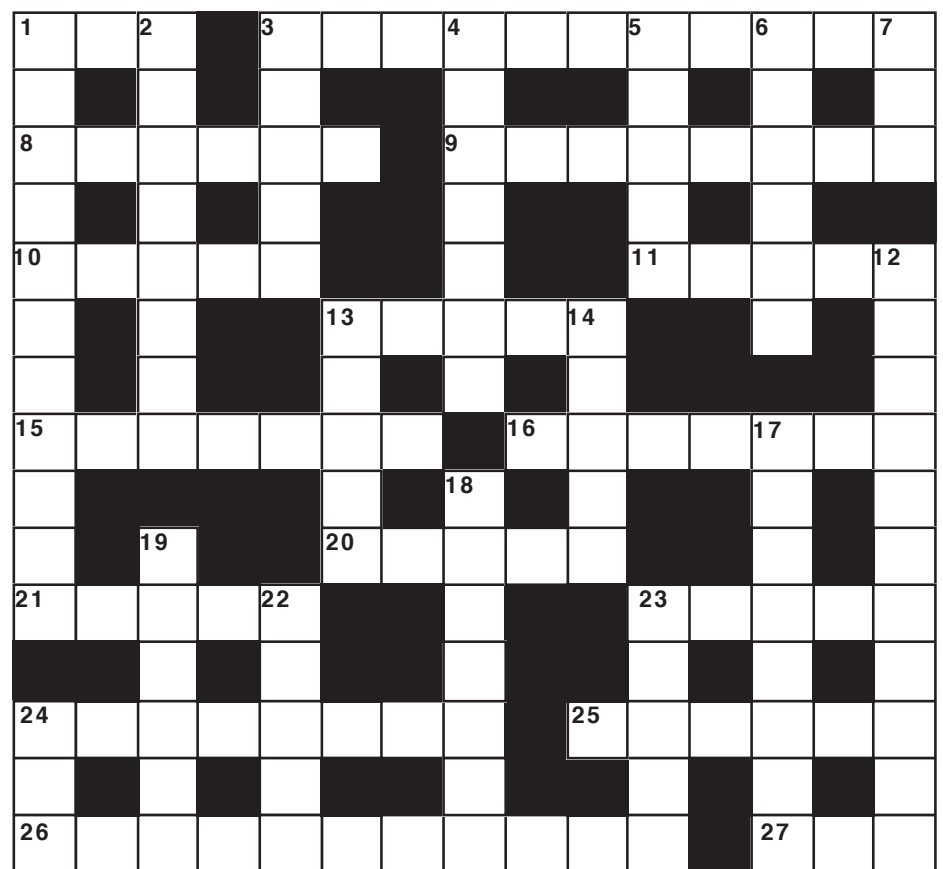
ACROSS 1. Cub 3. Litmus paper 8. Tackle 9. Entrance 10. Crepe 11. Lunch 13. Bangs 15. Stratus 16. Minibar 20. Dairy 21. Chasm 23. Polar 24. Iolanthe 25. Tuk tuk 26. King Edwards 27. Nun

DOWN 1. Cataclysmic 2. Bachelor 3. Lille 4. Meeting 5. Peril 6. Pen and ink 7. Rue 12. Heartbroken 13. Bound 14. Slimy 17. Bulletin 18. Diptera 19. Gallon 22. Manse 23. Plums

The next Agriword winner will be announced at the beginning of July. All entries received up until then will be entered into the draw for a €250 voucher.

Solutions: We will publish the solutions two weeks after crossword publication to facilitate a closing date for entries. Entries for each issue will be closed off after one week and those entries will be included in our quarterly draw. Closing date for agriword 1265 is Friday, 21 June, 2024.

Don't forget to put the agriword number on your envelope.



Please send completed puzzles to Agriword, Irish Farmers Journal, Irish Farm Centre, Bluebell, Dublin 12.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Contact no: _____

Farm enterprise: _____

Tick here if you agree to being contacted by email with news and offers from *Irish Farmers Journal*.

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Getting in Touch

The Irish Country Living Personal Pages

MUNSTER

TIPP MAN 50. 5'10. Genuine and easy going with good appearance. Farm owner with no ties. WLTM lady 35-45 as I live in rural Ireland. Hobbies include cycling, travel and weekends away. **BOX NO. M0506**

SINGLE, FIT, REFINED LADY. Residing in Cork. Is kind, caring, intelligent and cultured. WLTM kind, sincere, self aware gentleman who is fit, late 30s-early 50s, no ties for a serious relationship. I engage in walking, hiking, jogging, yoga and cycling. I enjoy culture, travel, fine dining and nature. Munster/Leinster area. **BOX NO. M0507**

CORK MALE. 71 years old. N/S S/D. WLTM a lady. I like music, current affairs, sports etc. I am easy going, a good listener with GSOH. It would be nice to have someone to share things with like dining out and weekends away, easy to please. **BOX NO. M0500**

REBEL CO. CORK Dairy Farmer. Male 44, single with no ties. N/S N/D. Genuine, caring, GSOH. I like country life, animals, dogs, nights out dancing, country music festivals, dining out and cosy nights in by the fire. Tv, reading, days out at agril shows, walks in the country side and sun holidays WLTM a girl with similar interests 27-45 to share and enjoy life with. Relationship with view to marriage. Genuine replies. **BOX NO. M0501**

MALE 59 YEARS OLD. Tipperary. WLTM a lady 58-70 from surrounding counties for a relationship. **BOX NO. M0504**

MUNSTER LADY: I'm a 40 year old beautiful African lady who is full of life with a bubbly personality. My friends would describe me as honest, reliable, confident, glamorous, bubbly and funny. I love fashion, travelling, cooking, dining out and watching movies. I'm looking for a generous, kind and loving gentleman. I do office work. **BOX NO. M0495**

SINGLE TIPPERARY MALE. Mid 50s, tall. Farmer N.S. S.D. Likes music, sport and going out. WLTM a single female in her mid 30s to late 40s from surrounding counties. **BOX NO. M0491.**

THE LONG AND WINDING ROAD. Single male 50 plus seeks a single lady 35-45 and loves outdoor life. Looking for a long lasting relationship. Farming is life. That should be shared. **BOX NO. M0492.**

SINGLE MAN- In my 60s. Living in West Cork. In good health, lots of interests, and positive. Like music but not country. Going to see live music, travel, going for drives, good fun, nature and culture. WLTM fun lady in early 60s or younger. With some similar interests. Must have reasonable English. S.D. N.S. N.V. Tel number or email if you wish. **BOX NO. M0487**

WEST CORK LADY- 70, semi-retired, professional, sincere, honest, attractive and intelligent. Enjoys travel and exploring new cultures. Arts, theatre, music, good conversation and all aspects of country life. WLTM a like minded gentleman either widower or single to enjoy the wonderful things in life. Confidentially assured and expected. All calls answered. **BOX NO. M0489**

SINGLE MUNSTER MAN - 61, never married, no children. Good personality and genuine person. I love the great outdoors, nature, animals, walking and travel. I help out on family farm occasionally. N.S. Social drinker. Have my own house and car. WLTM a nice, genuine lady from Clare, Limerick, Tipp areas. Mid 50s- Early 60s. **BOX NO. M0484**

WEST LIMERICK - Part time small farmer. I am 47 and single. Genuine man, no kids. N.S. N.D. Love country life, animals and nature. I enjoy nights in and out, walking my dogs and driving my car. WLTM a single unattached lady with similar interests. 30-45 with a good sense of humour. Must love dogs! Looking for anything from a few dates to a long term relationship. Phone numbers if possible for texting with view to meeting for coffee. **BOX NO. M0485**

CORK WIDOW - 60 Years old, no family, very caring, kind natured and genuine. WLTM a genuine, caring and kind natured widower gentleman in his 60s to late 70s. We would understand past loss. A good companion from Cork preferably to go for lunch, chats and drives. I am a car owner. **BOX NO. M0483.**

SINGLE RETIRED PROFESSIONAL LADY- Fit, healthy and happy with GSOH and positive outlook. Interests include music, dancing, travel and sport. WLTM a genuine honest and caring gentleman. Mid 60s to early 70s preferably. Southern counties ideally. Looking forward to meeting that special someone. **BOX NO. M0481.**

NEW BEGINNINGS, EARLY 60S. Protestant. Very find and caring. WLTM a kind and caring gentleman for social outings, coffee and catchups and social activities. Midland area. For friendship and possible relationship. **BOX NO. M0478**

MUNSTER LADY FROM A FARMING BACKGROUND. would like to meet a nice farmer, sincere and simple man no ties. I like weekly current affairs, animals, nature. From surrounding counties Waterford, Kilkenny etc. all replies answered. late 60s- 70s. **BOX NO. M0451**

IRISH LADY. Late 60s, retired. Currently living in France. WLTM a gentleman late 60s from Clare, non-smoker. Preferably with a farming background. **BOX NO. M0460**

MUNSTER LADY, 50s, seeks gentleman. **BOX NO. M0453**

TIPPMAN (56) is a single professional man with no ties. NS, SD with a GSOH who is looking to meet someone special to enjoy life with. I am from a farming background and like animals and country living but am well-travelled and enjoy good food and wine in good company. I enjoy walking as well as having wide-ranging interests in current affairs, most sports, live music and comedy. The one that I am looking for must be a decent person who enjoys the craic and is good for a laugh themselves. **BOX NO. M0456**

MUNSTER MALE. 50's with no ties. Own home. Fit and healthy. From a farming background. Likes the country life, weekend breaks away, walking dancing and music. WLTM a nice lady. **BOX NO. M0457**

COUNTY CORK LADY. 60s, blonde, no ties, considered attractive, very genuine, caring and sincere. Not from a farming background but likes country living and the simple things in life. Likes meals out etc. WLTM a warm hearted, sincere, kind, very genuine and caring gentleman. Widower or single from Cork preferably or Munster area for a long term relationship. **BOX NO. M0464**

CLARE MALE. 50s, no ties. I enjoy golf, sport, current affairs, socialising and music. WLTM a lady with similar interests 35-60 years old for friendship to see how we get on. Preferably in the Clare area or surrounding counties. **BOX NO. M0468**

SINGLE GENUINE KERRY GENT 44 yr old, Part time farmer & professional job. 5' 11, kind, honest, chatty & caring NS WLTM a genuine sincere lady 30's with traditional values who enjoys the country lifestyle for friendship & possibly a relationship who is from Kerry/Cork/limerick region. Photo and number appreciated. Confidentiality assured. **BOX NO. M0469**

SOUTHERN OCEAN BREEZE. Mid 60s Gent. N/S S/D. Good personality from farming background. Enjoys good food and wine in good company. Dancing, Fit to cycle the greenways, weekends away and travel. WLTM a single or widowed sincere lady in her 60s for friendship/relationship. **BOX NO. M0470**

LIMERICK LADY. Early 40s, WLTM a genuine man with a view to a long-term relationship. My interest include walking, nature and music. Email preferred for initial replies. **BOX NO. M0471**

CONNACHT

SINGLE MALE, 41 years old. In midlands with no ties. Seeking relationship with likeminded lady, country living lifestyle, outdoor activities, walking, music, travel. GSOH necessary. **BOX NO. C0502**

GALWAY MAN. Retired director. Widower. Seeks a genuine, warm active lady for companion friend and possible long term relationship. Interests include keeping fit, walks, gardening etc. The arts, music, social outings. N/S. Enjoys S/D. Please reply. **BOX NO. C0505**

SLIGO MAN IN HIS EARLY 50S. Part time farmer and full-time worker. A respectable, kind man with a love for animals and the outdoors. Never married. WLTM a grounded, positive and cultured lady for friendship or maybe more. I will be happy to receive your response and organise a meeting. **BOX NO. C0473**

SINGLE, WELL ADJUSTED, Outgoing West of Ireland Man. 50s, seeks positive, attractive and sophisticated lady from the West or North West. Age or nationality not very important. Confidentially guaranteed. **BOX NO. C0446**

VALENTINES READY Galway Gent. Is a single, kind and respectable gentleman. I have a great sense of humour. Loves sport, keeping fit and good food. I am easy going, secure, honest and Professional. I would like to share friendship with a bright mature lady 40-60. All replies answered. **BOX NO. C0465**

RESPONSE PACKAGES AVAILABLE

BRONZE SINGLE REPLY	€15	SINGLE REPLY – RAPID RESPONSE
SILVER THREE MONTHS	€125	UNLIMITED REPLY – RAPID RESPONSE – 1 WEEK FREE ADVERT
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PLATINUM TWELVE MONTHS	€400	UNLIMITED REPLY – RAPID RESPONSE – 8 WEEK FREE ADVERT

Getting In Touch, Irish Farmers Journal, Irish Farm Centre, Bluebell, Dublin 12
For any queries call us on Fridays 10am to 4pm – 01 4199 555
or email gettingintouch@farmersjournal.ie

LEINSTER

LIVING LIFE LADY. 50s. N/S S/D. Varied interests including 80s music, Am dram and hillwalking. While keeping a busy career going. WLTM a good hearted man ages 50-60 preferably living in Dublin, Kildare or surrounding counties. Unlikely to be retired. Someone who enjoys similar or engaging hobbies and who values a laugh, good company, friendship and more. **BOX NO. L0508**

MIDLAND'S GENT. All alone, presentable, easy going, mid 60s. Divorced, secure home owner. N/S have the odd sociable drink. Some of my interests are music, dancing, current affairs, out-door life and nature walks. Would be interested in hearing from a reliable and sincere lady 50-60s from Laois, Offaly, Carlow or bordering Counties. **BOX NO. L0499**

MID LEINSTER MALE 70 years old. Slim build. N/S S/D. No ties. Independent, self-employed, comfortable. WLTM lady for socialising friendship and take it from there. I have my own car, house etc. **BOX NO. L0503**

LEINSTER MAN Mid 40s. 6ft, medium to heavy build. My interests are race days, sightseeing, walks, rugby, good food and good company. WLTM a kind and caring genuine lady in her early 30s to mid 40s with ambition in life also with a good understanding about farming and it lifestyle. **BOX NO. L0494.**

CORK LADY Mid 30s, very genuine, kind and sincere. Professional job and from a farming background. Love hiking, travelling, fashion and cooking. NS, SD and no ties. WLTM kind gentleman with a great sense of humour for friendship / relationship. **BOX NO. L0497**

ATTRACTIVE LAOIS LADY Mid 60s honest and trustworthy. Looking for a nice and kind man. I have lots of interests including reading, walking and cooking. We can have nice times together. **BOX NO. L0498**

LEINSTER - 62 years old, single male from Midlands area. N.S. S.D with a GSOH. Self employed. Interests include sport, music and animals. WLTM a lady 55-70 years. **BOX NO. L049**

LEINSTER LADY in early 30s. Single lady, enjoys dining out, going to the cinema and weekends away and athletics. Would like to meet a kind and caring gentleman in his 30s with view to a relationship. **BOX NO. L0486**

VERY GENUINE MAN. 50 years old with no ties or baggage. My hobbies are sightseeing, cinema, meals out, weekends away and the simple things in life. WLTM a very genuine lady aged 40 to 60 to have a relationship. Status unimportant and genuine replies answered. **BOX NO. L0477**

PROFESSIONAL, TALL SINGLE R/C LADY. WLTM a tall, N/S and single gentleman aged 66-76. With a car for socialising. I have many interests some include travelling abroad, sports like GAA, theatre, cinema and concert halls. I love to dance and it is a bonus if you can dance. I am interested in current affairs, swimming, charity work, cooking and baking. I love animals. I also like all types of music especially Irish traditional. Replies from Connacht welcome. Must be a generous nature, dress well and like music. **BOX NO. L0479**

IT IS FASTER HORSES, younger woman and more money. Male 59 is looking for someone special to share the good things in life. i.e. walking in the countryside, sitting by the turf fire and watching tv. I like the soaps such as Fair City and Eastenders, in preference to watching sport but I enjoy watching and listening to hurling matches and golf. Would love to hear from a lady in Leinster or the Midlands. From Laois myself and near Tipperary, Kilkenny and Offaly. **BOX NO. L0445**

NORTH LEINSTER MALE. Separated and semi-retired. Living on small holding. Athletic build, 6ft. N/S and seldom drinker. I enjoy the simple things in life. Interests include music, singing and dancing. Like nature and the outdoors. Regular swimmer and enjoy going for walks. Looking for a lady 50+ from surrounding counties. Country or farming background in a bonus. **BOX NO. L0447**

OFFALY MAN. 70, retired widower. 6ft tall, medium build. GSOH. Like swimming, country music, white wine and good tv. WLTM similar age female to share life with. Discretion given and expected. **BOX NO. L0448**

SINGLE FARMER WLTM a nice woman for relationship, leading to marriage and to start a family. I am kind, honest and sincere with general interests. **BOX NO. L0450**

DONEGAL GUY, 63, 6ft, athletic build. Dublin based. Seeks a bright, cheeky lady 65+ for who knows what? **BOX NO. L0454**

LEINSTER FARMER. Single, living alone. Mid 60s. WLTM a single lady in Leinster for relationship. **BOX NO. L0455**

LEINSTER MAN EARLY 30S. Single. No ties in full time employment. Comes from a farming background. Interests include all sports, meals out, socialising, cinema holidays and all types of music. WLTM a lady 25-35 with some interests for friendship/relationship. **BOX NO. L0458**

BUDDY IS A BUSINESS PROPERTY TYCOON. Farming background. N/S S/D. loves country music, animals, sports and meals out. Age 55 G.S.O.H. WLTM protestant lady 25 to 45 for relationship, marriage. Single mum, widow or divorced lady welcome. any nationality a golden opportunity not to be missed by right lady. **BOX NO. L0461**

KIND AND CARING 60s. 5-10 with average build. With GSOH. No ties S.D N.S. Likes sports, dancing, CW music, concerts, swimming, dining out and current affairs. WLTM a kind and caring lady with a GSOH. N.S. to share the simple things in life. From Meath or surrounding Counties. Confidentially assured. **BOX NO. L0462**

FARMER FROM THE SUNNY SOUTH EAST CORNER. 6'1" tall, light build. N/S and social drinker. Enjoy dining out and a game of cards. WLTM a girl with view to settle in near future. I am hopeful Valentine will be good to me this year. **BOX NO. L0472**

ULSTER

ULSTER MAN. 49 years old. Living on the boarder of Monaghan and Tyrone. WLTM a kind and caring lady with similar interests. I enjoy walks, going out for food and farming. I like to travel and enjoy driving. S.D. N.S. **BOX NO. U0493.**

RETIRED PUBLIC SERVANT, age 70. NS.ND.RC. Single with no ties GSOH. Sincere with own car and house. WLTM lady age 60 to 74 of medium or large build. From Monaghan, Cavan or surrounding counties. Status or looks not important. For a relationship and possible marriage. Interests include travel, current affairs, GAA, reading and music. CW and Pop. ALA phone no. please. **BOX NO. U0463**

I AM A KIND AND GENUINE GENTLEMAN from the midlands. WLTM a kind lady for long term relationship and love. I am a farmer full of life. mid 70s. **BOX NO. U0474**

LADY LATE 40S. Donegal/Sligo area. looking for nice kind man with similar interests. Walking, cinema, going out for dinner. Practicing RC. NS.ND. **BOX NO. U0475**

ULSTER LADY. in my 50s. Professional teacher with no ties. WLTM a genuine, good and sincere man. For friendship and love. Confidentially assured and appreciated. **BOX NO. U0476**

ULSTER MAN, 60 years old. 5'3", and slim build. Love the countryside and is easy-going. His hobbies include sports, cycling, walking country music and he loves dancing. WLTM a lady mid 50s with similar interests such as dancing etc weekends away and holidays. **BOX NO. U0395**

DONEGAL MAN, single no ties WLTM lady 30-40 for Relationship/Marriage. I am early 60s, good appearance, VSSOH and kind. Love to meet lady to have family and settle down to a nice home from anywhere. Maybe a nice Filipino lady if out there. Please send photo and phone number. Waiting to hear from you! **BOX NO. U0433**

NEW BEGINNINGS. 60 Yr old professional lady close to retirement. Would like to hear from genuine nice gentleman to share new adventures, travel, socialising, walks by the sea etc. Kind, attractive in good health and look after my health, sociable. WLTM someone with same interests. **BOX NO. U0452**

MONAGHAN MAN 32, NS SD no ties. WLTM a lady 30-35 from Monaghan or surrounding counties, with no ties, I am employed, not farming, own house. Interests include walking, keeping fit, eating out and the cinema. Honest and sincere. WLTM someone of similar interests. **BOX NO. U0459**

REGISTER

To send a reply, or place an ad you must register with your contact details: Name, Address & Contact Number.

You can send replies and ads to the Getting in Touch team by post to Getting In Touch, Irish Farmers Journal, Irish Farm Centre, Bluebell, Dublin 12

REPLYING TO AN AD

To reply, please send your reply, details of the box number you're replying to, your contact details (to register) and payment to the Getting In Touch Team by post.

COST: A single reply to one advert costs €15, alternatively we have additional response packages listed at the top of the page, to register for one of these options please contact a member of the team.

GET IN TOUCH: Your reply will then be forwarded to the individual who placed the original advert. The Irish Farmers Journal does not take any responsibility for the advertiser to respond to the replies he/she receives from the advertisement.

By responding to an ad, you are consenting to your personal details to be sent to the person who has placed an ad in the Irish Farmers Journal.

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Send your ad along with your contact details (to register) and payment to the team by post.

COST: €25 for four weeks. We apply a box number to your advert.

RESPONSE: We will forward any responses to you directly by post.

Your letter will be treated confidentially and will be disposed of one month after the ads are finished running in the paper.

Please see our advertising terms & conditions on farmersjournal.ie.

Responses to your advertisement come directly to The Irish Farmers Journal.

We then forward on the responses to you.

FORMS OF PAYMENT

Card (Please call the office (01) 4199550, 10am-4pm Friday,

Postal order or cheque only. We cannot accept cash.

All payments must be made out to the "Irish Farmers Journal".

Groundhog Day: the cancer is back and I feel broken

I could not write about this before now. The cancer is back. By the time you read this, I will have received my third round of new chemotherapy, writes **Katherine O'Leary**

The day I found out my cancer was back again was a shocking day. After all the treatment, the love, the support of everyone, the expert medical intervention, phenomenal care and sophisticated drugs, it was back. Despite determination on my part, it was still back.

That morning at the end of April dawned dry and pleasant. My heart was full of hope. I imagined that my scans from the day before would be clear and I'd have three months of real living.

After a cancer diagnosis, you live from scan to scan. I'd gone through all the likelihoods and hoped that thinking of the possibilities meant they couldn't happen.

I had reared a hundred beautiful dairy heifers. I'd put another hundred Angus cross calves through my hands. I was proud of my work. Colm and Elaine and baby Peter had moved in next door. The swallows were back. The garden needed attention after not feeling my fingers for a year. I had the whole summer ahead and I'd get to it.

Tim and I waited in Dr Deirdre

O'Mahony's rooms. Deirdre appeared at the door wearing a glamorous blue tiered dress.

I envied her flowing blonde hair. My hairdresser Michael had said that I'd have highlights for Christmas. I passed Deirdre and my eyes landed on the desk and I knew something was amiss. It had a neat bundle of papers on it. Deirdre's desk is always clear when she has good news.

THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE...

There was a bit of chit chat and then she cut to the chase. "There has been a change, it's back across your lungs." The tears flowed freely down my face. The colour drained from Tim's. It's so important to have someone with you. I couldn't focus. I knew Tim could, so I allowed self-pity and despair to overtake me.

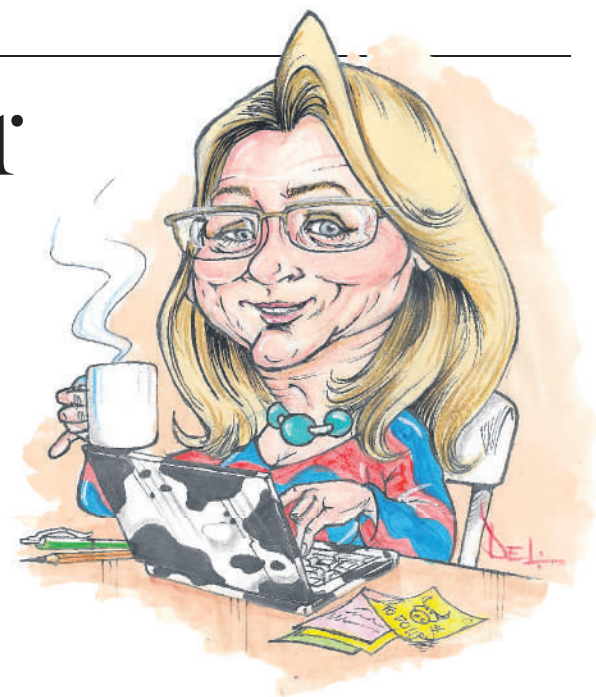
Deirdre gently pointed out the ominous white specks on my lungs. I knew I was in terrifying territory. I'd been there before but there had been hope. The words "advanced metastasised cancer" were mentioned. Deirdre recommended a new chemotherapy. It would begin immediately. Her goal was to stabilise the cancer,

give me a quality of life and hopefully some time. The remainder of my life will involve treatment. The pain of the loss of my life as I knew it was stifling. Terror consumed me.

Somehow, we limped out of that office. There was someone waiting to go in. All I saw was a shimmer of colour swimming before me as my tears partially blinded me. We held hands as we crossed the carpark to our car, squeezing fiercely to somehow eradicate what we'd heard.

Once again, I had to make the awful calls to my sons to join us around the kitchen table. Julie would already be there. It was the cruellest news to have to impart to my nearest and dearest. I was conscious of keeping the message simple for Diarmuid. "D, my cancer is back and I must have more treatment." His face fell and I tried to hold it together. It was truly Groundhog Day. Back to spring of last year. I was broken.

I'm not going to pretend I'm brave or to tell you that I'm coping well. I'm not. I am trying to keep perspective. I might be lucky and I might not. I am trying to find ways of not thinking about it. Tim and I have to live and we



“People don't know what to say and I understand that. Neither do I. I will dig deep in the garden, I will rear more calves, I will love my people fiercely for as long as I can”

must laugh and get on with our lives. Yes, we have the biggest black cloud pushing down on us. It crushes us at times and we cry and start over. That's all we can do. I want to see my grandchildren grow. I want to see my own children continue to flourish. I want to be part of their lives. I want Tim and I to continue to share our lives.

By the time you read this, I will have received my third round of new chemotherapy. I just could not write about it before now. It will happen over 24 hours every three weeks. People don't know what to say and I understand that. Neither do I. I will dig deep in the garden, I will rear more calves, I will love my people fiercely for as long as I can.

I need to get away from Groundhog Day. **CL**

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