

# THE SUNDAY TIMES

## THE STROKES

**EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW**  
**JULIAN CASABLANCAS**  
 CULTURE



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## THE CRUELTY OF KANTURK'S COLD-BLOODED KILLERS

**BRENDA POWER COMMENT**



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Stephen O'Brien and Justine McCarthy

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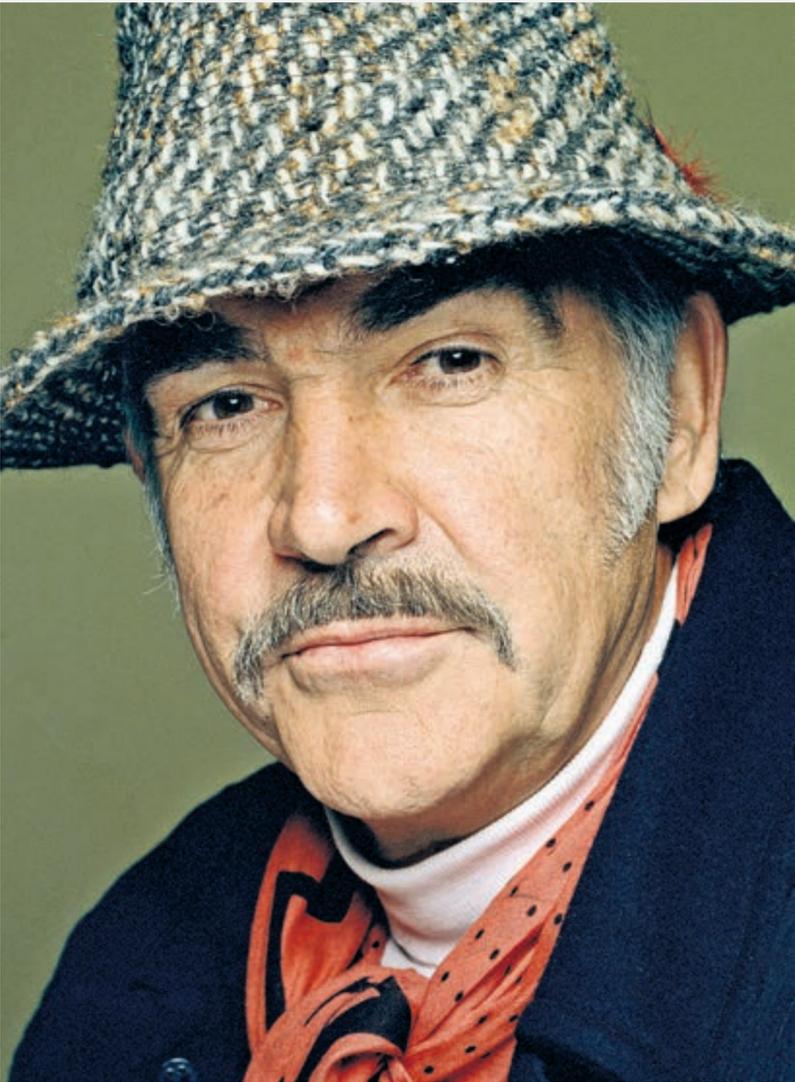
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Campaigners and survivors of mother and baby homes criticised the bill for placing the Murphy commission's archive under state seal, with no acceptance of Dail amendments and no pre-legislative scrutiny by an Oireachtas committee.

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A post-mortem examination has established the two children were strangled but the cause of their mother's death remains unclear. She was found in a bedroom with a ligature around her neck. Gardai say she may have taken her own life, although the ligature was not attached to anything. The effective self-use of such ligatures is highly unusual but not unheard of, according to gardai, who say they are still perplexed by the case.

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Gardai formally launched a murder investigation on Friday afternoon after post-mortem examinations confirmed the children had died violently. Gardai have urged members of the public with relevant information to come forward. @johnmooneyst

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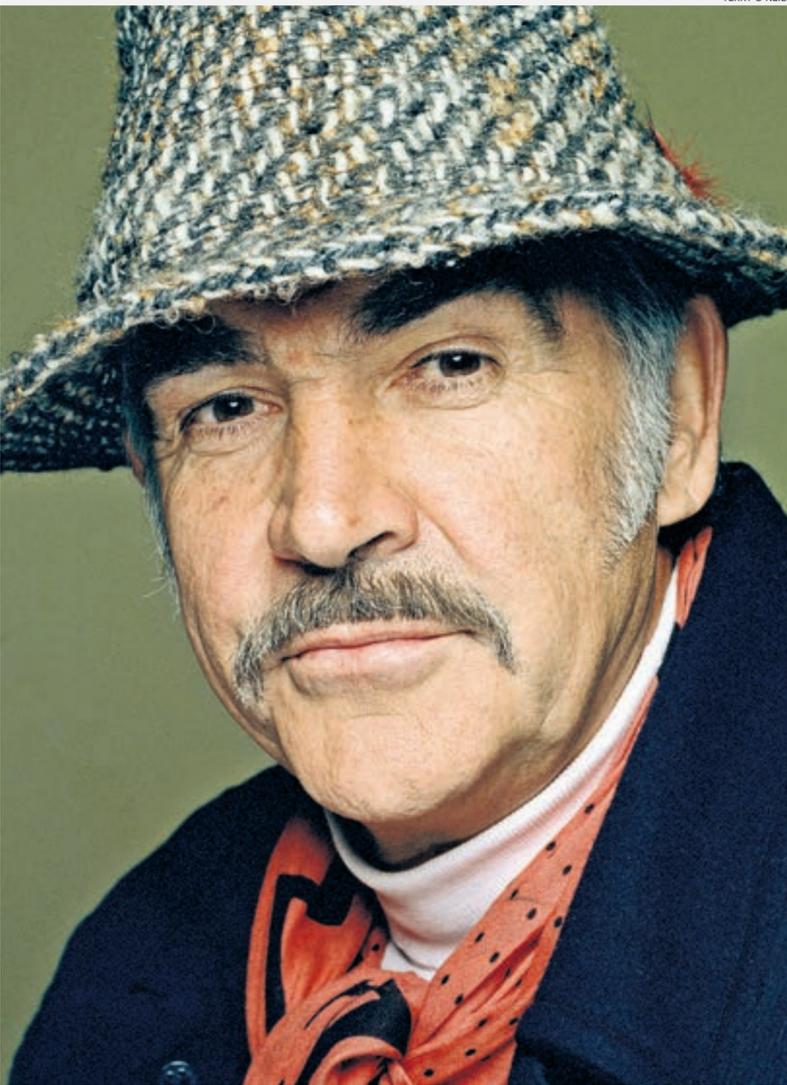
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# Climate change projects make waves in new national development plan

Justine McCarthy

The government is to publish a new national development plan next summer, setting out its capital spending until 2030 – with a strong focus on climate-change projects.

According to sources, the plan is likely to include creating a twin track on the railway line between Galway city and Athenry, and the reopening of a 40km rail link between Limerick city and Foynes harbour that closed in 2002. This would provide a point of departure for exports of renewable energy.

The revised plan will feature new projects, while some in the existing plan will be dropped.

On Tuesday the cabinet began a review of the original plan for 2018 to 2027, which the last government announced in February 2018 as part of Project Ireland, a €116bn strategy forecast for the period up until 2040.

The review is being led by Michael McGrath, the minister for public expenditure and reform. Ministers have been told to make their departments' submissions by January. A report by each department

will be published in the spring, before the new plan is unveiled in the summer.

Under a requirement that all ministers' memos going to cabinet must include a climate-impact assessment, the new plan will have a heavy emphasis on the effects of spatial developments on carbon emissions.

The programme for government, agreed between Fianna Fail, Fine Gael and the Green Party, included an undertaking to review the national development plan. It also stated that 20% of all spending by the Department of Transport would go on



The 40km rail link between Foynes harbour, above, and Limerick city could reopen under the new plan

facilities for cyclists and pedestrians. The remaining 80% of expenditure by the department is to be split on a 2:1 ratio between public transport and road works.

A spokeswoman for McGrath said the review will examine the overall cost of the 10-year plan and how it is shared out among departments. She said policies in the programme for government will be prioritised, "notably housing, health, climate action, transport and job creation and enterprise development".

The review will also assess the oversight and governance of projects and their compatibility with the spatial strategy of city and regional growth targets. Ireland's population is

projected to increase by about one million by 2040, with cities such as Cork growing at twice the pace of Dublin.

"In setting the appropriate overall 10-year national development plan's capital investment allocation and departmental allocations, a range of factors will be considered, including fiscal sustainability and construction sector capacity, as well as the investment needs identified by departments," the spokeswoman said.

"However, the programme for government makes a clear

commitment to maintaining capital investment."

Projects under construction, such as the €2.4bn national children's hospital, will be completed. The hospital, originally estimated to cost €800m, is one of several projects that have dramatically exceeded their initial estimates.

McGrath's spokeswoman said the government's investment projects and programmes tracker has been changed from providing "point estimates of project costs in favour of the inclusion of ranges of costs".

## 'Grace' foster abuse report due by spring

A state commission investigating the abuse in foster care of an intellectually and physically disabled woman, given the pseudonym Grace, is to produce seven substantive interim reports by the spring, writes Justine McCarthy.

The deadline for the first of the reports is December, with the rest of them due in March.

They will cover Grace's life in care from childhood into adulthood and why a decision made in 1996 to remove her from the foster home because of sexual abuse concerns was subsequently reversed by a three-person health board committee.

She was left in the house for another 14 years.

The foster father wrote to Michael Noonan, then the minister for health, in 1996 asking him to intervene to keep Grace in the home, saying that she enjoyed "a happy and secure life" with the family.

The interim reports will also cover why the family was chosen by the authorities to provide foster care and the role played by public authorities, including the now defunct South Eastern Health Board and, later, the HSE.

The commission, which is

chaired by Marjorie Farrelly, a senior counsel, was due to submit its final report in 2018. Farrelly asked the government for a fourth extension to the deadline last September.

Her investigation also relates to 46 other vulnerable people. Grace's case forms the commission's first module. As there is overlapping work between the two modules, the second phase of the investigation is expected to be shorter.

The commission circulated excerpts from its draft final report on Grace to relevant parties last February, but Farrelly told the government in September that she was still waiting for responses from some parties.

Grace's legal representatives are believed to have made a replying submission in March.

Peter Kelly, who has since retired as the president of the High Court, has described Grace's treatment as "a scandal".



Farrelly chairs the commission, which will produce seven substantive interim reports

# Separate funerals held for family in murder-suicide

Law graduate shot dead by his father and brother after tragic dispute over inheritance of family farm is laid to rest beside his mother's family the day after his killers are buried elsewhere

Julianne Corr

The funeral took place yesterday afternoon of 26-year-old Mark O'Sullivan, who was murdered in his bedroom last week by his father and younger brother during a family inheritance row.

His father Tadg, 59, and brother Diarmuid, 23, were found dead in a field 500 metres from the family home at Raheen townland in Co Cork on Monday, both having taken their own lives after the killing of Mark.

They were buried at St Brigid's cemetery in Castlemagner in the O'Sullivan family plot on Friday afternoon, after a decision was made to hold a separate funeral service for them at St Mary's church in the village.

Mark, a University of Limerick graduate who achieved a masters in business law last year and was on his way to becoming a solicitor, had his own funeral service in the town of Kanturk yesterday, before he was buried in St Patrick's cemetery, also in Castlemagner, alongside his

mother's parents. Just 25 friends and relatives were able to join his mother Anne, 60, inside the Church of the Immaculate Conception because of Covid-19 regulations but up to 300 friends stood outside and lined the town's streets in silence to pay their respects as the funeral procession passed.

Canon Toby Bluit, the parish priest who presided over both funerals, attempted to comfort a distraught community who are still trying to "make sense of the senseless".

Margaret Bolster, assistant state pathologist, carried out a post mortem on Mark O'Sullivan on Thursday.

Gardai believe that he was shot seven times with a rifle, which was later recovered close to where the bodies of Diarmuid and Tadg lay at an ancient ring fort near their home at Raheen. They both had single gunshot wounds.

The long and combative dispute that sparked last week's terrible violence is understood to have been about ownership of the family's 115-acre farm, worth €2m, which is owned by Mrs O'Sullivan. She inherited the farm and had decided to pass it to her eldest son.

A 12-page suicide note recovered from the body of Diarmuid outlined his grievance over the inheritance and how he blamed his brother.

It is understood the note was written several hours before the shooting, indicating that the attack was premeditated.

The brothers' mother, who owned the farmhouse property, fled the house following the shootings and raised the alarm at a neighbour's house.

She had recently been discharged from hospital in Dublin, where Mark had



The coffin of Mark O'Sullivan is carried into church at Kanturk, Co Cork

accompanied her while she had treatment for a serious medical condition.

Addressing the funeral yesterday, Canon Bluit described Mark's death as untimely, shocking and tragic. "We gather in such grief today, carrying a burden that not only seems to be, but in fact is overwhelming.

"We join with Bishop Crean in offering

our deepest sympathies to Anne, relatives and extended family. We ask you to keep them in your prayers as they endeavour to navigate this path of unexpected loss and anguish." More than 1,000 messages of support and tributes were left on an online book of condolences for Mark, with mourners describing him as "funny, kind, caring and selfless". Some of the messages were left by people who identified themselves as mothers, and expressed hope that Anne O'Sullivan would be granted the strength to "carry such a heavy cross" and deal with her "unimaginable grief and pain".

## Varadkar faces Dail grilling over 'leak'

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Dublin Central, said: "An action such as this does not have to be criminal to fall well short of best practice in public office and I believe there are some further questions to be answered in this matter."

Varadkar's statement said the 2019 agreement

on GP contractual reforms was negotiated by the Department of Health, the HSE and the Irish Medical Organisation and that "the essential details of it were publicly announced" on April 5. As head of government, he was keen the agreement would be well received.

The government had publicly committed to keep the NAGP informed as to the progress of negotiations on the agreement, he said. "Therefore, the provision of a copy of the agreed and publicly announced agreement by the taoiseach to the president of the NAGP was honouring a political commitment previously made by the government."

Smith said the taoiseach's statement also failed to reflect the fact that members of the NAGP's council, regarded the forwarding of

Smith, who wrote the Village article, disputed Varadkar's denial that he was in breach of the Official Secrets Act.

"The act says, 'A person shall not communicate any official information to any other person unless he is duly authorised to do so or does so in the course of and in accordance with his duties as the holder of a public office or when it is his duty in the interest of the state to communicate it'. The rule applies to persons, including Oireachtas members."

Smith said the taoiseach's statement also failed to reflect the fact that members of the NAGP's council, regarded the forwarding of

the document marked "confidential" to them via WhatsApp as "the real deal" and were asking "where did you rob it?"

O Tuathail expressly told them: "Please say nothing and keep this confidential", adding it "must not leak". Another message from the NAGP's chairman from April 18, reproduced in Village, said: "Remember IMO GPs are not seeing the contract document... just what the IMO are telling them."

Smith asked: "Why did Mr Varadkar not remove the first page saying 'confidential' and replace it with a blank page if by then the document was no longer confidential?"

## Woulfe rejected by judges

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presented with a "cogent" medical report that Woulfe was not in a position to take part. It has been reported that Clarke intended to admonish Woulfe over his attendance at the dinner.

Woulfe did not respond to The Sunday Times' request for a comment, which was made through his lawyer last week.

Although the Judicial Council has been formed to deal with disciplinary matters on the bench, it is about one year away from being ready to hear cases.

This means that the Oireachtas remains the only body that can formally discipline a judge for a stated misbehaviour. A simple

majority vote of TDs and senators can remove a judge from office following impeachment proceedings.

Brid Smith, a Dublin TD with Solidarity-People Before Profit, has said that if Woulfe's stand-off with the judiciary is not resolved, then impeachment proceedings would have to be considered.

"The judge has to be seen to be accountable," she said. "If this absence of accountability remains unresolved, the Oireachtas may have no option but to impeach him."

Another opposition TD said Woulfe should be given more time given he is ill. There is concern that an impeachment now could be "counterproductive".

## Bill anger fuels Green exodus

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February's general election in the Meath East constituency. He narrowly lost out on taking a seat.

McCabe said he notified the party that he was resigning 10 days ago. "The weak climate bill was the straw that broke the camel's back for me," he said.

McCabe was a co-signatory to a letter to party colleagues in June urging them to vote against the programme for government agreed with Fianna Fail and Fine Gael.

The letter claimed that the programme did not offer assurance that government would "take effective, fair and enduring climate action while also addressing the crises we face in housing,

health, homelessness and agriculture".

Another signatory was Saoirse McHugh, an unsuccessful general election candidate in Mayo who gained national prominence when she came close to winning a seat in the European parliament in 2019. She resigned from the Greens in the summer, saying the party was "toxic".

Last month Sinéad Mercier, the party's chief researcher in Leinster House in the last Dail term, said she was leaving after a proposed amendment to the party's constitution enshrining "just transition" as a climate change principle was rejected.

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# The milkman from the slums who became a Hollywood colossus

Strong yet suave, Sir Sean Connery, who has died at 90, transcended his poor upbringing to play James Bond and charm millions

Tony Allen-Mills and Grant Tucker

He ranked among Scotland's "best-loved sons", was indelibly linked to a fictional MI6 officer who epitomised rakish British charm, and won an Oscar playing an Irish-American cop. The death yesterday of Sir Sean Connery robbed Hollywood of one of its greatest stars and prompted tributes from around the globe.

The actor who first uttered one of the simplest but most memorable lines in film history – "The name's Bond. James Bond" – died in his sleep at his Bahamas home aged 90. He had lived an extraordinary life that began in the slums of Edinburgh, included an early job as a coffin polisher and prompted the film director Steven Spielberg to describe him as one of "only seven genuine movie stars in the world".

Connery was not the easiest of icons, his sometimes irascible nature exposed by interviewers pressing him too hard on his political views, his expatriate tax arrangements and his views on "smacking" women.

Yet there was no doubting yesterday that a giant had passed. From the Scottish nationalist politicians he supported to the producers of the Bond films that made him famous, he was variously hailed as "the world's greatest Scot" (by former first minister Alex Salmond); as a "movie legend" (by *Star Trek* actor George Takei); and as "the original James Bond ... [who] revolutionised the world with his gritty and witty portrayal of the sexy and charismatic secret agent" (by Bond film producer Barbara Broccoli).

Daniel Craig, who is often ranked second to Connery as the best of the Hollywood Bonds, paid tribute to the actor who turned Ian Fleming's fictional character into a global phenomenon: "The wit and charm he portrayed on screen could be measured in megawatts; he helped create the modern blockbuster."

The family of Sir Roger Moore, a successor to Connery as Bond and who died aged 89 in 2017, said in a statement: "How infinitely sad to hear the news ... He and Roger were friends for many years and Roger always maintained Sean was the best-ever James Bond."

Connery was barely known when he was first cast as 007 in 1962's *Dr No*. Cary Grant and Rex Harrison had turned down the role. Fleming remarked: "He's not what I envisioned ... I'm looking for Commander Bond and not an overgrown stuntman."

The debut, however, was a huge success and Connery went on to make four other Bond films over the next five years before falling out with the producers. The Australian George Lazenby took up the mantle for a one-off outing in *On Her Majesty's Secret Service* in 1969.

Two years later the Scotsman was lured back with a \$1.25m fee – a record at the time – to star in *Diamonds Are Forever*. In 1983 he returned for one last outing as Bond in the unofficial 007 film *Never Say Never Again*.

In the last decade of his life, Connery collaborated with a ghostwriter, the Sunday Times columnist Hunter Davies, on what was intended as his first full autobiography. The author spent eight months interviewing Connery eight years ago, compiling a 100,000-word manuscript describing the actor's life. Connery then changed his mind and the project was shelved.

Sources close to Davies said the unpublished material, all preserved on tape, includes Connery's descriptions of the troubled end of his first marriage to the actress Diane Cilento; how he lost his virginity in an air raid shelter on the battlements of Edinburgh Castle during the Second World War; and how, in his first job as a milkman working with a horse-drawn cart, he became so enamoured of his horse that he wrote it some poems.

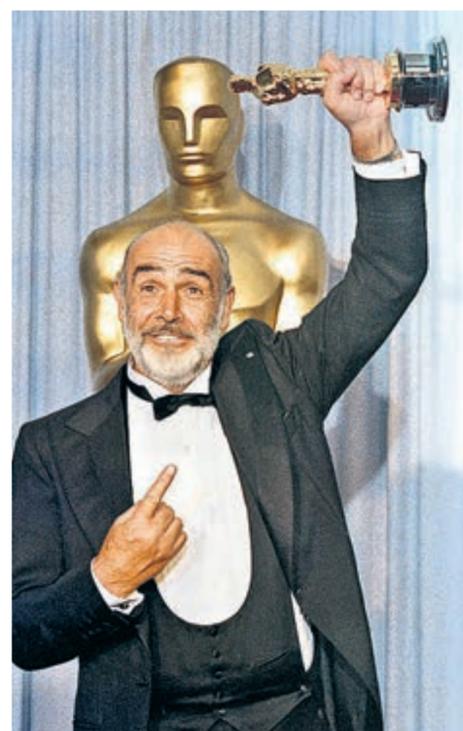
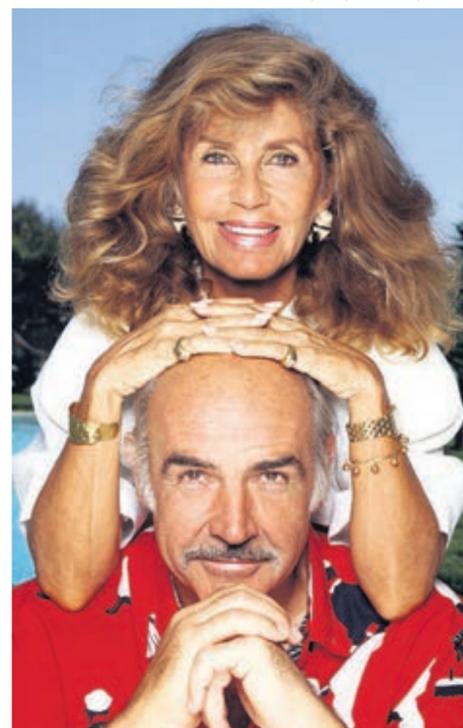
Connery's son Jason said his father had been "unwell for some time" and was surrounded by family when he died. Jason told the BBC it was "a sad day for all who knew and loved my dad and a sad loss for all people around the world who enjoyed the wonderful gift he had as an actor".

Among those grieving was Bond superfan Graham Rye, who briefly met Connery as a schoolboy visiting Pinewood Studios in Buckinghamshire in the 1960s. In 1983 Rye took over what was then the James Bond British Fan Club and still runs the Double-O-Seven magazine and website devoted to all matters Bond.

"I'm very sad," said Rye yesterday. "I had known for some time he was suffering from dementia, but I couldn't imagine a world without Sean Connery. From the moment I discovered James Bond [in 1962 in the first Bond film, *Dr No*], I was completely obsessed. Without his *Dr No* role, I don't think the rest of Bond would have happened."

There was an outpouring of tributes from America, where the Los Angeles Times remarked that Connery, "a commanding screen presence throughout his long career" had come to define the "dashing and deadly secret agent who preferred his vodka martinis shaken, not stirred ... For many moviegoers, there was only one 007."

The Wall Street Journal observed that Connery had been an international superstar, "tapping into the changing social and sexual mores of the era that enabled him to be seen as such an object



Clockwise from left: Connery in *Dr No*, with Ursula Andress; with second wife Micheline; brandishing his Oscar for *The Untouchables* in 1988; being knighted by the Queen in 2000



of lust for the audience as the lovers he pursued on screen".

Those shifting social and sexual mores caused Connery grief when old comments carelessly uttered to Playboy magazine in 1965 returned repeatedly to haunt him. He was initially quoted as telling the magazine: "I don't think there is anything particularly wrong in hitting a woman, though I don't recommend you do it in the same way you hit a man."

He would later say he was misquoted, but he compounded the offence by declining to apologise when the American television interviewer Barbara Walters asked him in 1987 if he had changed his views. He replied: "I haven't changed my opinion. I don't think it's good, I don't think it's that bad."

He endured an ugly divorce from Cilento, who claimed in a 2006 autobiography that she had been mentally and physically abused during the marriage.

He met his second wife, Micheline Roquebrune, on a golf course; they were married in 1975 and she is understood to have been with him when he died.

Nor were all his compatriots thrilled by his support for Scottish independence and the Scottish National Party (SNP). He was mocked for living in Spain and the Bahamas and was accused of failing to pay taxes in Britain, which he consistently denied. Sir Billy Connolly, the comedian and actor and another candidate for greatest living Scotsman, once compared Scottish nationalists to Nazis and said of Connery: "Does he live there? No. Connery couldn't find his way to Scotland in a taxi."

Connery was eventually knighted by the Queen for services to film in 2000, although many Scots suspected that the honour was delayed because of his political views and his expatriate status. In 1998 a Sunday Times profile of Connery

was headlined: "Star without an honour in his own land."

In later years, Connery was both dismissive and disdainful of much of the press, and in 2006 cancelled an appearance at Edinburgh's festival of politics when it became clear he would be questioned about women again. Routine film promotions occasionally turned nasty when Connery took objection to questions on his finances or his political views; he complained that "attempts to assassinate my character in Scotland" had driven him to live abroad.

In 2009 a reporter seeking to interview him in New York was reportedly told that only one question would be allowed "and it cannot be about James Bond, Scottish independence or any of the women in his life".

Yesterday, though, it was his undoubted star power that his admirers preferred to remember. Nicola Sturgeon,

Scotland's first minister, wrote on Twitter: "I was heartbroken to learn this morning of the passing of Sir Sean Connery. Our nation mourns one of her best-loved sons."

Sturgeon described Connery as "a global legend, but first and foremost, a patriotic and proud Scot – his towering presence at the opening of the Scottish parliament in 1999 showed his love for the country of his birth. I will miss him. Scotland will miss him. The world will miss him."

The actor Hugh Jackman tweeted: "I grew up idolising Sean Connery. A legend on screen and off. Rest in Peace." Liam Cunningham, the Irish actor who played Davos Seaworth in *Game of Thrones*, wrote: "This man was really good to me. They say don't meet your heroes. He exceeded all expectations."

Dame Shirley Bassey, 83, who sang the themes to three Bond films including

*Goldfinger*, wrote on Twitter: "I'm incredibly saddened to hear of Sean's passing. He was a wonderful person, a true gentleman and we will be forever connected by Bond."

Amid the flood of reminiscences and Hollywood anecdotes that marked Connery's departure yesterday, one in particular stood out. That greatest of all Bond lines, spoken with the faintly menacing cool that was Connery's unmistakable trademark, took several takes to get right.

It should not have been hard for a professional actor to remember the simplest of lines: "The name's Bond. James Bond." Yet it has since emerged that Connery kept fluffing his words, whether jokingly or through nerves is not clear.

It took him nine takes to get the scene right. Sadly, there appears no surviving recording of the clip in which he says: "Sean. Bond. James."

# Duty of care to customers may be redefined to cut frivolous injury claims

**Stephen O'Brien**  
Political Editor

The government is considering adjusting the duty of care owed by business owners to customers on their premises, to reduce the number of personal injury awards for slips and trips.

A cabinet committee sub-group on insurance reform is

also proposing that greater weight be attached to the use of warning notices and injury waivers at sports venues and gyms, in order to cut the cost of insurance for businesses and voluntary organisations.

A government source said Helen McEntee, the justice minister, is considering changes to the Occupiers' Liability Act "to ensure that

duty of care is fairly balanced when it comes to the responsibility of the premises and the responsibility to avoid injuries".

Last week McEntee told the Dail: "The programme for government contains a commitment to consider changes to the Occupiers' Liability Act and the Civil Liability Act, and to

strengthen waivers and notices in order to increase protections for consumers, businesses, sporting clubs and community groups.

"As an initial step, my department is examining international practice in the area of occupiers' liability with a view to presenting possible options by the end of this year." Leo Varadkar, the

enterprise and employment minister, who is chair of the sub-group on insurance reform, updated cabinet last week on progress, and said further reform of the Personal Injuries Assessment Board was also on its agenda.

A spokesman for Varadkar said: "We're making perjury a statutory offence, which will help to crack down on

fraudulent claims. Anyone who lies in court about an inflated claim should face the consequences.

"The consumer watchdog was asked to carry out an examination of the public liability insurance market because we have all heard stories of increasing insurance premiums for businesses who haven't had a

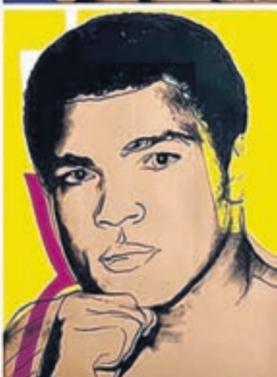
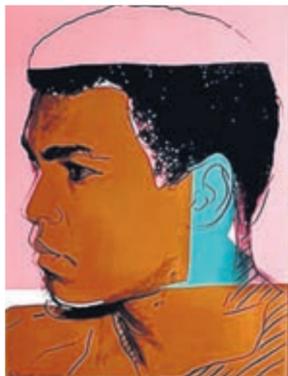
claim. This is due to be published in November.

He added: "Minister McEntee is considering changes to the Civil Liability Act to ensure that the duty of care is fairly balanced when it comes to the responsibilities of premises and personal responsibility to avoid injuries."

Peter Boland, director of

the Alliance for Insurance Reform, met the sub-group last month and asked for duty of care to be redefined to require only that measures in place are "reasonable, practical and proportionate".

He said: "The success of this sub-group will be measured by the speed with which it moves to get real reforms in place."



Henry's *A Sunny Day*, Connemara, above, Warhol's Muhammad Ali prints, left, and Orpen's *Beggar Girl*, below, are among works sold



# New fans of art throw in their lot with web auctions

Bidders whose finances have increased during the pandemic and those with spare cash due to a lack of holidays are creating a thriving market, say auctioneers

**Eithne Shortall**

Going, going ... gone online. Irish art auctions have been forced onto the internet by Covid-19 restrictions – but some buyers are prepared to hand over large sums for artworks they have never seen in real life.

Auction houses are reporting an influx of new bidders looking for ways to spend cash they can no longer splurge on holidays or discretionary shopping.

A record €420,000 was paid for a Paul Henry painting at Whyte's auction house in Dublin last month; the buyer had seen images of *A Sunny Day, Connemara* only online. Several other high-value works were sold at the virtual auction without being physically viewed, including a Francis Bacon print bought for €44,000.

Morgan O'Driscoll auctioneers in Co Cork sold a portfolio of four Andy Warhol screen prints for €210,000 at its online auction on Tuesday. The buyer had not seen the artwork in real life, nor had those who paid €100,000 for a Bridget Riley painting and €68,000 for a Banksy print.

"People did come to view the Banksy, but the person who got it in the end hadn't come to see it," said O'Driscoll. "A lot of the items went to America, England, Holland and Austria. I would take it some of them have holiday homes in west Cork, but most of the addresses were overseas. I would say none of the buyers from abroad came in, but it's a phenomenon that's happening all over the world."

John de Vere White, of deVere auctions in Dublin, said his firm has seen a marked increase in new buyers. "There's no doubt there are new people coming into the market. Look at Adam's [auctioneers] jewellery sales – people paying €20,000, €30,000, €40,000 for rings and bracelets," he said.

"I wouldn't like to be quoted as saying people are bursting with money, but there's no doubt there's a high percentage of people with plenty of money who are looking for outlets to spend it. Art has definitely been a recipient."



Francis Bacon's *Triptych* went for €44,000 despite not being viewed in person

While some households have suffered an income blow because of the closure of business and offices in the pandemic, the savings of others have increased substantially. The Central Bank reported a growth of €7.3bn in Irish household deposits between April and July, compared with €2bn in the same period last year. The rise was attributed to cautious spending by householders, and fewer opportunities to spend on luxury items.

Ian Whyte of Whyte's auctioneers said the pandemic has coincided with a "mini-boom" in the art market. Last year was his most profitable since 2007. "It has two factors," Whyte said of the upswing in sales, which include €34,000 for *The Beggar Girl* by William Orpen. "A lot of our wealthier clients have money on deposit, and because the banks are now charging them up to 1% for holding that money, they're taking it out and spending it on tangible assets."

"At the other end of the scale, there are people who haven't spent money on holidays and clothes or anything like that for the last number of months, so they have spare cash."

While the evidence is anecdotal, O'Driscoll said he had spoken to a couple at the Cork viewing for last week's auction whose holiday was cancelled because of Covid-19 restrictions and who were considering spending the money reimbursed on art. The auctioneer said more time spent working from home may have motivated people to get something nice to look at on their walls.

Online auctions allow potential buyers to leave bids for several days before the sale concludes. Virtual auctions also incorporate absentee and telephone bids, and the auctioneer conducts the sale into a camera for the benefit of a livestreaming audience.

De Vere White said he was nervous when it first became apparent that all of his auction houses' sales would have to move online, as they were unsure if people would be willing to bid without being in the room. However, the success to date means that, even when things return to normal, they will continue to do a "high percentage" of sales online.

“Clients are spending money on tangible assets”

# Santa set to Zoom from North Pole for virtual visits

**Julianne Corr**

With the Christmas season officially starting this week, many event companies and shopping centres have been preparing virtual events and outdoor grottos so that families can still see Santa.

According to the government's plan for living with Covid-19, indoor Santa grottos are allowed only when the country is at level two and below. However, early indications are that Ireland will move to level three after the country emerges from lockdown on December 1.

The Santa Experience, which is run by Magic Hammer Events, a Limerick company, has been operating grottos for the past seven years, at venues such as the Ilac Shopping Centre in Dublin. Greg Clarke, its managing director, said the company is moving all its Christmas events online this year, which will include private Zoom chats with Santa and personalised recorded messages from the North Pole.

"The virtual Santa experience will allow children and their families

to chat with Santa on Zoom and then they will receive a recording of the video afterwards," he said. "Children can also get personalised letters and certificates from Santa through the post."

The Santa Experience usually attracts up to 55,000 visitors and Clarke admitted he is unsure how popular virtual events will be.

"We don't think it's going to be anything like the football we would get for in-person

events. It all depends what level we're at after November."

Elaine Kelly, director of Luggwoods Events in Dublin, said her staff would normally be gearing up to launch a train that takes families through an enchanted forest to see Santa. This year the event will be outdoors and Santa visits will be socially distanced with mandatory facemasks.

"We've made a walking trail through the forest

instead of the train, which an elf will guide you through, leading you to Santa," Kelly said.

"Tickets have been on sale since September and so far sales have been up by a quarter on last year. If level five stays and we can't open, then we will offer full refunds."

The Santa Express at the Wicklow Christmas Market can only open if Ireland is at level two or below, with staff hoping the government

eventually moves to a hybrid version of level two that allows indoor Christmas events to take place.

Ed Horgan, who runs the market, said: "It'll be cancelled if we're not [at level two] and refunds will be issued. We're still selling tickets daily because people still do want something to look forward to. Once Halloween is out of the way, the focus is on Christmas."

The Royal Dublin Society and Retro Drive-in Movies

Leopardstown are hosting drive-in Santa visits this year, at which families can stay in their car while Santa comes to visit.

Shopping centres including Jervis Street in Dundrum and St Stephen's Green in Dublin said they were still in the planning stage in relation to Santa visits, given public health restrictions.

# Christmas comes early for Ireland's tree farms

**Niamh Griffin**

Christmas tree farms usually open in late November, but this year farmers say they have been taking orders since mid-October.

The country's Christmas tree farms are preparing to replace traditional sales methods with click-and-collect and drive-through services, with level five restrictions set to be in place until at least early December.

Jimmy Fitzachary of Glencullen Farm in Dublin opened for business on

October 10. He said: "They are starting early this year, because I think people will want to celebrate more. Coming here is like coming to the forest."

Martin Lynskey of the Galway Christmas Tree Farm is setting up a drive-through system, where customers can drive into the plantation, view trees sorted by size, and make a selection. "A lot of people are saying they will have some money in their pockets and they want a good Christmas," he said.

Most orders going in now

are for collection in December, but some households are planning to buy early and keep their tree up for longer than usual.

Martin Kelleher of Kildare Christmas Trees, who is also chairman of Irish Christmas Tree Growers, said: "We've never had orders so early," he advised: "The best way to keep a tree going is to make a fresh cut across the bottom of the trunk and put it in a water stand, not in a screw stand. We can make the cut for people, but if you have a good saw it's easy."

Farms are also advising prospective customers to book appointments and check before travelling.

Brian Hughes, professor of psychology at NUI Galway, said planning Christmas arrangements is a positive response to the restrictions. "Arranging your Christmas tree now is an achievable task. It feels good to be in control of something for a change."



# Belarus opposition leader pushes back at Wallace 'paw' claim

**Brian Mahon**

The Belarusian opposition leader has rejected a claim by independent MEP Mick Wallace that she might be a "paw of western neoliberalism".

Svetlana Tikhonovskaya had to flee Belarus shortly after its recent presidential election, which led to mass protests due to suspicions it was rigged in favour of Europe's longest-serving leader, Alexander Lukashenko. She is now living in Lithuania.

As a teenager, she spent many summers in Roscrea, Co Tipperary as part of a programme of respite for children affected by the Chernobyl disaster.

She stood in the Belarus elections after her husband, who was to be a candidate, was jailed. The Irish government, the EU and the US have all said they do not accept that the election was free and fair, and have not accepted the result.

Tikhonovskaya spoke to the European Parliament on August 25 to highlight

corruption and poverty in Belarus. After her speech, Wallace, a former Wexford TD who is now a member of GUE/NGL, a left-wing group in the European assembly, challenged her to confirm she had met Stephen Biegun, US deputy secretary of state, in Lithuania.

He tweeted later that day: "Belarus presidential candidate Tikhonovskaya says they don't want to favour Russia or US/EU but if she met with US deputy secretary of state that's worrying, and she's more likely to be a paw of western neoliberalism – which would be a disaster for the people of Belarus."

In an interview last week, Tikhonovskaya said she had met Biegun, but rejected Wallace's characterisation. She said imposing sanctions on individuals in Lukashenko's regime would not be interference in domestic politics, but a reaction to breaches of human rights.

The full interview with Tikhonovskaya will be published in the *times* tomorrow

# Galway gate jigsaw puzzle reveals a surprise in Latin

Ancient pillar that features an ode by Horace turns out to be from a different monument

Lorna Siggins

An ancient pillar with a Latin inscription has been discovered in Galway in a consignment of cut stone from Luggala, the Wicklow estate formerly owned by Guinness heir Garech de Brún.

A 25-ton cargo of stone was recently sent from Luggala to the west so masons could reassemble a post-medieval gate that originally belonged to Galway city. However, masons from Galway Stone Design found several extra limestone pieces that did not match the “bow gate” – but did fit together.

It has now been established that the spare stones are a separate monument that dates from the late 17th or early 18th century.

An inscription in Latin adapted from an ode by Horace, the Roman lyric poet, has provided a clue to its origin. The beginning of the inscription, taken from *To Postumus*, translates as: “God gave us this leisure/peace, but earth we must leave, and home, and darling wife, with many beautiful children, dear offspring of a dear mother.”

John Wesley, the Methodist leader, had recorded this inscription in his diary in 1756 when he visited a house, now demolished, in Hollymount, Co Mayo.

Research by Dr Máirín Ní Dhoonchadha of NUI Galway has matched this to an inscription on an artwork commissioned by John Vesey, a former vice-chancellor of Trinity College Dublin, for Anne Muschamp, his second wife.

Vesey, who lived from 1638 to 1716, had good reason to honour Muschamp. He already had two children by his first wife, Rebecca, who died in 1670, and he and Muschamp had 10 more.

Ní Dhoonchadha said Vesey had many connections with the west. Apart from his Trinity post and being lord justice of Ireland, he was a Church of Ireland rector who became archbishop of Tuam, Co Galway, in 1679.

However, this term in Tuam was marked by a dispute over tithes, which he offered to relinquish in return for wardenship of St Nicholas’s Collegiate Church, Galway. Ní Dhoonchadha found that he

was soon engaged in a dispute with St Nicholas’s church too, and further rows with the corporations of Galway, Athenry and Tuam.

Vesey fled Ireland with his second wife during the reign of King James II. He returned after the monarch’s downfall and bought almost 750 acres at Hollymount from John Browne, Garech de Brún’s ancestor, in 1698.

How the monument came into de Brún’s possession is unclear, but may be related to the fact that Vesey and Muschamp’s home was on land bought from the Brownes.

De Brún had brought the stones for the bow gate of Galway to Luggala from Castlemacgarrett, Co Mayo, with the intention of having it erected on his estate – but bequeathed it instead back to its home city.

After the recent additional discovery, Eithne Verling, director of Galway City museum, contacted Luggala – now owned by Count Luca Rinaldo Contardo Padulli di Vighignolo, an Italian financier. He has said the Galway museum can hold onto the Vesey monument on permanent loan.

Tony Boylan, director of the Luggala estate, said: “We were astonished to hear that a second valuable part of Galway’s history has been discovered among the limestone from Luggala by Mike Herwood and the team at Claregalway Castle.

“We had no knowledge of the Vesey monument and it is wonderful that it is now being preserved. The new custodians of Luggala have a strong interest in history, heritage and conservation and are determined it should be available for the general public to enjoy.”

He added that Luggala’s new owners were “looking forward to visiting Galway in the future to see the reassembled Galway gate and the Vesey monument and to learn more about their history”.

Verling paid tribute to di Vighignolo for his response, and to the late de Brún, whom she described as an “aesthete with a design sensibility”. She added: “Galway City Museum’s planned new extension will include a wing which will interpret the stone carving of the city.”



JOE O'SHAUGHNESSY



Experts work on the Galway gate, above, and, left, the pillar with the Latin inscription that has now been linked to John Vesey, a clergyman in the 1600s

## O'Brien paid INM bill to 'spare friend'

Mark Tighe

Denis O'Brien has told investigators that he agreed to pay fees of more than €60,000 to IT experts who searched Independent News and Media's (INM) email archives in order to save Leslie Buckley, INM's then chairman, from the “embarrassment” of having to charge the newspaper group for the work.

Buckley, who is trying to have two High Court inspectors appointed to investigate the alleged data breach removed from the investigation, has said he ordered INM's emails to be searched in 2014 and 2015 in order to find details of a legal contract with solicitor Simon McAleese.

Investigators from the Office of the Director of Corporate Enforcement (ODCE), acting on information provided by Robert Pitt, INM's then chief executive, found that the IT experts were paid by Blaydon, an O'Brien company. The IT team compiled a list of 19 “persons of interest” that included journalists and two lawyers from the Moriarty tribunal, which had investigated O'Brien, then INM's largest shareholder.

In filings lodged as part of Buckley's legal application to have the High Court inspectors Seán Gillane and Richard Fleck dismissed from the investigation, some evidence O'Brien gave in private has been opened to the court.

The billionaire businessmen told the inspectors he ordered the bills of €46,260 for TDS UK and €14,944 for DMZ IT to be paid by Blaydon, an Isle of Man subsidiary of his Island Capital company, to pay for the search of INM's email archives after Buckley

phoned him. O'Brien said Buckley told him the bills for the archive search had been much higher than expected.

Buckley was said to have been “embarrassed” to arrange for the IT work to be paid for by INM during what was said to be a cost-cutting exercise. O'Brien told the investigators that to “save” Buckley from this embarrassment he ordered Island Capital to pay the bills.

INM's back-up tapes containing the company's email data had been taken by Derek Mizak, the owner of DMZ, to Wales where TDS UK worked on reconstructing the files into a searchable database. O'Brien told the inspectors that he had been unaware Buckley was working



O'Brien: the search of INM emails was paid through one of his companies

with Mizak on the search of McAleese's contract details.

Mizak has said the list of 19 persons of interest was generated by an algorithm. O'Brien told the inspectors he does not believe that the list – which included journalist Sam Smyth, and Karl Brophy, a former INM executive whom O'Brien is suing – was an “anti-Denis O'Brien list”.

O'Brien said he either employed or knew Mizak, Henry and TDS staff previously, but denied paying for the INM search because he was interested in the work being undertaken.

The inspectors cannot review an encrypted report on the emails as they cannot access the password.

Winter Price Promise

Here at SSE Airtricity, we reduced our gas and electricity prices earlier in the year. As winter approaches, we're committing to keep those reductions in place. That's our promise to you.

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\*Based on Fuel Mix Disclosure and CO2 Emissions for 2019, published by the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU), September 2020. For more information visit [sseairtricity.com/greenenergy](https://sseairtricity.com/greenenergy).

Ken Foxe

Trinity College Dublin was anxious to know if it would be portrayed in a good light before giving permission to the makers of *Normal People* to shoot on the campus last year.

According to correspondence released under the Freedom of Information Act, Trinity was keen to allow Element Pictures to film scenes for the TV series, especially as the college was explicitly referred to in Irish author Sally Rooney's original book *Normal People*.

"In the first instance we need to determine whether we are happy if TCD is positively shown in the movie," the head of events at the college wrote in an internal email in February 2019.

The college was clearly reassured on this point by the makers of the series, who pointed out that Rooney and Lenny Abrahamson, the director of the first six episodes of *Normal People*, plus Ed Guiney of Element Pictures, "are all Trinity alumni and eager that we remain true to our source material and feature it in the series".

Location manager Eoin Holohan told Trinity that the producers wanted to show it as a working university rather than with the standard "tourist view".

He pointed out that the characters Marianne and Connell going to college was a key part of Rooney's story, and "it would be difficult to replace Trinity College with another university in story terms. There is a gravitas and aspiration associated with Trinity College that is crucial for understanding the development of our characters when they commence studying there."

Once shooting started, Holohan assured college authorities: "I have to say [Trinity] really looks amazing... I have seen some footage and the impact Trinity makes on screen is phenomenal."

Last week the college said: "[We were] delighted to witness the impact *Normal People* has had in Ireland and globally, not only because it was partly filmed on the grounds, rendered such a vivid picture of our campus and featured many Trinity actors, but because – possibly uniquely – its talented writer, director, and one of the lead actors were Trinity alumni."

During the shoot, Holohan told Trinity that the university's Philosophical Society, the student paper-reading and debating body known as Phil Soc, had requested a fee for filming at the Graduates Memorial Building, where it is based. He asked if this would come out of the overall location fee. "Lenny and Sally were members of Phil Soc," he pointed out. "I don't want any bad feeling between our production and Phil Soc."

Element Pictures was initially worried its budget might not stretch to the location fees charged by the college. Holohan



MARK DOYLE, ENDA BOWE

## Portray us as normal, Trinity told showrunners

College was keen to ensure that it would be 'positively shown' in TV adaptation of Sally Rooney's novel shot on its campus

warned that if Trinity was "genuinely beyond their reach" they would need to know early on, to leave time to scout other possibilities.

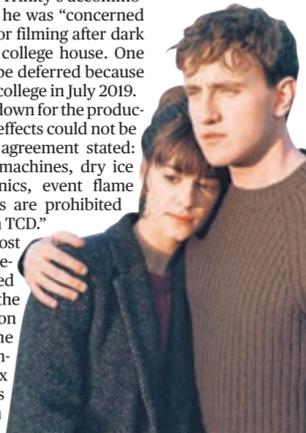
"A TV series like *Normal People* budgets approx [figure redacted] for location fees," he wrote. "We do not have the resources of a large feature film, but we certainly have the ambition."

Not all requests proved straightforward, with some night-time shooting causing issues. In one email, Trinity's accommodation manager said he was "concerned about the proposal for filming after dark in the vicinity" of a college house. One day's filming had to be deferred because of a royal visit to the college in July 2019.

One condition set down for the production was that special effects could not be used. A production agreement stated: "The use of smoke machines, dry ice machines, pyrotechnics, event flame effects and fireworks are prohibited within all buildings in TCD."

As it transpired, most of the on-screen fireworks were generated by the actors. When the series was broadcast on RTE last spring, some callers to *Liveline* complained about the sex scenes. One said: "It's like something from a porno movie."

Daisy Edgar-Jones on the set at Trinity, above, and, below, as Marianne with Paul Mescal and Connell



## Ark attack: Irish Noah animation tops UK box office

Barry Hartigan

Irish-made animated film *Two by Two: Overboard!*, topped the UK cinema box office last weekend, taking almost €368,000, according to Box Office Mojo, an American website that tracks cinema ticket sales.

Including previews, this means it did better business than the new Liam Neeson thriller *Honest Thief*, which took €283,519, and the latest version of *The Secret Garden* starring Colin Firth and Julie Walters, which earned €172,000. The comedy thriller *Pixie* featuring Alec Baldwin, Colm Meaney and Dylan Moran took €130,000.

So far *Two by Two: Overboard!* has grossed €1,693,608 from its British and German releases.

Takings at the UK box office are considerably down on the same weekend last year, however, due to fewer cinemas being open as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. The top-performing film for the same weekend in 2019 was *Joker*, earning €3.8m, followed by *Terminator: Dark Fate* on €3.1m.

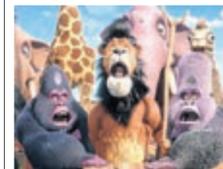
The Irish animation is a sequel to *Two by Two: Oops! Noah Is Gone* (2015) which told the biblical story of Noah's ark and his quest to save every species of animal from the flood. It had a worldwide box office take of €19.5m. The sequel continues that story, with food stocks running low on the ark and the fragile peace between carnivores and herbivores liable to end at any time.

The movie features the voices of actors Tara Flynn and Paul Tylak and was produced by Galway-based Moetion Films.

"We're thrilled about how well the film has done to date, especially in the context of

being a complex launch because cinemas are closed in various countries," said producer Moe Honan. "We were hopeful it would do well, because it's a film we have put our heart and souls into."

Honan said it had been planned to release the film simultaneously across the UK and Ireland on October 23, but the Irish release had to be delayed, as was the one in Wales and in some parts of England due to the closure of cinemas. "We are very much looking forward to getting it out there once the restrictions are lifted and



*Two by Two: Overboard!* has so far grossed €1.7m

Ireland is our top priority," she said. "We [want] to get the film out across Europe and are in discussions with other buyers through our sales agents, and we're in discussions for North America as well."

The animated film was completed only this year, with most of the work being done in Ireland. "While we are based in Galway, we're working internationally with partners for years now," Honan said. "We had a strong animation team this time and doubled the amount of work we were doing locally, doing most of that here. We did all the sound and picture post-production in Ireland during lockdown, so that was a new challenge, but we pushed through and got it delivered."

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# Taking Care of our Wellbeing & Resilience

COVID-19 has turned 2020 into a year like no other.

The National Plan for Living with COVID-19 is fundamentally about our personal and collective resilience and wellbeing. So, let's start with ourselves – keeping well individually will help us support one another and our communities.

We all need a little help at times – Healthy Ireland is building a programme of activities around five simple actions that we can all take to keep well.

## 1 Keeping active

Outdoor activity is important for physical and mental health. Sport Ireland will support people to stay active through the winter. Look out for online activities you can join.

## 2 Keeping in contact

Person-to-person connection is vital to our wellbeing. Don't let isolation become a problem - ask for help if you need it, offer help if you can. Local Authorities will provide a helpline and support services as part of The Community Call.

## 3 Getting creative

Learn something new, get back to nature, find ways to relax, re-discover your own locality. Engage creatively with local historical spaces and places. Local Authorities and the Creative Ireland Programme will provide initiatives in the arts, crafting, culture and heritage.

## 4 Eating well

Make the connection between the food you eat and how you feel, mentally and physically. Bord Bia will support healthy eating this winter. Libraries will promote a grow your own food initiative for spring. Safefood's *START* campaign will help parents to introduce healthier habits with their kids.

## 5 Minding your mood

Anxiety is a real problem – do not ignore it. Find out where to go if you or someone you know needs support. The HSE's *yourmentalhealth.ie* website has useful information and look out for the upcoming HSE online *Minding Your Wellbeing* programme.



The National Framework for Living with COVID-19 will help us to manage the risk associated with the virus. However, we also need to focus on wellbeing – the wellbeing of our country and the personal wellbeing of every one of us. That requires three things: healthy people, strong businesses and resilient communities.

Make a daily plan to do at least one thing every day that will keep you well.

There is an abundance of things to do and to discover in your area.

Find what's available at [gov.ie/HealthyIreland](http://gov.ie/HealthyIreland) or at your Local Authority and Community Call website.



#KEEPWELL



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

NEWS

Mark Tighe

Kieran Mulvey, the chairman of Sport Ireland, has rejected criticism from a Fianna Fail TD who described the extension of his term of office until October 2022 as “grubby” and compared it to reappointing the financial regulator after the banking collapse.

Speaking at the Dail’s public accounts committee two weeks ago, Marc MacSharry criticised the decision to extend Mulvey’s chairmanship and that of John Treacy, Sport Ireland’s chief executive, until the end of 2021. The TD claimed the pair had “presided” over the Football Association of Ireland’s financial collapse.

Mulvey was chair of the Irish Sports Council (ISC) from 2010 and then took the chair of the newly formed Sport Ireland in 2015, while Treacy was chief executive of the ISC from 1999 and also moved to Sport Ireland in 2015. Both were due to finish their contracts in September, but sports minister Catherine Martin agreed to extend their terms.

Mulvey said both he and Treacy were required to stay on to ensure “continuity” in Sport Ireland’s dealings with the financially beleaguered Football Association of Ireland (FAI) and to help administer the state’s €70m Covid support scheme for sporting bodies.

“I suppose I’m just the latest person that Marc has attacked,” said Mulvey. “He attacked the whole of the public service previously, and his own leader. I don’t play the man, I play the ball. You rise above that sort of thing. I’m more interested in substance and delivery than hyperbole.”

Mulvey said he “stepped forward” to ensure talks between public-sector unions and the government were successful after the 2008 banking collapse. “To be comparing me with another public official that some query regarding his performance [Patrick Neary, the financial regulator at the time], I’m just personally disappointed,” he said.

Mulvey said Martin agreed to extend his and Treacy’s tenure largely because of the disruption to sport caused by the pandemic. “There was a lot of activity taking place. This includes continuing oversight of the FAI and the monies the government have given them as part of the bail-out package. Given the relationship we have built up with the new executive, management structure and board of the FAI, it’s important to maintain that continuity in terms of John [Treacy] and I.”

Sport Ireland met last week to decide how the €70m of state support for sporting organisations suffering financially from the pandemic will be allocated. Sport Ireland has also been given a €36m increase in its annual budget for 2021.

Mulvey does not accept Sport Ireland was partly responsible for the financial



Mulvey, right, believes the rising number of Covid cases mean it is unlikely that fans will be able to attend Dublin’s Aviva stadium, left, to watch next summer’s European Championship matches



BRIAN LAWLESS; JAMES CROMBIE

# Mulvey kicks out ‘grubby’ job jibe

Sport Ireland chairman rejects politician’s criticism of his tenure extension and slams claims that the development organisation presided over the FAI’s financial troubles

“We were the first people to step in and stop funds

troubles at the FAI. “In the whole sorry saga of the FAI the point is their own auditors have complained under company law that they didn’t receive all the necessary information. After the stories broke we were the first people to step in and to stop funding,” he said.

“We are a development organisation for sport. We don’t have regulatory powers and we don’t wish to be a regulator. Sport is covered by two bodies: the Charities Regulator and the Companies Act [overseen by the Office of the Director of Corporate Enforcement]. They have regulatory powers and we don’t.”

Mulvey said while he would love to see crowds back in stadiums he does not believe that will be possible until a Covid vaccine is available. He believes this will be too late for next summer’s European Championship, and the four games due to be played in Dublin.

“I think we are talking late summer, if at all,” said Mulvey. “The hope is in the vaccine. We can only live in hope.”

He said the rising number of Covid cases in Europe was a warning about the dangers of opening up society too quickly. “As much I’d love to be in Croke Park or the Aviva or any other stadium

over the next number of months, the opening up of the [GAA] county championships has taught us a lesson,” said Mulvey. “You are able to control people in stadia, but once they leave and congregate the problem starts. It’s particularly something field sports have to be careful about.”

Mulvey acknowledged that the current ban on most sporting activities in Ireland including tennis and golf has been widely criticised. “You can’t make myriad rules,” he said. “I didn’t want competition among sports, one pointing at the other.”

# TD calls for monitoring of sex offenders

Stephen O’Brien  
Political Editor

More than 50 prisoners convicted of sexual offences in the Republic have breached the conditions of their release from jail so far this year, prompting claims that the sex offenders’ register is no longer fit for purpose.

Denis Naughten, an independent TD and former minister, is seeking cross-party support for fresh legislation, claiming that the government has repeatedly failed to prioritise reform of the law to allow gardai to properly monitor sex offenders upon their release. A draft government law proposes that fingerprints and photographs be used to clearly identify sex offenders on the register, while electronic tags would monitor more dangerous ex-prisoners. Naughten said this has been promised before and is still not listed for publication this year.

Helen McEntee, the minister for justice, told Naughten in the Dail last week that gardai reported 48 breaches of the Sex Offenders Act in 2019 and 53 in the year to mid-October.

She said gardai had begun proceedings against former prisoners in 45 incidents this year, and could apply to the courts for an order to ensure offenders comply with the terms of their release.

“In terms of compliance levels, I am informed that 1,625 people are currently subject to the requirements of Part 2 of the Sex Offenders’ Act [indicating] a compliance rate of over 96% for 2020,” she said.

The Dublin Rape Crisis Centre supports calls for reform of the sex offenders’ register. Noeline Blackwell, its chief executive, said former prisoners were

registered in an ad hoc way with individual garda stations all over the country.

“Monitoring prisoners after their release is only part of the picture,” she said. “About 14% of convicted sex offenders in prison [engage] in the Building Better Lives programme, which is the main [behavioural therapy] programme for convicted sex offenders. So you’re getting people serving sentences and getting no new insights into their harmful behaviour.”

Naughten’s private members’ bill passed its second stage in the Dail and can be reintroduced at the Oireachtas justice committee if it gets majority backing.

“A convicted high-risk sex offender released from Arbour Hill Prison can toddle down to the GPO and post a letter to Bandon garda station in Cork informing the gardai he intends to reside in Donegal,” Naughten said. “Once he is present at that address in Donegal one day a week, he can live in any corner of the country, with the gardai not even aware of his appearance, and he is complying with the current meaningless sex offenders’ register.”

A spokesman said the Department of Justice appreciated the concern communities could have, and said: “The programme for government includes a commitment to update the Sex Offenders’ Act 2001, to ensure convicted sex offenders are effectively managed and monitored.”

The bill’s provisions are expected to include enhanced supervision of high-risk offenders, including the electronic monitoring of offenders subject to post-release supervision orders, and allowing courts to prohibit a sex offender from working with children.

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# French horror triggers bitter battle of the egos between Macron and Erdogan

Rather than a clash of civilisations, the bald truth is that the very public row over terrorism suits both leaders

LOUISE CALLAGHAN



Istanbul

On the upper floor of La Petite Maison, a high-end French restaurant on Istanbul's European side, the dinner service was in full swing. Well-heeled customers sipped glasses of champagne and Gevrey-Chambertin, and ate escargots de Bourgogne farmed in western Turkey.

Outside, tourists from across the Muslim world queued in designer stores to spend thousands of pounds on quilted bags from Chanel.

There was no sign of the boycott of French goods called by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey last week after a long-running spat with his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron exploded.

"No one cares about the boycott here," said one diner. "It's all just politics."

Yet it is far more than that. Fiery rhetoric over free speech, Islamophobia, cultural intolerance and satirical cartoons – a clash of civilisations, according to the warring presidents – is costing lives. For weeks now, as the anger has risen, so has the death toll in France.

At the beginning of October, days after a stabbing outside the former office of the Charlie Hebdo satirical magazine in Paris, Macron unveiled a controversial plan to fight "Islamic separatism" and "free Islam in France from foreign influences".

But it was the murder two weeks ago of Samuel Paty, a French teacher in a Paris suburb, who was beheaded by an 18-year-old after showing Charlie Hebdo's cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad to a class studying freedom of expression, that ignited the dispute.

As France grieved, Macron launched an impassioned defence of secularism and the right to be offensive. In the name of fighting extremism, he also authorised sweeping raids on Islamic organisations.

Erdogan, from his palace in Ankara, launched a blistering attack on Macron, arguing that Muslims were being subjected to a "lynch campaign". "What's Macron's problem with Islam? What's his problem with Muslims?" Erdogan asked, questioning Macron's mental health and painting a picture of western "crusaders" out to attack believers.

His polemic gained traction with many Muslims in Europe and across the world, for whom Macron's words and actions were taken as deep, provocative insults that encouraged Islamophobia in the West.

Thousands marched in Bangladesh, and Palestinians in Nablus walked over a picture of Macron portrayed as a pig. The pro-government Turkish press campaigned to change the name of an Istanbul neighbourhood named after Pierre Loti, a French naval officer and novelist.

Last Wednesday, Charlie Hebdo rejoined the fray with a cartoon that insulted both Erdogan and Muhammad. The Turkish president branded the magazine's editors as "rascals who insult my prophet" and his communications director tweeted that "Macron's anti-Muslim agenda is bearing fruit".

Next day, a young Tunisian man armed with a knife walked into a church in Nice and killed three worshippers, one of them a 44-year-old mother of three. Turkish officials quickly condemned the attack, vociferously denying that Erdogan's words had incited violence. But for many European leaders, furious that it



Bangladeshis carry an effigy of Emmanuel Macron garlanded with footwear — an insult in the Muslim world. President Erdogan with wife Emine, who is not thought to have burnt her Hermès handbags



had taken more than a week for Turkey to denounce Paty's murder, it was too little too late.

"Enough is enough. We need action, no more words, against Erdogan and his countless provocations," tweeted Manfred Weber, a German politician who leads the largest bloc in the European Parliament.

This is not just a tragic blame game. When they talk about a clash of civilisations, Macron and Erdogan are consciously channelling the fears and resentments rippling around – and within – the Muslim minority in Europe.

Macron, struggling to reconcile French secularism and a population that is nearly 9% Muslim, calls for Islam to adapt to European values and become an "Islam of the Enlightenment", a proposition to which some religious Turks are particularly sensitive.

Like France, which introduced its strict separation of religion and the state in 1905, modern Turkey was founded on a secular constitution. For decades after the proclamation of the republic – on October 23, 1923 – religious Turks felt they were treated as second-class citizens by a secular elite. But the balance of

power has shifted in the 21st century: Erdogan and his brand of political Islam now dominate the ruling classes.

Erdogan has tried to position himself as the voice of Muslims worldwide – a leader who defends the rights of Islam at home and abroad, particularly among those European Muslims who feel intimidated by what they see as Islamophobia.

Though there has been some support for Erdogan's words among Turkish allies in the Middle East and beyond, particularly in Pakistan, much of the Muslim world has remained conspicuously silent.

Fault lines between Ankara and many of the autocratic Gulf nations – which despise Turkey's support for political Islam and the Muslim Brotherhood, and ensure that their client states in the broader Muslim world do so, too – have deepened in recent months. Saudi Arabia, guardian of Islam's two holiest shrines, has not backed Erdogan in his attacks on Macron.

Yet this is not all about religion or culture. While Erdogan and Macron accuse each other of inciting hatred, many analysts see their fight as less a clash of civilisations and more a clash of personalities: two ego-driven leaders who have been at each other's throats for months.

Before the bloodshed in France, the two presidents repeatedly came to blows over the conflicts in Libya and the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, and the tense standoff between Turkey and Greece over gas drilling rights in the eastern Mediterranean.

Some observers agree with the sceptical diner in La Petite Maison that this is "just politics". "In many ways I feel like Macron and Erdogan have found an ideal foe in each other," said Asli Aydinbas, a senior fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations, a think tank.

Erdogan, she argued, has been a useful foil in Macron's attempt to combat the

rising power of the French far right – allowing him to appear tough on Islamic extremism and geopolitical issues.

For Erdogan, a battle with Macron allows him to present himself as the voice of the Islamic world at a time when the Turkish economy is tanking and many Muslim leaders are keen to avoid disputes with the West over secularism and freedom of speech.

"The thing is, [Erdogan] genuinely is insulted by the stuff Macron is saying, and he does believe that it is offensive to Muslims," one veteran diplomat said. "But he has strategically chosen this moment to get offended. Trump is going around saying terrible things about

Muslims all the time, and he's close as anything with him. Putin kills Muslims in Syria, and China imprisons them, but he has chosen to pick on this attack, at this moment."

For Erdogan's supporters in Turkey, who are fed a steady diet of ultra-nationalist propaganda from state organs, this clash with France is just the latest in a series of "insults" from Turkey's enemies abroad that should be avenged.

"There isn't really discussion of ideas. People are being told that the leader of France is insulting things that are holy to us, and that the patriotic and right thing to do is to be angry at them," said Selim Kuru, an analyst at the Economic Policy

Research Foundation in Ankara. "[This clash] appears to be helping the French president too. Both leaders understand there's something to be gained here for their legacy. Macron understands that as much as Erdogan does."

There are limits to how far Erdogan is willing to go. The Turkish armed forces are still flying French Cougar transport helicopters, and the Renault factory in the western town of Bursa is still churning out family five-seaters.

Erdogan's wife, Emine, has seemingly chosen to ignore challenges by Kemal Kilicdaroglu, the secular opposition leader, to burn her Hermès handbags.

@louiseisabet

**“Erdogan has chosen this moment to be offended**

## Earthquake and 'mini-tsunami' leave 37 dead in Turkey and Greece

Louise Callaghan Istanbul

Rescue workers were searching for survivors hidden under the rubble in the western Turkish city of Izmir yesterday, after an earthquake in the Aegean Sea killed at least 37 people.

More than 800 people were injured and 17 apartment buildings collapsed in Turkey during the earthquake, which had a magnitude of seven.

Two teenagers were killed on the nearby Greek island of Samos after a wall collapsed on them.

Videos published on social media by the Turkish interior ministry's disaster and emergency management department showed a woman being rescued from the ruins of a building 17 hours after the earthquake.

Another showed a ginger cat being pulled from the rubble – seemingly in good health. Officials said that 100 people had been rescued since the earthquake.

The quake also triggered a "mini-tsunami" on Samos,

and caused the sea to surge up through residential streets on the Turkish coast. An official there said a woman in a wheelchair had drowned in the waves.

Izmir is Turkey's third-largest city, with a population of four million, and a centre for tourism and industry.

Rescue efforts were complicated by hundreds of aftershocks.

Yesterday, a university lecturer and mother of four was pulled from the rubble along with three of her

children, according to news website Haberturk. One died later as efforts continued to find the remaining child.

The leaders of Greece and Turkey, who have been at each other's throats for months over gas drilling rights in the Aegean, sent each other public messages of support in a rare show of unity.

"I offer my condolences to all of Greece on behalf of myself and the Turkish people. Turkey, too, is always

ready to help Greece heal its wounds.

"That two neighbours show solidarity in difficult times is more valuable than many things in life," tweeted the Turkish president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Kyriakos Mitsotakis, the Greek prime minister, had earlier written that he had telephoned Erdogan to offer his condolences.

"Whatever our differences, these are times when our people need to stand together," he wrote.

BURAK KARA

Rescue work under way in Izmir yesterday



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## American Diary Sarah Baxter



# Trump the joker still hopes for the last laugh

The president's amusing shots at his gloomy rival and optimistic take on the crisis are striking a chord with his fans. Democrats are right to fear his 'dark magic'



Donald Trump is a showman who feeds on the adoration of crowds. His fans have been boosting his ego with bursts of "Four more years" and "We love you!" but it was not until I attended one of his raucous rallies last week that I realised he had a gift for stand-up comedy. Trump's opening riff on Joe Biden being forced out of his basement to campaign in the closing days of the race was inspired.

"His handlers said, 'Listen, Sleepy Joe, we'd better get you out of there.'" Trump merrily taunted his rival. "They've just announced he's leaving to make a speech – in Delaware, three minutes from his basement." (Biden's home state is tiny.) Trump also ridiculed the former vice-president for being "locked down with a 'lid' on it", political-speak for an end to the day's official commitments.

It's the way Trump tells 'em that draws the laughter – the gestures, knowing looks and crafty pauses, giving the audience cues to boo or cheer. It's a lot more fun being a loud-and-proud Trump supporter in a pandemic rather than joining Biden's remote, under-the-radar race on Zoom. Perhaps Trump's last-minute tilt at victory has come too late to overtake his opponent, but he is giving it his best shot.

"If Joe Biden wins this election, he should be ashamed of himself because he didn't do any work," Trump huffed. You can tell this prospect annoys him. The alpha male in the White House can't bear to lose to anybody, let alone a career politician in his twilight years on his third presidential run.

"I've done more in 47 months than Biden has done in 47 years in Washington," Trump carped. His latest campaign ad states: "For five decades, Joe Biden has been losing."

Someone who knows Biden well told me he was, in fact, basically "lazy" – though he would appoint "smart people" if elected. Many of these same smart Democrats spent the campaign encour-

aging their candidate to lie low to limit his habit of putting his foot in his mouth, until they became spooked by Trump's closing ground game.

"Biden's not the hardest worker," the former aide added. "It probably wasn't that difficult to persuade him to take the weekend off."

Given all the signs of a record election turnout, however, Democrats fear that Trump's "dark magic" with American voters could overwhelm Biden's cautious "battle for the soul of the nation".

Yet don't be deceived by Uncle Joe's good nature: both Trump, 74, and Biden, 78 this month, are "narcissists", the ex-aide observed. The only difference is that "Trump takes it to the extreme". Although their childhoods were worlds apart in wealth and status – Biden's father was a used-car salesman, while Trump benefited from his father's property empire – they are both teetotal, influenced by an alcoholic brother, reliant on close family members and fiercely ambitious.

In the 1980s, Trump already coveted the White House and began courting the disgraced Richard Nixon, hoping he would move into Trump Tower. The former president obliged the brash tycoon by saying his wife Pat saw him on a television talk show. "As you can imagine," Nixon gushed in 1987, "she is an expert on politics and she predicts that whenever you decide to run for office you will be a winner!"

By then Biden had been a senator for 15 years. Behind his humble, good ol' Joe persona, he has played a very long game. Wanting the White House for himself, he nearly turned down the chance to be Barack Obama's running mate, saying, "Can anyone even name Lincoln's vice-president?" His second wife, Jill, snapped him out of it. "Grow up," she said.

Ted Kaufman, Biden's former chief of staff, told Evan Osnos, who has written a biography of the candidate: "If you ask me who's the unluckiest person I know personally ... I'd say Joe Biden. If you ask

me who's the luckiest person I know personally ... I'd say Joe Biden."

The young Biden boasted to the mother of his first wife, Neilia, that he would be president one day. Tragedy may have deepened his sense of mission. He was sworn in as one of America's youngest senators, aged 30, at the hospital bedside of his elder son Beau, who along with his younger son Hunter, survived the car crash that killed Neilia and his baby daughter Naomi.

Biden's sister Valerie – still his closest adviser – saved him from suicidal thoughts by telling him his two sons "cannot lose their father". Years later, Biden hoped Beau, a former state attorney-general, would forge a political dynasty but he died of cancer in 2015. "The whole Beau experience just killed off the arrogant stuff," a former colleague said.

Did it? Unchastened by a sleazy email scandal, Biden told Oprah Winfrey last week that his prodigal son Hunter, 50, was the "smartest guy I know" – not likely, given Hunter's appetite for money, women and crack cocaine. The candidate has shown not the slightest remorse over his son's activities. But a text, written to Hunter in rehab, revealed him to be a loving father: "Good morning, my beautiful son. I miss you and love you. Dad."

The Trumps don't do empathy but they are thoroughly entwined in the fam-

“

They are both narcissists but Trump takes it to the extreme

MICHAEL CIAGLO; PAULA BRONSTEIN; CHRIS PIZZELLO; DREW ANGERER; NICOLE HESTER



## The world is on hold, anxious to see if America's one-man show has run its course

JOHN MICKLETHWAIT AND ADRIAN WOOLDRIDGE



The current issue of The New Yorker contains a cartoon crossword in which the answer to every clue is a five-letter word beginning with "T" and ending in "P". Stable genius? Impeachable You? Tangerine Tornado? Trump, Trump, Trump and Trump.

This gives a good impression of America's state of mind on the eve of the election – everything is about just one man. For his critics, Donald Trump is the embodiment of evil –

a wrecking ball who has destroyed Washington's institutions and trashed his nation's good name. For his supporters, he is the one thing that stands between America and Wokeageddon.

His challenger, Joe Biden, may be leading in the polls, but if the Democrats take the White House from the Republicans, then it will be because the US voted against the Tangerine Tornado, not for that genial guy who used to be Barack Obama's vice-president. Nobody is

producing crosswords in which every clue is a five-letter word beginning with "B" and ending in "N".

Trump is certainly a history-making figure and his critics are right to argue that he has stretched the norms of the presidency. But he did not drop out of a clear blue sky – he is a symptom of America's deeper problems rather than a cause. Getting rid of him, as Americans seem inclined to do, will not by itself fundamentally change their country's trajectory.

Take the example of America's dismal handling of the Covid-19 crisis, which has done so much to reduce Trump's chances of being re-elected (before the crisis struck, he had a strong economy behind him).

Trump has hardly done well: he saw the pandemic through the prism of partisan politics, disparaged expert advice and, at perhaps the lowest point in his presidency, suggested that people ward off the disease by injecting bleach. But he was not the whole problem. Trump did not invent a patchwork healthcare system that emphasises fee-for-service medicine for the old and rich over public health for the poor. A pandemic was bound to expose that.

Or take the example of the racial protests that have

gripped America. Again, Trump has often not helped – especially by refusing to denounce white supremacists. But even his most hostile critics on the left should admit that he did not invent police brutality and racism.

Or look at the dysfunction in Washington. Trump has been guilty of nepotism, but John F Kennedy appointed his brother as attorney-general, and Bill Clinton asked his wife to redesign a healthcare system that accounts for a sixth of the nation's economy.

Trump has a cabinet prized for loyalty rather than competence, but America has long sold off senior political offices in return for campaign contributions.

As for political rancour, two of the most depressing books on Washington politics – Ronald Brownstein's *The Second Civil War: How Extreme Partisanship has Paralysed Washington and Polarised America*, and Thomas Mann and Norman Ornstein's *It's Even Worse Than It Looks: How the American Constitutional System Collided with the New Politics of Extremism* – were published, respectively, in 2007 and 2012, when Trump was still a reality-TV star.

Americans need to go beyond their Trump obsession and ask more

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THE SUNDAY TIMES  
IRELAND EDITION

# US ELECTION 2 DAYS TO GO

## It's the economy, stupid: the president bets on jobs, jobs, jobs to wipe out Biden's lead

ily business, whether property or politics. Ivanka, Don Jr, Eric and Tiffany have all stepped up to the plate as campaign surrogates. My email box brims with announcements of their final visits to battleground states. Last weekend, Don Jr posted a picture of himself on Instagram in front of a "Don Jr 2024" sign, with the words, "Oh boy... this will make the lib heads explode." But he might have to see off Ivanka and her husband Jared first.

Trump's own competitive streak was forged at the expense of his brother, according to his disaffected niece, Mary. In her recent memoir, *Too Much and Never Enough*, she describes how Trump was raised by his overbearing father to believe that lying was "a way of life" and displays of emotion or vulnerability a weakness.

Did Trump's craving for adoration stem from a vicious childhood? If so, he has turned it to political advantage by bullying his enemies, yet there has always been a humorous edge to his cruelty. Even in his business days, Trump was an entertainer, staging Miss Universe contests and Wrestlemania fights featuring Hulk Hogan in Atlantic City.

Arguably, his political skills were honed at the ringside. In 2013, Trump was inducted into the wrestling hall of fame. He talked then, exactly as he does as president, about the biggest ratings and best fights ever. "I don't think Sleepy Joe would be a good fighter. Do you?" Trump said at a rally in Arizona last week. "One gentle little touch to the face and he's down. He's down and he wouldn't get up very quickly either, would he?"

The feminist writer Susan Faludi claimed in *The New York Times* on Thursday that Trump's machismo was just a cover for a new form of "ornamental" masculinity: "The preoccupation with popularity, glamour, celebrity, appearance – what are these qualities but the old consumer face of the Girl?"

Yet it is also true that Trump has focused like a laser on the wishes of his fan club. On a whistle-stop tour of Penn-

sylvania, his attacks on Wall Street and support for blue-collar jobs in the fracking industry, as well as the promise of trade deals to benefit the American worker, could have come from an old-style union leader.

"For too long Joe Biden has been outsourcing your jobs and sacrificing your blood and treasure in foreign wars in places you've never heard of," Trump said – forcing Biden to mimic his rhetoric about "America first" with talk of buying American and getting tough on China.

In the crowd, I found Brady Pyne, 47, a mother of four. "Trump's for everybody who's a working person. He comes out for the working man," she said. Her husband, a welder, had lost his job in the coronavirus crisis and she was keeping the family going on "free lunches, food banks, friends and family".

Pyne didn't want to hear Biden's gloomy warnings about 200,000 more deaths and a "dark winter". Trump's optimism about a "jobs miracle" around the corner offered hope – the message that won the White House for Obama.

A seasoned political operator told me: "Trump is picking up what a lot of people think about Covid-19. I don't want a president who just shows up at funerals. My biggest fear is that Biden's going to get elected and he'll shut down the country for two months."

Yet even a skilled comedian can lose his audience. Like every narcissist, Trump loves the sound of his own voice – and as he carried on past the hour, his admirers grew restless. A woman to my right yawned and a line of people made their way to the exit. Alarmingly for Trump, Biden beat him in the TV ratings a fortnight ago when they went head to head with town hall meetings on rival channels. It can't have been the excitement value but it could have been the novelty factor.

One of Biden's favourite observations is "You're either on the way up or you're on the way down". Soon enough, we will know which way he is heading.

**Josh Glancy** Detroit

To listen to Donald Trump, it will soon be morning again in America. For Joe Biden, it is more like mourning in America.

As the two candidates criss-cross the swing states delivering their closing arguments, this is the stark choice being offered to the country: economic boosterism versus pandemic precaution. If the polling is accurate, Biden seems likely to prevail.

After two years of jockeying, \$14bn spent on campaigning and a bruising election race, America's date with destiny has finally arrived. A record-shattering turnout of up to 160 million is expected in Tuesday's election. About 90 million people have voted early.

Biden's campaign is maintaining a gentle pace but he rolled out the heavy artillery yesterday afternoon, appearing at a drive-in rally in Detroit, Michigan, with Barack Obama and Stevie Wonder.

Trump, meanwhile, is blitzing the "blue wall" battleground states of Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania with a packed schedule of rallies, trying to summon some of the manic

energy that helped him to a surprise victory last time around.

Yesterday the president held four rallies in Pennsylvania alone, the "Keystone state" that many expect to be decisive.

In an attempt to claw back his polling deficit, Trump is emptying the arsenal in the final days. He has deployed insults (calling Democratic congressman Adam Schiff a "watermelon head"), he has tried dancing to the Village People classic *YMCA*, he has even rolled out former Ukip leader and "king of Europe" Nigel Farage, a throwback to when Farage hit the campaign trail for Trump in 2016.

Yet amid the diversions and disparagement, Trump's central message is actually a simple one: trust me on the economy.

In frigid Waterford Township, Michigan, on Friday, amid the first snow of the season, he spoke for over an hour, touting positive recent GDP numbers – an annualised increase of 33% in the third quarter – and hammering his opponent for wanting to close businesses because of the pandemic.

"Biden will eradicate the economy, I will eradicate the virus and bring the economy

back to where it was," he said. "He'll deliver poverty, misery, depression. I will deliver jobs, jobs, jobs. I'll make America great again – again."

For the several thousand chilly Michiganders who gathered to hear Trump hold forth, the optimism resonated.

"Our economy is what's at stake," said Sherry Agro, 55, who lives on disability benefits. "It was great before the Covid hit. If he loses, I believe the darkness will come, the depression will come."

With Trump trailing by an average of six points or more in Michigan, there were some signs of anxiety at the rally. "The polls do worry me a bit," said Agro. "I do worry about

Biden winning but I don't believe our media. Our media is bad."

Many still believe in a hidden Trump vote. "I do still think he's going to win, or at least I hope so," said Carly Jarvis, 59, who volunteers with veterans. "There's a lot of people in Michigan who support Trump but don't feel they can voice it."

Biden's pitch can be distilled into his favourite folksy catchphrase: "C'mon man," insisting that America can and must do better. "We're not learning to live with it. We're learning to die with it," he told a rally in Milwaukee on Friday. "Donald Trump has waved the white flag and surrendered to this virus. We will not surrender to this virus."

With daily coronavirus numbers soaring again, reaching 90,000 cases and 1,000 deaths on Friday, Biden's message of unity and gravity in the face of the virus has him up by as much as eight points in national polling.

"I'm for Biden because I don't like the way things are going," said Joyce Bailey, a nurse, who was queuing up to vote early in Philadelphia. "We're just not in a good place right now. I want

someone who can bring us together."

Paul Begala, who ran Bill Clinton's 1992 campaign, believes that Biden's healer-in-chief pitch is hitting home. "The country wants healing and there really is no one better to offer it," he said. "The poor guy has spent more time in hospitals than anyone should. He has a wellspring of empathy. It's the perfect meeting of the man and the moment."

In recent days, Trump has upped his appeals to suburban women, a demographic in which he trails by as much as 23 points, according to a recent New York Times/Siena College poll. At a rally in Pennsylvania, he implored: "Suburban women, will you please like me? Remember? Hey, please, I saved your damn neighbourhood, OK?"

The decisive factor in the election is likely to be women, said Sarah Longwell, founder of Republican Voters Against Trump. "I've watched him alienate them in real time. At the end of 2019 lots of women were still hanging in there with the president, but after such a tumultuous summer, with the health crisis, the economic crisis and the racial crisis, it's fallen off a cliff."



Joe Biden in Minnesota and Donald Trump in Michigan on Friday. Left, people wait to vote in Hanahan, South Carolina. Far left, a counter-protest to a Black Lives Matter demonstration over the death after Kevin Peterson, a black man shot dead by police in Vancouver, Washington state, last week; Saks in New York is among shops that have taken precautions ahead of possible violence on polling day



profound questions: what explains the country's problems? And what can be done about it? Unless it addresses the first question, it has no chance of answering the second.

Covid-19 has been a global test of government effectiveness. America (along with Britain) has failed the test dramatically – with a rate of at least 690 deaths for every million people compared with less than 130 per million in Germany, and about 50 per million in many east Asian countries.

While America boasts the world's most admired private sector, its government is dilapidated, inefficient and a bit seedy. There are five times as many people working in government IT departments who are over 60 than there are under 30.

A convoluted tax system gives money to the rich, especially through the \$1.6 trillion (£1.37 trillion) of exemptions, while starving the poor of resources.

Politics is bedevilled by extreme partisanship. This is partly because it is often about fundamental values that you cannot compromise over: whether abortion is murder, or men can become women simply by saying that they are. (America's habit of leaving decisions about such things to judges, not

politicians, has paradoxically made them even more politically explosive.)

It is also because the US has built an entire infrastructure on amplifying polarisation. Talk radio, cable television and Twitter thrive on raging disagreement. Political professionals have discovered that negative campaigning works. Before Trump-hatred there was Obamaphobia.

Much of America's educated elite has abandoned public-service jobs in despair. In the 1950s and 1960s it was de rigeur for even the most privileged Americans to go into public service. JFK summed up the prevailing ethic when he proclaimed in his inaugural address: "Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country."

Today, Ivy League graduates gravitate instead to much better-paid jobs in finance, consultancy or tech. As for the politics of the state, Republicans have stuck to the mantra that government is a problem rather than a solution, while Democrats are tied to public sector unions.

Until recently, the relative decline of American government was hidden – after all, Uncle Sam won the Cold War. But increasingly, Washington faces competition. The past few decades have seen a remarkable, indeed

revolutionary, improvement of government in east Asia, starting off in tiny Singapore, spreading to the other Asian dragons and now reaching mighty China.

Singapore has surged ahead of America on all the education and health league tables – and its efficient state is a fraction of the size of America's leviathan. China's success in coping with the Covid pandemic suggests that it is moving in the same direction much more rapidly than we had realised.

None of this means America is inevitably in

decline. Any country that boasts Silicon Valley, Wall Street and Hollywood is hard to beat: and China's often thuggish regime has plenty of flaws too. But for those who care about freedom and the West, Covid has been a worrying episode.

America has already lost more people to Covid than in all the wars since 1945, and the second wave threatens to be even more virulent than the first. This has also been the first global crisis since the 1930s in which the United States failed to take the lead. Unless America wakes up, we

could face a much more Sinocentric century. It is in all our interests that it does.

Is Biden the alarm clock that America needs? Merely asking the question invites ridicule. At 78 on November 20, "Sleepy Joe", as Trump calls him, is the oldest presidential nominee in US history. The energy in the Democratic Party lies with the young "woke" generation that is more focused on issues of fairness or gender than it is in redesigning the American state, let alone competing with China. Many of Biden's most loyal supporters come from the trade unions that have blocked reform in schools and police forces. The Democratic Party platform does not bother to mention government reform.

But give Biden a little credit. Abroad, he is committed to repairing the damage done to the West by Trump's combination of America-first policies and bull-in-a-china-shop leadership style.

As a 34-year veteran of the Senate foreign relations committee and an eight-year vice-president, Biden understands the importance of working alongside allies and coaching foreign policy in terms of the defence of common liberal values rather than naked national interest.

The sudden swings in policy that have characterised

the Trump years will be replaced by patient alliance-building. The weird romances with autocrats will be put on hold. The Biden foreign policy team includes a lot of people from Obama's White House.

So would a Biden presidency just mean an Obama restoration abroad? On a few subjects, yes. It would commit America to fighting climate change and try to reconstruct the Iran nuclear deal. But a Biden presidency would have a much harder edge than under Obama – not least because the world has changed.

For UK prime minister Boris Johnson, a Biden presidency might show a particularly coldish shoulder. Biden is nervous about Brexit's effect on the Irish peace agreement, and his advisers plainly see post-Brexit Britain as a less potent force. By leaving the EU, Britain has ensured that America's road to Europe lies through Berlin or Paris.

The big question is China. Biden will be much more wary of the Middle Kingdom than Obama was. The idea that America is now in a contest with China is possibly the one truly bipartisan policy in Washington that unites both Republicans and Democrats. In answer to Trump's attempts to call him "China Joe", Biden has

promised to hold the Beijing regime to account, not only on trade but on human rights. To the extent that China would rather deal with a divided West and leaders who do not care about the Uighurs, Biden is more of a threat to Xi Jinping than Trump has been.

Standing up to China will not mean much if the US government continues to atrophy at home. Biden has a long record as a centrist politician. Despite all the heat from his party's left, the Democrats chose to nominate him, not Bernie Sanders or Elizabeth Warren.

He looks unlikely to "pack" the Supreme Court with liberal judges. His idea to "build back better" also has a nice ring to it (so nice that Johnson seems to have purloined it).

Biden's base is the blue-collar workers who have seen their wages stagnate for 30 years and who are often on the receiving end of lousy government services. As a proud son of Scranton, Pennsylvania, and a graduate of a state school rather than an Ivy League university, Biden is the first "deplorable" to get near the White House in a generation.

America has shown itself capable of turning itself around several times in the past. In the 1890s it looked as

though it was degenerating into an oligarchy – only for the Progressives and Teddy Roosevelt to challenge the monopolies and introduce political reform.

In the 1930s it suffered, only for another Roosevelt, Franklin, to back bold reforms; it roared back to life in the 1940s and 1950s. In the 1970s it suffered from malaise and stagflation – only to become a paragon of innovation in the 1980s. The need for a turnaround is as great as ever.

The pollsters got it wrong in 2016 and may get it wrong again. But if they are right and America does indeed elect Biden, one thing at least will change: America will no longer be able to blame all its problems on one man. Whether Biden is the change that America needs is far from clear. But at the very least he might be able to orchestrate an intelligent discussion of what has gone wrong and how to fix it. After the frenzy and distractions of the past four years, that in itself would be progress.

*John Micklethwait is Bloomberg editor-in-chief. Adrian Wooldridge is political editor of The Economist. The Wake-Up Call: Why the pandemic has exposed the weakness of the West – and how to fix it is published by Short Books and HarperVia*



Donald Trump has stood up to China's Xi Jinping on trade

# My four madcap years in the eye of Hurricane Donald

From the tweets and 'alternative facts' to Sharpie-gate and a bromance with Kim, Trump's whirlwind presidency has left havoc, and history, in its wake



**JOSH GLANCY**

Washington

What's it been like covering the Trump era, I'm often asked. What's it been like? Hmm.

Well, imagine it is August 2019 and you find yourself in Greenland, at an Irish pub called Daddy's in downtown Nuuk. Icebergs are floating past the window. Manchester United are self-destructing again on the telly. And you are approaching a group of bibulous Inuits to ask them what they think about Donald Trump offering to buy their island.

"It's ridiculous," Inuk, one of the locals told me. "Very, very weird. What is going on?"

What is going on? How many times have we all wondered that during this surreal, mesmeric, appalling, divisive, defiant, anarchic, vainglorious and relentless presidency? Under what other president could I have possibly ended up quizzing confused Greenlanders on the merits of becoming the 51st state?

The sheer volume of previously unimaginable things that have happened during Trump's first term has been overwhelming. Even four years in, there are still days when you see the Donald landing Marine One at one of his golf resorts and pinch yourself.

During his inauguration speech, Trump told us that "American carnage stops right here". Alas not. Life with the self-proclaimed "very stable genius" has been anything but steady. As for covering Trump: it has been the strangest experience of my life.

It was 10.53pm on Tuesday November 8, 2016, when the Trump presidency became manifest. I was standing on Manhattan's Sixth Avenue, outside the Fox News building, with several hundred men and women in red Maga caps, watching the coverage on the big screen.

They called Florida for Trump and the crowd erupted, hugging, backslapping, chanting: "USA!" It was one moment in my life when I have felt the earth-shaking power of real history, certain that nothing would be the same again.

The early days of the Trump administration quickly set the tone for what would follow: a blur of factional infighting, chaotic policy-making, relentless media onslaught and unmissable performance art.

It began immediately with the inauguration. A chilly, grey day outside the Capitol building and a crowd notably smaller than that which gathered for Barack Obama eight years earlier. Except not, at least according to Sean Spicer, Trump's hapless first press secretary.

"This was the largest audience to ever witness an inauguration - period," the Pooterish Spicer claimed. An obvious lie? Not according to spin master Kellyanne Conway, who called it an "alternative fact". The post-truth presidency was under way.

From there we quickly moved on to "Muslim" travel bans, transgender military bans, the horrors of neo-Nazis marching in Charlottesville, the firing of the FBI director James Comey and the Mueller inquiry.

It is difficult to remember it all. Entire years' worth of political news unspooled in single weeks. Take the "11 days of the Mooch" in July 2017, when Christmas came early for political hacks with the appointment of the wiseguy New York hedge funder Anthony Scaramucci as White House communications director. Ah, the Mooch. He came, he saw, he told a reporter on the record that Steve Bannon tries to "suck his own cock".

Mooch went on to call the White House chief of staff Reince Priebus "a f\*\*\*ing paranoid schizophrenic".

Priebus left his job days later, before Mooch followed him out the door, receiving divorce filings from his wife and turning on Trump in the process.

Having hitherto monitored Trumpland from New York, that was the first week I spent in Washington, covering

for a colleague. It was a sharp lesson in Trump era savagery.

"Hell is empty," I wrote in an excitable news report, drawing on my A-level Shakespeare. "And all the devils are here."

Much of 2018 was taken up with migrant caravans and Trump's obsession with building a border wall with Mexico, and making someone pay for it. Trump's Sisyphian wall project took me down to McAllen, Texas, so often that I even befriended the security staff at the local courthouse.

It also led to the cruelest moment of Trump's first term: the short-lived decision to separate illegal migrant children from their parents, some of whom have still not been reunited. That will not be forgotten.

A row over wall funding also caused the longest government shutdown in American history, some 34 days. So long, in fact, that I ended up reporting from Shenandoah National Park in Virginia, where furloughed park rangers had stopped taking out the rubbish bins and hungry bears were descending from their mountain hideaways for a free lunch.

For most of its duration, Trump's presidency has seemed on the verge of destruction, his doom predicted many times by excitable media critics and members of the "Resistance". First it was the Mueller inquiry, which turned up lots of dirty tricks and unseemly Russian fraternisation but never delivered the grand collusion narrative that so many liberals hoped for.

Then it was impeachment, a piece of impressive but ultimately empty political theatre. An investigation into Trump's threat to withhold military aid from Ukraine - unless it investigated the Biden family - failed to persuade tribal Republican senators, some of whom slept through the interminable proceedings. Trump survived again.

Sometimes, even if it was your job to follow every twist, you just wanted to turn it all off. Yet always there was more drama, another tweetstorm and another round of outraged headlines.

Trump's Twitter feed has been the central feature of his presidency. It has crashed markets, threatened nuclear annihilation ("my button works!"), espoused racism ("Why don't they go back and help fix the... crime infested places from which they came?"), encouraged domestic insurrection ("Liberate Michigan!") and launched spats with everyone from Arnold Schwarzenegger ("pathetic ratings") to Snoop Dogg ("failing career").

At times Trump's feed has ventured into abstract expressionism, such as in 2017 when he tweeted: "Despite the constant negative press covfefe". Was it a typo? A brain fade? A deliberate troll? No one was sure. The covfefe tweet launched an avalanche of memes, somehow capturing the incoherence and eccentricity of the most powerful man alive.

All of us, to a greater or lesser extent, have been locked in a relationship with Donald Trump's psyche over the past four years. A while back I asked Michael Wolff, author of *Fire and Fury*, the best-selling book about this presidency, how he felt about Trump the man.

"It still shocks me," Wolff said. "He is a character that we will be talking about 100 years from now. Who is this guy really? How did this happen? He's either an aberration, or perhaps he's the ultimate American character multiplied, America written in some hyperbolic way."

At times, when Trump veers off into his own unique brand of political dadaism, things have just been plain weird. Hurricanes in particular always seem to bring out his inner absurdist.

"One of the wettest we've ever seen, from the standpoint of water" was his verdict on Hurricane Florence. And of course there was "Sharpie-gate", when he altered the official map of Hurricane Dorian with a sharpie pen to back up his wild claim that Alabama was about to be hit hard.

Then there was the orb. Let us never forget the orb.

In May 2017, Trump arrived in Saudi Arabia for his first foreign trip and visited the opening of the Global Centre for Combating Extremist Ideology. There, Trump, Melania, King Salman and the Egyptian president, Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, gathered mystically around a glowing white orb for one of the all time weirdest diplomatic photos. "For clarification," tweeted the Church of Satan, "this is not a Satanic ritual."

Yet in policy terms, beyond the orbs and sharpies, the grandstanding and firings and random attacks on the actor Samuel L Jackson's golf swing, Trump's first four years have - at least in part - resembled a fairly conventional Republican presidency.

In concert with the Senate leader, Mitch McConnell, Trump has remade the judiciary and swung the Supreme Court in a firmly conservative direction. He delivered tax cuts large enough to satisfy even the most devoted Ayn Rand acolyte and oversaw a growing pre-Covid economy. He also pushed through much-needed criminal justice reform, working with Kim Kardashian, among others, to pass the First Step Act that allows for easier compassionate early release from prison.

On foreign policy, there has been plenty more anarchy, a bizarre love-hate bromance with "little rocket man" Kim Jong-Un, a humiliating decision to side with Vladimir Putin over his own intelligence agencies at a 2018 summit in Helsinki, withdrawal from the Paris climate accords - but some qualified successes too. Trump has started no disastrous foreign wars, helped forge some surprising peace deals between Israel and its Muslim neighbours and, despite a messy trade war, pushed America into an over-due and far more competitive stance with China.

These more concrete achievements are one reason Trump still has a shot in Tuesday's election. Alongside the Team America fantasia and performative trolling beloved by his base, when Trump has managed to govern, it has been as a not entirely abnormal Republican. Many will vote for him accordingly.

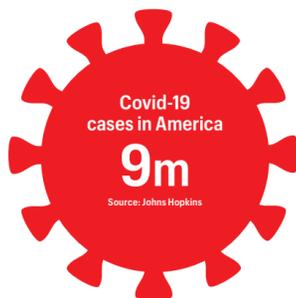
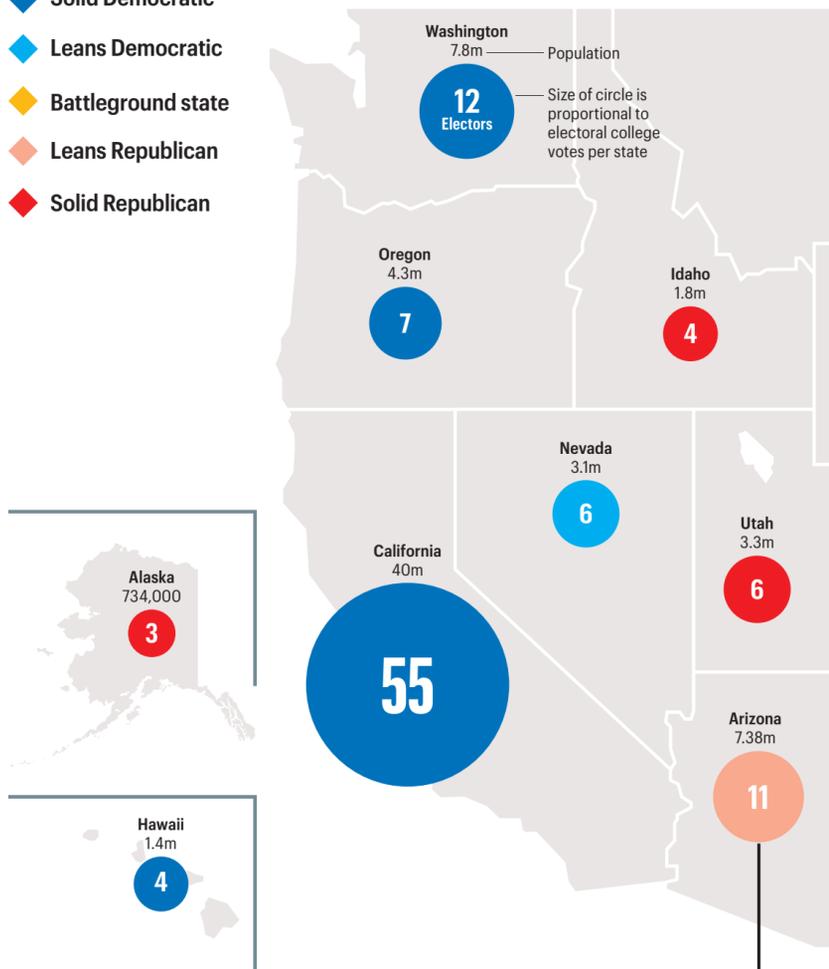
What next for the Trump show, then? Four more years? Or will the American people say enough? After a year of racial crisis, a rampant pandemic and the president's own attacks on the democratic system, the latter seems more likely than the former.

Ultimately, Trump's ability to twist and spin his way around reality has probably met its match in a brutal coronavirus that has no interest in his Twitter feed, and even found its way into his White House. With two days to go until the election, it looks as though a majority of Americans are ready for something a little quieter. So what's it been like covering the Trump era? It's been covfefe.

## BATTLEGROUND STATES

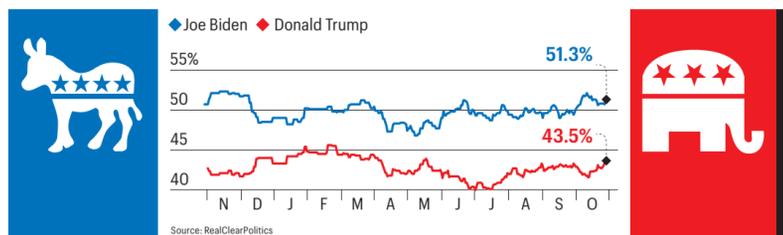
Where the 2020 election will be won or lost

- ◆ Solid Democratic
- ◆ Leans Democratic
- ◆ Battleground state
- ◆ Leans Republican
- ◆ Solid Republican



**ARIZONA 11**  
Arizona has voted Republican every year since 1952, with the exception of 1996, when Bill Clinton won. In 2016 Donald Trump won by a margin of 3.5%, although recent polls have Biden pulling ahead

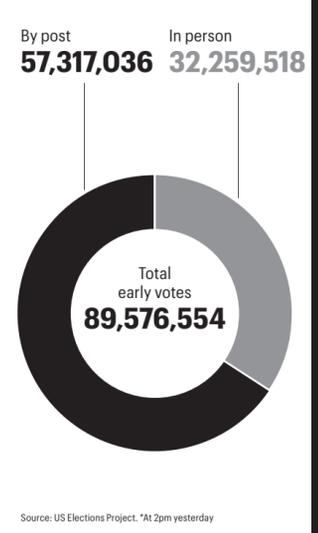
### A YEAR IN THE POLLS



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Voters in Durham, North Carolina wait in line to cast their ballots on the first day of the state's in-person early voting. October 15, 2020



Research and words: Madeleine Spence  
Graphic: Julian Osbalstone and Jeremy Christopher Harding

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# My four madcap years in the eye of Hurricane Donald

From the tweets and 'alternative facts' to Sharpie-gate and a bromance with Kim, Trump's whirlwind presidency has left havoc, and history, in its wake



**JOSH GLANCY**

Washington

What's it been like covering the Trump era, I'm often asked. What's it been like? Hmm.

Well, imagine it is August 2019 and you find yourself in Greenland, at an Irish pub called Daddy's in downtown Nuuk. Icebergs are floating past the window. Manchester United are self-destructing again on the telly. And you are approaching a group of bibulous Inuits to ask them what they think about Donald Trump offering to buy their island.

"It's ridiculous," Inuk, one of the locals told me. "Very, very weird. What is going on?"

What is going on? How many times have we all wondered that during this surreal, mesmeric, appalling, divisive, defiant, anarchic, vainglorious and relentless presidency? Under what other president could I have possibly ended up quizzing confused Greenlanders on the merits of becoming the 51st state?

The sheer volume of previously unimaginable things that have happened during Trump's first term has been overwhelming. Even four years in, there are still days when you see the Donald landing Marine One at one of his golf resorts and pinch yourself.

During his inauguration speech, Trump told us that "American carnage stops right here". Alas not. Life with the self-proclaimed "very stable genius" has been anything but steady. As for covering Trump: it has been the strangest experience of my life.

It was 10.53pm on Tuesday November 8, 2016, when the Trump presidency became manifest. I was standing on Manhattan's Sixth Avenue, outside the Fox News building, with several hundred men and women in red Maga caps, watching the coverage on the big screen.

They called Florida for Trump and the crowd erupted, hugging, backslapping, chanting: "USA!" It was one moment in my life when I have felt the earth-shaking power of real history, certain that nothing would be the same again.

The early days of the Trump administration quickly set the tone for what would follow: a blur of factional infighting, chaotic policy-making, relentless media onslaught and unmissable performance art.

It began immediately with the inauguration. A chilly, grey day outside the Capitol building and a crowd notably smaller than that which gathered for Barack Obama eight years earlier. Except not, at least according to Sean Spicer, Trump's hapless first press secretary.

"This was the largest audience to ever witness an inauguration - period," the Pooterish Spicer claimed. An obvious lie? Not according to spin master Kellyanne Conway, who called it an "alternative fact". The post-truth presidency was under way.

From there we quickly moved on to "Muslim" travel bans, transgender military bans, the horrors of neo-Nazis marching in Charlottesville, the firing of the FBI director James Comey and the Mueller inquiry.

It is difficult to remember it all. Entire years' worth of political news unspooled in single weeks. Take the "11 days of the Mooch" in July 2017, when Christmas came early for political hacks with the appointment of the wiseguy New York hedge funder Anthony Scaramucci as White House communications director. Ah, the Mooch. He came, he saw, he told a reporter on the record that Steve Bannon tries to "suck his own cock".

Mooch went on to call the White House chief of staff Reince Priebus "a f\*\*\*ing paranoid schizophrenic".

Priebus left his job days later, before Mooch followed him out the door, receiving divorce filings from his wife and turning on Trump in the process.

Having hitherto monitored Trumpland from New York, that was the first week I spent in Washington, covering

for a colleague. It was a sharp lesson in Trump era savagery.

"Hell is empty," I wrote in an excitable news report, drawing on my A-level Shakespeare. "And all the devils are here."

Much of 2018 was taken up with migrant caravans and Trump's obsession with building a border wall with Mexico, and making someone pay for it. Trump's Sisyphian wall project took me down to McAllen, Texas, so often that I even befriended the security staff at the local courthouse.

It also led to the cruelest moment of Trump's first term: the short-lived decision to separate illegal migrant children from their parents, some of whom have still not been reunited. That will not be forgotten.

A row over wall funding also caused the longest government shutdown in American history, some 34 days. So long, in fact, that I ended up reporting from Shenandoah National Park in Virginia, where furloughed park rangers had stopped taking out the rubbish bins and hungry bears were descending from their mountain hideaways for a free lunch.

For most of its duration, Trump's presidency has seemed on the verge of destruction, his doom predicted many times by excitable media critics and members of the "Resistance". First it was the Mueller inquiry, which turned up lots of dirty tricks and unseemly Russian fraternisation but never delivered the grand collusion narrative that so many liberals hoped for.

Then it was impeachment, a piece of impressive but ultimately empty political theatre. An investigation into Trump's threat to withhold military aid from Ukraine - unless it investigated the Biden family - failed to persuade tribal Republican senators, some of whom slept through the interminable proceedings. Trump survived again.

Sometimes, even if it was your job to follow every twist, you just wanted to turn it all off. Yet always there was more drama, another tweetstorm and another round of outraged headlines.

Trump's Twitter feed has been the central feature of his presidency. It has crashed markets, threatened nuclear annihilation ("my button works!"), espoused racism ("Why don't they go back and help fix the... crime infested places from which they came?"), encouraged domestic insurrection ("Liberate Michigan!") and launched spats with everyone from Arnold Schwarzenegger ("pathetic ratings") to Snoop Dogg ("failing career").

At times Trump's feed has ventured into abstract expressionism, such as in 2017 when he tweeted: "Despite the constant negative press covfefe". Was it a typo? A brain fade? A deliberate troll? No one was sure. The covfefe tweet launched an avalanche of memes, somehow capturing the incoherence and eccentricity of the most powerful man alive.

All of us, to a greater or lesser extent, have been locked in a relationship with Donald Trump's psyche over the past four years. A while back I asked Michael Wolff, author of *Fire and Fury*, the best-selling book about this presidency, how he felt about Trump the man.

"It still shocks me," Wolff said. "He is a character that we will be talking about 100 years from now. Who is this guy really? How did this happen? He's either an aberration, or perhaps he's the ultimate American character multiplied, America written in some hyperbolic way."

At times, when Trump veers off into his own unique brand of political dadaism, things have just been plain weird. Hurricanes in particular always seem to bring out his inner absurdist.

"One of the wettest we've ever seen, from the standpoint of water" was his verdict on Hurricane Florence. And of course there was "Sharpie-gate", when he altered the official map of Hurricane Dorian with a sharpie pen to back up his wild claim that Alabama was about to be hit hard.

Then there was the orb. Let us never forget the orb.

In May 2017, Trump arrived in Saudi Arabia for his first foreign trip and visited the opening of the Global Centre for Combating Extremist Ideology. There, Trump, Melania, King Salman and the Egyptian president, Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, gathered mystically around a glowing white orb for one of the all time weirdest diplomatic photos. "For clarification," tweeted the Church of Satan, "this is not a Satanic ritual."

Yet in policy terms, beyond the orbs and sharpies, the grandstanding and firings and random attacks on the actor Samuel L Jackson's golf swing, Trump's first four years have - at least in part - resembled a fairly conventional Republican presidency.

In concert with the Senate leader, Mitch McConnell, Trump has remade the judiciary and swung the Supreme Court in a firmly conservative direction. He delivered tax cuts large enough to satisfy even the most devoted Ayn Rand acolyte and oversaw a growing pre-Covid economy. He also pushed through much-needed criminal justice reform, working with Kim Kardashian, among others, to pass the First Step Act that allows for easier compassionate early release from prison.

On foreign policy, there has been plenty more anarchy, a bizarre love-hate bromance with "little rocket man" Kim Jong-Un, a humiliating decision to side with Vladimir Putin over his own intelligence agencies at a 2018 summit in Helsinki, withdrawal from the Paris climate accords - but some qualified successes too. Trump has started no disastrous foreign wars, helped forge some surprising peace deals between Israel and its Muslim neighbours and, despite a messy trade war, pushed America into an over-due and far more competitive stance with China.

These more concrete achievements are one reason Trump still has a shot in Tuesday's election. Alongside the Team America fantasia and performative trolling beloved by his base, when Trump has managed to govern, it has been as a not entirely abnormal Republican. Many will vote for him accordingly.

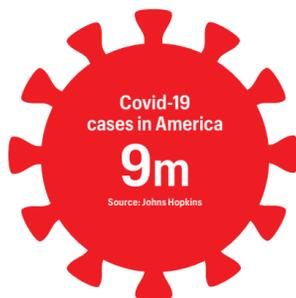
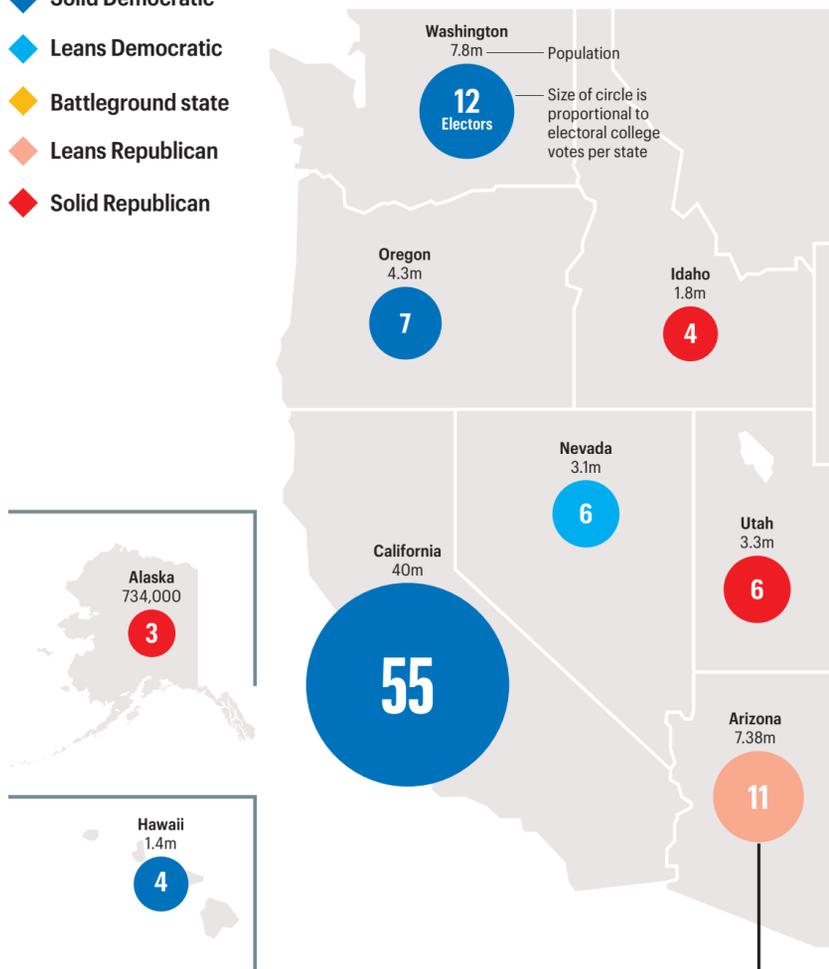
What next for the Trump show, then? Four more years? Or will the American people say enough? After a year of racial crisis, a rampant pandemic and the president's own attacks on the democratic system, the latter seems more likely than the former.

Ultimately, Trump's ability to twist and spin his way around reality has probably met its match in a brutal coronavirus that has no interest in his Twitter feed, and even found its way into his White House. With two days to go until the election, it looks as though a majority of Americans are ready for something a little quieter. So what's it been like covering the Trump era? It's been covfefe.

## BATTLEGROUND STATES

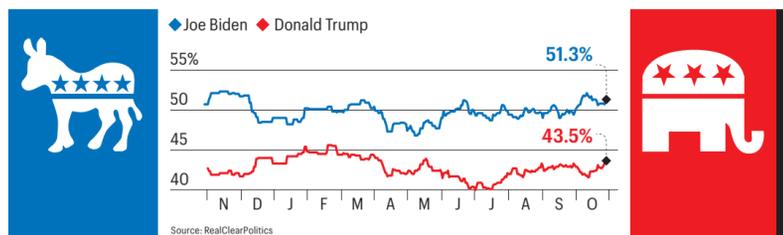
Where the 2020 election will be won or lost

- ◆ Solid Democratic
- ◆ Leans Democratic
- ◆ Battleground state
- ◆ Leans Republican
- ◆ Solid Republican



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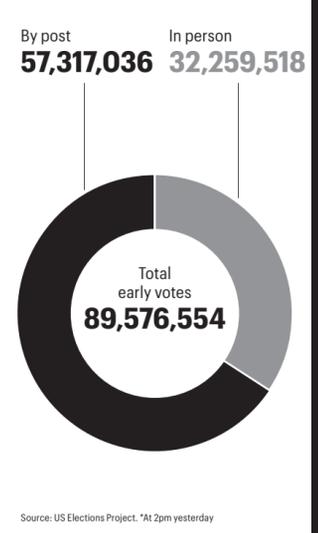
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# US ELECTION 2 DAYS TO GO

## WISCONSIN 10 electoral college votes

Traditionally one of the most competitive swing states, recent polls showed Joe Biden steaming ahead of Donald Trump, with one suggesting the Democratic candidate is a staggering 17 points in front

## MICHIGAN 16

Michigan, made up of a mix of large white suburbs, union members and black voters, provided one of Trump's most surprising victories in 2016, although by a narrow margin. This year the polls are falling in favour of Biden by at least 5 points

## OHIO 18

Ohio has traditionally been seen as a major battleground. However, in 2016 Trump defeated Hillary Clinton there by more than 8% — the largest margin in the state since 1988. This year the majority of polls have him ahead by 2 to 4 points

## PENNSYLVANIA 20

Results in this swing state are expected to be the most crucial to an overall win. Biden was ahead in the polls throughout October. However, there is mounting concern that high numbers of postal votes will delay the outcome and lead to legal disputes, confusing the final tally

## ELECTION NIGHT TV COVERAGE



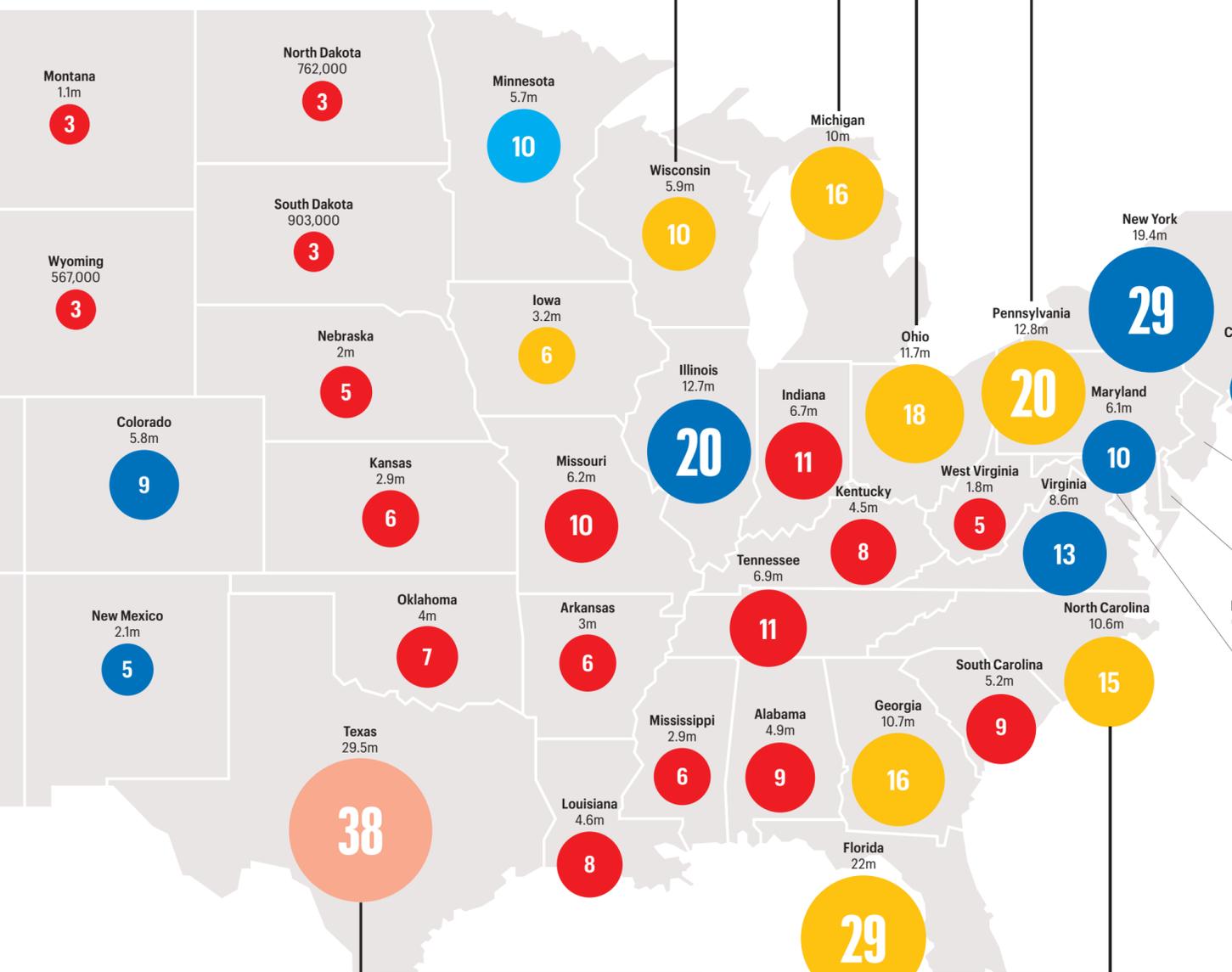
**BBC One**  
**US Election 2020**  
 Coverage begins at 11.30pm  
 Hosted by Katty Kay in Washington and Andrew Neil in London. Emily Maitlis and Nick Bryant provide coverage from key battleground states



**sky news**  
**America Decides**  
 Coverage begins at 10pm  
 Dermot Murnaghan and Cordelia Lynch present rolling coverage from Washington, alongside polling expert Ashley Koning



**RTÉ ONE**  
**Caitriona Perry**  
 Coverage begins at 11.15pm  
 Caitriona Perry presents coverage of the 59th US Presidential Election. She will be joined by Robert Shortt and Carole Coleman to bring viewers live results, analysis and reaction



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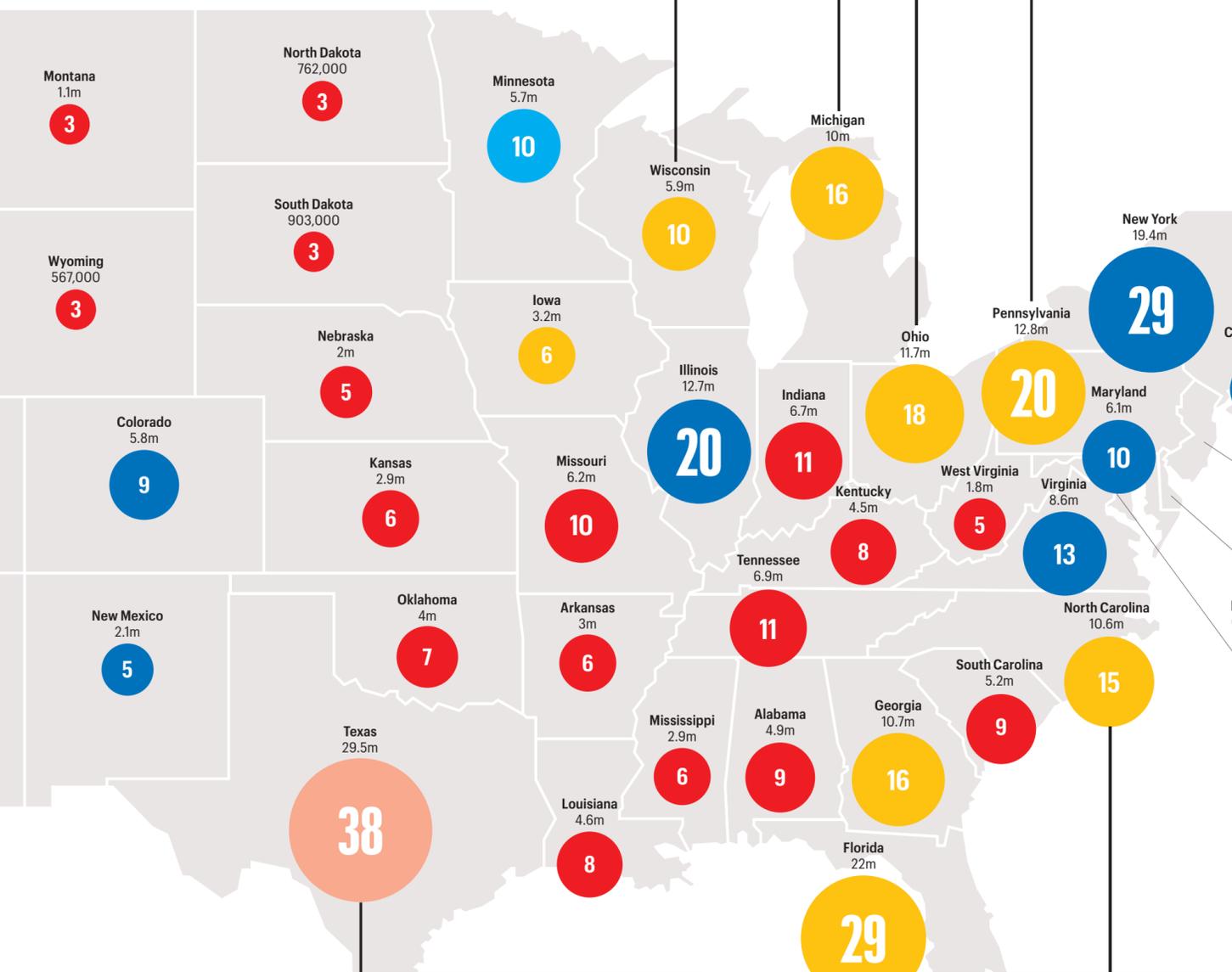
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## TEXAS 38

Originally a Democratic stronghold, Texas turned into a reliably red state in 1980 and has voted Republican in every election since. Growing Hispanic, black and Asian-American communities mean it has become more politically competitive recently

## FLORIDA 29

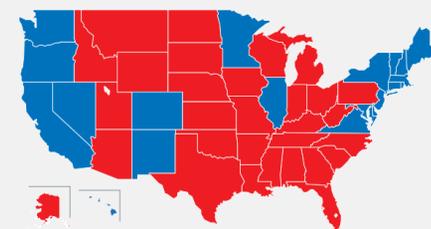
Home to some of the closest races in past elections and branded the ultimate swing state. In 2000 George W Bush beat Al Gore by a margin of just 0.009% (537 votes). Barack Obama won it by less than a percentage point in 2012, and Trump edged out Hillary Clinton by 1.2% in 2016

## NORTH CAROLINA 15

A Democratic-leaning combination of a large number of professionals and students in the big cities, but with Republican rural areas. In 2016, Trump beat Hillary Clinton here by a narrow margin of 3.8%. Polls are particularly tight now, with Biden only slightly ahead

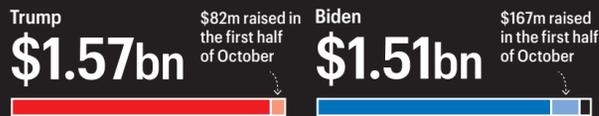
## HOW IT STANDS

In 2016, all this year's key battleground states were won by Trump



Source: World Population Review

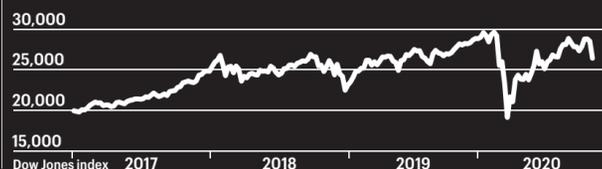
## FUNDS RAISED



## TWITTER FOLLOWERS



## THE TRUMP YEARS ON WALL STREET

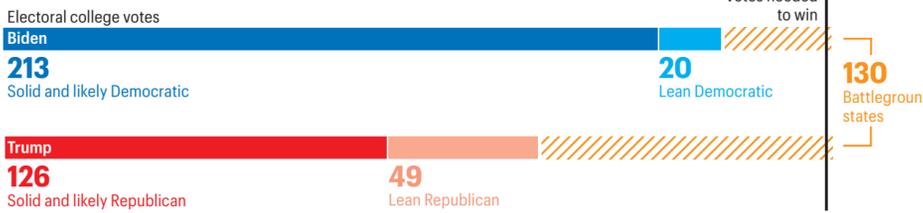


## THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

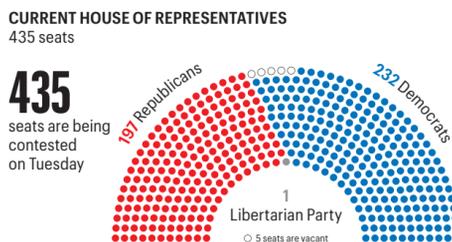
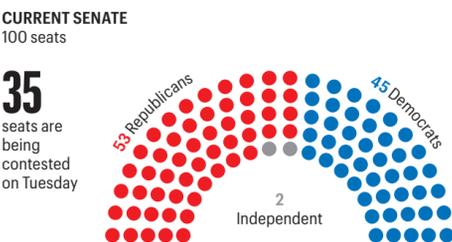
Each state has a set number of electoral college votes, ranging from 3 to 55. A candidate must win 270 out of a possible 538 to become president. States award all their electoral college votes to the candidate who wins a majority at the ballot box (apart from Maine and Nebraska, which split theirs according to who wins the state and each Congressional district). It is possible to secure the required 270 electoral votes without winning the popular election: Hillary Clinton took three million more votes than Donald Trump in 2016, but he still took the presidency

Year	Electoral college winner	Popular vote winner
2016	Donald Trump 62m votes 45.9%	Hillary Clinton 65m 48%
2000	George W Bush 50.4m 47.9%	Al Gore 50.9m 48.4%
1888	Benjamin Harrison 5.4m 47.8%	Grover Cleveland 5.5m 48.6%
1876	Rutherford B Hayes 4m 47.9%	Samuel Tilden 4.2m 50.9%

## THE RACE FOR THE FINISH



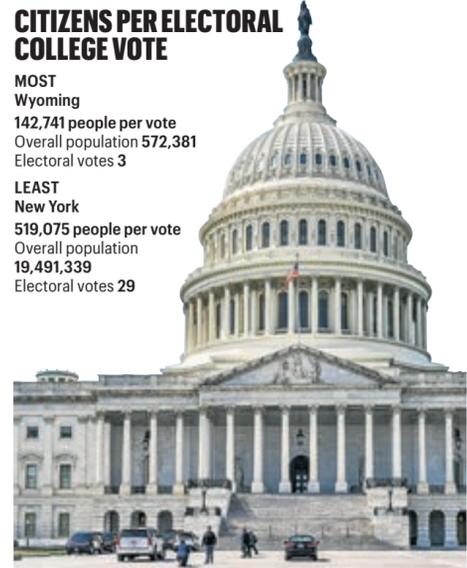
## HOW THINGS STAND ON THE HILL



## CITIZENS PER ELECTORAL COLLEGE VOTE

**MOST**  
 Wyoming  
 142,741 people per vote  
 Overall population 572,381  
 Electoral votes 3

**LEAST**  
 New York  
 519,075 people per vote  
 Overall population 19,491,339  
 Electoral votes 29



The Capitol building is the home of the US Congress

## SIX WAYS THE ELECTION COULD PLAY OUT

- Biden by a whisker**  
 Democrats lose in Florida but rebuild the "blue wall", taking back states in the north and Midwest, including key battlegrounds such as Pennsylvania, Ohio and Wisconsin, propelling Joe Biden to the White House. Donald Trump alleges the manipulation of postal ballots in Democratic-run cities, and stays put while fighting in the courts until the last moment: inauguration day, January 20.
- Trump by a whisker**  
 As occurred in 2016, Trump loses the popular vote but edges a narrow victory in the electoral college by defying polls in states such as Pennsylvania and Arizona. Democrats attack the electoral system for being unrepresentative, alleging voter suppression. Trump claims a huge victory but Biden's team consider their legal options.
- A Biden landslide**  
 Biden wins back the Midwest, including the battleground states of Michigan, Wisconsin and Ohio, and the southern Sun Belt states stretching from California to Florida, in a "wave" election. Formerly red states such as North Carolina and Georgia turn blue, and Democrats win back the Senate too. Trump cries foul, but leaves the White House.
- Trump wins big**  
 A huge hidden Trump vote turns out and delivers a shock predicted only by the president and his most diehard supporters. He holds the Sun Belt and Midwestern states despite polls indicating a probable Democratic win. Republicans hold the Senate too, and it's full steam ahead for a Trump second term.
- Too close to call**  
 If it's close, confirmation of the result could take weeks. If it comes down to one state, perhaps Pennsylvania, then expect a legal fight over postal ballots, voter registration, voter fraud, "naked" ballots and whatever else the parties' vast legal teams can dig up. Protesters take to the streets and Trump stays in the White House while the battle rages.
- Trump wins on the night but loses by the weekend**  
 Because Republicans tend to vote in person, Trump is well ahead on election night and declares an early victory. But as the postal votes are counted in the following days, a Biden win becomes apparent. Trump refuses to go, launching a withering attack on voter fraud, and his team begin legal battles questioning the validity of postal votes in key states.

## THE SUNDAY TIMES

ESTABLISHED 1822

## Our values will remain as we wait for the return to normal

The Ireland edition of The Sunday Times is changing editor. While the tone of voice in this column might change in the coming months, the values of the paper will remain. The Sunday Times is one of the few remaining media voices on the centre-right when it comes to economic and social issues, and that will remain the case, even though it is a difficult time for proponents of this orthodoxy.

Centre-right politicians have been falling out of favour in recent years, especially in this country, where Fine Gael – the sole standard bearer – is subject to consistent attack from those who confuse being centre-right with being uncaring. The policies we support are, in fact, boringly sensible. We believe the state and its agents should not dominate our lives; we believe the state should not undertake massive, reckless borrowing that leaves future generations to pick up the tab; we believe in a welfare system that is fair, not only to recipients, but also to those whose taxes make it all possible; and we believe in free trade, a proven driver of economic growth. It will not go unnoticed that all of these beliefs are being challenged, principally by the fallout from the coronavirus, but also by the uncertainly posed by Brexit.

The state dominates our lives like never before. Borrowing has reached record levels, hundreds of thousands of workers are newly dependent on welfare, and the future of trading arrangements between Ireland and the UK remains uncertain pending the outcome of talks between Brussels and London.

Those who believe that one should never let a good crisis go to waste are in the ascendant, none more so than the HSE. Already a massive drain on the state's resources, the health service has been the recipient of billions of euros in additional funding since the onset of Covid-19. The sense of crisis surrounding the health service means it is now impolite to mention that the HSE was already one of the best-funded and worst-performing health regimes in the OECD. Even before Covid-19, health spending

was set to rise by 39% between 2017 and the end of 2021. The additional spending made available since March means the increase will be nearer to 50%. Will we ever get that money back? The late James Gogarty, when he asked a builder whether he would get a receipt for a payment to a politician, got the answer to that one.

At some stage, this pandemic will pass and it will be up to a future administration to pick up the pieces. There are plenty of predictions as to how the coronavirus will change our lives, but the most worrying outcome may be a massive increase in youth unemployment and disillusionment. The under-25s have been disproportionately affected by lockdowns, losing their jobs, educational opportunities and vital social links. The rate of unemployment in this sector is touching 50%. This demands the strongest political response. It is a ticking social time bomb, a breeding ground for resentment, and an opportunity for opportunistic opposition politicians with an eye to the main chance.

As we wait for life to return to normal, possibly late next year or by 2022, The Sunday Times will still be breaking stories, without fear or favour. We have an enviable track record in that regard, but it has not been made any easier by operating under some of the most restrictive defamation laws in the western world. Getting stories of public interest into print can be torturous, with so many legal hurdles to jump. Successive governments have promised to reform the defamation laws but never actually do. Given the number of politicians who have benefited from the current system, that is no real surprise. Keeping the media on a leash has benefits for politicians. But it also offers a free pass to the well-resourced who use the law to prevent the media from highlighting activities they would rather not see in the public domain. The government's failure to reform the system is enabling this type of behaviour.

In an increasingly post-truth world where facts are endangered and public debate is polluted, an independent and responsible media is more important than ever. We will continue to carry that torch.

## Ban on naming murdered children harms their legacies

Last week 10 people were charged with allegedly identifying the killers of school-girl Ana Kriegel on social media, defying a court order that the names of the boys who murdered her should not be revealed. By publishing this information today, this newspaper is now breaking the law. We have not named the boys, but we have mentioned the name of the victim, which, it transpires, is illegal and has been so since 2001.

This only became apparent to the media when lawyers acting for a woman who killed her daughter secured a court order banning the media from identifying the victim. This meant that the accused could not be identified. A number of outlets, including The Sunday Times, challenged this decision but, in a terse judgment issued last week, it was upheld by the Court of Appeal. It said the ban is legitimate and correctly interprets section 252 of the Children Act 2001.

This states that "in relation to any proceedings for an offence against a child or where a child is witness in any such proceedings (a) no report which reveals the name, address or school of the child or includes any particulars likely to lead to his or her identification, and (b) no picture which purports to be or include a picture of the child or which is likely to lead to his or her identification, shall be published or included in a broadcast."

The section does not refer to a living child, just a child. So the language of the section seems clear and it is hard to argue against the appeal court's interpretation of it. This means the media cannot identify any child killed or murdered once someone is charged with that offence. Potentially, it also means that someone charged with killing a child will never be named – whether found innocent or guilty – because by naming them you run the risk of identifying the child. That is precisely what happened in the case that led to this appeal by the media. The woman has never been named and neither has her deceased child, a three-year-old girl.

It is hard to accept the intention of the legislature was to provide anonymity to someone charged with the murder or manslaughter of a child. It is also hard to accept that the legislature intended to prevent the identification of children murdered or killed. What about their memories, legacies and the story of what happened to them? Whatever justice they may have hoped for has been dashed by this legislation.

Given the importance of this issue the media has no choice other than to take its argument to the Supreme Court. Regardless of the appeal, justice minister Helen McEntee must act immediately in the public interest to address this extraordinary anomaly and amend the relevant section of the act.

## The naked truth about Ross

As a cabinet minister, Shane Ross will be remembered for multiple endeavours that appeared to prioritise self-promotion over all other objectives: proposing a peace mission to reason with North Korean tyrant Kim Jong-un; reopening a garda station in his own constituency and boasting about it; photobombing boxer Katie Taylor's homecoming after a title victory.

He never knowingly allowed his patent ignorance of sporting matters to prevent him tweeting copiously.

Last Christmas, he posted a picture of himself in his festive apron with the

caption, "Guess who cooked my goose? The FAI? The judges? The vintners", again for no obvious purpose other than to promote himself.

So it is hard to argue with Regina Doherty, his former government colleague and the only one taking him to task over breaches of cabinet confidentiality in his new book, when she accuses him of viewing his post as nothing more than fodder for a money-making memoir.

Evoking a rather unsettling image, Doherty accused him of "naked attention-seeking". In the context of small mercies, let us be grateful he did not go that far.

Justine McCarthy  
Ireland's 'bad girls' need a museum of women

Time to celebrate our gumption and triumph instead of just cruel injustice

Remember Frank Sherwin? He was the gallant independent TD for Dublin North Central who, during a Dail debate on allowing women to become gardai, urged that female recruits "while [they] should not be actually horse-faced, [should] be just plain women and not targets for marriage."

Worried of Dorset Street did not confine his fretting about female virtue to the lure of a sexy uniform. In 1961, Sherwin asked a Dail question about assertions made by a Catholic priest, as reported by The Sunday Press in November 1961, that 600 "young Irish girls [were] on the streets" in London. Would the government consider issuing permits for young ones going abroad, he wondered.

A civil service note preparing a parliamentary reply for Seán Lemass, then taoiseach, abandoned all pretence at tact, bluntly labelling these troublesome females "bad girls". The note, which features in the 12th volume of *Documents on Irish Foreign Policy*, due to be published by the Royal Irish Academy this month, stated: "The proportion of bad girls in Ireland even in the country parts and even, perhaps, in the Gaeltacht, is very possibly nearly as high as it is in London."

The "bad girls" of Ireland were incarcerated in mother and baby homes and Magdalene laundries, but the patriarchy played fast and loose right into the 21st century. In Leinster House, the lads variously decried "that's women now for ya" (Albert Reynolds); called a female colleague "Miss Piggy" (Mick Wallace); commended a female job candidate for being "not bad looking" (Michael Lowry); and propounded that any pregnant female expressing a suicidal intention forfeited her right to live because, said senator Don Lydon, that right was contingent on her duty to preserve her own life and that of her foetus.

So Dail Eireann, forgive us women if we are suspicious of your actions and your motives when you decide what's best for us. That suspicion reaped reward last week when the government performed a perfect flip-flop. Following Wednesday's cabinet meeting, it announced that applicants are entitled to obtain personal data from the archive of the Murphy commission, after the Commission of Investigation (Mother and Baby Homes and Certain Related Matters) Records Act had placed them under a 30-year seal.

The announcement followed a baritone chorus of politicians and journalists lecturing the predominantly female survivors of the homes that they were making a big fuss over nothing in protesting against the legislation. The government's clarification was necessary because Roderic O'Gorman, the equality

minister, had misinformed the Oireachtas about the precedence of laws involved and refused to accept amendments from TDs. The bill was rammed through the house with no pre-legislative scrutiny by an Oireachtas committee.

As leas-cheann comhairle Catherine Connolly said, the "nauseating" language during the debate "was also used for the duration that the institutions in question were in existence: 'This is for your own good'."

The Palace of Versailles could be wallpapered with the amount of documentation generated by Ireland's serial investigations into the mistreatment of mothers and their children. These are precious records revealing erstwhile untold horrors created with blood, sweat and copious tears. While inquiry reports can be almost sterile in recording abuse, the witness statements underpinning them tremble with the detailed horror. Until O'Gorman produces an ameliorating bill, survivors who dredged up their nightmares in order to tell their stories to the commission have no entitlement to access their own written accounts.

Between 1922 and 1998, more than 190,000 mothers and their children were placed in mother and baby homes. The 2013 McAleese report found another 10,000 women had entered Magdalene laundries from the foundation of the state until 1996, though this is a conservative estimate as the inquiry was limited to just 10 laundries.

The government's blundering and insensitive approach to depositing the archives of inquiries raises a multitude of questions. As most of the chronicled abuses happened decades ago, why does the 30-year secrecy rule even apply to them? Why has the

government paused the passage of a similar bill to O'Gorman's that was published last year to deal with the vast Ryan commission archive, said to number two million pages? Why adopt different approaches to two different sets of survivors? Why has the Murphy commission's last report, which was submitted in February and discussed the complexities of preserving the records, not been published? Why is the attorney general's advice deemed confidential and inviolate? Why all the secrecy when it was secrecy itself that provided the cover for the institutionalised wickedness in the first place?

Ireland needs to have a full debate about what we should do with the trove of testimonies, correspondence and documents the state has accumulated. The cabinet has agreed to establish a national archive of "records related to institutional trauma during the 20th century". The likely location for this is the old Gloucester Street Magdalene laundry on a two-acre site in Dublin, saved from sale to a Japanese hotel operator last year by a community campaign led by Gary Gannon, a Social Democrats TD.

This is good news, surely. So why does my heart sink at the idea of a shrine to trauma? Because such an archive would be a bleak, reductive, one-dimensional iteration of the lives of Irish women. It would capture none of the indomitable spirit that ensured the true women's narrative break out from the yoke of secrecy and demand acknowledgement. It would be more of the state prescribing what is best for women instead of working with, and for, them. For all the cruel injustices done to them, Irish women's history exudes gumption and triumph.

With Lise Hand, my journalist colleague who came up with the idea, I have been involved in an informal group of mainly academics planning a women's museum for Ireland. It would celebrate female contributions that have been airbrushed out of the public narrative in such spheres as politics, rebellion, the arts, trade unions and other walks of life. How exciting to think the search for a home for the archives could prove the catalyst for this grand dream to become a reality. If we can have a Museum of Country Life, why should we not have a Museum of Women? If Glasgow can have an acclaimed Women's Library, why should Ireland not have a National Women's Museum and Library?

Dammit, why not, when Sherwin has a bridge over the Liffey named after him? You'll see it when you emerge from Heuston railway station, where legions of bad girls have arrived from down the country ever since the foundation of the state and insisted their country sit up and listen to them. [justine.mccarthy@sunday-ti.mes.ie](mailto:justine.mccarthy@sunday-ti.mes.ie)

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Why does my heart sink at the idea of a shrine to trauma? Because it would capture none of their indomitable spirit

## Killian Foley-Walsh

## I'm tempted to play the emigration game



Pandemic highlights lack of reasons for young people such as me to stay

For the first time in my life, I am seriously considering emigrating. That's one of the most difficult sentences I've ever written, but the past six months have been among the most difficult sentences Ireland's five million non-convicts have had to serve, and our terrifying plunge from level two to the destitution of level five is the straw that has broken my back.

I'm 26, a law graduate from Maynooth and UCD, and I was once president of Young Fine Gael. So no doubt some people would welcome my departure. The difficulty for Ireland is that, essentially for the first time in my life, I think I'm representative of my generation. A lot of the youth of Ireland want out of here.

I'm going to preface my argument with a caveat. I have no studies suggesting our mental health is on the ground, only jigsaw, the national centre for youth mental health, reporting that demand for its services is up by 50%. I have no surveys proving we are unhappy with Ireland's response to the pandemic, only the evidence of friends who have already fled, and of those planning to flee.

I have no statistics conclusively proving that we have borne more than our share of this latest global crisis – only the fact that, once again, youth unemployment is heading back towards 50% compared with the 14.7% rate experienced by the population at large at the end of September.

Because when we boil it down, this is a generational thing, isn't it? Young people are at the coalface once the decisions have been made. We make the coffees, stock the shelves and do what we can to help keep the show on the road. But when people on Twitter shriek that all young people should be confined to

barracks, doors nailed shut behind us, the biographical details of the guilty accounts follow a spooky trend. They are, to give three examples: "Married to N; love life, travel and a glass of wine, x", "Father to little people, teacher to more little people, speak my mind. All opinions mine and not my employer's", or "Minister for health. Fianna Fail TD for Wicklow. Trying to improve the system from the inside. Loving being a dad, after 7am."

The people behind these Twitter accounts are probably established, comfortable with their families in suburban semi-ds, and have worked all their lives to get there – and more power to them; they shouldn't be begrudged. But their generation has had opportunities that coalface youngsters have not. They've had normality we haven't, and decades of relative stability to entrench into comfortable, lockdown-friendly lifestyles that we haven't.

Why haven't we? Because, simply put, the 21st century has been a disastrous succession of terrorist attacks, economic and humanitarian

calamities, wars and climate change. All we've really missed is the threat of nuclear annihilation and being issued with iodine tablets – but they're easily substituted with Seroxat.

Dismiss this as the mewling of a millennial brat if you like, but Dr Mike Ryan of the World Health Organisation agrees, saying recently that young people were "sick of being told what not to do". He added: "We have not empowered people. No human being can sustain that, especially young people."

We're locked down again, ostensibly because the virus is "out of control". In reality, and as we've discovered, the virus being out of control seems to be because the authorities badly mismanaged things in the half-year/2% of my life since the last time we were told to pull on our green jerseys and the whole nation was placed under virtual house arrest.

It isn't easy for anybody, but for the generation that makes these decisions, it broadly means working from home surrounded by family, ordering takeaways, and tweeting about how we're all in it together. For my generation, it means welfare applications, separation from family, delivering the takeaways, and hoping this isn't going to be the norm for longer than we can bear and that we don't fall into a mental health service that will require a desperate wait of months for help.

If you're even younger, you could be trapped in an abusive home while the gardai are busy making sure Dunnes Stores isn't selling socks. If Ireland is willing to subject us to that, if it demands to know how many of our grannies we would kill instead, if it scoffs when we say we can't handle it, and if other countries actually seem to give a damn, then why in the name of God should we stay?

“  
When we boil it down, this is a generational thing, isn't it?

COMMENT

# Brenda Power Father and son's cruelty worse than a bullet



In Truman Capote's classic *In Cold Blood* the author keeps the reader waiting till the end of the book to discover how the Clutter family – a farmer, his wife and their two children – actually died. The details are haunting but, basically, they were tied up, the father downstairs, the mother and children in their beds, and then shot one by one. Bonnie Clutter was the last to die and Capote imagines that, as she'd heard the blasts that killed her entire family, the arrival of the gunmen into her bedroom came almost as a mercy. To have left a mother alive to face such horror would have been the ultimate cruelty.

Diarmuid O'Sullivan left his mother alive. She heard the seven shots that killed her son Mark in his bed, early on Monday, and then she heard her younger son and her husband Tadhg depart the house to kill themselves. They took two rifles to a nearby fairy fort, and later, a 12-page letter addressed to his mother was found strapped to Diarmuid's leg.

It set out his grievances against his older brother, to whom she had decided to bequeath her family farm

in Assolas, Co Cork, but she was clearly the principal target of his rage. The decision to spare her for a far worse destiny – left alone with her land and no heir to inherit it, with three funerals to plan, three graves to visit and the rest of her life to dwell on the calamity – had been taken well in advance.

The tributes paid to the father and son, online and in comments from shocked locals, suggest we have learnt little since the Alan Hawe case in 2016. Hawe, who butchered his wife and then murdered his sons in their beds before hanging himself, was not the pillar of the community that early reactions insisted, and nor did Diarmuid and Tadhg O'Sullivan deserve to be recalled as lovely fellows in media reports. They may well have been popular and hard-working, but they did a shocking thing and compounded it with the cruelty of condemning their wife and mother to a fate that, I suggest, was worse than they met themselves.

Social media's virtue-signallers hastened to demand privacy for a family that had suffered a "tragedy", but this was not a dreadful accident or a freakish

act of God. This was a calculated and vindictive crime, and Mark O'Sullivan deserves the same measure of public outrage as any murder victim. The fact that his mother would not have him buried on the same day, let alone in the same graveyard, same church or by the same undertaker as his father and brother, speaks volumes.

Once the details emerged, speculation quickly turned to a possible motive for the crime. John B Keane's *The Field* gets trotted out whenever there is a land-related murder, as a portrayal of the depth of passion and madness that entitlements and expectations around farm ownership can incite. In most such cases, however, the crime is motivated by the threatened loss of a farm that had been tended for years, like Bull McCabe, hauling buckets of seaweed to fertilise the stony field he was then to lose.

However, none of the O'Sullivans had worked this 115-acre farm. Tadhg was a mechanic, Diarmuid had qualified as an accountant with first-class honours, and Mark was training to be a solicitor; they had no blood, sweat and tears invested in that land.

**“Siblings' disputes about wills are usually not over cash but parental affection**

So this was almost certainly not about the farm, but rather about the will. Having done some training in probate law, I believe that disputes between siblings over wills are rarely about money, land or granny's rosary beads: they are about parental love. They are less about the distribution of a parent's estate than about what is perceived as the distribution of a parent's affections.

It doesn't matter whether the preferred child got a €2m farm or a treasured teapot worth pennies: what matters is that one child was favoured over the others and, when it's too late to punish the parent, they punish one another in court. In this case, crucially, it was not too late to punish the parent.

If he had taken his grievance to law, Diarmuid O'Sullivan could well have won a share of his mother's estate after her death. But she still would have wanted Mark to have it. Killing his brother in cold blood was apparently preferable to facing that fact.

*brenda.power@sunday-times.ie*

● Anyone affected by issues in this story can contact the Samaritans on free phone 116 123.

● Although it is far too early to call it, the polls seem to suggest that Donald Trump will lose Tuesday's US presidential election and be consigned to history as a divisive, incompetent, corrupt, dishonest and all-round despicable one-term president. That's not to say we won't miss him, though.

One optimistic theory is that even some Trumpers, for all their lingering admiration for him, have just had enough of "the crazy" that has dominated American politics for the past four years, and though they'd never tell the pollsters, Sleepy Joe's somnolent style offers an attractive alternative.

Indeed, there has not been a dull moment during The Donald's tenure: a news item beginning "US president Donald Trump" has the same compulsive appeal as

a "this programme contains scenes of an adult nature" warning. Buckle up, folks. And right to the wire, the first family continue to enthrall. Last week, the "fake Melania" claims, which have dogged them from the outset, circulated again in earnest.

The rumour goes that Trump has an army of Melania body doubles, whom he deploys when the original declines to co-operate. It sounds far-fetched, but the woman smiling broadly as she boarded Air Force One with last week looked more like actress Jennifer Aniston than the first lady.

And if you wanted stone-cold proof, said some observers, take another look at her smile: Melania has never looked that happy in her husband's company.

# Atticus

John Burns

## Magical Ross makes chief justice vanish

From Shane Ross's new book *In Bed with the Blueshirts*, we find that Fianna Fail health minister Stephen Donnelly has an unusual nickname. "He is known to some as Harry Potter because of his uncanny physical resemblance to JK Rowling's hero," writes Ross.

Er, his what? Potter, aged about 14, had a full head of hair last time we looked. Donnelly, 44, doesn't.

Ross, a former Independent Alliance minister certainly made enemies in his stint in government. He reveals that Susan Denham, as chief justice, "took umbrage" at how he was aggressively

pursuing judicial reform and "seems to have taken it personally".

He recalls seeing Denham and her husband at the Aviva Stadium. "She was seated at a table at half-time, enjoying the corporate hospitality and talking to [former Labour tanaiste] Dick Spring," he writes. "I approached and spoke to them both for a split second. She simply evaporated into thin air."

Pointing out that the former chief justice was a constituent of his in Dublin Rathdown, Ross concludes ruefully: "Somehow, I suspect she didn't vote for me."

## Heritage man gives a hooray for Henrietta

An Taisce heritage officer Ian Lumley is the scourge of developers around Ireland, having objected to more planning applications than they've had hot dinners.

How refreshing, then, to find him writing to Dublin city council in support of a four-storey block on Henrietta Lane. Defending its height, Lumley even reminds planners that a nearby housing scheme rises to six storeys, and there's a seven-storey student housing scheme being built too.

Then again, the proposal by RSS Developments is literally in Lumley's back

yard. As the co-owner of 3 Henrietta Street, he is pleased to see a derelict site being pressed into service and says it will "complement the conservation work" on the house.

● Waterways Ireland is taking a stand for walkers who use the Barrow Track. The agency has put in a gate to stop cyclists using a path beloved of hikers. Carlow county council wrote to protest, but received a "two fingers response". The council is writing again, to push the case for cyclists. Let's hope the response is two more.

## Damien English says clothes aren't essential



● David Kelly, the late Dublin actor, takes a bow in the new *Oxford Book Of Theatrical Anecdotes*, by entertainer Gyles Brandreth. The Dublin-born character actor most memorably played builder O'Reilly in *Fawlty Towers*, but made his name playing the title role in the Abbey Theatre's production of *Krapp's Last Tape* in 1959. He later played the part in New York, where it was reviewed enthusiastically under the headline: "At last, the Krapp we have been waiting for."

GERARD CROWLEY



"We had to introduce a new category"

## Cracking through the language barrier

When Peter Cardwell from Armagh was special adviser to the Northern Ireland secretary, he was stunned to find how little English people knew about the place.

In new book *The Secret Life Of Special Advisers*, Cardwell says Sky News's Ireland correspondent once saved the station from embarrassment

– by advising that it wasn't wise to refer to Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness as "Sinn Fein's big guns".

At the book launch Cardwell said his career nearly came a cropper due to Hiberno-English. "When you're in the Home Office you need to be very careful when you refer to 'having the craic'," he noted.

## Revolut lobbyist brags of his ties with taoiseach

Seb Hamilton, former editor of the Irish Daily Mail and now head of public affairs at Revolut, the digital bank, has been telling politicians what good chums he is with the taoiseach. In a letter sent over the summer, asking various politicians if he could brief them on Revolut, Hamilton noted that as a journalist

"I worked closely with then opposition leader Micheál Martin to help make the internet safer for children".

The Daily Mail campaign "resulted" in Fianna Fail overturning a plan to lower the digital age of consent, he boasted. "If necessary, I hope our new taoiseach would still verify my bona fides!"

# David Quinn

## If Irish voters faced US issues, we'd back a Trump



American president's questionable personal qualities have made him unpopular here and elsewhere, but are his policies so wrong?

If Ireland was a US state, Donald Trump would win 13% of the vote in the presidential election on Tuesday, according to a survey by polling company Ireland Thinks. Since Trump is subjected to universally negative coverage here, the result is no surprise.

The demographic breakdown of the poll does throw up unexpected nuggets though. For example, church-goers are barely more likely to support Trump than those who never attend, whereas in America he has lots of support among practising Christians. The age group least likely to support Trump here are the over 65s, at 9%, and his biggest support is 19% among 25-34 year olds. In America, the reverse happened four years ago.

Some 18% of Sinn Fein supporters say they would vote for Trump, the highest level among the main parties. That seems a surprise, but Sinn Fein does have more young and more working-class supporters.

In the 2016 presidential election, 71% of white, working-class men voted for Trump compared with only 23% for Hillary Clinton. He also beat her handily among working-class white women.

It so happens that Sinn Fein is a populist left party, but if it decided to go

populist right instead, it would probably attract as many new supporters as it lost because those who vote for the party tend to be alienated from conventional politics and likely to listen to siren voices of the left or right.

Clinton famously labelled half of Trump's supporters as "a basket of deplorables" who are "racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic, Islamophobic – you name it". Probably a lot of them are. But those white working-class people used to be firmly in the Democratic camp, just as the equivalent voters in Britain used to be in Labour's and are now as alienated from conventional politics as many Irish voters.

What we've forgotten amid all the anti-Trump hysteria and the anti-Brexit, anti-Boris Johnson equivalent is what made these voters switch sides. We've been too busy condemning them as idiots and bigots to do any proper analysis of why white, working-class people could vote for the Tories and the Republicans against all their old instincts. The reason is simple: they felt abandoned.

They saw that the leftist, middle-class, university-educated elites who ran Labour and the Democrats were far more concerned about gender ideology, feminism, open borders and multi-

culturalism than issues they cared about. Some white working-class people fear that large-scale immigration will cost them their jobs and livelihoods. In relation to multi-culturalism, they dislike the fact that parts of their countries don't look familiar to them any more.

They also doubt the basic patriotism of the middle-class elites who run the parties they once supported. In Britain, white working-class voters suspected that then Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn didn't like his country very much and was ashamed of its past, whereas traditional Labour voters are proud of

that same history, because they think the good outweighs the bad.

In America, many of the same kind of voters look at the Democratic party and come to a similar conclusion. They think Democrats are basically ashamed of their country, and see it pandering to movements like far-left Antifa (standing for anti-fascism), which has been responsible for a lot of violent street protests in Democrat-controlled cities such as Portland, Oregon.

They watch as the left of the Democratic party and much of the US media, led by The New York Times, give their backing to the 1619 Project, which says the foundational event of American history isn't the Declaration of Independence in 1776, but the arrival of the first slaves from Africa in 1619. This teaches Americans to be embarrassed about their history, and opens up a space for the likes of Donald Trump to literally wrap himself in the American flag.

Bear in mind also that tens of millions of Americans remain committed to the pro-life cause and big numbers are worried about "cancel culture" strengthening under a hegemonic left and the fearsome implications that holds for free speech.

In fact, a big reason the Democrats

made Joe Biden their presidential candidate is that he does not belong to the left of the party, and has old-fashioned working-class Democratic roots himself. He does not frighten middle-of-the-road voters, while others in his party do.

The chief reason Trump is bound to lose on Tuesday, and possibly by a landslide, is because the election has become a referendum about his ugly, demagogic personality and his handling of Covid-19, which he seems to believe he could trash-talk into submission. Without the pandemic, Trump might have won, because the economy was doing extremely well, on the surface at least, before the coronavirus arrived.

Here in Ireland, as elsewhere, media coverage of Trump is dominated by his latest outrageous statement and terrible personal qualities, but when you ask people to name the specific policies that have been disastrous for either America or the world, they often struggle. Has he led America into any new wars, for example? Is it wrong to be against illegal immigration per se? How would we feel if we had an extremely porous border with a big neighbour and huge numbers of illegal immigrants crossed that border each year? We might not like it one bit.

Is it wrong to stand up to China over its terrible trade practices and appalling human rights record? Is it so indefensible to face down Iran and its fanatical regime? Is it bad to speak plainly about Islamist terrorism, which French president Emmanuel Macron is also doing in no uncertain terms?

What is wrong with trying to secure good trade deals for your country and seeking to win back manufacturing jobs from overseas, which Trump has sought to do? Is it terrible to ask the European members of Nato, chiefly Germany, to pay more towards their own defence and not piggy-back on American security, as they have been doing for years?

Irish voters do not have to worry about any of these issues because we are a tiny country on the edge of Europe that has done well out of globalisation. But if we faced some of the same challenges as America, a Trump-like figure here would attract far more than 13% support.

It is also a guarantee that when Trump loses on Tuesday, the issues that propelled him into the White House in the first place will continue to exist, and may pave the way for another – hopefully less ugly and more competent – version of Trump to win back the presidency in four or eight years' time.

*david.quinn@sunday-times.ie*

**“The election has become a referendum about his ugly personality**

# Matthew Syed

## The unpatriotic left still doesn't get it



I am not sure what I enjoyed more in the aftermath of Jeremy Corbyn's suspension from the Labour Party: the enraged spluttering of the sub-Trotskyite Momentum types who spearheaded the disastrous election campaign or the mysterious disappearance of Baroness Shami Chakrabarti, who whitewashed Labour's antisemitism en route to her elevation to the peerage.

The abject failure of the Corbynite project is a great thing for Britain and, indeed, for Labour, which can now chart a course back to power. But my sense is that the only way for Sir Keir Starmer to regain the confidence of the electorate is to grasp why Corbyn was so overwhelmingly rejected, and this, I fear, has yet to happen. For this was not just about hare-brained economics or Corbyn's inadequacy as a leader; it was a deeper pathology – one that still lingers in the party and beyond.

I first glimpsed this pathology in the autumn of 1998 in a conversation with Walter Wolfgang, the chap who – you might remember – was ejected from the Labour Party conference for heckling Jack Straw. I got to know Wolfgang after moving to Richmond, southwest London, and joining the local party. Most were decent types, but there was a learnt strain in the group, which, I later learnt, existed across the party.

Wolfgang, you see, would constantly

argue that the UK should withdraw from Nato, unilaterally relinquish nuclear weapons and dismantle our institutions. It wasn't until the third or fourth meeting that I mustered the courage to challenge this nonsense. "But if you did all that, the British nation would fall apart." It was his response that has always stayed with me, along with the nodding heads in the room. "Why would that be a bad thing?" he said.

It is not quite fair to say that Wolfgang hated Britain, although many on the hard left certainly do. It was more a kind of apathy, a sense that the nation state was at best irrelevant and at worst an obstruction to their utopian dream of global liberation from capitalism. They were not nationalists, but internationalists, a philosophy shared by Seumas Milne, Corbyn's Winchester-educated chief adviser, and Andrew Murray, the aristocratic acolyte who spent 40 years in the Communist Party of Great Britain.

It is this attitude that the electorate glimpsed in Corbyn too, the strand that linked so many of his controversies. It is why he struggled to sing the national anthem, sympathised with the IRA and called for the abolition of Nato. It is why he struggled to condemn aggression against Britain, such as the Skripal poisoning, spoke against the Falklands War, and made statements that indicated a preference for the Soviet

Union over Britain during the Cold War. How can someone be trusted to lead a nation state, the electorate wondered, if he cannot be trusted to defend the nation state?

Consistent polling shows that the working classes are particularly patriotic – more so than the middle class. This is why the slide in traditional support for Labour tracked, almost perfectly, the decline in the party's perceived support for Britain, starting in 2010 and reaching its nadir in 2019. By the time of last year's general election, Conservatives held a lead over Labour in the working-class vote of 15%. This staggering discrepancy only makes sense when you recognise how people were repulsed by the metropolitan left's constant (and often unfair) denigration of British history and institutions.

But the problem for the hard left isn't merely one of electoral unpopularity; it is more fundamental. A strong sense of national identity is the most basic building block of prosperity. We take this for granted because we forget the bloodshed and struggle that it took to create these political entities, and thus fail to nurture them. Look anywhere in the world where there is poverty and you will see nations that lack a coherent identity; nations still divided down tribal lines. Such places cannot solve the collective action problems – public goods, rule of law, functioning

institutions – that underpin growth of any kind.

A strong national identity isn't just vital for prosperity; it is a prerequisite for social justice. Think of the New Deal in America and the British welfare state, two of the defining progressive achievements of the 20th century. Each represented vast transfers in power and wealth and were achieved without internal conflict. This was only possible because of a massive sense of national solidarity without which they would only have been utopian pipe dreams.

You can see this point in a different way by considering the EU. You may have noticed that this political construct is incapable of meaningful fiscal redistribution, despite monetary union across much of the zone. The reason isn't that the continent is insufficiently left wing. The reason is that the EU hasn't (and can't) create the pan-European solidarity that is the only way to persuade Germans – who do pay taxes to support their unemployed countrymen – to pay towards support for poorer Greeks.

You see the same truth in relation to the pandemic, too. A study of 64 nations and 47,000 people by New York University found that those places that were most willing to comply with rules, mandatory or otherwise, were those with the strongest sense of national identity. The reason is intuitive: people

are only willing to obey rules that are personally disadvantageous if they feel a moral commitment to those who might be harmed by the breach. Such nations also tended to fare better in terms of deaths and economic damage.

It is not just Starmer who needs to absorb these lessons but leaders across the free world, most of whom have forgotten that the miracle of liberal democracy was not just about individualism, but the social solidarity that channels it. A healthy sense of national identity makes international co-operation easier, not harder, and restrains the jingoism that led to such dark places in the first half of the last century. Modern history tells us that right-wing populism is not an expression of national identity; it results from a crisis in national identity.

I hope that a new US president and Starmer can reclaim the decent, tolerant centre ground that unites majorities throughout the democratic world. But they can do so only by facing down the hard left's contempt for the central strut of prosperity and the rules-based order. As Orwell put it: "One cannot see the world as it is unless one recognises the overwhelming strength of patriotism, national loyalty... As a positive force there is nothing to set beside it. Christianity and international socialism are weak as straw in comparison." @MatthewSyed

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### We must take more of a stand to counter extremism

"How many casualties of their poisonous invective and behaviour do we consider acceptable before we act?" With these words Justine McCarthy (Comment, last week) has emphasised the responsibility of all who deplore the actions of extremists to stand up and be counted. Fair play to her.

Also in your newspaper we learn that Emmanuel Macron's government seems to be acting decisively in response to the outrages committed by extremists in his country. However, the report by Peter Conradi (World News) trots out the lazy metaphor of secularism being "something of a state religion" in France. To recycle an old but still useful phrase: calling secularism a religion is the same as saying that not collecting stamps is a hobby.

Seamus McKenna  
Farranboly Park, Dublin

#### Ins and outs

The far-right in Ireland garnered less than 1% of support in the last general election, but that is no reason for complacency. They tend to band around a slogan "Ireland belongs to the Irish" (but missed the irony of running an American candidate at the last election).



Macron in Nice where the attack this week prompted him to put security on highest alert

I would be willing to bet they all have a family member who emigrated elsewhere in previous years.

Immigration and emigration cut both ways. Given our history, millions leaving here in search of a better life elsewhere, how dare we deny the same opportunity to those looking to us for support now?  
Mark O'Hagan  
Midleton, Co Cork

#### Tolerance unmasked

There's a noticeable difference in the response of the gardai to the anti-mask protesters and towards

workers demonstrating peacefully, fully masked and socially distanced, outside Debenhams and other places. The latter are invariably challenged and asked to move on, while the former appear to be free to amass and harass as much as they please – with a couple of exceptions in recent days.

The official response to right-wing extremism has always been far more tolerant. That's why it gets further, faster than anyone wants to think about. These people are dangerous – an opportunistic, potent, political virus riding on the

back of the pandemic itself. We're not taking them seriously enough.

Miriam Cotton  
Skibbereen, Co Cork

#### Left to their own devices

You highlight the behaviour of far-right groups and demand action to deal with their undoubted nastiness. Fair enough. But you cannot be unaware of the reprehensible behaviour of some of those on the so-called left of the spectrum, in particular Sinn Fein.

Breege Quinn is into her 14th year of seeking justice for her murdered son, Paul, and

is continuously, cruelly mocked online for her efforts. Máiría Cahill continues to suffer the most dreadful online abuse for having the temerity to stand up against Sinn Fein.

All of these persecuted people have one thing in common: their tormentors have escaped the opprobrium meted out to the far right.

Eddie Naughton  
The Coombe, Dublin 8

#### Rising threat

History tells us that fascist leaders seldom openly call for violence, initially. But staged violence is occurring in Ireland and people have been violently attacked by some of those attending National Party demonstrations in recent months, even before the eventual counter-protests.

Violence comes in many forms, too. What are we to make of those "anti-maskers" who choose to endanger shoppers and shop staff alike by forcing their views on others? There have been large demonstrations in Grafton Street twice in recent weeks. Shoppers and workers have been bullied for wearing masks. With a virus like this such behaviour is reckless endangerment and a threat to life.

Brendan Ogle  
Middle Abbey Street, Dublin 1

### Flats too costly for first-timers

John Burns, in his dismissal of Pembroke Road Residents' Association's "esoteric" child-centric park proposal on the site of the former O'Rahilly House at Herbert Park ("A hop, skip and jump on to housing ladder", Atticus, last week), supports instead the developers' plan to build 105 apartments "to ease the housing crisis".

However, this plan will do little to resolve the difficulties of first-time buyers. These apartments have already been priced at €625,021 and €440,337, for two-bedroom and one-bedroom units respectively. How many young people can afford housing at these prices?

With the pandemic challenging us to re-imagine the future of Dublin city centre, particularly with remote work, such a development may end up being a 12-storey white elephant. A park is an honourable way for this state to make amends for destroying part of our revolutionary period (1912-1923) history.

Stephen Oliver Murray  
Ballsbridge, Dublin 4

### BIRTHDAYS

**Mark Austin**, journalist and TV presenter, 62  
**Susanna Clarke**, novelist, 61  
**Tim Cook**, Apple chief executive, 60  
**Sharron Davies**, swimmer, 58  
**Mark Hughes**, football player and manager, 57  
**Anthony Kiedis**, singer, 58  
**Nick Owen**, TV presenter, 73  
**Gary Player**, golfer, 85  
**Aishwarya Rai**, actress, 47



Sharron Davies is 58 today

believes that Jesus is calling all Christians to be more tolerant and merciful and less strict.

Quinn warns that this approach could cause anger and alienation – from the righteous, I suspect. But then again, Jesus himself was a dab hand at ruffling the feathers of the righteous.

Fr Tim Hazelwood  
Kilkeagh, Co Cork

#### Allegation angle

The headline on your story regarding the death of Patrick Potts correctly refers to him as "ex-Gonzaga head", but buried in the article is the fact that the allegations against him refer to the time before his 15-year tenure there ("I feel cheated, says abuse survivor as ex-Gonzaga head dies before trial", News, last week). Indeed, he was already retired from Gonzaga before the first allegations surfaced.

I am left wondering as to whether this story was considered newsworthy because it referred to Gonzaga, one of the most successful schools in the country – and, of course, it is Catholic, run by the Jesuits.

Conal Morgan  
Roosky, Co Roscommon

### Listen to the real experts on Covid

Andrew Devine-Rattigan (Letters, last week) claims that 10,000 scientists and medical practitioners have signed the Great Barrington declaration, which advocates that Covid-19 be allowed to spread through the less vulnerable population and perhaps a degree of herd immunity will build up. He omits to mention this was an unverified online petition. These ideas are unsupported by existing scientific evidence.

Professor Sir Robert Lechler, president of the UK's Academy of Medical Sciences, has described the idea as "unethical and simply not possible". He points out that the virus "is in no way benign for the young and fit" and there is much we still have to discover about its long-term effects. The World Health Organisation and numerous public health bodies have said the proposed strategy is unethical and unscientific, and would lead to a large number of avoidable deaths.

In a document recently published in The Lancet, more than 6,000 real scientists,

health professionals and research organisations signed a memorandum rejecting herd immunity, describing it as a "dangerous fallacy unsupported by scientific evidence."

Kevin P McCarthy  
Killarney, Co Kerry

#### Open and shut case

Brenda Power is spot on: any debate or even a mild questioning of the data and aspects of the country's pandemic response is simply shut down or ignored (Comment, last week). We are seeing record levels of cases across Europe but little discussion as to what the root cause is. The official response is limited to ever-tighter restrictions on public life and an overreliance on face coverings, all with little success and causing great social and economic harm.

We have high levels of community transmission because of families and friends behaving as though it was 2019 again – sharing the sofa, crowding round the dining table, and so on. We would do better to open up society, leave mask-wearing to public transport only, and build up our good habits again in terms of

keeping social distance and limiting the number of people we meet.

Stephen Newman, by email

#### Track and yield

What would be wrong with people having to inform their own contacts they have tested positive for Covid? The total reliance on the state for everything seems to be growing at an alarming rate. It would take minutes for an infected person to get in touch with five people with whom they had been in contact, to inform them they need to be careful. It would be far more efficient than the state doing it.

Tony Morgan, Dublin 6

#### No picture of health

Nphet's job is to advise. Governments, however, have to take tough decisions that affect not only health, but the economy and education. The statistics just don't justify this policy of shutdown, which is destroying peoples' lives, physically and mentally.

Covid has blown apart the health system, showing it is not fit for purpose. The country's economy has been screwed for its protection.

Louise Fernie  
Oranmore, Co Galway

### Pope's view on gay love is clear

So David Quinn considers the Pope's softer dogma to be dispiriting (Comment, last week). Maybe to him, as he appears to give credence to "off the cuff" comments Pope Francis supposedly gave to Eugenio Scalfari, an atheist journalist, which contradicted the church's teaching.

I would refer all sceptics to the conversations the Pope had with Andrea Tornielli, when he said: "If a person is gay and seeks the Lord, who am I to judge that person?"

No confusion about that, and reason, perhaps, for those who already count themselves among the ranks of the just to get off their high horse.

Wilson Burgess  
Bonds Hill, Derry

#### A spiritual approach

Quinn suggests that Pope Francis is being political by being more merciful and tolerant of gay couples in civil partnerships. By doing so he is supposedly trying to appeal to the disaffected. I would suggest his approach is more spiritual, because he actually

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### POINTS

#### No cancelling censorship

"Sensitivity readers" at publishing houses are the new censors ("Defend your writers or be damned, publishers", News Review, last week). People seem to forget we had to endure this stuff in Ireland for too long, and some of our best authors' works could not be read in their home country.

Cancel culture was used by totalitarian regimes in eastern Europe to try and suppress memories of events such as the Katyn Forest massacre, the Polish army's struggle against the Nazis and so on, in order to ensure a rigid adherence to party orthodoxy. It is still used today in the Middle East and Asia. We don't burn books any more; we pulp them.

The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.  
Daniel Smith  
Blackrock, Co Dublin

#### China crisis

David Quinn asks "why aren't we more outraged at China?" (Comment, October 18). I believe it's because most people just don't know what's happening there. There really has to be continual coverage by the media to educate our society as to the shocking behaviour of the Chinese Communist Party, especially in Xinjiang.

Everyone should question where products they are buying come from. If it's made in China, decide you don't need it. That's the way to get the message to that merciless dictator Xi Jinping.

Penny Moore, by email

#### Co-living hell

I would ask anyone who is promoting co-living schemes to live in such a complex for one year ("Housing officials urge Darragh O'Brien not to kill off co-living schemes", News, last week). These proposals deprive human beings of the basic human dignity of privacy.

Kieran Cummins  
Trim, Co Meath

#### Barking up wrong tree

I was surprised and disappointed by the tone of your article linking criminal gangs to the breeding and ownership of dogs ("Irish criminal gangs go to the dogs to launder drugs cash", News, October 18).

While criminals will of course seek to get involved in any profitable activity, the article unfairly demonised bulldog breeds and their owners. The great majority of owners, including my son and I, have no connections

with crime, and their dogs, like ours, are admired rather than feared when in public.

American bulldogs are indeed powerful, but you do not mention that they are also friendly, loyal, calm and well behaved. In my experience, their owners devote great care and attention to them.

Pádraig Twomey, by email

#### Ready, steady, way to go

That was an interesting article by Michael Foley (Comment, Sport, last week) about the progress of the 20x20 campaign. However, inside the 24-page supplement itself there is just one column devoted to women's sport. Can't see, can't be?

Teresa Redmond  
Rathfarnham, Dublin 14

#### Electric dreams

A person fortunate enough to be able to afford an electric car is given every financial incentive and considered to be an all-round good citizen. Those who are unable to afford an electric car but buy an electric scooter are fined, have their machines confiscated, points added to their licence, and are considered criminals.

This is apparently due to the interpretation of 60-year-old legislation, with no consideration given to environmental and traffic congestion benefits, or conformance with HSE advice to avoid public transport where possible.

Would the government kindly acknowledge the 21st century and legalise these useful machines forthwith?

Chris Stark, Ballina, Co Mayo

#### Archaic advice

Reading the review of Pen Vogler's *Scoff, A History of Food and Class in Britain* (Culture, last week) brought to mind a law not long since dropped from the statute books in Ireland, having been passed in the 1820s, confining the consumption of potatoes and oats to the "lower orders". The upper classes, I presume, were confined to consuming fine foods and wine.

Another law rescinded just a few years ago was the 16th century one making it an offence to complain about Henry VIII's divorce from Catherine of Aragon.

Martin Aherne  
Loughrea, Co Galway

Letters should arrive by noon on Thursday and include the full address and a phone number. We may edit letters, which must be exclusive to The Sunday Times

# NEWS REVIEW



## ARE THE GREENS WILTING?

The number of women members who have criticised the party or quit indicates a gender issue that the organisation cannot afford to ignore, writes *Justine McCarthy*

Lorna Bogue opened the members' section on the Green Party's website on the night of October 22 and clicked on the "resign" button. "Please take this email as my formal resignation from the party," the Cork city councillor wrote. The "last straw", she said, was the Dail's passage of a bill published by her party colleague, Roderic O'Gorman, the minister for children, placing the Murphy commission's archive of documents on mother-and-baby homes under state seal. "Bessborough [one of the institutions investigated] is in my ward. I couldn't stand over it," said Bogue, who was elected to the city's southeast ward in May 2019. While the government was dealing with a public outcry over O'Gorman's bill last week, the Green Party – which boasted in July that its membership had doubled in a year – was facing what one member called "a mini-exodus".

Asked about Bogue's defection during an RTE interview last Wednesday, Eamon Ryan, the Greens' leader, said the swift passage of O'Gorman's bill had been necessary because, otherwise, "the record would have been expunged". Responding to allegations by Bogue of "misogyny" in the party, Ryan insisted the Greens have a robust complaints system. "Our whole party is centred around justice and treating people well."

Bogue says the first time Ryan contacted her after she submitted her notice of resignation was immediately after that interview, on RTE's Drivetime, a gap of almost a week. She had received calls from Catherine Martin, the deputy

leader, and Hazel Chu, the national chairwoman, the previous weekend.

"I didn't have much to say to him," Bogue recalled. "It felt like he was ticking a box – that, if somebody asked him later, he could say he rang me up and we had a good chat."

Other significant figures had walked away before Bogue, including Tara Gilsean, the chairwoman of the Young Greens, and Tiernan Mason, the chairman of the Queer Greens. In a joint letter, the pair said they were "dismayed" that the party had voted to allow evictions during the pandemic, had promoted the bill on the commission's archive, and advanced a "lacklustre" climate bill.

Until the departure of Bogue, who has remained on as co-chair of Just Transition Greens, a group affiliated to the party but not limited to its members, the highest-profile deserter was Saoirse McHugh. The Achill Island environmentalist won 51,000 first preference votes in the 2019 European parliament elections but failed

**“It felt like he was ticking a box – if somebody asked, he could say he rang me up and we had a good chat”**

to win a seat in Brussels, the Dail or the Seanad as a party candidate. She left the Greens in July, claiming the party was "toxic".

Both McHugh and Bogue were outspoken internal critics even before they resigned. Less expected was the departure of Sinéad Mercier, the Greens' chief researcher in the last Dail who Ryan publicly thanked for having "done all the work" on a "just transition" climate bill while they were in opposition. After members rejected a proposed amendment to the party's constitution at July's annual convention, which would have enshrined the principle of "just transition" for workers and communities disadvantaged by climate-change policy, Mercier quit.

Ryan's supporters, who have a 75% majority in the parliamentary party, say many of the new members who joined around last February's general election are impatient, and naive about how politics works. Among members there is sympathy for O'Gorman who is regarded as a decent person whose bungling of the bill arose from ministerial inexperience. "I trust Roderic," said one internal critic. "I don't think he was trying to conceal anything with the bill but he wasn't advised properly."

On a recent visit to the Seanad to rubber-stamp proposed railway safety legislation, Ryan was chided by independent senator, Victor Boyhan, who complained that three bills – dealing with the mother-and-baby homes, forestry and railway safety – had been rushed through the Oireachtas by Green Party ministers.

"I appealed to him to go back to his group, which people expect a great deal from, [and] not allow a situation where all stage of legislation are rammed through," Boyhan said.

While Micheál Martin was denied a honeymoon period as taoiseach by a pandemic and a series of unfortunate events, Ryan has been blighted by the outspoken discontent within his own party. While it did not help that he himself was caught napping in the Dail chamber, it is militancy within his own ranks that must be keeping him awake at night.

"Eamon gets on well with Micheál Martin but doesn't seem to have much of a relationship with Leo Varadkar [the Fine Gael leader and taoiseach]," said a Green Party source. "Eamon is closer to Simon Coveney. Leo is managing to keep one foot of Fine Gael in government and the other foot in opposition. They seem to be running rings around us."

Catherine Martin's challenge to Ryan's leadership showed the deep divisions that have developed within the party. Ryan won the leadership election in July, but only by 48 votes.

The disproportionate number of women members who have either publicly criticised the party or left indicates that there is a gender issue simmering within the Greens. Neasa Hourigan, who was the party's finance spokesperson and a negotiator for the programme for government, was passed over for either a senior or junior ministry, despite being one of only two women among 12 TDs in a party that regards itself as feminist.

After voting against the government's Residential Tenancies and Valuation Bill, Hourigan had her party speaking rights suspended for two months, along with Joe O'Brien, a junior minister who'd abstained. She also resigned as party whip but has since been appointed chair of the Oireachtas budgetary oversight committee.

Despite being Dublin's current lord mayor and the Greens' chairwoman, Chu is said to be disenchanted with the party,

having failed to be selected as Ryan's general election running-mate in Dublin Bay South or as a candidate for the Seanad elections. She has informally discussed a potential move to the Social Democrats with that party's TD, Gary Gannon.

"I've huge admiration for the work Hazel does and I know she wants to stand for election. I think she would be a fine fit," Gannon said. "Green politics and Social Democrats politics go hand in hand."

Following last week's resignation from the Seanad by Sinn Fein's Elisha McCallion, there is speculation that Chu might

seek the Greens' nomination to contest the vacant seat. However, if the three party leaders in government agree a different joint candidate, Chu may feel further disenchanted.

Bogue said: "When you say there is misogyny in the party you get two reactions. One is people saying: 'How can there be misogyny? We're feminists'. The other is that people say 'Catherine is the deputy leader – why doesn't she do something about it?' But she's caught in the same bind as the rest of us. There are people in the party who are still mad with her for running for the leadership."

**Ploughing their own furrows. From left to right, Neasa Hourigan, Roderic O Gorman, Hazel Chu, Eamon Ryan and Catherine Martin**

"Nobody doubts Eamon's integrity but he's stubborn and Catherine has gone very much to ground," said a member of a rival political party. "The Greens remind me of Margaret Thatcher's election campaign when she used the image of the wilting rose to say the Labour Party wasn't working for voters. Now we've got the wilting Greens."

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# Lockdown 2? The PM's friends in the north have lived it for months

Months of restrictions in 'red wall' seats merely widened the divide Boris Johnson promised to close, argues *Matthew Goodwin*



**B**oris Johnson had always assumed his premiership would be defined by three things: delivering Brexit, Global Britain and his promise to "level up" the country. But then along came the coronavirus. Far from being the great leveller, as the pandemic shifts into its second wave, and as a full national lockdown looms, it threatens to leave Britain's left-behind regions even further behind and to leave Johnson's promise in tatters.

"The Tory party never panics," said Sir John Hoskyns, who used to run Margaret Thatcher's policy unit, "except in a crisis." Well, the crisis is here and the party is panicking.

Last week saw some 40 of Johnson's own MPs from the Northern Research Group, which reflects the new face of blue-collar Conservatism, write to the prime minister to express their dismay at how, rather than levelling up, their "red wall" seats are falling further down.

"The north has seen a level of disruption unparalleled with other parts of the country," they write. "The virus ... threatens to continue to increase the disparity between the north and south still further."

They are not wrong. The second wave is growing fastest in London, but it is the regions that Johnson had pledged to level up that have been battered by higher infection rates, cases, hospital admissions and deaths.

Last week the infection rate per 100,000 people was 105 in the southeast and 155 in London but 307 in the north-east of England and 450 in the northwest. In some parts of the north, such as Oldham, it is expected to rise above 700. A new study from Imperial College London confirms that Yorkshire and the north-west have so far been hardest hit.

The pushing of northern regions into the then most severe – tier 3 – restrictions meant that pubs, restaurants and economies were shut down. West Yorkshire and Nottingham joined Liverpool, Lancashire, Greater Manchester, South Yorkshire and Warrington in this grim reality. Yet, until now, not a single area in the south had the same restrictions, despite surging cases. For northern leaders such as Andy Burnham, the mayor of Greater Manchester – who last week had a beer named after him, King of the North – all this reeks of double standards.

They ask, understandably, why areas in the south remained open for business while the more fragile economies in the north were shut down. And they ask why, earlier this year, when London bore the brunt of the first wave of infections, the entire country had to be closed down. It's not a good look that only now, with cases in the south surging, a second national lockdown has been considered.

Even before the crisis, Johnson's



How LS Lowry might have painted Salford in lockdown, masks included  
L.S. LOWRY; HENRY NICHOLLS

pledge to level up was the political equivalent of climbing Mount Everest. Decades of neglect in our south-facing economy had left Britain with some of the sharpest regional inequalities in the developed world.

London has always boomed. Even in 1901, GDP per person in the capital was 34% above the national average. But in recent decades these divides became obscene as London pulled further away in terms of wealth, health and education.

Long before the coronavirus, children in the north were less likely to attend a good or outstanding school and achieve five GCSEs. When, in 2015, Ofsted identified 16 poorly performing areas, all but three were in the north and the Midlands. Today it is the children of the

red wall who are again suffering the worst effects of the crisis and look set to become the new face of the left-behind.

In October, the average percentage of pupils attending state-funded secondary schools was 10 points higher in the south of England than in the north. In Kensington and Chelsea in London, 94% of children were in school on October 15; in Calderdale, West Yorkshire, it was 64%; in Knowsley, Merseyside, it was 61%.

A series of shocks – de-industrialisation, the collapse of manufacturing, globalisation, a surge of imports from China and an influx of cheap labour from the EU – left a large swathe of the country not only falling behind but also in a different era.

Left-behind Britain was then hit after

the 2008 financial crash – which saw the collapse of Northern Rock – then hit again by austerity, which disproportionately hurt the northeast, and is today being hit again by the great lockdown.

The Institute for Fiscal Studies calculates that Yorkshire, the Midlands and the north will be worst affected by the economic fallout of the crisis. While benefit claims are surging everywhere, there are notable clusters in declining coastal or manufacturing towns such as Blackpool, Middlesbrough and Wolverhampton. As any boxer will tell you, you can keep on getting up only so many times.

Johnson is also trying to level up amid a crisis that the south of England is better insulated against than the north.

One study estimates that while 60% of jobs in London can be done at home, this slumps to its lowest level, below 40%, in the northeast. Middle-class professionals riding out the storm on Zoom, sipping "quarantinis", have had a profoundly different experience of the crisis from blue-collar workers who need to leave home to get paid.

Johnson and Rishi Sunak, the chancellor, had initially promised to level up Britain by spending more on infrastructure, improving connectivity, investing in vocational and technical

education and, as Johnson recently announced, sending 20,000 civil servants to our "great northern cities". But the left-behind regions need more than bridges, trains and a few mandarins. His own northern MPs have, rightly, gone further, demanding a serious economic recovery plan for the north. But even that might not be enough.

What is needed, in effect, is a Marshall Plan for the north: major and sustained investment that can overcome decades of

## JOHNSON FADES IN THE RED WALL

### Approval of the prime minister

◆ April ◆ October

#### Northern working-class

60% approve

39%

#### All voters in the north

58%

31%

#### All voters

58%

32%

Source: YouGov. "The north" is classed as the northeast, northwest and Yorkshire and the Humber

inaction, much of which was presided over by Johnson's Conservative predecessors. About £100bn (€110bn) has been put aside for infrastructure between now and the next election. But the UK2070 Commission independent inquiry said Britain needs to spend about £1-£1.5 trillion to turn the ship around – similar to the sums spent over 25 years on the former East Germany after reunification.

This needs to go hand-in-hand with a redistribution of power and influence. The Harvard philosopher Michael Sandel argues that rather than only redistribute economic resources, our societies also need to redistribute social status, recognition, respect and power. This means grasping the message of the populist revolts that defined the past decade: that communities want power sent down, not up and hoarded at the centre.

In the 1980s, the Conservative Michael Heseltine headed north and walked the streets of Liverpool with ambitious plans to revive an area that others were happy to see enter "managed decline". Compare this with Johnson's failure to visit the flooded parts of Yorkshire and the Midlands at the start of this year. Heseltine has urged him to send power down, including giving mayors more power.

A wider sense that the levelling-up agenda is coming off the rails might also explain why cracks have started to appear in the red wall. Nationally, Johnson is in trouble. Last week, even before the leaked news of a national lockdown, public approval of his handling of the crisis fell to its lowest level, 29%. For the first time since the summer of 2019, Labour is pulling ahead in the polls – climbing to 42% against 37% for the Tories.

Yet what should worry No 10 is how the mood seems to be changing among the red wall voters, who are holding the Johnson project up to scrutiny. Only one in five people who struggle financially, one in four northerners and less than two-fifths of people in the seats that Johnson took from Labour approve of how he is managing the crisis. A once solid lead among the working class has crashed by 13 points, while his support in the north and the Midlands is in decline.

Could this be the start of a broader revolt? In his sizzling polemic, *Twilight of the Elites*, the French geographer Christophe Guilluy convincingly argues that one of the new and most powerful fault lines in politics is not class or income but geography. People who live in "the periphery" – small towns and the outskirts of big cities – will soon rise up against increasingly distant and secluded elites in the "new citadels".

It all sounds fanciful until you realise that the book was published only months before the yellow vest protests erupted in France and descended on Paris.

We should remember that all three of the revolts that defined the past decade – the rise of Ukip, Brexit and Johnson's victory – drew their strength from outside London and among people who are suspicious of it. Northerners once thought Johnson had grasped this message. Now they are not so sure.

*Matthew Goodwin is professor of politics at Kent University*

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## Spad's life: Botox, booze and gaffes

Peter Cardwell had to defend a minister's four ovens and was fired by Dominic Cummings, but, he tells *Roland White*, being a political adviser to the UK government was a dream job

**W**hen Dominic Cummings, the chief adviser to UK prime minister Boris Johnson, advertised for a personal assistant this year, he provided a terrifying glimpse into the world of the political adviser. "You will not have weekday date nights," Cummings said. "You will sacrifice many weekends – frankly it will be hard having a boy/girlfriend at all."

Yet special adviser – or Spad – was the dream job of Peter Cardwell, who filled the role for four cabinet ministers over 3½ years. He stayed resolutely single throughout (he has three cats), before he was sacked – by Cummings.

Now he has broken the Spad code of omeria and written a book, *The Secret Life of Special Advisers*, in which he discreetly fails to name the

minister who cleared an afternoon a month in her diary to visit a Harley Street Botox clinic, and who was advised to avoid smiling for days after each treatment.

We also learn that Boris Johnson once hid from Iain Duncan Smith in a darkened house when he was supposedly running IDS's leadership campaign.

Cardwell, 36, went to Oxford and then worked on *Newsnight* ("If Jeremy Paxman slagged you off, that meant he liked you") and *Good Morning Britain* with Piers Morgan.

It was while working on *Newsnight* that he sent a CV to Fiona Hill, then chief of staff at Downing Street. Within days he had been appointed as a special adviser to James Brokenshire, the Northern Ireland secretary.

"A lot of ministers don't understand the media. They think they do and ask, 'Why has this journalist got a vendetta against me?' You have to explain: it's not about you, it's the fact that you're the man or woman in position at the time."

Brokenshire proved to be an easy introduction to the world of spadding. "One veteran journalist said James never knowingly committed an act of news," says Cardwell. "When he was doing an interview you could drift off. He was never going to say anything he shouldn't have said."

When Brokenshire did become news, it was by accident. An interview in *The Sunday Times* Home section was illustrated with a picture of his kitchen – showing he had two ovens. A national "Ovengate" debate followed about whether there were actually four ovens.

This is what special advisers are supposed to prevent. For example, somebody, says Cardwell, should have spotted that free school meals could cause embarrassment.

Could politics manage without these advisers? "I think Spads are essential. There is so much a minister can't do – they just don't have time," Cardwell says.

"Spads play a weird daily role to their ministers, somewhere between friend,

gatekeeper, adviser and general dogsbody. I advised James both on what to say in the crucial 8.10am interview on the [BBC Radio 4] *Today* programme as well as reminding him to have a pee beforehand."

When Brokenshire resigned to have treatment for lung cancer he was replaced by Karen Bradley. Cardwell stayed on but was poached by Amber Rudd at the Home Office. He later rejoined Brokenshire, who had returned as housing minister. His final role was



BBC's *Roadkill* focuses on a minister and his special adviser

advising Robert Buckland, the lord chancellor. "I was a bit of relic of the May administration," he admits. "I was very loyal to James."

James was very loyal to Theresa May. A lot of the May team inside No 10 were friends of mine and Dominic [Cummings] didn't know me. "He got to know me," he adds jokingly, "and decided to sack me. There is no animosity. It was just a matter

of refreshing the team. I've been pretty supportive."

He describes Cummings as "a strategic genius". Cardwell now works as a strategy consultant and media pundit.

He clearly enjoyed his time as a Spad but admits the lifestyle is unhealthy. Drink is a great temptation: "I was feeling a bit cloudy in the mornings so I stopped."

Yet he is not tempted to return to politics, certainly not as an MP. "No thanks, I've seen the sacrifices you have to make. It's the public nature of it, too. [The Labour MP] Stella Creasy once told me that she can't have an argument with her boyfriend in Sainsbury's because somebody will film them."

You wouldn't think Spads had time for television, but they seem to enjoy watching themselves on the small screen. Cardwell has binge-watched the Hugh Laurie vehicle *Roadkill* ("it's pretty accurate") and says advisers measure their success through such programmes: "Sometimes, over a drink, Spads ask each other whether they have had a *West Wing* week or a *Thick of It* week."

In other words, have they been doing important things? Or have they been insisting that their minister really does have only two ovens?

*The Secret Life of Special Advisers* is published by Biteback Publishing, £20

# This crisis will be the making of one person — Big Brother

Yuval Noah Harari, the author of the global hit *Sapiens*, says tech surveillance and despots will thrive after Covid. So why did he bow to Russian censors, asks *Josh Glancy*

When I first interviewed Yuval Noah Harari, in the summer of 2016, he told me: “Nobody really understands what’s happening now in the world, and nobody is in control.” At the time, the Brexit referendum had just stunned Britain and Donald Trump was a long shot to become the next US president. With a pandemic thrown in for good measure, things haven’t exactly become any less confusing since.

Now seems a good moment then to catch up with the Israeli historian, philosopher and sage of modernity, who is bringing out a graphic novel adaptation of his book *Sapiens*, which sold more than 12 million copies and made him a global star.

Harari, 44, is now a counsellor to presidents and billionaires, the author of two further bestsellers — *Homo Deus* and *21 Lessons for the 21st Century* — and the face of a burgeoning intellectual empire. He speaks to me over Zoom from his book-lined study in a village close to Tel Aviv. As pandemics go, Harari’s has been pretty relaxed.

“I like to read books and walk by myself in the woods, so some quiet time at home is fine with me,” he says. The only real issue is that he’s had to postpone his annual meditation retreat, where he spends up to 60 days in silent contemplation. “I was supposed to start my meditation in the UK this month,” he says. “But now it’s the lockdown in Israel, and everything in the UK, it’s not going to happen.”

For all Harari’s success, his world view is as sombre as it ever was — perhaps more so. Instead of travelling regularly to America, he has been watching anxiously from afar as the country inches its way agonisingly towards Tuesday’s presidential election.

The problem, in Harari’s view, is a collapse in national solidarity. “If you think about nationalism as hating foreigners, then it’s fine, it’s doing well,” he says. “But if you think about nationalism as I think we should, as loving your compatriots, then it’s in a very deep crisis.”

This is the situation he sees emerging in America. “Both sides fear one another

“It didn’t start with Covid... but this was the tipping point”

much more than they fear the Russians or the Chinese,” he says, which is why Tuesday’s election is being cast in such apocalyptic terms.

“When you think that the other party is an existential threat, then you’re not willing to accept the results of the democratic process,” he adds. “You need to believe that the other party... They may be wrong, maybe even stupid — but in the end we are in this together.”

Does he expect this polarisation to result in conflict? “A full-blown civil war seems very unlikely,” he says. “But if this continues in the same direction for a few more cycles, we could reach at least low-level endemic violence of riots and political assassinations.”

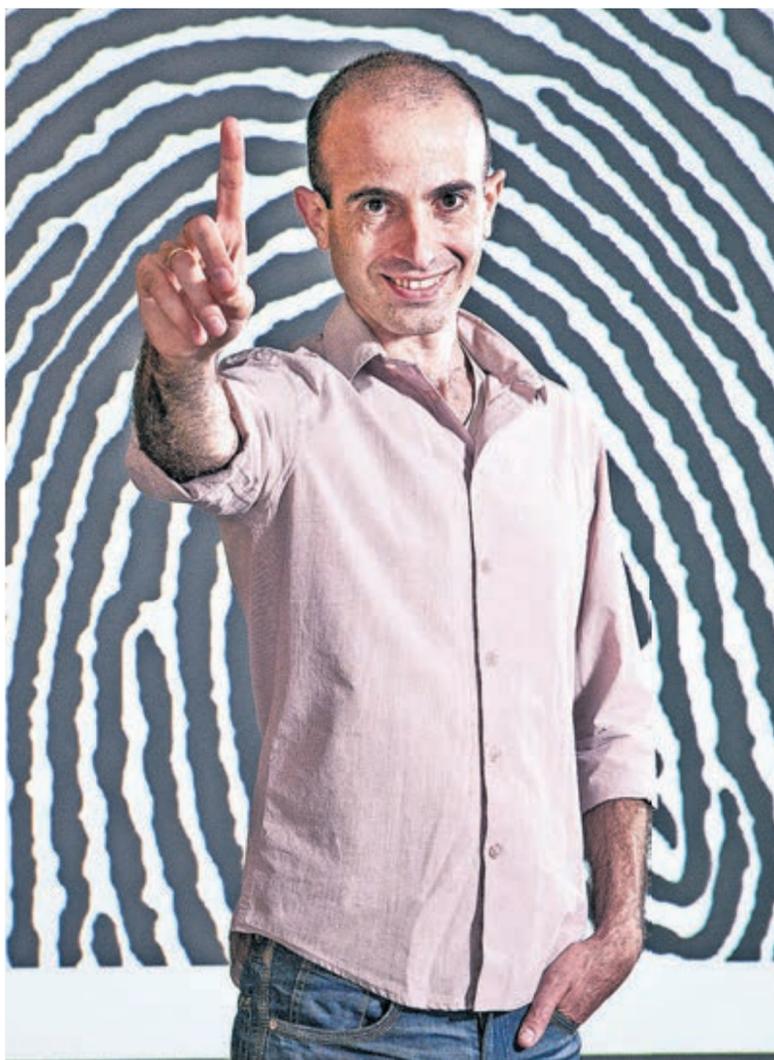
Ultimately, for all America’s self-proclaimed exceptionalism, Harari believes it is not “exempt” from the ravages of history. “For decades, people around the world had different opinions about the US,” he says. “Some people loved it, some people hated it, but everybody respected it. Now the world has lost faith in American competence — it’s a laughing stock.”

Yet Harari also insists its power is not dwindling. “America is in crisis, but not decline. Alongside China, it is leading the new technological revolution. The big tech companies are securing its future. We are likely to see a second wave of American imperialism, just in a different form — a kind of data imperialism.”

The doomsaying can get a bit relentless with Harari: it is not surprising he is occasionally lampooned as a Cassandra or a purveyor of Silicon Valley-friendly fortune-cookie wisdom. Yet even when he is in full “Ides of March” mode, his erudition remains compelling.

Much has changed in Harari’s own life since he started writing *Sapiens* more than a decade ago. He was born in Kiryat Ata, near Haifa in Israel, to an engineer father and a mother who was an office administrator. A precocious child, he was placed in a class for gifted pupils at the age of eight and his adventures in academia eventually led him to a PhD in Renaissance military memoirs at Oxford.

When he embarked on *Sapiens*, Harari was a jobbing lecturer at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, writing papers on subjects such as “Special Operations in the Age of Chivalry”. *Sapiens* emerged



Yuval Noah Harari says the pandemic has changed the rules on tech surveillance

from teaching a course in world history. No one wanted to publish it at first, but at the fifth time of asking, an Israeli publisher took a risk on him.

*Sapiens* told a story about stories, how central they are to human evolution and success: from religions to corporations to money to nations, it is the stories we tell that let us build large and complex civilisations. *Homo Deus* was a sequel about how the technological powers we have developed endanger our very humanity.

Harari has now sold almost 30 million books in 60 languages. “It’s been quite a journey,” he laughs. “Very unexpected. But the organisational genius behind this global success is not me, it’s my husband, Itzik.” The pair, who met via a dating site in 2002 and married in Toronto — Israel does not allow same-sex marriage — form

an effective team: Harari has referred to Itzik, 44, as his “internet of all things”.

“I write books, I enjoy it,” he says. “But when it comes to negotiating a contract, or choosing a publisher, or erm... arranging a PR campaign, I’m completely at a loss. If it was only me, I would have long ago collapsed or given up.”

The *Sapiens* graphic novel — a lavish tome that draws on reality-TV and superhero films to present the book’s ideas in visual form — is a good indication of just how sprawling and ambitious the Harari empire has become. Nowadays, he has a press office to read his emails and 10 people are employed as part of his “Sapienship” project.

Vast wealth doesn’t really align with Harari’s monkish aesthetic, though. What does he do with his millions? “The

biggest luxury is that I don’t need to think about money,” he says. “If I need something, I just buy it. I know it’s kind of an elitist thing to say, but that’s my luxury.”

As a global “thinkfluencer” par excellence, Harari has thrown himself into the debate over whether the pandemic is an anguished blip in human history or a turning point in the 21st century.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, he finds himself firmly in the latter camp. “I think when people look back at Covid, there is a high chance they will remember that this was the moment when a regime of total constant surveillance became just the normal part of human life,” he says. “Not only in authoritarian countries, but also in some democratic countries. Of course it didn’t start with Covid... but this was the tipping point.”

Harari is as “depressed and alarmed” by the current situation as the rest of us, but unlike most he is thinking further ahead. “The effects from jobs lost and the tsunami of a psychological crisis could be worse than the direct sickness from Covid itself,” he says.

As for the long term, he believes the pandemic could “completely destroy” the economies of weaker countries and lead to the tech giants “taking over everything”, as well as the “rise of new authoritarian regimes, much more extreme than we’ve seen before”.

Harari is withering about authoritarianism — which makes it all the more surprising that he permitted criticism of Vladimir Putin to be removed from the Russian edition of *21 Lessons for the 21st Century*. In order to satisfy the censors, it was replaced by criticism of Trump. The same edition also blunted criticism of Russia’s invasion of Crimea in 2014.

How does he justify it? “I respect those who think authors should never change anything, even if that means not publishing the book at all, but it seems to me an extreme and counterproductive position,” he says. “This is exactly what the regime wants — that such books will not be published in Russia at all. I thought it was better to find ways to bypass the censorship and reach the readers.” Pragmatism or hypocrisy? Perhaps a bit of both.

On that note, Harari is almost done contemplating for the day and is due downstairs for dinner — “raw vegetables, tahini, crackers and bread” — before settling down with Itzik to watch the Danish series *Rita* on Netflix.

I wonder if the great Israeli Eeyore thinks we can truly flourish in our new screen-based, homebound lives? “I don’t think we knew how to flourish even before Covid, so it’s not like we lost something precious that we had,” he says. “Throughout our history, humans were always very good at acquiring power, and not good at all in translating all that power into happiness.”

Or as the old saying goes: cheer up — tomorrow will be worse.

*Sapiens: A Graphic History*, by Yuval Noah Harari, David Casanave and David Vanderneulen, is published on November 12 by Jonathan Cape at £18.99



Harari agreed to cut criticism of Putin from the Russian edition

## A storm in a plant pot or costing the earth: how peat got political

Gardeners shook their pitchforks after Monty Don demanded they shun the fertile soil. But his claims are not unfounded, says *Simon Barnes*

Getting serious about something that comes out of a bog seems to be against nature. But peat — the gardener’s go-to for centuries — just got political. And we have Monty Don to thank for opening up this latest, soil-based culture war.

Don, the handsome, much-loved face of British horticulture, wrote in *Gardeners’ World* magazine that no garden centre should stock peat, or plants grown in peat, since peat mining is, he says, not especially good for the environment. It damages habitats and exacerbates climate change. The website Horticulture Week reports that garden centres across the country are now threatening to boycott the magazine.

James Alcaraz, chairman of the British Protected Ornamentals Association, was quoted as saying: “I’m very saddened that Monty Don has felt the need to yet again attack the industry that employs him.”

But Don is saying nothing new. He has said it before. Sir David Attenborough has said it before. Almost everybody in conservation has said it before. Even I have said it before: Fisons, which sold peat compost until 1994, took me to the Press Complaints Commission without success over a piece I wrote about peat for *GQ* in 1991.



Yet around that time, Margaret Thatcher made a speech at the Chelsea Flower Show: “What some of the conservationists would say to us for using peat today I don’t know, but I don’t know what a gardener can do without peat. I intend to go on using it.”

The International Union for Conservation of Nature calculates Britain uses three million cubic metres of peat every year. And, as Maggie said, peat is extraordinary stuff. Its virtue for gardeners is that it holds nutrients and retains moisture and at the same time drains well. It is also cheap.

It comes from bogs and dates from the last ice age, 12,000 years ago: peat is partly decayed plant matter, held in that in-between state by acidity and low oxygen. Human bodies — Tollund Man, for example, dug up in Denmark — have been found mummified in peat bogs.

Peat has been burnt as fuel for centuries: you cut it

Peat-cutting on the Isle of Lewis; below, Monty Don with his late dog Nigel

from the bog in turfs and then leave in the sun to dry.

In the 1980s the government gave financial incentives to peat extraction in Britain, and Thorne and Hatfield Moors in South Yorkshire were turned into an open mine. Natural England is now working on its regeneration.

When you disturb peat bogs, you destroy natural habitats. You also release immense amounts of carbon



dioxide into the atmosphere — bogs are huge carbon stores. It has been calculated that damage to peat bogs has caused the release of 5% of all Britain’s greenhouse gases since 2018. While a third of our peat is still mined in the UK the rest is imported, mainly from Ireland and the Baltic nations, adding to peat’s carbon footprint.

The compost manufacturer Evergreen Horticulture offers the counter-argument that peat compost reduces the need for fertilisers, is largely free of human and plant pathogens and reduces fungal infections in plants.

There are substitutes for peat, as Don points out: coir, which is a by-product of the coconut trade, and crushed bark. So, no, peat doesn’t mean the end of the gardening industry as we know it. It would just be inconvenient for quite a lot of people: according to the Horticultural Trades Association, 568,700 jobs are supported by horticulture and landscaping. There are 2,000 garden centres and nurseries in Britain. But then climate change is also inconvenient.

Some people are seeking to demonise Don; Don thinks he is just trying to do the right thing. Who would you ban from the gardener’s world? Monty? Or peat?

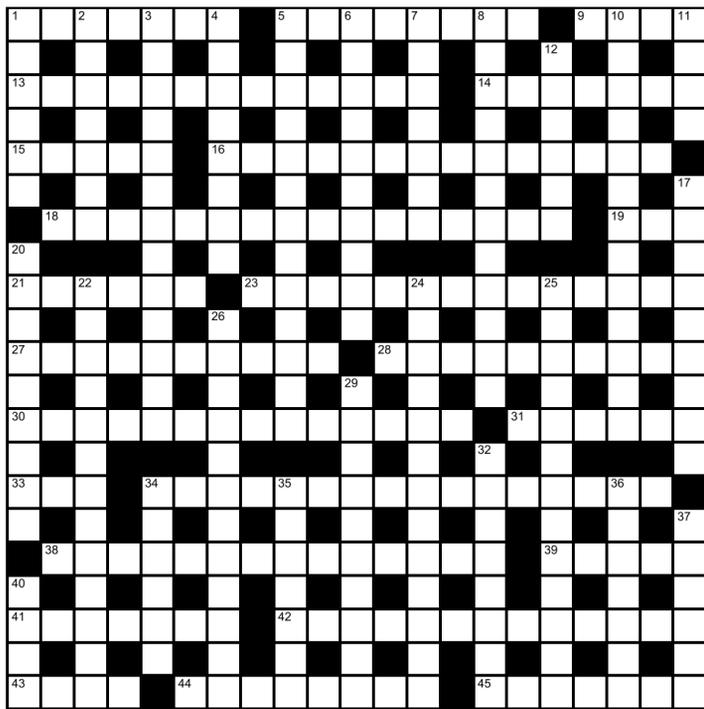
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IRELAND EDITION

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE JUMBO CROSSWORD 238



Across

- 1 Striking mixed-use building in the centre of Birmingham (3,4) (pictured)
- 5 French former rally driver and current president of the FIA (4,4)
- 9 Russian car manufacturer owned by Renault (4)
- 13 One version of the title renounced by Tony Benn to stand for a House of Commons seat (4,9)
- 14 Scottish equivalent of a mayor (7)
- 15 Michael \_\_\_ replaced Eamonn Andrews as the host of This Is Your Life in 1987 (5)
- 16 Fireproof barriers between stage and audience in theatres (6,8)
- 18 The longest-serving first lady of the United States (7,9)
- 19 One of the USA's four major sports leagues, founded in 1946 (3)
- 21 Pretentiously refined (2-2-2)
- 23 Comic strip in The Beano featuring Percival Proudfoot Plugsley and his nine schoolmates (4,6,4)
- 27 Germany's top football division (10)
- 28 Line break created automatically by word processing software, or by using the Shift and Enter keys (4,6)
- 30 1970s ITV sitcom with Sid James and Diana Coupland (5,4,5)
- 31 A barber (6)
- 33 The food fish Gadus morhua (3)
- 34 Film genre epitomised and, to some, created by A Fistful of Dollars in 1964 (9,7)
- 38 Random particle movement also called pedesis (8,6)
- 39 Kathmandu is the capital of \_\_\_ (5)
- 41 Game played with the fruit of Aesculus hippocastanum (7)
- 42 The state of being globe-shaped (13)
- 43 Former name of Thailand (4)
- 44 A collection of literary or philosophical excerpts (8)
- 45 (Done) in private or confidentially (3,4)

Down

- 1 To \_\_\_ windmills is to attack imaginary enemies (4,2)
- 2 International law enforcement agency based in the Hague (7)
- 3 Actress whose breakthrough role was as Honey Ryder in the first James Bond film (6,7)
- 4 City in the Chicagoland metropolitan area, home of Northwestern University (8)
- 5 Annual Canadian comedy festival whose mascot, Victor, has red horns (4,3,6)
- 6 The inversion of word order in a sentence (10)
- 7 Molasses is sometimes called black \_\_\_ (7)
- 8 France's administrative divisions (12)
- 10 Soap opera spoof which was a regular feature of Victoria Wood - As Seen On TV (5,8)
- 11 Poker player's stake placed before the deal (4)
- 12 Having wings extended as if in flight (heraldry) (6)
- 17 In Greek myth, daughter of Priam and beloved of Apollo (9)
- 20 Catchphrase from the 1984 film The Terminator (3,2,4)
- 22 Gwendolen Harleth is the heroine of this George Eliot novel (6,7)
- 24 Inhabitants of this city in Quebec are known as Trifluvians (5-8)
- 25 1984 Francis Ford Coppola film centred on a famous New York City musical venue (3,6,4)
- 26 \_\_\_ (pictured) defeated Darlene Hard and Angela Mortimer to win her two Wimbledon singles titles (6,6)
- 29 Relating to the feeding of animals (10)
- 32 The Wedding, a ballet by Stravinsky (3,5)
- 34 Beetle whose larvae bore into the wood of conifers (6)
- 35 A good luck gift such as a coin in the pocket of a new coat (7)
- 36 In baroque concerto music, the instruments accompanying the soloistic concertino group (7)
- 37 America's largest state (6)
- 40 UK policing agency merged into Soca in 2006 (4)



NEWS QUIZ

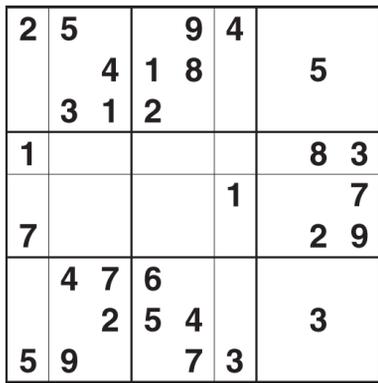
- 1 Which royal shared a recipe for spag bol? (Surely it should have been coronation chicken.)
- 2 Who announced that she was divorcing at the age of 89?
- 3 Who missed a trip to the tailor after an unexpected delivery?
- 4 Who, it was revealed, was the inspiration for Bob Dylan's *Lay Lady Lay*?
- 5 At what age does our get-up-and-go simply get up and go?
- 6 Which television show reportedly killed communism?
- 7 Comedian Robert Harper has died, aged 76. By what name was he professionally known?
- 8 What is the nickname of John Bream, who claims a record after freefalling 140ft into water?
- 9 Which colourful incomers have been saved from eviction by the villagers of Henfield, West Sussex?
- 10 What links Sir Mo Farah, BBC journalist Victoria Derbyshire and singer Russell Watson?

SUDOKU

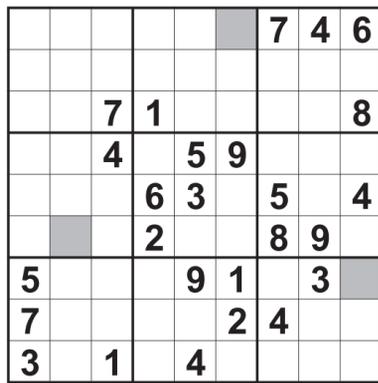
Each row, column and 3x3 box must contain the digits 1 to 9. Winners will receive a Collins English Dictionary & Thesaurus.

To enter, complete the Very Hard puzzle and call 0901 292 5275 (UK only) (ROI 1516 303 500), leaving your answer (the numbers in the three shaded squares) and contact details. Or text SUNDAY2, followed by a space, then your answer (three numbers) and contact details - eg SUNDAY2 123 John Smith, etc - to 84901 (UK only). Calls cost £1.00 (ROI £1.50) plus your telephone company's network access charge. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network charge. Winners will be picked at random from all correct answers received. Lines close at midnight on Saturday. If you call or text after this time you will not be entered but may be charged. When entering by phone or text, please provide your FULL name and address details, as incomplete entries may be charged but not entered. **STUCK?** Call our clue line to get four clues for the Very Hard puzzle on 0901 293 6265 (ROI 1514 515 120). Calls cost £1 (ROI 76c) plus your telephone company's network access charge. For full terms and conditions, visit thesundaytimes.co.uk/comprules. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm)

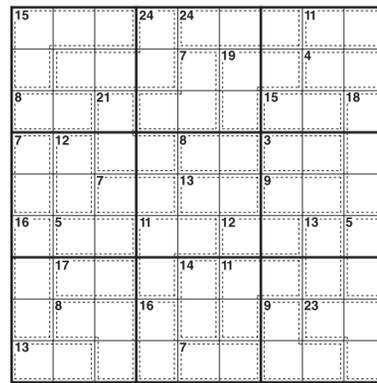
WARM-UP



VERY HARD — PRIZE 1403



KILLER SUDOKU EASY



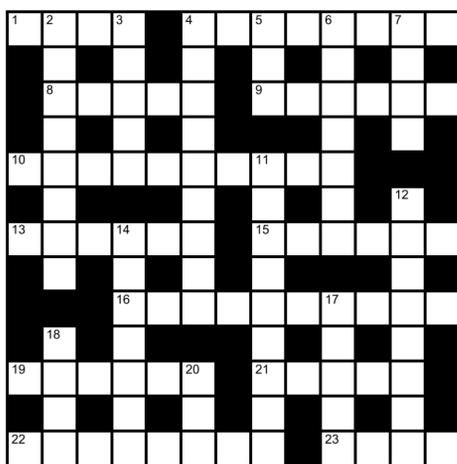
Each row, column and 3x3 box must contain the digits 1 to 9. The digits within each group of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the figure in the top-left-hand corner of each group. Within each dotted-line group, a digit cannot be repeated.

POLYGON



From these letters, make words of four or more letters, always including the central letter. Answers must be in the Concise Oxford Dictionary, excluding capitalised words, plurals, conjugated verbs (past tense etc), adverbs ending in LY, comparatives and superlatives. **How you rate** 17 words, average; 23, good; 34, very good; 45, excellent.

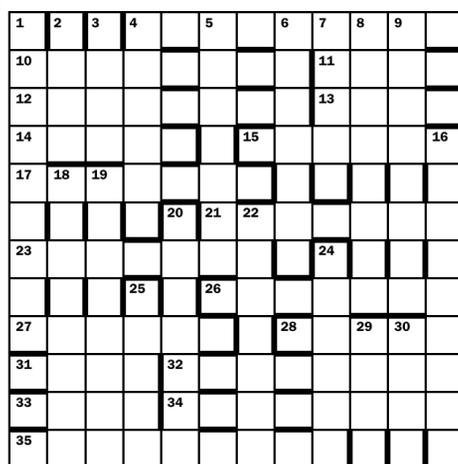
CONCISE CROSSWORD 1702



- Across**
- 1 High point (4)
- 4 Unskilled (8)
- 8 Explicit (5)
- 9 Debacle (6)
- 10 Explosive component (6,4)
- 13 Timber decay (3,3)
- 15 Bury (6)
- 16 Lampoon (10)
- 19 Dormitory town (6)
- 21 Of birth (5)
- 22 Choral work (8)
- 23 Highway (4)
- Down**
- 2 Mining complex (8)
- 3 Mistake (5)
- 4 Flashing light (9)
- 5 Fairy (3)
- 6 Acclaim (7)
- 7 Ribald (4)
- 11 Musical surge (9)
- 12 Gamp (8)
- 14 Sign up (7)
- 17 Coach (5)
- 18 Contented feline sound (4)
- 20 Exclude (3)

MEPHISTO 3140

Tim Moorey

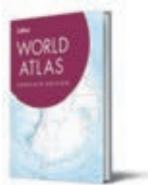


NAME .....  
ADDRESS .....  
EMAIL .....

Post your solution to The Sunday Times Mephisto 3140, PO Box 29, Colchester, Essex CO2 8GZ, or email puzzle.entries@sunday-times.co.uk

The first correct solution picked at random after next Saturday wins Collins World Atlas: Complete Edition, worth £30. Four runners-up will each receive £20. Open to 18+ UK & ROI residents only.

The Chambers Dictionary 13th edition is the primary reference. Readers are invited to visit Tim Moorey's website at timmoorey.com



Across

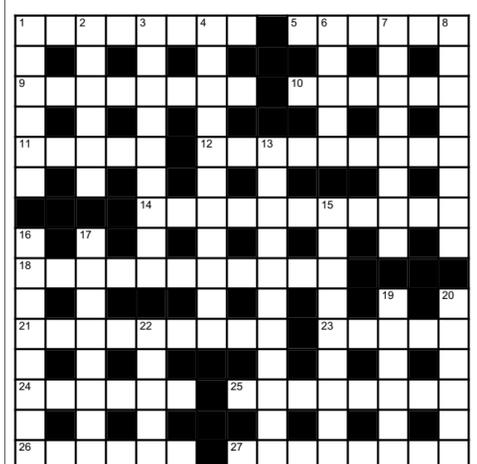
- 4 Sort to be disheartened during most skilful financial investigation (9, two words)
- 10 French revolutionaries tackling one put in order as before (8)
- 11 Mike cut back paper (4)
- 12 One's grown up in prison camp with old lady (8)
- 13 Sale or return on British fruit (4)
- 14 Bill attached to papers is consumptive (5)
- 15 Separate term for that one flipping old dress (6)
- 17 They're left behind in European nations (7)
- 21 Who'd help recovery from recurrent ailment in back? (7)
- 23 Musical boxes apparently for this woman (7)
- 26 Mollusc caught in rough sea near dock (7)
- 27 Smart clothing left for Mary Jane (6)
- 28 Ghost writer's latest found in a bum novel (5)
- 31 Slave trade finally cut for the most part (4)
- 32 Liberal into kinky sex gets warnings (8)
- 33 Primarily something on front of keel, say? The back actually (4)
- 34 Organises anew ineptly for purges head of finance leaked (8)
- 35 Becoming hidden behind trail (9)

Down

- 1 English society cracking mysteries about Roman brass (9)
- 2 Tapir seen over in Indian capital, not the first (4)
- 3 Worry frequently about dropping out (4)
- 4 African fellow boxing heavyweight champion (6)
- 5 Rages about short line? They may do (7)
- 6 Associate sharing seat in port (7)
- 7 Special seat around back of court providing cover for a seed (5)
- 8 Introductory exchange before men phone (8)
- 9 Lady by Jove running Bosnian city (8)
- 16 Camouflaged para is up for keeping section together (9, two words)
- 18 Marshal asks about man getting cap for lancers (8)
- 19 Line scrambled in restaurant - it's a drag (8)
- 20 Alludes to boarding eastern midshipmen (7)
- 22 Behind with pay? Old-timers calm (7)
- 24 Tittle about absent politician? Minister could be choked by it (6)
- 25 Once superior European province (5)
- 29 French ex-PM wrong about focus on nationalisation? (4)
- 30 Financial agreement made with pre-emptor ignoring the odds (4)

CROSSWORD 4927

David McLean



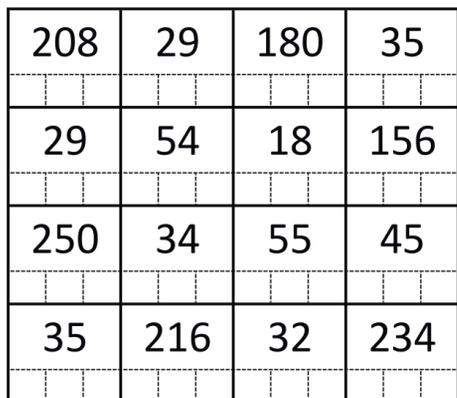
NAME .....  
ADDRESS .....

- Across**
- 1 Soldiers in offensive operation finally access canopy (8)
- 5 Not all fillet halibut with devastating ability (6)
- 9 Oboe part enthralling performer delivered (8)
- 10 Assault by sea or land (6)
- 11 Religious type radiating good humour on Radio Manchester (5)
- 12 British government? Pure tosh ultimately to a man! (9)
- 14 Squeaky as a climber's tent might be? (4-7)
- 18 Crossover chart hit named "Raving" (4,7)
- 21 Mafioso with a command to get old body-building Italian (9)
- 23 Away from home, City charge to the left and mark area (5)
- 24 English dons raced back to get Times locally (6)
- 25 Spooner's alert and pretty lady's a tart of sorts (8)
- 26 Number of flat opened by large key (6)
- 27 Tales of the French getting dope, being off the booze (8)
- Down**
- 1 One tweeting hard-hearted tweet about American hotel (6)
- 2 Volume of old wine (6)
- 3 The drains must get sorted being befouled (9)
- 4 I tag wild ape shakily, being known to flap (4,7)
- 6 E-book written about play with great passion? (5)
- 7 Something that can stop one having sex is a problem (8)
- 8 Woman who'll let son into light infantry in the end (8)
- 13 Possibly represent one individual detained in China (11)
- 15 Where one might see the enemy marching forward? (9)
- 16 New vice cops study ecstasy and hard dope in a case (8)
- 17 I go out with woman with a habit in Bury (8)
- 19 Foul spirit infused with drop of Ribena or a Bud? (6)
- 20 Boat showroom overlooking river (6)
- 22 Climbing club left stuck on European plateau (5)



The first correct solution opened after next Saturday wins a chrome finish Cross Townsend Medalist fountain pen with 23-carat gold-plated nib, worth £175. Three others win £125 Townsend Medalist ballpoint pens. All the pens have lifetime guarantees and 23-carat gold-plated appointments, and embody classic elegance and finesse. Post solutions to The Sunday Times Crossword 4927, PO Box 29, Colchester, Essex CO2 8GZ, or email puzzle.entries@sunday-times.co.uk. Open to 18+ UK & ROI residents only. Prize delivery is suspended until the warehouse used is back in full service.

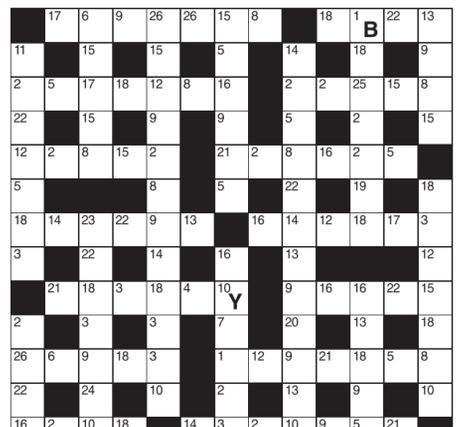
TETONOR MODERATE



2 6 8 20 26 26 27 27

Each number in the main grid can be formed by adding or multiplying a pair of numbers in the strip below the grid. Each pair of numbers should be used twice: once as part of an addition and once as part of a multiplication. For example, a 10 and 24 in the main grid may be solved by the sums, 4 + 6 and 4 x 6, respectively. Enter each sum in the boxes below its answer. Any blanks in the strip must be deduced, bearing in mind the numbers are listed in ascending order.

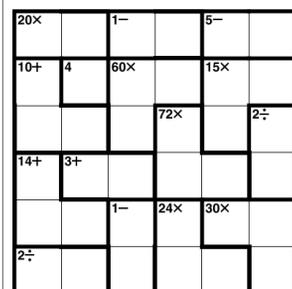
CODEWORD



A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

In the grid, each number represents a letter of the alphabet - all 26 letters are used. Use the initial clues in the code table to work out the rest of the code. **STUCK?** To get four random extra letter clues, call 0901 293 6266 (ROI 1514 41528) or text STCLUE to 84901 (UK only). Calls cost £1 (ROI 75c) plus your telephone company's network access charge. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

KENKEN



All the digits 1 to 6 must appear in every row and column. In each thick-line "block", the target number in the top left-hand corner is calculated from the digits in all the cells in the block, using the operation indicated by the symbol.

CLUE WRITING CONTEST 1837: BELFRY

You are invited to write an original cryptic clue for the word above, in Sunday Times crossword style. Email your entry to puzzle.entries@sunday-times.co.uk. The best entry selected after next Saturday wins £25.

Winner 1834: Ron Elliott, Earl Stendale, Derbyshire  
Allotaur: Jurassic World escapee? Every one of us needed to catch it  
For a full report, visit thesundaytimes.co.uk/cluewriting

NEWS REVIEW

# Jeremy Clarkson



## The moon is awash with cold water. Let's tap it — and pour it on the lunatics dreaming of Mars

Ever since Apollo 17 commander Eugene Cernan stepped back on board the lunar module Challenger, fired up the rocket and took off from the surface of the moon on December 14, 1972, we have been assured that, one day, man will be back.

John F Kennedy was the first to use lunar exploration as a political tool. "We choose to go to the moon... and do the other things," the president bellowed, "not because they are easy, but because they are hard." Good speech. Even though we never did find out what he meant by "the other things".

Later, George HW Bush pledged that America would go back to the moon, as did his son George W. A few years after that, Barack Obama announced he wanted Americans to land on an asteroid, and then came Donald Trump, who wanted to build a wall and go to Mars. Which, though Donald probably doesn't realise this, means we have to go to the moon first.

The reason for that is simple. It took only eight days for Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins and Buzz Aldrin to

get to the moon and back, but — even though they weren't going for long and they weren't taking much with them and their capsule was not much bigger than a Mini Metro — they needed a rocket that was taller than the Statue of Liberty to get them into space; a rocket that used 20 tons of fuel a second at launch and produced more horsepower than 160,000 new Ferraris.

Now. Getting people to Mars would take nine months. So they would have to take all they needed for an 18-month round trip, not counting the time they'd actually spend in the freezing hell of the red planet.

And think about that. When you go to the beach for two weeks, your suitcase is so heavy you can't even carry it. They would need enough laundry paper, blankets, washing powder, spare clothes, food, shampoo, sanitary products, Jack Reacher books, phone chargers and bedding to last for more than a year.

And, because we are way beyond the idea of going to other planets to leave flags and footsteps, they would also have

to take a ton of scientific equipment to make the journey worthwhile. They would, therefore, need a spaceship so big they'd require a rocket the size of Africa to get it off the ground. And, the fact is, we don't have one like that.

Rather than wait for such a thing to be developed, which would take about 50 million years, it would be much better to set off from the moon, which has only a sixth of the Earth's gravity. So, to break free and get on your way, even if you were in a ship the size of an articulated lorry, you would only need the sort of whizz-bang rocket that Standard sold you on Bonfire Night.

That's why the discovery last week of water on the bright side of the moon is so important. I have no idea how the men who went there 51 years ago missed it, or how it's never been spotted by the Hubble, but whatever — boffins flew a specially modified jumbo jet high above almost all the water vapour on Earth and a telescope mounted in the aircraft's open door spotted it. Tons of the stuff. A veritable moon river. More water than you'd find in the whole of the Kennet and Avon canal.

So now astronauts could take off from Earth and go to the moon, which we know is possible. And there they could collect all the water they'd need for the onward journey. And I've just thought of something else. They could even use solar energy to convert it into rocket fuel.

But what about using the water to grow stuff? Hmm. That's trickier. Last year the Chinese announced they had landed a capsule on the far side of the moon and that the potatoes, fruit-fly eggs and rapeseed inside it had all died. This was not surprising. Rapeseed is hard enough to grow on Earth.

But they did say that the cotton seeds had begun to sprout, giving hope that the astronauts would be able to grow their own bedsheets and trousers. Sadly, though, the next day, the Chinese scientists were forced to admit the cotton had died as well. Which isn't surprising, given the temperature on this part of the moon is as low as -173C.

Anyway, all this means we are a long way from growing cows up there, or hens. Or anything. It seems to me there are other issues too. Because in order to launch a spaceship from the surface of the moon, you would need a tower with retractable gantries, and lots of hoses, and a factory to make the fuel and a hotel where visiting astronauts could stay while preparing for the second leg to Mars. In short, you'd need a moon base.

We already know we don't have the power to get a few gallons of water up there, so how do we transport what's basically the whole of Cape Canaveral and Houston?

And how do we pay for it? It costs as much as \$100,000 to blast a kilogram of mass into space, according to Nasa, so each lamb the astronauts ate up there would cost about \$2m. Even a laptop would be \$0 grand.

We couldn't possibly afford it, and even if we could, we don't have the technology to make it feasible. Or the will, because if somebody died in training, you just know there would be deafening calls to scrap the whole thing.

It isn't going to happen, then. We are not going back to the moon and we are not going to Mars, and America's presidents should learn to accept that so they can concentrate instead on doing "the other things" that Kennedy talked about.

Such as inventing an iPhone cable that doesn't become all tangled up seconds after you've folded it neatly and put it in your office drawer.

### TEASER 3032

**Andrew Skidmore**  
**Darts Display**  
I noticed a dartboard in a sports shop window recently. Three sets of darts were positioned on the board.

Each set was grouped as if the darts had been thrown into adjacent numbers (eg, 5, 20, 1) with one dart from each set in a treble. There were no darts in any of the doubles or bulls. The darts were in nine different numbers but the

score for the three sets was the same. If I told you whether the score was odd or even you should be able to work out the score. The clockwise order of numbers on a dartboard is: 20 1 18 4 13 6 10 15 2 17 3 19 7 16 8 11 14 9 12 5

### What was the score that all three sets of darts made?

Send your solution to: The Sunday Times Teaser 3032, PO Box 29, Colchester, Essex CO2 8GZ or email puzzle.entr@sunday-times.co.uk. The first two correct solutions opened after next Saturday win £20. Open to 18+ UK & ROI residents only.

### CHESS

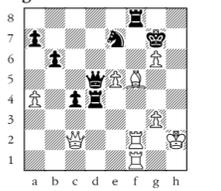
**David Howell**  
Last week Netflix released a chess-based drama, *The Queen's Gambit*. Based on Walter Tevis's novel of the same name, the plot follows a female prodigy rising through the ranks in the style of Bobby Fischer.

For those who are so often disappointed by depictions of chess on television and in film, there is good news. The numerous chess scenes are well-choreographed and realistic, with refreshingly few technical errors. There are also some hidden nuggets for chess players to enjoy, thanks to the input of consultants Garry Kasparov and Bruce Pandolfini.

*The Queen's Gambit* was not the only recent production to focus on the Cold War era. The musical *Chess* has been revived, opening to a standing ovation in Moscow.

The following snippet from a classic game appears in the second episode of *The Queen's Gambit*.

**White:** Rashid Nezhmetdinov  
**Black:** Genrikh Kasparian  
**Spartak Club Championship, Riga 1955**

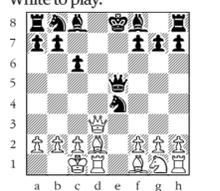


Send your solution (first move only), to Sunday Times Spot the Move 1243. The Sunday Times, PO Box 29, Colchester, Essex CO2 8GZ, or email to puzzle.entr@sunday-times.co.uk. The first correct answer drawn after next Saturday wins £20. Open to 18+ UK & ROI residents only.

In *The Queen's Gambit* this position arises in the climactic clash of the main character's first tournament. **38 Be6!** A subtle tactical shot. **38...Rh8+** Forced. **38...Qxe6** allows **39 Rxf8** while **38...Rxf2+** **39 Qxf2** **Qxe6** **40 Qh8+** is lethal. **39 Bh3!** It appears White has lost time with the bishop, but this only serves to disguise the blow on move **41. 39...Nxe6?** A natural blunder. Kasparian was an acclaimed composer of endgame studies, yet he falls straight into White's trap. The difficult **39...Rd3** was Black's only move to survive. **40 Rf7+** **Kh6** **41 Qxe6+**! White begins a mating sequence.

Nezhmetdinov has become an almost mythical figure in Russian chess. This stunning move highlights his imaginative style of play. **41...Kxg6** **42 Rf6+** **Kg5** **43 Rf5+** **Kg6** **44 R7f6+** **Kh7** **45 Rh5+** **Kg7** **46 Rg5+** **Kh7** **47 Bf5** mate

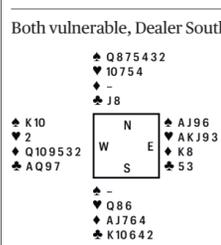
### Spot the Move 1243:



Réti-Tartakower, Vienna 1910. This famous position appeared at a key moment in *The Queen's Gambit*. Which move allows White to punish the opponent for neglecting his development?

### BRIDGE

**Sally Brock**  
I was sitting in the sun in Lyon, nursing a beer and watching on my computer the largely English team Percy playing in the semi-final of the 2017 transnational teams. Suddenly I woke up:



The action at the first table did not look great for England:



West's raise to four hearts on a singleton looks strange to me, but who am I to argue? South led his ace of diamonds and delivered a ruff, then received a spade ruff but there were no more defensive tricks after declarer dropped South's queen of hearts and took a club finesse.

Have you spotted the winning defence? North needs to ruff his partner's ace of diamonds, give him a spade ruff, get a second diamond ruff and give a second spade ruff. Difficult — or, rather, impossible.

However, this was nothing compared with the action at the other table:

**West** North East South  
2NT  
Pass 3♣ Dble Pass  
Pass 3♣ Dble All Pass

South's two no-trumps showed both minors, and the rest was just unfriendly!

The defence started with a top heart, then a club switch and two club tricks, followed by a club ruff, the king of hearts and a third heart. Zia, sitting West, could not quite believe what was happening and ruffed with his king, and so the contract went for only 1700. Had he ruffed with the ten they would have collected 2000. That was a 14 IMP swing (East in the first room must have been disappointed!). Percy still lost the match but went on to win the play-off for the bronze medal.

### Last week's problem

Neither vul, IMP scoring  
**West** North East South  
1♦

What should West bid holding:



When this problem was put to an expert bidding panel, the majority went for a double, second choice one heart followed by four hearts. I like double, and would be worried about being left to play in one heart if I made a simple overcall.

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

#### SUDOKU WARM-UP

2	6	8	5	7	9	3	1	4
1	3	7	2	8	4	5	9	6
9	5	4	6	1	3	7	2	8
3	2	1	4	9	6	8	7	5
6	7	5	8	3	2	1	4	9
4	8	9	7	5	1	6	3	2
5	9	2	3	6	7	4	8	1
7	1	6	9	4	8	2	5	3
8	4	3	1	2	5	9	6	7

#### CODEWORD

J	E	F	O	I	L	Z	I	L	C	H	
X	R	I	T	K	I	N	I	L			
C	H	E	S	E	N	U	N	C	I	O	
A	E	E	M	A	E	E	M				
B	L	A	Z	E	M	O	V	E	R	P	
E	E	M	S	I	X						
R	E	R	O	T	E	S	Q				
H	I	N	O	F	I	L	S	T	R	A	W
O	M	I	N	L	T	H	A	N			
S	T	A	T	I	C	R	E	M	E	D	
E	E	T	H	I	E	E	A				
B	R	O	M	W	O	D	C	U	T		

#### GENERAL KNOWLEDGE JUMBO CROSSWORD 237

Across: 1 Ice Cube, 5 Fusible metals, 12 Ariel, 13 Wide awake, 14 Mains, 15 Lumbar artery, 16 Cannula, 18 Seedbed, 19 Francis Galton, 20 Lyndon B Johnson, 22 Adorer, 25 Enticingly, 27 Stroke play, 29 Slip-up, 30 Natural wastage, 33 Where's the fire?, 34 Name tag, 36 Brimful, 37 John Trumbull, 40 Nkomo, 41 Tom Pettit, 42 Tecum, 43 Remote control, 44 Nerissa  
Down: 1 Imax, 2 Epicurean, 3 Ugly Bob, 4 Edward De Bono, 5 Fader, 6 Shane Warne, 7 Boaty McBoatface, 8 Exercise, 9 Eamonn Andrews, 10 Apicultural, 11 Sustain, 17 Psalters, 19 Floella Benjamin, 21 Occluded front, 23 Rayleigh, 24 Godwin Austen, 26 Trapeziform, 28 Judith Kerr, 31 Autolytus, 32 Athletic, 33 Webinar, 35 Mobster, 38 Total, 39 Emma

#### MEPHISTO 3139

Across: 1 Notonecta, 10 Burton, 12 Argyll, 13 Proa, 15 Artal, 17 Potiche, 18 Pleat, 19 A bit, 20 Hirselling, 22 Chevance, 24 Leva, 26 Opter, 28 Hap'orth, 31 Yanks, 32 Soap, 33 Avanti, 34 Batata, 35 Dendrites  
Down: 2 Ourali, 3 Trope, 4 Noup, 5 Cartelists, 6 Trait, 7 Myth, 8 Elaeis, 9 Allottery, 11 Tamasha, 14 Zollverein, 16 Up-Helly-Aa, 19 Anapest, 21 Behave, 23 Cerate, 25 Coste, 27 Troat, 29 Aman, 30 Hoar

#### CROSSWORD 4926

Across: 1 Capital letter, 9 Lurgy, 10 Distemper, 11 Shortage, 12 Stable, 14 Intimidates, 16 Ire, 18 Lee, 19 Livingstone, 20 Groggy, 21 Embracer, 24 Merciless, 25 Climb, 26 Egg on ones face  
Down: 1 Celestial, 2 Par for the course, 3 Tryst, 4 Lady Godiva, 5 Ease, 6 Treatises, 7 Republic of China, 8 Ury, 13 Stonemason, 15 Maligning, 17 Excitable, 20 Gums, 22 Races, 23 Lean

#### SPOT THE MOVE 1242

1♠c1! wins...1.Qxc1 2.Rxc1 and the threat of 3.Rc8+ means that Black cannot capture on d4

#### TEASER 3031

530,864,197

#### TODAY'S SOLUTIONS

**NEWS QUIZ**  
1 Prince William 2 Author Fay Weldon 3 Labour leader Keir Starmer, who was in collision with a Deliveroo cyclist 4 Singer and actress Barbra Streisand 5 Motivation warns at 54, says Norwegian research 6 Dallas, according to musician Dave Stewart (who says he heard it from former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev) 7 Bobby Ball 8 The Flying Fish 9 Peacocks 10 All in the new series of *I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here!*

**POLYGON**  
airman, amen, amine, amir, anaemia, anemia, anima, anime, anuria, aqua, aquamarine, arame, area, arena, aria, arum, aura, earn, eina, maar, main, mane, mane, mania, manqué, manure, mare, marina, marine, marque, mean, naira, name, near, quean, rain, ramen, ramie, ramon, rani, ream, remain, uraemia, urea, uremia

### WEATHER

#### AROUND THE WORLD

Amsterdam	16C	sh	London	17C	r
Athens	23	f	Los Angeles	30	s
Auckland	22	f	Madrid	20	s
Bangkok	34	th	Mexico City	22	f
Barcelona	23	s	Miami	30	th
Beijing	17	s	Moscow	6	f
Belgrade	14	s	Nairobi	23	sh
Berlin	13	sh	New Delhi	31	s
Bogota	16	th	New Orleans	22	s
Boston	14	sh	New York	16	sh
Brussels	17	sh	Oslo	10	sh
Budapest	11	f	Panama	30	th
Buenos Aires	25	s	Paris	18	r
Cairo	28	th	Prague	11	r
Calgary	10	s	Rio de Janeiro	21	r
Cape Town	24	s	Rome	20	f
Caracas	26	th	San Francisco	20	s
Casablanca	23	f	Santiago	30	sh
Chicago	4	f	Seoul	16	r
Dubai	29	s	Seychelles	27	th
Dublin	12	sh	Singapore	30	th
Geneva	13	sh	Stockholm	10	r
Gibraltar	24	s	Sydney	22	th
Guatemala	23	th	Tel Aviv	26	f
Helsinki	9	sh	Tenerife	25	s
Hong Kong	24	f	Tokyo	20	f
Istanbul	16	f	Toronto	9	sl
Jersey	17	r	Trinidad	30	th
Johannesburg	24	sh	Tunis	26	f
La Paz	16	th	Venice	13	f
Lagos	28	th	Vienna	16	sh
Lima	21	f	Warsaw	11	f
Lisbon	22	f	Washington DC	16	sh

Key c=cloud, dr=drizzle, ds=dust storm, f=fair, fg=fog, g=gales, h=hail, m=mist, r=rain, sh=showers, sl=sleet, sn=snow, s=sun, th=thunder, w=windy

### EUROPE



● A few a few showers are possible over Galicia but much of Spain, Portugal and Italy will have a sunny day  
● It should also be fine and sunny over most of the eastern Mediterranean  
● The weather over western Europe will be more changeable, as rain over France and the Low Countries moves east into the Alps and Germany, to be replaced by showers  
● Poland, Hungary, Belarus and the Baltic states will start the day fine and sunny before rain arrives later  
● Much of southeastern Europe should stay fine with sunny spells  
● Finland should be dry but some showery rain will move across Norway into Sweden

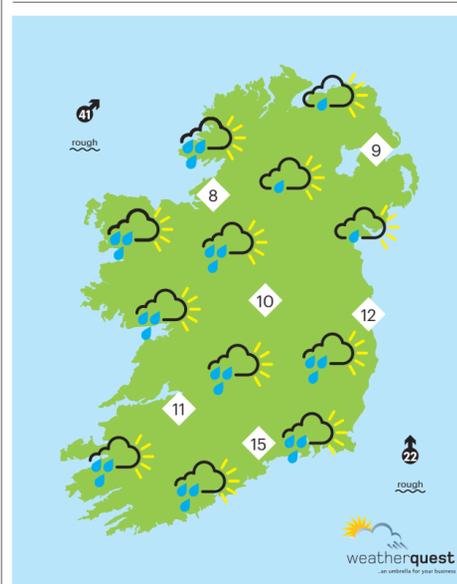
### SUN, STREET LIGHTS & MOON

	Sun rises	Sun sets/ lights on	Lights off	Moon rises	Moon sets
Aberdeen	07:20	16:23	07:22	17:00	09:13(Mon)
Belfast	07:27	16:47	07:29	17:25	09:17(Mon)
Birmingham	07:04	16:37	07:06	17:16	08:50(Mon)
Bristol	07:04	16:43	07:06	17:22	08:49(Mon)
Cardiff	07:07	16:45	07:08	17:25	08:52(Mon)
Cork	07:29	17:05	07:31	17:45	09:16(Mon)
Dublin	07:24	16:52	07:26	17:31	09:12(Mon)
Glasgow	07:24	16:36	07:26	17:14	09:16(Mon)
London	06:55	16:33	06:56	17:12	08:39(Mon)
Manchester	07:09	16:35	07:10	17:14	08:56(Mon)
Newcastle	07:11	16:28	07:13	17:06	09:00(Mon)
Norwich	06:52	16:24	06:54	17:03	08:37(Mon)
Plymouth	07:08	16:52	07:09	17:32	08:52(Mon)

### NIGHT SKY

At 19:00 tonight, the Moon is climbing in the E to the right of the Pleiades star cluster in Taurus; Mars is unmistakable and reddish higher in the ESE; Jupiter is conspicuous low in the SSW to the lower-right of Saturn; the Plough is 20°-30° high in the NNW. Mars, 70m km away tonight, is due S at about 22:30. Venus is a brilliant morning planet in the E. Alan Pickup

### IRELAND



### TODAY'S WEATHER

**Irish forecast**  
There will be some sunny spells to start the day across much of Ireland, but a band of rain will edge northwards around the middle part of the day to bring some dull and wet conditions for the afternoon. It will also be quite breezy, with a blustery southwesterly wind becoming strong in places

### REGIONAL FORECASTS

**Republic of Ireland**  
Showers then rain. Moderate to gale force southwesterly winds. Max 11C. Tonight, rain clearing. Min 6C  
**Northern Ireland**  
Showers at first. Rain later. Strong to gale force southwesterly winds. Max 11C. Tonight, a few showers. Min 6C  
**London, SE England**  
Cloudy with rain at times. Blustery westerly winds. Max 17C. Tonight, rain or drizzle. Min 15C  
**Channel Is, SW and Cent S England, S Wales**  
Windy with outbreaks of rain, heavy at times. Fresh to strong westerly winds. Max 17C. Tonight, damp and misty. Min 13C  
**N Wales, NW England, Isle of Man**  
A bright start. Rain arriving. Strong west or southwesterly winds. Max 14C. Tonight, rain or showers. Min 12C  
**Cent N and NE England**  
Early rain clearing, returning later. Strong southwesterly winds. Max 12C. Tonight, cloudy and wet. Min 11C  
**Scotland**  
Windy with blustery showers. Strong to storm force southwesterly winds. Max 11C. Tonight, a few showers. Min 2C

### THE WEEK AHEAD



Winners Crossword 4924 D Niven, Mintlaw, Aberdeenshire, P Bacon, Emsworth, Hampshire, A Baddeley-Chappell, Chippenham, Wiltshire, SE Richards, Melrose, Scottish Borders **Mephisto 3137** E Hodgson, Pinner, Greater London, J Cauvain

# Delaney sues ex-girlfriend for defamation

High Court proceedings lodged against Susan Keegan, whose relationship with the former Football Association of Ireland chief previously came under scrutiny

Mark Tighe and Paul Rowan

John Delaney, the former Football Association of Ireland (FAI) chief executive, has lodged High Court defamation proceedings against his ex-girlfriend, Susan Keegan. The case was filed on Friday by Eames Solicitors, which is also representing Delaney in the investigation being carried out by the Office of the Director of Corporate Enforcement (ODCE).

No statement of claim has been filed, but the cause of action is listed as defamation. Under Irish law, defamation proceedings must be taken within one year of the allegedly defamatory comment being published.

Keegan dated Delaney from 2009 to around 2013. She has said she made a point of staying out of his business affairs and that the closest she came to working for the FAI was when she gave him dance lessons before he took part in a *Strictly Come Dancing*-style charity event.

It is understood Keegan was unaware of the defamation action until it was listed by the Courts Service yesterday.

Separately, Keegan was one of the witnesses who was interviewed by Mazars, an accountancy firm hired by the FAI to investigate a number of transactions involving Delaney.

Last year The Sunday Times revealed that payments of at least €60,000 had been made to accounts in Keegan's name by the FAI between 2012 and 2014. Investigators later discovered a total of €95,000 was paid to accounts in her name by the FAI.

Keegan has denied receiving the bulk of the money. Accountancy firm Kosi, which was appointed by Sport Ireland to investigate the FAI, discovered an invoice for €35,000 in Keegan's name. The invoice's metadata showed it had been

**“She has said she stayed out of his business affairs**

**Delaney, who filed a case against Keegan last week, has requested an extended deadline to finish checking FAI emails**

created by a Microsoft account registered to Delaney's FAI email account. FAI staff were told some Keegan payments were linked to the arrangement of two Ireland versus England friendly matches.

Keegan now lives in southeastern Spain, where she was interviewed by Mazars as part of its FAI investigation.

Eames did not respond to queries about the new proceedings yesterday. While at the FAI, Delaney regularly took defamation proceedings against media organisations, including over coverage of the Rio Olympic ticketing scandal in 2016.

Kosi found that Delaney received €267,000 in settlements and that legal costs of almost €340,000 were paid by the FAI. Board minutes showed that Delaney said he was keeping one case against the *Journal.ie* alive “so they don't write anything about us” even though he knew it was “not a strong case”.

On Thursday, Judge Leonie Reynolds heard that the ODCE wants a deadline of the first week of December set for Delaney to finish his assessment of 250,000 of his FAI emails, to decide which he will claim are legally privileged or private. The records were seized by gardai.

The ODCE told the court that it objects to Delaney's request for the deadline to be extended until February. Delaney has complained that he is operating on a “shoestring” budget and his lawyers have complained about the nature of the access they have been given to the files.

Reynolds said she was concerned that Delaney's lawyers had not taken up the offer of additional training on how to use the ODCE's software for sorting through the seized emails. She has previously accused Delaney of “dragging his feet” in the process. Reynolds set November 10 for a hearing of the issues in dispute between the ODCE and Delaney.



MORGAN TREACY

## Leaving Cert may be put off until June 2021

Julianne Corr

The State Exams Commission has confirmed that if the Leaving Certificate cannot be held later this month because schools have closed for public health reasons, this year's candidates will sit the exams next June alongside the 2021 class.

The SEC says about 600 schools will be used as venues to examine 2,820 candidates between November 16 and December 11. Students will sit the exams in the venues they had been scheduled to use in June.

Retired teachers, who usually comprise one in four of the superintendents, will be ineligible to serve this month because of virus risks.

The SEC said: “We will be appointing an external superintendent into each school to deal with the distribution of the examination papers and the management of attendance information, and to return the completed material to the SEC following each exam.”

“The actual invigilation of the November exams will be undertaken by superintendents appointed locally by schools.”

The National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals said it was important the exams proceed this month. Clive Byrne, its director, said: “The Leaving Cert class of 2020 has dealt with significant challenges this year and we believe any further delay in the process of transitioning from post-primary to third-level education must be avoided.”

Niamh Aladebola, a Leaving Cert 2020 candidate at the Institute of Education on Leeson Street in Dublin, said that despite losing out on her first choice to study pharmacy at Cardiff University, she did not apply

to sit the November exams. “I got 452 points [from the calculated grades system] but from my predicted grades from my teachers I got 507, which was enough points for my first choice,” she said. “I was crying for four days straight; I couldn't believe it.”

“I'm currently studying biomedical science at the University of Salford in Manchester, but it's not what I was expecting. I had my grades reduced in six of my subjects, but I can't bring myself to sit the Leaving Cert again. I need to move on.”

Aladebola believes that many students cannot afford to challenge their Leaving Cert outcomes in court, and that teachers' estimated grades should be reviewed by the Department of Education. “Some students put their all in this year, and just feel defeated by the whole thing. It's not really fair that they're just moving on now as if nothing happened.”

Meanwhile, a north Dublin primary school will reopen tomorrow after the midterm break despite 10 cases of Covid-19 across two classes.

In an email to parents last week, St Colmcille's Boys' National School in Swords said three teachers were also self-isolating and required a Covid test, while the school was awaiting test results from a further three students.

Eight of the cases were in a senior infants' class, and two cases were in first class. It is understood the first-class students will have completed their 14-day isolation period after the midterm break.

The school has urged parents to notify staff of any further test results. “It is essential that we have information on all positive results so we can isolate any staff who move between classes, and schools, to prevent spread,” it said.

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# MOVE



**IT'S ENOUGH  
LENNY KRAVITZ ON  
LIVING IN A TRAILER  
IN THE TROPICS  
PAGE 5**



**WHEEL THING  
SHOP LOCAL FOR  
IRISH POTTERY  
PAGE 6**

## Live the lockdown dream

More spacious than a three-bed semi, these city apartments would be ideal to hole up in, writes *Linda Daly*

**C**ountry and suburban homes have been getting good press since Covid-19 came to town. Numerous newspaper articles have been written on the exodus of people from cities, with places like downtown New York already seeing a drop in apartment prices.

Here, there has been some anecdotal stories of people trading their city homes for rural idylls and much debate about whether we need all the apartments that are coming our way.

Last year, the number of planning applications for apartments overtook those for houses. In 2019, planning applications for 20,582 apartments were submitted by developers, compared with 19,670 for houses.

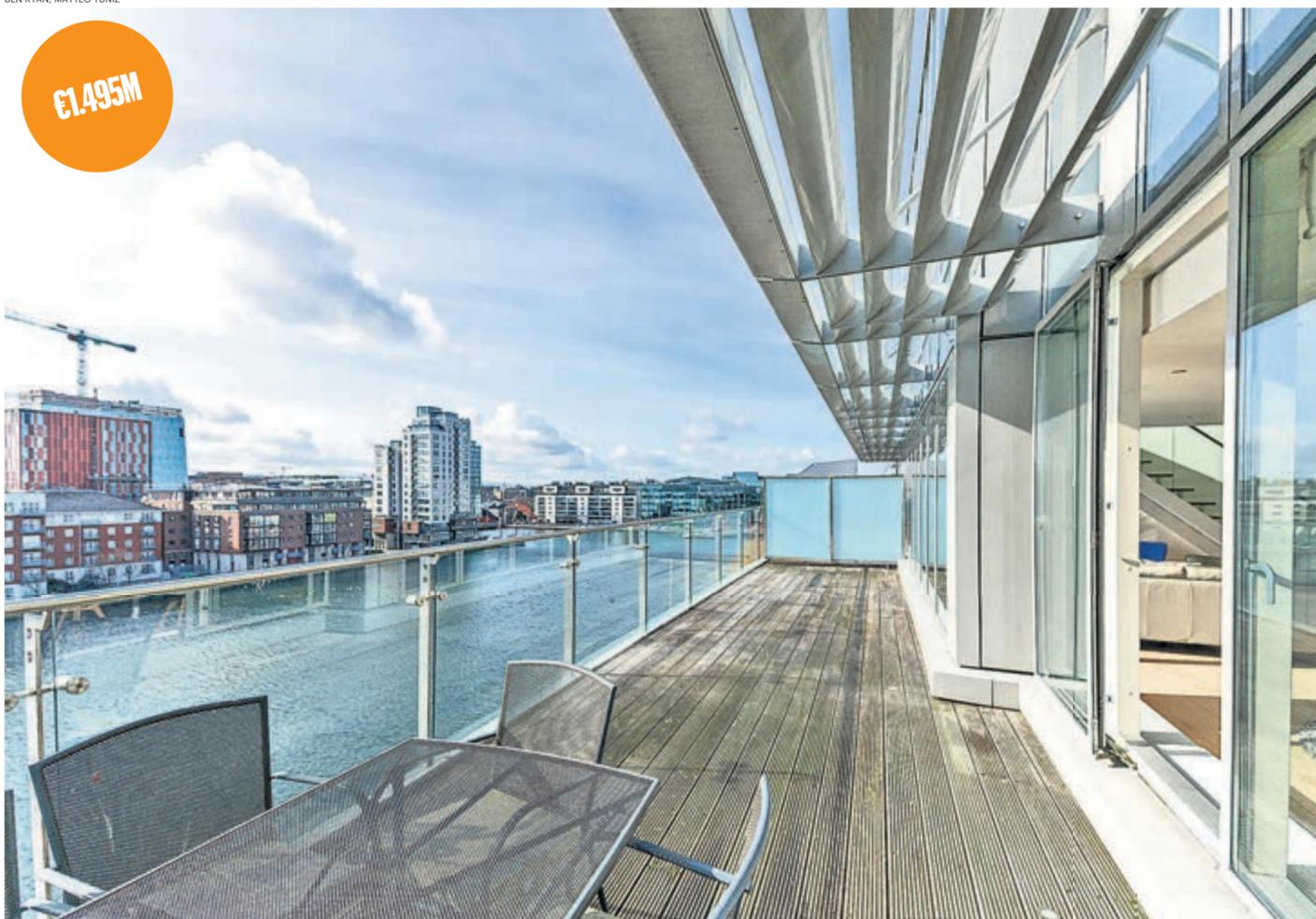
Large schemes on the way include Donnybrook Gardens on the former RTE site, which is being built by Cairn Homes; 1,100 apartments on the former Ford depot in Cork city, which are being planned by Glenveagh; and 730 apartments on a Castlethorn site in Ashtown in Dublin. There are many more in the pipeline.

This is a turnaround – more than half of Ireland's housing stock comprises three-bedroom semi-detached homes, according to figures from Eurostat. We are different to many countries in Europe where nearly half of homes are apartments.

Many Irish people dislike apartments, a hangover from their construction in inappropriate places. The Ballymun towers are always used as a reference point in how we got it wrong. They were built quickly, the facilities were never finished and there was high unemployment among its residents. In the early 2000s we got it wrong, too, as the Section 23 incentive, which encouraged developers to build apartments, was extended across the country, instead of in the cities where we needed them.

Covid intensified the hangover in some quarters. Residents of apartments without balconies and recreational facilities fared worse. There are continuing fears that the vacant student blocks will

BEN RYAN, MATTEO TUNIZ



€1.495M

At 165 sq m, No 67 The Waterfront in Grand Canal Dock in Dublin is bigger than your average three- or four-bedroom semi-detached house – it's got two floors and three bedrooms.

At the lower level, there is a full-width living room, dining area and kitchen, with utility space, two double bedrooms and an en suite shower room. The third bedroom, a very large double, is upstairs and also has an en suite shower room.

Outdoor space isn't a problem – there's a south-facing balcony off the living space and a private roof garden. If you want to stretch the legs, Grand Canal Dock is on the doorstep, and the Dodder river, Sandymount strand and Merrion Square are within walking distance. *hooke macdonald.ie*

**“** There has been much debate about whether we need all the apartments that are coming

be turned into co-living schemes. Last week, those fears intensified when one developer was granted planning permission to turn some student beds into tourist and short-term worker lets for the coming academic year.

There's also another problem: the vast majority of apartments that are being built are being sold en bloc to funds, or being funded by those who build-to-rent. The high price of apartment building is making it difficult for developers to justify their construction unless they can be sold to landlords.

Most of the new apartments that have come up for individual sale in recent years have been high quality and high end. Lansdowne Place and Dunluce in Ballsbridge are examples. So, let's dream for a minute. If you were locked down in an apartment, what type of apartment would you want to live in? Would it be by the sea, one with lots of managed, communal facilities – like those at Kennedy Wilson's Clancy Quay, where residents can still use the private on-site gym? Or would you want something with its own balcony and roof terrace?

A number of videos that went viral during the pandemic were of apartment residents singing and dancing together. Savills put on music for residents of an apartment block it manages in Cork. In Ringsend, the residents enjoyed bingo nights, group dances and singing. Watching them online had people longing to connect with their own neighbours, albeit at a social distance.

The apartments across the way are all bigger than your average three-bedroom semi – that's the dream, not poky apartments with little space.



€1.795M

If you're going to be stuck in an apartment, you may as well be stuck in one near the sea. Anglesea comprises 12 apartments in a renovated 19th-century building on Crofton Road in Dun Laoghaire. The Tuskar is its third-floor, three-bedroom apartment, which has a balcony. The main living space is open plan with a living room, dining area and kitchen. For alone time, it has a separate 'library' – books not included. The harbour and People's Park are within 10 minutes' walk. *sherryfitz.ie*



€950,000

You can practise your putting at No 504 Swiftwood in Saggart, Co Dublin. The three-bedroom, 400 sq m penthouse has a 371 sq m terrace with a putting green and views towards the Dublin mountains. It is more than four times the size of an average two-bedder and has a gym, sound-proofed cinema, and en suites in all bedrooms. You won't have to encounter any of your neighbours on the way up – a private lift takes you to your fourth-floor home. *sherryfitz.ie*



€695,000

No 3 St Kevin's Place, a New York-style apartment, has the airiness that those in isolation need – with 4.5-metre high ceilings and outside windows. It is one of four apartments that were built in the old St Kevin's national school in Blackpitts, Dublin 8. Exposed powder-coated steel beams and London brick are among the features. It measures just under 125 sq m, has accommodation over two floors, and is within 10 minutes' walk of St Stephen's Green. *lisney.com*



€1.495M

The owners of No 12 The Templeton at Lansdowne Place in Ballsbridge are selling up after a year because they want more space for three home-working adults. But for single people and couples who can afford it, the 139 sq m would be plenty. The dual-aspect, third-floor apartment has two bedrooms, both with en suite bathrooms. On-site facilities include a business centre, cinema, gym and wellness suite. The 32-acre Herbert Park is down the road. *dng.ie*

## COUNTRY PILE



### Castle keeps a romantic vision

This well-kept Wexford estate offers extensive accommodation for a weddings venue that is already up and running, writes *Linda Daly*

Just before Slaney Manor came on the market last year, Labour councillor George Lawlor, then mayor of Wexford, called for the Institute of Technology, Carlow to buy it.

The college was granted funding in 2015 for a new Wexford campus and Lawlor told the *New Ross Standard*, the local newspaper, that the land at Slaney Manor would be ideal for the venture. IT Carlow didn't agree and Slaney Manor is still for sale.

The students' loss will be somebody else's gain. The property in Barnstown is currently a wedding venue and bed and

breakfast business, offering accommodation for up to 88 people. It includes a 12-bedroom country house, a restored courtyard building with 27 bedrooms, a banqueting hall and 38 acres.

It was bought by the Caulfield family more than 30 years ago, and they embarked on a restoration and construction project, building the castellated banqueting hall.

While Slaney Manor's origins go back as far as the 17th century, when it was developed by Thomas Perceval and known as Barnstown House, the main three-bay, three-storey country house

was built in the 1830s. It measures 1,200 sq m and has 12 en-suite bedrooms. There is self-contained accommodation for the owners on the ground floor.

In the grounds, a rustic bothy of clay construction with a head of thatch adds a traditional charm. A studio of sorts, it offers a quaint one-bedroom hideaway.

**Agent:** savills.ie

**They say:** The land has a mix of formal gardens, parkland, mature trees and grazing paddocks.

**We say:** The property is a 10-minute drive to Wexford town and 50 minutes to Waterford.

## CITY SLICKER



### Clever revamp in a hidden gem

Tucked away behind Dublin's Cork Street is a smart and stylish two-bedroom terraced house that makes the most of its space, writes *Linda Daly*

For those of us who have spent time travelling down Cork Street, in Dublin, to get to the city centre or the Coombe women's hospital, it can be a pleasant surprise to find small terraces and cul-de-sacs off the main street. Hidden behind the apartment blocks are period cottages, red-brick houses and early 20th-century homes.

St Margaret's Terrace is a square with 13 butter-brick homes. If there was ever a green in front of the houses, it has long been tarmacked over for car parking, but some mature trees remain.

No 10 St Margaret's Terrace, a two-bedroom mid-terrace home, was

extended and renovated in 2007, when the ground floor was made open plan, to include a living/dining room and kitchen. To counter the lack of space in the garden, the architect created a small inner courtyard, reached by sliding doors from the living room and by tri-folding doors from the kitchen. Here, there is a range of white floor and wall presses, with red subway tiles adding some colour.

Another space-saving idea was the installation of a shower room and guest lavatory under the stairs. Upstairs, there are two double bedrooms, one of which has an en suite shower room, as well as

a door to a roof terrace over the kitchen.

The building energy rating is C3. Homes on St Margaret's Terrace don't come on the market often, but prices have more than doubled in nearly a decade. In 2011, No 9 sold for €145,000; No 7 went for €262,500 in 2015, and No 3 sold for €325,000 in 2017.

**Agent:** sherryfitz.ie

**They say:** St Stephen's Green and the Grafton Street area are within a 25-minute walk.

**We say:** You'll be a one-minute walk from a Lidl, chemist, takeaway, dry cleaners and off-licence.

## NICE MOVES THREE TO VIEW THIS WEEK

### CO MAYO LIVE DOWN BY THE HARBOUR

The national inventory of architectural heritage refers to Harbour House in Westport as "an important component of the early 19th-century domestic built heritage of Westport Quay". The three-bay house was built in 1823 and is listed as a protected structure. Features include rendered chimney stacks, the original door architraves and classical-style chimneypieces. The inventory says it demonstrates "good workmanship".

The house measures 150 sq m over three floors, and has four bedrooms, two with shower rooms. It has a granary to the side, which is in need of renovation.

**Agent:** tot.ie

**They say:** It's just 1½km to the town centre

**We say:** Work closely with the planners to create something special.



### CO DUBLIN SPACE ON THE CORNER

No 18A New Park Road in Blackrock may not have much kerb appeal but it has utilised a corner site in the suburb. The house, which is just off Newtownpark Avenue, was built in 2002 on what was the former garden of No 18 next door. Despite not having a huge amount of space, the builders managed to get a 138 sq m home with four bedrooms, three of which are en suite. The ground floor has a cloakroom, sitting room, utility room and open plan kitchen, dining and family room, as well as one of the bedrooms with en suite. The other three bedrooms and a bathroom are on the upper two floors.

**Agent:** daphnekayassociates.ie

**They say:** It has bright, well-balanced accommodation.

**We say:** You even get a decent back garden.



### DUBLIN 6W THE KIDS CAN CYCLE TO SCHOOL

Less than 100 metres from the front door of No 3 Wellington Road are two pubs, a grocery store, chemist, hairdressers, a couple of takeaways and a dental surgery — you could say its location is handy.

The house has been refurbished and extended to the rear. It measures 153 sq m, which includes three bedrooms and an attic conversion.

The interiors are dapper with sleek grey presses in the kitchen, a fully tiled bathroom and shades of blue and grey on the walls.

There is a garage to the side which, if you insisted on more living space, could be turned into a playroom.

**Agent:** sherryfitz.ie

**They say:** This home certainly caters for any growing families

**We say:** The children could cycle to the schools nearby.



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MOVE

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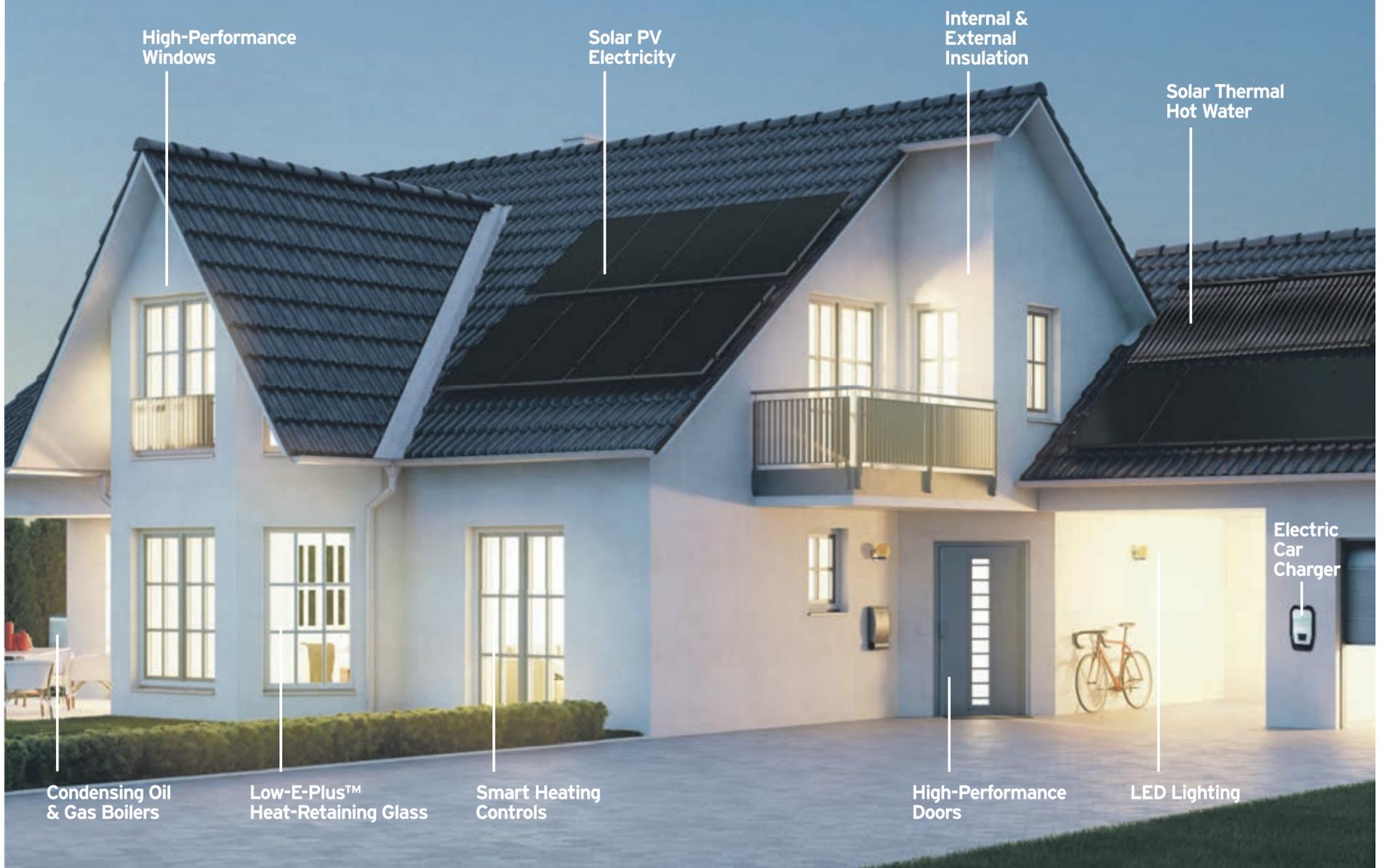
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## MOVE

# How to fix stuff

Sandra Goldmark is crusading against throwaway culture. She tells *Hugh Graham* how we can start breaking our bad habits



It all started when her toaster broke. And her desk lamp. And her vacuum cleaner. Sandra Goldmark, a theatre set designer and university professor in New York, was on maternity leave in 2013 and found that the stuff around her was falling apart, but she couldn't get any of it fixed. So Goldmark decided to do something about it. For seven years she and her husband, Michael, ran a pop-up repair shop in New York with the help of YouTube videos, a small team of amateur tinkers and Goldmark's experience as a set designer, where fixing things in a hurry before curtain call was par for the course.

Over seven years they fixed 2,500 objects at their shop, and in the process came to recognise the repeat offenders and worst culprits in our throwaway culture.

Every year, discarded objects such as her desk, lamp and vacuum cleaner contribute to 127 million tons of landfill in America alone; in Ireland, over 400,000 tons of landfill was produced in 2018.

"Printers were a constant source of frustration and failure to the point we stopped accepting them," Goldmark, pictured right, says over the phone from New York. "If a part was failing it was impossible to get a replacement." They soon stopped repairing digital products, too. It was an iPad that drove them over the edge.

"Michael had discovered, the hard way, that [our neighbour's] iPad was almost impossible to repair; iFixit, an online leader in tech-repair activism, gave the 2013 iPad a score of two out of 10 for reparability," she recounts, in her new book *Fixation: How to Have Stuff Without Breaking the Planet* (Island Press, €22). "Everything is glued down, so there is a

high chance of cracking the screen during disassembly. And once you get inside that beautiful iPad, it is clear that it was carefully designed, either with complete disregard for making it possible to change the screen easily or, worse, to purposefully make it difficult to do so."

Making parts unavailable is characteristic of the manufacturing culture of intentional obsolescence, in which companies deliberately design a product so it will have a limited lifespan, thereby ensuring consumers will have to buy new ones regularly. "The end of life is baked into the product from the start, but well hidden," Goldmark writes.

One of the most common impediments to repair is proprietary screws – designed by the company to make them impossible to remove without a specialist screwdriver. Nespresso machines, many toaster ovens and iPhones use such screws. But in her years on the frontline of fixing stuff, Goldmark discovered some companies were better than others at making things that were repairable.

"We like Miele vacuum cleaners," she says. "[With] KitchenAid, it is easy to get the parts. Motorola is good. Dualit toasters. Old Panasonic products. One of my co-workers, Adam, loves older things. He opens it up and says, 'This was made to be fixed. The person who designed it made it really easy for me.'"

"They don't make 'em like they used to" is a cliché, but it is increasingly true. Goldmark cites the case of the Centennial Light, a lightbulb manufactured in 1901 that is still burning over a century later in California. In her book, she explains how durability has been lost in the era of globalisation.

"The economics of repair used to be very different. Fifty years ago, when more items were made in the same country where they might be fixed, the relative labour costs were not so disparate. Today, however, when a manufacturer might be paid \$3 per hour to make a coffee machine in China or India, when raw materials and fuel for shipping are cheap, and a fixer in the States requires at least minimum wage, it's easy to see how making new cheap stuff became the dominant model."

The solution? Goldmark is calling for international labour standards to be adopted to stop the corporate race to the bottom, improve quality and make repair more of a viable option.

To encourage a culture of local repair shops, Goldmark suggests governments should give tax breaks to repair providers, as they do in Sweden. She has visions of a circular economy in which Walmart and other big-box stores all have a repair and re-use shop; she insists they could make money doing it.

One of the curious things she learnt from her years of repairing was that most of her customers were willing to pay close or equal to the original price of the object, and not for environmental reasons – their motivation was primarily out of emotional attachment to an item.

Moreover, getting something fixed enhanced a person's perception of its value. "This is a phenomenon big businesses would do well to study, for in it lie the seeds of a global economic shift: that emotional attachment represents a willingness to spend money on repair, service and upgrade," she writes.

There are signs of change. This month Ikea announced a buy-back and resell scheme that will launch on November 27. Customers can return an item and receive a refund of up to 50% of its original retail cost.

The corporate world is getting on board too. Blackrock, the world's largest asset manager, has raised \$900m (£765m) in a year for its first circular-economy fund.

The last thing we can do, says Goldmark, is pass on our stuff when we no longer have use for it. She cites a New York company, Aptdeco, as a model for the future: it is a peer-to-peer website like eBay where people can post their second-hand home furnishings and

“We love things made of real wood. With plastic you can't replace the part easily, it is not easy to repaint and adhesive doesn't work”



Goldmark's (far left) frustration started when her vacuum cleaner broke. She started a repair shop



decor, but the difference is that the company will arrange the pickup and delivery. "We have to create systems where people can pass things on easily. How do I get this table out of my apartment into someone else's? Especially for an urban dweller who does not have a car."

Above all, Goldmark says we are going to have to get used to a world in which goods cost more, and to change our mindset that expensive equals bad – it is a false economy to buy a cheap toaster that you might have to replace three times in as many years, for example. But this is where her argument may fall down. The wealthy are able to afford a €150 toaster, but those on the breadline can't. "Could they buy a well-made refurbished product?" muses Goldmark, who also suggests a culture of paying in instalments.

Another solution to the throwaway culture could be the adoption of a rental one: just as companies rent photocopiers and have them serviced over years, homeowners could rent Nespresso machines and get them fixed as needed.

"The grassroots repair cafes are great, but limited in scale of what they can handle. The big players are not there yet." So what can consumers do to stop the waste?

● Get into the habit of buying second-hand.

● Beware of buying seamless, moulded plastic objects that look as though they don't have an inside, Goldmark advises – you won't be able to open them up to repair them. And avoid products with irregular screws, rather than a Phillips cross head, as they require specialist screwdrivers for repairs.

● Avoid plastic in general – most of the irreparable objects involved defective plastic parts. "We love things made of real wood, they are easy to fix. With plastic you can't replace the part easily, it is not easy to repaint and adhesive doesn't work well."

● Before you buy a digital item, check the website iFixit.com – it tears down products and gives them a reparability score out of 10. The Fairphone 3, for example, scores a 10 versus a six for an iPhone. "Fairphone is a Dutch company that makes smartphones with materials that are ethically sourced or recycled. They are designed to be repairable and in a modular way so you can upgrade parts. For example, if you want the latest and best camera instead of buying a whole new phone, you can just switch the camera – you don't have to get rid of the whole damn phone."

● Apply the same critical thinking when you are buying a toaster. If it costs only €10, the chances are it was neither ethically produced nor is it easily repairable. So, buy the more expensive one and email the company first to ask it for details of whether the toaster can be repaired. "The more noise we make, the more they will change."

## RESCUE REMEDIES KNOCKING DOWN WALLS IS A GAME-CHANGER

Peter Finn and Róisín Murphy from *Home Rescue* love to knock down walls. In the latest series of the RTE show, which started on Thursday, we'll see the sledgehammer get to work on more than one occasion

One of the biggest mistakes people make with their houses is being afraid to change the layout, says Murphy, *Home Rescue*'s resident architect.

"People think it's terrible to lose a room but, in a house, nothing is as important as light. Tall space – removing a floor – can be great, too," she says.

"Reconfiguring space completely changes the mood and atmosphere of a home. The problem in Ireland is that we tack an extension on the back and live in it, killing the other rooms. Covid has meant that individual spaces are necessary, but making an open-plan space can bring light into the house."

Finn, who is regularly seen arguing with Murphy on the show, agrees about the power of demolishing a wall.

"If you're looking for a game-changer for the interior of your building, knocking down a wall is the way to go. It brings light in from the front and back of a house," he says. "However, realistically, you have to be careful about what walls you knock down. If it's a concrete wall, there's a reason it's built in concrete. Do not go knocking down walls until you've talked to a professional."

Getting rid of "stuff" is often one of the most difficult things facing the homeowners on the show. "I never call them hoarders. I think there are many collectors," says Murphy, who admits to being a "collector" herself.

"By the time they've come to the programme, they've made the first step towards wanting to let go of some of their possessions. The inability to let go is usually related to some sort of trauma and when they are going through this experience, it can be overwhelming."

While Finn isn't involved in decluttering, he says he has seen how nostalgia can

paralyse people when it comes to shedding their possessions.

"Irish people who have gone through recessions find it particularly tough. I remember my parents saving up to buy a cabinet, and how it was a proud moment after they bought it. Items like that can become outdated, but people hold on because of the effort that went into buying them, allowing them to clog up rooms. As soon as you clear out a space, you can look at it in a different way."

Murphy says one of the biggest takeaways from working on *Home Rescue* over the years is that people often get stuff ready to throw out and then leave it, whether that's because they don't know what to do with it or can't say goodbye. As a result, the room turns back into a dumping ground.

"The first step is to put that bag at the bottom of the stairs, then take it to the car and on to a bring centre. We recycle everything on the show."

Not everything from this series went to the bring



Murphy and Finn, of *Home Rescue*, agree that opening up a space is a good move

centre. When a nearly-new oven was being removed from one kitchen, Murphy took the original oven home for herself.

"It was immaculate and the same size as my filthy oven. I put it in my car, got it fitted and then had my old oven sitting there. I thought, 'Why did I do this?' I took it to my

local bring centre and they took it for free."

"My advice to people is to start your declutter now," says Finn. "Take one section at a time and clear it out. As soon as you get one space done, that will be your motivation to move through the rest of the house."

Murphy says another

mistake homeowners make is buying a sofa without measuring up. "Furniture not fitting is a common occurrence," she says.

While Baz Ashmawy has brought *DIY SOS* and floods of tears to Ireland over the past few weeks, the *Home Rescue* team have been doing that, on a smaller scale, for the past

few years. The stories are always touching and the results are heart-warming. On Thursday's show, for example, we met Sinead from Swords, in Co Dublin, who, after a cancer diagnosis, had to stop work and didn't have the energy to tackle a full-to-the-brim conservatory.

There's also the tension and arguments between the Finn and Murphy about what can be achieved. Finn says those arguments are not just for television.

The *Home Rescue* team has just three days to sort out a couple of rooms in a house, and Finn and his team will come on site for two days. "Thursday's show – which saw us take out half a kitchen – was challenging. Until you get to the house, you don't know what it will throw at you. The older the house, the more likely you are to find hidden obstacles – Shergar could be behind the presses," says Finn.

"It is such a rollercoaster of madness, and tensions are high. Time pressure is the main factor, but we always make up in the end."

He praises Murphy's ability to make simple materials look good. She often comes up with Ikea hacks, adapting furniture to suit a location.

Covid did bring with it some issues for the team. "We had major supply issues, in terms of materials. It impacted everything."

That said, Murphy says the team from Ikea worked hard to find items for the projects. "It was interesting and tough and terrifying, too, because I had to loosen my control."

Finn, who is a partner in building company MDS Construction, has stuck with the show because of the results it brings. "For this series, we did a job in Wicklow for a chap who moved down there from Dublin. His house was in a bad way and he was using the sitting room as a bedroom. We've given him his house back. When you walk away from a job knowing you've changed a person's life, it makes it all worthwhile."

Linda Daly

*Home Rescue* is on Thursdays, 7pm, RTE1

MOVE

TIME AND SPACE

# Lenny Kravitz

The rock star on living in a trailer in the Bahamas and designing his own Steinway piano



I'm still in the Bahamas – thankfully – which is not a bad place to isolate in. There's no complaining going on here. I have been here for seven-and-a-half months, living in my Airstream trailer, and it's been wonderful. There's not a day when I want to leave. The name of this island, Eleuthera, means freedom in Greek. Being here, living simply and in nature is a blessing. I wish everybody could have the opportunity to experience this.

**What's your first memory of home?**  
I remember the one-bedroom apartment in New York where I lived with my parents. We used to sleep in the living room on a couch that we would pull out into a bed. I just remember sitting on the floor of that room with my mum and my dad. They used to get me these musical toys, like a little drum and a xylophone or a tambourine. I was fascinated.

**What's your most treasured possession?**  
Oh gosh, that's interesting. I have a pair of shoes that my father wore to work when I was a kid. I have a necklace of my mother's, a gold peace sign on a chain. I have a glass jar of sand from Egypt that my grandfather brought back. It was his lifetime dream to go to Egypt. Things like that, that belonged to the people before me and remind me of that.

I also still have the small spinet piano from our New York apartment. My mother knew one song, *Für Elise*. But we had a lot of artists around, my mother was an actress and my father was a journalist, they were both in the arts scene in New York, so people used to come by for parties and play that piano. I also have a Steinway Model B that I bought from the studio owner when I was recording my first album, *Let Love Rule*. It's been on every record of mine. So when Steinway & Sons reached out to design a piano because they knew about my music, but also about my design company, Kravitz Design, I was honoured.

They were so supportive and gave me nothing but positive energy. They were into the challenge and making this vision a reality. I must say it exceeded my expectations, which is a rare thing when you're creating.

**You left home at 16. How important is it to have your own place, even a caravan?**  
Yeah, I was sleeping in cars and floors and people's couches, wherever I could go. I was doing that for a long time. I now love all the places I live in. I design them. I put my personality into everything. And, you know, it's another part of my expression.

**What does home mean to you?**  
Because of my life and the immense amount of travel, "home" has become wherever I am. Home is the collection of spirit and memories, your ancestors, your past, your present – all living inside of you. I carry all of this with me and I am able to feel at home wherever I am.

**How many homes do you own?**  
I own three: in the Bahamas, Brazil and Paris. They're all wonderful, they're all part of my personality. But if I had to pick one it would be the Bahamas. It was important to my mother that I knew my family and my Bahamian culture.

**Right: Kravitz during an episode of Watch What Happens Live with Andy Cohen. Below, right: Kravitz owns a home in Paris. Below: Eleuthera, in the Bahamas, where Kravitz is living**

**Do you have a favourite room?**  
I only have one room here, so that's the room I like.

**Do you collect anything?**  
I like motorbikes. I collect vintage musical instruments and gear, recording equipment. I have some art. Some pop-culture artefacts and interesting things that mean a lot to me. But I'm kind of done with all that. I have everything I need: health, happiness and inspiration – and love, of course.

**Do you prefer solitude and privacy or are you a party animal?**  
I like both, but I lean more towards solitude. You know, when I was in my twenties I would have said the opposite. I need my quiet time to just sit and listen to myself so I can create. I tend to like to be around my close friends and family so we can just be ourselves and be natural, sit around and talk and laugh. That's a party to me. I tend to party at home. I have a room in Paris in the basement. It's actually the boiler room.

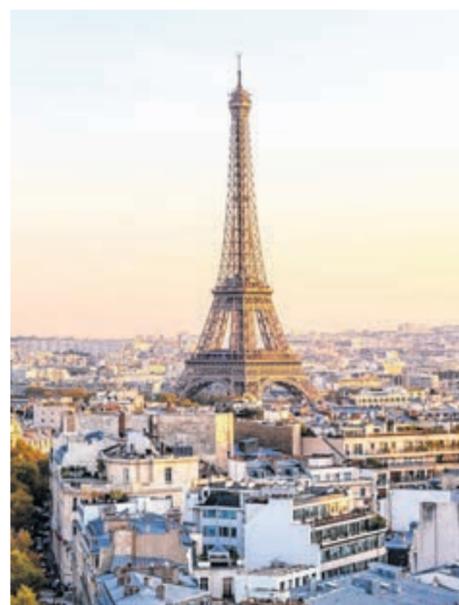
**The boiler room? Is that your guilty pleasure?**  
Yeah, that has become quite a legendary party place. I've moved my records and stereo, lights and tables there. That's where I like to entertain people. Many people that you know of have been there. All in the boiler room.

**Interview by Emanuele Midolo**

The Kravitz Grand piano, pictured above, starts at \$500,000 (£425,000); [steinway.com](http://steinway.com), [kravitzdesign.com](http://kravitzdesign.com), @kravitz\_design



**“I have everything I need: health, happiness and inspiration – and love, of course”**



MARKET WATCH

LINDA DALY



Lockdown 2.0 looks quite different from the original version, especially for those working in the construction and property sectors.

Builders are still on site, for starters – hopefully wearing their masks and complying with the guidelines – but developments that were readying for launch have been put on the back burner, probably until the new year. There will be little new stock coming onto the market between now and Christmas.

This is despite the fact that physical viewings are still allowed in Level 5 – unlike in March, when they stopped entirely. Back then, estate agents turned to technology to keep the property sector going. Now, it's a case of a little from the traditional estate agency approach and a little from the digital estate agency's methods.

In line with guidance from the property regulator, the Institute of Professional Auctioneers and Valuers and the Society of Chartered Surveyors Ireland, the offices are closed again, but buyers are still able to view new and second-hand properties that are vacant. In addition, estate agents are still able to offer appraisals to potential clients.

As reported in The Sunday Times last week, anyone viewing a house must have proof of funds and have already had an online viewing of the property before they set foot in it. This has meant less foot traffic through homes, a weeding-out of the tyre-kickers and more prudent use of the vendor's and estate agent's time.

The vast majority of estate agents were already poised to enhance their digital capabilities before Covid hit, but have ramped things up since March. Most are now mobile-enabled, and have embraced video walk-throughs and virtual viewings. Some had offered virtual tours as far back as 2015. Lisney started doing them via Facebook Live in 2017.

Now the technology is more sophisticated. In April, Savills launched its Savills Live website, which allows viewers to walk through properties virtually, using Matterport 3D technology, to ask questions via a chat function and to even sign contracts electronically.

DNG is now providing one-to-one virtual viewings in real-time through its platform DNG 3D Virtual Tours. The software enables viewers to chat with the agents, via their tablet, desktop or smartphone, as the walk-through takes place.

The platform's capability will be extended further “to facilitate multiple viewers at one appointment”, it says.

If we have to do all our entertaining online over the next four weeks, we may as well do our property viewings online, too. In the same way that consumers love to touch and feel the clothes on the racks in shops, though, there's nothing quite like standing in a property before you buy it.

Virtual viewings are a good first introduction to a property, though, and may become a permanent fixture in the Irish property market, outlasting Covid.

@LindaDaly19

## A STEP TOO FAR? A NEW DEAL FOR TENANTS MAY SEE LANDLORDS FLEE

Tenants in Ireland enjoy a higher level of security at present, with the reintroduction of the eviction ban for the duration of the latest lockdown – but a proposal in the Programme for Government to introduce unlimited tenures for private renters could bring increased security for tenants, long term.

The proposal, sponsored by the Green Party to “improve the security of tenure for tenants through legislating for tenancies of indefinite duration” will mean landlords have fewer reasons to evict a tenant.

At present, a landlord can serve notice to quit on a sitting tenant if the property is to be sold, after which it can be put on the open market to attract bids from investors or intending owner-occupiers.

By copper-fastening the tenancy, however, the new measure will automatically shut off the vendor of a rental property from owner-occupier buyers.

It is some way off a Dail vote yet, but if and when

enacted it will give tenants the kind of certainties normally associated with owner-occupiers, such as knowing that their children can stay in one school until they complete primary or second-level education.

Margaret McCormick, information officer with the Irish Property Owners' Association, says her organisation's membership, two-thirds of which are small landlords with three or fewer properties, will be disproportionately affected.

Small landlords, already weighed down by a myriad of rules and regulations that change with dizzying frequency, have been voting with their feet in recent times, she says. A survey of the association's members at its most recent annual meeting found that 9% intended to quit the sector within 12 months, with a further 44% expecting to exit within five years.

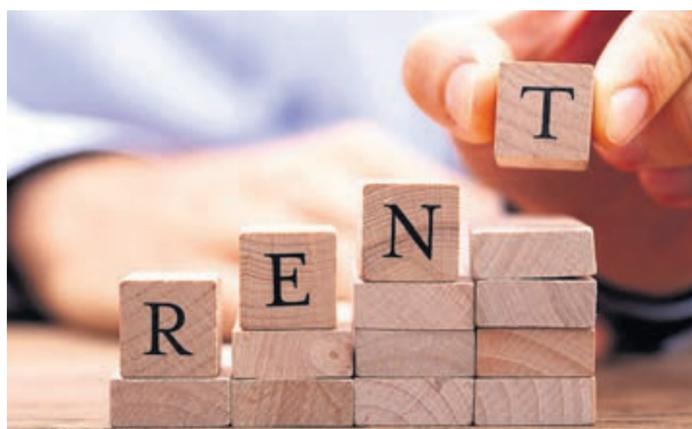
Indefinite tenancies, by adding a further disincentive for investors, will accelerate that trend, according to McCormick.

The result of the member poll is reflected in statistics from the Residential Tenancies Board, which reports that the number of private rented tenancies fell by 13,728, from 313,000 in the final quarter of 2017 to 299,276 by June this year.

From a supply-side perspective, many of these will not be replaced, with research by estate agent Sherry FitzGerald revealing that for every two investors that sell up, only one new investor enters the market to replace them.

McCormick warns that limiting the sale options available to landlords will deter some from entering the market. Others argue that a good sitting tenant – one who pays on time and respects the property – is a definite “plus” in an investor-to-investor sale.

Landlords tend to invest in property for the longer term, but not all are what might be considered professionals. Some find themselves as owners of rentable properties through inheritance and may let the property either for



Proposals to improve security of tenure would make it harder for landlords to sell up

extra income or to “hold” it while waiting for a young relative to reach maturity.

In these circumstances, the future uncertainty created by indefinite tenancies may prompt a quick sale.

It will mean some lucky owner-occupier gets to acquire a nice house. but the

pool of properties available to renters shrinks yet again.

Ross Harris, head of residential investments at Sherry FitzGerald, says the drift of smaller landlords might have been offset by the entry of big overseas institutional investors, but this had been insufficient to compensate for the overall

trend. Moreover, these funds have confined themselves to the big cities, especially Dublin, meaning that the effect of investor flight may be felt more keenly outside the capital.

As to why landlords have already fled, he suggests that the net returns are too low. Private landlords pay tax at

the marginal 52% income tax rate on earnings over €70,000 – institutional investors operate to a different tax code – and out of their net return have to pay for furnishing, maintenance, and so on, and not all expenses are deductible. Another important factor has been the change in the treatment of pension fund investments. Whereas it was possible to invest up to 100% of a private pension fund in rental property previously, this was reduced to just 10% some years ago – to curb perceived abuses.

There is every chance the proposed measure will be amended before the Dail votes on it. This was addressed in a response by Darragh O'Brien, the housing minister, to questions put by Francis Noel Duffy, the Green Party housing spokesman, in which he said that legal advice would first have to be sought on whether landlords would be obliged to offer unlimited tenancies.

Similarly, the issue of indefinite tenancies in properties that landlords

want to sell would also have to be tested by the lawyers. Just to prove that the Greens do not expect the traffic to be all one way, the party says it wants to encourage long-term – 10 years or more – fixed tenancies by proposing a building upgrade grant to new landlords who do not require vacant possession.

The party will also seek to incentivise tenants to assume responsibility for repairs and maintenance, or permit tenants greater discretion on improvements to the property.

Whatever shape the legislation ultimately takes, it will have to take note of the rental sector's crucial contribution to the overall property matrix.

Not everyone wants to buy and not every renter wants a local authority home.

For these people, it is important that the private rental sector delivers not only the number of units necessary to satisfy demand, but also the variety of accommodation and range of locations it has traditionally offered.

John Lattimore

## MOVE

# Fired with enthusiasm

Irish potters, forced by lockdown to reshape their businesses, are offering the chance to buy directly from them or in local shops

## THE TREND: IRISH POTTERY

The next time you warm your hands on a cup of coffee or enjoy a meal from a bowl or a plate, take a minute to check where it's from. If it was handmade, it has a unique story. If it was handmade in 2020, that story may be a little longer.

The closure of shops and pottery studios has meant that getting a real feel for a piece has been taken from us, which is not ideal for such a tactile craft. However, one thing the first round of restrictions gave the makers was time. Turning a tough situation into a positive, many hit the ground running and used the time as a chance to rekindle some creativity and focus on improvements.

"Switching off the lights in the workshop and gathering the staff together before we shut the doors was emotional," says Paul Maloney, a potter in Co Wexford. "But the next day the sun shone and I spent my time on long overdue improvements and upgrading facilities in anticipation of a return to work."

There's no question that restrictions have meant many makers have had to adapt how they work. Daniel Woodsmith, a potter based in Dublin, noticed an increase in requests for pottery lessons, so in April, he gave people the opportunity to get creative with his Clay at Home kits.

Fermoy Pottery, in Dungeagan, Co Kerry, founded by Alexis Bowman and Stephen O'Connell, has been commissioned by Michelin-starred restaurants such as Aimsir, in Celbridge, Co Kildare, and Restaurant Chestnut, in Ballydehob, west Cork, in the past. "The uncertainty caused by the lockdown has led to a slow-down on that side of the business," says Bowman. More recently, however, the studio has seen people inquire about other collaborations.

The latest blow to the restaurant industry, along with the cancellation of markets and indoor fairs, has resulted in more uncertainty, but it has also put the wheels in motion to sell more online. Increasingly, customers are able to buy directly from the maker, or support a small retailer.

It seems as though potters in Ireland can handle the heat — and we can still reap the rewards.



### ◀ POT LUCK

In April, Daniel Woodsmith, of Araucaria Ceramics in Dublin, put together Clay at Home — boxes consisting of air-drying clay, tools and a link to a how-to video. Woodsmith makes items such as this black clay teapot with custom hand-forged handle, €120. It is sold out at the moment, but he is due to update his website this month, [araucariaceramics.com](http://araucariaceramics.com)

### ▼ BOTTLE IT

Fermoy Pottery has taken on new projects that involve snail farmers, cider producers, florists and incense makers. These new cider bottles are €75 each. [fermoy pottery.ie](http://fermoy pottery.ie)

### ▶ VASE STARS

These vases are part of a new range by Maka Ceramics, based in Co Kilkenny. The range was designed to let makers Marz Lawler and Karen Cody keep working, albeit separately, during the restrictions. €40 each; [makaceramics.com](http://makaceramics.com)



### ◀ WHEEL POWER

Ananda Luz, a clay artist based in Galway, says some teachers are designing online classes and tutorials, and believes ceramic artists are rising to the new challenges. This cutlery drainer is €35; [etsy.com/ie/shop/AnandaLuz](http://etsy.com/ie/shop/AnandaLuz)



### ◀ TEAL DEAL

Paul Maloney, who runs a studio and shop just outside Wexford town, has noticed an increase in Irish people supporting businesses such as his. The mug, large jug and chowder bowl from his teal collection, pictured here, cost €17, €55 and €20 respectively. Find the collection at Kilkenny Shop, Meadows & Byrne and Blarney Woollen Mills; [paulmaloneypottery.ie](http://paulmaloneypottery.ie)

## THE EDIT: IN STOCK



### ▲ SAY GOOD BUY

Moving house or renovating? Ikea's Buy Back initiative, which launches as soon as stores reopen, offers the chance to receive cash to recycle your furniture. To encourage a circular economy, furniture will be resold in stores at second-hand prices. Sellers receive an Ikea voucher worth up to 50% of the original price, depending on the item's condition. Fill out a form online to generate an offer. The voucher can be collected in store when you drop your piece off. [ikea.ie](http://ikea.ie)



### ◀ DEER SANTA

In these parts, hygge (hoo-ga) may be a buzzword that does the rounds each winter, but it is a true characteristic of Denmark's culture. It makes sense, then, that Danish brand JYSK (yusk) is letting us in on the cosiness with its latest collection. It includes a range of festive home accessories and decor, from cushions to Christmas tree alternatives, for those veering away from the real thing, this year. This Lin cushion is a budget-friendly €9.99. [jysk.ie](http://jysk.ie)

### IN THE SWIM ▶

If you're looking for a gift for an avid wild swimmer, check out photographer Niall Meehan's latest collection, Atelier. Meehan, who has a studio near Bray, in Co Wicklow, takes shots during his daily dips in the Irish Sea. Prints, such as this one of the Forty Foot, at Sandycove, are sold unmounted or mounted. Prices start at €42. Sea Studio sells a range of A3 and A2 prints, as well as greetings cards and postcards. Its 2021 calendar will be out next month. [seastudio.ie](http://seastudio.ie)



### ◀ RAISE THE BAR

Warmer climes are the inspiration for Waterford Crystal's new Mixology Rum collection, which celebrates drinking the spirit of the Caribbean. There are nine styles, which share a modern linear pattern. The glasses come in sets of two for all types of rum cocktails, from hurricanes to highballs. Stockists include House of Waterford Crystal, Brown Thomas, Arnotts, Kilkenny Shop and Blarney Woollen Mills



## HOW TO MOVE HOUSE WITH A PET

Life is sweet. You spend your days snoozing in a sunny spot by the window. The neighbours are a friendly bunch — as long as you steer clear of the grumpy dog next door — and your garden is full of exciting smells, trees to scratch and birds to stalk.

Then, one day, bam, you're dumped in a new house. It smells funny, your bed is in a strange place — and let's not get started on the local gang of feline hoodies.

If you think moving house is stressful for humans, just imagine what it's like for our cats and dogs. Here, we look at how to make the transition to a new home as smooth as possible.

### THE PRACTICALITIES

There are a few important things to add to your to-do list when moving house. First, it's vital to make sure that pets are microchipped and to update your contact details, says Gillian Bird, of the Dublin Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

"Microchipping is so

important," she says. "Make sure the microchip is registered to you, so change the details to your current house to keep them up to date."

Bird also recommends changing your dog licence to the new address and notifying your vet. "If your animal turns up, you want the vet to know you have moved," she says. A collar, with a tag and an up-to-date phone number is also essential. If your pet runs away, you have every chance of being reunited if they have a collar and microchip.

### THE BIG DAY

To keep your pet as stress-free as possible, Bird suggests sending them on a little holiday. "Consider booking your pet into boarding kennels for the actual move, and for the few days before and after as well. All the packing beforehand can be extremely stressful for them," she says.

This also gives you the opportunity to get your new home as pet-friendly as

possible. If you have a dog, check the fencing in the garden is secure and there's no chance of them sneaking out under a gate.

"There's no harm in putting a lock on the side gate," says Bird. "When you move in, you don't always have the carpets laid or plumbing in for a washing machine, so you could have a situation where someone accidentally lets your pets out."

David Doyle, of estate agency JP & M Doyle in Terenure, Dublin, agrees about fencing. He says it's even more important if you're moving to the country. "The last thing you want is for your dog to go playing with the local livestock. Farmers generally don't take too kindly to this and it may not be the 'Hello, we're new around here' that you want," he says.

Take heed, this is a serious matter: farmers have the right to shoot a dog that's worrying their livestock.

If the garden isn't secure, don't resort to an electric dog collar. "They are a training device, not an electric

barrier," says Bird. "You're better off getting a dog compound or fencing off a smaller area."



after you've worked out where to put your bed, think about where your pet's bed is going, too. Start as you mean to go on, says Bird.

### SETTLING IN

A new home means a fresh start for the entire family, so

this is where it's going to be pretty much for ever," she says.

"If you start changing and moving the animal around the place, they can get confused."

This was a tactic that worked for Laura and Paul

Connolly, who moved from Rathgar, Dublin, to a city-centre apartment while their home was being remodelled. They were worried about the effect it would have on their two cats, Millie and Tilly, but a bit of pampering was key to their happiness.

"We tried to spend as much time as possible with them on the day," says Laura. "When it came time to move, we gave each of them one of Paul's old T-shirts. They both love the smell of his sweaty clothes, especially Millie. She snuggled down into his T-shirt in the basket."

Don't throw out their old bed and buy them a new one, warns Bird. Your pets need familiarity to help them adjust. "The smell of the old house needs to come with you."

Moving house is generally more stressful for cats, which are often used to roaming the neighbourhood. The DSPCA recommends keeping a cat indoors for at least a month after a house move. "The cat should be able to get on all the windowsills and look out to

get an idea of its surroundings before it ventures outside," says Bird.

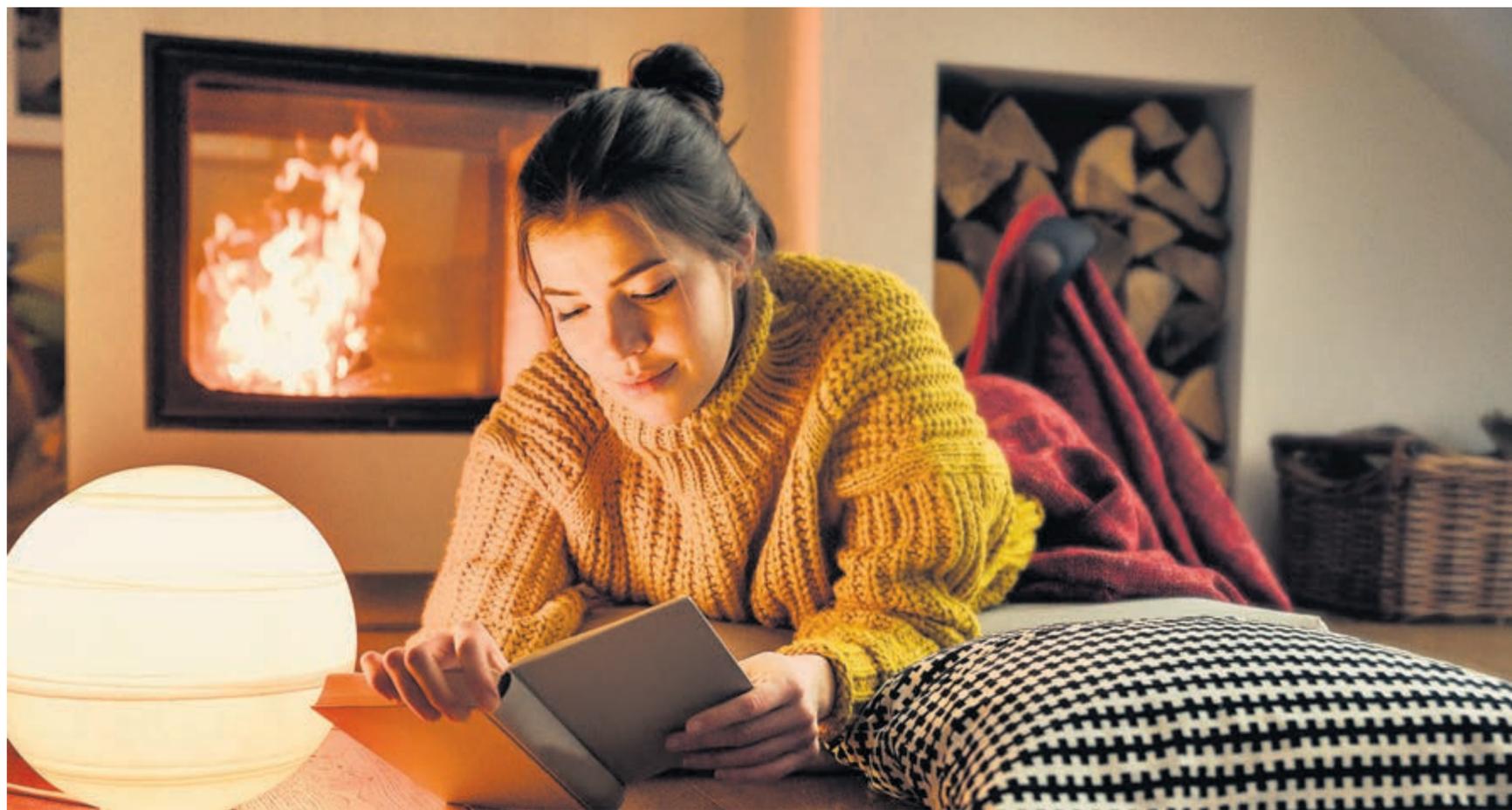
The Connollys kept their cats indoors for the two months they were in the apartment. This was a big lifestyle change for Millie and Tilly, but Laura believes the extra treats and attention they were given helped them to feel at home.

"We were at home with them a lot, so there were lots of cuddles, plus there were a few cubby holes for them to hide in. They also love their food, so instead of dried food we gave them lots of fresh fish and chicken skin."

It's different for dogs, says Bird. "A dog is used to going to the park, sniffing around and finding new places. It won't be out on its own except in the garden," she says.

Familiarity is key here. If your dog likes to sit and watch for the postman, for example, give him a safe, comfy place to do so, says Bird, and maybe head out into the garden with him at first, while he explores. **Janine Thomas**

MOVE



Now is the time to take measures to save energy, keep out draughts and pests and make your home a safe and cosy space

# Batten down the hatches

Winter is coming and, this year, it will be tougher than ever, so get your house in order now, writes *Mel Clarke*

**W**inter is the harshest season, but this one is set to be harsher than any in living memory. On top of cold, dark days and nights, we're faced with further lockdowns – meaning lengthy periods away from loved ones – and rising infection rates. The next few weeks will be especially tough, but there are things we can do with that time to ensure our homes are snug and safe, while getting them ready for entertaining guests and relatives – and the end of Covid, hopefully. Here is your winter survival guide.

## CONSERVE YOUR ENERGY

"People should run through a simple autumn and winter home-maintenance checklist (see panel) before things get too wintry," says Alan Feighery, of online shop Hardware Ireland. With so many people working from home, energy costs are a bigger concern than usual, he says, but there are easy ways to lower bills. "First, check your thermostat – 20C is a comfortable temperature for the average home office. Close doors to conserve energy, and separate heated and unheated parts of the house."

Feighery also stresses that lights

should be turned off when leaving a room and households should use compact fluorescent bulbs. "These burn up far less electricity than regular bulbs, and last about 10 times longer," says Feighery, who believes home working has some surprising advantages.

"People can find problems far more easily than if they were in the office," he says. "If rainy clouds gather, they can check for leaking gutters, for example. Obviously, workers who get home after dark can't do this."

## TAKE GARDENING LEAVE

It may not be as lush as it was in summer, but, with a little effort, the green patch outside your kitchen window can burst with beauty during the darkening days. Winter bedding flowers, including cyclamen, heather, pansies and violas, as well as spring bulbs and berried shrubs can also be planted now.

Gyms are closed, but there are calorie-busting activities that can be carried out in the garden, says Ita Lumsden-Ly, a manager at Easygarden, a garden centre in Templeogue, Dublin. "Parents and kids can brighten things up by painting the wall or fence or shed a lovely colour," she says.

"A simple task like tidying up can also make a huge difference. Give the paths a good sweep, and make sure to treat any

algae or moss, as you don't want to slip on the patio." She also recommends putting up colourful bird feeders and hanging baskets, and building a shelter for the barbecue so it can be used all year – store colourful blankets nearby for garden entertaining. Even tea lights placed in pots can create a bright glow on gloomy days.

## KEEP OUT PESTS

Rats, cockroaches, silverfish... Just thinking about these creepy-sounding creatures rummaging around the house may make us feel queasy, but they must be dealt with, as they can damage clothes and furniture and, more importantly, spread disease and contaminate food. Rodents move indoors during colder weather. "To stop rats entering your house, invest in a rat flap," says Michael

Deehan, of Effective Pest Control. A rat flap is a device that prevents rats from entering drains. "This also stops them entering the toilet bowl, and if you have to set rat traps, milk chocolate buttons are the best for bait."

Keeping out mice seems easier – sealing wall cracks, skirting boards and closing back doors will help. Much trickier are silverfish, which thrive near domestic water leaks and in moisture on walls. Deehan's solution: "Keep bathroom floors clean, wash rooms dry and have good ventilation." As for cockroaches, tempt the critters with lethal boric acid dough balls – a mixture of boric acid, dough and sugar.

## KEEP UP APPEARANCES

Many of us have been living on top of each other during lockdown, but there are ways to feel less claustrophobic. "If your home is bit tight on space, a great trick is to remove internal doors to create a more open-plan feel," says Dublin interior designer Carla Benedetti.

"Contrary to conventional rules, dark colours do not make a room look smaller – they make them cosier." Benedetti suggests "swapping light-coloured walls for a rich, moody tone" and using low-lighting rather than spotlights. She is also a fan of scented candles. "Spicy, heady dark scents will plunge you towards winter and make you want to crack open your best red wine by the fire."

## AVOID SICK-HOUSE SYNDROME

Colds, sore throats and flu all tax our immune systems, but this winter we also have to deal with Covid-related stress.

"Instead of watching news reports

“Diffusing oils in your home using an ultrasound diffuser is a great way of keeping airborne viruses at bay”

about rising figures or self-medicating with Netflix, wine and tortilla chips, there are plenty of easy yoga videos on YouTube and Instagram that you can do to bring much-needed calm," says nutritional therapist Irene Doyle, of Ladybird Nutrition, who also recommends sprinkling essential oils on pillows to aid restful sleep.

They have another benefit, she says: "Diffusing oils in your home using an ultrasound diffuser is a great way of keeping airborne viruses at bay." Vitamins and natural remedies, which should be kept in a well-marked, secure cabinet, can also help in the battle with bugs.

"Vitamin D3 is a powerful immune modulator that has been shown to improve mood," says Doyle, while Omega 3-rich fish oils will keep inflammation levels low. Be sure to also keep the house well stocked with in-date cold and flu meds such as paracetamol.

## PRACTISE KITCHEN ETIQUETTE

We're often told to watch what we eat, but washing what we eat – and where we keep it – has never seemed so important. Newly bought fruit and vegetables should be cleaned as thoroughly as countertops, pantries, cookers, fridges, floors, door handles, cutting boards and cooker controls. Use warm soapy water and disinfectant wipes on all kitchen surfaces and appliances, which should get a good scrub at least once a day.

Organisation is key to preventing infection and cross-contamination. Create a preparation zone near the sink, where nothing but food prep is allowed, and a snack zone, which can include a percolator, teapot, mugs, a biscuit tin and spoons. These zones should help to create space in the kitchen.

## NOVEMBER CHECKLIST OF JOBS

Make sure to do the following over the next few weeks

- 1 Open windows – when the heating is off and visitors are in. Ventilation may play as important a role as social distancing in preventing the spread of Covid, as it stops the build-up of particles in the air.
- 2 Get any roof repairs carried out when there is less demand," says Dublin

builder Sean Byrne. He also recommends keeping a good supply of salt in case of freezing weather.

3 Make sure down pipes and gutters are in working order and free of leaves.

4 Have the chimney swept, as bird's nests can be full of pests and are a fire hazard.

5 Beware of slippery decking in wet weather, says Byrne. "No one wants to end up in hospital this winter."

6 Ensure your roof and attic are insulated.

7 Paint front doors, windows, fascia boards and fences now if necessary.

8 Have the boiler serviced and stoves checked to prevent breakdowns during the winter.

9 Ensure all door and window locks are in working order – burglars like the dark evenings.

10 Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.

# WINDOW BOX BLISS WHAT TO PLANT FOR A WINTER DISPLAY

**S**ummer bedding plants have seen better days, but that doesn't mean your window boxes should be bare over the coming months – all they need is a quick revamp with a selection of plants suitable for winter displays. Not only will these give your house kerb appeal, they'll also raise your spirits with views of seasonal flowers and foliage from the warmth of indoors.

The key to a stylish window box is the planting combinations. Look for plants with texture and colourful foliage, such as spiky grasses and lacy ferns. Trailing plants planted around the sides will tumble over the edges.

Shrubs enter a dormant phase in winter, so they can be planted in a window box. When spring arrives replant them in a larger container or in the garden. Add a few winter flowers and plants with colourful berries, and pop in some dwarf, spring-flowering bulbs – try Sarah Raven's Spring Window Box Collection, a mix of grape hyacinths, miniature

daffodils and puschkinia (30 bulbs; €13.60; sarahraven.com).

Garden centres will have a selection of window boxes, or there are plenty of online stockists. For a selection of containers in a variety of materials, including zinc, ceramic, wood and rattan, from €22, try wayfair.co.uk.

## TOP 10 PICKS TO WINTER-PROOF WINDOW BOXES

**Carex** Evergreen carex plants, which are sedges with mounds of strappy, grass-like leaves, will add colour and texture. Choose from the lime-green 'Everillo', the green and white-striped leaves of 'Everest', or 'Evergold', which has dark-green leaves edged with a creamy yellow.

**Ornamental cabbages** These are Marmite plants, you'll either love the striking, sculptural rosettes of frilly leaves or not. The colours – pinks, reds, purples and

white – intensify as the weather gets colder; for the strongest tones plant in a bright spot.

**Ivy** It's hard to beat ivy. Plant one at both ends of a box and the stems will trail over the sides, creating a cascade effect. Choose a green and white variegated variety such as 'Glacier' and use as the base for a frosty theme, with white violas and a couple of Christmas roses.

**Thyme** Evergreen herbs such as rosemary, sage and thyme can be used for their ornamental qualities in a window box, providing handsome, compact foliage as a backdrop to other plants. Thyme has a good range of foliage colours – including my own favourite, 'Silver Posie', which has grey-green leaves with cream edges.

**Skimmia japonica** 'Rubella' This is a superb shrub for long-lasting interest, taking your window box from winter into spring. Lustrous green leaves surround burgundy-coloured



Mixed plantings brighten up a winter window. Right, *Viola wittrockiana* and *Gaultheria procumbens*. Far right, from top: an ornamental cabbage, 'Silver Posie' thyme and *Erica carnea* 'December Red'

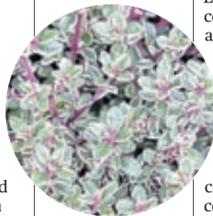


stems, which are covered in clusters of pinky-red buds. Needs ericaceous compost.

**Cyclamen** *Cyclamen coum* will bloom in late winter and early spring, with delicate white or pink flowers and attractive heart-shaped foliage. *Cyclamen hederifolium* flowers in autumn, but the attractive marbled ivy-like leaves make it a worthwhile addition for winter displays.

**Gaultheria procumbens** For a festive theme, this low-growing shrub is a good choice. The densely packed dark-green foliage takes on red and purple tints, which complement its gleaming red berries. Use an ericaceous compost and combine with other acid-loving plants such as skimmia or heathers.

**Helleborus niger** The Christmas rose flower produces exquisite pure-white petals surrounding golden stamens, which are



offset by dark green, leathery leaves. It flowers earlier than the oriental hybrid hellebores, blooming from December to March, although garden centre specimens can be in flower now.

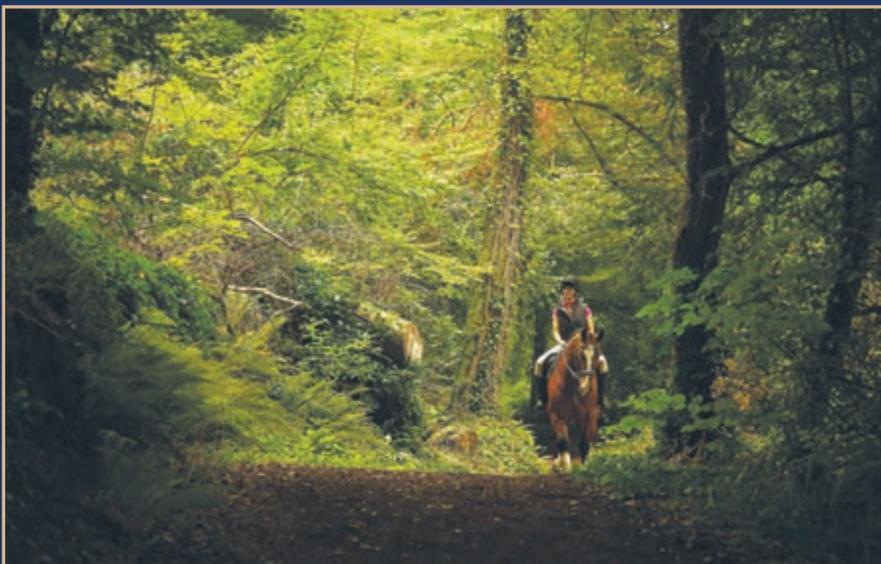
**Winter-flowering heathers** *Erica carnea* and *Erica x darleyensis* form compact mounds of foliage and are covered in a profusion of tiny, bell-shaped blooms for months; flowers come in white and shades of pink. If you are put off by their old-fashioned reputation, give them a contemporary look by combining them with hummocky evergreen grasses such as the stylish silvery-blue foliage of *Festuca glauca*.

**Winter-flowering violas** These dainty, cheerful flowers are invaluable for adding splashes of colour among foliage plants and come in a wide range of hues. Louise Curley

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# SPORT



**TRIBAL CHIEFS**  
**GALWAY LAY DOWN MARKER AGAINST WEXFORD**  
**PAGES 8-9**



**35** **27**  
**FRANCE** **IRELAND**

**Ireland miss the chance to claim title, as France triumph 35-27**

# Paris Misery

CJ Stander looks distraught after Ireland slipped to defeat in Paris to hand England the 2020 Six Nations title

**ENGLAND STUTTER PAST ITALY... BUT DO ENOUGH TO WIN SIX NATIONS**  
**PAGES 6-7**



**SCOTS ENJOY LANDMARK VICTORY WITH 14-10 DEFEAT OF WOEFUL WALES**  
**PAGES 4-5**



## FINAL SIX NATIONS TABLE

	P	W	D	L	PD	B	Pts
England (C)	5	4	0	1	44	2	18
France	5	4	0	1	21	2	18
Ireland	5	3	0	2	30	2	14
Scotland	5	3	0	2	18	2	14
Wales	5	1	0	4	21	4	8
Italy	5	0	0	5	-134	0	0

# IRELAND RUN OUT OF IDEAS

PETER O'REILLY



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At the Stade de France last night, they were in control of the game for most of the first half but their failure to take points from a late period of pressure hurt them. Far more punishing, however, were the 11 unanswered points that France scored in the third quarter, and which gave them an outside chance of pushing on and catching England.

Ireland's resilience prevented that from happening, and so England end up as champions. The final table looks about right – England the strongest side, France hot on their heels.

Some of the rugby that they played last night should have been accompanied by spring sunshine and brass bands. That they delivered it past curfew on a rainy night in an empty stadium didn't detract from its beauty.

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Ireland went in knowing that a six-point victory – with a try – would earn them the title. Critically, the pressure to score a four-try bonus had been removed.

For France, winning the title involved something altogether different – not merely a four-try bonus but a winning margin of at least 31 points. Initially, the rain seemed more to Ireland's advantage. They had no need to take risks, to chase tries – as evidenced by Conor Murray's early long-range penalty attempt. It was their opponents who had to force things.

Seven minutes in, France did just

that and were rewarded for their enterprise. Dupont's try was ominous in its simplicity, and showed the value of chasing apparently lost causes.

For when Vincent Rattiez chased a high ball up the right touchline and flapped it back infield, France had what they crave – breaking ball, an unstructured attacking opportunity, the sort of situation when a wing gets the chance to run at a prop.

In this case it was Gael Fickou sizing up Andrew Porter. The Frenchman produced a classic move – shaping in, then out, and turning on the gas. He had enough for Porter and for Murray, who was covering.

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To their credit, Ireland remained composed, and looked to counter-punch. Johnny Sexton landed the first blow, seeing space in the French backfield and threading a lovely grubber into the left corner. Hugo Keenan had read his fly half's mind and timed his run perfectly, only for the ball to take a wickedly high bounce at the critical moment.

When Anthony Bouthier punched the ball into touch, he left Wayne Barnes, the referee, with one simple decision, one tough one.

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Ultimately, they were vindicated when, a few phases after an attacking scrum, Cian Healy was driven over to the right of the posts – a nice way to celebrate your 100th international cap.

Unfortunately celebrations were short-lived, as Healy soon had to depart for a head injury assessment (HIA).

Ireland coped in his absence. They looked comfortable going through the phases in the wet, waiting for a French lapse at the breakdown.

Bernard Le Roux obliged and Sexton kicked Ireland ahead at 10-7. France had to manage with only 28 per cent of territory in the first half and only marginally more possession. But once they got into Ireland's third, they made the most of it.

Admittedly, they were helped by Jacob Stockdale's inability to tidy up the ball, when it was grubbered across the greasy surface into his 22.

Having got away with one knock-on, he didn't with the second. Charles Ollivon fly-hacked the loose ball into the end-zone and would have got to it first, had Caelan Doris not held him back. Another easy decision for Barnes and seven cheap points for France.

Sexton and Ntamack traded penalties, leaving France four points to the good as we approached the break. Sexton will surely regret the decision to go to the corner with the clock in the red when the penalty was eminently kickable.

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Scorers France: Tries: Dupont 7, penalty try 30, Ntamack 44, Vakatawa 71; Cons: Ntamack 2; Pens: Ntamack 3

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Ireland: Stockdale; Conway, Henshaw, Aki (Farrell 53), Keenan; Sexton (R Byrne 68), Murray (Gibson-Park 66); Healy (E Byrne 25), Herring (Heffernan 58), Porter (Bealham 69), Beirne (Dillane 61), Ryan, Doris, Connors (O'Mahony 55), Stander Yellow card: Doris 30

Referee: W Barnes (England)



35 27  
FRANCE IRELAND

François Cros shields the ball from Caelan Doris as France overcame Ireland in Paris last night

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by Michael Foley

TOTAL  
111/150

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Age 28 Ht 6ft Wt 86kg

Shrugged off an early sin-binning to deliver a fine performance. Excellent under the high ball.

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Six Nations ends with a whimper – but it was a largely forgettable tournament from the start



May this Six Nations be quickly forgotten. The most memorable aspect was the disruption caused by the pandemic. We endured a similar scenario with foot-and-mouth in 2001 but that was the year when England announced themselves as future World Champions. They played some of the most dazzling rugby ever seen in Europe.

When the tournament resumed Ireland were waiting for them in Dublin. An English grand slam was spoilt, much to the delirious joy of the home crowd. Keith Wood scored. It was one of those “I was there” days. Fat chance of that this time around. There’s no crowd, the noise is canned.

Without full houses in the grand old homes of European rugby, the game can look a scratchy old affair when the quality of the game, not the all-consuming atmosphere induces nervous sweats.

No one was there. Not in Llanelli. Which was just as well. Wales lost their fifth straight game since beating Italy 42-0. There was promise of attacking intent that day in Cardiff. I was there. Few said much, not with Italy the opposition. It proved wise to keep one’s counsel. It proved the wooden-spoon battle on the first weekend of the tournament. Wales, so recently World Cup contenders, have swapped narrow-eyed defensive intent for attacking intentions.

After losing 33-30 to England, Eddie Jones said Wayne Pivac deserved leeway. He was doing it differently, doing it his way. Now, having been beaten by a Scottish team in Wales for the first time since 2002, questions have to be asked. Does his freewheeling style that catapulted the Scarlets to a Pro14 title in 2018 translate to the brutal Test mentality that Warren Gatland grafted on to them?

It is hard to decide which management had the worst start. Italy finished last but they have far less material to work with than Wales. But in three of their games they managed five points in one game and none whatsoever twice. As Wales planned to improve their offence Italy focused on their rear. Both managements failed spectacularly.

The other four coaching set-ups

are difficult to judge. Scotland managed three wins including yesterday’s in Wales and a notable scalp of France. Their game has toughened up and the back row was quite brilliant in West Wales but the referee’s repeated cry of “use it” reflects on the unambitious nature of Gregor Townsend’s team.

Who’ll deny the only unforgettable moment of the Scottish campaign was the dropped ball over the tryline by the inspiring skipper, Stuart Hogg?

Townsend and Eddie Jones were the two remaining head coaches to survive the World Cup cycle. Both aimed for continuity. When England lost in Paris few thought they would be winners of the 2020 tournament.

They were good against Ireland, indifferent against Wales and conquered the weather as much as Scotland in those distant pre-pandemic days. To the team, the

tarnished glory of this most forgettable of Six Nations years. To Jones and his management, a pass mark. England recovered well without looking like World Cup finalists bar the powerful performance against Ireland at Twickenham. I’d rate Hogg third and Jones second in the management table.

We were left wondering whether Ireland could summon up a spell-binding finish against a fancied France side to give at least Irish fans warm memories as the rain fell on the last Six Nations game of 2020, but the men in green don’t do magic, so much as bore with their third-gear retention rugby. Andy Farrell intimated it would be different with Joe Schmidt gone but that old familiar pick and drive remained route one.

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To see Romain Ntamack’s chip and Virimi Vakatawa’s finish is to remember the beauty of the sport and the undisputed potential France possesses to achieve something none of us will forget in the World Cup, three years from now. The French management have eclipsed the rest of Europe.

### BARNES: MY TEAM OF THE TOURNAMENT

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Jones was one of two head coaches to survive the World Cup cycle

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TOTAL  
96/150

### 15 JACOB STOCKDALE 5/10

Age 24 Ht 6ft 3in Wt 103kg

Hesitated under a high ball for France’s first try and badly at fault for the hosts’ second as well.

### 14 ANDREW CONWAY 6/10

Age 29 Ht 5ft 11in Wt 90kg

Misjudged a Garryowen from Johnny Sexton, losing an aerial challenge that resulted in a French try.

### 13 ROBBIE HENSHAW 7/10

Age 27 Ht 6ft 4in Wt 99kg

Held his own in a fearsome midfield battle and decorated his night with a brilliant solo try in the second half.

### 12 BUNDEE AKI 6/10

Age 30 Ht 5ft 10in Wt 101kg

Plenty of carries and the usual quota of heavy labour without the ball in the first half. Faded in the second.

### 11 HUGO KEENAN 7/10

Age 24 Ht 6ft 1in Wt 92kg

Not quite the explosive follow-up to his debut. Hesitated under the high ball that led to the first French try.

### 10 JOHNNY SEXTON (C) 7/10

Age 35 Ht 6ft 2in Wt 90kg

The usual quota of smart kicks and clever spots behind the advancing French defence.

### 9 CONOR MURRAY 6/10

Age 31 Ht 6ft 2in Wt 93kg

Missed a long-range kick and delivered an effective and familiar, but unspectacular display.

### 1 CIAN HEALY 7/10

Age 33 Ht 6ft 1in Wt 117kg

An eventful 100th cap, adorned by a try and a handful of trademark carries over his hour on the field.

### 2 ROB HERRING 6/10

Age 30 Ht 6ft 1in Wt 106kg

Nailed his throws early on but the lineout unravelled in the second half as the pressure came on.

### 3 ANDREW PORTER 6/10

Age 24 Ht 6ft Wt 114kg

Held his own for the large part in the scrums along with the rest of the front row.

### 4 TADHG BEIRNE 7/10

Age 28 Ht 6ft 6in Wt 113kg

A good foil to James Ryan, plenty of work shovelling coal in the engine room.

### 5 JAMES RYAN 8/10

Age 24 Ht 6ft 8in Wt 116kg

Another typically powerful performance around the field. Offered a reliable target at lineout.

### 6 CAELAN DORIS 6/10

Age 22 Ht 6ft 4in Wt 106kg

Superb turnover early in the game. Sin-binned when conceding a penalty try after Stockdale’s error.

### 7 WILL CONNORS 6/10

Age 24 Ht 6ft 3in Wt 100kg

Couldn’t impose himself on the French as he did on his debut against Italy last weekend.

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Limited threat off the base of the scrum but did manage a handful of important turnovers.

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Jones was one of two head coaches to survive the World Cup cycle

## IRELAND PLAYER RATINGS

by Michael Foley

TOTAL  
96/150

### 15 JACOB STOCKDALE 5/10

Age 24 Ht 6ft 3in Wt 103kg

Hesitated under a high ball for France’s first try and badly at fault for the hosts’ second as well.

### 14 ANDREW CONWAY 6/10

Age 29 Ht 5ft 11in Wt 90kg

Misjudged a Garryowen from Johnny Sexton, losing an aerial challenge that resulted in a French try.

### 13 ROBBIE HENSHAW 7/10

Age 27 Ht 6ft 4in Wt 99kg

Held his own in a fearsome midfield battle and decorated his night with a brilliant solo try in the second half.

### 12 BUNDEE AKI 6/10

Age 30 Ht 5ft 10in Wt 101kg

Plenty of carries and the usual quota of heavy labour without the ball in the first half. Faded in the second.

### 11 HUGO KEENAN 7/10

Age 24 Ht 6ft 1in Wt 92kg

Not quite the explosive follow-up to his debut. Hesitated under the high ball that led to the first French try.

### 10 JOHNNY SEXTON (C) 7/10

Age 35 Ht 6ft 2in Wt 90kg

The usual quota of smart kicks and clever spots behind the advancing French defence.

### 9 CONOR MURRAY 6/10

Age 31 Ht 6ft 2in Wt 93kg

Missed a long-range kick and delivered an effective and familiar, but unspectacular display.

### 1 CIAN HEALY 7/10

Age 33 Ht 6ft 1in Wt 117kg

An eventful 100th cap, adorned by a try and a handful of trademark carries over his hour on the field.

### 2 ROB HERRING 6/10

Age 30 Ht 6ft 1in Wt 106kg

Nailed his throws early on but the lineout unravelled in the second half as the pressure came on.

### 3 ANDREW PORTER 6/10

Age 24 Ht 6ft Wt 114kg

Held his own for the large part in the scrums along with the rest of the front row.

### 4 TADHG BEIRNE 7/10

Age 28 Ht 6ft 6in Wt 113kg

A good foil to James Ryan, plenty of work shovelling coal in the engine room.

### 5 JAMES RYAN 8/10

Age 24 Ht 6ft 8in Wt 116kg

Another typically powerful performance around the field. Offered a reliable target at lineout.

### 6 CAELAN DORIS 6/10

Age 22 Ht 6ft 4in Wt 106kg

Superb turnover early in the game. Sin-binned when conceding a penalty try after Stockdale’s error.

### 7 WILL CONNORS 6/10

Age 24 Ht 6ft 3in Wt 100kg

Couldn’t impose himself on the French as he did on his debut against Italy last weekend.

### 8 CJ STANDER 6/10

Age 30 Ht 6ft 1in Wt 114kg

Limited threat off the base of the scrum but did manage a handful of important turnovers.

## Rugby Union Guinness Six Nations

PETER O'REILLY



The bubble dissolves at about lunchtime today, soon after Ireland's charter plane lands in Dublin. After nearly three weeks of temperature tests, distance dining, driving alone to and from training at Abbotstown and solitary bedroom confinement at a ghostly Carton House, Ireland's international players get to spend four days at home before reconvening on Thursday to prepare for Wales on November 13.

Wales, two weeks after the Six Nations finishes? Yes, it will feel a little odd. For Ireland fans, the Autumn Nations Cup offers a degree of intrigue, the promise of fresh flesh. For Andy Farrell, who has just completed his first tournament as head coach, it is a great opportunity to build depth, and all the more valuable given the Pacific Islands tour in June is in doubt.

November is always mentioned as a month for experimentation, until it actually comes around and the man in charge finds an excuse for putting out his most reliable and experienced selection. "We need to build momentum for the Six Nations. We need to protect our ranking for World Cup seeding purposes." Whatever.

Well, the seedings for the 2023 World Cup have already been sorted, with Ireland in Band 2. There is no prize money at stake either, with TV revenue already shared. So while Farrell and the IRFU would clearly like to win the Nations Cup, its greatest value will be as a development vehicle.

There is some exciting talent to be unleashed. James Lowe, whose early-season form was a bit iffy but who has given Leinster an extra attacking dimension since his arrival from New Zealand three years ago, looks a decent bet to feature against Wales.

Shane Daly, Munster's beautifully balanced full back, will get a run at some stage and Farrell would like to get the freakishly athletic Ryan Baird involved at the earliest convenience.

The 21-year-old lock has been injured but resumes training with Leinster this week, so he could be ready for Georgia in Round 3 – a handy debut if the Georgians' wretched performance in Edinburgh last week is anything to go by.

The development theme will be put on hold for Round 2, however, when Ireland need to exorcise a few ghosts and restore some pride, especially up front, at Twickenham. They could do with having Tadhg Furlong back by then but it looks a long shot.

The other games – Wales, Georgia and the play-off round – offer the chance not only to build depth but to strengthen leadership. Garry Ringrose's unfortunate injury removes him from a very brief shortlist of leaders-in-waiting, leaving only James Ryan, given that Peter O'Mahony is no longer guaranteed to start. Ryan is not only a cast-iron starter, he usually plays the full 80.

We are not putting Johnny Sexton out to pasture yet. He may be 35 but he has a strong relationship with Farrell, is still the dominant personality in the group and is enjoying the responsibility of leading. Sexton will be aware of the danger of staying on too long but, while he has had a couple of off-days in the past 24 months, the pandemic served as a sabbatical of sorts.

He went into last night's game in Paris looking in superb physical nick and in decent touch. He is comfortably still the best fly half available to Farrell. His long-term successor is probably Harry Byrne, and he may struggle to feature in the coming weeks, given he is short of game time.

Sexton is surely stressed by the fact that he is out of contract in June – bad timing, given the IRFU's financial travails. The union has often taken an ageist approach to the thirtysomethings, moving them off central contracts and landing the player's province with the cost of the salary. But Leinster would balk at this idea, especially if Sexton is still going to be away on international duty for much of the season.

And that's the point. Sexton has no plans to stop playing international rugby just because he is 35. You can be sure he has designs on staying around

# CHANCE TO TEST NEW TALENT

No excuses this time – Wales match in a fortnight is the ideal stage for Ireland to give Lowe and Daly a run

## IRELAND'S AUTUMN NATIONS CUP FIXTURES

**NOV 13**  
Ireland v Wales  
Aviva, 7pm

**NOV 21**  
England v Ireland  
Twickenham, 3pm

**NOV 29**  
Ireland v Georgia  
Aviva, 2pm

**DEC 5**  
(FINALS WEEKEND)  
Ireland v TBC  
Aviva, 2.15pm

until 2023 and the World Cup – if his body can remain intact. His desire surely will.

The way Ireland are trying to play, with more width, more offloading and with more distributors, may just help Sexton to keep going. He is still in control and yet not in the firing line as much.

Ireland are still way behind France and Wales in the offloading stakes but the sight of O'Mahony getting that ball away to Bunde Aki last week was emblematic of a shift in philosophy, a determination to play to space, to be less ruck-centric than under the previous regime.

Whatever Ireland's results over the coming weeks, introducing new skills and new faces makes for an enjoyable working environment.

It needs to be. Once the bubble reopens on Thursday, it will not be broken for 32 days.



Ireland were too strong for Wales in the Six Nations in February, as Andrew Conway shows – but the Autumn Nations Cup fixture will be a different sort of challenge

## Scotland's landmark win adds to major Welsh woe

Mark Palmer

An instantly forgettable game, but a landmark moment in the evolution of this Scotland side. For the first time in 18 years they won in Wales. For the first time since 2010 they won a Six Nations match on the road outside of Rome. They did it not with the panache we associate with Gregor Townsend's teams but with patience, purpose and precision.

As both of their fly halves, Finn Russell and Adam Hastings, were forced off with injury, Scotland finished with the captain, Stuart Hogg, at No 10 and a debutant scrum-half, Scott Steele, on the wing. They managed not only to see out the last 11 minutes but extended their winning margin as Hogg slapped over a penalty. The replacement forwards, loose-head prop Oli Kebble in particular, made a gloriously evident impact in locking up the game, but to a man Scotland dug deep.

Wales were underpowered and unconvincing. They barely existed as

an attacking force and have now lost five in a row under Wayne Pivac. A one-win Six Nations is their worst since the pre-Warren Gatland days of 2007 and there were precious few moments when they looked primed to interrupt that sequence here.

Such a flat performance was no way to mark Alun Wyn Jones going past Richie McCaw as the man with the most Test appearances of all time, on 149. Even the presence of Welsh rugby's eternal flame was not enough to inject heat into this struggling side.

If there were no fans to create a sense of occasion, Pivac's men had emotional drivers when it came to Jones's record and the sad passing of JJ Williams. The Bridgend, Llanelli, Wales and Lions legend was honoured with a period of silence before kick-off; another moment when you longed for the embrace, the easy communion, of a crowd.

Scotland would not have been complaining. So often in Wales they have been unable to handle the heat, on the pitch and from the stands.

Here they settled quickly and had the better of a scrappy opening period.

Russell, making his first Test start since the World Cup calamity against Japan, passed up a first opportunity to put the Scots ahead with a penalty but made no mistake with his second. Strong wind made life uncomfortable for kickers, throwers and jumpers.

Scotland were on top at the breakdown, Jamie Ritchie and Hamish Watson as shrewdly industrious as ever. Wales had lost Justin Tipuric to tonsillitis, his place going to James Davies, who had not started since the bronze final against New Zealand a year ago today.

A Hogg break should have been the precursor to the first try but Chris Harris could not hold on to the pass. Scotland were dominant but a failure to get points was punished just after the half-hour when Wales scored from nothing. An overthrown Fraser Brown lineout was picked off by Ryan Elias, his opposite number. A few rumbles later, Rhys Carre touched down his first Test try.

No sooner had Dan Biggar struck the conversion than Russell was limping off with what looked a groin injury, Hastings taking his place. With the last kick, the Glasgow pivot brought his team within a point after the latest in a litany of Welsh breakdown offences.

After the break Wales were changing their fly half too as Biggar made way for Rhys Patchell. Hastings looked done after a collision with Owen Watkin but managed to stay afield for a further half-hour. The Welsh pack came back out with a clear intent to stamp their authority on proceedings. In the first ten minutes they won a scrum penalty and two maul turnovers. Wyn Jones was being love-bombed at the set-piece award.

The chime of Andrew Brace's whistle was much the only constant in a staccato third quarter as neither side could establish any fluency.

A shift arrived as the Scots forced a scrum penalty and went to the corner, where Stuart McNally picked

WALES

10

SCOTLAND

14



# Breen finding her rhythm at the right time during a difficult season

The postponement of Ireland's game against France won't delay the centre's development

Peter O'Reilly

Enya Breen was in the middle of an online lecture last Wednesday afternoon when a WhatsApp message delivered frustrating news: France wouldn't be travelling because of a Covid-19 outbreak within their coaching group. By last Friday morning, however, the 21-year-old physiotherapy student from Skibbereen had moved on.

"It's disappointing, for sure," she says. "We'd seen Scotland draw with the French girls and Sunday and that had been a boost. We'd beaten Scotland earlier in the year and we were all ready to have a crack off France.

"But obviously that's not meant to be for the moment. You kind of have to be prepared for things like this to happen. But we're back in training this weekend so we have the opportunity to keep improving and building towards the qualifiers in December."

The qualifiers are for the World Cup, to be hosted in New Zealand next year – a four-team round robin involving Ireland, Scotland and Italy, with a fourth team due to be decided this weekend. The winner qualifies for New Zealand with the runner-up going into a repechage. For now, Breen is grateful to be training, back in the thick of it. Last Saturday's 21-7 victory over Italy at Donnybrook was only her second game of rugby in 2020 – she missed the first three Six Nations game with an ankle injury. She was sore last Sunday morning, but happy. This was her fourth



international cap and her first victory in green. Playing at outside centre, she had been solid, made good decisions, kept the error count low – a mature performance.

"I was happy, yeah," she says. "Obviously I love having a bit of crack, sometimes, but you've got to play what's in front of you. I had three speedsters outside me in Beibhinn (Parsons), Lauren (Delany) and Laura (Sheehan). If there's space out there, I'd rather give it to them than take it on myself.

"We had a slow start; we were kind of expecting that anyway because it had been so long since we'd had a game. But we could have pushed for a bonus point at the end. It was just basic execution really, the sort of things we can improve on."

Breen's core rugby skills are strong but she has the advantage of being an early starter, and having had male competition. She is the youngest of six, with two brothers in close proximity – Jack, three years older, and Daniel, two years older again.

**Breen goes over to score a try against Wales in Ireland's 17-13 defeat last November**

**'We were always kicking, passing, tackling. Our competitive nature just drove us on'**

"I started in Carrigaline with the minis, aged about eight, Saturday morning stuff," she says. "One of my first memories is my dad picked me up from training and I was covered head to toe in mud. It had been pouring rain and we had been doing mud slides all the way down the pitch afterwards. He wasn't too happy.

"My brothers started playing at the same time so we kind of got into it together. They were always beating me up but I gave as good as I got. It toughens you up. Across the road from the house, we had a big green space. We were always kicking, passing, tackling. Without even realising it you're practising those skills. It stands to you. Our competitive nature just drove us on."

By age ten, the family had moved out to Skibbereen. While Breen played her club rugby with UL Bohs, she considers herself a proud West Cork woman and enjoyed seeing so many players from her part of the world in the Munster men's side that beat Cardiff last Monday.

Following Munster's fortunes is second nature to her. "We were regulars at Musgrave Park," she says. "We actually went to the Heineken Cup final in 2008, as a family. The Principality Stadium was eye-opening for me. It was huge, unbelievable really. I think I really fell in love with the game there."

Her first rugby number was 10, her first hero Ronan O'Gara. Through her teens, she looked up to Niamh Briggs and then Sene Naoupu. Strange – and wonderful – to think that Naoupu was her centre partner in Donnybrook last weekend.

With a little luck, Ireland will play France this month and complete their Six Nations schedule. They are already guaranteed to finish in the top half of the table but the game would provide ideal prep for the qualifiers.

out Jonny Gray before secreting himself at the back of an advancing drive and getting the ball down.

Despite having Hogg as a steadier of the ball, Hastings could not land the conversion. When Leigh Halfpenny kicked a penalty minutes later, it was back to a one-point game. Hastings succumbed to his shoulder injury, but Scotland's defence, and Hogg's boot, got them home. It is the first time since 1996 that they have won three straight Six Nations games.

**Star man:** Jamie Ritchie (Scotland)  
**Scorers:** Wales: Try: Carre (31min) **Con:** Biggar  
**Pen:** Halfpenny **Scotland:** Try: McInally (61min)  
**Pens:** Russell, Hastings, Hogg  
**Wales:** L Halfpenny; L Williams, Jonathan Davies, O Watkin (N Tompkins 74min), J Adams; D Biggar (R Patchell 43min), G Davies (L Williams 72min); R Carre (W Jones 49min), R Elias (S Parry 70min), T Francis (D Lewis 57min), W Rowlands (C Hill 57min), AW Jones (captain), S Lewis-Hughes, James Davies, T Faletau (A Wainwright 70min)  
**Scotland:** S Hogg (captain); D Graham (D van der Merwe 66min), C Harris, J Lang, B Kinghorn; F Russell (A Hastings 32min (S Steele 69min)), A Price; R Sutherland (O Keble 53min), F Brown (S McInally 53min), Z Fagerson (S Berghan 53min), S Cummings, J Gray, J Ritchie, H Watson, B Thomson (C Du Preez 53min)  
**Referee:** A Brace (IRFU)

## Gallagher the focus for leaders Munster

Peter O'Reilly

Newport on a Sunday used to be seen as the Guinness Pro14's graveyard shift but the definition of what constitutes "anti-social hours" has shifted recently. Munster were forced to play last Monday night in Limerick and it didn't seem to faze them.

A 38-27 victory over Cardiff keeps

them at the top of Conference B after three rounds of action. Johann van Graan will see this as an opportunity to maintain momentum ahead of a tricky assignment at Treviso next Saturday, while still taking the opportunity to rotate his squad. He makes seven changes from the team that beat Cardiff.

Interest will focus on the performance of Matt Gallagher, who makes his first start at full back, having joined from Saracens during the summer. Gallagher won a Junior World Championship medal with England Under-20 in 2016 but qualifies for Ireland by having grandparents from Limerick and Derry.

Van Graan has given another opportunity to academy loose-head prop Josh Wycherley, who made his senior debut on Monday, while South African born Keynan Knox gets a start on the other side of the front row. Just as insurance policy, Munster have plenty of front-row experience on the bench with James Cronin and



**Gallagher is in line to make his first start at full back for Munster**

Stephen Archer ready to act as finishers.

Dragons director of rugby Dean Ryan gives starts to two former Lions Test players in Jamie Roberts and Richard Hibbard. The midfield clash between Roberts and Damian de Allende promises to be seismic.

On the Dragons bench is Irish prop Conor Maguire, formerly of Boyne RFC and Old Wesley, who played with Leinster A and Connacht Eagles

before accepting a Dragons deal earlier this year.

Ryan said: "We know what is coming with Munster. We shouldn't shy away from that. It is our challenge to come up with some answers. The Ireland sides are very direct, very powerful and we have got to come to terms with that. I don't think anyone lacks effort in trying to get in front of them and stop them, but we can be smarter."

**Dragons:** Lewis; Jenkins, Warren, Roberts, Hewitt; S Davies, Williams (capt); Harris, Hibbard, Fairbrother, J Davies, Screech, Fry, Keddie, Griffiths. **Replacements:** Shipp, Maguire, Jarvis, Carter, Basham, Knolly, Dixon, Howells. **Munster:** Gallagher; Nash, Scannell, De Allende, Sweetnam; Hanrahan, Casey; Wycherley, O'Byrne, Knox, Kleyn, Holland (capt), O'Donoghue, Cloete, Coombes. **Replacements:** Barron, Cronin, Archer, Ahern, O'Donnell, McCarthy, Flannery, O'Sullivan. **Referee:** B Blain (Scotland)

### ON TV TODAY

**Dragons v Munster**  
Kick-off 2pm. Live on Premier Sports 2, eir Sport 1, TG4, S4C

# UNINSPIRING ENGLAND LABOUR TO THE TITLE

STEPHEN  
JONES



Rugby Correspondent

England never managed to lift the day out of the depressing and unremarkable atmosphere in the opening match at Llanelli, and although Ben Youngs celebrated his 100th cap with two tries and played extremely well, they never played with the authority that should have been obligatory for a team in contention for the Six Nations title. Once the obligations to television had been fulfilled there was never really anything impressive about the whole afternoon. At least the bonus-point win put some pressure on Ireland in the late match, but that is about all you could say for England.

As well as Youngs, Jonny Hill could be proud of his first cap, Billy Vunipola looked far more fresh and vital than he had done for some time and Owen Farrell held it together well in midfield. Apart from that, England lacked the authority up front they really should have shown against an Italy team that was so much younger and smaller, and too much of the match descended into a pushing and shoving and bickering shambles. It would be harsh in a sense to blame them because this is the time of Covid and nothing is what it was before.

At least the match ruled France out of the equation as potential champions. It also elevated the profile of Jake Polledri, who was outstanding for Italy just as he has been for Gloucester for several seasons. It is highly likely that he will assume the mantle of the departed great Sergio Parisse, though Polledri will pray that his win percentage in the ranks of the *Azzurri* is far greater than that enjoyed by Parisse.

Italy fielded a young team which was also lacking in ballast, though it was good to see that they were stropky, giving England any amount of verbals. But you hate it when coaches decide to throw in a whole heap of youngsters, which is what Franco Smith has done, as his way to build an international team.

Paolo Garbisi was the perfect case in point. He is only 20, he speaks and plays well and he could prove to be a fly half for whom Italy have been searching for around 20 years. But twice he failed to find touch with penalty kicks and he needs more experience before becoming effective.

Everyone watching on television would have looked to this game for a major lift after the paucity of proceedings at Llanelli, and the efficient ease with which England took the lead after five minutes indicated that the game would elevate the whole afternoon. Not only did the half almost sink without trace after that but England were extremely fortunate to go in 10-5 up because Italy came incredibly close to scoring two tries in addition to the one that they did score after 19 minutes.

It seemed so comfortable when Mako Vunipola put Farrell through the gap with a clever pass and Farrell put Youngs over for an appropriate try in the game that took Youngs to the century of England caps. And when Farrell kicked a penalty soon afterwards we were staring at a cricket score already.

However, not only did the Italian forwards, significantly lighter than England, manage to get a grip on proceedings, not only did Polledri

and the Italian back row get into the swing of things, but Carlo Canna gave Italy some shape and some idea of what to do with the ball. On 19 minutes, after Kyle Sinckler had missed the ball around the fringes, Canna grabbed it and the excellent Polledri made a powerful burst through the cover defence to score.

Soon after this, Hill was sent to the sin bin for a high shot on Edoardo Padovani – it could have been a red but quite rightly, Pascal Gauzère, a breath of fresh air compared to the inadequate refereeing at Llanelli, decided he had been pushed into the tackle and therefore Hill was not totally to blame.

But England struggled when they were a man down. Then Italy were held up by the returned Hill as they made a powerful drive over the line from close range, which involved backs and forwards. And on the stroke of half-time, Luca Morisi came within inches of the touchdown as both he and George Furbank chased the ball behind the line.

So it was 10-5 at half-time, and the message from Eddie Jones during the break was surely that the bigger, more illustrious England pack simply had to put their finger on the callow and smaller opposition.

Polledri was in the sin-bin at the start of the second half. England then repeated the process of the first half by coming out fighting and then losing momentum. They put in a punishing series of forward drives at the very start of the half and Youngs dummied his way around the fringes and ran on to score with the Italian guards absent. And not long after that came the third try, when Jamie George scored under bodies from a forward drive augmented by the massive power of Farrell and Henry Slade.

The fourth try and the bonus point came after 67 minutes when Tom Curry came round the blindside of a ruck and scored unopposed.

By this time the promising Ollie Thorley was on the field, no doubt

5  
ITALY

34  
ENGLAND

Slade went over from close range to complete a five-try haul for England as they clinched the Six Nations



delighting his fans at Gloucester, but until the very end it just never felt like a proper international – there was something of the park pitch about it.

Some of that was down to the lack of atmosphere because of the absence of fans and the rest because neither Italy nor England played very well. There is an excuse for the deflated atmosphere and stature of the occasion, but this was not an advance for Farrell's team, although it kept Ireland and France honest for the later game.

**Star man:** Ben Youngs (England)  
**Scorers:** Italy: Try Polledri 18 England: Tries B Youngs 5, 41, George 51, Curry 67, Slade 72 **Cons** Farrell 3 **Penalty** Farrell  
**Referee:** P Gauzère (Fr)  
**Italy:** Minozzi (Palazzani 47min); Padovani (Mori 22), Morisi, Canna, Bellini; Garbisi, Violi; Fischetti (Ferrari 42-52, 61), Bigi (capt) (Lucchesi 61), Zilocchi (Ceccarelli 61), Lazzaroni (Meyer 78), Cannone (Sisi 61), Negri (Mbanda 73), Steyn, Polledri (sin-bin 38-48).  
**England:** Furbank; Watson (Thorley 54), Joseph (Lawrence 68), Slade, May; Farrell (capt), B Youngs (Robson 73); M Vunipola (Genge 59), George (Dunn 79), Sinckler (Stuart 63), Itoje, Hill (sin-bin 22-32) (Ewels 68), Curry, Underhill (Earl 36-41, 54), B Vunipola.

**2** Ben Youngs is the third England scrum half (after Matt Dawson and Andy Gomarsall) to twice score two tries in a game

## ENGLAND PLAYER RATINGS

by Stephen Jones

TOTAL  
**106/150**

Replacements Ben Earl did well but Ollie Thornley had little chance to show his talent.

### GEORGE FURBANK 6/10

N'thampton Age 24 Ht 1.78m Wt 86kg

Very low involvement, but mistake-free and the sort of game he needed after a tough start to the tournament.

### ANTHONY WATSON 6/10

Bath Age 26 Ht 1.88m Wt 93kg

He was eventually taken off after an evening spent looking for the party. Very underused by England, as ever.

### JONATHAN JOSEPH 7/10

Bath Age 29 Ht 1.82m Wt 95kg

He would have wanted to do more but England never produced the kind of quick ball on which he can thrive.

### HENRY SLADE 7/10

Exeter Age 27 Ht 1.88m Wt 86kg

No opportunities to show his best form in a team that had nothing like the precision shown weekly by Exeter.

### JONNY MAY 5/10

Leicester Age 30 Ht 1.88m Wt 88kg

By no means one of his best games, his handling was shaky and had little opportunity to run at the defence.

### OWEN FARRELL 8/10

Saracens Age 29 Ht 1.8m Wt 94kg

He kept his cool as everything seemed to go flat around him. A good job he was out there.

### BEN YOUNGS 9/10

Leicester Age 31 Ht 1.78m Wt 88kg

A try early on in each half and a bright performance as if he was in the foothills of his international career

### MAKO VUNIPOLA 7/10

Saracens Age 29 Ht 1.82m Wt 120kg

He was good and aggressive although England probably wanted more dominance up front.

### JAMIE GEORGE 8/10

Saracens Age 30 Ht 1.8m Wt 107kg

He was under the pile of bodies for the try in the second half. Played well and was one of England's pillars

### KYLE SINCKLER 6/10

Bristol Age 27 Ht 1.8m Wt 119kg

He was up against a smaller opponent in Damilo Frachetti and never quite dominated his man.

### MARO ITOJE 7/10

Saracens Age 26 Ht 1.98m Wt 109kg

Italy tried to drag him into a battle but he kept his temper and momentum although even he was not at his best.

### JONNY HILL 8/10

Exeter Age 26 Ht 1.95m Wt 111kg

He annoyed his coach by being sin-binned for a high tackle, but otherwise he played well on debut

### TOM CURRY 8/10

Leicester Age 22 Ht 1.85m Wt 109kg

He got dragged into some of the verbal episodes and shoving matches but looked like a pedigree flanker.

### SAM UNDERHILL 7/10

Bath Age 24 Ht 1.9m Wt 109kg

Another man probably not at his most prominent, but excellent over the ball as usual and some thumping tackles.

### BILLY VUNIPOLA 7/10

Saracens Age 27 Ht 1.9m Wt 128kg

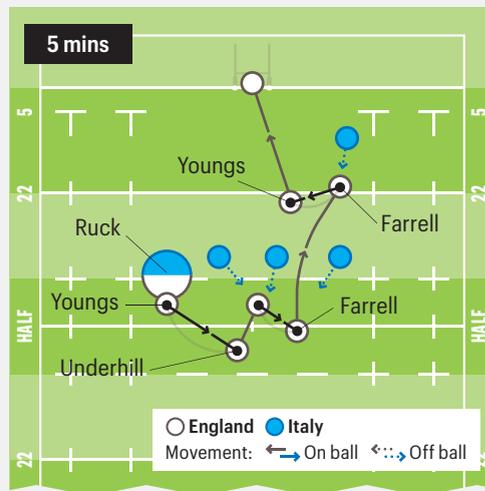
He set out to regain his old standards, he did not quite last the course but he looked a lot more like the real Billy.

CHRIS RICCO



## HOW YOUNGS OPENED SCORING

Owen Farrell cut through the Italian defence and set up Ben Youngs for the first try of the game just five minutes into the match



## MATCH STATS

Italy	England
205	327
46	54
39	61
96	100
80	84
4	4
18	12
6	5
20	12
13	13
1	1

# Jones: Italy 'antics' distracted us

Chris Jones

Eddie Jones admitted that his title-chasing England team lost their way before delivering an "outstanding" second-half performance to secure their bonus-point 34-5 win over Italy in Rome.

The debutant Jonny Hill was shown a yellow card and Jones was not happy with the "antics" of the Italian players, who were very vocal every time they frustrated the England team.

The head coach said: "I was really pleased with the team's response after the first half where we lost our way for 20 minutes and possibly got distracted by the scoreboard and the antics of the opposition. That is why it was a difficult game for us.

"We got our composure and focus back and I thought our second half was outstanding. It was lovely to see a player [Ben Youngs] in his 100th game play so well."

Youngs, the scrum half, has no intention of winding down after becoming only the second England

player to win 100 caps. He insisted that there was more to come after a two-try performance in Rome.

He delivered a man-of-the-match performance despite England stuttering in the first half before finally bringing up the bonus-point win that they needed.



Hill received yellow card on debut

Youngs said: "The most important thing was to come here and do a job. I am very proud [to win 100 caps] but the important thing was to play my part in the team. It is a nice milestone and I have got the desire to kick on. We always thought it would be a grinding-down process and we got a little out-enthusiased in that second 20 minutes and maybe the yellow card couldn't be shrugged off.

"But whatever it may be, we knew that if we stuck to it we'd get there in the end and that was what we did."

Owen Farrell, the England captain, admitted that his team had lost their focus but took heart from the second-half performance that earned the bonus-point victory.

"We have done our job," Farrell said. "We started the game well, I thought we went at them. Obviously there was a large chunk of that first half where we didn't manage to get our hands on the ball and put our game on the field. We came out and did a job in the second half and for Ben Youngs to get 100 caps, that is a massive achievement."

# Slade wasted at 12 in Tuilagi absence

With Farrell sticking to a rigid kicking play, England's attack was all too predictable

STUART BARNES



Not until Henry Slade made the relatively short journey to outside centre from the claustrophobia of the fly-half/inside-centre region, did Exeter Chiefs' elegant playmaker blossom into one of the best centres in Europe. Those few extra metres of space, that split second more time on the ball, worked wonderfully well. For both club and country.

Yet here he was in Rome, wearing No 12. Jonathan Joseph wore his familiar 13, while Owen Farrell filled the fly-half slot in the absence of the injured George Ford. Oh, and then there is the absent Manu Tuilagi, the man who gives the side gainline momentum. Worcester's Ollie Lawrence was the like-for-like replacement but Jones opted for experience over the obvious and moved the midfield pieces, as has been his wont for a while.

Is Jones a clever contrarian – he picked Joseph out of position on the wing against Ireland and was a success – who believes skilled operators can move from one number into another, or is he a man obsessed with the proven over potential?

Come half-time we didn't have a clue. A fourth-minute try set the scene for a classic case of complacency. Nobody epitomised it more than Farrell, whose well-timed angle set up the try. Midway through the first half England were awarded a free kick from a scrum. Instead of taking another scrum he signalled for his team to chase a high ball. Nothing wrong with the quality of the kick but the premeditated thinking is disturbing.

Either that or the combinations of non-bashing centres took away the appeal of a crash over the gain line and a target for the forwards. Momentum. England kicked and kicked in that first half. They kicked well but Italy did fine and expended little energy. If England had a game plan to tire them out, the first-half execution was a dismal failure.

If Jones refused to batter with big, powerful running backs one has to question why the balance was chosen. In the ninth

Farrell made the break for England's first try

minute we saw what Slade can give any team. At a midfield scrum he floated from right to left and with that superb left foot of his he pinned Italy into their 22. A crash ball over the gain line would have been a good idea but there was no one to charge at or between defenders.

There was a marked lack of variety too, especially from the pinpoint accurate Farrell. Italy knew the kicks were coming. When a defence is aware what is heading their way, the players can prepare. The shock of the new is what scares defences.

At his best, Dan Carter would run, pass, chip, cross-kick and hoist a high ball in the first 15 minutes. What next? Farrell is a skilled player. He has the repertoire but the first half revealed a captain who is hostage to the preordained game plan of his manager.

For a team chasing not only a bonus-point win but a substantial points difference the first half was a waste of time, no sort of platform for an improved second half.

Still, the tries came and Slade carried twice, early in the second half, into contact on the gain line at inside centre. Another waste of talent. Where was Ollie Lawrence if England were thinking of injecting

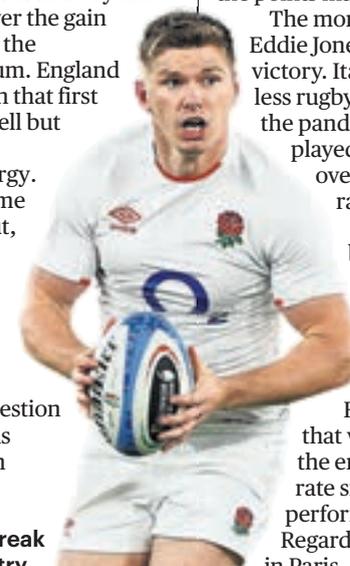
**For a team chasing a bonus-point win by a substantial points margin the first half was a waste of time**

pace and power?

Slade carried in the 64th minute. Standing at inside centre, no swapping and changing. He had not been offered a metre of space since the angled chip way back in the ninth minute. Not until Tom Curry tiptoed down the touchline for the fourth and bonus-point try did the 21-year-old Lawrence enter the fray. Trusted to make a few dents, not to play a substantial part in a game that England could not lose. As if by magic Slade, back in his favoured position, scooped up a Farrell kick and pushed the points margin to 29.

The moment was not proof that Eddie Jones had masterminded victory. Italians have played a lot less rugby than England through the pandemic. When they have played, Ireland, far from overwhelming themselves, racked up 50 points.

A column that began by pondering Jones's midfield philosophy ends by reflecting on a disappointing performance, with Slade wasted at 12 and Farrell following orders that worked well enough, in the end, against a second-rate side. It was not a performance to lift the nation. Regardless of last night's result in Paris.



# Concannon puts Galway on track

**GALWAY** 1-27

**WEXFORD** 0-17

**DENIS WALSH**



Croke Park

**W**hile we're still trying to make sense of everything else in the championship, it was thoughtful of Galway to simplify their position. Even allowing for Wexford's hollow defence of their

Leinster title, Galway were powerful and dynamic and irresistible. The list of credible contenders for the All-Ireland is thinning out fast: after the other two duke it out in Pairc Ui Chaoimh this afternoon, Galway will probably be third seeds. In any case, they're in the thick of the argument.

This performance was every bit as comprehensive as the numbers suggest. On Wexford's best days under Davy Fitzgerald they have laid out the terms and forced their opponents to come up with solutions but they couldn't dictate anything to Galway last night. Wexford didn't have the edge in athleticism or power-plays or all-court threat, elements of the game they have groomed to their advantage over the last couple of years. Instead, they were blown away.

The 2019 championship seems so long ago now, but the Galway team that were run over by Dublin have waited 17 months for another day in court. The starting line-up has been rejigged by a new management, but the directness and aggression and capacity to shoot the lights out that

characterised Galway in 2017 and 2018 resurfaced here.

They led after just 20 seconds and never trailed; Wexford were level for less than three minutes altogether, all in the first quarter. Once Galway surged, and surged again, Wexford were left gasping in their wake.

On Galway's inside line Conor Whelan and Brian Concannon were sensational. For Concannon, last night was a significant breakthrough. A hugely talented underage player, he had knocked around the senior team for a couple of years without nailing down a place on the championship team.

For a long time he looked wiry and coltish but he has filled out his frame now, and last night Wexford couldn't lay a glove on him. He finished the game with 1-4 from play and his only wide was his last shot at the target, in the last minute of normal time, just before he was replaced. Before that, he had answered every question.

Alongside him Whelan was a terrific focal point for the Galway attack, repeatedly bursting onto the ball at pace and getting the better of his battle with Liam Ryan, one of the most formidable full backs in the game.

The other attackers took up deep positions as Galway played the numbers game in the middle third, as everybody must against Wexford. There were times in the first half when Wexford released their runners but it didn't amount to much. As the game wore on, Galway shut them down.

The only consistent threat in the Wexford attack was their co-captain, Lee Chin, who really carried the fight to Galway. If he wasn't fouled, he was getting shots off and was the only Wexford player that Galway failed to subdue. Rory O'Connor popped up for three points but Conor McDonald only had one shot in the entire match, a wide seven minutes into the second half. Wexford's attack is not teeming with shooters and they simply can't afford McDonald to be so ineffective.

In the middle third, Kevin Foley, Shaun Murphy and Diarmuid



O'Keefe are the players on whom Wexford's game hinges but the energy they bring was missing last night and Wexford couldn't do without it.

This match was a vivid expression of the modern game: like it or lump it. All positions were approximate and fluid. Before half-time Sean Loftus, wearing No2, and Fintan Burke, the No3, both scored from play for Galway; No4 Aidan Harte had a shot too. Once they would have constituted the full back line, but none of them was lost in attacking positions and nobody screamed at them to be somewhere else. Licence and opportunity are given to everyone now. So Loftus scored again in the second half.

Wexford's best goalscoring chance

of the first half fell to their centre back and co-captain, Matthew O'Hanlon, who made a storming support run out of defence, before ending up as the nearest Wexford player to the Galway goal; Eanna Murphy came out bravely and put his body in the path of O'Hanlon's shot. In the second half their first goal chance fell to Ryan, who was dragged down 20 metres out.

Galway led by 1-13 to 0-10 at the break, and it could have been more; Whelan scored a rocket of a goal but Colm Lyons blew his whistle a fraction early. Canning went for a goal from the resultant free but his shot was blocked on the line. Canning was quiet in open play and he looked tired at the end but his contribution from

dead balls was stunning as usual. Galway pulled ten points clear by the second-half water break and they were out of sight. The scores kept flowing but everything after that was just bookkeeping.

**Star man** Brian Concannon (Galway)  
**Galway** Murphy, Loftus 0-2, F Burke 0-1, Harte (Tuohy 67min), P Mannion 0-2, McInerney, S Cooney 0-1 (Brennan 74min), C Mannion 0-2, Coen 0-1, C Cooney (Linnane 64min), Canning 0-9, J Cooney 0-7 frees, 0-1 65, 0-1 sideline, Concannon 1-4 (Niland 69min), Whelan 0-4, Flynn 0-1 (N Burke 54min).  
**Wexford** Fanning 0-1 free, Donohoe, Ryan, J O'Connor, Foley 0-2, 0-1 65, O'Hanlon, Murphy, Foley 0-1, O'Keefe (Dunne 51min), Nolan 0-1 (Reck 58min), Chin 0-8, 0-5 frees, McGovern (J O'Connor 41min), R O'Connor 0-3, McDonald, Morris 0-1 (Dwyer 65 min).  
**Referee** Colm Lyons (Cork).

## Kilkenny hang on for Leinster final

**KILKENNY** 3-20

**DUBLIN** 2-22

**Shane Stapleton**  
Croke Park

It's not the first time Brian Cody has sighed in relief as a free from 100 yards didn't quite find the mark. Six years ago, John "Bubbles" O'Dwyer was cursing Hawk-Eye and an All-Ireland that slipped away from Tipperary, whereas this time Donal Burke mis-hit his effort as Kilkenny just got out alive.

The Cats were masterful for 43

minutes and ahead to the tune of 16 points, but needed a late winner from full back Huw Lawlor and a bit of grit to see off Dublin.

Take TJ Reid away from Kilkenny, and you begin to wonder what they have. At the elite level, that is. In the past a Cody team would have kept firing bullets into a carcass long after life had been extinguished. This team may not have that in them. They've now gone three seasons without a Leinster title and another 70 minutes like this will surely mean five in the absence of an All-Ireland.

Had Dublin begun the game with the team that ended it, not hit such mind-bending wides, and operated with a sweeper from the get-go, we could have had a different outcome.

Eamon Dillon (0-4) and Ronan

Hayes (1-0) changed the game after coming on, and the Dubs won the final 26 minutes plus injury time by 2-15 to 0-6. Reid may not have scored the winner, but everything that makes Kilkenny what they are just now surrounds this one man.

The superhuman manner in which the Ballyhale star plays means it can be fairly assumed that he won't age, will never retire, and his Kilkenny will terrorise Dublin permanently. Mattie Kenny would have planned his defensive match-ups carefully but for 40 minutes he had too many fires to put out, and not enough firemen.

James Madden is an excellent player and gave a fine account of himself for Ballyboden St Endas in the county final against Cuala's Con O'Callaghan, but Reid was a bridge

too far. As he is for so many. The interchanging of the Kilkenny forwards meant Eoghan O'Donnell was dragged away from minding the square, and Dublin's fish were left flopping. Billy Ryan scored 1-1, Walter Walsh was scoring and making plays, and the Kilkenny defence was in little bother. There is always a conundrum when facing Reid, as Borris-Ileigh found in this year's All Ireland club final when forgoing Brendan Maher's attacking game to focus on Reid.

O'Donnell was the man for the job, as he proved to be in the 2018 Leinster championship when Dublin narrowly lost to Kilkenny, and did so once more last night after Kenny accepted that Conor Burke needed to operate as a "plus one" at the back. Before all of that, the issue for the

**Delaney had 0-1 from corner back**





BRYAN KEANE

Wexford's Liam Og McGovern tackles Shane Cooney of Galway at Croke Park

## CLARE BEAT DUBLIN TO REACH QUARTER-FINALS

Clare secured a quarter-final berth in this year's All-Ireland senior camogie championship at Dublin's expense as they prevailed by 11 points, 1-18 to 1-7.

Both teams both had a chance to make the knockout stages. Dublin had edged 0-6 to 0-4 in front by half-time but a strong third-quarter from Clare settled the contest. Player of the match Niamh O'Dea led the way with a dominant display at centre back as Clare struck the decisive blow after 38 minutes,

Mairead Scanlan getting the goal that put Clare eight points ahead.

Cork overcame Wexford by 3-12 to 1-8 after two late goals. Amy Connor found the net in the opening half as she struck 1-2 in the first 30 minutes, with Orla Cronin's five frees contributing to a 1-8 to 0-6 half-time lead. Wexford got a goal in the early stages of the second half but a second O'Connor goal sealed the win and sets up a top of the table clash with Galway next weekend.

Dubs was that they didn't look like scoring even when they had a full complement of forwards. While each Kilkenny forward had scored from play before the interval to the tune of 3-7, Dublin's amassed just 0-3.

Davy Keogh is a great worker but isn't a killer. Liam Rushe and Chris Crummey are backs, and the latter's athleticism was missed in defence. Not starting with a sweeper was a mistake, and so was starting forwards who aren't a consistent threat.

Kenny is a manager who will do a rigorous post-mortem and is unlikely to make the same mistakes again. Dublin will agonise over this defeat. They finally pulled level as Dillon, Burke and Daire Gray raised white flags until they ultimately suffered from white-line fever.

Cody's side are used to edging the Dubs, with the 2018 encounter fresh in the mind, and so it was again via Alan Murphy and then Lawlor points. Maybe Kilkenny needed to blow out some dirty petrol after eight months out, and they are only getting going. Or maybe the aura is gone.

**Star man:** TJ Reid (Kilkenny)  
**Kilkenny:** E Murphy; Delaney (0-1), Lawlor (0-1), Wallace; P Walsh, Deegan, R Reid (Leahy 69min); Buckley (Holden blood 60-ft), Fogarty (Browne 64min); Donnelly (0-2) (A Murphy 64min (0-1)), TJ Reid (1-10, 0-6f), W Walsh (0-2); Ryan (1-1) (Hogan 51 min), Fennelly (1-1), Cody (0-1) (Keogh 60min).  
**Dublin:** Nolan; Smyth, O'Donnell, Madden; C Burke, Gray (0-2), O'Callaghan (Malone temp 26-28min); Moran (Malone 50min), McBride (Whitely 70min); Boland (0-2) (Schutte 59min), Crummey (1-1), Sutcliffe (0-1); D Burke (0-12, 0-10f), Keogh (Dillon h-t (0-4)), Rushe (Hayes (1-0)).  
**Referee:** J Murphy (Limerick).

# Spirited performance opens up the season for Waterford

**CORK** 1-24  
**WATERFORD** 1-28

## Michael Foley

The silence in Thurles yesterday at the end of the game as the evening grew dark was punctuated by the sound of joy. Total joy. Four years since their last victory in Munster, marked by terrible defeats, cruel misfortune and the deepest, most soul-searching questions, Waterford drew lines through all that to reinvent themselves and their ambitions for the year.

It was a performance marked by the spirit and character of a handful of marquee players who needed to deliver yesterday. Their leaders were the ones they wanted to see: Tadhg De Burca, Jamie Barron, Austin Gleeson. Calum Lyons wrecked Cork with his speed and accuracy along the flank, Stephen Bennett's free taking was immaculate and Dessie Hutchinson wore his way into the game in an effective way, knocking over three nicely timed points.

Waterford's play was sometimes ragged and incomplete, but they were also direct and forceful where Cork were ponderous. Any time Cork tried to light a fire underneath themselves, Waterford were on hand with a bucket of sand to quench the sparks. They'll need a couple more gears to get anywhere near Limerick or Tipperary next time. This is their chance to see if they have them.

For Cork, the impact of the outcome will go far deeper than the scoreline. Although they held Waterford within sight all game, they never seriously looked like passing them out. The attacking adventure that yielded 11 goals before the league was stopped in the spring hinted Cork might bring a goal threat to the championship that no other team was seriously exploiting.

Instead, they deconstructed their forward line to handle Waterford out the field and relied on the usual key players to keep them going in attack. They lost too many battles everywhere for that tactic to stand any chance.

When they did funnel ball to attack, Cork prodded around the fringes. Some players disappeared. Others stood their ground and kept Cork in the game. Apart from Shane Kingston and Patrick Horgan, the rest of the forward line were withdrawn having contributed four points from play. What had been Cork's strength had somehow become their weakness. From that state of crisis, there was no way back.

The first half pretty well captured what happens when everything balanced on a knife edge in this championship falls the wrong way. Both teams looked undernourished from a lack of games since last March, their touch rusty and the amount of space and time granted to any player on the ball frequently alarming.

The greatest curse of hurling's overinflated scoring rate also



Hutchinson, right, was impressive for Waterford and scored three points

damaged the game. By half time both teams had compiled 23 wides between them – 11 for Cork, a dozen for Waterford. The issues for Cork were deep-rooted and difficult to solve quickly. Their half-forward line couldn't lay a finger on the Waterford half-back line. Their defence coughed up too many frees and nearly all their anchor players were either out of sorts or getting beaten up a stick.

Waterford should have had Cork under more pressure by half-time, but the tide of the game was still with them. De Burca and Lyons were completely dominant in defence and Jamie Barron was controlling the pulse around the middle. Stephen Bennett was hitting all his frees and Hutchinson had shown the occasional flash of menace.

His second point had Waterford four ahead before half-time. A late score from Kingston pulled Cork back within a goal, 0-15 to 0-12. They had at least done well to hold their ground while suffering through such a poor performance, but it all seemed very brittle.

The ground appeared to fall away entirely beneath them inside a few minutes of the second half, Calum Lyons haring through the Cork defence, borrowing a few steps before hitting a drop shot past Anthony Nash to the net. Two more

points on the spin from Jack Prendergast and Bennett, and Waterford were eight in front, 1-19 to 0-14, sprung like a cyclist from the pack and sprinting up the road.

Cork commenced to reel them in but Waterford always had the legs to pull away again. Horgan did rocket in a goal from 20-odd yards late on to pull Cork back within a goal but Waterford's reaction bottled their entire performance: direct transfer upfield and a smart point from Patrick Curran. Four ahead was all they needed.

Cork have one last chance next weekend. Waterford turn their faces to the Munster final in a fortnight and a far more forbidding opponent. Last night represented much for them. Now to see if they have any more.

**Star Man:** Tadhg De Burca (Waterford)  
**Waterford:** O'Keeffe; Fives, Prunty, McNulty (0-1); Lyons (1-2), De Burca, Gleeson (0-3) (Curran (0-1) 68mins); Barron (0-3), Dillon; Moran (0-1), Fagan (Montgomery 60mins), K Bennett (0-1) (Power 54mins); Hutchinson (0-3), S Bennett (0-12f), Prendergast (0-1)

**Cork:** Nash; Cahalane, O'Leary-Hayes, O'Donoghue; Joyce (0-1), Downey, Coleman (0-2, 1s/1); Cooper (0-2), O'Mahony; Harnedy (0-3) (Turnbull 70mins), Lehaney (0-2) (Dalton (0-1) 53mins), Connery (O'Connor 40mins); Cadogan (0-1) (Meade 56mins), Kingston (0-4), Horgan (1-8, 1-3f)

**Referee:** S Stack (Dublin)

## NO DEISE DOUBLE AS LIMERICK EASE TO WIN

The Waterford footballers couldn't make it a double for the county in the Munster SFC last night, falling short against Limerick.

A 2-14 to 0-9 victory sends Limerick into a Munster semi-final next weekend against Tipperary or Clare in a game that didn't stretch them unduly. An impressive first-half performance set them up, reflecting the gap between the team that topped division four and Waterford who finished seventh.

A Cillian Fahy goal inside the first six minutes followed by a brace of points got Limerick 1-4 to 0-1 ahead

before Waterford had even settled. Another goal after 17 minutes from Adrian Enright, with Iain Corbett at the heart of the build-up, put them nine points ahead. Two late scores from Darragh Corcoran and Jason Curry cut the deficit to seven, 2-5 to 0-4, but the game was done.

It took Waterford 20 minutes to get their first score in the second half as Limerick had added four points in the meantime. Waterford did convert some scores when Limerick eased off but the damage was inflicted by then and puts Limerick in sight of a Munster final.

DENIS WALSH



James Ryan, the former Limerick centre fielder, mentions the action shot of Dan Morrissey from last Sunday that floated into his phone. In Ray McManus's photograph the Limerick defender is staring at the ball and is about to crash through a Clare hurley, held across his chest, lightly, like a majorette's baton. None of that caught Ryan's eye. "Did you see his arms?" he says.

Jim Quilty hadn't seen the photograph, but from years of working alongside John Kiely on Limerick teams, he knew the picture. "He is the strongest man I've ever seen in hurling," he says. "I don't know what his body fat is, but its elite athlete standard. When he's in his ordinary clothes he looks a normal size, but there's none of him that's not power. You can see it when he wins a ball, he just glides past fellas. That guy, he's got an eight-pack."

In this group, Morrissey is first among equals. For the last three seasons Limerick have been the most powerful team in the game, with all the athleticism and explosiveness that entails. For the business of winning hurling matches it would be worthless without their technical proficiency and their tactical smartness, but it is the frame that holds the painting.

How did they get here? Part nature, part nurture. By a happy accident, a generation of the best hurlers in Limerick happened to be everyday giants. A dozen of their starting 15 last Sunday were at least 6 feet tall; seven of them were 6 ft 2in, or taller. Turning them into imposing specimens, though, was a long, conscious process that started in their teens. None of this happened overnight, or by chance.

Ryan was the Limerick captain in 2017, his last season as a player and Kiely's first as manager. The team had been in transition for a while, apparently lost. Nobody marvelled at their size. "I remember around 2014, 2015, 2016, we started saying, 'Wexford are huge,'" says Ryan. "We were in Division Two [of the league] at the time. Then we were saying, 'Antrim are

huge.' Then we started realising, 'They're not all huge, we just happened to be small.' We just weren't big men. I was only 5'10" myself and I was one of the biggest fellas there.

"Sometimes you can't beat natural size. When you have that you can put the strength and conditioning programmes onto it. But you can't turn into Dan Morrissey or Sean Finn in two years. It started for them in the development squads when they were 13 or 14. There was a lad Andy Murphy with them, and they were doing a lot of body weight exercises and stuff with medicine balls and light weights. It all started from that and kept going. Consistency was the important part."

Quilty was a selector when Limerick won the senior All-Ireland in 2018, and he was part of Kiely's management team when they won the Under-21 All-Ireland three years earlier. There was an enormous overlap between one group and the other and, as a management team, the style of play they devised was influenced by the material at their disposal: they turned power plays into a competitive advantage.

"When you have good physical specimens, your game won't revolve around it, but it will be a big factor in it," he says. "If you had gazelles and didn't have these large fellas, you'd probably play a more open brand of hurling. It's a big factor in the game plan. Like, the three in the half-forward line are probably three of the best athletes in the country. Their ability to get up and down the field and squeeze the middle is a massive element in Limerick's play. Turnovers would be a massive factor too. When they play well there's a serious amount of turnovers."

According to Brian McDonnell's staggeringly detailed analysis of last year's championship on his website, [sixtwofourtwo.com](http://sixtwofourtwo.com), Limerick created more shots from turnovers than any other team. On the other side of the ball, being able to protect possession in the hand-to-hand combat of the middle third is where Limerick's power becomes a shield.

"You don't see the big hits any more, like years ago when you'd square a fella up in a tackle," Quilty says. "Now, you might have two or three elements of pressure in a tackle and you have to be able to maintain your dynamism. When you're on the

Barry Nash and a bulked up Limerick in action against Tipperary



Hurling is fast becoming a sport ruled by giants, and the strength and conditioning revolution is gathering pace at every level

# BIG IS BEAUTIFUL IN LIMERICK

## Ball puts hurling in grip of a climate change

Denis Walsh

After the scoring storm blew through, shortly before dark on Sunday, people started looking for explanations, other than the obvious. In other sports, scoring had spiked too: before last weekend, 17 of the 20 Premier League clubs had out-performed their expected-goals tally; in American Football average scoring was up by 16 per cent in the NFL during early weeks of the season. In the pandemic, all trends are global.

One suggestion was that the absence of crowds had reduced the anxiety of players, like beta blockers used to do in snooker years ago. Local reasons were offered too: the hurling had been a little loose and passionless. The kind of tackling that characterises the championship had been missing so shooters suffered fewer interruptions.

The numbers were outlandish: the 59 points scored in Thurles was 16 points above the average for the last two seasons; in Croke Park, that average had been exceeded by 12 points. But if those tallies are dismissed as a freak, the surging trends of the last half a dozen seasons cannot simply be wished away.

What we're talking about here is the difference between day-to-day weather and climate; in terms of scoring rates, hurling is in the grip of climate change. Year after year new thresholds have been crossed: 2016 was the first 1,000 point championship, followed immediately by the first 1,100 point championship and the first 1,200 point championship.

In 2017 Galway scored 33 points in a championship match, an all-time record that stood for a fortnight, until Waterford scored 35 points. Both of those milestones

were achieved against an Offaly team in free fall; last Sunday Limerick scored 36 points against a team from their peer group.

In 2017, Cork and Tipperary shared 53 points, a new all-time high that was matched by Cork and Limerick when they drew in the 2018 Munster championship, and was exceeded by a point when the same teams drew in the All-Ireland semi-final later that summer. Both All-Ireland semi-finals went to extra-time that year, with a staggering 214 shots at the target in 201 minutes of play. Last Sunday, Limerick and Clare generated 81 shots in a little less than 80 minutes. Rat-a-tat-tat.

How hurling reached this state and where it goes next is not straightforward. The pat answer is that the ball is travelling too far and, for sure, that is part of the problem. But the physical conditioning of the players has also

changed beyond recognition over the last 20 years; unlike professional golfers, hurlers didn't take to the gym looking for greater distance in their striking, but it was a by-product of that physical empowerment.

Strategy is another active ingredient in all this. Space is being systematically reduced in certain areas of the pitch and increased elsewhere, and teams have become incredibly resourceful at extricating the ball from entanglements and transferring it to find a shooter in space. Nobody is afraid to shoot from distance now; often, it is part of the overall strategy. Last Saturday night, Laois posed no threat close to Dublin's goal and yet ended up with 23 points.

The bas size is another factor. Again, just like in golf, where big-headed drivers contributed to the revolution in driving distance, a

LASZLO GECZO



### RISE OF THE HURLING MEN MACHINES

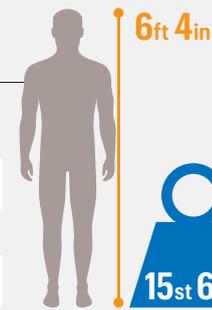
#### Kilkenny 2015

Avg height Avg weight Biggest player  
**6ft 0in** **13st 8lbs** **Walter Walsh**

Number of players six feet or taller



Number of players 13 stone or heavier



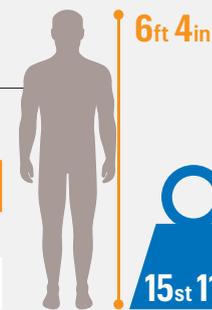
#### Galway 2017

Avg height Avg weight Biggest player  
**6ft 1in** **13st 11lbs** **Jonathan Glynn**

Number of players six feet or taller



Number of players 13 stone or heavier



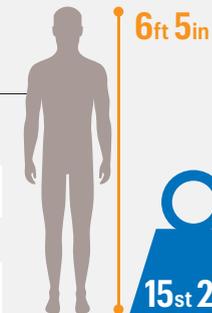
#### Limerick 2018

Avg height Avg weight Biggest player  
**6ft 1in** **13st 4lbs** **Gearoid Hegarty**

Number of players six feet or taller



Number of players 13 stone or heavier



Source: GAA All-Ireland final programmes

**'We started to realise 'They're not all huge, we just happened to be small.' We just weren't big men. At only 5' 10", I was one of the biggest'**

easy, making him athletic isn't as easy a task. Football went through a phase where players were too big, and they put too much emphasis on size. Hurling has learned from that.

"This is about movement too. It's like driving a car with the hand brake on. You need to show him how to take the hand brake off first before you give him torque behind the engine."

It is a contested space now. When Tipperary won the All-Ireland in 2016, steamrolling Kilkenny in the final, the Tipp players lauded the influence of Lukasz Kirszenstein, their Polish strength and conditioning coach. Galway already had a huge team but they needed more explosiveness, so they poached Kirszenstein; within a year the Pole was an All-Ireland winner again.

When Liam Sheedy returned as Tipperary manager he knew that they had fallen behind in that sphere, so he head-hunted Cairbre O'Caireallain. He committed himself solely to Tipp and set up home in the Ragg, near Thurles, which meant that he was available for one-on-one sessions with players during the day. The financial outlay must have been significant but that was a price Tipp were prepared to pay.

When Sheedy made that call, the team he had in mind was Limerick.



**ON TV TODAY**  
**Munster SHC semi-final**  
**Tipperary v Limerick**  
 4pm, live RTE2

ball and when you're breaking a tackle and when you're being swarmed by a couple of players, the ability to not turn over the ball is a big factor."

For some of them, though, getting bigger was a struggle. Quilty reckons that the player whose body shape underwent the greatest change was probably Aaron Gillane. In 2017, he played just 13 minutes in Limerick's two championship matches and nobody would have been puzzled by his exclusion. At the end of that year Kiely committed his players to an eight-week programme in St Francis Boxing Club, with a fight night to finish.

"One that caught me by surprise

was Aaron Gillane," Ken Moore, the head coach in the club, says.

"He looks a little bit like a choir boy and I was wondering, 'Jesus, who are we going to put him in the ring with?' After the first spar, my questions were answered. He's a live-wire." Gillane had broad shoulders, an unfurnished frame and educated hands. To make it with Limerick, though, he needed to be a different beast.

"He started the process individually with Ross Corbett [strength and conditioning coach with the Limerick Under-21s] and Aaron really committed himself to that process," Quilty says. "He was a half-forward at the time and he wasn't able to handle breaking tackles as well as he should

have been. The change in him didn't happen in 12 months, it would have happened in the space of 36 months.

"You're not looking for beach boy [physiques] either. You're looking for fellas who are athletic. If anything he's got faster but he's certainly more powerful. When he's on the ball now his ability to break the tackle or get away from a marker is pretty phenomenal."

Hurling has been going in this direction for more than a decade. Kilkenny's four-in-a-row team was full of brilliant hurlers, but they often overwhelmed teams too with towering tackle counts and paralysing power. "Kilkenny say, 'Sure all we do is go out and hurl,'" Joe O'Connor says. "They have a very scientific approach

to what they're doing, and I wouldn't buy for a second that they don't."

O'Connor was Limerick's strength and conditioning coach when they won the All-Ireland in 2018, having performed the same role for Clare when they won the title in 2013, and for Waterford when they won the 2010 Munster championship. What he has witnessed in that time has been a fundamental change in attitudes: the scepticism that he would have encountered ten years ago has dissolved.

"Athleticism isn't just about size, and I think sometimes people criticise strength and conditioning, and throw everything under that umbrella," he says. "Bulking a fella up is relatively

bigger bas on the hurley creates, not just more weight, but a bigger sweet spot for striking. According to the GAA's official guide, a bas can only be 13cm at its widest point, but that regulation is unpoliced and routinely flouted. But, in this conversation, everything circles back to the ball. Led by Pat Daly in Croke Park, the pain-staking standardization of the sliotar has been one of the GAA's great achievements of the last 20 years.

Over many years of testing, they produced a ball that behaved consistently and was more forgiving. Nobody lamented the old thick-rimmed sliotars that were murder to catch and could send vibrations up your hurley if you hit it in the wrong place.

The research that was done in DCU, and in the commercial sector, led by Green Field Digital Sports Technologies (GFDST), means that they understand the ball now and

### WHOLE NEW BALL GAME AVERAGE SCORES GOING UP IN HURLING

Clare's Tony Kelly had 17 points against Limerick but still lost



#### AVERAGE POINTS PER GAME

1994	27
2004	29
2016	37
2017	40
2018	43
2019	43

#### 2010

Average winning score	2-20
Average losing score	1-15

#### 2019

Average winning score	2-25
Average losing score	1-19

#### POINTS IN A CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON

2016	1,043
(28 games)*	
2017	1,122
(28 games)	
2018	1,281
(30 games)	
2019	1,242
(29 games)	

\*First 1,000 point season in the history of the championship

its behaviours. They also know how those behaviours can be changed. The polyurethane core's bounciness, for example, is a key influencing factor in how far the ball flies. GFDST have worked with an industrial university in Aachen, Germany who have established that, by altering the polyurethane core's composition, the bounciness can be reduced.

According to the official guide, a sliotar cannot weigh less than 110 grams or more than 120; most balls produced now are close to the minimum weight. But according to Siobhan Matthews, a chemical and mechanical engineer with GFDST, there is as much as an 8 per cent difference in potential distance between the lightest ball and the heaviest ball in the GAA's approved spectrum.

That's the difference between an 80-metre free clearing the crossbar or landing in the square. Players

clearly prefer balls that are almost round and sliotar producers have been sensitive to that preference.

"That's affecting the drag through the air," Matthews says. "and the resistance in the air. If the rims are going lower and lower, the ball is going to go further."

What kind of game do we want? In the current frenzy of shooting, great scores are being washed away in the flood, hardly noticed or acknowledged. Last Sunday, there were 31 shots at the target within 25 seconds of a goalkeeper's clearance. It's like the stand-up acts that used to populate the cabaret circuit: every second line was a punchline.

Because of the work they have done over many years, and because of their understanding of the science, the GAA can shave five or ten yards off the typical flight of a long distance strike. For a start, that must be done.

MICHAEL  
FOLEY

**T**welve years ago when Michael Murphy was finishing up secondary school, already playing for Donegal and acclaimed as a genius footballing man-child, he was also playing golf. Even after 2011 when the entire team was inducted and locked into Jim McGuinness's life-changing programme for success, he never stopped. It was always himself and Neil Gallagher touring the courses dotted across Donegal, zipping between the dunes. In those antic years when every day was packed with talk and thoughts and hours of football, they always made space and time.

"Two of us on a summer's evening at six o'clock was the standard, we'd play nine or 18 holes. We look back now and say how in utter God did we even do that? How did we manage? But that was done for three or four years. Potentially sometimes on a Sunday too after training. You're out on that third hole, you're away from everything eventually."

Golf was an escape and an extension of his sporting obsession. In 2014, with Paul McGinley as Ryder Cup captain and his father Mick a committed Donegal supporter, Murphy scored tickets for the weekend. Three days after losing the All-Ireland final to Kerry he was walking the fairways at Gleneagles, half-dazed.

"Wednesday morning we headed early. Before we knew it, we were stuck over in Gleneagles. We actually got in behind the ropes. We went around with a four ball with McIlroy and we were literally ten metres away from him. In the middle of a Ryder Cup. People in the crowd were probably saying 'who are these, owl' red jackets on them, stuck in behind these boys?"

He watched the golfers in wonder, like a master painter studying master sculptors, sportspeople united by different strains of brilliance. He listened for the pristine slice through the air off the tee shot. He eavesdropped on the conversations between caddie and golfer about dropping a ball at a certain point on a certain ridge of the green to feed down the hole, when every mortal being around him would simply hope to get the ball in the same parish as the flag. "To see these boys striking a ball, it will absolutely stay

# MURPHY MAKES THE MOST OF A FRESH START

**A mental refresh and a scholarly interest in sports psychology have revived Donegal's greatest player**

with me forever. In terms of seeing poetry, it was unreal."

A week later McGuinness was gone. Everything Murphy believed in was suddenly in doubt. In three years McGuinness had upturned all that was true about Donegal and created a different reality based on total commitment, almost at the expense of all else. McGuinness had made flesh the creed Murphy absolutely believed in. No quarter. No excuse.

"You'd experienced how the ultimate was won. In my eyes there's five or six non-negotiables you need to do: training hard and commitment every single night. No down nights. That was an expectation I'd always have, but maybe that's not humanly possible for every single player to do."

Making that peace with himself took years. After McGuinness left, a succession of load-bearing players followed him. Rory Gallagher refitted the panel with talented young players due to blossom in a few years. Murphy was willing them to grow up too long before their time. He got cranky with players and managers. With himself.

"There probably was a dawning moment at the end of Rory and the start with Declan [Bonner] where I said it wasn't them, it was me. I needed to try and adjust here: understanding their point of view.

"I was probably a bit too serious around it. I had to try and have a little more fun and craic outside of football rather than being too intense. I found a better level for myself too. I was probably too serious preparation wise coming into games. I've learned to tune down a wee bit."

Around the same time, Murphy was coaching Letterkenny IT and pulling back the veil for himself on sports psychology. For years he had wondered if the whole caper resided in the category of head-shrinkers and spoof. Testing that impression drew him in.

"The psychological aspect was something I didn't have a scooby doo about. I had this preconception of what sports psychology is: basically a shrink changing your whole way of going about things. But having done the course to understand it in a more in-depth way, the more I've gone



## Galligan free edges Cavan through in local thriller

**MONAGHAN 1-17**

**CAVAN 2-15**

**Declan Bogue**  
Clones

With all the arm-wrestling and score-settling almost up after 110 minutes of an exhausting Ulster Championship derby, it was left to Cavan goalkeeper Raymond Galligan to belt over a free from 55 metres to leave Monaghan the first side suffering the rough end of a straight knockout format.

It looked as if Cavan had exhausted all reserves of energy in clawing back six unanswered points in the last 13

minutes of normal time to force extra time, benefitting also from a missed Conor McManus free in the final play of regulation time. But this is winter football, as the beaming Cavan manager Mickey Graham enjoyed pointing out, after beating Monaghan for the second successive year.

"You are going to get mistakes and things are not going to go for you all the time," he said. "Conditions mean ball handling can be hard. But what a start to the championship! What a pity nobody was here to enjoy it."

And for Galligan's free at the end?

"Look, it was a serious pressure kick with no big crowd in the stadium to put more pressure on. And that's what you expect of your captain, to stand up and take control and that's

what he did with a massive kick." Seamus McEnaney, the Monaghan manager, looked in a world of pain.

"Gut-wrenching for us. We prepared for penalties but we didn't get the opportunity," he said.

The new abnormal threw up much to be discussed in time, but perhaps this was the first time opposing goalkeepers kicked two successive scores, Rory Beggan hammering over a free just before Galligan that looked enough to produce the first intercounty championship games to be settled with penalties. Before the game, caution was urged by those who observe these matters closely. In the last 11 Championship games dating back to 1987, the average margin between the two was just

over two points, Cavan winning four, Monaghan six and one draw. For all the talk of Cavan having a decimated panel, from last year's team that starter the Ulster final against Donegal they were only missing Conor Moynagh, Conor Rehill and Dara McVeety, with Niall Murray on the bench and Conor Brady injured while Cian Mackey has retired.

Cavan opened the brighter, an opening point from Gearoid McKiernan followed by one from James Smith. Oisín Pierson found a sliver of space open on Beggan's net to hit the first goal. Monaghan already had a goal chance when Stephen O'Hanlon was denied by Galligan, and O'Hanlon had another go at it on 13 minutes and was denied

**'I was probably a bit too serious around it. I had to try and have a little more fun rather than being too intense'**

through it myself, that more holistic view of the picture – to look at the person – is really what I got out of it.

"When the person is happy, you're going to get a better player, I believe. We're pushing for more percentages out of the player, but I'm looking at the person: how are they getting on in that course? How are they doing at work? When the person isn't happy you generally get an injured player pretty quickly."

As part of a masters dissertation on attitudes towards sports psychology he surveyed male and female players across hurling, camogie and football. The responses added up to a strong acceptance of its importance. Coaching the student footballers got him thinking about the gap he had felt with Donegal between them and him.

"It opened up my eyes insofar as dealing with this group and potentially why they're missing training and what their lifestyle was. Things are more rational. Travel and education are high up the pecking order. Their social connection in terms of friends is really high up. For me it was football and everything else is fitting in around it. They probably have a healthier outlook on life as a whole.

"I definitely feel like I'm dialled down a little bit more. I used to go towards training and games really pent up, bordering on nerves. I had to have every 'i' dotted and 't' crossed, and [the same for] everybody around me. I expected and demanded that, then freaked out when it didn't happen. I've become a lot more accepting in what I can control and what I can't. Just generally trying to use hours in the week better to do something slightly different. Do things that help you as a person."

He tries to visit the beach and walk the dog. He likes to watch Liverpool and enjoys the weekly operas of Jürgen Klopp. Golf is there, too. "It revolves quite a lot around sport," he says.

But it all feels different. This year amplified again the precious nature of the things he loves. As a child he visited Donegal dressing rooms so often seeking autographs, players eventually collected his book at the

## TODAY'S OTHER SFC GAMES

### ULSTER Q/F

Derry v Armagh  
4pm, live BBC2NI

### LEINSTER ROUND ONE

Louth v Longford; Offaly v Carlow; Wexford v Wicklow  
(all 1.30pm, live GAAGO)

### MUNSTER Q/F

Tipperary v Clare  
1pm, live GAAGO

### CONNACHT Q/F

Leitrim v Mayo  
RTE News Now

door and passed it round for signing. Kicking a ball and getting lost in the joy of his craft was his normal. Taking that simple pleasure away this year nearly broke him. "Grappling with that was wild difficult because there are pitches completely vacant in the outdoors. At no hour could I go up there alone and kick. You're out the back of the house kicking, which was a nice experience – you're able to relive some of the memories of childhood. But after a week or two you're craving the bigger goals and nets and wrestling with the idea there's nobody up there. Can you go? But knowing everybody seems to be adhering to this, I couldn't be seen to be up there. It wouldn't be a pretty headline."

He misses the chats at training with players about something and nothing, conducted now on the phone from the cocoon of his car. Training has felt different, but the work gets done. Meeting Tyrone today would normally feel like two continental plates in collision, reverberating through the championship beyond Ulster. It's maybe the only certain thing he can trust all year.

"When that ball is thrown in, the experience of the crowds not being there is definitely going to be different, but the game is going to be the game. It's going to have a championship feeling. Even more so because it's going to be do-or-die, which is what I believe championship should be."

A complicated year finally made simple.

## ON TV TODAY

Donegal v Tyrone  
1pm, RTE2, Throw-in 1.30pm

# Basic expenses a no-brainer for female elite

Michael Foley

When laying out for public consumption last week the inequities experienced by elite female inter-county players around the most basic expenses, gaining maximum impact really just required the Women's GPA to shift out of the way and let the figures do the talking.

Every number revealed a different picture: 93 per cent of players didn't receive any travel expenses; 77 per cent of players paid for their own physiotherapy; 69 per cent paid their own gym fees; 55 per cent paid for medical treatments related to their sport. Players were now spending an average of 26 hours a week training and playing at inter-county level. Maybe most jarring of all, 53 per cent of players surveyed had been content to bear that financial burden.

An issue like the lack of travel expenses for female inter-county players was one of many hiding in plain sight for decades. When the WGPA was founded in 2015, a survey at the time showed 23 per cent of inter-county players didn't even have access to hot showers. Sorting expenses took its place at the end of a long queue.

Last week's Levelling the Field report was the biggest survey undertaken by the WGPA since then, the results distilled from 534 responses. Why now? Covid-19, for a start. Players being obliged to travel by themselves to training sessions and matches has severely increased the travel commitments for a huge number of players. The sharp rise in time spent preparing to play was also starting to pinch. "The guidelines really brought it into focus," Maria Kinsella, the WGPA chairperson, says. "Then there's been a general social change. This type of inequality is no longer tolerated by society."

Despite the shock expressed at Cork's Aoife Murray, above, reckoning last week that her travel between Dublin and Cork to train and play camogie over 18 years amounted to €50,000, that kind of figure will apply to a significant number of players across the country. "Some

people think a figure like that is clickbait," Kinsella says. "It's not. Aoife can absolutely stand over her calculations. There's probably a lot of players figuring out the cost to them now. A lot of people were shocked and appalled by that."

Solutions? Supporters' clubs have provided limited funds to some teams down the years, but the easiest fix is an increase to government funding for women's gaelic games – currently the GPA receive €3 million in grant aid, the WGPA receive €700,000. Where the GPA grants are distributed individually, the WGPA grant is shared out among teams, reflecting the initial need to simply improve all sorts of basic standards of player welfare across the board.

"We're very aware neither (the LGFA or the Camogie Association) has the financial backing to do this," Kinsella says. "If you take their revenues collectively, it amounts to around €7 million. Compare that to the GAA, they're €70 million. I understand that argument but I still don't accept there's no solution to this. It's going to require co-operation on different sides of the table. But we need to start this conversation, so why not now?"

The solution ultimately begins with the players appreciating fully their worth. One figure in the report detailed how three players out of five received no payment for promotional and marketing events. That alone captures the change players must first make in their own minds.

"It's partly an outdated mindset," Kinsella says, "that it's an honour to be asked to do these things. We need to get over being awkward about asking for remuneration. We've had successes recently with corporate partners looking for male and female ambassadors and both receiving the same fee. The corporates nearly expect that now. Sometimes it just comes down to asking."

Twenty years ago this was the petty stuff that got male players threatening strike to get heard. It surely won't come to that this time. Right?



The 31-year-old Murphy made his Donegal debut back in 2007 and is now the county's all-time record scorer and top goalscorer

again by Galligan. Five consecutive Monaghan points put them in front with Galligan again denying the home side, this time from Karl O'Connell. They hit another four unanswered points. When Conor McManus slotted home a goal in first-half injury time, Fintan Kelly added a point to leave them 1-11 to 1-4 in front at the break.

Weather conditions deteriorated in the second half but Cavan found their range with the wind with points from Oisín Kiernan, Thomas Galligan and Fortune. Cavan reeled off six consecutive points while McManus most uncharacteristically put a simple free wide. Monaghan nudged ahead by two by the break of extra time, but a Martin Reilly goal, palmed in after unselfish play by Thomas

Cavan's Gearoid McKiernan, right, and Pdraig Faulkner celebrate



Galligan, set up a thrilling finale. In the end, it boiled down to Galligan, and he nailed his free.

Star man: Raymond Galligan (Cavan)  
Monaghan: Beggan 0-1f; Duffy 0-2, Boyle, R Wylie; Ward 0-1, Kelly 0-1, (Woods, 78min, 0-1), O'Connell (McCarthy, 86); D Hughes, K Hughes (McGuinness, 73); McAnespie 0-1, Bannigan 0-2, (Walsh, 71, 0-1), D Wylie (Malone, 29); O'Hanlon 0-1, (Kearns, 65), McCarthy 0-1, (Carey, 60, 0-1), McManus 1-4  
Cavan: Galligan 0-1f; McLoughlin (Timoney, 90), Clarke, K Brady (Graham, 60); G Smith 0-1, C Brady (Conroy, 54, 0-1, 45m), Fortune 0-2; J Smith 0-1 (T Galligan, h-t, 0-1), Faulkner; Reilly 1-1, McKiernan 0-3, Kiernan 0-1; Pierson 1-0, (Murray, 42m, 0-1mark — rep by Doughty, 70), S Smith 0-2 (O Brady, 80), O'Reilly (Donoghue, 45)  
Referee: C Branagan (Down).

## AHERNE GOAL KEEPS DUBS ON COURSE

A freakish goal from Sinead Aherne 13 minutes from the end helped Dublin survive a comeback from Donegal in yesterday's Group 1 game in the All-Ireland football championship.

Aherne's shot for a point hit the right post before somehow bouncing into the far corner of the net, giving Dublin a crucial four point lead. An early goal from Noelle

Healy had put the All-Ireland champions in the driving seat but two goals from Nicole Gordon and Geraldine McLaughlin kept Donegal in the game. A late rally almost got them within reach of victory, but Dublin hung on to win 2-13 to 2-10.

A first-half goal from Lucy Hannon also proved crucial as Galway held out despite an

outstanding display from Aishling Moloney to edge Tipperary in their Group 2 game by 1-15 to 1-14.

Moloney's tally of 1-10 almost pulled Tipp to victory, but Galway held tough late on, a brilliant defensive turnover by Sinead Burke securing the win and leaving Galway in pole position to make it through to the All-Ireland semi-finals.

# Liverpool rescued by Jota again

<b>LIVERPOOL</b> Salah 42 (pen), Jota 85	<b>2</b>
<b>WEST HAM UNITED</b> Fornals 10	<b>1</b>

**Jonathan Northcroft**  
Football Correspondent

Jürgen Klopp is one of the strongest campaigners for the Premier League to change its rules and allow teams five substitutions – but he only needed two to change this game. It was a tight one, and for Liverpool a grindingly difficult one, with West Ham United frustrating them thanks to commitment and a superbly organised defence. Making things harder was Klopp's injury list and Roberto Firmino's continuing trough.

It was 1-1. A soft – but technically correct – penalty, won and converted by Mohamed Salah, had brought Liverpool level after Pablo Fornals gave West Ham an early lead in an excellent break. Twenty minutes remained and Klopp summoned Xherdan Shaqiri and Diogo Jota from his bench, replacing Curtis Jones and Firmino.

Their impact was quick. Shaqiri brought with him fresh and impish midfield ideas and Jota brought pace, penetration and the hunger of a young footballer determined to become one of the game's major stars – and, judging by the way he keeps delivering since his move to Liverpool, he will be.

For West Ham's aching legs and tired minds this influx of potency was just too much, and soon Jota thought



Marks out of 10

**Star man** Aaron Cresswell (West Ham)  
**Booked:** West Ham United Rice.  
**Referee** K Friend.  
**Substitutes:** Liverpool X Shaqiri (Jones 70), D Jota (Firmino 70), J Milner (Salah 90). West Ham United A Yarmolenko (Haller 74), M Lanzini (Masuaku 88), S Benrahma (Bowen 89).

that he had scored when he smashed home a loose ball but Kevin Friend disallowed the "goal" after his video assistant advised him to consult the pitch-side monitor: the right call, for Sadio Mané had slid in and caught Lukasz Fabianski with his studs as Fabianski made a save in the build-up.

But Liverpool came again, and in the final 15 minutes stretched West Ham concededly for the first time in the match. Five minutes remained when, finding a pocket of space to



collect a pass, Shaqiri faked to shoot before rolling a sublime little pass through what had seemed impermeable West Ham lines. Jota flashed on to it and lifted the iciest shot past Fabianski to make it 2-1. The result ensured that Liverpool equalled their record of 63 consecutive home league games without defeat.

As David Moyes observed, allowing five subs would be a fillip for the bigger clubs given the quality in their squads, though he agreed with Klopp

that the overriding principle is player welfare, and for that reason a change should come. The pile-up of knocks, influenced by so many games so close together, impacted this one – had Michail Antonio (out with a hamstring problem) been available to West Ham, they might well have got something from this match.

Then again, perhaps not. For in Liverpool's defence Klopp had Nat Phillips, a 23-year-old league debutant tall as a giraffe and brave as a lion,

who completely outmanned Sébastien Haller. Phillips was particularly impressive in the air, which is important to Liverpool with Virgil Van Dijk out for the season. "A monster" at winning headers, Klopp said.

Phillips was not registered for the Champions League and against Atalanta in midweek another youngster, Rhys Williams, is set to play. Next in the league is Manchester City and for that, despite the potential of his young centre backs, Klopp will hope

## Alyson Rudd

Sports feature writer of the year

Hero Rashford ticks the right SPOTY boxes on and off the field



Marcus Rashford could end up breaking the BBC Sports Personality of the Year.

Rarely has a young sports star exhibited such a – yes, you guessed it – captivating personality. When supporters are allowed back into stadiums, it is anticipated that rival fans will give the Manchester United forward a standing ovation which, to be frank, is worthy of winning SPOTY alone.

Picture the scene, the Kop singing the name of a United goal scorer, the Etihad saluting a striker from the wrong half of Manchester, Elland Road applauding a player in red.

Ardent football fans possess a strong sense of community. The decision of many to boycott pay-per-view games but still put their hands in their pockets to give to local charities what they would have paid to watch

their teams is just one example of a wider concern for welfare and justice. This is why Rashford, in his campaign to relieve child poverty, has cut through the usual diehard allegiances.

Or has he? Should Rashford be put forward as a nominated SPOTY candidate, then we will find out. There is, though, speculation that the BBC wants to avoid crowning what they might secretly be considering "a novelty sports star" by awarding the 22-year-old England international a Special Achievement Award, thus paving the way for someone who has truly excelled this year, such as Lewis Hamilton, to win the main accolade.

This would be a grave mistake. It would take away the public's opportunity to very publicly thank Rashford for the money he has raised and the hearts he has

warmed. It is not as though he is an out-of-form forward with a League One team. Rashford is, for now at least, the leading scorer in the Champions League and you do not get more elite than that, no matter what plans are afoot for a breakaway tournament.

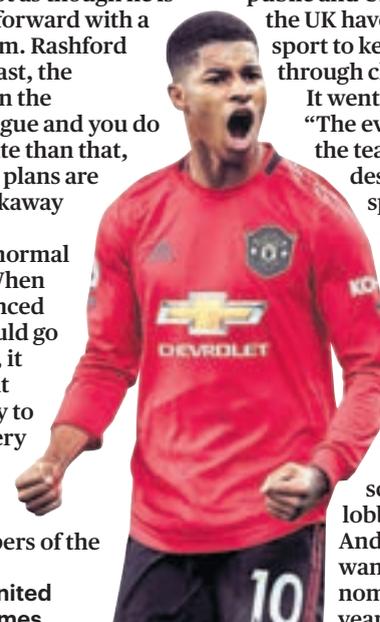
This is not a normal year of sport. When the BBC announced that SPOTY would go ahead for 2020, it explained that it wanted not only to celebrate the very best of elite sport but "also reflect how ordinary members of the

Rashford has united game in hard times

public and Unsung Heroes all over the UK have used the power of sport to keep the nation going through challenging times."

It went further. "The evening will champion the teams that triumphed despite the pandemic, sports stars that achieved greatness even with interrupted training schedules, and the coaches and local heroes that made it all possible."

Rashford has achieved greatness not only with an interrupted training schedule but also while lobbying the government. And the gods evidently want the Mancunian to be nominated because this year's SPOTY will air live,



EDDIE KEOGH

Jota wheels away after his late goal earned all three points for Liverpool. They had earlier had a goal ruled out for Mané's sliding challenge, inset below

## PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Liverpool	7	5	1	1	17	15	2	16
Everton	6	4	1	1	14	9	5	13
Wolverhampton	7	4	1	2	8	8	0	13
Chelsea	7	3	3	1	16	9	7	12
Aston Villa	5	4	0	1	12	5	7	12
Leicester	6	4	0	2	13	8	5	12
Tottenham Hotspur	6	3	2	1	16	8	8	11
Man City	6	3	2	1	9	8	1	11
Leeds	6	3	1	2	12	9	3	10
Southampton	6	3	1	2	10	9	1	10
Crystal Palace	7	3	1	3	8	11	-3	10
Arsenal	6	3	0	3	8	7	1	9
West Ham	7	2	2	3	13	10	3	8
Newcastle	6	2	2	2	8	10	-2	8
Man Utd	5	2	1	2	9	12	-3	7
Brighton	6	1	2	3	10	12	-2	5
West Brom	6	0	3	3	6	14	-8	3
Sheff Utd	7	0	1	6	3	10	-7	1
Fulham	6	0	1	5	5	14	-9	1
Burnley	6	0	1	5	3	12	-9	1

## GAFFER TAPES WHAT THE MANAGERS SAID

### JURGEN KLOPP

Football is all about always finding the right way and tonight the boys found it. The tricky thing is that you have to be patient, but also lively to keep them moving. It's a constant concentration level you have to keep up, which we did.

### DAVID MOYES

I'm amazed that a penalty kick was given for the action in the first half. I think our player stops and throws his arms up because he's so disappointed about the dive. I'm getting disappointed now, not with the decisions, but more with that we're going to allow those sort of penalty kicks to be accepted.

bygone days, inside forwards played. After ten minutes Angelo Ogbonna speared a terrific long pass to Bowen who drove at a backpedalling and depleted home rearguard.

He made ground and held possession well, waiting for Arthur Masuaku to advance before feeding him the ball and Masuaku showed patience, too, pausing for Aaron Cresswell to overlap and buy him an extra yard of space for the cross. Masuaku delivered his centre with vicious whip and Joe

Gomez could only head the ball to Fornals on the edge of Liverpool's box. Fornals chested down and gave Alisson the eyes before deceiving him with his shot.

Haller was deployed to play up against Phillips and test the rookie's resolve but after beginning a little nervously, Phillips grew in confidence, soon realising that physically he could dominate the huge but timid Haller. Still, around him Liverpool were conceding space and at 1-0 Fornals twice squandered good breakaways with a poor final ball.

At that point Liverpool were toiling to get through their well-drilled and compact foes. Whenever they lost possession West Ham fell back into a narrow 5-4-1 at speed, closing off Liverpool's passing lanes and all the little areas Salah and Mané like attacking.

They defended on the front foot, stepping in to press early or make interceptions. Cresswell's alertness was especially impressive and when, after 24 minutes, Liverpool penetrated for the first time, thanks to a brilliant volleyed pass from Jordan Henderson and a Salah flick-on, Cresswell got in front of Mané to stop him shooting then, when the ball ran to Firmino, foiled him too.

Jones impressed Klopp, understandably. He connected play in a simple but clever way. Important for Liverpool during the period they struggled was Henderson and Robertson's drive. Salah kept working away too and when, in the 40th minute, Jones found the Egyptian with a smart pass inside the box, Masuaku nicked Salah's foot as he tried to turn.

It was a light touch but Salah topped with great drama. Moyes did not think it was a penalty but by the letter of the law it probably was and Salah, nervelessly, smacked it home, straight down the middle. The leveller did not alter the pattern of the game. Liverpool continued to dominate possession but struggled to play through West Ham, and West Ham kept troubling them on the break.

After a raid down the left Masuaku cut back but Fornals – whose weak shot was gathered easily by Alisson – should have left the ball for Bowen. Then Fornals was selfish again, attempting to shoot through a thicket of bodies when he could have laid off to Bowen. Klopp made his substitutions and, with a certain inevitability, the champions punished their foes for their profligacy.



Walker's long-distance strike was enough for a City victory at Bramall Lane

# Walker cuts down his boyhood team

SHEFFIELD UNITED	0
MANCHESTER CITY	1

### Paul Hirst

Of all the places that Kyle Walker wanted to score his first goal in almost a year, Bramall Lane was likely to be last on the list.

Walker is as big a Sheffield United fan as there is. The 30-year-old grew up on the Lansdowne Estate in Sharlow, less than a mile from the stadium, and on many occasions has sat in the stands cheering them on and singing about greasy chip butties.

That explains why there was little by way of celebration from the Manchester City full back when he scored the winning goal.

"I'm a Sheffield United fan, so I couldn't celebrate," Walker said. "My mum and dad live in Sheffield, so if I'd celebrated I'd have got a lot of stick."

There is something about being in the away dressing room at Bramall Lane that brings the goalscorer in Walker to life. During his two years in United's first team after graduating from their academy, Walker did not score in 13 appearances at the ground. He has scored twice on his four visits to the stadium since, which is not bad for a full back with only ten career goals to his name. The other goal he scored at Bramall Lane came in 2011 when he was on loan at Aston Villa from Tottenham Hotspur.

His goal yesterday was a thunderous strike from long range, one that was similar to the beauty he scored for Spurs in their derby win over Arsenal nine years ago. Walker's team-mates mobbed him after he scored. Hitting the back of the net has been a problem for City this season so at the moment they will take what they can get. City have averaged 2.5 goals per game during Pep Guardiola's reign, but without Sergio Agüero and Gabriel Jesus they do not look capable of hammering teams.

For the first time under Guardiola, City have failed to score more than one goal in four consecutive league games. "Nine goals in six [league] games is not enough," Guardiola said.

City are trying their best without Agüero and Jesus. Ferran Torres got into good positions playing up front,

but it is unfair to demand the same kind of goal return from a 20-year-old winger who has been in Manchester for less than three months. City had 16 shots against a team that, as Chris Wilder, Sheffield United's manager, recognised, are devoid of confidence, and yet they only beat Aaron Ramsdale once. Guardiola's team will have to be far more ruthless against Liverpool next Sunday.

United started in a combative mood. Only nine seconds in Oli McBurnie sent Rúben Dias tumbling to the floor with a forearm to the chest as they jumped for the ball. The sound of torrential rain bouncing off the metallic roof was punctuated by the loud bellows of Ramsdale, who was trying to help his defenders to keep track of City's attackers.

Torres edged in front of his marker to head João Cancelo's cross goalwards, but Ramsdale saved acrobatically. Kevin De Bruyne again impressed. The Belgian slid a reverse pass that no one but Raheem Sterling saw coming, yet he could not test Ramsdale. Aymeric Laporte lashed De Bruyne's corner wide.

It came as no shock when City took the lead but the identity of their goalscorer was surprising. Sterling burst past opponents before playing back to Cancelo, who rolled the ball to De Bruyne, and he squared to Walker, who took one touch before finding the bottom corner from 25 yards for his first goal since November 2, 2019.

By the start of the second half the rain had subsided and so had the pressure on United's goal. They started to see more of the ball. Sander Berge squeezed a flat delivery across the six-yard box but Ederson gathered after it ricocheted off Dias's leg.

John Lundstram wasted a final chance from 18 yards as United stuttered to another defeat that left them with their worst start to a league campaign since 1975.

Sheffield United (3-5-2): A Ramsdale 7 — E Stevens 6, J Egan 6, C Basham 6 — G Baldock 6, S Berge 7, E Ampadu 6 (O Norwood 65min, 6), B Osborn 5 (J Lundstram 55, 6), M Lowe 6 (D McGoldrick 81, 5) — R Brewster 5, O McBurnie 6. Subs not used M Verris, B Sharp, O Burke, J Robinson, O Norwood. Manchester City (4-3-3): Ederson 7 — K Walker 8, R Dias 7, A Laporte 7, J Cancelo 7 — K De Bruyne 7, Rodri 7, B Silva 6 — R Mahrez 6 (I Gundogan 85min, 5), F Torres 7 (P Foden 81, 5), R Sterling 7. Subs not used J Trafford, J Stones, N Aké, O Zinchenko, E Garcia. Referee M Oliver

that Joël Matip can return. Solidity at the back remains something he is searching for. No team has conceded more goals in the Premier League than Liverpool since they secured the 2019-20 title and despite Phillips's display there were gaps in Liverpool's ranks when they were out of possession that West Ham, on well-constructed counterattacks, could find.

Fornals and Jarrod Bowen kept causing issues by coming infield to take up positions in spaces where, in

on December 20, from Salford.

In 2007 James Toseland finished an unexpected fourth in the SPOTY vote with the public blown away by the World Superbike champion accompanying the BBC Orchestra on piano. Which was nice but not quite as affecting as knowing hungry children are being fed.

Football fought hard to be safe to resume in the midst of a worldwide crisis. It would be odd to give the entire sport a place on the podium but few would begrudge Rashford the opportunity to represent the best face of the game and it might be that Rashford breaks SPOTY in terms of the sheer number of votes.

A Special Achievement Award could, in any case, be deemed peculiar in light of the BBC guidelines on political impartiality. Guy Mowbray quit Twitter because of the hounding he was subjected to after saying in commentary;

## 'Few people would begrudge Rashford the opportunity to represent the best face of the game'

"Whether you agree with Marcus Rashford's causes or not, there's surely only admiration for his continued commitment."

Mowbray was hamstrung by his employer's insistence that the BBC should not be used to change public policy which is what Rashford has tried to do with his plea for free school meals in the holidays.

I was a member of the SPOTY panel in 2017 and yes, it was a little like being in an episode of *WIA*, the BBC comedy that parodied the BBC quite superbly, but there was a

huge desire to right the wrongs of the past as when, in 2011, no women were recognised.

The broader discussion system, instigated after the 2011 debacle, has room for nuance. It allows, for example, Elise Christie, the triple world champion speed skater, to compete on level terms with Chris Froome, the four-time Tour de France winner.

It should also allow for the nuance of political heroism, of the use of fame for the wider good, the recognition of how sport has been a unifying force during a devastating pandemic.

The public should decide if that is what is meant, this year, by "personality" and if not given the chance to do so, will likely no longer take the award seriously and perhaps call for SPOTY to be subject to *WIA*'s initiative "to value the idea of valuing values".

## Football

# 'Honestly he was kindest guy I've met in football'

Stiles was a legend but as a coach he turned youngsters into superstars

JONATHAN NORTHCROFT



Football Correspondent

Before academies, before the Elite Player Performance Plan and the 90-minute rule, youth coaching was a less regimented but sometimes warmer business. Clubs were allowed to invite trialists from far and wide and, one time, Manchester United had an intake of boys who were not local and only vaguely acquainted with the lore of the club.

Someone mentioned their bald, bespectacled little coach was actually a World Cup winner; that the "Nobby" who was putting them through their paces was Nobby Stiles. They clamoured round him: "Nobby, can we see your medal?" Next day, Stiles turned up with a brown envelope inside his tracksuit pocket and inside were his medal from the 1966 final and also the gold, rectangular pendant inscribed "Vainqueur" collected when United won the 1968 European Cup.

Paul McGuinness, Stiles's young assistant at United's centre of excellence on Littleton Road, recalls: "One of the scouts came running to the coaches, 'Nobby's got his medals! He's showing the kids!' And I was, 'Wow...'. You rush in to see them and he gets

them out and if you've ever seen a World Cup or European Cup medal they're only small; they're like pieces of art, quite delicate. And Nobby's letting everyone see them and touch them. The kids were blown away.

"And the thing about it," laughs McGuinness, "is that Nobby was renowned for being clumsy, knocking things over, dropping things, so I was petrified. He's got these beautiful medals just in this brown envelope in his tracksuit and I'm thinking he's going to lose them if he's not careful... but that's what Nobby was like." There was Stiles the player, the flinty ball-winner famous for providing the platform for his country to become world champions and his club to conquer Europe. Then there was Stiles the coach, whose contribution to United's rebirth during Sir Alex Ferguson's early reign was overlooked until tributes began flowing after his sad passing – at 78, after living for several years with dementia – on Friday.

At Littleton Road he coached a variety of age groups, looked after the B team – first-year apprentices and schoolboys – and assisted Brian Kidd with the youth team. Under that pair, the Class of '92 blossomed. "Nobby and Kiddo were my first coaches at United and I remember the first time I saw Nobby I froze because he was God to me, an icon not only for our club but for our country," Nicky Butt says. "However, he was one of the nicest and most humble men you could have ever met. Such a loss."



Stiles lifts the European Cup after Manchester United beat Benfica 4-1 at Wembley in 1968, alongside Kidd, left

**'I remember the first time I met Nobby I froze because he was God to me, an icon not only for our club but for our country'**

Kidd and Stiles were in charge when the Class of '92 won their first trophy – the Milk Cup in Northern Ireland in 1991. Gary Neville, David Beckham, Paul Scholes and Keith Gillespie were among those who beat Hearts 2-0 in the final. Colin Murdock, who went on to win 34 caps for Northern Ireland, was United's centre back. "Hearts were very physical and I

recall Nobby being absolutely rabid at half-time, frothing at the mouth about Hearts' physicality and the need to stand up to them," Murdock says.

But, apart from when his beloved club's honour was being challenged, Murdock describes Stiles as "very engaging and very personable. He gave you confidence and instilled a real determination to compete at your maximum. I loved playing for him and Kiddo – you really sought to please them as a young player."

McGuinness's father, Wilf, was one of the original Busby Babes and after injury cut short his career he became one of Sir Matt Busby's coaches before succeeding him as manager in 1969. Stiles was an apprentice when the Babes were emerging as stars and he cleaned Duncan Edwards's boots.

Originally an inside forward, he found his niche when converted to defensive midfielder.

"My dad said he was an incredible competitor, very underrated in his football," McGuinness says. "He had incredible acceleration, an ability to get across the ground, read the game and win the ball back. The saying was 'win it and give it to Bobby [Charlton]' but he had more about him than that. He was the N'Golo Kanté of his time, maybe." McGuinness was trained by Stiles as a young United player. Now working for the FA, having been United's longstanding under-18 manager – his protégés include Marcus Rashford – he believes Stiles developed him greatly as a coach.

"His style was all little pointers, little chats in the ear, and full of praise.

## Not a player for the purists but a fearsome competitor

BRIAN GLANVILLE



The players' player, bête noire of the purists, a tiny, toothless, urban, gesticulating figure, perennially in the bad books of referees and opponents, forever urging on, castigating his own defenders, a player with no obvious physical or technical gifts, a poor passer of the ball, but a formidable marker and an extraordinary competitor.

By the end of 1966 World Cup, Nobby Stiles would be the player who most of the football world would love

to hate, yet he had the satisfaction of nullifying Eusébio, the tournament's leading scorer and, until then, most dangerous forward.

In fact one had seen and admired him at Wembley years earlier in a junior international when he had surged time and again up the right wing. By 1966, however, his game had become essentially destructive rather than adventurous.

Though given the advantage of playing always at Wembley, England made an uneasy start. In a laborious win against France a foul late in the game on the talented midfielder Jacques Simon seemed a gross one, leaving him seriously injured. It led to calls that Alf Ramsey should drop Stiles. Instead the England manager backed him completely.

In his book, *Anatomy of a Football Manager: Alf Ramsey*, Max Marquis wrote: "The Nobby Stiles incident was an example of Ramsey's utter commitment to his players which earns him their devotion. Stiles had been getting into trouble with referees in England for long enough.

"To hear some people talk, however, Stiles is just a determined little player more sinned against than sinning. I have heard an England player say on television, 'Nobby isn't a dirty player. He never kicked anybody.'"

One cannot accept completely a testament like this. To suggest that Stiles never displayed anger against an opponent is ludicrous, and if anyone still thinks otherwise they

**'The film close-up of his face as he pulled his colleagues into a defensive wall is unforgettable'**

should look at that tackle again. It is true that Stiles was a great competitor, that he inspired his colleagues – the film close-up of his face as he pulled his colleagues into a defensive wall in the closing moments of normal time in the final is utterly unforgettable – and for that he was invaluable.

But it is equally true that in moments of passion, of which he seemed to have many, he could give

## HE GAVE ME ADVICE BUT IT DIDN'T STOP HIM GIVING ME A REDUCER

**Brian Kidd**

Won the 1967-68 European Cup with Stiles and coached with him at United



I grew up with Nobby from when I was a little snotty-nosed kid. My brother Jimmy was in the same class as Nobby and I went to the same school, St Patrick's in Collyhurst. He was everything you could want from a person — honest, unassuming and with empathy for people. There was no edge to him whatsoever.

His dad was an undertaker and so we used to say Nobby killed them, his dad buried them. But people were misled by that because technically Nobby was very good. He was a superb reader of the game, like Bobby Moore. People tended to think of that side of things with Nobby but there was more to his game than that.

I was the only local apprentice at United and I would make the numbers up some days. I would go to the

ship canal, and I would have to run the baths and make the tea, and sometimes I would join in. When I did, Nobby pulled me aside and said, "Sir Matt [Busby] is here and Jimmy [Murphy]." He said: "You make sure you get stuck in because they will be looking at you. It's a good opportunity for you."

He told me I could impress them, so I took part in training and I ended up tackling with Nobby. He booted me right up in the air! He had only just given me advice but it didn't stop him larruping me, giving me a reducer.

He wrote me a lovely letter when he knew I was signing as an apprentice for United, wishing me all the best. He said to me: "Make sure you give your best and make sure when it's done, you couldn't have given any more. Don't waste the opportunity."

He made kids feel ten feet tall," McGuinness says. "I can honestly say he was the kindest guy I've met in football. For someone with such a big image, off the field he was such a nice person. Big glasses, no hair, only small... you saw him walking through town, never in flash gear. Yet he was a World Cup winner."

When Stiles was United's centre of excellence director, "he found it difficult because part of the job involved telling the kids the club were letting go that they couldn't come back. He didn't want to tell them. He was so nice," McGuinness says.

Stiles sold those beautiful medals in order to leave some money for his family — but the buyer was the right one, Manchester United, and now they sit in the Old Trafford museum.

## WOULD HE THRIVE IN MODERN GAME?

Read Rod Liddle on how Stiles would cope with way football is refereed

THE SUNDAY TIMES.  
CO.UK/SPORT

the opposition painful bruises and frequently did.

After the France match, the Fifa disciplinary committee warned that if Stiles were reported again they would take "serious action". When members of the FA senior international committee urged Ramsey to drop Stiles, it was said that the England manager threatened to resign. Stiles stayed. Ramsey subsequently denied the story but it rang true.

As Marquis observed: "Certainly if Stiles had been dropped the other players' morale would have sagged sadly. Instead it rose sharply: Ramsey's resoluteness was reconfirmed, and Stiles stayed in the team. He curbed his less agreeable tendencies and played an invaluable

part in the remaining games." That Stiles had galvanising qualities was beyond dispute. Though he was still in the 1970 squad in Mexico, he was no longer a first-choice player. Alan Mullery, who had taken his place, was the better technical player but he lacked the morale-boosting qualities of his predecessor.

At the end of that winning World Cup final at Wembley, Stiles stood tearfully emotional and cried: "You did it, Alf! We'd be nothing without you!"

In truth it is hard to think of any English manager of that time who could have done as well. But Stiles himself had made a great contribution, a triumph of high morale and dedication over limited technical abilities.

# Graeme Souness

## United's recruitment suggests Ole Gunnar Solskjaer is not having the final say on key football decisions, while Mikel Arteta is finding being top dog harder than he expected



Despite Wednesday's 5-0 win over RB Leipzig in the Champions League, I'm still not convinced that Ole Gunnar Solskjaer is making the key football decisions at Manchester United. I come to that conclusion on the basis of their recruitment in recent windows. I like Donny Van de Beek, but United didn't need another No 10 this summer after the success of Bruno Fernandes in the second half of last season.

That makes me wonder who is sitting round the table, saying: "These are the priority positions." Did Solskjaer have a say in Van de Beek coming to the club? If I'm the manager, I'd be saying, "Don't take Van de Beek at the cost of not getting players for the other positions we need such as at centre back."

I'm not sure how you get Fernandes and Van de Beek in the same team without making yourself vulnerable and Solskjaer hasn't selected them together. On Thursday Van de Beek started, then Fernandes came on for the final quarter of the match when United cut loose and scored four of their five goals.

They are both goalscorers and creators who empty the midfield, so it's a hell of a responsibility on one holding midfielder if you play them both, particularly if it's Scott McTominay, a young man still learning that position. Even the very best holding midfielder would find life difficult playing with those two.

It strikes me that the signing of Van de Beek went something like this: "Who's the best available this summer? Let's get him. Do we really need him? No, we've other priorities, but let's take him anyway."

Then they signed a 33-year-old striker on deadline day that everybody knows has been available all year on a free transfer in Edinson Cavani. It was like a rerun of the late loan deal for Odion Ighalo last season.

Where's the forward planning? United are in that unenviable position where whoever they sign has to come in and perform on day one. It's not like it was under Fergie for the best part of 20 years, where they could buy players then introduce them slowly but surely.

If you can't sign your first choices, then hold your nerve and keep your powder dry. Those are important football decisions, but I don't think football people are making them.

From the outside looking in, these signings tell a worrying story for United. They don't need another No 10, but they get one; they need another centre half, but don't get one. You can't tell me they planned to wait until the very last hours of the transfer window then go and get Cavani?

Perhaps, after two managers in José Mourinho and Louis Van Gaal



who would have put pressure on to sign the players they wanted, Solskjaer suits United's board as being less demanding on that score. The problem is they won't win the Premier League or the Champions League with non-football people picking the players they sign. Solskjaer will take the flak if these signings don't work. It always feels like he's a bad result away from the clock ticking on his job. It's hard to wipe a 6-1 home defeat like the one United suffered against Tottenham a month ago from your record.

At Arsenal, Mikel Arteta will have already discovered a huge difference from being an assistant manager. I played at the highest level, captained my country and thought management wouldn't be that big a jump, but it was an enormous one.

OK, he's had a look at it working under a very successful manager in Pep Guardiola, but when you become a manager, it's not just football problems you have to deal with. It's every single issue, from the board to the media, personal issues with players and the general welfare of every employee.

An assistant doesn't have to do all that, so it's an enormous step up. It might have been easier to make it at City, but only in the sense he'd have inherited better players. Nobody was going to find inheriting that group at Arsenal easy. For the last decade under Arsène Wenger it was a club going backwards.

There's no disgrace in losing to the teams they have so far, away to Liverpool and City then at home to Leicester City.

Arteta's already got an FA Cup in the bag, and he's managed to keep Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang at the club. Yet if Arsenal are not in the top four towards Christmas questions

**'They signed a striker on deadline day that everybody knows has been available on a free transfer all year'**

will be asked by the board and the fans. Again the decision-makers at Arsenal are businessmen and are looking at how they make money out of the club as an asset. To do that they have to get back in the Champions League.

The way that Arteta handled Mesut Özil and Matteo Guendouzi puts a marker down for the rest of the players that there are standards they all have to abide by. That's great, but it comes with an enormous caveat — you have to be winning. If you're not, people will start to say, "Guendouzi is a promising, young player, there's a lot to like about him, high energy, got stuck in, always wanted the ball."

In Özil's case, he's still at the club and Arsenal are paying him whatever it is. Again, if you're not winning, the decision not to involve him at all will be questioned by the board. "You are paid to get the best out of these players, why are we not getting any return on Ozil?" You have to be winning games, to keep them off your back.



## ON TV TODAY

**Manchester United v Arsenal**  
4pm Sky Sports Main Event,  
Kick-off 4.30pm

# Ziyech proves his worth at last

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**BURNLEY** 0

**CHELSEA** 3  
Ziyech 26, Zouma 63, Werner 70

Ian Whittell

Hakim Ziyech has some way to go before the early comparisons with Eden Hazard are merited but at least Frank Lampard now has an unequivocal answer to the question as to whether the £33.3million newcomer can “do it” on a cold October afternoon in Burnley.

The Morocco midfielder scored one and made another to make it two goals in three days. His first Premier League goal came on his first Premier League start for a Chelsea team that has now kept four successive clean sheets – two of them in the league, a first under Lampard.

The early-season concerns about Chelsea’s defence seem long ago now but, while the head coach will take great satisfaction in that department, it is when considering their attacking options that supporters will feel the greatest buzz of anticipation.

Kurt Zouma and Timo Werner, who was meant to be rested at Turf Moor until Christian Pulisic collected a hamstring injury in the warm-up, added second-half goals as Burnley’s problems mounted.

But the headlines were stolen by Ziyech, whose signing was clinched in February but whose start to life in England has not been helped by injury. “I expected a lot of him because I was very aware of his qualities and that’s why we brought him to the club,” Lampard said. “He brings something different with his eye for a pass, his receiving, his crossing.”

A goalscorer in Chelsea’s Champions League win against Krasnodar in Russia three days earlier, Ziyech was integral in numerous passages of brilliant possession football, especially when linking with Werner and Kai Havertz.



Zouma enjoys his moment with Abraham, right, after scoring Chelsea’s second while Ziyech, below, played a part in many of his side’s best moves

## QPR invoke ghosts of the past to beat Cardiff

**QPR** 3  
Chair 15, Kane 27, Ball 90+1

**CARDIFF CITY** 2  
Ralls 49 pen, 85

Nick Szczepanik

Queens Park Rangers played Cardiff City yesterday in a new third kit, a red-and-white-halved throwback to the heady days of 1975-76, when Stan Bowles and Gerry Francis excelled at Loftus Road and fell one point short of the title. But even then Rangers did not score many goals as spectacular as Dominic Ball’s late winning goal.

The substitute let fly with his left foot from 22 yards a minute into added time to settle a dramatic encounter after Cardiff had clawed back a two-goal first-half deficit, a

level of excitement hardly to be expected after QPR had failed to score in their previous four games.

Mark Warburton, the QPR manager, insisted that his team’s character rather than the inspirational powers of a kit had been behind yesterday’s performance.

“There are two big pictures at the training ground commemorating the greatest Rangers team so all the names are up there and the players are well aware of the importance of that team,” he said. “But today they knew they had had a bad couple of weeks and we had to come out and meet a very good team and we did that.”

Neil Harris, Cardiff’s manager, said beforehand that his team needed to turn draws into wins if they were to challenge for a play-off place. Turning one into a first defeat in six matches was obviously not the plan.

“It was a kick in the proverbial but we got what we deserved over the 90 minutes,” he said. “The first half was the worst I’ve seen in my time in charge. I am here to win games of football and I expect my players to have the same mentality. We have got to be better. It is their job and at the moment they are not doing it.”

QPR ended their 375-minute goal drought when Albert Adomah

MOLLY DARLINGTON



## THE GAFFER TAPES WHAT THE MANAGERS SAID

### Sean Dyche:

The best side won, so that is about right. But I am confused about penalties now. I don't know what is a penalty and what isn't. People get touched on the shoulder, their legs buckle and it's a penalty. He [Barnes] gets felled pretty harshly but it's not a penalty. I'm pretty confused.



### Frank Lampard:

It was a complete performance. We're nowhere near the end of the road but it was a really good display and a solid one, too. We brought players in who didn't have a pre-season so we knew we couldn't throw everything in the air and have it all land perfectly. But clean sheets are a great sign of the spine in the team.



While Lampard was rightly reluctant to enter into the "new Hazard" narrative, there is no doubt that Ziyech, 27, represents an intriguing addition, not only for Chelsea but for the Premier League. "We want to develop on the ball," Lampard said.

"And that's what really pleased me today. We're not at the end of the

road, I'm not going to jump up and down, but today was a very positive day."

A lot of that positivity was supplied by Ziyech, who became the first Chelsea player to score in his first two appearances since Diego Costa six years ago. His goal was an intelligent finish, after Werner had cut the ball back for Tammy Abraham who, in

turn, did likewise for Ziyech to steer the ball into the bottom corner of Nick Pope's goal. The England goalkeeper may have been disappointed with the manner in which he conceded the opener but, in truth, it had been coming for most of the game.

The other Chelsea goals underlined why the Burnley manager Sean Dyche has growing concerns at both ends of the field as, with only one goal scored since their first league game of the season, Burnley's defence was conspicuous by its absence for Chelsea's second-half efforts.

Chelsea scored in the most rudimentary way imaginable after 63 minutes as Mason Mount delivered an accurate right-wing corner and the unmarked Zouma attacked it, powering the ball in with a little hint of a shoulder involved.

Seven minutes later Burnley's agony was complete, with Ziyech again playing his part, as he pushed on the ball for Werner to convert from 15 yards, unopposed, after a blistering attack started by Reece James.

Burnley's best chance of gaining some control had long since evaporated, coming after six minutes when Matt Lowton's long pass sent Ashley Barnes racing away from Zouma, who tried to loft the ball over an advancing Édouard Mendy.

The Chelsea goalkeeper clattered into the Burnley forward and Dyche, not unreasonably, questioned the decision-making of David Coote, the referee, and VAR. "I'm confused about penalties now. I'm not saying we would have gone on to win the game but it would have given us a foothold," said Dyche. "I don't know how that isn't a penalty."

**Burnley** (4-4-2): N Pope 5 — M Lowton 6, K Long 7, J Tarkowski 5, C Taylor 7 — A Westwood 6, D Stephens 5 (J Rodriguez 45min, 6), J Brownhill 6, D McNeil 5 — C Wood 6, A Barnes 7 (R Brady 73, 6). **Subs not used** B Peacock-Farrell, M Vydra, M Thompson, J Dunne, L Richardson. **Booked** Long.  
**Chelsea** (4-3-3): É Mendy 7 — R James 7, T Silva 7, K Zouma 7, B Chilwell 7 — K Havertz 8 (Jorginho 86), N Kanté 8, M Mount 6 — H Ziyech 9 (C Hudson-Odoi 73, 6), T Abraham 7 (O Giroud 76, 6), T Werner 7. **Subs not used** A Rüdiger, K Ziger, W Caballero, C Azpilicueta.  
**Referee** D Coote.

crossed from the right for Ilias Chair, whose attempt to volley in sent the ball into the turf before looping in.

They doubled the lead when Chair's low cross from the left was half-cleared and as the ball bounced out to the edge of the penalty area, Todd Kane did well to control his shot, beating Alex Smithies high past his left hand to score only his second goal for the club.

Cardiff rallied and four minutes into the second half Joe Ralls struck from the penalty spot after Yoann Barbet had brought down Kieffer Moore. Five minutes from time Ralls levelled, finishing after Seny Dieng had saved his penalty, awarded for handball by Conor Masterson. Ball then had the last word, hitting the top far corner from just outside the penalty area.

**Star man:** Ilias Chair (QPR)  
**Queens Park Rangers** (4-3-3): S Dieng 6 — T Kane 7, C Masterson 6, Y Barbet 6, N Hamalainen 7 — T Carroll 6, G Cameron 7, I Chair 7 (D Ball 81min, 5) — A Adomah 7 (C Willock 64min, 5), L Dykes 6, B Osayi-Samuel 6. **Subs not used** L Kelly, M Bonne, D Ball, O Kakay, F Bettache, C Kelman.  
**Booked** Cameron, Barbet, Kane, Chair.  
**Cardiff City** (4-2-3-1): A Smithies 7 — L Bacuna 6, S Morrison 7, C Nelson 7, J Bennett 6 — W Vaulks 6 (J Hoilett 46min, 6), M Pack 6 — S Ojo 5, J Ralls 7, J Murphy 7 (L Tomlin 68min, 5) — K Moore 6. **Subs not used** D Phillips, G Whyte, S Bamba, M Harris, J Bagan. **Booked** Ralls, Bacuna, Tomlin.  
**Referee** A Woolmer.

## ATHLONE SHOCK SHELBOURNE TO REACH SEMIS

In the hundredth League of Ireland season, the country's oldest club Athlone Town produced the shock of the year by beating Shelbourne 4-1 in yesterday's FAI Cup quarter-final.

Adrian Carberry's side last week completed their campaign by propping up the First Division table but succeeded against top-flight opponents. Dean George also hadn't scored all season before recording a hat-trick.

George had Athlone ahead within three minutes, converting Adam Lennon's cross. Ciarán Kilduff scored an

equalising goal, but Athlone regained the lead through Scott Delaney's 20th-minute close-range finish.

Ciaran Grogan and David Brookes both hit the post before George made it 3-1 in the 65th minute after a mistake by Aidan Friel. His third when he shot from 20 yards with 12 minutes left. Athlone will be rewarded by hosting the winner of Dundalk-Bohemians in the semis.

Galway United set up a play-off final against Longford Town by defeating Bray Wanderers 1-0. They took the place of Cabinteely at the Carlisle Grounds after

winning an arbitration hearing on Thursday and Wilson Waweru's goal with eight minutes left settled their semi-final. Waweru scored after Brian Maher could only parry Shane Doherty's shot. Longford twice came from behind to overcome UCD 3-2 in the other semi.

The fallout from the midweek arbitration also continued yesterday when Cabinteely manager Pat Devlin called for resignations in the FAI over the debacle that meant the original sanctions imposed on Wexford were overturned under appeal.

NEVILLE WILLIAMS



Konsa has nailed down his place at centre back since lockdown

# Konsa following in footsteps of legend

## The formidable young defender is flourishing under the influence of John Terry at Villa Park

Jonathan Northcroft

Many spent lockdown attempting self-improvement and it has made all the difference to Ezri Konsa's career. Before Covid-19 paused football Konsa was having to learn about the Premier League on the job, in the hardest position — centre back — an inexperienced player can take on.

Since games restarted last season it feels like the 23-year-old has arrived. Previously a starter in only half of Aston Villa's top-flight matches he has started all of them since; he has been assured, judicious, unobtrusively efficient and a foil for the more front-foot Tyrone Mings. It would be no surprise if, soon, he joined Mings and his club captain, Jack Grealish, in the England squad. The story of his transformation really begins on the bumpy turf of Bartlett Park in Poplar, east London, about a dozen years ago.

The team Konsa played for packed in and a friend joined a side in a junior Sunday league. It was Senrab, perhaps the most productive boys club in Britain, who train at Bartlett Park and play home games on Wanstead Flats. The friend's parents messaged Konsa's dad, Didier, to suggest he came to practice and he ended up at Senrab for a year, joining an extraordinary list of talents to have passed through the club, which includes ten England internationals, among them some formidable centre backs: Sol Campbell, Ledley King, Ugo Ehiogu — and a certain John Terry.

Fast-forward to lockdown. Terry, as Villa's assistant manager, took special interest in Konsa, who had shown glimpses of his potential after signing from Brentford for £12 million in the summer of 2019. "During lockdown I had a lot of time to reflect on my performances and focus on what I could improve on. I was speaking to JT throughout it, going through stuff and watching clips on Zoom with him and just talking about what I could do better," Konsa says. "I

had the mindset that as soon as we got back to training, I was going to be different."

What did Terry work with him on? "The mentality side. I'd always ask him: 'How did you maintain that level for so many years?' And he told me a lot of stuff that has helped me mentally. The key is calmness, focus — you need to have both for 90-plus minutes.

"In the Premier League, any little mistake, you're getting punished. There's no two ways about it. They [opponents] ain't letting you off. That's something the gaffer [the manager Dean Smith] has talked to me about too, the concentration part of the Premier League."

Despite Konsa's greater composure and consistency, he is continuing his tutorials with Terry. "After games I'm always watching clips with JT, going through stuff I can improve on and it helps me a lot," he says. "Growing up, I used to watch JT all the time and having him here, working with me is the kind of thing you dream of as a kid — a legend helping with your game."

He thinks back to Senrab. "The level was crazy. It was like going to an academy. The mentality and the coaching was special, and a few in my team had professional trials, including Jodi Jones, who plays for Coventry [City]," he says.

"When you join, they tell you about all the players who came through Senrab and I was shocked at all the names. I knew JT had been there — and who knew that years later I'd actually be working with him."

The shirt he wears — Villa's No 4 — was once Gareth Southgate's and Konsa's pedigree includes being part of the England squad that won the Under-20 World Cup in 2017, but his focus is on his club. Defeat by Leeds United was Villa's first loss this season but this week training had "the same good energy as the start of the season".

What can Villa go on to do? "The ambition is to stabilise in the Premier League. The new signings, Matty Cash, Ollie Watkins, Ross [Barkley], Bertrand Traoré, have been great and if we continue to do what we know we can do and believe in ourselves, there's a high possibility we can finish in a really good position."

Racing

# Elliott's five-star performance

Leading trainer wins five of seven races to cap another successful Down Royal outing

**DONN McCLEAN**



When Gordon Elliott ventures across the border, he rarely comes back empty-handed. Leading trainer at Downpatrick, leading trainer at Down Royal, he had three winners on the first day of Down Royal's two-day Champion Chase meeting on Friday, and he had five more on the second day yesterday.

Elliott fielded five of the nine runners in the feature race, the Grade 1 Ladbrokes Champion Chase, and he won it with The Storyteller. The market said that Pat Sloan's horse was only third best of the Elliott quintet and, indeed, as they turned at the top of the track with just three fences to jump, he was still only eighth of the nine runners.

But rider Keith Donoghue was bid-

ing his time. He moved his horse to his left at the top of the hill and gave him a squeeze, and he made good progress on the outside as they raced down the hill to the second last fence.

His new stable companion Presenting Percy made his ground under Denis O'Regan towards the inside, and Chris's Dream travelled well for Robbie Power in the centre, with the three of them picking up at the second last fence together. Presenting Percy was the first to wilt on the run between the last two fences, but Chris's Dream was fast over the final fence and came away from the obstacle with an advantage of about a half a length over The Storyteller. Donoghue asked his horse to dig deep though, and the Shantou gelding responded. Slowly, he clawed back Chris's Dream's lead, joined him with 50 yards to run, and forged ahead to win by a neck from Henry de Bromhead's horse, who was game in defeat.

"He's a brilliant horse," said Donoghue. "And he had race fitness on his side today. They went a little bit slowly, and I had to go around them, so I was a bit worried, but he found plenty from the last."

Donoghue has a remarkable record on the Shantou gelding. He rode him to win his maiden hurdle at Down Royal in December 2016, and he



The competition heats up on the final hurdle of the WKD Handicap Hurdle

didn't ride him again after that until he rode him to win his beginners' chase at Fairyhouse in a year later. He has ridden him in four races now this season so far, and together they have won all four. Horse and rider have teamed up in competitive action seven times, and they have won six times.

"It's great for Keith," said Elliott.

"He's a big part of our team. He proves when he gets the chances how good he is. The Storyteller is a horse of a lifetime.

"He might get a bit of a break now, he wouldn't want really heavy ground."

It was another day to remember for the trainer. Five of the seven prizes on the day gone back to Cullentra. Battle-

## TODAY'S RACECARDS

### Cork

Going: soft-yielding to soft in places on chase course

**12.40 PADDY'S SUPER ENHANCEMENTS MAIDEN HURDLE (DIV 1)**  
€7,200: 2M (18)

- 1 O **Applan Way** 32 Charles O'Brien 11-9 H P Cleary (7)
- 2 **Barney Stinson** M F Morris 11-9 Rachael Blackmore RESERVE
- 3 6 **Christmas Jumper** 25 Edward P Harty 11-9 S W Flanagan
- 4 O **Cratloe** 22 M J McDonagh 11-9 M M McDonagh (7)
- 5 O **Frambosin Boy** 268 Denis Leahy 11-9 S D Torrens (5)
- 6 OO **Glen Robin** 30 Paul Nolan 11-9 B J Cooper
- 7 P **Globetrottersviva** 7 P J Rothwell 11-9 J P O'Sullivan (7)
- 8 **Hammer To Fall** Kevin Coleman 11-9 B P Kennedy (7)
- 9 OO- **Irish Art** F139 G Elliott 11-9 K M Donoghue
- 10 **Loup De Tallane** E Griffin 11-9 R Doyle
- 11 6- **Patience Patience** 306 (H) Mrs Magnier 11-9 C J Orr (5)
- 12 **Pats Gift** J P Broderick 11-9 D O'Regan
- 13 OO **Thegranaghman** 41 Augustine Leahy 11-9 D J O'Keefe
- 14 O **It's All Mercy** 59 J J Walsh 11-2 A McCurtin (5)
- 15 **Portion Control** C Byrnes 11-2 D J McInerney
- 16 OO **Ximeryg** 23 P J Rothwell 11-2 A W Short
- 17 50 **Jesina** 19 Mrs J Harrington 11-2 RESERVE
- 18 **Genois** E Bolger 11-9 RESERVE

Betting: 3-1 Barney Stinson, 7-1 Christmas Jumper, 15-2 Patience Patience, 8-1 others

**1.10 PADDY'S SUPER ENHANCEMENTS MAIDEN HURDLE (DIV 2)**  
€7,200: 2M (19)

- 1 P **Blaze Of Light** 58 (T) T O'Brien 11-9 J J Power
- 2 OO **Border Battle** 21 (T) S M Duffy 11-9 K M Donoghue
- 3 O-P **Dungans Well** 41 (T) Eoin Doyle 11-9 D Meyler
- 4 **Future Gold** F15 Thomas Mullins 11-9 Mr J B Foley (7)
- 5 06 **Galyppo Clermont** 29 Paul Nolan 11-9 Adam Williams (7)
- 6 **General Moriviere** J P Broderick 11-9 M P Walsh
- 7 O-P **Glenswill Boy** 256 T Donohue 11-9 R J Condon (7)
- 8 **Hurricane Cliff** F121 H De Bromhead 11-9 Rachael Blackmore
- 9 **Indevango** V Halley 11-9 P T Enright
- 10 200 **James Hoban** 59 J M Barrett 11-9 D E Mullins

- 11 **Killybegs Junior** A L Moore 11-9 N P Madden
- 12 **King's Vow** F21 (P,T) J P O'Brien 11-9 J J Slevin
- 13 O **Panic Over** 20 P J Rothwell 11-9 J P O'Sullivan (7)
- 14 P **Shotgun Willie** 68 (T) P J Rothwell 11-9 A W Short
- 15 **Temptationinmilan** C Byrnes 11-9 D J McInerney
- 16 0 **Genie Makker** 21 Paul Nolan 11-2 Sarah Kavanagh (7)
- 17 **Mr Brogue** S Braddish 11-9 RESERVE
- 18 **Gardenia Borget** Miss E Doyle 11-2 RESERVE
- 19 2- **Indiana Jones** 400 (P) M F Morris 11-9 RESERVE

Betting: 10-11 King's Vow, 7-4 Hurricane Cliff, 10-1 Temptationinmilan, 12-1 General Moriviere, 16-1 others

**1.42 PADDY POWER ONSIDE APP MARES MAIDEN HURDLE**  
€7,200: 2M 4F (19)

- 1 O-PO **Ballinacrae** 37 P C O'Connor 5-11-9 P T Enright
- 2 /0440- **Commander Lady** 248 Mrs J Harrington 5-11-9 P D Kennedy
- 3 31-40 **Emma Prada** 33 Sean Doyle 5-11-9 M P Walsh
- 4 05- **Glendine Susie** 248 R P Cody 6-11-9 S D Torrens (5)
- 5 P-000 **Liddy Macady** 3 A Fogarty 6-11-9 S A Mulcahy (7)
- 6 443F- **Little Token** 241 J P O'Keefe 5-11-9 Mr T Feeney (7)
- 7 335P-2 **Majestic Maid** 54 (T) Michael G Kennedy 5-11-9 P D Kennedy
- 8 1/50- **Nell's Well** 291 Sean O'Brien 6-11-9 A McCurtin (5)
- 9 0/306- **Psychee Du Brizais** 307 Diarmuid P Ryan 6-11-9 D J O'Keefe
- 10 **Red Vermillion** F10 Kevin Coleman 5-11-9 B P Kennedy (7)
- 11 **Sweet Scotch** R P Cody 5-11-9 D Meyler
- 12 **Tisadream** H De Bromhead 5-11-9 Rachael Blackmore

- 13 4- **Toor Hawk** 229 Ms M Flynn 6-11-9 J J Power
- 14 6-5 **Ciao Bella** 37 Miss E Doyle 4-11-5 S W Flanagan
- 15 0-0 **Goule Platte** 17 (T) C O'Keefe 4-11-5 Dylan Robinson (3)
- 16 40 **Paddy Wickla** 10 (T) P J Rothwell 4-11-5 J P O'Sullivan (7)
- 17 3302-0 **Daphne Moon** 19 G Elliott 5-11-9 RESERVE
- 18 F-00 **Alma Mahler** 15 David Barry 6-11-9 RESERVE
- 19 0 **Musical Melody** 27 Miss J M Lee 5-11-9 RESERVE

Betting: 13-8 Majestic Maid, 6-1 Tisadream, 13-2 Commander Lady, 15-2 Emma Prada, 8-1 others

**2.15 PADDY'S REWARDS CLUB EBF NOVICE HURDLE (LISTED)**  
€18,000: 3M (8)

- 1 0600-0 **Allez George** 31 J Barcoe 6-11-2 D J O'Keefe

- 2 315112 **Goodbye Someday** 28 J E Kiely 6-11-2 D O'Regan
- 3 22-121 **Jimmy Jimmy** 33 G Elliott 5-11-2 M P Walsh
- 4 34-1 **Ragnar Lodbrok** 25 G Elliott 5-11-2 Jack Kennedy
- 5 /243-1 **Young Ted** 32 (D) N Meade 6-11-2 S W Flanagan
- 6 **Formal Order** 21 (P,T) Matthew J Smith 4-11-1 K M Donoghue
- 7 633-21 **Darrens Hope** 15 Robert Murphy 6-10-9P Townend
- 8 0-2132 **Flemings Dream** 27 R P Cody 5-10-9 Rachael Blackmore

Betting: 7-4 Goodbye Someday, 11-4 Ragnar Lodbrok, 6-1 Young Ted, 13-2 Jimmy Jimmy, 8-1 others

**2.46 PADDY POWER FROM THE HORSES MOUTH PODCAST EBF NOVICE CHASE (GRADE 3)**  
€21,000: 2M 4F (11)

- 1 23F21- **Captain CJ** 259 D A McLoughlin 9-11-10C D Maxwell
- 2 3-1142 **Polished Steel** 18 (T,D) Mrs J Harrington 6-11-8 P Townend
- 3 30-123 **Anything Will Do** 22 (P) J P O'Brien 5-11-2 D Meyler
- 4 210-U1 **Foxy Jacks** 14 (CD) M F Morris 6-11-2 P T Enright
- 5 210U-1 **Home By The Lee** 21 J P O'Brien 5-11-2 J J Slevin
- 6 24-PP2 **Ministerforsport** 21 (T) Noel O'Neill 9-11-2 D O'Regan
- 7 4P-411 **The Shunter** 32 (H) Emmet Mullins 7-11-2 B Hayes
- 8 43020- **Trainwreck** 236 H De Bromhead 8-11-2 Rachael Blackmore
- 9 230-21 **Heaven Help Us** 22 P Hennessy 6-10-9 D E Mullins
- 10 822122 **Rapid Response** 22 Mrs J Harrington 6-10-9P D Kennedy
- 11 3-3122 **Waitsee** 28 J P Ryan 6-10-9 B J Cooper

Betting: 7-2 Captain CJ, 4-1 Heaven Help Us, 13-2 Rapid Response, 7-1 others

**3.20 PADDY POWER CORK GRAND NATIONAL HANDICAP CHASE (O-150) (GRADE B)**  
€24,000: 3M 4F (19)

- 1 01-000 **Cap York** 39 (B) N Meade 8-11-10 M Stenson (7)
- 2 P0P14- **Gun Digger** 224 (B,T) G Elliott 8-11-3 P J Cawley (7)
- 3 P0446- **General Principle** 224 (B,T) G Elliott 11-11-1 Gavin Peter Brouder (7)
- 4 56-120 **High Sparrow** 39 (P) J P O'Brien 7-11-1 J J Slevin
- 5 40021- **Prospectus** 229 G Cromwell 7-11-1 C P McNamara (5)
- 6 P3P-65 **The Gatechecker** 29 (B,CD) M Hourigan 10-11-1 M P Walsh
- 7 5-443F **Bay Hill** 21 (P) Padraig Roche 9-11-0 D J O'Keefe
- 8 61PP-2 **Rocky's Silver** 12 (P) James Dullea 7-11-0 C J Orr (5)
- 9 P-1632 **The Caddy Rose** 29 N Meade 6-11-0 S W Flanagan
- 10 2-3121 **Deadheat** 19 S McParlan 7-10-13 Mr N McParlan (3)

- 11 4-15P3 **Macgiloney** 29 Denis Hogan 7-10-13 S A Mulcahy (7)
- 12055-66 **Mick The Jiver** 25 Eoghan O'Grady 10-10-13 P T Enright
- 13-11P04 **Mindmadeup** 7 Matthew J Smith 9-10-12 P Townend
- 14063P-F **Out Sam** 20 (T,V,CD) G Elliott 11-10-11 Jack Kennedy
- 1540-246 **Dromore Lad** 7 J P Ryan 8-10-10 S O'Keefe (3)
- 162116-3 **Tokyo Getaway** 21 G Cromwell 6-10-9 Jonathan Moore
- 17P-0066 **Ah Littleluck** 21 (T) T Gibney 10-10-8 J P O'Sullivan (7)
- 18-46526 **Ballymacaw** 39 E Bolger 6-10-6 T Joseph Kelly (7)
- 191111413 **The Trigger** 34 Ronan McNally 11-10-3 D O'Regan

Betting: 9-2 Deadheat, 13-2 The Caddy Rose, 7-1 Tokyo Getaway, 8-1 Rocky's Silver, Cap York, 10-1 others

**3.53 WHATODSPADDY HANDICAP HURDLE (80-116)**  
€6,600: 2M (10)

- 1 1F0-60 **Callthebarman** 105 (T,D) Matthew J Smith 6-12-0 K M Donoghue
- 2 F400P- **R'evelyn Pleasure** 260 Sean O'Brien 8-11-12 M M McDonagh (7)
- 3 000-11 **Dreal Deal** 4 (T) Ronan McNally 5-11-10(Sex) Miss M O'Sullivan (7)
- 4 262-60 **Young Dev** 21 Denis Hogan 6-11-10 D Meyler
- 5 131P-0 **Cappacurry Zak** 25 L Young 11-11-9 R Treacy (3)
- 6 010P2- **Ellipsis** 231 J P O'Brien 5-11-9 J J Slevin
- 7 5P00-3 **Charlie Siringo** 88 N Meade 5-11-7 S W Flanagan
- 8 024-0P **Sullane Hill** 28 P C O'Connor 8-11-5 A McCurtin (5)
- 9 P-0000 **Time To Bite** 14 L J Archdeacon 5-10-2 P T Enright
- 1004644 **Courting Vickie** 22 J Barcoe 6-9-12 D J O'Keefe

Betting: 4-9 Dreal Deal, 15-2 Charlie Siringo, 8-1 others

**4.25 MALLOW MARES (PRO/AM) FLAT RACE**  
€6,000: 2M (8)

- 1 **Brooklynn Glory** 37 (H,D) W P Mullins 11-11 Mr P W Mullins
- 2 0415/ **My Friend Aolfe** 758 Ross O'Sullivan 11-11 Miss A B O'Connor (5)
- 3 201 **Powerful Out** 17 (D) J E Kiely 11-11 Mr D Kiely (7)
- 4 2- **Sit Down Lucy** 229 Peter Fahey 11-4 Mr J J Codd
- 5 2 **April's Moon** 100 D Queally 11-1 Mr J P Kirwan (7)
- 6 30 **Belles Benefit** 28 S Curling 11-1 Mr D O'Connor
- 7 **Dympnas Well** Paul Nolan 11-1 R J Condon (7)
- 8 **Katie Parnell** J G Fitzgerald 11-1 T Joseph Kelly (7)

Betting: Evens Brooklynn Glory, 5-1 Powerful Out, 6-1 Sit Down Lucy, 13-2 April's Moon, 10-1 others

## THUNDERER'S TIP OF THE WEEK

### Brewin'upastorm 2.40 Carlisle

He was among the top novice hurdlers the season before last and won his first two races over fences last term before unseating his rider four out, in the Arkle, when still moving with purpose.

The seven-year-old remains an exciting prospect and his record when fresh is most encouraging.

### Naas

Going: soft to heavy  
**12.30 IRISH STALLION FARMS EBF MAIDEN (PLUS 10)**  
€9,300: 6F (21)

- 1 **Apollo Thirteen** A P O'Brien 9-7 C T Keane
- 2 6040 **Dots De Feetya** 4 D Bunyan 9-7 M P Sheehy (7)
- 3 064520 **Fine Distraction** 9 (B,T) D Bunyan 9-7 Leigh Roche
- 4 **Grey Ivy** F G Hand 9-7 R Colgan
- 5 43 **Grigadale** 17 J P Fahey 9-7 R Coakley
- 6 03 **Metaphorical** 11 A P O'Brien 9-7 J A Heffernan
- 7 352 **Mickey The Steel** 10 (T) Joseph Murray 9-7 J J Doyle
- 8 63 **Sassified** 123 J P Murtagh 9-7 Ben Coen
- 9 06 **Shoot The Breeze** 10 Richard O'Brien 9-7 Donagh O'Connor (3)

- 10 **Storm Legend** John Oxx 9-7 C D Hayes
- 11 002 **Stylistic Approach** 11 J S Bolger 9-7 Kevin Manning
- 12 04 **The Piano Player** 8 A P O'Brien 9-7 W M Lordan
- 13 **Vocal Ring** J S Bolger 9-7 Rory Cleary
- 14 O **Baltinglass Abbey** 23 M C Grassick 9-2 G M Ryan (3)
- 15 **Claonadh** W McCreery 9-2 Nathan Crosse (5)
- 16 002 **Elanora** 14 M C Grassick 9-2 W J Lee
- 17 0243 **Giuliana** 21 Mrs J Harrington 9-2 S Foley
- 18 O **Molly Grue** 45 Tracey Collins 9-2 R Whelan
- 19 06 **Palasmore Lass** 14 G O'Leary 9-2 RESERVE
- 20 00 **Kalu Pande** 4 J P O'Brien 9-7 RESERVE
- 21 O **Gimme A Wink** 14 P Byrne 9-2 RESERVE

Betting: 7-2 Giuliana, 5-1 Mickey The Steel, 6-1 Metaphorical, 7-1 others

**1.00 IRISH STALLION FARMS EBF MAIDEN (PLUS 10)**  
€9,300: 1M (21)

- 1 O **Astrapi** 19 T Cooper 9-7 Leigh Roche
- 2 00 **Captain Rock** 11 Anthony Mullins 9-7 L T McAteer (5)
- 3 534 **Dublin Journal** 29 J S Bolger 9-7 Kevin Manning
- 4 **Dunmain Power** J P O'Brien 9-7 D McDonogh
- 5 **Enger** 22 M J Byrne 9-7 J J Doyle
- 6 **Global Welfare** J S Bolger 9-7 Willie Byrne (7)
- 7 **Key To The Kingdom** A P O'Brien 9-7 W M Lordan
- 8 4 **King Of The Castle** 13 A P O'Brien 9-7 J A Heffernan
- 9 **Max Mayhem** (H) J P O'Brien 9-7 Shane Crosse
- 10 **Modus Operandi** A P O'Brien 9-7 P Beggy
- 11 **Montepulciano** John Murphy 9-7 R Colgan
- 12 **Parliament Hill** John Murphy 9-7 Oisin Orr
- 13 **Rakish Paddy** Andrew Slattery 9-7 J Slattery (3)
- 14 03 **Rave N Contagion** 13 Michael Mulvany 9-7 Gary Carroll
- 15 **Taipan** Mrs J Harrington 9-7 S Foley
- 16 4 **Team Of Firsts** 25 G M Lyons 9-7 C T Keane
- 17 **Truth Twisters** D Cullen 9-7 R Coakley
- 18 4 **Zaraloin** 29 G A Kingston 9-7 W J Lee
- 19 6 **Herecomesharry** 8 F G Hand 9-7 RESERVE
- 20 00 **Maddy Puddle** 29 Ms Sheila Lavery 9-2 RESERVE
- 21 00 **No Never Again** 16 Matthew J Smith 9-7 RESERVE

Betting: 5-1 King Of The Castle, 11-2 Dublin Journal, 6-1 others

**1.30 GLENCARRN STAKES (LISTED)**  
€22,500: 1M (12)

- 1 3-0122 **Laughifuwant** 15 (BF,D) G Keane 5-9-9 C T Keane
- 2 504250 **Quizical** 16 (D) Ms Sheila Lavery 5-9-9 R Colgan
- 3 03-034 **Raise You** 8 (D) J P O'Brien 4-9-9 Shane Crosse



## ‘He’s a big part of our team. He proves when he gets the chances just how good he is’

overdoyen kept on well for Mark Walsh to land the other graded race, the Grade 2 Lough Construction Ltd Chase.

The Gigginstown House horse travelled well through his race just behind the leaders, and a fast and fluent jump at the third last fence took him to the front. He was challenged on the run to the final fence by Easy Game and Samcro, but he kept on well up the run-in to come away from his rivals and post an impressive victory.

It was a good performance by the Doyen gelding. Winner of the Grade 2 Florida Pearl Chase and the Grade 1 Neville Hotels Chase last season as a novice, it is interesting that his trainer said afterwards that they could keep him to these shorter trips now this season. He mentioned the John Durkan Chase at Punchestown in December as a potential next step.

The other three Gordon Elliott winners all raced in the famous Cheveley Park Stud colours.

Quilixios easily landed odds of 1/16 in the opening juvenile hurdle under Jack Kennedy, who also partnered Ballyadam to an impressive victory in the maiden hurdle – the Fame And Glory gelding could go for the Grade 1 Royal Bond Hurdle at Fairyhouse next – while Sir Gerhard could hardly have been more impressive than he was under Jamie Codd in landing the concluding bumper, a race that Elliott has now won every year since 2015.

# Bottas edges Hamilton in qualifying as Mercedes near seventh heaven

## FORMULA ONE

**Rebecca Clancy**  
Motor Racing Correspondent

Lewis Hamilton blamed a “piss-poor” final lap as the reason for slipping to second in qualifying as Valtteri Bottas, his Mercedes team-mate, snatched pole position.

Hamilton had been on top for much of the condensed running yesterday as Formula One trialled its first two-day weekend at the Emilia Romagna Grand Prix, but it was the Finn who came out ahead by only 0.031 seconds, giving him his fourth pole position of the season and the 15th of his career.

Returning to the Imola circuit after 26 years, the only running before qualifying was a 90-minute practice session yesterday morning. It was perhaps hoped that the shortened session may change the order, but Mercedes continued their run of claiming every pole position this season.

With yet another front-row lockout Mercedes are almost certain to wrap up a record seventh successive constructors’ championship today. They need only fourth place to do so.

The team will care little if it is Bottas or Hamilton who delivers that, therefore securing their bonuses for win-

ning the title, but the pair are still locked in a championship battle and will both be out for the win. In reality, it is less of a battle and more of a one-sided tug of war as Hamilton has a commanding 77-point lead with five races left.

As Hamilton heads towards a seventh world title, which he will most likely claim at the next race in Turkey, he was far from perfect yesterday.

“Bottas did a great job [but] that was a pretty piss-poor lap from myself and you can’t always get things perfect,” he said. Never one to shy away from his failings on the track, on the rare occasion he has any, Hamilton was also quick to praise his team-mate.

“I have more poles than anyone here so it’s not like I’m a slowpoke and



**Mercedes only need Hamilton, above, or Bottas to finish fourth**

## QUALIFYING

Driver	Team	Time
1 Valtteri Bottas	Mercedes	1min 13.609sec
2 Lewis Hamilton	Mercedes	+0.097sec
3 Max Verstappen	Red Bull	+0.567s
4 Pierre Gasly	AlphaTauri	+0.893s
5 Daniel Ricciardo	Renault	+0.911s
6 Alexander Albon	Red Bull	+0.963s
7 Charles Leclerc	Ferrari	+1.007s
8 Daniil Kvyat	AlphaTauri	+1.087s
9 Lando Norris	McLaren	+1.205s
10 Carlos Sainz	McLaren	+1.302s

4 100301	<b>Saltonstall</b> 22 (P,T,D) A McGuinness 6-9-9	G M Ryan
5 005503	<b>Spanish Tenor</b> 11 (D) T Doyle 6-9-9	Oisin Orr
6 211163	<b>Fame And Acclaim</b> 33 (D) J P O'Brien 3-9-7	D McDonogh
7 -55615	<b>Fiscal Rules</b> 21 J S Bolger 3-9-7	Kevin Manning
8 010030	<b>Flaming Moon</b> 22 (D) Matthew J Smith 3-9-7	Sam Ewing
9 31220-	<b>Harpocrates</b> 416 (T,B,F,C) Mrs J Harrington 3-9-7 S Foley	
10 231431	<b>Epona Plays</b> 43 (D) W McCreery 3-9-5	W J Lee
11 032622	<b>Stormy Belle</b> 14 (T) P A Fahy 6-9-4	Ben Coen
12 15-	<b>One Last Look</b> 465 G M Lyons 3-9-2	Gary Carroll

**Betting:** 4-1 Saltonstall, 11-2 Epona Plays, 6-1 Laughifuwant, 7-1 Fiscal Rules, 8-1 others

### 2.00 IRISH STALLION FARMS EBF ATHASI STAKES (GROUP 3)

€39,000: 7F (15)

1 5-0012	<b>Best On Stage</b> 14 (P) P Twomey 4-9-3 D McDonogh	
2 -20050	<b>Come September</b> 17 G Cromwell 4-9-3	Gary Carroll
3 11-340	<b>Silk Forest</b> 85 (B,F,C,D) P Twomey 4-9-3	W J Lee
4 334010	<b>Simply A Breeze</b> 14 (P) John Feane 4-9-3	Kevin Manning
5 433055	<b>A New Dawn</b> 43 (C) J P O'Brien 3-9-2 Shane Crosse	
6 -14230	<b>Baraniya</b> 49 (P,D) D K Weld 3-9-2	Oisin Orr
7 053105	<b>Darkest</b> 14 (B,D) A P O'Brien 3-9-2	W M Lordan
8 63610	<b>Hidden Sky</b> 42 Archie Watson (UK) 3-9-2	Ben Coen
9 063042	<b>Miss Myers</b> 11 (D) M C Grassick 3-9-2	G M Ryan
10 1-300	<b>Ridenza</b> 85 (D) M Halford 3-9-2	R Whelan
11 114054	<b>Rocket Science</b> 11 (D) Mrs J Harrington 3-9-2	S Foley
12 65214	<b>Secret Pulse</b> 14 G Keane 3-9-2	J J Doyle
13 52210	<b>So Wonderful</b> 50 (B) A P O'Brien 3-9-2	J A Heffernan
14 32530	<b>Soul Search</b> 14 (CD) G M Lyons 3-9-2	C T Keane
15 1-212	<b>With Thanks</b> 21 (B,F,D) W Haggas (UK) 3-9-2	C D Hayes

**Betting:** 9-2 So Wonderful, 6-1 With Thanks, 8-1 A New Dawn, Best On Stage, 10-1 others

### 2.35 NAAS NURSERY HANDICAP (PLUS 10)

€9,300: 7F (14)

1 34201	<b>Alex D</b> 22 (B,D) G M Lyons 9-10	C T Keane
2 0146	<b>Huddle Up</b> 14 (H) W McCreery 9-9	Nathan Crosse (5)
3 0422	<b>Let Me Pass</b> 11 (B,F) M Halford 9-7	R Whelan

4 3302	<b>Hector De Maris</b> 15 (B,F) A P O'Brien 9-6	J A Heffernan
5 646	<b>Iowa</b> 21 A P O'Brien 9-6	W M Lordan
6 00601	<b>Hot Voice</b> 13 (D) J S Bolger 9-4	Kevin Manning
7 13606	<b>No Stopping Her</b> 8 (D) Jack W Davison 9-3	D McDonagh (5)
8 041402	<b>Moonhall Girl</b> 8 (D) Patrick Joseph Hayes 9-2	Tom Madden
9 066	<b>True Artist</b> 36 G O'Leary 9-2	C D Hayes
10 5303	<b>Sheer Chance</b> 8 J P O'Brien 9-0	M P Sheehy (7)
11 0005	<b>Aleen Cust</b> 15 (P) Mrs J Harrington 8-11	S Foley
12 000352	<b>White Pepper</b> 13 (P) G Cromwell 8-11	Gary Carroll
13 24300	<b>Vocito</b> 15 J S Bolger 8-9	Rory Cleary
14 061046	<b>Dreams Delivered</b> 14 (B) D Bunyan 8-6 Leigh Roche	

**Betting:** 4-1 Hector De Maris, 9-2 Hot Voice, 7-1 Alex D, 8-1 Let Me Pass, White Pepper, Moonhall Girl, Iowa, 12-1 others

### 3.05 NAAS NURSERY OF CHAMPIONS HANDICAP

€9,300: 1M 2F (12)

1 -60031	<b>The Names Jock</b> 8 (D) J E Kiely 4-10-0M P Sheehy (7)	
2 250264	<b>In From The Cold</b> 6 (C) Michael Mulvaney 3-9-10	Sam Ewing (7)
3 10	<b>Blackpoint</b> 14 J E Kiely 4-9-6	L T McAteer (5)
4 000316	<b>Memyselfandmoi</b> 14 (T) J P O'Brien 4-9-5	D McMonagle (5)
5 -06545	<b>Bring Us Paradise</b> 31 L Comer 4-9-2	Shane Crosse
6 0-0306	<b>Leagan Gaillge</b> 8 (P,C) B Duke 4-9-1	Kevin Manning
7 0500-0	<b>Satisfy</b> 223 B A Murphy 6-9-1 Gearoid Brouder (7)	
8 001045	<b>Ultra Pride</b> 8 (P,D) Ms Sheila Lavery 4-8-13	R Colgan
9 140-00	<b>Sovereigns Bright</b> 8 (D) Ms Sheila Lavery 4-8-11	Mark Enright
10 144142	<b>Thefaithfulindian</b> 10 (T) A A Howard 5-8-10	C T Keane
11 513221	<b>Newgirlintown</b> 25 (P,D) G O'Leary 4-8-6 C D Hayes	
12 011066	<b>Ivy Avenue</b> 15 (P) J S Bolger 3-8-6	Rory Cleary

**Betting:** 7-2 The Names Jock, 4-1 Thefaithfulindian, 5-1 In From The Cold, Newgirlintown, 10-1 others

### 3.40 NAAS MAIDEN

€6,600: 1M 2F (19)

1 04	<b>Maysonlight</b> 24 Joseph G Murphy 4-9-10 Gary Carroll	
2	<b>Pro Bono</b> J20 Patrick Joseph Hayes 5-9-10	Tom Madden
3	<b>Zero Ten</b> J225 Emmet Mullins 7-9-10 J A Heffernan	
4 02	<b>Beyond Happy</b> 11 J S Bolger 3-9-7 Kevin Manning	

5 6044	<b>Big Island</b> 15 (P) John Feane 3-9-7	G M Ryan (3)
6 324233	<b>Lord Park</b> 15 (T,B,F) M Halford 3-9-7	R Whelan
7 0050	<b>Peckham Springs</b> 15 P Stafford 3-9-7	W J Lee
8 4-0336	<b>Timourid</b> 93 (V) D K Weld 3-9-7	C D Hayes
9	<b>Turbulence</b> John Murphy 3-9-7	R Colgan
10 50	<b>Josephina</b> 9 (T) Anthony Mullins 7-9-5 L T McAteer (5)	
11 63505	<b>Awkwafina</b> 14 (P) Jack W Davison 3-9-2	S Foley
12 3-0044	<b>Azila</b> 19 (V) D K Weld 3-9-2	Oisin Orr
13	<b>Close The Door</b> Thomas Foley 3-9-2	Willie Byrne (7)
14 3342	<b>Menagerie</b> 19 J P O'Brien 3-9-2	M P Sheehy (7)
15 3-	<b>Persian Queen</b> 399 N Meade 3-9-2	C T Keane
16	<b>Smile At Me</b> J P O'Brien 3-9-2	D McDonogh
17	<b>Mijal Angel</b> 8 A Murphy 4-9-5	RESERVE
18 0000	<b>Wonder Fullbright</b> 9 Denis Hogan 3-9-7	RESERVE
19 00	<b>Marooners Rock</b> 24 J P Murtagh 3-9-7	RESERVE

**Betting:** 3-1 Zero Ten, 9-2 Menagerie, 5-1 Persian Queen, 7-1 Beyond Happy, Timourid, 8-1 Lord Park, 10-1 others

## RACING RESULTS

### Down Royal

**Going:** yielding (yielding in places)

**12.40 (2m 100yd) 1, Quilixios** (J W Kennedy, 1-16 fav); 2, Varna Gold (10-3); 3, Na Caith Tobac (HOL) (25-1). 4 ran. NR: Glorious Zoff, 20l, 23xl. G Elliott. Tote: €1.10; . Exacta: €1.50. CSF: €1.68. Trifecta: €2.40

**1.15 (2m 100yd) 1, Ballyadam** (J W Kennedy, 4-6 fav); 2, Colonel Mustard (10-3); 3, Hes A Hardy Bloke (10-3). 18 ran. NR: Puerto Banus, Queen Emily, The Miser, 12l, 18l. G Elliott. Tote: €1.60; €1.10, €1.60, €1.60. Exacta: €4.90. CSF: €4.22. Trifecta: €13.70

**1.50 (2m 100yd) 1, Cayd Boy** (M P Walsh, 10-1); 2, Golden Jewel (20-1); 3, Lignou (50-1); . 4, Campeador (80-1). 17 ran. NR: Golden Spear, Recent Revelations, Ten Ten, Thereisnodoubt. 1l, 1l. Miss E Doyle. Tote: €13.80; €3.40, €4.90, €11.90, €6.70. Exacta: €290.60. CSF: €199.77. Tricast: €9,266.67

**2.25 (3m) 1, The Storyteller** (K M Donoghue, 9-2); 2, Five Bar Brian (7-2); 3, Big Jim Dwyer (17-2). 6 ran. 1¼, 5l, N G Richards.

**1.07 (2m 4f 110yd) 1, Calivigny** (Mr Kit Alexander, 10-3); 2, Cavalry Scout (9-4 fav); 3, Katalytic (9-2). 6 ran. 14l, ¾l. N W Alexander.

**3.00 (2m 3f 120yd) 1, Battleoverdoyen** (M P Walsh, 9-2); 2, Easy Game (10-11 fav); 3, Samcro (2-1). 5 ran. 6l, nk. G Elliott. Tote: €6.30; €2.30, €1.30. Exacta: €11.30. CSF: €9.63. Trifecta: €27.40

**3.35 (3m) 1, Massey's Wood** (M J Bolger, 12-1); 2, Askann (10-3); 3, Paranoid (Evans fav). 12 ran. 4¼l, 1¾l. B Connell. Tote: €17.70; €3.80, €1.40, €1.30. Exacta: €82.50. CSF: €53.29. Tricast: €78.61.

**4.10 (2m 100yd) 1, Sir Gerhard** (Mr J J Codd, 2-5 fav); 2, The Banger Doyle (17-2); 3, Vintage Prosecco (11-2). 12 ran. NR: Roxanya, 14l, 3¼l. G Elliott. Tote: €1.30; €1.02, €1.70, €1.80. Exacta: €5.70. CSF: €5.74. Trifecta: €22.60

### Ascot

**Going:** good to soft (good in places)

**12.15 (2m 3f 58yd) 1, College Oak** (Page Fuller, 9-2 fav); 2, Sometimes Always (17-2); 3, Le Grand Fromage (5-1). 9 ran. NR: Calvinist, Electron Bleu. ¾l, 5¼l. Jamie Snowden.

**12.47 (2m 3f 58yd) 1, Fifty Ball** (N F Houlihan, 11-4 fav); 2, Straw Fan Jack (10-1); 3, Known (4-1). 11 ran. Hd, 7l. G L Moore.

**1.20 (2m 2f 175yd) 1, Sully D'Oc Ae** (R P McLernon, 9-2); 2, Editeur Du Gite (12-1); 3, Smarty Wild (15-2). 8 ran. NR: Dr Sanderson, Subcontinent. 4¼l, 11l. A J Honeyball.

**1.55 (2m 167yd) 1, Amoola Gold** (Bridget Andrews, 9-2); 2, Ibleo (5-2 fav); 3, Molineaux (9-1). 7 ran. NR: Little Light. Sh hd, 7l. D Skelton.

**2.32 (1m 7f 152yd) 1, Captain Morgs** (Nico de Boynville, 7-4 fav); 2, Annual Invictus (12-1); 3, Striking A Pose (33-1). 10 ran. ¾l, 9l. N J Henderson.

**3.05 (1m 7f 152yd) 1, Kid Commando** (Aidan Coleman, 11-4 fav); 2, Malaya (5-1); 3, Scaramanga (10-3). 8 ran. NR: Sebastopol, Teqany, 4¾l, 10l. A J Honeyball.

**3.40 (2m 7f 180yd) 1, Regal Encore** (R P McLernon, 14-1); 2, Whatmore (4-1 fav); 3, Militarian (17-2). 14 ran. 1¼, 13l. A J Honeyball.

**4.17 (1m 7f 152yd) 1, Marble Sands** (Lilly Pinchin, 20-1); 2, Italian Spirit (13-2); 3, Steady The Ship (8-1). 9 ran. 2¼l, 3¼l. G McPherson.

### Ayr

**Going:** heavy

**12.32 (2m) 1, Castle Rushen** (B S Hughes, 4-5 fav); 2, Five Bar Brian (7-2); 3, Big Jim Dwyer (17-2). 6 ran. 1¼, 5l, N G Richards.

**1.07 (2m 4f 110yd) 1, Calivigny** (Mr Kit Alexander, 10-3); 2, Cavalry Scout (9-4 fav); 3, Katalytic (9-2). 6 ran. 14l, ¾l. N W Alexander.

**1.42 (2m 4f 110yd) 1, Up Helly Aa King** (Grant Cockburn, 10-1); 2, She'sasupermack (5-1); 3, Strong Economy (14-1). 9 ran. 2¼, 4¼l. N W Alexander.

**2.17 (3m 70yd) 1, Justatenner** (Harry Reed, 16-1); 2, Highland Hunter (11-4 fav); 3, Planet Nine (12-1). 10 ran. NR: Late Romantic. 1¼l, ns. Tristan Davidson.

**2.52 (2m 110yd) 1, Drumconnor Lad** (K Brogan, 7-2); 2, Flowery (13-2); 3, Pistol Park (16-1). 8 ran. 3¼l, 4¼. A Keatley.

**3.27 (2m) 1, Goobinator** (B S Hughes, 2-1); 2, McGowan's Pass (15-8 fav); 3, Hasankey (10-1). 6 ran. NR: Saint Freule. Sh hd, 22l. D McCain Jnr.

**4.02 (2m) 1, Flammarion** (Sean Quinlan, 15-8 fav); 2, Thunder In Milan (2-1); 3, Deep Churn (7-1). 5 ran. ns, nk. D O'Meara. Tote: €3.20; €1.40, €1.30. Exacta: €5.40. CSF: €5.76. Trifecta: €18.20

### Newmarket

**Going:** heavy

**11.50 (7f) 1, Urban Violet** (W Buick, 5-1); 2, Tarhib (6-1); 3, Hopefully Darling (3-1). 10 ran. 2¼l, 2l. M R Channon.

**12.20 (7f) 1, Glenartney** (W Buick, 11-2); 2, Copper Queen (11-4 fav); 3, Dawndiva (20-1). 9 ran. 1l, hd. Ed Walker.

**12.55 (1m 1f) 1, Haveyoumissmede** (A Mullen, 22-1); 2, Side Shot (2-1 fav); 3, Night Of Hope (14-1). 9 ran. Nk, 8¼l. I Jardine.

**1.30 (1m) 1, Rains Of Castamere** (Hollie Doyle, 13-2); 2, Galactic Glow (3-1 fav); 3, Mabre (4-1). 12 ran. ½l, 2¼l. M R Channon.

**2.05 (1m) 1, Zeyaadah** (Jim Crowley, 11-2); 2, Mystery Angel (9-4 fav); 3, Coul Queen (50-1). 10 ran. 1¼, 7l. R Varian.

**2.40 (1m 2f) 1, Freyja** (B A Curtis, 5-2); 2, Air Pilot (5-1); 3, Marie's Diamond (13-2). 5 ran. Nk, 3¼. M Johnston.

**3.55 (1m) 1, Zakouski** (W Buick, 10-3 fav); 2, Modern Millie (14-1); 3, Epic Hero (18-5). 8 ran. Sh hd, 2l. C Appleby.

**3.50 (7f) 1, Odsysee Girl** (Angus Villiers, 11-1); 2, Masked Identity (12-1); 3, Get Knotted (9-2). 10 ran. NR: Electrical Storm, Flaming Spear, Glenn Coco, London. ¾l, 3l. Richard Spencer.

### Wetherby

**Going:** good to soft (soft in places)

**12.25 (3m 45yd) 1, Hear No Evil** (S Bowen, 16-1); 2, Grange Ranger (14-1); 3, Silver Tassie (40-1). 12 ran. 9¼l, 2¼l. N C Kelly.

**1.00 (2m 3f 154yd) 1, Ashtown Lad** (Harry

so he's doing an amazing job," the 35-year-old said. Bottas's qualifying form does not always translate to race wins: of his previous 14 poles he has converted only five into victory. Hamilton will be hoping he can get the jump on him on the long run down to turn one, with Red Bull's Max Verstappen, who will start third, following closely behind.

Unfortunately, however, even a classic track such as Imola, with all of its history and stunning surroundings, may not produce much opportunity for overtaking, and Hamilton has predicted a “boring race”.

“I'll be really surprised if it's a great race to watch,” the six-times world champion said. “You can overtake into turn one but it is pretty narrow and you can't overtake on the rest.”

It was a strong qualifying session from Verstappen who had looked like he would not make it out for the final shoot-out after an issue with his car, but an impressive response by his mechanics ensured he managed one flying lap, securing third.

Pierre Gasly surprised by qualifying in fourth as he continues to impress in his AlfaTauri, days after it was confirmed that he will remain with them next season, piling further pressure on Alex Albon in the Red Bull, who qualified sixth, nearly four tenths slower than his team-mate. Albon has been told he has to perform strongly this weekend if he wants to keep his seat next season.

Another strong performance from George Russell, who qualified

# Football Results

## MY CLUB

Singer-songwriter Jake Bugg on sponsoring Notts County's shirts and Sol Campbell's brief stopover



### WHY NOTTS COUNTY?

When I was growing up in the '90s and 2000s, my schoolmates were either Forest fans or glory hunters supporting Manchester United or Liverpool. My grandad was a County fan and I always preferred the underdog, so really I had no choice.

### EARLY MEMORIES?

I was so young – four or five – but I know my grandad took me to my first game. I can't remember who it was against. Possibly Wimbledon. What I do remember though was the absolute

thought we'd get promotion, but they put everything in the pot and made a lot of bad financial decisions.

### MY FAVOURITE PLAYER?

Lee Hughes. By the time he came to us, he'd paid the price for the terrible thing he'd done [he served a jail sentence for causing death by dangerous driving]. He was rebuilding his life and banging them in every week, including at Juventus. At our level a lot of players don't stick around, but he did...

### LEAST FAVOURITE PLAYER?

Well, the Sol Campbell interlude was a strange one. He played a game for us at Morecambe in 2009 and then left. We still don't really know what happened.

### HOW DID YOU COME TO SPONSOR COUNTY'S SHIRTS IN 2017-18?

The local newspaper, the *Nottingham Evening Post*, said they were looking for sponsors. I got in touch. I didn't think it would be as much fun as it was. They sold quite a few shirts and it was great to play shows in Mexico or Brazil and see so many County shirts in the crowd.

### WILL NOTTS COUNTY BE IN THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE NEXT SEASON?

The National's a tough league and teams play with 11 defenders against us. That said, we've got so much talent, especially Wes Thomas, Kyle Wootton and the Portuguese Rúben Rodrigues up front, so it's a yes.

*Jake Bugg's new single, All I Need, is out now on RCA*



One-game Campbell

commotion going on around me. From then I was totally hooked.

### BEST OF TIMES?

Playing Manchester City in the FA Cup in 2011. They had Yaya Touré and James Milner, but we had Neal Bishop and we drew 1-1. Facing Juventus to mark the opening of their new stadium was pretty cool too. It was another 1-1: they didn't know how to deal with our long-ball game!

### WORST OF TIMES?

Going out of the Football League. The season before we'd reached the play-offs, so I didn't see it coming. The club

## SKY BET CHAMPIONSHIP

<b>BOURNEMOUTH 1</b> Riquelme 81 HT: 0-1	<b>DERBY 1</b> Shinnie 14
<b>BARNSELY 1</b> Mowatt 6 HT: 1-0	<b>WATFORD 0</b>
<b>BRISTOL CITY 1</b> Hunt 15	<b>NORWICH 3</b> Pukki 6, 14 Buendia 45
HT: 1-3	
<b>COVENTRY 3</b> Hamer 23 Godden 76 McCallum 85 HT: 1-0	<b>READING 2</b> Joao 66 Puskas 90+1
<b>LUTON 0</b>	<b>BRENTFORD 3</b> Henry 20 Toney 29 Forss 76
HT: 0-2	
<b>MIDDLESBROUGH 1</b> Johnson 81 HT: 0-0	<b>NOTTM FOREST 0</b>
<b>MILLWALL 0</b>	<b>HUDDERSFIELD 3</b> Koroma 18 Pipa 89 O'Brien 90
HT: 0-1	
<b>PRESTON NORTH END 1</b> Stockley 24	<b>BIRMINGHAM 2</b> McGree 2 Gardner 85
HT: 1-1	
<b>QPR 3</b> Chair 15 Kane 27 Ball 90 HT: 2-0	<b>CARDIFF 2</b> Ralls 49 (pen), 85
<b>STOKE 1</b> McClean 27 HT: 1-0	<b>ROTHERHAM 0</b>
<b>SWANSEA 2</b> Cabango 25 Ayew 61 HT: 1-0	<b>BLACKBURN ROVERS 0</b>
<b>WYCOMBE W 1</b> Wheeler 45 HT: 1-0	<b>SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY 0</b>



Pukki fires Norwich fourth

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Reading	9	7	1	1	17	6	11	22
2 Swansea	9	5	3	1	12	5	7	18
3 Bournemouth	9	4	5	0	12	7	5	17
4 Norwich	9	5	2	2	12	8	4	17
5 Middlesbrough	9	4	4	1	9	5	4	16
6 Watford	9	4	3	2	8	5	3	15
7 Millwall	9	4	3	2	10	8	2	15
8 Stoke	9	4	3	2	10	9	1	15
9 Brentford	9	4	2	3	16	11	5	14
10 Bristol City	9	4	2	3	12	10	2	14
11 Birmingham	9	3	4	2	7	6	1	13
12 Huddersfield	9	4	1	4	10	10	0	13
13 Luton	9	4	1	4	7	10	-3	13
14 Blackburn	9	3	1	5	18	13	5	10
15 Barnsley	9	2	4	3	10	10	0	10
16 Preston N E	9	3	1	5	11	12	-1	10
17 Cardiff	9	2	4	3	9	10	-1	10
18 QPR	9	2	4	3	9	12	-3	10
19 Rotherham	9	2	3	4	8	10	-2	9
20 Coventry	9	2	2	5	9	18	-9	8
21 Nottm Forest	9	1	3	5	5	11	-6	6
22 Derby	9	1	3	5	5	13	-8	6
23 Wycombe	9	1	1	7	4	16	-12	4
24 Sheff Wed	9	2	2	5	5	10	-5	-4*

\*Deducted 12 points

## UPCOMING FIXTURES

**Today**  
(2pm unless stated)  
**Premier League** Aston Villa v Southampton (12.0); Newcastle United v Everton (TV: Sky Sports Main Event); Manchester United v Arsenal (TV: Sky Sports Main Event) (4.30); Tottenham Hotspur v Brighton & Hove Albion (7.15)  
**Scottish Premiership** Kilmarnock v Rangers (12.0)  
**Scottish Cup semi-final** Celtic v Aberdeen (2.30)  
**Woemn's FA Cup final** Everton v Manchester City (TV: BT Sport 1) (2.30)  
**Spanish La Liga** Real Betis v Elche (1.0); Celta Vigo v Real Sociedad (3.0); Granada v Levante (5.30); Valencia v Getafe (8.0)  
**German Bundesliga** Freiburg v Bayer

## LEAGUE ONE

<b>BURTON ALBION 1</b> Gretarsson 63 (og)	<b>BLACKPOOL 2</b> Yates 21, 75 (pen)
HT: 0-1	
<b>DONCASTER 1</b> Whiteman 43	<b>LINCOLN CITY 0</b>
HT: 1-0	
<b>FLEETWOOD TOWN 2</b> Camps 1 Madden 76	<b>OXFORD UNITED 0</b>
HT: 1-0	
<b>GILLINGHAM 0</b>	<b>SUNDERLAND 2</b> Maguire 84 (pen) Gooch 90
HT: 0-0	
<b>IPSWICH 1</b> Hawkins 62	<b>CREWE 0</b>
HT: 0-0	
<b>MILTON KEYNES DONS 1</b> Fraser 13	<b>WIMBLEDON 1</b> Pigott 10
HT: 1-1	
<b>PETERBOROUGH 5</b> Clarke-Harris 16 (pen) Dembele 42, 69, 80 Taylor 88	<b>SHREWSBRY 1</b> Daniels 18
HT: 2-1	
<b>PORTSMOUTH 0</b>	<b>CHARLTON 2</b> Williams 26 Aneke 82
HT: 0-1	
<b>ROCHDALE 1</b> Newby 25	<b>BRISTOL ROVERS 1</b> Nicholson 9
HT: 1-1	
<b>SWINDON 2</b> Caddis 31 Grant 54	<b>HULL 1</b> Lewis-Potter 16
HT: 1-1	
<b>WIGAN 2</b> Garner 63 (pen) James 75	<b>NORTHAMPTON 3</b> Watson 13 Hoskins 21 Chukwuemeka 66
HT: 0-2	



Aneke seals it for Charlton

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Peterborough	10	7	1	2	19	9	10	22
2 Ipswich	10	7	1	2	16	7	9	22
3 Lincoln City	10	7	1	2	14	6	8	22
4 Hull	10	7	0	3	16	9	7	21
5 Charlton	9	6	1	2	11	5	6	19
6 Sunderland	9	5	3	1	12	6	6	18
7 Portsmouth	10	5	2	3	16	9	7	17
8 Doncaster	9	5	1	3	16	9	7	16
9 Fleetwood	10	5	1	4	13	8	5	16
10 Plymouth	9	4	3	2	13	11	2	15
11 Wimbledon	10	3	4	3	12	12	0	13
12 A'gton Stanley	7	4	0	3	9	10	-1	12
13 Bristol Rovers	9	3	3	3	10	13	-3	12
14 Rochdale	10	3	3	4	10	15	-5	12
15 Crewe	9	3	1	5	8	8	0	10
16 Blackpool	10	3	1	6	9	14	-5	10
17 Gillingham	10	3	1	6	9	15	-6	10
18 Northampton	10	3	1	6	10	20	-10	10
19 M Keynes Dons	10	2	3	5	11	13	-2	9
20 Swindon	8	3	0	5	11	14	-3	9
21 Wigan	10	2	1	7	8	17	-9	7
22 Shrewsbury	9	1	3	5	6	13	-7	6
23 Burton Albion	10	1	3	6	12	20	-8	6
24 Oxford Utd	8	2	0	6	8	16	-8	6

## LEAGUE TWO

<b>BARROW 1</b> Brown 18	<b>BRADFORD 0</b>
HT: 1-0	
<b>CHELTHENHAM 2</b> Boyle 11 Williams 57	<b>FOREST GRN 1</b> Collins 73 (pen)
HT: 1-0	
<b>CRAWLEY TOWN 2</b> Watters 44 Nichols 56	<b>CAMBRIDGE UTD 1</b> Ironsides 3
HT: 1-1	
<b>EXETER 1</b> Parkes 48	<b>CARLISLE 0</b>
HT: 0-0	
<b>L ORIENT 4</b> Johnson 8 McAnuff 41 Wilkinson 44 Clay 57	<b>BOLTON 0</b>
HT: 3-0	
<b>MANSFIELD 1</b> Maynard 33	<b>WALSALL 1</b> Adebayo 49
HT: 1-0	
<b>NEWPORT COUNTY 2</b> Amund 30 Cooper 88	<b>HARROGATE TOWN 1</b> Smith 44
HT: 1-1	
<b>SALFORD CITY 2</b> Wilson 24 Hunter 73	<b>OLDHAM 0</b>
HT: 1-0	
<b>SOUTHEND 0</b>	<b>PORT VALE 2</b> Pope 48, 64
HT: 0-0	
<b>STEVENAGE 0</b>	<b>GRIMSBY 0</b>
<b>TRANMERE 0</b>	<b>MORECAMBE 1</b> Phillips 57 (pen)
HT: 0-0	



Leyton Orient hit four

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Newport	10	8	1	1	17	7	10	25
2 Cambridge	10	6	2	2	22	7	15	20
3 Cheltenham	10	6	1	3	15	8	7	19
4 Exeter	10	5	4	1	15	10	5	19
5 Port Vale	10	6	1	3	12	7	5	19
6 Forest Green	10	5	3	2	13	8	5	18
7 Crawley Town	10	5	2	3	17	11	6	17
8 Carlisle	10	5	2	3	12	10	2	17
9 Salford City	9	4	4	1	15	6	9	16
10 Morecambe	10	5	1	4	12	19	-7	16
11 Leyton Orient	10	4	3	3	15	11	4	15
12 Harrogate	10	4	3	3	13	9	4	15
13 Colchester	9	3	4	2	13	11	2	13
14 Walsall	10	2	7	1	11	11	0	13
15 Barrow	10	2	5	3	14	14	0	11
16 Bradford	9	2	3	4	8	11	-3	9
17 Grimsby	9	2	3	4	8	12	-4	9
18 Tranmere	10	2	3	5	6	12	-6	9
19 Bolton	10	2	3	5	8	16	-8	9
20 Oldham	10	2	2	6	13	20	-7	8
21 Stevenage	10	1	4	5	5	8	-3	7
22 Mansfield	10	0	6	4	9	15	-6	6
23 Scunthorpe	8	1	1	6	4	17	-13	4
24 Southend	10	0	2	8	5	22	-17	2

## XXXX OTHER

Vanarama National League	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Torquay	7	6	0	1	17	5	18
Stockport County	7	4	1	2	13	7	13
Sutton Utd	5	4	0	1	8	3	12
Maidenhead Utd	7	4	0	3	11	14	12
Eastleigh	6	3	2	1	14	9	11
Hartlepool	6	3	2	1	9	8	11
Solihull Moors	6	3	1	2	9	5	10
Wealdstone	6	3	1	2	14	15	10
Woking	7	3	1	3	7	9	10
Notts County	5	3	0	2	10	7	9
Boreham Wood	5	2	1	2	5	3	7
Bromley	5	2	1	2	9	7	7
Wrexham	6	2	1	3	6	7	7
Weymouth	7	2	1	4	6	8	7
Barnet	5	2	1	2	6	10	7
King's Lynn Town	7	2	1	4	11	19	7
Chesterfield	6	2	0	4	10	9	6
FC Halifax	5	1	3	1	4	3	6
Altrincham	5	1	3	1	4	5	6
Dover	7	2	0	5	5	17	6
Aldershot	5	1	1	3	10	10	4
Yeovil	7	0	4	3	6	9	4
Dag & Red	6	1	1	4	3	8	4

Bromley 1 Eastleigh 2; Dover 0 Altrincham 1; King's Lynn 2 Woking 3; Maidenhead 3 Solihull Moors 1; Stockport 1 Weymouth 2; Yeovil 0 Chesterfield 1; Hartlepool 0 Torquay 5.

### National League North

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gloucester	4	4	0	0	13	4	12
AFC Fylde	4	4	0	0	7	2	12
Boston Utd	4	3	1	0	9	3	10
Kidderminster	4	3	0	1	8	3	9
Chester FC	5	3	0	2	9	8	9
Southport	4	2	1	1	4	1	7
AFC Telford	5	2	1	2	7	5	7
Spennymoor Town	3	2	1	0	5	3	7
York	3	1	2	0	4	2	5
Alfreton Town	3	1	2	0	3	2	5
Curzon Ashton	5	1	2	2	6	9	5
Gu							

# Football Results

## MY CLUB

Singer-songwriter Jake Bugg on sponsoring Notts County's shirts and Sol Campbell's brief stopover



### WHY NOTTS COUNTY?

When I was growing up in the '90s and 2000s, my schoolmates were either Forest fans or glory hunters supporting Manchester United or Liverpool. My grandad was a County fan and I always preferred the underdog, so really I had no choice.

### EARLY MEMORIES?

I was so young – four or five – but I know my grandad took me to my first game. I can't remember who it was against. Possibly Wimbledon. What I do remember though was the absolute

thought we'd get promotion, but they put everything in the pot and made a lot of bad financial decisions.

### MY FAVOURITE PLAYER?

Lee Hughes. By the time he came to us, he'd paid the price for the terrible thing he'd done [he served a jail sentence for causing death by dangerous driving]. He was rebuilding his life and banging them in every week, including at Juventus. At our level a lot of players don't stick around, but he did...

### LEAST FAVOURITE PLAYER?

Well, the Sol Campbell interlude was a strange one. He played a game for us at Morecambe in 2009 and then left. We still don't really know what happened.

### HOW DID YOU COME TO SPONSOR COUNTY'S SHIRTS IN 2017-18?

The local newspaper, the *Nottingham Evening Post*, said they were looking for sponsors. I got in touch. I didn't think it would be as much fun as it was. They sold quite a few shirts and it was great to play shows in Mexico or Brazil and see so many County shirts in the crowd.

### WILL NOTTS COUNTY BE IN THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE NEXT SEASON?

The National's a tough league and teams play with 11 defenders against us. That said, we've got so much talent, especially Wes Thomas, Kyle Wootton and the Portuguese Rúben Rodrigues up front, so it's a yes.

*Jake Bugg's new single, All I Need, is out now on RCA*



One-game Campbell

commotion going on around me. From then I was totally hooked.

### BEST OF TIMES?

Playing Manchester City in the FA Cup in 2011. They had Yaya Touré and James Milner, but we had Neal Bishop and we drew 1-1. Facing Juventus to mark the opening of their new stadium was pretty cool too. It was another 1-1: they didn't know how to deal with our long-ball game!

### WORST OF TIMES?

Going out of the Football League. The season before we'd reached the play-offs, so I didn't see it coming. The club

## SKY BET CHAMPIONSHIP

<b>BOURNEMOUTH 1</b> Riquelme 81 HT: 0-1	<b>DERBY 1</b> Shinnie 14
<b>BARNSELY 1</b> Mowatt 6 HT: 1-0	<b>WATFORD 0</b>
<b>BRISTOL CITY 1</b> Hunt 15	<b>NORWICH 3</b> Pukki 6, 14 Buendia 45
HT: 1-3	
<b>COVENTRY 3</b> Hamer 23 Godden 76 McCallum 85 HT: 1-0	<b>READING 2</b> Joao 66 Puskas 90+1
<b>LUTON 0</b>	<b>BRENTFORD 3</b> Henry 20 Toney 29 Forss 76
HT: 0-2	
<b>MIDDLESBROUGH 1</b> Johnson 81 HT: 0-0	<b>NOTTM FOREST 0</b>
<b>MILLWALL 0</b>	<b>HUDDERSFIELD 3</b> Koroma 18 Pipa 89 O'Brien 90
HT: 0-1	
<b>PRESTON NORTH END 1</b> Stockley 24	<b>BIRMINGHAM 2</b> McGree 2 Gardner 85
HT: 1-1	
<b>QPR 3</b> Chair 15 Kane 27 Ball 90 HT: 2-0	<b>CARDIFF 2</b> Ralls 49 (pen), 85
<b>STOKE 1</b> McClean 27 HT: 1-0	<b>ROTHERHAM 0</b>
<b>SWANSEA 2</b> Cabango 25 Ayew 61 HT: 1-0	<b>BLACKBURN ROVERS 0</b>
<b>WYCOMBE W 1</b> Wheeler 45 HT: 1-0	<b>SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY 0</b>



Pukki fires Norwich fourth

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Reading	9	7	1	1	17	6	11	22
2 Swansea	9	5	3	1	12	5	7	18
3 Bournemouth	9	4	5	0	12	7	5	17
4 Norwich	9	5	2	2	12	8	4	17
5 Middlesbrough	9	4	4	1	9	5	4	16
6 Watford	9	4	3	2	8	5	3	15
7 Millwall	9	4	3	2	10	8	2	15
8 Stoke	9	4	3	2	10	9	1	15
9 Brentford	9	4	2	3	16	11	5	14
10 Bristol City	9	4	2	3	12	10	2	14
11 Birmingham	9	3	4	2	7	6	1	13
12 Huddersfield	9	4	1	4	10	10	0	13
13 Luton	9	4	1	4	7	10	-3	13
14 Blackburn	9	3	1	5	18	13	5	10
15 Barnsley	9	2	4	3	10	10	0	10
16 Preston N E	9	3	1	5	11	12	-1	10
17 Cardiff	9	2	4	3	9	10	-1	10
18 QPR	9	2	4	3	9	12	-3	10
19 Rotherham	9	2	3	4	8	10	-2	9
20 Coventry	9	2	2	5	9	18	-9	8
21 Nottm Forest	9	1	3	5	5	11	-6	6
22 Derby	9	1	3	5	5	13	-8	6
23 Wycombe	9	1	1	7	4	16	-12	4
24 Sheff Wed	9	2	2	5	5	10	-5	-4*

\*Deducted 12 points

## UPCOMING FIXTURES

**Today**  
(2pm unless stated)  
**Premier League** Aston Villa v Southampton (12.0); Newcastle United v Everton (TV: Sky Sports Main Event); Manchester United v Arsenal (TV: Sky Sports Main Event) (4.30); Tottenham Hotspur v Brighton & Hove Albion (7.15)  
**Scottish Premiership** Kilmarnock v Rangers (12.0)  
**Scottish Cup semi-final** Celtic v Aberdeen (2.30)  
**Woean's FA Cup final** Everton v Manchester City (TV: BT Sport 1) (2.30)  
**Spanish La Liga** Real Betis v Elche (1.0); Celta Vigo v Real Sociedad (3.0); Granada v Levante (5.30); Valencia v Getafe (8.0)  
**German Bundesliga** Freiburg v Bayer

## LEAGUE ONE

<b>BURTON ALBION 1</b> Gretarsson 63 (og)	<b>BLACKPOOL 2</b> Yates 21, 75 (pen)
HT: 0-1	
<b>DONCASTER 1</b> Whiteman 43	<b>LINCOLN CITY 0</b>
HT: 1-0	
<b>FLEETWOOD TOWN 2</b> Camps 1 Madden 76	<b>OXFORD UNITED 0</b>
HT: 1-0	
<b>GILLINGHAM 0</b>	<b>SUNDERLAND 2</b> Maguire 84 (pen) Gooch 90
HT: 0-0	
<b>IPSWICH 1</b> Hawkins 62	<b>CREWE 0</b>
HT: 0-0	
<b>MILTON KEYNES DONS 1</b> Fraser 13	<b>WIMBLEDON 1</b> Pigott 10
HT: 1-1	
<b>PETERBOROUGH 5</b> Clarke-Harris 16 (pen) Dembele 42, 69, 80 Taylor 88	<b>SHREWSBRY 1</b> Daniels 18
HT: 2-1	
<b>PORTSMOUTH 0</b>	<b>CHARLTON 2</b> Williams 26 Aneke 82
HT: 0-1	
<b>ROCHDALE 1</b> Newby 25	<b>BRISTOL ROVERS 1</b> Nicholson 9
HT: 1-1	
<b>SWINDON 2</b> Caddis 31 Grant 54	<b>HULL 1</b> Lewis-Potter 16
HT: 1-1	
<b>WIGAN 2</b> Garner 63 (pen) James 75	<b>NORTHAMPTON 3</b> Watson 13 Hoskins 21 Chukwuemeka 66
HT: 0-2	



Aneke seals it for Charlton

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Peterborough	10	7	1	2	19	9	10	22
2 Ipswich	10	7	1	2	16	7	9	22
3 Lincoln City	10	7	1	2	14	6	8	22
4 Hull	10	7	0	3	16	9	7	21
5 Charlton	9	6	1	2	11	5	6	19
6 Sunderland	9	5	3	1	12	6	6	18
7 Portsmouth	10	5	2	3	16	9	7	17
8 Doncaster	9	5	1	3	16	9	7	16
9 Fleetwood	10	5	1	4	13	8	5	16
10 Plymouth	9	4	3	2	13	11	2	15
11 Wimbledon	10	3	4	3	12	12	0	13
12 A'gton Stanley	7	4	0	3	9	10	-1	12
13 Bristol Rovers	9	3	3	3	10	13	-3	12
14 Rochdale	10	3	3	4	10	15	-5	12
15 Crewe	9	3	1	5	8	8	0	10
16 Blackpool	10	3	1	6	9	14	-5	10
17 Gillingham	10	3	1	6	9	15	-6	10
18 Northampton	10	3	1	6	10	20	-10	10
19 M Keynes Dons	10	2	3	5	11	13	-2	9
20 Swindon	8	3	0	5	11	14	-3	9
21 Wigan	10	2	1	7	8	17	-9	7
22 Shrewsbury	9	1	3	5	6	13	-7	6
23 Burton Albion	10	1	3	6	12	20	-8	6
24 Oxford Utd	8	2	0	6	8	16	-8	6

## LEAGUE TWO

<b>BARROW 1</b> Brown 18	<b>BRADFORD 0</b>
HT: 1-0	
<b>CHELTHENHAM 2</b> Boyle 11 Williams 57	<b>FOREST GRN 1</b> Collins 73 (pen)
HT: 1-0	
<b>CRAWLEY TOWN 2</b> Watters 44 Nichols 56	<b>CAMBRIDGE UTD 1</b> Ironsides 3
HT: 1-1	
<b>EXETER 1</b> Parkes 48	<b>CARLISLE 0</b>
HT: 0-0	
<b>L ORIENT 4</b> Johnson 8 McAnuff 41 Wilkinson 44 Clay 57	<b>BOLTON 0</b>
HT: 3-0	
<b>MANSFIELD 1</b> Maynard 33	<b>WALSALL 1</b> Adebayo 49
HT: 1-0	
<b>NEWPORT COUNTY 2</b> Amund 30 Cooper 88	<b>HARROGATE TOWN 1</b> Smith 44
HT: 1-1	
<b>SALFORD CITY 2</b> Wilson 24 Hunter 73	<b>OLDHAM 0</b>
HT: 1-0	
<b>SOUTHEND 0</b>	<b>PORT VALE 2</b> Pope 48, 64
HT: 0-0	
<b>STEVENAGE 0</b>	<b>GRIMSBY 0</b>
<b>TRANMERE 0</b>	<b>MORECAMBE 1</b> Phillips 57 (pen)
HT: 0-0	



Leyton Orient hit four

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Newport	10	8	1	1	17	7	10	25
2 Cambridge	10	6	2	2	22	7	15	20
3 Cheltenham	10	6	1	3	15	8	7	19
4 Exeter	10	5	4	1	15	10	5	19
5 Port Vale	10	6	1	3	12	7	5	19
6 Forest Green	10	5	3	2	13	8	5	18
7 Crawley Town	10	5	2	3	17	11	6	17
8 Carlisle	10	5	2	3	12	10	2	17
9 Salford City	9	4	4	1	15	6	9	16
10 Morecambe	10	5	1	4	12	19	-7	16
11 Leyton Orient	10	4	3	3	15	11	4	15
12 Harrogate	10	4	3	3	13	9	4	15
13 Colchester	9	3	4	2	13	11	2	13
14 Walsall	10	2	7	1	11	11	0	13
15 Barrow	10	2	5	3	14	14	0	11
16 Bradford	9	2	3	4	8	11	-3	9
17 Grimsby	9	2	3	4	8	12	-4	9
18 Tranmere	10	2	3	5	6	12	-6	9
19 Bolton	10	2	3	5	8	16	-8	9
20 Oldham	10	2	2	6	13	20	-7	8
21 Stevenage	10	1	4	5	5	8	-3	7
22 Mansfield	10	0	6	4	9	15	-6	6
23 Scunthorpe	8	1	1	6	4	17	-13	4
24 Southend	10	0	2	8	5	22	-17	2

## XXXX OTHER

Vanarama National League	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Torquay	7	6	0	1	17	5	18
Stockport County	7	4	1	2	13	7	13
Sutton Utd	5	4	0	1	8	3	12
Maidenhead Utd	7	4	0	3	11	14	12
Eastleigh	6	3	2	1	14	9	11
Hartlepool	6	3	2	1	9	8	11
Solihull Moors	6	3	1	2	9	5	10
Wealdstone	6	3	1	2	14	15	10
Woking	7	3	1	3	7	9	10
Notts County	5	3	0	2	10	7	9
Boreham Wood	5	2	1	2	5	3	7
Bromley	5	2	1	2	9	7	7
Wrexham	6	2	1	3	6	7	7
Weymouth	7	2	1	4	6	8	7
Barnet	5	2	1	2	6	10	7
King's Lynn Town	7	2	1	4	11	19	7
Chesterfield	6	2	0	4	10	9	6
FC Halifax	5	1	3	1	4	3	6
Altrincham	5	1	3	1	4	5	6
Dover	7	2	0	5	5	17	6
Aldershot	5	1	1	3	10	10	4
Yeovil	7	0	4	3	6	9	4
Dag & Red	6	1	1	4	3	8	4

Bromley 1 Eastleigh 2; Dover 0 Altrincham 1; King's Lynn 2 Woking 3; Maidenhead 3 Solihull Moors 1; Stockport 1 Weymouth 2; Yeovil 0 Chesterfield 1; Hartlepool 0 Torquay 5.

### National League North

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gloucester	4	4	0	0	13	4	12
AFC Fylde	4	4	0	0	7	2	12
Boston Utd	4	3	1	0	9	3	10
Kidderminster	4	3	0	1	8	3	9
Chester FC	5	3	0	2	9	8	9
Southport	4	2	1	1	4	1	7
AFC Telford	5	2	1	2	7	5	7
Spennymoor Town	3	2	1	0	5	3	7
York	3	1	2	0	4	2	5
Alfreton Town	3	1	2	0	3	2	5
Curzon Ashton	5	1	2	2	6	9	5
Gu							

# PREMIER LEAGUE WEEK X

		Home					Away					GD	Pts								
		P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L			F	A						
1	Liverpool	7	5	1	1	17	15	4	4	0	0	11	6	3	1	1	1	6	9	2	16
2	Everton	6	4	1	1	14	9	3	2	1	0	11	6	3	2	0	1	3	3	5	13
3	Wolverhampton	7	4	1	2	8	8	4	2	1	1	5	4	3	2	0	1	3	4	0	13
4	Chelsea	7	3	3	1	16	9	3	1	1	1	7	5	4	2	2	0	9	4	7	12
5	Aston Villa	5	4	0	1	12	5	3	2	0	1	8	5	2	2	0	0	4	0	7	12
6	Leicester	6	4	0	2	13	8	3	1	0	2	4	6	3	3	0	0	9	2	5	12
7	Tottenham	6	3	2	1	16	8	3	0	2	1	4	5	3	3	0	0	12	3	8	11
8	Man City	6	3	2	1	9	8	2	1	0	1	3	5	4	2	2	0	6	3	1	11
9	Leeds	6	3	1	2	12	9	3	1	1	1	5	5	3	2	0	1	7	4	3	10
10	Southampton	6	3	1	2	10	9	3	2	0	1	6	5	3	1	1	1	4	4	1	10
11	Crystal Palace	7	3	1	3	8	11	3	1	1	1	3	3	4	2	0	2	5	8	-3	10
12	Arsenal	6	3	0	3	8	7	3	2	0	1	4	3	3	1	0	2	4	4	1	9
13	West Ham	7	2	2	3	13	10	3	1	1	1	5	3	4	1	1	2	8	7	3	8
14	Newcastle	6	2	2	2	8	10	3	1	0	2	4	8	3	1	2	0	4	2	-2	8
15	Man Utd	5	2	1	2	9	12	3	0	1	2	2	9	2	2	0	0	7	3	-3	7
16	Brighton	6	1	2	3	10	12	3	0	1	2	4	7	3	1	1	1	6	5	-2	5
17	West Brom	6	0	3	3	6	14	3	0	2	1	3	6	3	0	1	2	3	8	-8	3
18	Sheff Utd	7	0	1	6	3	10	4	0	1	3	1	5	3	0	0	3	2	5	-7	1
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2	Rangers	12	10	2	0	28
3	Celtic	11	8	2	1	28
4	Hibernian	12	7	3	2	17
5	Aberdeen	11	7	2	2	17
6	Dundee Utd	13	4	4	5	10
7	Kilmarnock	11	4	2	5	15
8	Motherwell	11	4	2	5	13
9	Ross County	13	3	3	7	8
10	St Johnstone	12	3	2	7	9
11	Livingston	13	3	2	8	13
12	St Mirren	10	2	1	7	6
13	Hamilton	11	2	1	8	13

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Inverness CT	3	0	0	0	32
2	Arbroath	1	0	0	0	32
3	Morton	3	0	0	0	32
4	Ayr	2	0	0	0	32
5	Strapp	88	0	0	0	32

## KANE CHASING HISTORY

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# PREMIER LEAGUE WEEK 7

		Home					Away					GD	Pts								
		P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L			F	A						
1	Liverpool	7	5	1	1	17	15	4	4	0	0	11	6	3	1	1	1	6	9	2	16
2	Everton	6	4	1	1	14	9	3	2	1	0	11	6	3	2	0	1	3	3	5	13
3	Wolverhampton	7	4	1	2	8	8	4	2	1	1	5	4	3	2	0	1	3	4	0	13
4	Chelsea	7	3	3	1	16	9	3	1	1	1	7	5	4	2	2	0	9	4	7	12
5	Aston Villa	5	4	0	1	12	5	3	2	0	1	8	5	2	2	0	0	4	0	7	12
6	Leicester	6	4	0	2	13	8	3	1	0	2	4	6	3	3	0	0	9	2	5	12
7	Tottenham	6	3	2	1	16	8	3	0	2	1	4	5	3	3	0	0	12	3	8	11
8	Man City	6	3	2	1	9	8	2	1	0	1	3	5	4	2	2	0	6	3	1	11
9	Leeds	6	3	1	2	12	9	3	1	1	1	5	5	3	2	0	1	7	4	3	10
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11	Crystal Palace	7	3	1	3	8	11	3	1	1	1	3	3	4	2	0	2	5	8	-3	10
12	Arsenal	6	3	0	3	8	7	3	2	0	1	4	3	3	1	0	2	4	4	1	9
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20	Burnley	6	0	1	5	3	12	3	0	0	3	0	5	3	0	1	2	3	7	-9	1

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## Sport

## David Walsh

From Mahomes to Morikawa and Pogacar to Bellingham, this is the age of fearless young athletes fired by the stats to prove they can match the best



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## Champion of Europe and the world whose decency always shone brightest

There is a section in Sir Bobby Charlton's memoir *My Manchester United Years* where he speaks about his admiration for Nobby Stiles the footballer, and his love for the man. According to Charlton, before "the big three" of Charlton, Denis Law and George Best, there was "the big four" of Charlton, Shay Brennan, David Herd and Stiles, a label self-deprecatingly assigned by the four protagonists.

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It was poignant to hear Giles reminisce during an Irish radio interview on Friday about his friendship with Stiles. They met when both were at United and got on so well that Stiles encouraged his friend to abandon his digs and stay with him at his parents' house.

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Roethlisberger was normal. A kid caught up in the lights. He went on to build a fine career. It is Mahomes who is the outlier. "It's crazy, being as young as he is," Chuck Pagano, the Chicago Bears defensive coordinator, said. "This guy orchestrated that whole thing, looks like he's been in the system for ten years. He's rare. He's elite. Whatever adjective you want to put on him."

Afterwards Mahomes's team-mate Travis Kelce put it more succinctly: "Patrick's going to be himself no matter what the scenario." That's the challenge for elite athletes: to be themselves on the biggest stages. The Chiefs persuaded their young quarterback to sign a \$503 million (£388 million) ten-year contract.

An outlier?

Rick Sessinghaus has been Collin Morikawa's swing coach since the player was eight. "I came home from teaching him one day and told my wife that this junior is going to be special. He was only 12 years old then. He had this presence and maturity about him," Sessinghaus said. In May last year Morikawa graduated in business administration from the University of California,

Berkeley. For most it's a five-year course. Morikawa got it done in four. He turned professional in June 2019 and 14 months later played his second major, the PGA Championship at TPC Harding Park in San Francisco. Only three 23-year-olds had previously won this major: Jack Nicklaus, Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy. This isn't to suggest Morikawa is going to emulate any of that illustrious trio but there is something to learn from what he did.

Morikawa went to Harding Park fully believing that he could win and wasn't surprised when he did. Before the tournament began no one looked upon him as a favourite.

After his two-shot victory he summed up how he felt. "You guys might expect me to be like, 'Wow, I can't believe where I'm at. I'm living my dream.' But, to be honest, this is where I always thought I was going to be." After 17 months on tour Morikawa had won three times and climbed to No 4 in the world rankings.

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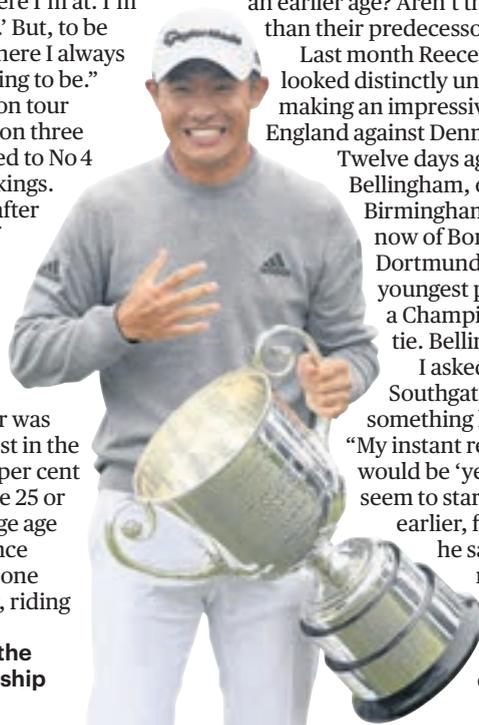
Pogacar is a one-off, you may think, except that the previous year's Tour was won by the 22-year-old Egan Bernal, who is the fourth-youngest winner. Hasn't something happened here? Aren't top elite athletes maturing physically and mentally at an earlier age? Aren't they less fazed than their predecessors?

Last month Reece James, 20, looked distinctly unfazed when making an impressive debut for England against Denmark.

Twelve days ago Jude Bellingham, once of Birmingham City and now of Borussia Dortmund, became the youngest player to start a Champions League tie. Bellingham is 17.

I asked Gareth Southgate if he thought something had changed.

"My instant response would be 'yes'. Players seem to start earlier, peak earlier, finish earlier," he said. "The modern young person seems better equipped to



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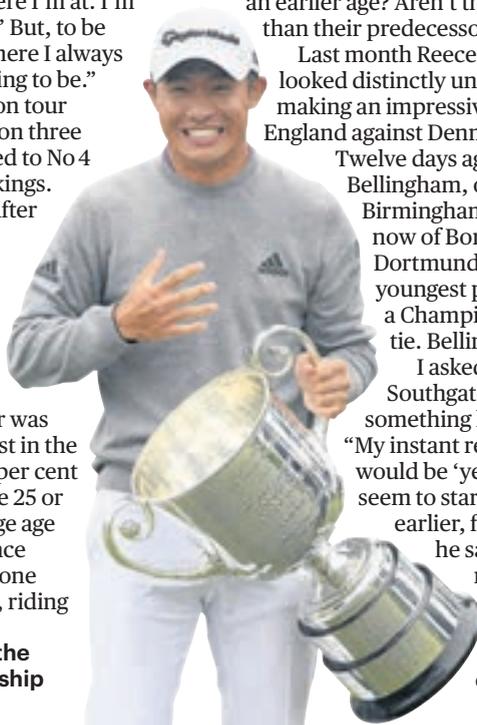
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the Tour for the first time, could win. Except perhaps himself. He won the ninth stage into Laruns and afterwards someone asked, almost in wonder, if he could fight for the yellow jersey.

"Well," he replied matter-of-factly, "that was the plan coming here." Thirteen days later he excelled in a time-trial, overturned a 57-second deficit, claimed the yellow jersey and became the second-youngest winner of the Tour de France.

Pogacar is a one-off, you may think, except that the previous year's Tour was won by the 22-year-old Egan Bernal, who is the fourth-youngest winner. Hasn't something happened here? Aren't top elite athletes maturing physically and mentally at an earlier age? Aren't they less fazed than their predecessors?

Last month Reece James, 20, looked distinctly unfazed when making an impressive debut for England against Denmark.

Twelve days ago Jude Bellingham, once of Birmingham City and now of Borussia Dortmund, became the youngest player to start a Champions League tie. Bellingham is 17.

I asked Gareth Southgate if he thought something had changed.

"My instant response would be 'yes'. Players seem to start earlier, peak earlier, finish earlier," he said. "The modern young person seems better equipped to

deal with the profile. More aware of the world, he seems to have less fear – maybe he's better schooled in some parts of his development."

That last point is key.

Three and a half years ago the golf equipment company TaylorMade signed a contract with McIlroy that guaranteed the player \$100 million over ten years. This had consequences. "Before signing Rory, we had a lot of players under contract," the senior manager Adrian Rietveld said. "That changed as we cut down on numbers and concentrated on finding the best young guys out there. Nowadays we have a much smaller but highly select group."

Seven PGA Tour players are contracted to TaylorMade: McIlroy, Woods, Dustin Johnson, Jason Day, Jon Rahm, Morikawa and Matthew Wolff. The company tracked the latter, younger three as amateurs and before they ever went on Tour they were identified as future stars. "We've got James Cornish, who researches the data and the numbers and arrives at strong conclusions," Rietveld said.

"James will look through the entirety of a player's amateur career. Examine all the wins. How strong was the opposition? How did he deal with pressure? When he failed, why did he fail? Psychologically, how does he stack up?"

So you begin to understand how a 23-year-old could win a major 14 months after turning pro and not be surprised.

It's not any different for the young quarterback or the 21-year-old cyclist or the 17-year-old footballer. All are operating in a changed, more data-centred world and benefiting from it.

# Good University Guide 2021



# Good University Guide 2021

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**Editor** Alastair McCall **Assistant editor** Nick Rodrigues  
**Written by** Will Burton  
**Chief sub-editor** Anna Bruning **Sub-editor** Laura Hookings  
**Production editor** Lee Campbell-Guthrie  
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## TOP OF THE CLASS IN IRELAND

Dublin City University wins our University of the Year award for the third time since its inception in 2002, but for the first time in a decade. It joins University College Dublin and NUI Galway as a three-time winner. University College Cork remains the most successful university in our annual awards, triumphing on five occasions.

NUI Galway is runner-up for the second successive year.

Waterford Institute of Technology, in its 50th anniversary year and about to seek technological university status, is named Institute of Technology of the Year.

**UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR**  
**DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY**

**RUNNER-UP**  
**NUI GALWAY**

**INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY OF THE YEAR**  
**WATERFORD INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY**

**RUNNER-UP**  
**LETTERKENNY IT**

## UK UNIVERSITIES

**UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR**

Oxford

**RUNNER-UP**

Queen Mary, London

**SHORTLISTED**

Bath

Coventry

Strathclyde

**SCOTTISH UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR**

Robert Gordon

**TOP IN THE UK**

	2020 rank	2019 rank	Total points
1	1	Cambridge	1,000
2	2	Oxford	982
3	3	St Andrews	967
4	6	London School of Economics	898
5	4	Imperial College	859
6	7	Durham	841
7	5	Loughborough	810
8	9	University College London	798
9	11	Bath	790
10=	8	Lancaster	769
10=	10	Warwick	769

**THE SUNDAY TIMES.IE / GOOD UNIVERSITY GUIDE**

**A**s the first wave of the coronavirus raged across Ireland, the 3D printer suite sprang into action, printing urgently-needed goggles and facemasks for health staff. It is just one example of how mould-breaking Dublin City University (DCU) has been “putting people first” since it was founded in 1980. Today, its 17,000 students from 110 countries include school leavers and later learners, asylum seekers and people with autism – all striving for excellence.

“From the very beginning, access has been a hallmark of DCU,” says Professor Daire Keogh, its president. “We try to provide opportunity for excellence, to allow students to flourish irrespective of their social background, ethnicity or specific challenges. Socioeconomic access was a hallmark from the foundation of the university and we have really broadened that in recent years.

“We hope the university will be defined by the people we include, as opposed to the people we exclude.”

DCU’s impressive access programme combined with a strong performance in our rankings – increasing its points more than any other third-level institution – makes it The Sunday Times Irish University of the Year 2021. It is the university’s third time with its name in lights, following wins in 2004 and 2010.

DCU has also distinguished itself with its support for students during the Covid-19 pandemic, while continuing to blaze a trail in recruiting more women to Stem (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects, promoting sport and boosting wellbeing.

“I like to think that DCU is distinguished as a university for putting people first in terms of respect, inclusivity and our vision and service ethos,” says Keogh, who became president in July.

“We put people first in terms of our research, too, as a lot is focused on sustainability issues and aligned with the UN sustainability goals of people and planet. People come to work here with the intention of transforming lives and society. That may sound romantic or idealistic, but this award is an affirmation of our mission and dedication to it.”

DCU has a community of 20,000 staff and students in five faculties on five academic campuses. Even given the regulation two-metre distancing policy, it has been able to continue lab-based and some other activities on campus as Ireland has brought in level 5 restrictions to reduce the spread of the coronavirus.

“I often say our people are our principles, are our compass in the Covid fog,” says Keogh. “We have stayed true to our mission and tried to deliver it.”

A range of practical, emotional and educational support was quickly put in place. “We were the first out of the blocks to offer students flexible accommodation, so they could book by night almost like a hotel or hostel,” he explains. “That spared them the need to make large-scale commitments and removed anxiety and unnecessary cost.”

Meanwhile, the university started building online capability that will serve its students well in the future, too. “From the beginning, we committed to hybrid delivery: it was never our intention to go [wholly] online,” Keogh adds. “We have invested hugely in the quality of our teaching and learning, upscaled our staff and brought in additional resources. What we are offering is not glorified Skype but even in the online engagement, it is quality teaching and learning.”

DCU made a vital contribution to the national effort against the disease, making face coverings, training frontline workers in a virus tracing centre in its nursing school, and creating a research and



THE SUNDAY TIMES  
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**GOOD UNIVERSITY GUIDE**  
 2021  
 UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR

# A compass in the Covid fog

Renowned for its inclusive, people-first approach, our Irish University of the Year has not allowed the pandemic to knock it off course, reports *Senay Boztas*



## THE SUNDAY TIMES THIRD LEVEL LEAGUE TABLE

2020 rank	2019 rank		Student experience (250)	Leaving Cert points (150)	Research (100)	Employment (100)	First/2:1s awarded (100)	Student/staff ratio (100)	Progression rate (100)	Facilities spend (100)	Total (1,000)	Page
1	1	Trinity College Dublin	124	122	100	96	68	58	92	100	760	(9)
2	2=	University College Cork	121	117	73	98	76	58	94	89	727	(7)
3	2=	University College Dublin	127	120	55	97	75	61	92	91	718	(9)
4	4	National University of Ireland Galway	126	112	68	98	65	64	90	81	704	(10)
5	6	Dublin City University	125	113	52	97	78	55	92	74	687	(7)
6	5	University of Limerick	127	114	47	97	58	60	90	85	677	(11)
7	7	Athlone Institute of Technology	132	93	22	93	63	79	89	89	660	(6)
8	8	Waterford Institute of Technology	122	86	20	96	67	78	84	99	652	(12)
9	10	Institute of Technology Tralee	118	92	11	97	63	88	87	94	649	(12)
10=	9	Cork Institute of Technology	118	97	14	95	65	85	86	78	638	(6)
10=	11	Institute of Technology Sligo	112	86	8	90	62	100	85	94	638	(12)
12=	13=	Limerick Institute of Technology	121	86	10	93	65	85	85	78	622	(11)
12=	13=	Dundalk Institute of Technology	129	91	9	93	65	72	86	76	622	(9)
14	12	Maynooth University	125	99	46	95	63	37	88	60	614	(11)
15	15	Technological University Dublin	120	98	7	95	63	74	84	72	613	(8)
16	16	Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology	122	90	6	94	66	71	84	74	606	(10)
17	18	Letterkenny Institute of Technology	124	86	4	93	59	74	87	70	597	(10)
18	17	Institute of Art, Design and Technology, Dun Laoghaire	131	87	4	87	59	60	87	67	581	(7)
19	19	Institute of Technology Carlow	126	87	8	95	62	70	80	53	580	(6)

Within three years, our third level league table is likely to be reduced to 14 institutions as successive mergers create four new technological universities, in addition to the one established in Dublin last year, writes *Alastair McCall*. It is the most radical shake up of higher education in a generation, but what impact will it have on the pre-TU rankings of the participating institutions?

TU Dublin sits 15th in the table for the second successive year. It was created on January 1, 2019, from a merger between the Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT), IT Tallaght and IT Blanchardstown. DIT, which regularly ranked 7th or 8th, joined two smaller institutions that often finished at the foot of the table.

Munster Technological University (MTU) is the first of the four TUs expected to come to fruition in the 12 months from January 1 next year. Formed from IT Tralee and Cork IT, ranking 9th and 10= this year, it is likely to be vying for top spot among the TUs in our future guides with the TU for the Midlands and Midwest that will result from the merger of Athlone IT and Limerick IT (7th and 12=), due in September 2021.

At the same time, the TU of South East Ireland (TUSEI) will open its doors, formed from Waterford, our Institute of Technology of the Year, and IT Carlow (ranked 8th and

19th respectively). TUSEI, at least early on, is unlikely to reach a rank as high as WIT has consistently achieved.

The final TU is likely to arise from the coming together of the Connacht-Ulster Alliance of IT Sligo, Galway-Mayo IT and Letterkenny IT (ranked 10=, 16th and 17th) to create a TU for the West and Northwest. The rankings of these three ITs have been more mobile, so a placing in the low teens seems a reasonable bet.

Of course, the domestic ranking of the resulting institutions is nowhere near the top of the agenda in the TU revolution. Much more pertinent is the critical mass that comes from creating a larger institution with a defined regional footprint capable of punching its weight nationally and internationally. The new TUs will provide the broadest range of opportunities for students, who might previously have had to travel to Dublin for their choice of course.

This year's rankings show the least change, year-on-year, of any of our 18 annual third level tables. Top and bottom places are the same, but there is a hint of future movement in the individual performance measures. IT Carlow is up in five of the seven indicators for which there is new data, suggesting that its occupancy of the basement position will not be long-lived.

innovation hub to link its experts to areas of national need. Alumni stepped forward in their hundreds to mentor students, while the university was quick to offer loans of laptops and technology and, through its education trust, a special hardship fund.

"There is a sadness, because education is not transactional, and universities come to life in the reaction and interaction between colleagues and students, students and students, and students and sport: the vitality is kind of missing," says Keogh. "It hasn't been perfect but we've shown ourselves to be devoted to our students and our people."

One hallmark of DCU people is their diversity, thanks in part to an access programme that turned 30 this year and has supported more than 4,000 students from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds. Last year, DCU welcomed one in five of Ireland's total number of Hear (Higher Education Access Route) students, and retention rates are high: 94% of access students stay, and the most recent figures showed 76% of 2015 entrants completed their studies within four years. In 2018, 70% of access students achieved a first-class or 2:1 degree.

"We're not doing this as a charity," adds Keogh. "At the heart of our inclusion agenda is that it's in the interests of the university to be more diverse."

In 2019, Dublin City began to recognise the "Jam" card, which helps someone with autism or other communication barriers to signal that they may need "just a minute" extra. DCU is now an "autism-

**“Universities come to life through interaction... the vitality is missing. It hasn't been perfect but we've shown ourselves to be devoted to our people**

friendly" university, adapting the way it teaches and operates.

"We were the world's first age-friendly university" says Keogh, – and now it is part of a global network of around 70. "We particularly promote gender equality in the university and we have led in promoting women in Stem [subjects] on a national level. Right across the board, we seek to be inclusive, with a good racial mix – partly as a feature of our physical location, and with our access programme, bringing underrepresented groups to third-level education in Ireland. We were also Ireland's first university of sanctuary, reaching out to asylum seekers and refugees to welcome them, with a raft of scholarships and outreach programmes."

The university helps support access students beyond the campus, too. A programme links them to opportunities for fully-paid work experience in the type of company where they might otherwise find it difficult to get a foot in the door.

"They don't have the family networks

**DCU was 'first out of the blocks' with practical, emotional and educational support for students dealing with Covid-19**



**OUR TABLET AND WEB EDITIONS**

Profiles of all Irish universities can be found at much greater length online, together with rankings covering all the league table indicators and components of our student experience ratings

[thesundaytimes.ie/gooduniversityguide](https://thesundaytimes.ie/gooduniversityguide)

and wouldn't see themselves in some professions, like the legal profession, for instance," he says. "That's win-win for our partners, too. It enables them to bring diversity and different ways of looking at things into their organisations."

Dublin City has won the new Student Sport Ireland Sports College of the Year award twice – in its inaugural year in 2019 and again this year. Topping the leagues is always welcome, but DCU also promotes the benefits of taking part in sport.

DCU Little Things, a current campaign, encourages people to give themselves small challenges and look after their mental health. University gyms are some of the facilities open to the community.

The university has joined other third-level institutions to launch React, a campaign to moderate alcohol consumption – "almost counter-cultural in an Irish sense", says Keogh. Some student residences are alcohol-free and staff and students are trained to recognise problem drinking patterns. Students also have their own "Sober Soc", offering booze-free events.

Keogh says it is part of "wellness and inclusion, creating a healthy environment". Significant numbers of students may not drink for cultural reasons, and the scheme also helps to ensure they don't feel left out.

DCU has won government funding of almost €20m to "future-proof" its provision and Keogh is trying out one of its new series of micro-credentials for continuous development. He says: "I think we have to keep all of us learning"

## FIRST IN MY FAMILY TO GET A DEGREE

Raluca Andronic, 22, from Monaghan, has just started a master's degree in digital marketing after achieving first-class honours in her BSc in multimedia. She came to Dublin City University (DCU) through the Hear (Higher Education Access Route) path for school-leavers from disadvantaged backgrounds, and is now a senior ambassador for DCU's access programme, living on campus.



"DCU is one of the most friendly environments I've seen and you 100% meet all kinds of people, different ages, genders, from all around the world, totally different in how they look and act.

"I've had students come up to me and say: 'Is it really possible to go to college?' They have this vision that only kids who have lots of money can go, or only kids who are really smart.

"I am the first to go to university [in my family]. My dad currently works in a factory, my mum is a dental nurse and carer for my granny. Without them and the support and scholarships I've received, I wouldn't be able to be here. But I absolutely love it."



20-21 November

# Virtual Open Days

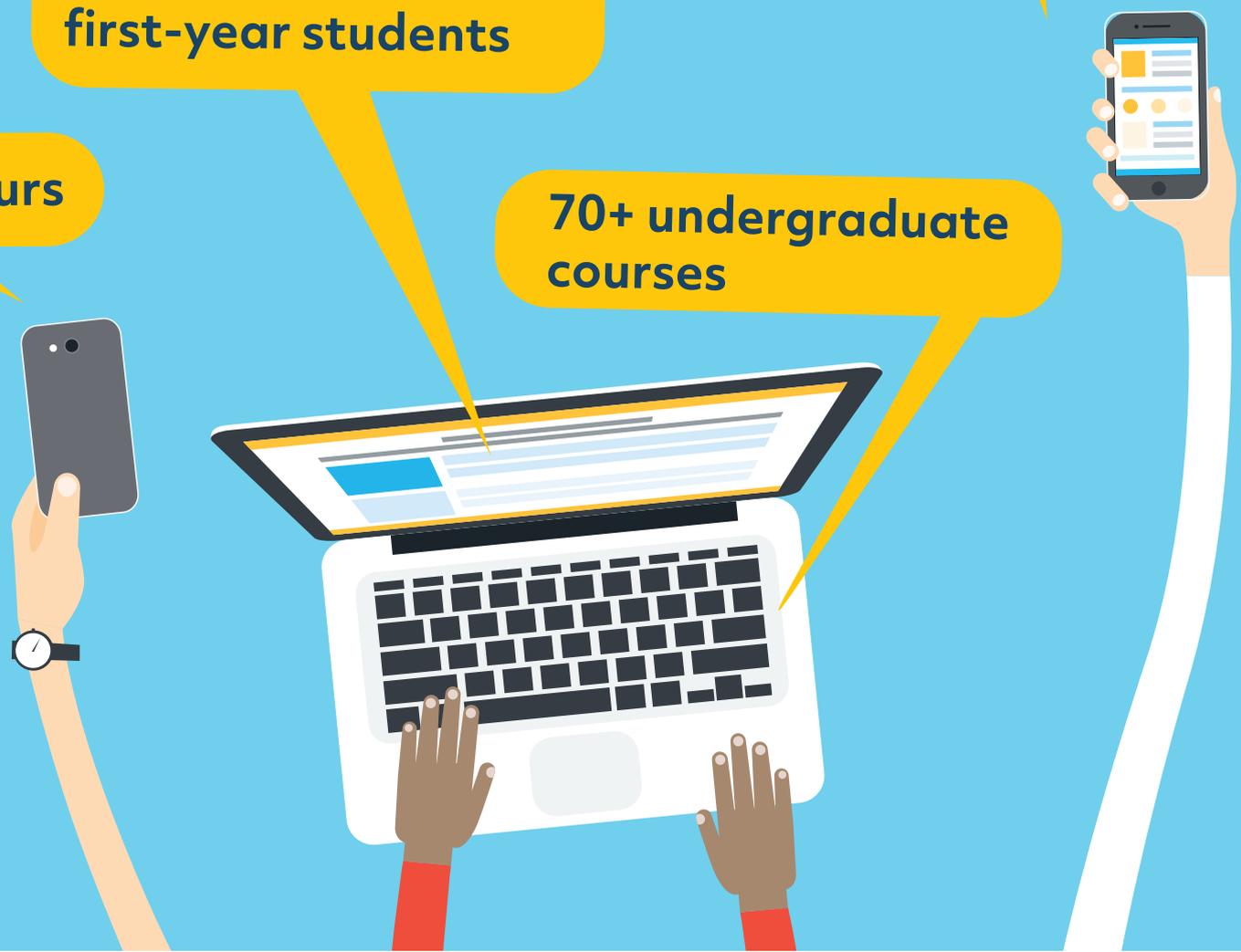
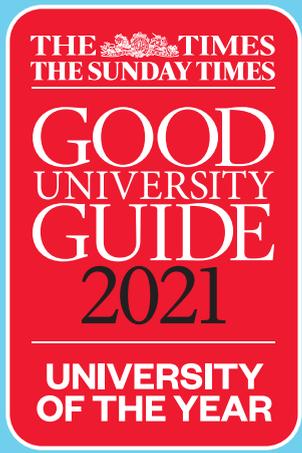
Register at [dcu.ie/cao](https://dcu.ie/cao)

Join our career-focused and interactive sessions

Panel discussion with first-year students

Virtual campus tours

70+ undergraduate courses





# Click and go education

With college life turned on its head this term, *Will Burton* asks how many of the Covid-inspired changes are here to stay

**T**he genie is out of the bottle. For current and future generations of students, college life is never going to be the same again. While the parties and pubs denied to this year's freshers will surely return, the way that students learn is likely to have changed for good.

"The whole experience with Covid-19 will have a transformational effect on third-level education," says Professor Willie Donnelly, president of Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT). "We really need to think and reimagine our third-level provision and how we deliver education. Blended learning is going to become the norm."

"We have to rethink the way we design and deliver programmes. I don't believe we can go back to an environment where we have sit-down exams twice a year. Online engagement and continual assessment maybe, instead of a two-hour exam."

WIT, our Institute of Technology of the Year, has had to grapple – like the rest of the third level – with the effects of Covid-19 and the imposition a fortnight ago of a level 5 lockdown, further tightening restrictions on campuses. They now resemble ghost towns compared with the bustling vibrancy of old.

Donnelly believes this could be just the beginning. "I think an area where it hasn't had an effect yet, is in the pedagogy. So I think, to some degree, right across the sector, we're still firefighting and playing catch-up."

Getting the style of teaching right is a significant challenge on several fronts, requiring changes not just to delivery but to how students learn. Pádraic Toomey, president of the National University of Ireland Galway students' union, explains that access to ICT hasn't been the worst of it for new students, but that "students were being overworked".

"Lecturers are uploading or delivering live lectures that continue way past their allotted time. People also speak faster when there's no audience, which means students must go back to re-watch every couple of minutes to grasp what they are saying."

Equipment and infrastructure issues have been a challenge. Donnelly explained that patchy broadband in the southeast of the country had led WIT to establish technology-enhanced learning pods in each of its academic schools for the benefit of students and staff alike.

"These are hi-tech, highly specialised rooms, and students can come in, have access to the equipment and broadband. Lecturers can get access to their online teaching, or develop their programmes before they deliver them," he explained.

Access to laptops is a bigger problem in other institutions and one that is costing large sums to address. Letterkenny Institute of Technology (LYIT) got government funding of €373,339 through the Higher Education Authority to purchase 375 laptops to help disadvantaged students access ICT.

Initial feedback from lecturers and students about online course delivery is

positive, says Dr Nigel McKelvey, LYIT's first head of flexible and online learning.

"Anecdotal feedback from lecturing staff would suggest that students are engaging well and attending in strong numbers, with students interacting more in the online context than in the face-to-face sessions."

There is evidence that some students are finding it easier to ask questions in the new format for learning. "Perhaps some students feel less intimidated to post a question in a chat box rather than raising their hand in a traditional classroom," says McKelvey.

But there is no arguing that it is a different college experience. Many students have yet to set foot on campus and the online technology that has replaced in-person delivery does not always function perfectly. Technical glitches in the blended learning environment have been a source of frustration for some first-year students.

For Shannon Morrison, an arts student at NUI Galway, the process has been difficult. "I felt like I'd been thrown into the deep end."

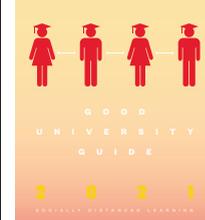
"The transition into university is hard already without the added difficulty of lecturers who are also new to online learning, trying their best."

Institutions have had no choice but to implement large-scale online learning during the pandemic. For some, like IT Sligo, where more than half of the students were already distance learners, this has been less of a shock to the system than for others. Many students have struggled, however.

"It's the realisation of what lies ahead that is difficult to comprehend," says Morrison. "I feel as though it's going to severely impact me in both an academic and mental sense. I had to move home and it's not the same as a university environment. I'm paying €3,000 [registration fee] for a few video calls a week in my childhood bedroom."

**Socially distanced learning is the new normal at IT Carlow, which has received government funding for a laptop loan scheme**

THE SUNDAYTIMES



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**KEY TO PROFILES**  
PAGES 6-12

Universities were ranked according to marks scored in eight key performance areas. The raw outcomes are detailed in the performance section of each university profile, followed by the ranking of the institution (bar NCI) on the measure concerned.

**Student experience** Scaled scores out of 60 points across nine areas of student experience — effective teaching practices, higher order learning, reflective and integrative learning, learning strategies, student faculty interaction, overall quality of interactions, a supportive academic environment, collaborative learning, and quantitative reasoning — were averaged to produce an overall scaled score for each institution. This was converted to a percentage of the maximum possible score and given a 2.5 times weighting. Source: Studentsurvey.ie, 2019.

**Leaving Certificate points for entry** The average Leaving Certificate points obtained by honours degree entrants, weighted by the latest data on the number of students on each programme. A maximum score of 600 points is assumed and the percentage of the maximum attained is given a 1.5 times weighting in the league table. Source: Calculated from CAO entry data 2019 and individual institution's student numbers on each course.

**Research** Compares competitive research funding won in 2019 with the number of core academic staff. Trinity College Dublin (TCD) had the best per capita funding, which we scored 100 in the table. All other scores expressed as a percentage of the TCD result. Source: individual institutions, 2019 research income.

**Employment** Percentage of graduates known to be seeking employment nine months after leaving. Subtracted from 100 to produce the league table score. Source: Higher Education Authority, 2018 leavers' data.

**Firsts/2:1s** Percentage of highest-quality degrees. Source: individual institutions, full- and part-time students, 2018 data.

**Student-staff ratio** Full-time undergraduate students, divided by core academic staff numbers. We took a ratio of 10:1 as a benchmark for excellence, worthy of 100 points in the league table. Source: HEA and individual institutions, 2019 data.

**Progression rate** Percentage of students progressing to the second year of their courses. Source: HEA, 2017-18 data.

**Facilities/services spend** Total expenditure per FTE student excluding research and depreciation with pension adjustments. Source: HEA, 2016-17 data.

Beside the eight measures, an arrow indicates whether the ranking is up (▲), down (▼) or equal (◀▶) compared with last year.

**A full methodology is available online at [thesundaytimes.ie/gooduniversityguide](https://thesundaytimes.ie/gooduniversityguide)**



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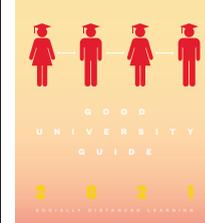
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Universities were ranked according to marks scored in eight key performance areas. The raw outcomes are detailed in the performance section of each university profile, followed by the ranking of the institution (bar NCI) on the measure concerned.

**Student experience** Scaled scores out of 60 points across nine areas of student experience — effective teaching practices, higher order learning, reflective and integrative learning, learning strategies, student faculty interaction, overall quality of interactions, a supportive academic environment, collaborative learning, and quantitative reasoning — were averaged to produce an overall scaled score for each institution. This was converted to a percentage of the maximum possible score and given a 2.5 times weighting. Source: Studentsurvey.ie, 2019.

**Leaving Certificate points for entry** The average Leaving Certificate points obtained by honours degree entrants, weighted by the latest data on the number of students on each programme. A maximum score of 600 points is assumed and the percentage of the maximum attained is given a 1.5 times weighting in the league table. Source: Calculated from CAO entry data 2019 and individual institution's student numbers on each course.

**Research** Compares competitive research funding won in 2019 with the number of core academic staff. Trinity College Dublin (TCD) had the best per capita funding, which we scored 100 in the table. All other scores expressed as a percentage of the TCD result. Source: individual institutions, 2019 research income.

**Employment** Percentage of graduates known to be seeking employment nine months after leaving. Subtracted from 100 to produce the league table score. Source: Higher Education Authority, 2018 leavers' data.

**Firsts/2:1s** Percentage of highest-quality degrees. Source: Higher Education Authority, full- and part-time students, 2018 data.

**Student-staff ratio** Full-time undergraduate students, divided by core academic staff numbers. We took a ratio of 10:1 as a benchmark for excellence, worthy of 100 points in the league table. Source: Higher Education Authority, 2019 data.

**Progression rate** Percentage of students progressing to the second year of their courses. Source: HEA, 2017-18 data.

**Facilities/services spend** Total expenditure per FTE student excluding research and depreciation with pension adjustments. Source: HEA, 2016-17 data.

Beside the eight measures, an arrow indicates whether the ranking is up (▲), down (▼) or equal (◀▶) compared with last year.

**A full methodology is available online at [thesundaytimes.ie/gooduniversityguide](https://thesundaytimes.ie/gooduniversityguide)**

## ATHLONE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Dublin Road, Athlone  
Co Westmeath N37 HD68  
Tel 090 646 8130  
admissions@ait.ie  
www.ait.ie / https://aitlitconsortium.ie  
Open days: https://www.ait.ie/future-students/campus-open-days

### PERFORMANCE

Sunday Times ranking	7 (7)
Student experience	52.9%, 1 ⬇
Points for entry	371 (295-442), 10 ⬇
Research income	€10.4m, 8 ⬇
Unemployment	7%, 14= ⬆
Firsts and 2:1s	62.6%, 13 ⬆
Student-staff ratio	12.6:1, 5 ⬇
Progression rate	89%, 7 ⬆
Services/facilities spend	€10,849, 7 ⬇

### VITAL STATISTICS

Undergraduates	3,504 (985)
Postgraduates	214 (130)
Teaching staff	278
Mature	19.6%
Overseas	14.5%
Affluent	5%
Disadvantaged	14%
Flexible learners	7.3%
Sports facilities	★★★★★

By the time the next intake of students enrolls at Athlone Institute of Technology (AIT), it should have become Ireland's third technological university (TU). Forged in partnership with Limerick Institute of Technology, the new third-level institution aims to have 15,000 students across six campuses in four counties. The project was boosted by a €5m grant last month.

Professor Ciarán Ó Catháin, AIT's

president, says the new TU will tap in to the European Regional University Network to share best practice and offer joint degree and research programmes.

AIT has already teamed up with the Wuxi Institute of Technology to open a joint institute for engineering students in China. On home turf, plans for a €25m Stem (science, technology, engineering and maths) building for 1,000 students have been delayed by the pandemic.

One of AIT's main attractions is its smaller class sizes. Undergraduates are eased into the transition to third-level by the First Seven Weeks programme.

New honours degrees for 2020 include civil engineering, sport management and food business and technology. Next year's portfolio will see digital construction management, pharmacology and culinary entrepreneurship added, too.

Our Institute of Technology of the Year last year, AIT continues to enjoy the widest participation and highest scores in Ireland's annual student satisfaction questionnaire. The latest Studentsurvey.ie showed AIT students were "most satisfied". According to Dr Niall Seery, vice-president for academic affairs and registrar, this reflects "an inclusive campus environment that lends itself to student wellbeing".

### PRIVATE RENTS

€315 to €450 per month

### STUDENT VIEW

#### AINE DALY

STUDENTS' UNION PRESIDENT

**First impressions** Warm and welcoming.

**Worst feature** Not having institute-owned student accommodation.

**Facilities** Very good facilities on campus.

**Deal clincher** The community, student support and the people.

## INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY CARLOW

Kilkenny Road  
Carlow  
Tel 059 917 5174  
admissions@itcarlow.ie  
www.itcarlow.ie  
Open days: https://www.itcarlow.ie/study/school-leavers/info-for-schools/open-days.htm

### PERFORMANCE

Sunday Times ranking	19 (19)
Student experience	50.3%, 7 ⬆
Points for entry	350 (245-451), 14 ⬆
Research	€3.5m, 14 ⬆
Unemployment	5%, 9= ⬆
Firsts and 2:1s	61.7%, 16 ⬆
Student-staff ratio	14.4:1, 11 ⬆
Progression rate	80%, 19 ⬇
Services/facilities spend	€6,420, 19 ⬇

### VITAL STATISTICS

Undergraduates	3,794 (3,146)
Postgraduates	660 (536)
Teaching staff	264
Mature	22.4%
Overseas	10.2%
Affluent	7%
Disadvantaged	16%
Flexible learners	n/a
Sports facilities	★★★★☆

The new €15m South Sports Campus is nearly finished, 1km from the Institute of Technology Carlow (ITC) headquarters. The 12 ½-hectare campus adds six extra sports pitches and a 400m athletics track.

The sports facilities are part of €150m of development as ITC prepares to apply next summer, with Waterford IT, to become a technological university for the

Southeast. Next the institute hopes to build a €25m advanced science and health building and a €20m Wexford campus on a greenfield site.

ITC's investment in sport has helped its athletes succeed. At the Irish Universities Athletics Association (IUAA) Indoor Interschool Championships 2020, Carlow students brought home medals in the men's and women's 60m hurdles, and in the men's 1500m and relay.

The second-largest of Ireland's 11 ITs, Carlow has been at the forefront of widening third-level participation. The institute, in partnership with Specialisterne, an independent recruitment agency set up in 2013, aims to boost job opportunities for students with autism and it offers two sanctuary scholarships each year for asylum seekers.

Last year, ITC's research centres worked with more than 100 partners on industry projects, such as training cyber-security graduates to work in local insurance businesses.

As a result of more than 50 international agreements with institutes from Slovakia to Shanghai, 88 nationalities now study at the institute, giving a cosmopolitan feel to the student population based in Carlow and Wexford.

### PRIVATE RENTS

€350 to €500 per month

### STUDENT VIEW

#### THOMAS DRURY

STUDENTS' UNION PRESIDENT

**First impressions** A focus on practical skills leaves students with the ability to jump straight into work.

**Worst feature** The library has a lack of group working spaces.

**Facilities** Very good and accessible.

**Deal clincher** Lecturers give one-on-one attention. One of the best ITs for sports.



Beaming Cork IT graduates gowned and ready for their conferring ceremony

## CORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Bishopstown  
Cork T12 P928  
Tel 021 432 6100  
admissions@cit.ie  
www.cit.ie  
Open days: https://www.cit.ie/openday

### PERFORMANCE

Sunday Times ranking	10= (9)
Student experience	47.1%, 18 ⬇
Points for entry	389 (251-565), 9 ⬇
Research income	€16.3m, 10 ⬇
Unemployment	5%, 9= ⬆
Firsts and 2:1s	65.0%, 8 ⬇
Student-staff ratio	11.8:1, 3= ⬆
Progression rate	86%, 12= ⬆
Services/facilities spend	€9,520, 11 ⬇

### VITAL STATISTICS

Undergraduates	7,931 (2,317)
Postgraduates	395 (411)
Teaching staff	674
Mature	12.4%
Overseas	2.8%
Affluent	17%
Disadvantaged	9%
Flexible learners	2.3%
Sports facilities	★★★★☆

Munster Technological University (MTU) will welcome its first intake next autumn. The new institution will be formed in January, bringing together Cork Institute of Technology (CIT) and the Institute of Technology Tralee (ITT), with six campuses across Cork and Kerry and about 18,000 students.

Expansion of the course portfolio at CIT has already begun, with new courses this year in business, sport and exercise management, and Montessori education.

There are plans to begin building a new Learning Resource Centre for Stem (science, technology, engineering and

mathematics) subjects, business and the humanities next year.

The €22m CIT Arena will transform sports provision when it is completed next year, adding an eight-court sports hall. Approval is pending for a 1,200-seat stadium, and Cork institute is hoping to win funding for a High Performance Athletics Centre.

In 2019, the IT was awarded €16m in research funding, among the larger sums in Ireland's IT sector. Cork is at the forefront of research into the effectiveness of facemasks to prevent transmission of Covid-19 under a Science Foundation Ireland project called Mask (Making Aerosol Safety Known). It adapts a technique developed at CIT's Blackrock Castle Observatory used to measure the brightness of stars.

Consistently among the leading ITs in our guide – and three times winner of our IT of the Year award – CIT has some of the most generous staffing levels and highest levels of graduate employment. Under the Hear (Higher Education Access Route) scheme, Cork aims to offer more places to students from disadvantaged backgrounds, including asylum seekers and travellers.

### PRIVATE RENTS

€450 to €500 per month

### STUDENT VIEW

#### AISLING O'MAHONY

STUDENTS' UNION PRESIDENT

**First impressions** There is a noticeably warm and welcoming atmosphere and massive mutual respect between staff and students.

**Worst feature** No campus bar ... yet. After the merger, who knows.

**Facilities** There is a massive range of facilities to suit every type of person.

**Deal clincher** The opportunities! Staff know you by name and have some promising links to industry. CIT can help open a whole lot of doors for you.



## A SHINING LIGHT

Waterford Institute of Technology is our Institute of Technology of the Year. Read our online feature about its success [thesundaytimes.ie/gooduniversityguide](https://thesundaytimes.ie/gooduniversityguide)

## UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK

Western Road  
Cork T12 YN60  
Tel 021 490 3971  
admissions@ucc.ie  
www.ucc.ie  
Open days: <https://www.ucc.ie/en/study/undergrad/events/opendays>

### PERFORMANCE

Sunday Times ranking	2 (2=)
Student experience	48.5%, 14 ▼
Points for entry	469 (300-590), 3 ▲
Research income	€105.5m, 2 ▲
Unemployment	2%, 1= ▲
Firsts and 2:1s	76.3%, 2 ▲
Student-staff ratio	17.2:1, 16 ▲
Progression rate	94%, 1 ▲
Services/facilities spend	€10,857, 6 ▲
World ranking	286 (310)

### VITAL STATISTICS

Undergraduates	14,579 (1,242)
Postgraduates	3,142 (2,015)
Teaching staff	847
Mature	11.9%
Overseas	15.6%
Affluent	31%
Disadvantaged	5%
Flexible learners	0.9%
Sports facilities	★★★★☆

A raft of new facilities and planned projects will reinforce the position of University College Cork (UCC) as one of the country's leading institutions. Take the new Student Hub, which provides quiet places to study and offers sweeping views of the city. UCC also plans a new €25m business school and a 255-bed student residence ready for the provision of new clinical facilities at Cork University Hospital and a dental school at the Cork Science and Innovation Park in Curraheen.

Founded in 1845, UCC is a five-time winner of our University of the Year title, most recently in 2016. Its record for retaining first-year students – 92.2% – is 6% above the national average.

New this year are anthropology and a four-year BEd in Gaeilge, an MSc in hearing, balance and communication and a MMedSc in sports and exercise medicine. UCC is the first in Ireland to offer a course on Irish LGBT+ history, tracking dramatic change in modern Irish society.

There are ambitious plans to increase the proportion of access students from disadvantaged backgrounds from 23.6% on UCC courses this year to 26% by 2022.

### PRIVATE RENTS

€400 to €950 per month

### STUDENT VIEW NAOISE CROWLEY

STUDENTS' UNION PRESIDENT

**First impressions** Beautiful campus in a vibrant city.

**Worst feature** Rooms can be expensive.

**Facilities** Excellent.

**Deal clincher** An incredible experience.

## BEST PROGRESSION RATE

% PROGRESSING FROM YEAR 1 TO YEAR 2

1	University College Cork	94	(7)
2=	Dublin City University	92	(7)
2=	University College Dublin	92	(9)
2=	Trinity College Dublin	92	(9)
5=	NUI Galway	90	(10)
5=	University of Limerick	90	(11)
7	Athlone IT	89	(6)
8	Maynooth University	88	(11)
9=	IADT	87	(7)
9=	Letterkenny IT	87	(10)
9=	IT Tralee	87	(12)

SOURCE: HEA, 2016-17 TO 2017-18

## DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY

Glasnevin  
Dublin 9  
Tel 01 700 8510  
studenthelp@dcu.ie  
www.dcu.ie  
Open days: <https://www.dcu.ie/studentrecruitment/open-days-0>

### PERFORMANCE

Sunday Times ranking	5 (6)
Student experience	49.9%, 8= ▼
Points for entry	453 (309-579), 5 ▼
Research income	€58.7m, 5 ▲
Unemployment	3%, 3= ▲
Firsts and 2:1s	78.4%, 1 ▲
Student-staff ratio	18.1:1, 18 ▼
Progression rate	92%, 2= ▲
Services/facilities spend	€9,033, 13 ▲
World ranking	439= (429=)

### VITAL STATISTICS

Undergraduates	12,060 (372)
Postgraduates	1,575 (1,551)
Teaching staff	668
Mature	7.8%
Overseas	8.8%
Affluent	20%
Disadvantaged	8%
Flexible learners	5.4%
Sports facilities	★★★★★

Dublin City University (DCU), our University of the Year 2021, is the only one to rise in this year's rankings. It is among five in Ireland in the top 500 QS World University Rankings – good news for incoming president Professor Daire Keogh, appointed in July.

Since receiving university status in 1989, DCU has grown to have 18,000 students across five campuses. From next year, a BSc in psychology and a new mathematics course will be on offer.

Dublin City's access programme, the longest-running in Ireland, marks its 30th anniversary this year. It supports 1,200 students from disadvantaged backgrounds – including 300 recruited last year – and boasts a 94% retention rate for first-years, outperforming the rest of the student body. DCU works with 10,000 pupils at 60 schools in north Dublin to encourage progression to third-level.

College-owned student accommodation on campus is 40% cheaper than the market rate and provision continues to be a priority, with €2.5m spent to improve St Patrick's halls and plans for 1,243 rooms at Glasnevin.

DCU has been named Student Sport Ireland Sports College of the Year 2020, its second such award in a row.

In February this year Dublin City took steps to increase its commitment to the promotion of Stem (science, technology, engineering and maths) subjects, with a particular focus on female representation by way of commissioning portraits of outstanding women in the field. These will include Irish pacifist, prison reformer and crystallographer Dame Kathleen Lonsdale (1903-1971); and Nasa mathematician Katherine Johnson (1918-2020).

### PRIVATE RENTS

€400 to €700 per month

### STUDENT VIEW FEARGHAL LYNCH

STUDENTS' UNION PRESIDENT

**First impressions** Blown away by the family-like atmosphere on campus.

**Worst feature** Maybe we could have a wider range of courses, but they will come in time, I'm sure.

**Facilities** Being such a young university, the facilities are top-class.

**Deal clincher** The atmosphere, and I also heard the students' union is top-notch!



## BEST FOR SPORT

Sports facilities at every institution are rated from one star (poor) to five stars (excellent) [thesundaytimes.ie/gooduniversityguide](https://thesundaytimes.ie/gooduniversityguide)

**IADT arts honours student Patrick Tunney with his installation, titled Protective Decay**

## INSTITUTE OF ART, DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY, DUN LAOGHAIRE

Kill Avenue  
Dun Laoghaire  
Co Dublin  
Tel 01 239 4400  
info@iadt.ie  
www.iadt.ie  
Open days: <https://iadt.ie/study/open-days/>

### PERFORMANCE

Sunday Times ranking	18 (17)
Student experience	52.2%, 2 ▲
Points for entry	347 (201-379), 15 ▲
Research income	€0.7m, 19 ▼
Unemployment	13%, 19 ▼
Firsts and 2:1s	59.0%, 18 ▼
Student-staff ratio	16.5:1, 13= ▼
Progression rate	87%, 9= ▼
Services/facilities spend	€8,133, 17 ▲

### VITAL STATISTICS

Undergraduates	1,952 (98)
Postgraduates	94 (191)
Teaching staff	118
Mature	15.5%
Overseas	4.1%
Affluent	35%
Disadvantaged	8%
Flexible learners	n/a
Sports facilities	★☆☆☆☆

Just 12km outside Dublin, the seaside hub of Dun Laoghaire embraces artists and entrepreneurs – an ideal spot for Ireland's only third-level institution dedicated to creative, cultural and technological courses. The Institute of

Art, Design and Technology, Dun Laoghaire (IADT), has funding to look into the creation of a national university of creative arts and is establishing a €10m Creative Futures Academy with University College Dublin and the National College of Art and Design to promote growth in the sector.

This year, IADT's film school became the first in Ireland to be included in Variety magazine's list of the best film faculties in the world – one of just 10 acknowledged outside America.

David Smith, the institute's former head of the Faculty of Film, Art and Creative Technologies, was appointed president this year after the retirement of Dr Annie Doona. New degrees this year include interaction and user experience design, English and equality studies, and digital marketing. A new postgraduate certificate in digital sculpting and modelling has been designed by industry experts and is run in conjunction with Screen Skills Ireland.

### PRIVATE RENTS

€450 to €800 per month

### STUDENT'S VIEW SOMHAIRLE BRENNAN

STUDENTS' UNION PRESIDENT

**First impressions** Acceptance for everyone that comes through the door.

**Worst feature** The accommodation available. Students are faced with a choice between digs or extremely expensive private rooms.

**Facilities** I rate the teaching facilities very highly for specialised courses, especially those based in the National Film School.

**Deal clincher** Small class sizes mean students get one-on-one time, and there is a sense of community.

JOHNNY SAVAGE



# Good University Guide 2021 Dublin - Dundalk

## NATIONAL COLLEGE OF IRELAND

Mayor Street  
International Financial Service Centre  
Dublin 1  
Tel 1850 221 721  
admissions@ncirl.ie  
www.ncirl.ie  
Open days: <https://www.ncirl.ie/Students/CAO/School-Liaison-Programme/Open-Days>

### PERFORMANCE

Sunday Times ranking	n/a
Student experience	48.7%
Points for entry	341 (260-400)
Research income	n/a
Unemployment	1.5%
First and 2:1s	57%
Student-staff ratio	20:1
Progression rate	82%
Services/facilities spend	n/a

### VITAL STATISTICS

Undergraduates	1,667 (1,481)
Postgraduates	1,243 (957)
Teaching staff	141
Mature	12%
Overseas	6%
Affluent	n/a
Disadvantaged	n/a
Flexible learners	n/a
Sports facilities	★☆☆☆

Based in the heart of Dublin's International Financial Services (IFS) Centre, the National College of Ireland (NCI) is well placed to cultivate strong industry links. Its two-year IFS apprenticeships, providing training for jobs in the financial sector, are the first of their kind in Ireland.

The college boasts a consistently high graduate employment rate, at 85%

according to the latest figures. More than 30% of leavers secured a job advertised through the NCI careers service.

When this year's graduates found some offers rescinded or next steps delayed because of the pandemic, NCI acted swiftly, introducing a Master's Edge scholarship which allows them to study then enter the job market in a year's time with an extra qualification.

NCI staff won the accolade of Best Library Team at the Education Awards earlier this year, and the facility has increased access to its e-resources in light of Covid-19 restrictions.

Work placements for 420 pupils at six local schools are offered under a partnership with the college to give greater opportunities to those from disadvantaged families.

With 75% of its students living locally or commuting, NCI has just 286 study bedrooms at Mayor Square, from €185 a week per person sharing a twin room. More accommodation is offered by college-accredited third parties.

Docklands is the fastest-changing area of a young capital city with its renowned cultural, entertainment and nightlife sectors. Everything in compact Dublin is in walking distance of the NCI campus.

### PRIVATE RENTS

€1,500 to €2,500 per month

### STUDENT VIEW

**DAJANA SINIK**  
STUDENTS' UNION PRESIDENT

**First impressions** A warm, welcoming, strong and supportive community.

**Worst feature** In an ideal world, I'd wish for more chill-out spaces for our hard-working students.

**Facilities** Excellent.

**Deal clincher** Small class sizes mean that no one gets lost in the crowd.

## ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF IRELAND

University of Medicine and Health Sciences  
123 St Stephen's Green  
Dublin 2

Tel 01 402 2228

admissions@rcsi.ie

www.rcsi.com/dublin

Open days: <https://www.rcsi.com/dublin/undergraduate/meet-rcsi/undergraduate-open-day>

### PERFORMANCE

Sunday Times ranking	n/a
Student experience	54.2%
Points for entry	n/a
Research income	€25.7m
Unemployment	n/a
First and 2:1s	49.1%
Student-staff ratio	n/a
Progression rate	96%
Services/facilities spend	n/a

### VITAL STATISTICS

Undergraduates	2,379 (74)
Postgraduates	431 (896)
Teaching staff	n/a
Mature	31.1%
Overseas	64.5%
Affluent	33%
Disadvantaged	5%
Flexible learners	n/a
Sports facilities	n/a

One of Ireland's oldest institutions became its newest university last year, renamed the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland University of Medicine and Health Sciences (RCSI). First established

236 years ago, it has become Ireland's first not-for-profit independent university, featuring in our guide for the first time. The college has no ranking, however, because its restricted range of courses would make comparison with multifaculty providers unfair under our methodology. The RCSI holds joint second place among Irish institutions in the 2020 Times Higher Education world university rankings.

Syrian student Suaad Alshleh, a medicine undergraduate, came to Ireland as a refugee aged 14 with her mother and was named by European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen last month as a model of Irish integration. She previously received a €5,000 Professor William C Campbell bursary, named after the Co Donegal-born biologist who won the Nobel Prize for medicine in 2015.

The RCSI welcomes students from more than 70 countries and has set up a satellite campus at Croke Park for 650 medical students to allow for socially distanced learning during the Covid-19 pandemic. It has Europe's largest clinical simulation facility at its York Street site.

### PRIVATE RENTS

€700 to €1,500 per month

### STUDENT VIEW

**DUPREEZ SMITH**  
STUDENTS' UNION PRESIDENT

**First impressions** In walking distance of anything you might need.

**Worst feature** No negatives! It puts student wellbeing first.

**Facilities** Modern, cutting-edge, avant-garde, unlike anything seen at a university in Ireland before.

**Deal clincher** You will graduate with friends all over the globe.

## TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY DUBLIN

Grangegorman  
Dublin 7 D07 EWW4  
Tel 01 402 3000  
admissions@tudublin.ie  
www.tudublin.ie  
Open days: [www.tudublin.ie/study/visit-us/open-days/#guide](http://www.tudublin.ie/study/visit-us/open-days/#guide)

### PERFORMANCE

Sunday Times ranking	15 (15)
Student experience	48.1%, 16 ⬇️
Points for entry	391 (184-578), 8 ⬆️
Research income	€15m, 16 ⬇️
Unemployment	5%, 9= ⬇️
First and 2:1s	63.0%, 11 ⬆️
Student-staff ratio	13.5:1, 7 ⬆️
Progression rate	84%, 16= ⬇️
Services/facilities spend	€8,813, 15 ⬇️
World ranking	801= (751=)

### VITAL STATISTICS

Undergraduates	17,674 (5,532)
Postgraduates	1,118 (2,204)
Teaching staff	1,306
Mature	14.7%
Overseas	8.4%
Affluent	n/a
Disadvantaged	n/a
Flexible learners	2.8%
Sports facilities	★★★★☆

Technological University Dublin (TUD) opened its doors last year following the amalgamation of the former Blanchardstown, Tallaght and Dublin institutes of technology.

One of Ireland's biggest third-level institutions, TUD has 28,500 students enrolled on a huge range of courses. A



new level 8 option in sports and leisure management is offered from this year and TUD has raised €25,000 to help full-time, part-time and apprentice students with technology and emergency financial support during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The redevelopment of the Grangegorman campus, which holds 11 listed buildings, will create 52,000 square metres of exceptional facilities. A project to remodel the listed Lower House, designed by Francis Johnston, the

architect behind the General Post Office on O'Connell Street, is due to be completed this year.

The Grangegorman project will add 1,000 study bedrooms to TUD's accommodation stock of 600, offered by university-approved third parties, and 700 more are planned. About 70% of students live locally or commute.

### PRIVATE RENTS

From €600 per month

**Refurbishment of the historic Lower House will also provide practice rooms for music and drama students at the TU Dublin Conservatoire**

### STUDENT VIEW

**REBECCA GORMAN**  
STUDENTS' UNION PRESIDENT

**First impressions** Really welcoming. I felt I could make friends very easily.

**Worst feature** Sometimes you can get bounced around from one place to another when looking for support.

**Facilities** Good. Grangegorman facilities will be superb.

**Deal clincher** Small class sizes, and the chance to study with top lecturing staff.



MAXWELLPHOTOGRAPHY.IE

## UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

Belfield  
Dublin 4  
Tel 01 716 1555  
admissions@ucd.ie  
www.ucd.ie  
Open days: <https://ucdopenday.ie>

### PERFORMANCE

Sunday Times ranking	3 (2=)
Student experience	50.8%, 4 ▼
Points for entry	482 (297-613), 2 ◆
Research income	€99.2m, 4 ◆
Unemployment	3%, 3= ◆
Firsts and 2:1s	75.1%, 3 ▼
Student-staff ratio	16.5:1, 13= ▲
Progression rate	92%, 2= ◆
Services/facilities spend	€11,077, 5 ◆
World ranking	177= (185)

### VITAL STATISTICS

Undergraduates	17,468 (768)
Postgraduates	5,324 (3,174)
Teaching staff	1,061
Mature	10.3%
Overseas	19.7%
Affluent	34%
Disadvantaged	5%
Flexible learners	5%
Sports facilities	★★★★☆

University College Dublin (UCD) was our University of the Year last year, but has slipped back a place, largely due to a drop in per capita research funding.

Ireland's largest university, with 30,000 students, has been prominent in the fight against Covid-19, establishing the country's first satellite contact tracing centre. About 30 HSE-trained volunteers have stepped in for each shift.

A UCD spinout company has received €4.5m in European Union funding to help

tackle the pandemic using its soft x-ray microscope technology to examine cells.

The university hopes to host more early-stage start-up companies through NovaUCD, its Centre for New Ventures and Entrepreneurs. One of its €3m projects aims to turn UCD Lyons Farm, a 220-hectare estate with livestock and crops in Co Kildare, into Ireland's central hub for agri-tech research.

UCD aims to be Ireland's global university and has opened two international colleges in China this year to build on its research strengths in transportation, and agriculture and food.

Back home, its researchers are leading an €11.9m project to develop a new personalised treatment for cancer and UCD is committed to fostering enterprise in the arts and sciences as part of a consortium setting up a €10m Creative Futures Academy to help to prepare graduates for work in the creative sector.

Almost one third of the college's 17,000 undergraduates are drawn from disadvantaged groups which are underrepresented in higher education. The university's Cothrom na Féinne scholarship programme, reflecting its motto – Justice and Equality – is the largest in Ireland, offering an average award of €1,500 a year to students from low-income households who can show they have overcome significant barriers to begin their studies.

### PRIVATE RENTS

€500 to €745 per month

### STUDENT VIEW

CONOR ANDERSON

STUDENTS' UNION PRESIDENT

First impressions Impersonal.

Worst feature Rapid commercialisation.

Facilities Insufficient and underfunded, particularly the library.

## TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

College Green  
Dublin 2  
Tel 01 896 4500  
academic.registry@tcd.ie  
www.tcd.ie  
Open days: [www.tcd.ie/openday/](http://www.tcd.ie/openday/)

### PERFORMANCE

Sunday Times ranking	1 (1)
Student experience	49.5%, 11 ▲
Points for entry	489 (340-613), 1 ◆
Research income	€119.2m, 1 ◆
Unemployment	4%, 7= ▼
Firsts and 2:1s	67.9%, 4 ▲
Student-staff ratio	17.3:1, 17 ▼
Progression rate	92%, 2= ◆
Services/facilities spend	€12,190, 1 ◆
World ranking	101= (108=)

### VITAL STATISTICS

Undergraduates	12,131 (76)
Postgraduates	3,412 (1,520)
Teaching staff	702
Mature	10.1%
Overseas	24.2%
Affluent	n/a
Disadvantaged	n/a
Flexible learners	0.6%
Sports facilities	★★★★☆

Ireland's oldest university is buzzing. Trinity College Dublin (TCD), reigning as No 1 in Ireland for the 19th time in a row, has begun to turn its famous manicured lawns into a wildflower meadow.

More than 5,000 flowering bulbs and 450 trees were planted on its central city campus during the summer after a poll attracted 15,000 votes from students and the public in favour of the project. The campaign followed reports that 30% of

Ireland's bee species are facing extinction, largely due to habitat loss.

For an institution founded in 1592, TCD has a cutting-edge research profile, emphasised by projects such as Stevie II, the socially assistive robot designed by a team from the School of Engineering and listed in Time magazine's 100 best inventions of 2019. The university ranks 101= in the 2021 QS World University Rankings, up seven places.

Research grants awarded to Trinity stood at just over €119m in 2019, by far the most on the island of Ireland. The university has taken a leading role on research into Covid-19. Six projects have been funded to study its impact on public wellbeing and the health service.

The new €80m Trinity Business School opened last year, featuring an innovation hub where students are encouraged to start their own business. For the fifth consecutive year, a PitchBook report showed TCD graduates founded more venture-backed companies than those from any other European university.

Key conservation work is about to begin on the Old Library, which houses Ireland's greatest national treasure, the Book of Kells. A new accommodation block on Pearse Street will add 250 places by the end of the year and extra sports facilities are planned to meet demand.

### PRIVATE RENTS

€750 to €920 per month

### STUDENT VIEW

EINO HAND

STUDENTS' UNION PRESIDENT

First impressions Gorgeous campus, fantastic people.

Worst feature No student parking.

Facilities 8½ out of 10.

Deal clincher In the heart of Dublin City!

Tara Finucane  
ponders a life in  
medicine at a  
Royal College of  
Surgeons of  
Ireland open day



## HEY, BIG SPENDER

Which colleges are spending most on student services and facilities? See this, and several other exclusive rankings online [thesundaytimes.ie/gooduniversityguide](http://thesundaytimes.ie/gooduniversityguide)

## DUNDALK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Dublin Road  
Dundalk  
Co Louth A91 K584  
Tel 042 937 0230  
admissions@dkit.ie  
www.dkit.ie  
Open days: [www.dkit.ie/study/visit-us/opendays/](http://www.dkit.ie/study/visit-us/opendays/)

### PERFORMANCE

Sunday Times ranking	12= (13=)
Student experience	51.5%, 3 ▲
Points for entry	366 (300-440), 12 ▲
Research income	€4.2m, 13 ▼
Unemployment	7%, 14= ▼
Firsts and 2:1s	65.4%, 7 ▼
Student-staff ratio	13.8:1, 9 ▲
Progression rate	86%, 12= ▲
Services/facilities spend	€9,262, 12 ◆

### VITAL STATISTICS

Undergraduates	3,988 (624)
Postgraduates	107 (153)
Teaching staff	289
Mature	19%
Overseas	13.7%
Affluent	5%
Disadvantaged	14%
Flexible learners	n/a
Sports facilities	★★★★☆

Access to third-level education is at the core of the ethos at Dundalk Institute of Technology (DkIT). One in five places at the institute is reserved for mature students and it is committed to helping students from disadvantaged backgrounds to take third-level courses alongside other institutions in the Midlands and North Dublin.

New courses include BScs in veterinary

nursing and computing, with add-ons covering cloud and data centre operations, and cloud computing. A four-year BSc (Hons) degree in augmented and virtual reality commenced in 2020 and has proved popular with students keen to enter an up-and-coming industry.

Construction has started on an €18.5m refurbishment of Stem (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) facilities and DkIT has joined a €250,000 project to boost female-led Stem entrepreneurship.

DkIT spinout Nova Leah, a medical cyber-security specialist, won €3.7m from the government's €500m Disruptive Technology Innovation Fund for two projects and overall, the institute raised €4.2m of research funding during 2019.

About 80% of DkIT students live locally or commute from Louth, Meath, Monaghan, Cavan, North Dublin, Armagh and Down. The students' union works with private landlords to compile an annual accommodation list for students.

The institute's five-year-old DkIT Sport centre, which is also open to the public, includes a gym, 20-metre pool, steam room and eight indoor five-a-side football pitches. Sports scholarships contribute between €750 and €3,000 towards the cost of third-level education.

### PRIVATE RENTS

€300 to €550 per month

### STUDENT VIEW

TAIDGH KAVANAGH

STUDENTS' UNION PRESIDENT

First impressions Nice campus. Great communal feel.

Worst feature Lack of accessibility.

Facilities 7/10

Deal clincher One-on-one rapport with lecturers.

# Good University Guide 2021 Galway - Maynooth

## GALWAY-MAYO INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Dublin Road  
Galway H91 T8NW  
Tel 091 742 262 / 742 305  
admissions@gmit.ie  
www.gmit.ie  
Open days: www.gmit.ie/general/open-day

### PERFORMANCE

Sunday Times ranking	16 (16=)
Student experience	48.7%, 13 ▼
Points for entry	357 (206-473), 13 ▼
Research income	€3.8m, 17 ▲
Unemployment	6%, 13 ▲
Firsts and 2:1s	66.2%, 6 ▲
Student-staff ratio	14.1:1, 10 ▼
Progression rate	84%, 16= ▲
Services/facilities spend	€8,973, 14 ◀

### VITAL STATISTICS

Undergraduates	5,622 (771)
Postgraduates	96 (162)
Teaching staff	398
Mature	17.3%
Overseas	3.1%
Affluent	8%
Disadvantaged	12%
Flexible learners	6.9%
Sports facilities	★★★☆☆

Under new president Dr Orla Flynn, Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology (GMIT) will apply later this year to become the Technological University for the West/Northwest with IT Sligo and Letterkenny IT. The new TU will be one of the largest in Ireland, with eight bases.

Our Institute of Technology of the Year for 2005, 2008 and 2015, GMIT is sprucing up facilities in anticipation. Projects set for completion this year include a €4.25m, 1,400 square metre extension to the Innovation Hub at the main campus in Galway City, doubling its size.

The School of Engineering has teamed up with Galway-based Thermo King Europe, which develops sustainable transport refrigeration and heating, to develop a higher certificate and BEng in automation and robotics, and an MSc in innovation and design.

Sports teams have been rebranded under the blue GMIT Falcons banner, the colour of the Connacht coat of arms. Galway City has a lively craic with more than 20,000 third-level students.

### PRIVATE RENTS

€400 to €600 per month

### STUDENT VIEW

**VICTOR O'LOUGHLIN**  
STUDENTS' UNION PRESIDENT

**First impressions** Extremely welcoming.  
**Worst feature** Lack of a student common room. No on-campus accommodation.  
**Facilities** 6/10, a lot more on the way.  
**Deal clincher** If you want a place to belong, be part of the GMIT family.

## MOST EFFECTIVE TEACHING PRACTICES

INDICATOR SCALED SCORE OUT OF 60

1	Dundalk IT	38.2	(9)
2	Letterkenny IT	37.7	(10)
3	Athlone IT	37.6	(6)
4	IT Carlow	36.5	(6)
5	Royal College of Surgeons	36.3	(8)
6	IADT	36.2	(7)
7	Waterford IT	35.7	(12)
8	Maynooth University	35.6	(11)
9	University of Limerick	35.5	(11)
10	NUI Galway	35.3	(10)

SOURCE: STUDENTSURVEY.IE, 2019

## NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND GALWAY

University Road  
Galway  
Tel 091 492 199  
admissions@nuigalway.ie  
www.nuigalway.ie  
Open days: www.nuigalway.ie/opendays/

### PERFORMANCE

Sunday Times ranking	4 (4)
Student experience	50.6%, 6 ▼
Points for entry	448 (300-556), 6 ▶
Research income	€90.5m, 3 ▶
Unemployment	2%, 1= ◀
Firsts and 2:1s	64.7%, 10 ▶
Student-staff ratio	15.5:1, 12 ▲
Progression rate	90%, 5= ▲
Services/facilities spend	€9,829, 9 ▶
World ranking	238= (259)

### VITAL STATISTICS

Undergraduates	12,231 (1,990)
Postgraduates	3,189, (1,260)
Teaching staff	788



## WORST FOR JOBS

Which institutions have the best and worst records for graduate employment? See our online table [thesundaytimes.ie/gooduniversityguide](https://www.sundaytimes.ie/gooduniversityguide)

Mature	8.1%
Overseas	22.1%
Affluent	14%
Disadvantaged	8%
Flexible learners	0.1%
Sports facilities	★★★☆☆

Runner-up for the second successive year in our University of the Year award, NUI Galway is a popular student destination, ranking third among Ireland's universities (but sixth overall) for student experience.

NUI Galway gained another 21 places in the latest QS World University Rankings this year to reach 238=, its eighth rise in nine years. It was rated world-leading in 19 subjects including agriculture and forestry, modern languages, and environmental sciences, new this year.

The university has cut energy use by 34% since 2006, according to the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland. Students and staff can help themselves to the fruit and produce grown in its gardens.

NUI Galway attracted €90.5m of research income last year and seven of its Covid-19 projects – including the design of breathing equipment – got extra funding earlier in 2020 as part of the national response to the pandemic. Scientists at

the university have helped to develop a drone which can shoot ultraviolet light to disinfect public surfaces from the virus.

Business-minded students at NUI Galway continued to excel in 2019, with PhD student Christopher McBrearty announced as Enterprise Ireland Student Entrepreneur of the Year for his NanoDetect prostate cancer diagnostic kit. The university's Explore programme has supported more than 120 projects.

All levels of sporting enthusiasm have a place at the university's €22m Sports Centre, from the keep-fit crowd to those who set their sights on Olympic glory.

### PRIVATE RENTS

€455 to €1,420 per month

### STUDENT VIEW

**PADRAIC TOOMEY**

STUDENTS' UNION PRESIDENT

**First impressions** I felt welcomed instantly.

**Worst feature** Lack of events on campus and collaboration between departments.

**Facilities** Quite good, but stretched thin with understaffing and lack of funds.

**Deal clincher** Close to the city, and amazing people.

PAUL MCGUCKIN



## LETTERKENNY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Port Road  
Co Donegal  
Tel 074 918 6120 / 6125  
Irene.heavey@lyit.ie  
www.lyit.ie  
Open days: www.lyit.ie/Study-at-LYIT/Open-Days-Campus-Tours

### PERFORMANCE

Sunday Times ranking	17 (18)
Student experience	49.6%, 10 ▼
Points for entry	344 (271-400), 18= ◀
Research income	€1.6m, 18 ▶
Unemployment	7%, 14= ▲
Firsts and 2:1s	59.1%, 17 ▶
Student-staff ratio	13.6:1, 8 ▶
Progression rate	87%, 9= ▲
Services/facilities spend	€8,536, 16 ▶

### VITAL STATISTICS

Undergraduates	2,860 (586)
Postgraduates	157 (312)
Teaching staff	211
Mature	20.1%

Overseas	8%
Affluent	4%
Disadvantaged	24%
Flexible learners	3%
Sports facilities	★★☆☆☆

The republic's northernmost third-level institution, Letterkenny Institute of Technology (LYIT) is riding a tide of popularity and offers a wide range of courses. New degree programmes include computer science and electronic engineering and next year's options will expand to list computing with data science and artificial intelligence.

Our runner-up this year as Institute of Technology of the Year, LYIT is a member of the Connacht-Ulster Alliance which aims to form a new Technological University for the West/Northwest alongside ITs in Sligo and Galway-Mayo.

A new postgraduate research centre at Letterkenny is now complete, named after Professor William Campbell, the Ramelton, Co Donegal-born biologist and parasitologist who jointly won the Nobel Prize in medicine five years ago.

Even before Covid-19, more than half of Letterkenny students already followed flexible learning programmes. Many

**Letterkenny IT graduates benefit from courses developed alongside local employers**

juggle study with work and 70% of the institute's part-time courses are developed alongside local employers.

The institute is also a central pillar of the government's North West Strategic Growth Partnership to plan cross-boarder third-level education in an area with a population of 400,000.

Last year LYIT secured total research income of €1.5m from Enterprise Ireland, Science Foundation Ireland and other sources. The CoLab incubation centre supports 60 start-ups employing more than 200 graduate-level staff.

There are plans for a €15m regional sports centre on campus for students and the wider community.

### PRIVATE RENTS

€320 per month

### STUDENT VIEW

**MARY HERNANDEZ**

STUDENTS' UNION PRESIDENT

**First impressions** Friendly.

**Worst feature** Not as modern as other institutes.

**Facilities** 8/10.

**Deal clincher** Lecturers are very approachable, great atmosphere.

## LIMERICK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Moylish Park  
Limerick  
Tel 061 293 000  
admissions@lit.ie  
www.lit.ie  
Open days: <https://lit.ie/Virtual-Open-Days>

### PERFORMANCE

Sunday Times ranking	12= (13=)
Student experience	48.4%, 15 ▼
Points for entry	344 (225-413), 18= ▼
Research income	€7m, 12 ▲
Unemployment	7%, 14= ▼
Firsts and 2:1s	64.8%, 9 ◀
Student-staff ratio	11.8:1, 3= ▲
Progression rate	85%, 14= ▲
Services/facilities spend	€9,521, 10 ◀

### VITAL STATISTICS

Undergraduates	5,018 (972)
Postgraduates	173 (126)
Teaching staff	425
Mature	22.1%
Overseas	4.6%
Affluent	8%
Disadvantaged	15%
Flexible learners	n/a
Sports facilities	★★★★☆

Students will apply to an institute of technology (IT) – but graduate from a technological university (TU). Limerick and Athlone ITs hope to have the new TU up and running in September 2021 with 15,000 students on six campuses.

LIT was our Institute of Technology of the Year for 2009 and 2013 and last year won an Irish Technology Leadership Group award for its support for young innovators and entrepreneurs. The institute has backed more than 100 start-up businesses.

New degree courses are offered this year in art and design teacher education, data analytics and cyber-security, and business. Next year



### Limerick IT has won awards for the support it offers student entrepreneurs

students can take architectural technology or a BA in community and addiction studies.

One of the most diverse third-level institutions in Ireland, LIT has a proud record of widening participation. Mature students make up about one in five enrolments, exceeding the Higher Education Authority (HEA) requirement of 16%. For 14 years, the institute's Go4IT programme in primary and secondary schools has encouraged applications from young people from Limerick's northside,

where there is little tradition of progressing to third-level education.

LIT students have had sporting success in recent years in GAA, rugby, basketball and boxing. The fitness centre at the Moylish campus has been upgraded and the €3.7m SportsLab on the Thurles campus provides first-class strength and conditioning facilities.

With 21,000 third-level students in Limerick, the place is buzzing and hosts popular music, film and literary festivals. Rent tends to be half of that in Dublin.

### PRIVATE RENTS

€360 to €585 per month

### STUDENT VIEW

**DYLAN RYAN**  
STUDENTS' UNION PRESIDENT

**First impressions** Big open campuses, each with their own personality. Staff are very friendly and welcoming.

**Worst feature** Parking.

**Facilities** 10/10.

**Deal clincher** The practical side to our courses allows students to be hands-on.

## UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK

Plassey  
Limerick  
Tel 061 202 015  
admissions@ul.ie  
www.ul.ie  
Open days: [www.ul.ie/courses/virtual-open-days-2020](http://www.ul.ie/courses/virtual-open-days-2020)

### PERFORMANCE

Sunday Times ranking	6 (5)
Student experience	50.7%, 5 ▲
Points for entry	455 (327-589), 4 ◀
Research income	€52.2m, 6 ◀
Unemployment	3%, 3= ▼
Firsts and 2:1s	57.5%, 19 ◀
Student-staff ratio	16.7:1, 15 ▲
Progression rate	90%, 5= ▲
Services/facilities spend	€10,367, 8 ◀
World ranking	511= (521=)

### VITAL STATISTICS

Undergraduates	10,985 (424)
Postgraduates	2,068 (954)
Teaching staff	658
Mature	11.8%
Overseas	12.3%
Affluent	12%
Disadvantaged	8%
Flexible learners	7.6%
Sports facilities	★★★★★

The University of Limerick (UL) has appointed the first woman president at an Irish university. Professor Kerstin Mey

took over the interim role in the summer.

Set in a sweeping 133-hectare campus, UL won the Best Student Campus award for the second year in a row at the 2020 Irish Education Awards in Dublin in March. A€20m student centre is expected to open next year. UL will mark its 50th anniversary in 2022 and has published a plan to develop a new campus in the heart of Limerick City to cater for an extra 4,000 students, mostly postgraduate or international recruits.

Twice our University of the Year – most recently for 2019 – UL is the second best-performing university in our analysis of the annual national student engagement survey but awards fewer top-class degrees than any other institution in our guide.

At the core of UL student experience is the Co-operative Education programme, which sets up more than 2,000 work placements every year, for six or eight months. The compulsory scheme, one of the largest in Europe, pays off in 79% graduate employment, four points above the national average.

### PRIVATE RENTS

€300 to €600 per month

### STUDENT VIEW

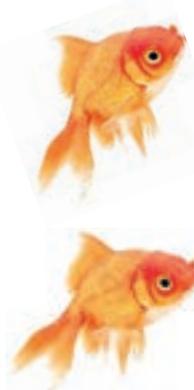
**CIAN QUINLAN**  
STUDENTS' UNION PRESIDENT

**First impressions** I loved the place.

**Worst feature** The big campus can lead to some confusion.

**Facilities** 10/10.

**Deal clincher** It's really sociable.



### WHALE OF A TIME

Who rates their student experience most highly? See our tables from the studentsurvey.ie online [thesundaytimes.ie/gooduniversityguide](http://thesundaytimes.ie/gooduniversityguide)

## MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY

Maynooth  
Co Kildare  
Tel 01 708 3822  
admissions@mu.ie  
www.maynoothuniversity.ie  
Open days: [www.maynoothuniversity.ie/study-maynooth/undergraduate-studies/open-days](http://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/study-maynooth/undergraduate-studies/open-days)

### PERFORMANCE

Sunday Times ranking	14 (12)
Student experience	49.9%, 8= ◀
Points for entry	397 (318-532), 7 ◀
Research income	€28.1m, 7 ▼
Unemployment	5%, 9= ▼
Firsts and 2:1s	62.8%, 12 ▲
Student-staff ratio	26.7, 19 ◀
Progression rate	88%, 8 ▼
Services/facilities spend	€7,330, 18 ◀
World ranking	701= (701=)

### VITAL STATISTICS

Undergraduates	9,507 (944)
Postgraduates	1,311 (849)
Teaching staff	356
Mature	7.7%
Overseas	7.2%
Affluent	17%
Disadvantaged	10%
Flexible learners	n/a
Sports facilities	★★★☆☆

Maynooth University has climbed seven places in the 2020 Times Higher

Education (THE) Young University Rankings to reach 43rd place in the world – the highest placed of any Irish rival. Although its origins date back to 1795, its formal founding was not until 1997.

The fast-growing university is now seeking a new president to replace Professor Philip Nolan, who has become a key figure in Ireland's response to Covid-19 as a member of the National Public Health Emergency Team.

Maynooth researchers have extensive links with industry. Research income in 2020 stands at €28.1m and in the past year the university has added 60 new deals to its 160 collaborations with industry.

More than 60% of its 13,500 students live locally or commute to the Co Kildare campus, about 25km west of Dublin. Maynooth attracts students from more than 90 countries and has put in place extensive access routes for disadvantaged groups, who account for 23.9% of the 2019-20 student cohort. A recent poll voted Maynooth Ireland's friendliest college.

### PRIVATE RENTS

€300 to €600 per month

### STUDENT VIEW

**KELLY RENWICK**  
STUDENTS' UNION PRESIDENT

**First impressions** A sense of community.

**Worst feature** Severe lack of parking.

**Facilities** Improvements are needed in sports and mental health facilities.

**Deal clincher** So many choices in your degree, it's really flexible.

# Good University Guide 2021 Sligo - Waterford

TADHG CONWAY

## INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY SLIGO

Ash Lane  
Sligo F91 YW50  
Tel 071 931 8510  
admissions@itsligo.ie  
www.itsligo.ie  
Open days: www.itsligo.ie/cao/penday/

### PERFORMANCE

Sunday Times ranking	10= (11)
Student experience	44.8%, 19 ⬇️
Points for entry	345 (225-415), 16= ⬆️
Research income	€4.7m, 15 ⬆️
Unemployment	10%, 18 ⬇️
Firsts and 2:1s	62.4%, 15 ⬆️
Student-staff ratio	9.1:1, 1 ⬇️
Progression rate	85%, 14= ⬇️
Services/facilities spend	€11,481, 3 ⬇️

### VITAL STATISTICS

Undergraduates	3,310 (1,883)
Postgraduates	107 (6)
Teaching staff	363
Mature	17.1%
Overseas	6.1%
Affluent	5%
Disadvantaged	19%
Flexible learners	36.2%
Sports facilities	★★★★☆

IT Sligo's 50th anniversary year could be its last as a free-standing institute. As part of the Connacht-Ulster Alliance, alongside Galway-Mayo IT and Letterkenny IT, the institute aims to seek technological university status by the end of 2020 and the TU for the West/Northwest could be created in 2021-22.



### Students taking up their places at IT Sligo from 2020 may instead graduate from a new Technological University for the West/Northwest

In preparation, IT Sligo has announced further investment in its 29-hectare main city campus, which has seen €60m of development over the past decade.

Eighteen years ago, IT Sligo was one of the first institutions in Ireland to recognise the scope for study online – putting it in a strong position for coping with Covid-19 restrictions. Around half of its 7,000 students are already studying remotely – some from around the world.

Applications for its 79 undergraduate courses have doubled in the past year.

IT Sligo sets no limit on the number of students entering through access pathways. A new HigherEd4All initiative now aims to help people with disabilities and their carers to continue to third level.

In 2019, institute lecturer Dr Umar Khan was named as a Highly Cited Researcher by the Web of Science Group, placing him in the top 1% of his peers for

## MOST FLEXIBLE LEARNING STUDENTS

% STUDYING FLEXIBLY	PAGE
1 IT Sligo	36.2 (12)
2 IT Tralee	10.7 (12)
3 University of Limerick	7.6 (11)
4 Athlone IT	7.3 (6)
5 Galway-Mayo IT	6.9 (10)
6 Dublin City University	5.4 (7)
7 University College Dublin	5.0 (9)
8 Letterkenny IT	3.0 (10)
9 TU Dublin	2.8 (8)
10 Cork IT	2.3 (6)

SOURCE: HEA, 2018-19

academic citations in his field of nanotechnology.

Regional and local sports clubs use IT Sligo's excellent sports facilities. The Knocknarea Arena on campus is one of the best indoor facilities in the country.

Students are able to walk everywhere and accommodation is among the most affordable in any Irish university town.

### PRIVATE RENTS

€300 to €400 per month

### STUDENT VIEW

#### JASON QUINN STUDENTS' UNION PRESIDENT

**First impressions** A very modern building with great facilities.

**Worst feature** Students need longer library hours.

**Facilities** Very good.

**Deal clincher** Having that personal relationship with lecturing staff is brilliant. There is also a great community feel in IT Sligo.

## INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY TRALEE

North Campus  
Dromthacker  
Tralee, Co Kerry  
Tel 066 714 5638  
admissions@ittralee.ie  
www.ittralee.ie  
Open days: www.ittralee.ie/en/VirtualOpenDay

### PERFORMANCE

Sunday Times ranking	9 (10)
Student experience	47.3%, 17 ⬇️
Points for entry	369 (281-440), 11 ⬇️
Research income	€3.9m, 11 ⬆️
Unemployment	3%, 3= ⬆️
Firsts and 2:1s	62.5%, 14 ⬇️
Student-staff ratio	11.4:1, 2 ⬇️
Progression rate	87%, 9= ⬆️
Services/facilities spend	€11,439, 4 ⬇️

### VITAL STATISTICS

Undergraduates	2,376 (312)
Postgraduates	96 (21)
Teaching staff	208
Mature	23.7%
Overseas	15.6%
Affluent	4%
Disadvantaged	14%
Flexible learners	10.7%
Sports facilities	★★★★★

IT Tralee is putting its financial woes behind it to get ready for the delayed launch of the new Munster Technological University (MTU) on January 1, 2021. The current crop of first-years have enrolled at an Institute of Technology but will graduate from a TU.

Tralee will amalgamate with Cork IT (CIT) to create the first regional TU in Ireland. It will aim to bring economic, social and cultural benefits to the

Southwest and cater for 18,000 students, dispersed across five campuses.

Tralee, which received a €5m government bailout in 2019, is focusing on the expansion and delivery of IT services and online lectures. At the start of the 2020-21 academic year, however, it was still intending to deliver up to half of its tutorials and practicals face-to-face.

A new BSc (Hons) in inclusive sport and physical activity has been introduced for 2020, adding to the institute's strength in sport. A range of sports scholarships are offered each year for rowing, martial arts such as judo and Taekwondo, soccer, basketball, rugby and Gaelic games.

As part of its commitment to economic development in the region, IT Tralee was a key partner in the establishment of Kerry SciTech and the Research, Development and Innovation Hub. Two new ventures received €500,000 from Enterprise Ireland in 2020 – the Circular Bioeconomy Cluster and the AgriTech Cluster – which will work with 100 companies regionally and nationally to develop new products and technology.

Access programmes to third level for students from disadvantaged groups are seen as a key part of IT Tralee's future.

### PRIVATE RENTS

€250 to €560 per month.

### STUDENT VIEW

#### PETRINA COMERFORD STUDENTS' UNION PRESIDENT

**First impressions** Very good, and continuously improving.

**Worst feature** Some aspects of the college are outdated but they are due to be updated soon.

**Facilities** Good, with the addition of the Kerry Sports Academy.

**Deal clincher** Becoming the Munster Technological University.

## WATERFORD INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Cork Road  
Waterford  
Tel 051 302 603  
admissions@wit.ie  
www.wit.ie  
Open days: www.wit.ie/events/all-news/autumn-open-days-2020

### PERFORMANCE

Sunday Times ranking	8 (8)
Student experience	49.0%, 12 ⬆️
Points for entry	345 (216-434), 16= ⬇️
Research income	€16.4m, 9 ⬇️
Unemployment	4%, 7= ⬆️
Firsts and 2:1s	66.5%, 5 ⬆️
Student-staff ratio	12.8:1, 6 ⬆️
Progression rate	84%, 16= ⬇️
Services/facilities spend	€12,054, 2 ⬇️

### VITAL STATISTICS

Undergraduates	6,198 (1,096)
Postgraduates	436 (483)
Teaching staff	485
Mature	19.7%
Overseas	7.6%
Affluent	6%
Disadvantaged	17%
Flexible learners	0.1%
Sports facilities	★★★★★

In its 50th anniversary year, Waterford is our Institute of Technology of the Year for the third time. Further celebrations are in the offing when Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT) joins IT Carlow to form the Technological University of South East Ireland, set to open on January 1, 2022.

WIT was runner-up for our 2019 IT of the Year and continues to build on its strength in graduate employment,



## TOP HONOURS

Where do you stand the best chance of graduating with a top-class honours degree? See our extended tables section online [thesundaytimes.ie/gooduniversityguide](http://thesundaytimes.ie/gooduniversityguide)



winning the 2019 Ahecs (Association of Higher Education Career Services) Employability Award for its programme helping art and design students to promote themselves and find work.

Strongly committed to widening access to third-level education, WIT has welcomed 478 students via the Reach programme that provides places to school-leavers from groups with low participation rates in higher education.

WIT uses a system of student buddies to act as mentors to (often vulnerable) young children and teenagers from local communities, and more than 2,400 children have benefited from informal, fun activities to encourage them to aspire to continuing their education.

A new BBus (Hons) in business systems information has been introduced for 2020 and in 2021 WIT will offer a BA in early childhood care and education.

WIT hosts three Technology Gateways – more than any other Irish IT – serving the engineering, pharmacological and mobile service technology sectors.

Sports facilities are excellent, with more than 20 hectares of amenities. The IT's Viking Sports Scholarship programme, aimed at elite athletes, is the only one in Ireland available to e-sport competitors.

### PRIVATE RENTS

€300 to €450 per month

### STUDENT VIEW

#### JOHN FORTUNE STUDENTS' UNION PRESIDENT

**First impressions** WIT is a welcoming community, full of diversity.

**Worst feature** The lack of government funding.

**Facilities** The facilities in WIT are great, however the lack of funding leads to areas that could do with a burst of financing.

**Deal clincher** The supports available.

# Honours degree courses for 2021

This user-friendly guide lists honours degrees, known as level 8, for entry in 2021. It is Ireland's first newspaper publication of new honours courses for 2021, which are shown in italics. Following government policy to reduce the amount of separated, denominated degrees, a number of institutions have amalgamated courses under one CAO code, allowing students to choose specialisations either at application or upon entry.

Applications – online and paper – cost €30 or €45 and are made through the Central Applications Office (CAO), which opens online on November 5, 2020 at noon and closes on February 1, 2021 at 5.15pm.

There is a discounted rate (€30) for online applications by January 20, 2021 at 5.15pm. Late applications are permitted, however, up to 5.15pm on May 1, 2021, but cost €60 online or €90 on paper.

There is no charge for change of mind and the deadline is July 1, 2021 by 5.15pm. Exceptional online late applications cost €60 and close on July 22, 2021 at 5.15pm.

This list is for guidance only. For the official list of courses, including ordinary degree and higher certificate courses, see [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie).

We include first the CAO course code, then the course title and the points for entry in the first round of offers in August 2020. As well as points, many institutions require passes in certain subjects, usually English, maths and another language, as well as any three other subjects. See the



ALAN PLACE

handbook on [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie) for details.

Note on entry to medicine: entry combines an aptitude test with strong Leaving Certificate scores (a minimum of 480, plus subject entry requirements). Applicants are required to sit the Health

Professions Admission Test (HPAT) before the Leaving Certificate.

The maximum HPAT score a candidate can achieve is 300. They should add their HPAT score to their Leaving Certificate points. Where a student's points exceed

**The practical side of courses at Limerick IT contributes to bright prospects**

550, they should add the HPAT score to the first 550 points achieved in the Leaving Certificate, along with one additional point for every five points achieved over 550.

The maximum Leaving Certificate point score of 625 is adjusted to 565 (550+15), which makes the maximum combined score 865.

For example, if a student gets 210 in their HPAT assessment and a Leaving Certificate point score of 625, they would add up the results thus: 210+550+15=775.

Or, if a student gets 240 in their HPAT assessment and a Leaving Certificate point score of 480, they would add up the results thus: 480+240=720.

## KEY TO SYMBOLS

- \* Not all candidates on these points offered first places
- \*\* Matriculated candidates are considered but admission is on the basis of performance in the music test and interview
- \*\*\* Applicants are ranked as for other courses but the final decision depends on the performance in interview
- # Test, interview/portfolio
- AQA All qualified applicants were accepted onto course
- + Inclusive of portfolio/project test score
- v New competition for available places

## ADMINISTRATION

**University College Cork**  
CK122 Government & Political Science 337

## AGRICULTURE-RELATED

**IT Carlow**  
CW078 Sustainable Farm Management and Agribusiness (Wexford) 269  
**University College Dublin**  
DN240 Sustainability 440  
DN250 Agricultural Science 456  
**Galway-Mayo IT**  
GA683 Agricultural Engineering 309  
GA789 Agriculture and Environmental Management (Mountbellew)/Galway-Dublin Road 287  
**Tralee IT**  
TL844 Agricultural Engineering 300  
TL848 Agricultural Science 308  
**Waterford IT**  
WD191 Agricultural Science 377

**Animal health**  
**Athlone IT**  
AL842 Biomedical Science 313  
**University College Dublin**  
DN250 Agricultural Science (Options) 456  
DN300 Veterinary Medicine #589  
DN301 Veterinary Medicine – graduate entry route  
DN310 Veterinary Nursing 478  
**Dundalk IT**  
DK784 Veterinary Nursing (New)  
DK882 Agriculture 310  
**Limerick IT**  
LY828 Agriculture (Sustainable Agriculture/Agri-Food Production) 307  
**University of Limerick**  
LM093 Equine Science 339  
**IT Tralee**  
TL858 Veterinary Bioscience 308

**Food**  
**IT Carlow**  
CW128 Brewing and Distilling 263  
**University College Cork**  
CK214 International Development 346  
**TU Dublin**  
TU 881 Food Innovation 318  
TU941 Botanical Cuisine (New)  
**Trinity College Dublin**  
TR064 Environmental Science and Engineering (New)  
**University College Dublin**  
DN261 Food Science 477  
**Limerick IT**  
LC408 Environmental and Geographical Sciences (Thurles) 279  
**St Angela's, Sligo**  
AS051 Food and Business Management 328  
AS054 Home Economics 408

**Horticulture**  
**TU Dublin**  
TU853 Horticulture 290

## ART/DESIGN

**Athlone IT**  
AL861 Animation and Illustration #578  
AL863 Graphic Design (portfolio) #781  
**IT Carlow**  
CW038 Art (Wexford) #700  
CW088 Visual Communications & Design (Wexford) 274  
CW728 Product Design Innovation 252

**Cork IT**  
CR210 Contemporary Applied Art #790  
CR220 Fine Art #671  
CR565 Interior Architecture 359  
CR600 Visual Communication #562  
**Griffith College, Dublin**  
GC462 Design Communication  
GC494 Fashion Design (portfolio) #337  
**National College of Art and Design, Dublin**  
AD101 1st Year Art and Design (Common entry to courses below.) #+matric  
AD102 Graphic Design and Moving Image Design #+matric  
AD103 Textile and Surface Design and Jewellery and Objects #+matric  
AD202 Design or Fine Art and Education Second Level Teaching #+matric  
AD204 Fine Art #+matric  
AD211 Fashion Design #+matric  
AD212 Product Design #+matric  
AD215 Visual Culture 377  
AD217 Illustration #+matric  
AD222 Interaction Design #+matric  
**TU Dublin**  
TU973 Design – Visual Communication #717  
TU974 Fine Art #709  
TU975 Interior Design #632  
**IADT, Dun Laoghaire**  
DL826 Visual Communications #855  
DL827 Art #572  
DL832 Animation #920  
DL833 Photography and Visual Media (New)  
DL842 Visual and Material Culture (New)  
**Galway-Mayo IT**  
GA283 Contemporary Art #679  
GA284 Design 303  
GA685 Manufacturing Engineering Design 300  
GA984 Furniture Design, Making and Technology (options in Furniture Design and Manufacture, Furniture Making and Architectural Woodworking, Furniture and Digital Manufacturing) 284  
**Limerick IT**  
LY408 Design (common entry with 4 Degree Award options) #320  
**Limerick IT**  
LC110 Art and Design #740  
LC114 Design in Fashion and Textiles for Product and Costume (Portfolio) #880  
LC340 Interior Design 350  
LC502 Game Art and Design – Portfolio #852  
LC506 Visual Effects for Film, TV & Animation  
**Maynooth University**  
MH305 Product Design (Marketing and Technology) 357  
**IT Sligo**  
SG244 Fine Art #505  
SG245 Creative Design 282  
**IT Tralee**  
TL801 Animation – Visual Effects and Motion Design 281  
TL802 TV Radio and New Media Broadcasting 325  
**Waterford IT**  
WD137 Design (Visual Communications) 271  
WD152 Visual Arts AQA

## ARTS

**Carlow College**  
PC410 Arts and Humanities 252  
PC411 English and History 255  
**Cork IT**  
CR700 Theatre and Drama Studies #740  
**University College Cork**  
CK101 Arts 300  
CK108 Arts (Mathematics and Education) 403  
CK109 English 318

CK110 World Languages 452  
CK112 Theatre & Performative Practices #330  
CK123 Anthropology 308  
**American College, Dublin**  
AC137 Liberal Arts 252  
**Dublin Business School**  
DB562 Psychology 243  
DB567 Film and Creative Media 218  
**Dublin City University**  
DC009 Arts Joint Honours (Humanities) 225  
DC155 Applied Language and Translation Studies 387  
DC230 Economics, Politics and Law 435  
DC231 International Relations 397  
DC232 Law and Society (BCL) 466  
DC238 BA in Social Sciences and Cultural Innovation 377  
DC291 Arts (Joint Honours) – Media Studies 376  
DC292 Arts (Joint Honours) – Law 403  
DC293 Arts (Joint Honours) – International Languages 377  
DC295 Arts (Joint Honours) – Politics 376  
**IADT, Dun Laoghaire**  
DL841 English and Equality Studies 276  
**TU Dublin**  
TU962 Drama (Performance) #379  
**Trinity College Dublin**  
Joint Honours courses: Linguistics, Social Policy, Political Science, Law, Business and Computer Science have been added to the Trinity Joint Honours suite of degree programmes as well as many new Trinity Joint Honours combinations. See CAO handbook at [cao.ie](http://cao.ie).  
Further information can also be found at <https://www.tcd.ie/tsm-tjh/tjh-students/>  
TR003 History 497  
TR005 Philosophy 442  
TR006 Psychology 567  
TR012 History and Political Science 555  
TR015 Philosophy, Political Science, Economics and Sociology 589  
TR021 Classics 370  
TR022 Early and Modern Irish Ancient History and Archaeology 398  
TR023 English Studies 487  
TR024 European Studies 544  
TR025 Drama and Theatre Studies #564  
TR028 Ancient and Medieval History and Culture 342  
TR029 Political Science and Geography 526  
TR040 Middle Eastern and European Languages and Cultures 466  
TR041 Religion 368  
TR043 History of Art and Architecture 393  
TR323 Drama Studies and a Modern Language (New)  
TR581 History and Law (New)  
TR758 Political Science and Social Policy (New)  
**University College Dublin**  
DN520 Arts 310  
DN530 Humanities 340  
DN541 Modern Languages 303  
DN710 Economics 498\*  
DN720 Psychology 530  
**Dundalk IT**  
DK861 Arts 302  
**Galway-Mayo IT**  
GA282 Heritage Studies 220  
**NUI Galway**  
GY101 Arts 300  
GY104 Arts (Psychology) 523  
GY105 Arts (History) 301  
GY107 Na Dana (Gaeilge agus Léann an Aistriúcháin) 409  
GY109 Arts (Mathematics and Education) 403  
GY110 Arts with Children's Studies 357

GY111 Arts with Creative Writing 330  
GY112 Arts with Film Studies 321  
GY113 Arts with Human Rights 368  
GY115 Arts with Performing Arts Studies 387  
GY118 Arts with Drama Theatre and Performance Studies 451  
GY119 Arts with Journalism 400  
GY120 Arts (Child, Youth and Family: Policy and Practice) with St Angela's, Sligo 350  
GY121 Arts (Childrens Studies) 356  
GY122 Na Dana (Cumarsaid agus Gaeilge) 361  
GY123 Applied Social Sciences 358  
GY124 Arts (Arts with Data Science) 454  
GY125 Arts (Digital Arts and Technology) 328  
GY126 Arts (English and Media Studies) 391  
GY128 Arts (Global Languages) 352  
GY129 International 420  
GY131 Arts (History and Globalisation Studies) 360  
GY132 Government 407  
**Mary Immaculate Limerick**  
MIO01 Contemporary and Applied Theatre Studies 375  
MIO02 Arts (offered in conjunction with UL) 300  
**University of Limerick**  
LM002 Arts (with Mary Immaculate College) 348  
LM026 Performing Arts (Mary Immaculate College) #303  
LM040 European Studies 369  
LM044 Applied Languages 442  
LM102 Psychology 509  
**Pontifical University, St Patrick's College, Maynooth**  
MU001 Theology and Arts 290  
MU002 Theology 440  
**Maynooth University**  
MH101 Arts 318  
**IT Sligo**  
SG241 Performing Arts 328  
SG247 English and Psychology 309  
SG248 Sociology and Politics 281  
SG249 Writing and Literature 297  
SG254 Writing and Literature Online 225  
**Waterford IT**  
WD163 Psychology 434  
WD200 Arts AQA

## BUILT ENVIRONMENT

**Athlone IT**  
AL810 Quantity Surveying 319  
AL811 Civil Engineering 320  
AL812 Digital Construction Management (New)  
**IT Carlow**  
CW438 Construction (with options QSY/FBS) 272  
CW468 Architectural Technology 262  
**Cork IT**  
CR560 Architectural Technology 308  
CR570 Quantity Surveying 336  
CR572 Construction Management 269  
**University College Cork**  
CK606 Architecture Joint UCC and CIT Programme 484  
**Griffith College, Dublin**  
GC489 Interior Architecture (Dublin) #254  
**TU Dublin**  
TU831 Architectural Technology 410  
TU832 Architecture #622  
TU833 Construction Management 367  
TU834 Geographic Science 288  
TU835 Planning and Environmental Management 313  
TU836 Property Economics 401  
TU837 Quantity Surveying & Construction Economics 385  
TU838 Sustainable Timber Technology (New)  
**University College Dublin**  
DN100 Architecture 510

DN120 Landscape Architecture 407  
DN130 City Planning and Environmental Policy 407  
**Dundalk IT**  
DK830 Building Surveying 336  
DK831 Architectural Technology 389  
DK832 Construction Management 387  
DK 843 Engineering (Common Entry) 340  
DK844 Mechanical Engineering 305  
DK845 Electrical and Electronic Engineering 304  
DK846 Civil Engineering 391  
**Galway-Mayo IT**  
GA480 Construction Management 260  
GA482 Construction Economics and Quantity Surveying 288  
GA483 Architectural Technology 265  
GA484 Civil Engineering 290  
**NUI Galway**  
GY410 Project and Construction Management 403  
**Limerick IT**  
LY518 Quantity Surveying 301  
LY528 Construction Management 271  
LY538 Architectural Technology (New)  
**Limerick IT**  
LC241 Construction Management 255  
LC242 Property Valuation and Management 282  
LC243 Quantity Surveying 294  
LC248 Built Environment (Common Entry) 288  
LC252 Civil Engineering Management 270  
LC341 Architectural Technology (New)  
**University of Limerick**  
LM099 Architecture 498  
**IT Sligo**  
SG342 Civil Engineering 415  
SG343 Quantity Surveying 311  
SG346 Construction Project Management and Applied Technology 291  
SG347 Architecture 360  
SG450 Environmental Science with Ecology 300  
**IT Tralee**  
TL845 Civil Engineering 325  
**Waterford IT**  
WD007 Engineering 288  
WD025 Construction Management and Engineering 269  
WD144 Architecture 284  
WD162 Quantity Surveying 216  
WD195 Architectural and Building Information Modelling 279

## BUSINESS-RELATED

**Athlone IT**  
AL850 Business 309  
AL851 Business and Law 295  
AL852 Accounting 309  
AL854 Sport Management (with international placement) 302  
AL857 Digital Marketing 304  
**IT Carlow**  
CW018 Business (Wexford) 298  
CW848 Digital Marketing with Analytics 254  
CW908 Business (with options) 280  
CW938 Business with Law 283  
CW948 Accounting 300  
**Cork IT**  
CR150 Business Information Systems 335  
CR310 IT Management 297  
CR400 Accounting 316  
CR420 Marketing 285  
CR425 International Business with Language 298  
**University College Cork**  
CK201 Commerce 477\*  
CK202 Accounting 509  
CK203 Business Information Systems 430

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# Good University Guide 2021 Honours Degree Courses

## 2021 Honours degree courses

→ Continued from page 13

CK204 Finance 556  
 CK205 Commerce (International) with French 445  
 CK206 Commerce (International) with German 420  
 CK207 Commerce (International) with Italian 388  
 CK208 Commerce (International) with Hispanic Studies 402  
 CK209 Commerce (International) with Irish 484  
 CK211 Commerce (International) with Chinese Studies 397  
 CK212 Economics (through Transformational Learning) 444  
 CK213 Food Marketing and Entrepreneurship 462  
**American College, Dublin**  
 AC120 International Business 209  
**College of Computer Technology, Dublin**  
 CT325 Business 338  
**Dublin Business School**  
 DB512 Business Studies 218  
 DB514 Business Studies (Law) 252  
 DB515 Business Studies (Human Resource Management) 244  
 DB516 Financial Services  
 DB517 Marketing (Event Management) 238  
 DB518 Marketing (Digital Media)  
 DB521 Accounting and Finance 225  
 DB524 Business Information Systems 342  
 DB525 Marketing (Digital Media and Cloud Computing)  
 DB526 Business Information Systems (Cloud Computing) 347  
 DB531 Marketing 293  
 DB569 Business (Psychology) 252  
**Dublin City University**  
 DC110 Business Studies International 465  
 DC111 Business Studies 488  
 DC112 Global Business (France) 517  
 DC113 Global Business (Germany) 462  
 DC114 Global Business (Spain) 522  
 DC115 Accounting and Finance 510  
 DC116 Global Business USA 579  
 DC117 Aviation Management with Pilot Studies 476  
 DC118 Gno agus Gaeilge / Business and Irish 359  
 DC119 Global Business (Canada) 564  
 DC240 Marketing Innovation and Technology 476  
**IADT, Dun Laoghaire**  
 DL822 Arts Management 229  
 DL823 Business Management 235  
 DL840 Digital Marketing 228  
**Griffith College, Dublin/Cork**  
 GC200 Business Studies (Cork) 252  
 GC300 Business Studies (Limerick) 429  
 GC400 Business Studies (Dublin) 248  
 GC401 Accounting and Finance (Dublin) 240  
 GC402 Business Studies (HRM – Dublin) 264  
 GC407 Business Studies (Marketing – Dublin) 280  
**ICD Business School Dublin**  
 IDO01 Accounting and Finance 203  
 IDO02 Business Studies 294  
**National College of Ireland, Dublin**  
 NC005 Human Resource Management 300  
 NC009 Business 300  
 NC020 Marketing Practice 280  
 NC022 Accounting and Finance 337  
 NC023 Technology Management 261  
**TU Dublin**  
 TU901 Business 270  
 TU902 Business (Common Entry with Award options) 271  
 TU903 Business and Management 463  
 TU904 Business and Law 462  
 TU905 Economics and Finance 465  
 TU906 Human Resource Management 395  
 TU907 Logistics and Supply Chain Management 300  
 TU908 Management 262  
 TU909 Accounting and Finance (Blanchardstown) 285  
 TU910 Accounting and Finance 444  
 TU911 Accounting and Finance (Tallaght) 209  
 TU912 Business Analytics 330  
 TU913 Business and Information Technology 252  
 TU914 Business Computing 324  
 TU915 International Business 252  
 TU916 International Business (Tallaght) 235  
 TU917 Law with a Language 342  
 TU920 Digital Marketing 270  
 TU921 Digital Marketing Technologies 212  
 TU922 Marketing 418  
 TU923 Marketing Management 228  
 TU924 E-Commerce in Retailing 307  
 TU925 Retail and Services Management 301  
 TU932 Business (New)  
 TU933 Accounting and Finance (New)  
 TU955 Sports and Leisure Management 217  
 TU965 International Business and Languages 356  
**Trinity College Dublin**  
 TR080 Global Business 589\*  
 TR081 Business, Economic and Social Studies 543\*  
 TR085 Business Studies and French 540  
 TR086 Business Studies and German 509  
 TR087 Business Studies and Russian 474  
 TR089 Business Studies and Polish 444  
 TR090 Business Studies and Spanish 531\*  
**University College Dublin**  
 DN230 Actuarial and Financial Studies 601  
 DN610 Business and Law 545  
 DN650 Commerce 521\*  
 DN660 Commerce International 517  
 DN670 Economics and Finance 613  
 DN710 Economics 498\*  
**Dundalk IT**  
 DK810 Accounting and Finance 305  
 DK816 Business Studies 300  
 DK850 International Tourism Management 317  
**Galway-Mayo IT**  
 GA181 Accounting 309  
 GA182 Business 287  
 GA183 Business Information Systems 296  
 GA184 Marketing and Sales 307  
 GA185 Finance and Economics 293  
 GA186 Business with Entrepreneurship 280  
 GA187 Rural Enterprise and Agri-Business – Mountbellew Campus 281  
**NUI, Galway**  
 GY122 Na Dána (Cumarsáid agus Gaeilge) 361  
 GY201 Commerce 433

GY202 Commerce (International) with French 484  
 GY203 Commerce (International) with German 489  
 GY204 Commerce (International) with Spanish 495  
 GY206 Business Information Systems (Work Placement & Optional International Study) (BSc) 465  
 GY207 Commerce (Accounting) 509  
 GY208 Commerce with Gaeilge 473  
 GY209 Commerce (Global Experience) 530  
 GY261 Business Studies (International Hotel Management, Shannon) #497  
 GY262 Commerce (International Hotel Management, Shannon) #681  
**Letterkenny IT**  
 LY108 Business – Accounting 309  
 LY118 Business 290  
 LY123 Marketing with Online Technologies (New)  
**Limerick IT**  
 LC224 Accounting and Finance 300  
 LC225 Marketing and Management 298  
 LC226 Enterprise and Innovation 234  
 LC293 Business Studies with Tourism Management 307  
 LC294 Business with Event Management 279  
 LC295 Business with Sports Management 252  
 LC416 Business (Thurles and Ennis) 274  
**University of Limerick**  
 LM050 Business Studies 431  
 LM056 International Business 528  
 LM063 Technology Management 379  
**Maynooth University**  
 MH401 Finance – two degree options 357  
 MH402 Quantitative Finance 476  
 MH403 Finance and Accounting 422  
 MH404 Business (options) 430  
 MH405 Equine Business 357  
 MH407 Business and Accounting 420  
 MH411 Entrepreneurship 371  
**IT Sligo**  
 SG141 Business 261  
 SG142 Business (International Marketing and Sales with French) 279  
 SG144 Business (International Marketing and Sales with Spanish) 270  
 SG146 Accounting 309  
 SG147 Sport with Business 307  
**IT Tralee**  
 TL831 Business Studies (Accounting, Marketing or Management) 306  
**Waterford IT**  
 WD048 Business 271  
 WD084 Accounting 308  
 WD134 International Business 290  
 WD232 Business Systems Information (New)

### EDUCATION

**IT Carlow**  
 CW028 Early Childhood Education and Care (Wexford) 252  
 CW748 Early Childhood Education and Care 270  
**Cork IT**  
 CR440 Montessori Education  
**University College Cork**  
 CK124 Education – Gaeilge 463  
**Dublin City University**  
 DC001 Education – Early Childhood Education 440  
 DC002 Education – Primary Teaching 488  
 DC003 Education – Primary Teaching – Gaeltacht Applicant #445  
 DC004 Education – Primary Teaching (Church of Ireland College) #411  
 DC005 Bachelor of Education - Irish Sign Language  
 DC010 Education, Religion and English – second level teaching 441  
 DC011 Education, Religion and History – second level teaching 412  
 DC012 Education, Religion and Music – second level teaching #378  
 DC013 Bachelor of Education in Gaeilge and French/German/Spanish 419  
 DC203 Science Education 435  
 DC205 Physical Education with Biology 531  
 DC206 Physical Education with Mathematics 499  
 DC235 Education and Training – Daytime and Flexible 309  
**Marino Institute of Education, Dublin**  
 CM001 Education – Primary Teaching 484\*  
 CM002 Education – Primary Teaching Gaeltacht Applicants  
 CM003 Bachelor in Education (Primary Teaching) through the medium of Irish #528  
 CM004 Bachelor in Education (Primary Teaching) through the medium of Irish for Gaeltacht applicants #494  
 CM010 Education Studies 319  
 CM020 Early Childhood Education 327  
**National College of Ireland, Dublin**  
 NC030 Early Childhood Education and Care (New)  
**TU Dublin**  
 TU989 Early Childhood Care and Education (New)  
 TU993 Early Childhood Care and Education

(Blanchardstown) 270  
 TU994 Early Childhood Care and Education (Tallaght) 321  
 TU995 Early Childhood Education (Grangegorman) 367  
**Trinity College Dublin**  
 TR009 Music Education #420  
**Galway-Mayo IT**  
 GA285 – Education (Art, Design and Graphics) (New)  
 GA885 Outdoor Education (Mayo) 252  
 GA890 Early Childhood Education and Care 270  
 GA891 Geography and Outdoor Education (Mayo Campus) 244  
 GA980 Education (Design Graphics & Construction) (Letterfrack) 377  
**NUI Galway**  
 GY133 Education (Computer Science and Mathematical Studies 422)  
**Mary Immaculate, Limerick**  
 MI004 Education – Primary Teaching – International 577  
 MI005 Education – Primary Teaching 495  
 MI006 Education – Primary Teaching – Gaeltacht Applicant #456  
 MI007 Early Childhood Care and Education 357  
 MI008 Primary Teaching in Education and Psychology 588  
 MI009 Education and Psychology – Primary Teaching 402  
 MI010 Education – Business Studies and Religious Studies 368  
 MI011 Education – Irish and Religious Studies (Thurles) 409  
 MI012 Education – Irish and Business Studies (Thurles) 401  
 MI013 BA in Education, Mathematics and Gaeilge 444  
 MI014 Education, Mathematics and Business Studies 434  
**Limerick IT**  
 LC115 Education – Art & Design Teacher Education #942  
 LC393 Early Childhood Education & Care (Limerick) 236  
 LC401 Early Childhood Education & Care (Thurles) 297  
 LC613 Early Childhood Education & Care (Ennis) 242  
**University of Limerick**  
 LM090 Physical Education with concurrent Teacher Education 532\*  
 LM091 Languages with concurrent Teacher Education 517  
 LM092 Science with Teacher Ed (Biology with Physics or Chemistry) 507  
 LM094 Materials and Architectural Technology (Education) 440  
 LM095 Materials and Engineering Technology with Teacher Education 367  
 LM096 Science with Teacher Ed (Physical Sciences with Chemistry and Physics) 405  
 LM097 Mathematics and Computer Science with Concurrent Teacher Education 402  
**Maynooth University**  
 MH001 Education – Primary Teaching (Froebel) 507  
 MH002 Education – Primary Teaching – Gaeltacht Applicant #  
 MH003 Early Childhood – Teaching & Learning (New)  
 MH212 Mathematics with Computer Science and/or Mathematical Physics (with Education) 422  
 MH801 Early Childhood – Teaching and Learning (Part-time) 327  
**St Angela's, Sligo**  
 AS001 BEd Education, Home Economics and Biology – with concurrent Teacher Ed 510  
 AS002 BEd Education, Home Economics and Religious Ed – with concurrent Teacher Ed 441\*  
 AS003 BEd Home Economics and Irish – second level teaching 440\*  
**IT Sligo**  
 SG242 Early Childhood Education 279  
**IT Tralee**  
 TL880 Early Childhood Care and Education 307  
**Waterford IT**  
 WD231 Early Childhood Care and Education (New)

### ENGINEERING/INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

**Athlone IT**  
 AL801 Software Design with Virtual Reality and Gaming 303  
 AL802 Software Design with Artificial Intelligence for Cloud Computing 332  
 AL803 Software Design with Mobile Apps and Connected Devices 337  
 AL805 Computer Engineering with Network Infrastructure 333  
 AL820 Mechanical and Polymer Engineering 308  
**IT Carlow**  
 CW208 Computer Games Development 279  
 CW238 Software Development 297  
 CW248 Information Technology Management 285  
 CW258 Cyber-Crime and IT Security 293

CW268 Computing in Interactive Digital Art and Design 287  
 CW478 Civil Engineering 433  
 CW548 Mechanical Engineering 321  
 CW558 Electronic Systems 280  
 CW568 Aerospace Engineering 380  
**Cork IT**  
 CR105 Chemical and Biopharmaceutical Engineering 443  
 CR106 Software Development 411  
 CR108 Mechanical Engineering 434  
 CR109 Structural Engineering 394  
 CR110 Automotive Business Management & Technology 311  
 CR112 Creative Digital Media 361  
 CR116 Computer Systems 332  
 CR360 Instrument Engineering 261  
 CR500 Engineering (Common entry) 411  
 CR510 Sustainable Energy Engineering 320  
 CR520 Biomedical Engineering 444  
 CR580 Electrical Engineering 318  
 CR590 Electronic Engineering 303  
**University College Cork**  
 CK118 Digital Humanities and IT – 3 or 4 years (Work Experience or International Pathway) 336  
 CK401 Computer Science 468  
 CK411 Data Science and Analytics 510  
 CK600 Engineering 487  
**College of Computer Technology, Dublin**  
 CT125 Information Technology 220  
**Dublin Business School**  
 DB500 Computing 218  
 DB501 Computing (Cloud Computing) 227  
 DB502 Computing (Data Analytics and Big Data) 341  
 DB503 Computing (Software Development) 225  
 DB504 Computing (Web and Mobile Technology)  
 DB526 Business (Cloud Computing) 347  
**Dublin City University**  
 DC120 Enterprise Computing 357  
 DC121 Computer Applications 400  
 DC123 Data Science 465  
 DC190 Electronic and Computer Engineering 413  
 DC193 Mechatronics Engineering 411  
 DC195 Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering 425  
 DC197 Biomedical Engineering 423  
 DC200 Common Entry to Engineering (un-denominated entry) 422  
**IADT, Dun Laoghaire**  
 DL836 Creative Computing 219  
 DL837 New Media Studies 201  
 DL839 Interaction + User Experience Design #683  
 DL843 Film\* (New)  
 DL844 Television\* (New)  
 DL845 Design for Film\* (New)  
**Griffith College, Dublin/Cork**  
 GC230 Computing Science 335  
 GC430 Computing Science 252  
**National College of Ireland, Dublin**  
 NC003 Computing 260  
 NC023 Technology Management 261  
 NC025 Data Science  
**TU Dublin**  
 TU801 Biomedical Design 235  
 TU802 Electrical Services and Energy Management 317  
 TU803 Electronic Engineering 243  
 TU804 Engineering (Common Entry with Award options) 271  
 TU805 Engineering (General Entry) 402  
 TU806 Sustainable Energy Engineering 262  
 TU807 Computer Engineering in Mobile Systems 276  
 TU808 Engineering Software 260  
 TU809 Mechanical Engineering 235  
 TU810 Mechatronic Engineering 270  
 TU811 Product Design 411  
 TU813 Automation Engineering 218  
 TU814 Transport Operations and Technology 285  
 TU856 Computer Science 476  
 TU857 Computer Science (Infrastructure) 391  
 TU858 Computer Science (International) 377  
 TU859 Computing 217  
 TU860 Computing 260  
 TU861 Computing with Languages (French/German/Spanish) 308  
 TU862 Computing with Data Analytics 226  
 TU865 Computing with IT Management 226  
 TU984 Game Design 381  
**Trinity College Dublin**  
 TR032 Engineering 510  
 TR033 Computer Science 509  
 TR034 Management Science and Information Systems Studies 613\*  
 TR038 Engineering with Management 532  
 TR039 Computer Science, Linguistics and a Language (New)  
 TR082 Computer Science and Business 555  
 TR240 Computer Science and Geography (New)  
 TR241 Computer Science and Linguistics (New)  
**University College Dublin**  
 DN150 Engineering 531

DN201 Computer Science 510  
**Dundalk IT**  
 DK721 Computing (New)  
 DK820 Computing in Games Development 311  
 DK821 Computing 302  
 DK822 Augmented and Virtual Reality 307  
 DK843 Engineering 340  
**Galway-Mayo IT**  
 GA183 Business Information Systems 296  
 GA580 Software and Electronic Engineering 300  
 GA680 Mechanical Engineering 330  
 GA681 Energy Engineering 293  
 GA682 Biomedical Engineering 313  
 GA684 Engineering (Common entry to Agri/Biomed/Energy/Mechanical Engineering) 340  
 GA787 Computing in Software Development 270  
 GA788 Computing and Digital Media 274  
**NUI Galway**  
 GY350 Computer Science and Information Technology 403  
 GY401 Engineering (un-denominated) 465  
 GY402 Civil Engineering 455  
 GY405 Mechanical Engineering 454  
 GY406 Electronic and Computer Engineering 510  
 GY408 Biomedical Engineering 509  
 GY413 Energy Systems Engineering 502  
 GY414 Electrical and Electronic Engineering 405  
**Letterkenny IT**  
 LY508 Fire Safety Engineering 276  
 LY608 Mechanical Engineering 300  
 LY618 Electronic Engineering 312  
 LY628 Biomedical Engineering (New)  
 LY708 Applied Computing 306  
 LY748 Computer Science 317  
 LY738 Computing with Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (New)  
 LY748 Computer Science 317  
**Limerick IT**  
 LC233 Software Development 272  
 LC234 Interactive Digital Media 225  
 LC236 Internet Systems Development 262  
 LC239 Computer Networks and Systems 307  
 LC275 Electrical Systems 298  
 LC288 Mechanical Engineering 347  
 LC289 Precision Engineering 291  
 LC330 Business with Computing 297  
 LC362 Biotechnology and Biopharmaceutical Sciences 413  
 LC374 Renewable and Electrical Energy Engineering 318  
 LC375 Industrial Automation and Robotic Systems 317  
 LC376 Electronic Engineering 318  
 LC380 Automotive Engineering and Transport Management 303  
 LC414 Cyber Security and Data Analytics 236  
 LC418 Computing – Games Design and Development (Thurles) 270  
 LC434 Environmental Management in Agriculture 297  
 LC517 Creative Multimedia and Design (Clonmel) 234  
**University of Limerick**  
 LM063 Technology Management 379  
 LM076 Product Design and Technology #408  
 LM077 Aeronautical Engineering 520  
 LM082 Construction Management and Engineering 398  
 LM115 Chemical and Biochemical Engineering 454  
 LM116 Engineering Choice 476\*  
 LM118 Electronic and Computer Engineering 403  
 LM121 Computing Technologies 351  
**Maynooth University**  
 MH202 Biotechnology 455  
 MH207 Data Science 445  
 MH304 Engineering 333  
 MH306 Robotics and Intelligent Devices 361  
 MH601 Computer Science through Arts 352  
 MH602 Computer Science through Science 351  
 MH603 Computational Thinking 532  
**IT Sligo**  
 SG246 Computing 290  
 SG250 App Design and User Experience (UX) 412  
 SG251 Computing (Smart Technologies) 327  
 SG252 Software Development 307  
 SG253 Computer Networks and Cloud Infrastructure 324  
 SG347 Architecture 360  
**IT Tralee**  
 TL810 Computing with Software Development 310  
 TL811 Computing with Games Development 358  
 TL815 Computing (Degree Award options) 308  
 TL844 Agricultural Engineering 300  
**Waterford IT**  
 WD001 Applied Computing 260  
 WD161 Computer Forensics and Security 255  
 WD210 Software Systems Development 279  
 WD211 Creative Computing 211  
 WD230 Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering 253

### HOSPITALITY

**Athlone IT**  
 AL855 Hospitality Management (with International Placement) 308  
**Carlow IT**  
 CW058 Tourism and Event Management 298  
**Cork IT**  
 CR660 Tourism Management 252  
**Griffith College, Dublin/Limerick**  
 GC305 International Hospitality Management 253  
**TU Dublin**  
 TU942 Culinary Arts 212  
 TU943 Culinary Entrepreneurship 278  
 TU944 Culinary Science 316  
 TU951 International Hospitality and Tourism Management 184  
 TU952 International Hospitality Management 300  
 TU953 Tourism and Digital Marketing 290  
 TU954 Event Management 356  
 TU967 Languages and International Tourism 308  
**Galway-Mayo IT**  
 GA380 International Hotel Management 242  
 GA381 International Tourism Management 278  
 GA382 Culinary and Gastronomic Sciences 206  
**NUI Galway**  
 GY261 Business Studies in International Hotel Management (Shannon) #497  
 GY262 Commerce in International Hotel Managements (Shannon) #681  
**Limerick IT**  
 LC293 Business Studies with Travel and Tourism Management 307  
 LC294 Business Studies with Event Management 279  
 LC392 Beauty & Spa Management 236  
**IT Sligo**  
 SG148 Tourism with Event Management 269  
**IT Tralee**  
 TL823 Event Management (3-year programme) 299  
**Waterford IT**  
 WD091 Hospitality Management 228  
 WD194 Culinary Arts 217

**LAW**  
**Athlone IT**  
 AL851 Business and Law 295  
**IT Carlow**  
 CW708 Law – LLB 302



TU Dublin was the first technological university to be established in Ireland, with four more expected by 2022

ANDRES POVEDA

CW938 Business with Law 283  
**University College Cork**  
 CK301 Law (Pathways) – 3 or 4 years (Degree options) 507  
 CK302 Law and French 542  
 CK304 Law and Irish 540  
 CK307 Law and Business 556  
**Dublin Business School**  
 DB568 Law 219  
**Dublin City University**  
 DC232 Law and Society (BCL) 466  
 DC292 Arts (Joint Honours) – Law 403  
**Griffith College, Dublin**  
 GC403 Law (Dublin) 244  
**TU Dublin**  
 TU917 Law with Languages 342  
 TU918 Law 451  
**Trinity College, Dublin**  
 TR004 Law 566  
 TR017 Law and Business 602  
 TR018 Law and French 565  
 TR019 Law and German 543  
 TR020 Law and Political Science 602  
**University College Dublin**  
 DN600 Law 546  
**NUI, Galway**  
 GY250 Law & Business 487  
 GY251 Civil Law 499  
 GY252 Law with Human Rights 520  
 GY253 Law and Taxation 509  
 GY254 Law with Criminology and Criminal Justice 530  
**Letterkenny IT**  
 LY208 Law 300  
**Limerick IT**  
 LC223 Law and Taxation 307  
**University of Limerick**  
 LMO20 Law and Accounting 465  
 LMO28 Criminal Justice 418  
 LMO29 Law Plus 490  
**Maynooth University**  
 MH501 Law LLB Law - four-year Single Major Law programme 473  
 MH502 Law (5 options) 451  
**Waterford IT**  
 WD140 Law 280  
 WD150 Criminal Justice Studies 270

**MEDIA**

**IT Carlow**  
 CW578 TV and Media Production 325  
 CW808 Media and Public Relations 251  
**Cork IT**  
 CR130 Musical Theatre #548  
 CR225 Photography with New Media #250  
**University College Cork**  
 CK105 Film and Screen Media – 3 or 4 years (International Pathway) 368  
**Dublin Business School**  
 DB510 BA (Hons) Audio Production & Music Project Management 234  
 DB567 Film and Creative Media 218  
**Dublin City University**  
 DC131 Communication Studies 407  
 DC132 Journalism 429  
 DC133 Multimedia 411  
 DC239 Gaeilge Iriseoireacht Agus Na Meáin Dhiigitreacha 430  
 DC291 Arts (Joint Honours) – Media Studies 376  
**IADT, Dun Laoghaire**  
 DL832 Animation #920  
*DL833 Photography and Visual Media (New)*  
 DL837 New Media Studies 201  
 DL838 Creative Music Production #754  
**Griffith College, Dublin**  
 GC250 Communications and Media Production  
 GC450 Journalism and Visual Media 254  
 GC462 Design Communications\* portfolio  
**TU Dublin**  
 TU919 Advertising and Marketing Communications 228  
 TU976 Photography #695  
 TU978 *Creative Industries and Visual Culture (New)*  
 TU981 Creative Digital Media (Blanchardstown) 280  
 TU982 Creative Digital Media (Tallaght) 320  
 TU983 Film and Broadcasting 456  
 TU985 Journalism 322  
**Trinity College Dublin**  
 TR042 Film 489  
**Dundalk IT**  
 DK770 *Musical Theatre/Theatre and Film Practice (New)*  
 DK863 Creative Media 308  
 DK864 Film & Television Production 300  
 DK865 Production of Music and Audio 301  
**Galway-Mayo IT**  
 GA281 Film and Documentary 304  
 GA384 Event Management with Public Relations 212  
**NUI Galway**  
 GY127 Arts (Film and Digital Media) 401  
**Limerick IT**  
 LC517 Creative Media and Design 234  
 LC518 Digital Animation Production (Clonmel) #808  
**University of Limerick**  
 LM039 Journalism & New Media 402  
 LM122 Creative Media and Interaction Design 327  
**Maynooth University**  
 MH109 Media Studies 316  
**IT Tralee**  
 TL801 Animation Visual Effects and Motion Design 281  
 TL802 TV, Radio and New Media Broadcasting 325  
**Waterford IT**  
 WD193 Marketing and Digital Media 271

**MEDICINE/HEALTH-RELATED**

**Dentistry**  
**University College Cork**  
 CK702 Dentistry 613\*  
**Trinity College Dublin**  
 TR052 Dental Science 613\*  
**Healthcare**  
**Athlone IT**  
 AL836 Health Science and Nutrition 334  
 AL843 Physical Activity and Health Science 306  
**Cork IT**  
 CR320 Biomedical Science – offered jointly by CIT and UCC 565  
 CR333 Nutrition and Health Science University College Cork/ Cork IT 402  
**University College Cork**  
 CK704 Occupational Therapy 566  
 CK705 Speech and Language Therapy 520  
 CK706 Public Health Sciences 454  
 CK707 Medical and Health Sciences 542  
**Dublin City University**  
 DC209 Health and Society 465  
**TU Dublin**  
 TU852 Chemical Sciences with Medicinal Chemistry 476  
 TU866 Biomedical and Molecular Diagnostics 487  
 TU870 Human Nutrition and Dietetics 578  
 TU871 Optometry 509  
 TU872 Public Health Nutrition 491  
 TU882 Nutraceuticals in Health and Nutrition 397  
 TU955 Sports & Leisure Management 217  
**Trinity College Dublin**  
 TR007 Clinical Speech and Language Studies 529

TR054 Occupational Therapy 533  
 TR055 Radiation Therapy 543  
 TR056 Human Health and Disease 565  
**University College Dublin**  
 DN262 Human Nutrition 531  
 DN410 Radiography 534  
 DN411 Radiography – Graduate Entry #  
 DN440 Biomedical, Health and Life Sciences 590  
**Dundalk IT**  
 DK880 Health and Physical Activity 328  
**Galway-Mayo IT**  
 GA791 Public Health Nutrition 368  
**NUI Galway**  
 GY502 Occupational Therapy 555  
 GY503 Speech and Language Therapy 543  
 GY504 Podiatry Medicine 443  
**Letterkenny IT**  
 LY978 Health and Social Care - Common Entry with Degree Award options 280  
**Limerick IT**  
 LC263 Clinical Technology 294  
**University of Limerick**  
 LM103 Paramedic Studies #392  
**Sligo IT**  
 SG442 Occupational Safety and Health 290  
 SG443 Human Nutrition 356  
 SG447 Health Science and Physical Activity 328  
**IT Tralee**  
 TL871 Health and Leisure 300  
 TL872 Health and Leisure with Massage 309

**Nursing**  
**Athlone IT**  
 AL830 General Nursing 442  
 AL832 Psychiatric Nursing 387\*  
**University College Cork**  
 CK710 General Nursing 454\*  
 CK712 Children's and General Nursing (Integrated) 533  
 CK720 Mental Health Nursing 423  
 CK730 Intellectual Disability Nursing 419  
 CK740 Midwifery 484  
**Dublin City University**  
 DC215 General Nursing 454  
 DC216 Mental Health Nursing 418  
 DC217 Intellectual Disability Nursing 370  
 DC218 Children's and General Nursing (Integrated) 500  
**Trinity College Dublin**  
 TR091 General Nursing (Meath and St James's) 429  
 TR093 General Nursing (Adelaide School of Nursing) #430  
 TR095 Mental Health Nursing 408  
 TR097 Intellectual Disability Nursing 396  
 TR911 Children's and General Nursing (Integrated) 511  
 TR913 Midwifery 478  
**University College Dublin**  
 DN450 General Nursing 429\*  
 DN451 Children's and General Nursing (Integrated) 509  
 DN452 Midwifery 489  
 DN453 Mental Health Nursing 397  
**Dundalk IT**  
 DK870 General Nursing 403  
 DK872 Intellectual Disability Nursing 336  
 DK874 Mental Health Nursing 356  
 DK877 Midwifery 440  
**Galway-Mayo IT**  
 GA880 General Nursing (Castlebar) 429\*  
 GA882 Psychiatric Nursing (Castlebar) 367  
**NUI Galway**  
 GY515 General Nursing (Galway and Portlucan) 476  
 GY516 Mental Health Nursing 440  
 GY517 Midwifery 495  
**Letterkenny IT**  
 LY908 General Nursing 400\*  
 LY918 Psychiatric Nursing 357\*  
 LY928 Intellectual Disability Nursing 326\*  
**University of Limerick**  
 LM150 General Nursing 475\*  
 LM152 Mental Health Nursing 419\*  
 LM154 Intellectual Disability Nursing 420  
 LM156 Midwifery 469  
**St Angela's, Sligo**  
 AS110 General Nursing 419\*  
 AS130 Intellectual Disability Nursing 336\*  
**IT Tralee**  
 TL890 General Nursing and Mature Applicants 440\*  
 TL891 Mental Health Nursing and Mature Applicants 389  
**Waterford IT**  
 WD116 General Nursing 422  
 WD117 Psychiatric Nursing 366  
 WD120 Intellectual Disability Nursing 377

**Medicine**  
**University College Cork**  
 CK701 Medicine (Undergraduate Entry) #731  
**Royal College of Surgeons, Dublin**  
 RC001 Medicine – undergraduate entry #733  
 RC101 Medicine - graduate entry route  
**Trinity College Dublin**  
 TR051 Medicine #735\*  
**University College Dublin**  
 DN400 Medicine – undergraduate entry #737  
 DN401 Medicine – Graduate Entry  
**NUI, Galway**  
 GY501 Medicine (five year/six year course) #728\*  
**University of Limerick**  
 LM101 Medicine - graduate entry #55\*

**Pharmacy**  
**Athlone IT**  
 AL835 *Pharmacology (New)*  
 AL840 Pharmaceutical Science 347  
**University College Cork**  
 CK703 Pharmacy 590  
**Royal College of Surgeons, Dublin**  
 RC005 Pharmacy 579  
**TU Dublin**  
 TU875 Pharmaceutical Healthcare 400  
**Trinity College Dublin**  
 TR072 Pharmacy 590

**Physiotherapy**  
**Royal College of Surgeons, Dublin**  
 RC004 Physiotherapy 566  
**Trinity College, Dublin**  
 TR053 Physiotherapy 566\*  
**University College Dublin**  
 DN420 Physiotherapy 578  
**University of Limerick**  
 LM100 Physiotherapy 589\*

**MUSIC**

**Cork IT**  
 CR121 Music (at CIT – Cork School of Music) #868  
 CR125 Popular Music: Electric Bass Guitar at CIT Cork School of Music #1088  
 CR126 Popular Music: Drums at CIT Cork School of Music #801  
 CR127 Popular Music: Electric Guitar at CIT Cork School of Music #838  
 CR128 Popular Music: Keyboards at CIT Cork School of Music #840  
 CR129 Popular Music: Voice at CIT Cork School of Music #841



Students at Waterford, our IT of the Year, enjoy five-star sports facilities

**University College Cork**  
 CK104 Arts – Music – 3 or 4 years (BMus or Chinese/European/Int'l Pathway) #302  
**Dublin City University**  
 DC014 BA in Jazz and Contemporary Music Performance (Audition) #419  
**IADT, Dun Laoghaire**  
 DL838 Creative Music Production #754  
**TU Dublin**  
 TU961 Commercial Modern Music #608  
 TU963 Music #416  
**Trinity College Dublin**  
 TR002 Music 435  
 TR009 Music Education #420  
**Dundalk IT**  
 DK865 Production of Music and Audio 301  
**NUI Galway**  
 GY130 Music 408  
**Limerick IT**  
 LC372 Music Technology & Production 325  
**University of Limerick**  
 LM026 Performing Arts (Audition) #303  
 LM122 Creative Media and Interaction Design 327  
**Maynooth University**  
 MH103 Music #  
**Waterford IT**  
 WD027 Music #262

**SCIENCE**

**Athlone IT**  
 AL838 Biotechnology 307  
 AL839 Microbiology 325  
**IT Carlow**  
 CW108 Biosciences (with options) 261  
**Cork IT**  
 CR305 Physical Sciences (Common Entry) 282  
 CR325 Pharmaceutical Biotechnology 398  
 CR335 Biological Sciences (Common Entry) 420  
 CR340 Analytical Chemistry with Quality Assurance 251  
 CR365 Environmental Science and Sustainable Technology 253  
 CR370 Agri-Biosciences 397  
 CR510 Sustainable Energy Engineering 320  
 CR520 Biomedical Engineering 444  
**University College Cork**  
 CK107 Geographical and Archaeological Sciences – 3 or 4 years (International Pathway) 328  
 CK402 Biological and Chemical Sciences 510\*  
 CK404 Biological Earth and Environmental Sciences 467  
 CK405 Genetics 487  
 CK406 Chemical Sciences 485  
 CK407 Mathematical Sciences 566  
 CK408 Physics and Astrophysics 554  
 CK409 Industrial Physics – Offered jointly by UCC and CIT 432  
 CK412 Agricultural Science 496\*  
 CK504 Nutritional Sciences 518  
 CK505 Food Science 441  
**Dublin City University**  
 DC126 Actuarial Mathematics 560  
 DC127 Common Entry into Actuarial and Financial Mathematics 532  
 DC161 Analytical Science 498\*  
 DC162 Chemical and Pharmaceutical Sciences 521  
 DC166 Environmental Science and Technology 433  
 DC168 Genetics and Cell Biology 512\*  
 DC175 Physics General Entry (options) 419  
 DC181 Biotechnology 499  
 DC201 Common Entry into Science (un-denominated entry) 498\*  
 DC203 Science Education 435  
 DC207 *Psychology and Mathematics (New)*  
**TU Dublin**  
 TU812 Design Technology and Innovation 270  
 TU851 Analytical Chemistry - Environmental Forensic and Pharmaceutical 349  
 TU852 Chemical Sciences with Medicinal Chemistry 476

TU854 Science (General Entry) 476  
 TU855 Science with Nanotechnology 331  
 TU864 DNA and Forensic Analysis 400  
 TU866 Biomedical and Molecular Diagnostics 487  
 TU867 Biomedical Science 524  
 TU868 Clinical Measurement Science 510  
 TU869 Environmental Health 336  
 TU874 Mathematical Sciences 341  
 TU876 Pharmaceutical Science 377  
 TU879 Physics Technology 308  
 TU878 Physics with Energy and Environment 337  
 TU879 Physics with Medical Physics and Bioengineering 351  
 TU880 Physics with Data Science 578  
**Trinity College Dublin**  
 TR031 Mathematics 531  
 TR035 Theoretical Physics 543  
 TR061 Chemical Sciences 517  
 TR063 Physical Sciences 498\*  
**University College Dublin**  
 DN200 Science 533  
 DN250 Agricultural Science 456  
 DN425 Health and Performance Sciences 510  
**Dundalk IT**  
 DK883 Science (Biopharmaceutical Science/Environmental Bioscience) 358  
 DK886 Biopharmaceutical Science 301  
**Galway-Mayo IT**  
 GA780 Applied Freshwater and Marine Biology 327  
 GA781 Applied Biology and Biopharmaceutical Science 337  
 GA782 Chemical and Pharmaceutical Science 336  
 GA783 Physics and Instrumentation 363  
 GA784 Science (Undenominated) 372  
 GA785 Medical Science 473  
 GA786 Forensic Science and Analysis 317  
**NUI Galway**  
 GY301 Science 433  
 GY303 Biomedical Science 556  
 GY304 Biotechnology 465  
 GY308 Environmental Science 408  
 GY309 Financial Mathematics and Economics 487  
 GY310 Marine Science 419  
 GY313 Environmental Health & Safety 412  
 GY314 Earth and Ocean Sciences 403  
 GY318 Biopharmaceutical Chemistry 509  
 GY319 Mathematical Science 476  
 GY320 Physics (options in Applied/Astrophysics/Biomedical/Theoretical) 402  
 GY321 Genetics and Genomics 508  
**Letterkenny IT**  
 LY818 Science (Common Entry) 303  
**Limerick IT**  
 LC265 Pharmaceutical and Forensic Analysis 413  
 LC266 Drug and Medicinal Product Analysis 262  
 LC408 Environmental Science & Climate 279  
 LC434 Environmental Science & Agriculture 297  
**University of Limerick**  
 LM058 Financial Mathematics 403  
*LM066 Environmental Science (New)*  
 LM068 Food Science and Health 421  
 LM123 Biological and Chemical Sciences 441\*  
 LM124 Mathematics 437  
 LM125 Physics 404  
**Maynooth University**  
 MH201 Science (including Data Science) 360  
 MH203 Biological and Geographical Sciences 430  
 MH204 Physics with Astrophysics 422  
 MH206 Theoretical Physics and Mathematics 510  
 MH208 Biological and Biomedical Sciences 498  
 MH209 Psychology (through Science) 498  
 MH210 Pharmaceutical & Biomedical Chemistry 487  
 MH212 Science (with Education) or Mathematics (with Education) 422  
**IT Sligo**  
 SG444 Science un-denominated 338  
 SG445 Pharmaceutical Science with Drug Development 311  
 SG448 Forensic Investigation and Analysis 306  
 SG449 Medical Biotechnology 341  
 SG450 Environmental Science with Ecology 300

**IT Tralee**  
 TL847 Manufacturing Engineering 302  
 TL851 Wildlife Biology 309  
 TL855 Pharmaceutical Science 317  
**Waterford IT**  
 WD002 Science 308  
 WD005 Health Sciences 280  
 WD006 Exercise Science 280  
 WD147 Pharmaceutical Science 293

**SOCIAL SCIENCE**

**Athlone IT**  
 AL860 Social Care Practice 300  
 AL864 Early Years Care and Education 307  
 AL870 Applied Psychology 418  
**IT Carlow**  
 CW068 Applied Social Studies (Professional Social Care) (Wexford campus) 245  
 CW758 Applied Social Studies – Professional Social Care 336  
**Carlow College**  
 PC405 Citizenship and Community Studies 253  
**University College Cork**  
 CK102 Social Science 412  
 CK111 Early Years and Childhood Studies 419  
 CK113 Criminology – 3 years or 4 years (International Pathway) 423  
 CK114 Social Science (Youth and Community Work) – 3 years #  
 CK115 Social Work – Mature Applicants #  
 CK120 Applied Psychology 533\*  
 CK121 Psychology and Computing 466  
**Dublin Business School**  
 DB527 Applied Social Care 234  
 DB566 Social Science 220  
**Dublin City University**  
 DC208 Psychology 532  
**IADT, Dun Laoghaire**  
 DL825 Applied Psychology 379  
**National College of Ireland**  
 NC010 Psychology 400  
**TU Dublin**  
 TU989 *Early Childhood Care and Education (New)*  
 TU991 Applied Social Studies in Social Care 325  
 TU992 Community and Youth Development 251  
 TU993 *Early Childhood Care and Education (Blanchardstown)* 270  
 TU994 *Early Childhood Care and Education (Tallaght)* 321  
 TU996 Social Care 400  
 TU997 Applied Social Care 310

**Trinity College Dublin**  
 TR016 Deaf Studies 340  
 TR062 Geography and Geoscience 473  
 TR083 Sociology and Social Policy 498  
 TR084 Social Studies (Social Work) 462\*  
**University College Dublin**  
 DN700 Social Sciences 421  
 DN750 Social Policy and Sociology 378  
**Dundalk IT**  
 DK862 Social Care 301  
 DK876 Early Childhood Studies 321  
**Galway-Mayo IT**  
 GA889 Applied Social Care (Mayo) 266  
**NUI Galway and St Angela's, Sligo**  
 GY120 Arts (Child, Youth and Family: Policy and Practice) 350  
 GY121 Arts (Children's Studies) 356  
 GY123 BSc (Applied Social Sciences) 358  
 GY134 Geography and Geosystems 410  
**Letterkenny IT**  
 LY968 Arts (Childhood Care, Health & Education) 303  
 LY978 Health and Social Care 280  
**Irish College of Humanities and Applied Sciences, Limerick**  
 CI110 Counselling and Psychotherapy 310  
 CI111 Counselling and Addiction Studies 301  
 CI112 Counselling and Youth Studies 311  
**Limerick IT**  
 LC292 Social Care Work 367  
*LC297 Community and Addiction Studies (New)*  
 LC402 Social Care Work (Thurles) 225  
**University of Limerick**  
*LM019 Social Sciences (New)*  
 LM038 Psychology and Sociology 500  
**Maynooth University**  
 MH106 Psychology 521  
 MH107 Social Science 346  
 MH116 Community and Youth Work – Full Time #  
 MH802 Community and Youth Work – Part-time in service #  
 MH803 Local Studies or Community Studies (Part-time) – mature student #  
**IT Sligo**  
 SG243 Social Care Practice 301

**IT Tralee**  
 TL881 Social Care 308  
 TL889 Counselling with Addiction (mature applicants only) #  
**Waterford IT**  
 WD187 Social Science 272  
 WD192 Social Care Practice 270

**SPORT**

**Athlone IT**  
 AL837 Sports Science with Exercise Physiology 351  
 AL841 Athletic and Rehabilitation Therapy 430  
 AL843 Physical Activity and Health Science 306  
 AL854 Sport Management 302  
**IT Carlow**  
 CW138 Sport and Exercise Science 423  
 CW148 Strength and Conditioning 379  
 CW188 Sports Rehabilitation & Athletic Therapy 451  
 CW858 Sport Management and Coaching (with options – portfolio required) #700  
**Cork IT**  
 CR430 Sport & Exercise Management 322  
**University College Cork**  
 CK125 Sports Studies and Physical Education 510\*  
**Dublin City University**  
 DC202 Sport Science and Health 500  
 DC204 Athletic Therapy and Training 522  
**TU Dublin**  
 TU935 Sports Management and Coaching 300  
 TU936 Sports Science and Health 410  
**University College Dublin**  
 DN430 Sports and Exercise Management 455  
**Galway-Mayo IT**  
 GA790 Sport and Exercise Science 356  
**Letterkenny IT**  
 LY228 Sport & Exercise 300  
**Limerick IT**  
 LC295 Business Studies with Sports Management 252  
 LC422 Sports Strength and Conditioning  
 LC423 Sports Strength and Conditioning (Thurles) 298  
**University of Limerick**  
 LM089 Sport and Exercise Sciences 474  
*LM105 Exercise & Health Fitness Management (New)*  
**IT Sligo**  
 SG147 Sport with Business 307  
**Tralee IT**  
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# BUSINESS & MONEY



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## ROTHWELL'S STITCH IN TIME



Fashion designer Jennifer Rothwell has rolled out a collection of headbands, scarves and tops as entry-level products to her brand following the success of a range of silk face masks launched earlier this year, writes *Conor McMahon*. Rothwell is best known as a designer of occasion wear,

the hardest hit of all fashion segments in the pandemic. In March, she was contacted by an older client requesting a reusable face mask. "I wanted to give her something to uplift her. I got back onto the sewing machine, which I hadn't done for a long time," Rothwell said.

After publishing images of the finished mask on social media, she was flooded with requests and launched a new range on her website. The masks also received a boost after plugs by online influencers such as Roz Purcell. Rothwell, whose designs have been worn by Doctor

Who star Jodie Whittaker, pictured, said the lower price range of the masks, which cost between €25 and €28, has opened up her brand to a wider audience. Rothwell said she is also exploring the option of entering the corporate gifting market for Christmas.

## Avenue deal points developer Cosgrave towards Nama exit

**US fund backed lenders to take house builder debt out of state agency**

**Brian Carey**

Cosgrave Property Group, one of the country's best known and biggest property companies, is in advanced talks with American investment fund Avenue Capital about refinancing its debts out of Nama.

The group agreed a business plan with the agency almost exactly a decade ago and is one of the last large-scale connections still funded by the agency.

It is understood the Nama loans will be replaced with fresh borrowings from Avenue Capital's two lending platforms in Ireland, Castlehaven Finance and Relm Finance.

The group was founded in 1979 by the late Peter Cosgrave and his brothers Michael and Joseph. The firm has been responsible for some of the most high-profile residential and commercial developments in the greater Dublin area. Its early projects include Farmleigh in Stillorgan, Morehampton Square, Donnybrook Manor, and the Sweepstakes in Ballsbridge.

At the time of the financial crash in

2008, the group owed Irish banks just over €2bn secured on development land, residential developments and commercial property assets in Ireland, the UK and Poland.

It owed AIB €680m, much of it secured on the group's large land bank. The brothers borrowed more than €1.1bn to purchase commercial property, most of which has been sold over the past decade.

Since signing its business plan with Nama, the group has been one of the most active building firms in the state. It developed the hugely successful Honeypark and Cualanor developments on the lands of the former Dun Laoighaire golf club. Apartment developments on the lands have been the subject of four separate private rental scheme transactions with international funds.

The group has also sold more than 400 houses at the two schemes to owner-occupiers.

It is understood the Nama loans are secured on residential developments, commercial assets and an extensive land bank. The residential and development assets are likely to be refinanced through Castlehaven Finance, while Relm will take over the commercial assets.

The deal would be a landmark achievement for Castlehaven, which was set up in 2014 by Will Aylmer and business partner Clark McCann. It is one of a number of lenders set up to satisfy demand for property finance, which was not being met by traditional banks.

Originally backed by British investment fund Pollen Street Capital, Castlehaven initially backed smaller residential schemes. Last year Pollen sold its stake in Castlehaven to Avenue, which pledged to loan €2bn, or €500m annually over four years, to building projects here. "The backing of Avenue has given us the ability to do larger transactions," Aylmer told *The Irish Times* recently.

Aside from landing the Cosgraves, it is understood that Castlehaven also recently refinanced property assets connected to Cork developer Denis O'Flynn out of Nama.

The alternative lender has also financed Dublin Loft Company – which is owned by Peter Cosgrave's children Mark, Andrew and Kelly in its development of the Hendrick Hotel in Dublin's Smithfield.

Following the exit of the Cosgraves, the last two large-scale builders within Nama are Joe O'Reilly of Castlethorn and Gerry Gannon of Gannon Homes.

## Carlyle draws cash from its Irish fund

Carlyle Group, the large American private equity company, has signalled that it has started to pull down cash profits from its highly successful Irish fund, managed alongside Dublin finance house Cardinal Capital and backed by the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund (Isif), writes *Brian Carey*. Carlyle and Cardinal are co-managers of the €300m Carlyle Cardinal Ireland (CCI)

Fund, which last month closed the €250m sale of AA Ireland, the insurance and breakdown assistance company. It previously booked handsome profits from exits at confectioner Lily O'Brien's, Payzone and GSLS, a security company. The fund suffered a loss on Abtran, a contact centre operator. Carlyle told investors last week that it was "realising carry" for the first time at the

Irish fund. The carry or profit for the fund managers, in this case Carlyle and Cardinal, is triggered once the return for the limited partners, or investors such as Isif, has hit an agreed hurdle rate. In private equity funds, the hurdle is typically 8% per annum, and the managers' carry is set at 20% of the total returns earned by the fund. In the case of CCI, the carry would be split equally

between Carlyle and Cardinal. Curtis Buser, chief financial officer of Cardinal, said the group was "typically cautious when we first take cash carry, as we look to minimise the risk of any future clawback". This indicates a high degree of confidence that the fund, which has a number of unrealised investments, will deliver. It also points to a generous return for state investor Isif.

## Polonez owner adds hotel to shopping list

**Conor McMahon**

A company connected to the owner of Polish supermarket chain Polonez has lodged a planning application to build a hotel in central Dublin.

Ringline Investments, which lists Polonez founder Adrian Rezmerita as a director, has submitted a proposal to Dublin city council to build a 142-bedroom hotel at a site at Capel Street and Strand Street Little.

The proposed development would involve the demolition of buildings behind a shop at 162 Capel Street, as well as a working men's club at 33-35 Strand Street Little. The applicant plans to build a five- to nine-storey mixed-use development in their place. The plans include a

ground-floor retail unit at the site of the existing Polonez shop on Capel Street.

Companies Office records state that Adrian Rezmerita owns a third of Ringline shares. The rest are split between Ukrainian-registered Venture Corporate Invest Alcor Fund and Yaroslav Kotsyuba, a Moscow-based businessman.

Launched in 2003 in Naas, Co Kildare, Polonez was one of the first Polish speciality stores in Ireland. It now operates 33 outlets across the island, with 14 locations in Dublin alone.

The chain stocks more than 5,000 products, mostly from Poland and other eastern European countries. Tempside, the company behind the Polonez chain, recorded a pre-tax profit of €1.8m on sales of €34.5m for the year ending August 2019.

## CPL chief Heraty takes Covid pay cut

Anne Heraty, the co-founder and chief executive of listed recruitment group CPL, had her salary for the year to the end of June cut by €71,000, writes *Conor McMahon*.

According to the group's 2020 annual report, published last week, Heraty was paid a salary of €504,000 this year, down from €575,000.

Heraty is CPL's largest shareholder, owning a 29.5% stake in the group. The board announced an interim dividend of 10c per share in January, reflecting a strong performance in the first half of the fiscal year, which resulted in a payout of more than €809,220 to Heraty.

Her husband, Paul Carroll – who received a salary of €117,000, down from €141,000 – earned roughly €161,380 from the payout as the second-largest shareholder.

The board did not recommend a final dividend at the end of the 12-month period in light of uncertainty created by Covid-19 and the group's aim to maintain a strong balance sheet.

CPL's revenue increased by 1% to €569.27m in the year to the end of June. It recorded a pre-tax profit of €24.5m, similar to 2019's figure.

In a review of the year in September, Heraty said CPL was ready for the "potential macro-economic challenges" caused by Covid and Brexit. "CPL has a strong balance sheet with net assets in excess of €126.4m, generated over 30 years of continuous profitability," she said.

CPL's annual meeting takes place on November 23. Shareholders are requested not to attend in person and to listen to the proceedings by conference call.

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# REACHING FOR THE SKY

Size matters. Dublin is building up and gateway buildings lead the way, writes *Brian Carey*

## HITTING THE HIGH SPOTS ON THE LIFFEY

● **155 metres:** While Ronan Group Real Estate scraps with Dublin city council over heights at Spencer Dock, **John Ronan's** company is pressing ahead with plans to build the country's tallest building — a 44-storey apartment block further down the Liffey at his Waterfront Central South development, complete with hanging gardens and urban forest. Ronan, right, is proposing to develop 1,008 apartments, including 100 social housing units, amid this "green lung" of a building.

A strategic housing development, RGRE's plans will go straight to An Bord Pleanála, yet the local authority will still play a role. The council development plan supports taller gateway buildings near Point Village, yet it envisages a building on the same scale as Capital Dock on the other side of the river. Ronan's tower is twice as big.



## RECORD HOLDER WITH TRAGIC PAST

● **88 metres:** The tallest commercial building on the island of Ireland is Obel tower, a 28-storey apartment block in Belfast. It was developed by Karl Properties, owned by Cedric Blackbourne who contracted for the British army during the Troubles. His son Karl, a police officer, was murdered by the IRA — as were eight Karl Construction workers. The eight were killed at Teebane in Co Tyrone while travelling to work at an army base.

A symbol of Belfast's regeneration, the tower is part of a three-building development that went into administration in 2012 — a year after its completion at a cost of €60m (€66m). Marathon Asset Management took control of the scheme for less than half of that amount. The firm sold the office element for more than €15m to Belfast Harbour, along with its interest in 184 apartments — netting a large profit.



# Fashion victims

Tourism retail faces yet more turmoil under Brexit plans to restrict VAT refunds — with Kildare Village the worst hit. By *Brian Carey*

After a year in which the pandemic shut shops and barred international visitors, those involved in tourism retail face a further blow: Brexit.

As part of the Brexit Omnibus Bill, the Irish government plans to pass legislation making changes to the Retail Export Scheme that allows for tax to be claimed back by non-EU visitors. From January, upon its exit from the customs union, those non-EU countries will include the UK.

Under the legislation, the scheme will apply only to purchases of more than €175. It will require mainland UK residents to prove goods have been imported into the UK before claiming a refund.

The thresholds will apply to all non-EU visitors. Freda Hayes, chief executive of Blarney Woollen Mills, says her shops could lose up to €4m a year in sales. "To remove the incentive for tourists to spend their dollars in Ireland is like shooting ourselves in the foot," she says.

Shop owners argue that the threshold is too high and will have a negative impact on their businesses, as it applies to all third-country visitors. Currently non-EU tourists can avail of tax refunds on all purchases. Hayes says before

Covid, tourists accounted for 70% of all sales at her three shops in counties Clare, Cork and Tipperary. "The tourism business is very tough and will be for a number of years. The last thing we need is for the government to take away a shopping incentive," she says.

Tourists reclaimed VAT on sales of €91m in 2018 — the last year for which statistics are available — with the tax foregone amounting to €17.1m. The average spend was €147 — 16% below the proposed threshold. Analysis by economist Jim Power shows that only France has a similarly high limit. Italy comes next, with a threshold of €155.

While transactions above the proposed threshold of €175 account for more than 56% of all VAT refunded sales by value, those below the threshold account for most by number. In 2018, 81% of transactions claiming a refund were below €175.

This jeopardises the whole scheme. Denis McCarthy, chief executive of Kerry-based Fexco, Ireland's biggest provider of tax refund services, says the new threshold could lead to the closure of its VAT-refund business.

Fexco, which laid off 150 staff this year, operates Horizon, a scheme where visitors can apply for a card before visiting the country and then use it to reclaim VAT at kiosks in Irish international airports.

With 80% of refunds it processes below the new threshold, it will become uneconomic to process the rump of transactions that remain, says McCarthy.

"The act has the effect of killing the market entirely and removing this attractive scheme from all tourists. If the decision is not revised, we will have to seriously consider the closure of our VAT refund business," he says.

The regulation is likely to have a significant impact on shops that have anchored their businesses to entice high-spending tourists. A county-by-county breakdown of sales reveals that Kildare is the fourth-highest

destination for non-EU shoppers, behind Dublin (€39m), Galway (€10.8m) and Kerry (€10.2m). The vast bulk of the €9.1m sales and €1.75m in VAT refunds were posted at one such destination: Kildare Village. Value Retail, the outlet's owner, declined to comment for this article, yet it is no secret that Kildare Village has been attracting high-spending Chinese visitors through initiatives, such as a partnership with Chinese airlines Hainan and Cathay Pacific, to promote the centre to travellers from Beijing.

The Kildare outlet's sister operation, Bicester Village in the UK, has followed a similar trend. Only Buckingham Palace is a bigger attraction for Chinese tourists.

Brown Thomas is another business that attracts wealthy Asian clientele, employing Chinese-speaking staff to cater for high-spending visitors. The

“

The last thing we need is a shopping incentive being taken away

chain does not welcome the changes. A spokeswoman said it does not support any changes to the retail support scheme "due to the potential negative impact that such changes may have on the Irish tourism trade at this very critical time for the Irish economy".

For Peter Hyland, managing director of Carrolls Irish Gifts, the change is a "massive blow" and comes at a poor time for the tourism and retail industry. "We're challenged by the timing of it, with Covid. We don't even know how long travel will take to recover," he says.

Last year tourists contributed 85% of sales across 17 of the chain's stores, based in Dublin, Kilkenny, Belfast and Cork. This year the retailer has had to pivot and is appealing to a more domestic market.

Hyland is hopeful that once travel restarts, the company can focus on both. "I'm extending the business into more emerging craft talents that will appeal to both sides," he says.

Nevertheless he highlights that most of the items for sale in his stores are well below €175. "It has taken our customers' ability to claim tax back completely out of operation," he says, adding that Ireland will have the highest threshold for reclaim in the EU, and the eighth-highest rate of VAT — which is bad reputationally. "This is a scheme that American tourists living overseas are very aware of. They spend more in shops because of it," he says.

Customers at the Kilkenny Shop on Dublin's Nassau Street do not spend more than €175 on items,

High-spending tourists have flocked to Kildare Village, but there are fears the VAT refund restriction from finance minister Paschal Donohoe, below left, could slash visitor numbers



## Singapore jeweller slings cash into Dublin property

**Brian Carey**

A subsidiary of a quoted Singaporean pawnbroker and second-hand jewellery retailer has emerged as the financial backer of a number of proposed co-living and apartment projects in Dublin.

Maxi-Cash Capital Management Pte has registered a charge over lands owned by Asia Atlantic Investments (AAI), a group of Singaporean investors. AAI is managed by Trinity House Investments (THI), a London-based property investment company.

The lands secured include a former Kenilworth Motors site in Terenure. AAI Kenilworth has lodged plans to redevelop the former motor showrooms into a shared living space.

THI acquired the site, which had been put on the market for €3.5m, in 2018.

The planned five-storey building would have 147 single bedrooms and 27 double rooms, providing accommodation for up to 201 people.

AAI has also acquired sites in Finglas, Mulhuddart and

Walkinstown. It plans to develop about 1,500 new units comprising 1,000 private rental scheme units and 500 co-living apartments at the sites, pending planning permission.

Maxi-Cash operates the largest network of pawnshops and retail outlets in Singapore, with 45 units located at bus interchanges and rail stations.

The group is owned by Koh Wee Seng, who is ranked among Singapore's top 50 richest individuals, and who also has interests in property and hospitality.

## Negative fallout for Ulster Bank

The application of negative interest rates on Ulster Bank's large corporate deposits shaved €400m off the value of the book, the lender's parent NatWest has revealed, writes *Brian Carey*.

Ulster Bank reported a €16m (9.9%) fall in net income for the three months until end of September compared with the same three months in 2019. Customer deposits at the bank have fallen by €100m since the end of 2019, a stark contrast to the €6.4bn rise in savings at AIB.

NatWest is reviewing its Ulster Bank franchise in the

Republic of Ireland, and representatives recently met with finance minister Paschal Donohoe.

"In the event of any changes being made to our strategy, these would be undertaken with full consideration of any impact on customers, colleagues and shareholders in the first instance," NatWest said on Friday. "Our priority is to remain focused on supporting our colleagues in serving our customers in these difficult times."

Over the last quarter net loans to customers fell by €300m compared with the second quarter, as repayments continued to exceed gross new lending. Gross new lending of €400m was broadly in line with the three months to the end of June. The bank recorded a return on equity for the quarter of 0.2%.

## Aldi pays price for shelved plan to build supermarket

German retailer Aldi has failed in its bid to remove a site in Clonsilla from Fingal county council's vacant sites register, where it has made multiple attempts to build a new supermarket since 2006, writes *Conor McMahon*.

Aldi appealed to An Bord Pleanála earlier this year over the local authority's decision to add the site at Weavers Row, Clonsilla Road, to the registry. In the appeal, Aldi said that the land was not vacant but "simply unoccupied", because it had made four attempts between 2006 and 2019 to secure planning permission for a development there.

The most recent application was ultimately rejected by An Bord Pleanála in February this year on the grounds the proposed food store and housing project did not comply with the planning



**Aldi: Clonsilla site 'vacant'**

policies and objectives for the area.

In its appeal against the Clonsilla site's addition to the vacant sites register, Aldi said the plot had not caused adverse effects on neighbouring amenities because the retailer had demolished ruinous structures and removed rubbish. Aldi also disputed

the criteria for lands that qualify for the register, as set out by Fingal council.

The local authority disagreed with Aldi's assessment. It said the site was neglected and had been vacant for some time.

In a report prepared for An Bord Pleanála and published in October, senior planning inspector Stephen Rhys Thomas said he was satisfied the land qualified for the register. Part of his recommendation was based on "the neglected condition of the site in the context of the surrounding area".

The planning board agreed with the inspector's assessment and upheld the council's decision to include the site on the register. Aldi will be charged an annual levy of €211,750 by the local authority for the site, which was valued at more than €3m.

### AIB Consumer Reference Rate Changes effective from 28th October 2020

Current: Base Lending Rate*	0.000%	Previous: Base Lending Rate*	0.000%
Current: Prime Interest Rate**	0.000%	Previous: Prime Interest Rate**	0.000%
Current: Credit Line Interest Rate	2.000%	Previous: Credit Line Interest Rate	2.000%

\*This rate is only available for facilities in excess of €50,000

\*\*This rate is not available for new loan facilities

Facilities based on these reference rates are also subject to an agreed interest margin. All Irish Banks, p.l.c. is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland



## UGLY DUCKLING NOW JUST GRAND

● **80 metres:** For three decades the tallest building on the island was also in Belfast. The supremely ugly Windsor House on Bedford Street was built in 1974 and was bombed by the IRA in 1992. P Elliott, a Cavan construction company, and Ray Grehan, a Galway developer, bought the property in 2006 for £31m (£34.5m) with funding from Bank of Ireland. The loan ended up in Nama, and receiver Liam Dowdall sold the building to the Hastings Hotel Group for £6.5m. Hastings spent £53m to transform the building into the imposing Grand Central hotel.

"It does what it says on the tin," Howard Hastings told The Sunday Times. "It is going to be grand and it is so very central."

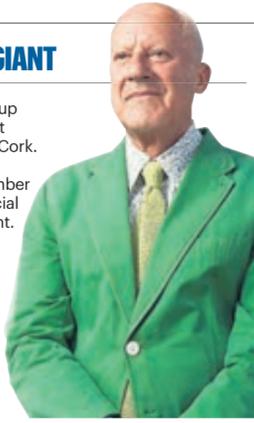
Hauliers David and Ashley McCulla are reported to be planning to build the city's largest building, a 30-floor apartment block in the city's docklands.



## DOUBLE WHAMMY FOR AMERICAN GIANT

● **79 metres and 71 metres:** American property group Kennedy Wilson (KW) owns the Republic's two tallest buildings: Capital Dock in Dublin, and the Elysian in Cork. Both are residential. The Elysian was developed by Corkman Michael O'Flynn and completed in September 2008 – just in time for the onset of the global financial crisis. Six months after completion it was 80% vacant.

O'Flynn financed his interests out of Nama but fell out with backer Blackstone. The US private equity fund took control of the Elysian as part of a settlement agreement and sold the block in 2018 to KW for €95m. KW also developed the intensely dull Capital Dock on the proposed site of the stunning U2 Tower, designed by Norman Foster, right, which was to be 120 metres. Like its promoter, Dublin Docklands Development Authority, it was consigned to history in the bust.



## BROTHERS' PLAN IS NO TALL STOREY

● **140 metres:** The race to develop Ireland's tallest building is currently led by Tower Holdings Group, which has secured planning permission from Cork city council for a 34-storey hotel at Custom House Quay. It will cost €140m.

Tower, a New York construction and property group, is headed by Kerry-born Kevin O'Sullivan, right. With brother Donal, far right, he previously ran Navillus (Sullivan backwards), a contracting firm. Donal is fighting charges in America that Navillus failed to pass on \$1m (£860m) in union dues. Tower developed a 31-storey hotel at Long Island for Marriott, which says it is "interested in exploring the prospect" of a five-star hotel in Cork.



## Taoglas signals its soaring sales

**Brian Carey**

Sales at Taoglas Group, an Irish maker of antenna technology, surged by 22.7% to \$67m (£57m) last year as the company continued to penetrate the global market for internet-of-things applications.

Taoglas, based at Enniscorthy in Co Wexford, posted profits of \$4.4m last year, up 14% on the previous year. The company said sales and revenue in 2020 remained strong, with no significant impact as a result of the pandemic. Growth is projected for the rest of this year and into 2021.

A world leader in its field, Taoglas has a total of nine design, support and test centres around the world and employs more than 300 staff.

The company was founded by joint chief executives Ronan Quinlan and Dermot O'Shea in 2004. The pair remain its main shareholders.

Last year Taoglas acquired Firmwave, a Dublin internet-of-things product design and engineering company. In December 2018, it purchased ThinkWireless, a Florida specialist in design, development and production of antennae systems for the

commercial trucking industry.

The group spent \$6m on research and development last year.

During the pandemic, the company launched Crowd Insights, a cost-effective analytics platform using existing wi-fi infrastructure to measure, monitor and manage people's movement. The system helps companies, municipalities and governments comply with density restrictions and social distancing measures.

More than two-thirds of sales (\$45m) were posted in the Americas, with a further \$12m of products shipped to Asia.

The company partners with fellow Irish businesses developing internet-of-things products, including StatSports, a world-leading provider of GPS player tracking and analysis equipment; and HealthBeacon, whose technology helps patients manage their medication.

Taoglas's technology is used in a smart blanket for horses, developed by Horseware Ireland, and in data-monitoring devices designed by Lvlogics for animal feed silos.

## Sonder is ready to expand in Dublin

The luxury short-term rental company boasts of a successful summer and has cash poised to invest in the city centre

**Conor McMahon**

Sonder, the billion-dollar hospitality company that entered Ireland in September 2019, had a surprisingly good end-of-summer period given the catastrophic year endured by the wider tourism industry.

Across its two properties in Dublin – a 54-room aparthotel on Britain Quay in the docklands and a 22-unit self-catering apartment block on Mountjoy Square – the company recorded an average occupancy rate of over 90% from August to October. Revenue per available room was strong, as were its rates, according to Lia Prendergast, who leads Sonder's Irish operation.

"The last three months have been our best since we launched [in Ireland]," she said. The San Francisco-headquartered company, founded in 2012 by then 19-year-old Francis Davidson, managed to buck the trend for two reasons. It has pitched itself as a "tech-enabled" accommodation

provider, offering the type of contactless guest experience that has since become customary under Covid-19 guidelines.

"If you're staying with Sonder, everything can be done from your phone," said Prendergast, who was previously group strategy manager at the McArthur Glen retail group.

The hospitality company, which endured a flurry of cancellations during the first lockdown, has also made a company-wide decision to focus its business on offering extended stays to the likes of front-line healthcare staff and other workers who relocated to a city and needed temporary accommodation.

"Historically, we would have had much more of a focus on tourism," said Prendergast.

"Obviously, when Covid hit, tourism dried up. We saw the early signs in Rome. We adapted in our other European markets and in the US because we knew that tourist demand was going to contract."

As a result, the average



Sonder runs a self-catering apartment block in Dublin's Mountjoy Square

length of stay in the Irish capital has grown from four nights to more than 30. It is a trend that Prendergast expects to continue into 2021.

"We're not banking on tourist demand recovering in Dublin in the next six months and we are, for that reason, very much focused on extended stays," she said. "Every time Ireland moves to level 4 or 5, we can't take tourist and

social guests, so we've planned around that."

Unlike other modern accommodation companies such as Airbnb, which acts as a liaison between owners of private dwellings and travellers, Sonder markets itself as "a hospitality business underpinned by tech". It takes out multi-year leases on aparthotel and hotel properties and spruces

them up to become more appealing to the design-conscious guest.

A small team in Dublin looks after ground operations, handling customer requests if they run out of towels or shampoo, for example.

The goal for Dublin is to grow its portfolio to "1,000 keys", or units, in the coming years, after which it would

consider launching in a second city such as Belfast, Cork or Galway.

"We're actively looking to expand in Dublin," said Prendergast. "We're looking for hotel and aparthotel opportunities and we can be quite flexible in the type of real estate that we look at. We work with ground-up developers as well as existing hotel owners who are looking for other options for their properties."

Focused on central postcodes including Dublin 1, 2, 7 and 8, Sonder is eyeing up developments with anything from 10 to 200 units. "That could be an historic Georgian building in the city centre, or it could be a new-build aparthotel," she said. "It depends a little on the owner, but ultimately it makes sense to lease to us rather than operate the hotel themselves because we can add value and do everything from design to installing the digital locks. We can ... effectively upscale a hotel."

Having raised \$170m (£146m) earlier this year, bringing its valuation to \$1.3bn, Sonder has plenty of cash to play with.

"We can breathe new life into central parts of the city and into old buildings," said Prendergast.

## Aircraft lessors braced for a bumpy landing

### Brian Carey Agenda

**R**yanair reports its half-yearly numbers tomorrow; more tales of gloom and portents of doom. Last Friday IAG, owner of Aer Lingus and BA, unveiled a near €6bn loss for the first nine months of 2020.

Remember these are the good months. Airlines face rolling lockdowns right across Europe. A bleak winter looks ever more stark.

The only real surprise is an absence of carnage. According to travel data company Cirium, only 43 commercial airlines have failed in 2020. That is fewer than the figure for the 12 months of 2019, and a good bit short of the 56 failures recorded in 2018. The next six calendar months are traditionally the most dangerous for airlines. Yet government support appears to be stemming the tide of bankruptcy. For now.

Ireland has a big interest in global aviation. About 40% of the world's commercial aircraft are owned by

leasing companies, and about half of those are on the Irish register. So one in five planes, in a foggy kind of way, is Irish-owned. Some 15 of the world's top 50 aircraft leasing companies are headquartered in Ireland, and there are 50 aircraft leasing companies here in total, paying very large salaries to young Irish graduates, and supporting entire departments in law and accountancy firms. To date, the rate of attrition in leasing is even smaller than airlines.

Reorg, a global provider of financial intelligence, has run the numbers on the biggest of all the lessors, AerCap, and while it is nowhere near oxygen-mask time, it does suggest the seatbelt signs are on. It highlights the number of moving parts in the business model.

At its core, lessors borrow money, buy planes and rent them to airlines. Yet they also sell aeroplanes as they come off lease. These sales can be important in greasing the cogs.

AerCap, headed by Aengus Kelly, is



one enormous machine. It has debt of \$30bn (€25bn).

Despite the woes of global aviation, it is all investment grade. It owns 931 aircraft and manages a further 104. It has aircraft with 152 customers in 67 countries. Its largest customer, China Southern Airlines, accounts for just 7.7% of its lease revenue.

AerCap has responded to the crisis by deferring some lease payments from airline customers, extending some of its debt, and pushing back orders for new aircraft due in 2020 and 2021. All sensible stuff.

Yet, as Reorg analyst Marc Gardner comments, AerCap needs new aircraft to generate higher lease revenues beyond 2021, particularly as 30% of its enormous debt pile comes up for refinancing between 2022 and 2024. That is a key to the model: recycling capital to generate higher returns.

Reorg also notes a strong correlation at AerCap between aircraft coming off

lease, and sales. One imagines that the demand for these second-hand aircraft is not too high. Across the industry, it is estimated that 1,600 planes will come off lease next year.

And then there is bankruptcy. At an investor day last summer, AerCap showed how efficiently it can rescue its assets from insolvencies. When Primera, a Danish airline, went bust in October 2018, it took AerCap 36 hours to ferry the planes back into its possession, escaping any attempts by other creditors to put a lien on the asset. Not all its planes are in such friendly jurisdictions.

AerCap is well positioned to weather the turbulence. Most of its debt is unsecured and it has unencumbered assets worth \$27bn. Yet even it faces challenges in the years ahead. Lesser lessors may struggle.

As with many other sectors, the words of Warren Buffett, the Oracle of Omaha, will ring true. When the pandemic tide goes out, we will find out

who has been swimming naked. This recession could have a very long tail.

**Bank woes widen**

The only joy in banking these days, it seems, is the sight of people being let go. Bank of Ireland overshot its target of 1,400 redundancies by 300 souls. Its shares rose 7%. Otherwise it is a grind.

Loan volumes are low, expected credit losses are high, and there is lots of unwanted saving. AIB's deposits rose €6.4bn to €78.2bn this year. Its loan-to-deposit ratio is 77%. In 2007, the ratio was 157%. Banks are charging negative interest on savings to cover costs. It still alienates customers. High savings reflect caution in uncertain times and an inability to spend. When people can spend, a degree of precautionary saving will remain. Will it stay with low-yielding bank accounts? For AIB, that is a €6.4bn question. The logic to swoop on wealth manager Goodbody grows by the day.

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## BUSINESS

# State can't max out national credit card for a lockdown that goes against science

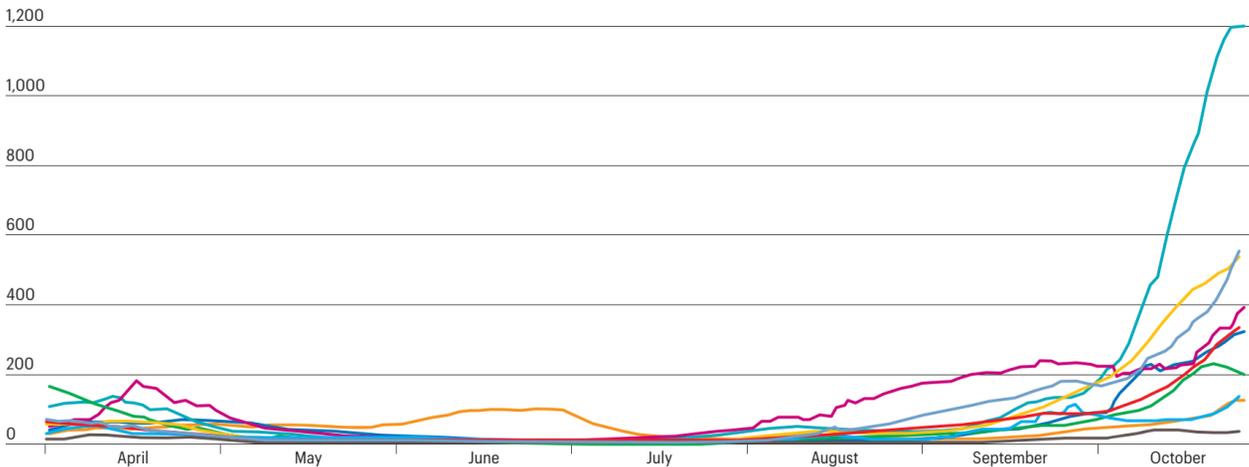
## Cormac Lucey Economic Outlook



### WHERE THE SECOND WAVE IS CRASHING

Daily new confirmed Covid-19 cases per million population

Sweden UK Belgium Spain Ireland Holland Denmark EU Finland France



Source: Ourworldindata.org

The biblical story of the Tower of Babel is meant to explain how humans across the world speak different languages. In the generations following the Great Flood, humans spoke a single language and migrated to the land of Shinar. There they decided to build a city and a tower tall enough to reach heaven. Unhappy at this impudence, God intervened so that humans spoke several different languages, were unable to understand each other and were thus unable to build their idolatrous tower.

Today we can understand each other's different languages without too much difficulty. Yet growing vocational specialisation and technical differences make it increasingly difficult for a political leadership comprised of generalists to adequately manage and control a bureaucracy often comprised of technical specialists.

Today we can see clearly that, 15 years ago, the governments of Ireland, Greece, Spain, Portugal and Cyprus failed to comprehend or control what their central bankers and financial regulators were doing: the result was a man-made economic catastrophe. I worry that we will look back at Ireland's management of the coronavirus pandemic and conclude central government's failure to properly comprehend or to control the National Public Health Emergency Team (Nphet) caused another man-made economic catastrophe. And it won't take 15 years to assess the damage either.

The first lockdown, which commenced at midnight on March 27, could be justified by the dire images emerging from Italy and the uncertainty then associated with the pandemic. Today we know a lot more. And it seems to me – a self-styled educated layman – that the current lockdown goes against established science.

Three weeks ago, Dr David Nabarro, one of six World Health Organisation (WHO) envoys tasked with responding to the pandemic, said: "We in the World Health Organisation do not advocate lockdowns as the primary means of control of this virus." He added that such measures should only be treated as a last resort. Comparing Ireland's daily rate of new cases with those of our European

neighbours, it is hard to argue we have reached such a point: our rate of new cases per million population lies well below the EU average. This advice from the WHO has been flouted by Nphet.

In July this year, the UK government used the quality-adjusted life-year (QALY) framework to analyse the effects of the first lockdown. Every government has a way of deciding when a life-saving intervention is too expensive. The UK uses the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, which considers the life years saved when deciding whether to approve new treatments for the NHS.

The 190-page UK report was updated in September but its conclusion was unchanged: "When morbidity is taken into account, the estimates for the health impacts from a lockdown and lockdown-induced recession are greater in terms of QALYs than the direct Covid-19 deaths." In other words, the negative health effects of the lockdown (increased deaths from cancer, heart disease and depression) outweigh the positive effects (reduced deaths from Covid and traffic accidents). That should not come as a great surprise when the median age of a Covid fatality exceeds average life expectancy. The conclusions of the QALY analysis have also been spurned by Nphet.

Last month, the Bulletin of the World Health Organisation published a paper by Professor John Ioannidis on the infection fatality rate (IFR) of Covid-19. While the Covid-19 IFR can vary substantially across different locations – and this may reflect differences in population age structure – Ioannidis concluded that "the median Covid-19 infection fatality rate was 0.27%



**There's a real danger that the move to level five was unnecessary**

(corrected 0.23%). That suggests if everyone here was to contract the virus (very much worse than the worst-case scenario we might face), Ireland could expect about 11,500 fatalities, a large proportion of whom would be in their eighties. That's just over a third of the 31,134 deaths recorded for all of 2019. And for this we shut down thousands of businesses, lay off hundreds of thousands of people and deploy police powers to suspend normal life?

This fear may have had a defensive logic in March. Yet the panic seems to have hardly abated. A newspaper poll last weekend found that 66% of people are in favour of the current lockdown. This public hysteria comes with a heavy price tag. Research from the International Monetary Fund shows that in advanced economies, the biggest impact on economic activity comes not from government-imposed lockdowns, but from people's fear.

A recent report by Variant Perception commented: "As long as policy-makers and the media present a more alarmist view of the virus's impact than can be justified by a dispassionate analysis of the data, recoveries will continue to stutter." In short, it is not just the lockdowns which are killing the economy, it's also the hysterical tone and unrelenting negativity with which the pandemic is discussed.

That negativity means we are not hearing positive aspects of the pandemic story with the same urgency or vigour that we are hearing of the negative aspects. Did you know that the national R-rate fell below 1.0 at the start of the week? While 8,097 new cases were confirmed by the HSE in the week ending October 20, there were just 6,571 new cases in the following week. Did you know the national reinfection rate had already begun to fall a week before the current lockdown came into effect? Did you know the weekly rate of ICU admissions peaked on October 13 and, as of Tuesday last week, had halved from that level?

There's a real danger that the move to level five was unnecessary, as earlier measures were already taking effect and/or the spread of the virus was slowing down anyway. Putting the economy into an induced coma and onto the ventilator

of public financial support may prove to have been a big mistake. Allowing Nphet to call the shots on policy concerning the pandemic may prove to be almost as disastrous as letting the Central Bank of Ireland and the financial regulator make policy on credit and bank regulation a decade-and-a-half ago.

One question to be considered is how long the state could continue to borrow at its current rate, were that considered necessary. How much debt is too much? The short answer is that – even with the extra borrowing and reduced economic output consequent on the pandemic – Ireland is a long way from maxing out its national credit card.

Our debt is rated a creditable AA by Standard & Poor's, the ratings agency, and by the end of the year will be about 115% of modified gross national income. Japan seems to survive despite its national debt being about 240% of GDP.

The problem with debt is not fundamentally a problem connected with repayment. It is a problem connected with the impact that debt has on growth. The higher debt is relative to income, the higher is the likelihood of default and the risk premium charged by lenders. High borrowing also increases the likelihood and cost of an eventual crisis. That all puts pressure on economic growth. That's why we should resist the urge to max out the national credit card.

#### PS:

*It seems almost incomprehensible, with their economies already in recession as a result of the pandemic, that the political leaders of the EU and the UK could contrive to deepen that recession by crashing into a no-deal scenario that would result in WTO rules being applied from January 1.*

*The damage to the EU economy would be clear but relatively modest. The damage to the UK and Irish economies would be more significant. A Canadian-style arrangement, as pursued by the UK, would not include service sector activity. So tariffs cannot fully capture the effect on the UK economy of a hard Brexit, given the importance of the financial sector and the City of London. In a recent note, investment house Invesco assigned these probabilities to the current talks: full deal 10%; no deal 40% and a full deal-lite compromise 50%. Be prepared!*

# V is for victory ... and also vendetta if US voters turn against Trump

## Irwin Stelzer American Account

When next we meet, election day will have come and gone. Campaigning is easy, governing is hard: no president is all-powerful. Neither candidate can hasten the day when

a vaccine will be generally available, Donald Trump already having done everything possible to cut the usual red tape, fund research and line up the military to distribute the vaccine. As he likes to say, "We are where we are". And where we are is that roughly half of Americans say they would not take the vaccine even if it were FDA-approved.

Trump wants to open the economy, Joe Biden to close it down, but neither has the authority to act on his wish. That resides with the governors and mayors. Neither can revive the tens of thousands of small businesses that have been driven to the wall by lockdowns. Neither can placate the looters and rioters who follow in the trail of protesters, and neither has the power to force governors to take preventive or amelioratory actions they deem politically unacceptable to the newly woke.

Neither can persuade the families that have abandoned the cities for space, safety and internet-ready homes in the suburbs to return to those cities, including New York, which has all the appearance of a ghost town. Neither intends to defuse the ticking timebombs that are the national deficits, which will explode in the in-tray of their successor.

These are only a few of the problems that will not respond to Trump's "Making America Great Again, Again" or Biden's "Build Back Better". "Words, words, words," spoke Hamlet, to which Eliza Doolittle centuries later added: "I'm so sick of words."

It is deeds that will count in setting America's future, the first of which will be the president's reaction should he lose. Trump has repeatedly made clear that he despises losers, and is a disciple of a famous football coach who said: "Show me a good loser and I'll show you a loser." If he is to arrange a graceful transition, he will first have to concede that he is one of those reviled losers, which he will never do. Instead, he will likely cry "rigged", wage war in the courts and, like King Lear, do such things yet he knows not, but they shall be the terrors of the earth.

Meanwhile, a second war will be under way, this for Biden's ear, waged in his bunker. The self-styled working man's friend, his campaign financed by Wall Street to the tune of \$74m (four times the support for Trump), and assorted billionaires (\$275m from Michael Bloomberg), faces a left that is demanding he appoint Elizabeth Warren, Wall Street's severest critic, as Treasury secretary.

There's more: Biden must promise never, ever to appoint to any job anyone with past connections to Wall Street or the fossil-fuel industries, and to pack the Supreme Court with progressive jurists. Biden has met this latter demand by agreeing to appoint a commission to study reform of the court system.

To demonstrate that they mean business, Warren and Bernie Sanders fired an early shot. They attacked the

New York state Democratic Party for running an ad showing the two of them, all smiles, with Biden and running mate Kamala Harris, also smiling, calling for New Yorkers to vote "Democratic All The Way". Warren and Sanders, along with Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, want votes for the Biden-Harris ticket to be cast via the ballot line of the progressive Working Families Party, helping to defeat Trump while distancing themselves from Biden's "moderate" Democratic positions.

Finally, there will be a war over the state of the economy, especially if Biden wins. He will want to describe the economy as back on its heels, just as Trump sought to magnify his economic achievements by arguing that Obama-Biden handed him a load of gross that he turned into gold. With GDP expanding at an annual rate of 33.1%, manufacturers complaining of an inability to meet demand, and the



**If he loses, he will likely cry 'rigged' and wage war in the courts**

service and housing sectors booming, Trump can reasonably claim to have the economy heading for new highs in 2021 – unless Biden shuts it down and taxes and regulates it to standstill.

Biden can equally reasonably claim that third-quarter growth followed the previous quarter's 31.4% decline, GDP remains below pre-Covid levels, millions are out of work, and the pandemic is still making Americans sick because the president refuses to take it seriously. With unconstrained riots and looting concentrated in Democratic-controlled states, Trump can reasonably argue that he is the law-and-order candidate. With the black community massively opposed to "racist" Trump, Biden can reasonably say only he can narrow the racial divide.

With many voters having already cast their ballots, Tuesday's election day has lost much of its relevance. All that will remain is for the authorities to get the countin' done, as Kenny Rogers would have put it, and for the candidates to unleash their legal teams to challenge that countin'.

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*Irwin Stelzer is a business adviser*

# Sunak's bridge to normality is a rickety one

## David Smith British Account

Who would be a chancellor? As the second wave of the coronavirus intensifies and national lockdowns are unveiled in France and Germany – albeit less strict ones than before – the direction of travel in the UK looks clear. This weekend, as people will be aware, this country is on the brink of a government U-turn and another national lockdown. For the Treasury, this can only mean that the bill for responding to the crisis, which was already breaking records, goes up further, as does the challenge of restoring the public finances to health in the medium to long term.

Sometimes I think back to February, when Rishi Sunak was happily carrying out his duties as Treasury chief secretary, deputy to Sajid Javid, then chancellor. Sunak was a cabinet new boy, having been elected as an MP only in 2015, serving as a junior local government minister until late July 2019.

Javid, in contrast, was on his fifth cabinet role, less than seven months in as chancellor and being fully committed to

the government's "levelling up" agenda, which seems a bit lopsided at the moment. He looked to be in post for the long haul.

Instead, Javid resigned and Sunak got the call, giving rise to a conversation with Boris Johnson that might have gone like this: "Rishi, the good news is that you are going to be chancellor. The bad news is that the coronavirus pandemic is going to give us the biggest recession in a century and a budget deficit 2½ times the previous annual record."

That conversation did not happen. On February 13, the day of his appointment, the UK had reported nine cases of the coronavirus but the prime minister had not yet woken up to the danger. Sunak's first budget, nearly a month later on March 11, included a response to the emerging Covid-19 crisis, but this was only a taste of what was to come.

As poisoned chalices go, this was one of the worst. That he has handled it with aplomb is a credit to him. He is the most competent and popular member of what is, admittedly, a dysfunctional government. The unprecedented

furlough scheme was announced on March 20, days before lockdown and nine days after the budget.

It was all hands to the economic pump. The previous day, the Bank of England had cut interest rates to a record low of 0.1% and announced a further £200bn (€220bn) of quantitative easing. Other parts of the government response to the virus struggled, and in some respects still do, but the economic response was fast and formidable.

The furlough scheme has so far prevented a tsunami of unemployment – the rate at the latest count, June-August, was 4.5%, from a pre-Covid low of 3.8%, although about 700,000 payroll jobs were lost between March and September. However, the scheme ended yesterday, and the normally surefooted Sunak stumbled when he announced the first iteration of his winter economy plan.

Now he is getting what chancellors might expect in difficult circumstances – criticism from many sides. Some of it, like a video doing the rounds on the internet, is an attempt to get a class war going because he is personally rich.

Yet he is also being blamed for cancelling the planned three-year spending review, instead of which there will be a one-year only review, covering 2021-22, to be unveiled on November 25. The Ministry of Defence is very unhappy with this, saying it has scuppered plans to conduct an integrated review into defence and security and left the armed forces facing new uncertainty.

It has gone down like a lead balloon in Downing Street too, which wanted the spending round to reinforce the government's levelling-up commitment. In what may also be a default position, there is increasing tension between Nos 10 and 11 Downing Street.

This comes at a time when, partly because of the end of the furlough scheme, we are moving into a period of significantly higher unemployment. Sunak's revised job support scheme will, like furloughing, reduce the peak in unemployment, but it has gone down badly, with pretty well every TV vox pop saying that people in firms forced to close cannot survive on two-thirds of pay, perhaps for months.

No chancellor can escape criticism when trying to balance supporting the economy and what he says is his "sacred duty to future generations" to manage the public finances. Most economists would say there is no trade-off between short-term support for the economy and the public finances in the long term – helping people to stay in employment will help the economy in the long run – just as they see no trade-off between lockdowns and sustained recovery.

They are right, but they are not the ones presiding over an official forecast of a £372bn budget deficit this year.

If there has been a persistent error in Sunak's approach, it has been overoptimism about the course of the virus. When the furlough scheme was announced in March, it was intended to run to the end of May. When Covid curbs were extended, so was the scheme. The chancellor saw his emergency measures as a bridge back to normality. Normality has, though, proved elusive.

In August, basking in the success of his Eat Out to Help Out scheme, which was aimed at easing the pressure on the

hospitality sector but is now blamed in a new research paper for spreading the virus, the chancellor made it known that he was pondering tax-raising ideas, which could be set out in his November budget. The budget was cancelled when the second wave emerged, and higher taxes will have to wait. His winter economy plan and the job support scheme acknowledged risks from a resurgence of the virus, but said there were reasons to be cautiously optimistic.

However, that resurgence and the restrictions forced Sunak to revise the scheme and make it more generous. No official costings have been released for those changes. Further adaptations may be needed in any new lockdown. Some argue that the original furlough scheme should be reinstated. The Treasury's Covid response is not over.

It is better to have an optimistic chancellor than one who despairs. There will be a time when the virus is genuinely in retreat and Sunak's bridge to normality will be the right analogy – but not for a few months yet.

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# After lockdown launch success, I'm saddling up for expansion

Boss of Dublin e-bike scheme is hitting the fundraising trail to increase his fleet and wheel into other cities

**CONOR McMAHON**



In early summer, just as the country was preparing to end its first lockdown, Thomas O'Connell launched Moby's stationless shared-bike scheme without much of a fuss. In the absence of a big marketing push and daily commuters because of the coronavirus, he expected the May rollout, a month later than its original launch date, to be low-key. To his surprise, usage rocketed.

"Basically, people had absolutely nothing to do," says O'Connell. "Our competitors boomed as well. A bike to go around the city was your only way of [getting] a bit of a release."

Moby's fleet is electric, meaning users can travel greater distances with less effort than on a pedal bike. The company also plugged into the zeitgeist at the beginning of Covid-19, raising €22,000 from crowdfunding to cover the cost of lending e-bikes to front-line healthcare staff.

More than 4,000 people have signed up to Moby's scheme and they have collectively travelled 100,000km. Though just 70 bikes operate currently, the company, which employs seven people, has a licence from Dublin city council to run 1,000 bikes.

Now, it is back on the fundraising trail. This time, it is seeking up to €300,000, through the website Spark Crowdfunding, to increase its fleet as part of a wider round of up to €1.4m. If it hits that target, Moby expects to operate 700 to 800 bikes and would be looking to launch in other cities sooner.

O'Connell has put about €200,000 into the firm and has personal guarantees on €400,000 of borrowing. A group of angel investors, including venture capitalist Brian Caulfield and Sean Mitchell, co-founder of microchip developer Movidius, have also put €300,000 into the company. Moby is talking to institutional investors as well.

One objective of the crowdfunding is to create an army of ambassadors. "If you invest in it, you are going to use [a Moby bike] more, you are going to care about it more. You're going to lock it when it needs to be locked. When you see one on the ground, you might pick it up," says O'Connell.

Originally from Castleblayney in Co Monaghan, O'Connell has always been interested in how people get from A to B. Shortly after studying business in Galway, he set up his first company, Atomic Sports, which was a distributor of "anything that was new or different in the wheeled goods space". He explains: "If you walked into your local bike shop, anything that was different that wasn't a bicycle – a go-kart or a scooter or a skateboard – I was doing all that."

An appearance on the BBC version of *Dragons' Den* boosted the company's profile, but the global financial crash of 2008 wiped Atomic out.

O'Connell then began to look into developing his own line of wheeled goods, which he intended to sell internationally so that he would not be totally reliant on the Irish market.

He spoke to designers whose inven-



O'Connell has just 70 electric bikes for hire in the capital but is seeking funding to operate 700-800 cycles, spreading to Waterford and Cork, as well as UK cities

**“**When cities invest money in cycling infrastructure, you see the number of cyclists rise tenfold

tions were in development and convinced them to let him sell them. The first to launch was a balance bike to help toddlers become used to zipping around on two wheels. "Basically, from my bedroom, we sold about 300,000 units in the first year because I had a network of people who were distributors around the world," says O'Connell.

A three-wheeled scooter gave rise to O'Connell's next venture. Having watched the Fliker, as it was later known, fly off the shelves in Ireland, O'Connell

spoke to its Chinese maker and proposed Yvolution, a joint venture to sell the scooter as a flagship product to big-box retailers worldwide.

"We knew [the Fliker] was popular here," he says. "We knew that if we really pushed this in America, it was going to fly off the shelves."

The Dublin company, jointly owned by Irish and Taiwanese shareholders, was structured in such a way that the factory agreed to cover the cost of marketing the product on foot of large orders from retail giants such as Toys R Us.

"That [structure] enabled us to grow really, really quickly because we didn't have to raise investment, we didn't have to talk to banks," says O'Connell. "We could go out, make sure we were selling more than we were buying, and that our costs were less than our sales."

Piggybacking on the success of the Fliker, Yvolution put more products onto the shelves of Toys R Us, Walmart and other retailers. "Most of those products weren't really that well-progressed past the prototype phase [when we pitched them]," O'Connell laughs. "Then the buyer said, 'OK, we'll have all of them.'"

"We had to pretty much develop and prototype, manufacture, get all the safety certificates and ship within six months – then actually execute [the sales] and make sure they all sold through on the shelf. It was absolutely nuts, but we did it."

## THE LIFE OF THOMAS O'CONNELL

### VITAL STATISTICS

**Age:** 40  
**Family:** Waneska, girlfriend of 10 years  
**Lives:** Dublin 8  
**Education:** Business degree from University College Galway, now NUIG  
**Favourite book:** Steve Jobs: A Biography by Walter Isaacson  
**Favourite film:** Gladiator, pictured

### WORKING DAY

I work from home four days a week and come into DCU Alpha innovation campus



one day a week. My work days are typically 9am to 9pm. It's Zoom meetings, emails, phone calls and WhatsApp messages. I do 12-hour days usually, dealing with operations.

We are looking at increasing the fleet size for next year, so we are getting ready for that. Obviously there is the investor side of things too, which is new for me.

### DOWNTIME

Cycling and snowboarding, when I can get to it.

## A head in the cloud lands deal for Asavie as it locks in with Akamai

**Jonathan Keane**

Having led Dublin tech company Asavie for 16 years, Ralph Shaw had no plans to sell. The business, which develops security software for mobile operators, entered talks with Nasdaq-quoted Akamai with a view to partnering in key markets. "After discussions, it just transpired [Akamai] was an obvious fit," says the Asavie boss.

The acquisition by Akamai rounds off a lengthy journey for Shaw, a senior executive at internet security tech firm Baltimore Technologies before he launched Asavie.

Baltimore was a rollercoaster, he says. "We knocked Rolls-Royce out of the FTSE 100." The company's valuation peaked at \$13bn (€11bn) in 2000 before a steep fall, and was broken up in 2003. Shaw and Asavie co-founder Tom Maher sought a fresh start.

Baltimore sought to connect business securely over the internet; at Asavie, Shaw and Maher looked to do a similar job with mobile phones. The company's

security manages the security and performance of mobile and internet-connected devices that have access to company data. In 2004, companies operating remote access for their employees typically set up bulky equipment on their premises.

"We were a cloud business from day one," says Shaw. "That was a liability, because you had guys saying, 'Where is all the equipment?' We'd be saying that, actually, you don't need the equipment – you just download this piece of software."

In terms of cloud computing and software as a service, Asavie was "ahead of its time," Shaw said. It took seven years to turn a profit. The company focused heavily on America from the outset and counts AT&T, Verizon and IBM among its partners. Shaw moved to Miami two years ago to bolster its business in the US.

Last year Asavie drew in revenues of €23.6m with pre-tax profits of €1.9m. The company paid a dividend of €4.2m to its shareholders, just under half of which went

to Shaw and Maher. The Asavie boss declined to comment on the company's shareholding split. Its investors include Hostelworld founder Ray Nolan and Enterprise Ireland.

Akamai builds cloud systems for managing the servers that power an estimated 15%-30% of the world's web traffic. Customers include Airbnb, Alibaba and PayPal. Last week Akamai reported quarterly revenues of \$793m.

Asavie's 145-strong workforce will be integrated into Akamai, as it targets the burgeoning 5G market and internet-of-things applications. The surge in working from home and remote working also plays to Asavie's strengths. "It's not so much work from home – it's work from anywhere," says Shaw. "It has been in the company's DNA since 2004."

Shaw added that it was a "validation" of Asavie that a world-class leader such as Akamai was acquiring the business. "We're going to be a significant part of their aspirations going forward," he says.

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## anything but ordinary

Permanent Secretary - Department of Education (DE)

SALARY: €118,960 - €139,070 (under review) Ref: IRC259526  
DEPARTMENT: Department of Education (DE)  
LOCATION: Rathgael House, Bangor

The Permanent Secretary is the Administrative Head of the Department and the Accounting Officer and acts under the direction and control of the Minister.

The Department of Education (DE) Permanent Secretary is responsible for providing advice to the Minister and for ensuring the effective implementation of the Department's policy. In doing so the Permanent Secretary is required to provide strategic leadership in developing and planning the role of the Department in a regional, national and international context. The Permanent Secretary also takes direct and personal responsibility for the deployment of financial and human resources across the Department as a whole in a rapidly changing environment.

The Permanent Secretary also has an important leadership role to play, including as a member of the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) Board, in the corporate management of the NICS and in representing the Department and the wider civil service in the Northern Ireland community more generally. This role extends to assuming corporate responsibility for the delivery of the Executive's Programme for Government and direct personal responsibility for ensuring progress against specified outcomes.

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All requests must include your name, address and reference number IRC259526.

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Donald Trump had been trying to pin down Joe Biden on his economic plan for more than an hour when he saw an opening during the final presidential debate nine days ago. Prodded by the president, Biden said that, yes, he would “transition from the oil industry”.

Trump feigned surprise: “Oh! That’s a big statement. That’s maybe the biggest statement in terms of business.” Then, addressing the viewers directly, he added: “Basically, what he is saying is, he is going to destroy the oil industry. Will you remember that, Texas? Will you remember that, Pennsylvania? Oklahoma?”

The exchange caused a sharp intake of breath on all sides. It was almost possible to hear Trump’s team clipping the Democratic challenger’s admission for the ads that were soon rolled out in crucial states with big petroleum industries.

For Biden, it was a rare moment where he veered away from his talking points to admit the consequence of a core plank of Bidenomics: a green energy push that would be more aggressive than any other carried out by a US president. The \$2 trillion (€1.3 trillion) plan includes retrofitting four million buildings to make them more energy efficient, building a network of charging stations for electric cars, eliminating long-running subsidies for fossil fuels and introducing clean energy incentives.

The proposals are red meat for Trump’s fan base. Kayleigh McEnany, the White House press secretary, said that moment in the debate was Biden’s “death knell”.

Two days before the election, Biden has a commanding lead in the polls. The data analysis firm FiveThirtyEight puts him eight percentage points ahead in the popular vote, with smaller but still sizeable leads in key swing states.

His Republican rival is not out of the running, of course. On Thursday, record 33.1% growth in the US economy was announced for the three months to the end of September. The recovery, however, still left the country almost 11 million jobs short of where it stood at the end of 2019. With tens of millions of workers wondering whether they, too, will lose their pay cheques as the Covid-19 infection rate rises, many will make their decision at the ballot box based on the candidates’ competing financial philosophies.

So how Biden, 77, would run the world’s biggest economy has come sharply into focus. Bidenomics is, in many ways, everything that Trumonomics is not. The president cut taxes; Biden wants to raise them for companies and the rich while doubling the minimum wage. Trump has questioned whether climate change exists; Biden has made clean energy the core of his “Build Back Better” vision. Trump has burned bridges with

# What would Bidenomics mean for Brexit Britain?

In two days, America could have a left-leaning president who backs green energy and doubts the wisdom of leaving the EU. By *Danny Fortson*

allies round the world; Biden would move to rebuild them.

Analysts at the ratings agency Moody’s wrote: “Trump and Biden could not have more different governing approaches and policies, and this is especially true when it comes to economic policy.”

What would a Biden administration mean for Brexit Britain? A strained “special relationship”, for a start – Boris Johnson’s marshalling of the country out of the EU runs contrary to everything Biden believes in. Over the course of 48 years in Congress and the Obama White House, he has pursued the type of multilateral deal that the prime minister has abandoned.

Biden has pledged, for example, to

rejoin international pacts such as the Paris climate agreement. And while Britain may benefit from his inclination towards free trade rather than Trump’s combative protectionist approach, a post-Brexit trading agreement with Britain appears less likely in the near term.

Biden is a pragmatist. If he triumphs on Tuesday, German chancellor Angela Merkel will be his main point of contact with the trade bloc. And it is understood he has little love for Johnson as a political figure, seeing him as a “Trump lite” populist who has fanned societal divisions and sought to upend the international order.

Indeed, this proud Irish American has made any deal with Britain conditional on

Johnson respecting the Good Friday Agreement, which has been put in jeopardy by Brexit negotiations over the Irish border.

Of course, a trade deal is largely symbolic – something Johnson can cling to, showing that his “Global Britain” dream is alive and well. Meanwhile, trade ticks over: about 16% of British goods and 25% of services go to America.

Trump, however, is doing his best to stave off talk of handovers. In the final days of the campaign, he stormed through swing states, promising voters an upset similar to the one he pulled off in 2016.

An end to the Trump-Johnson romance need not be bad for Britain plc.

Despite any antipathy between Biden and the prime minister, the new regime could lead to greater alignment. Consider Biden’s green energy plan, which aims to make energy generation carbon-neutral by 2035 and take America to net-zero emissions by 2050.

Trump, 74, has sought to paint the proposal as an impossible dream cooked up by the “radical left”. In Britain, it is a cornerstone of economic policy. Johnson has promised to turn the UK into “the launchpad for the global green industrial revolution”.

The prime minister is due to host the UN climate change conference in Glasgow a year from now, and will no doubt seek to set out Britain’s stall as a leader in the field

— one that could prove useful to helping Biden achieve his goals.

The shift is already under way in America. Pennsylvania, historically a big coal and steel producer, was ravaged by downturns in those industries. Its fortunes were revived a decade ago by fracking, with the state becoming one of America’s top petroleum producers and enjoying a surge in well-paid jobs.

Yet, in the background, green energy jobs have increased at a much faster rate. Last year, Pennsylvania had more than 71,000 people working in energy conservation – almost double the 38,000 in coal, oil and gas production. The sector is among the fastest-growing in the state,



## “ Trump and Biden could not have more different approaches, and this is especially true in terms of economic policies

“the Donald”. “All industries and states would fare better [under Biden] than they would under a status-quo policy environment”, Oxford Economics wrote. Moody’s and Goldman Sachs have similar estimates. The analyses are due, at least in part, to the vagueness of Trump’s strategy, which makes bold predictions – “10 million new jobs” – while providing none of the detail that Biden has.

In a sop to unions, the Democrat has also proposed a \$400bn “Buy American” initiative that could make life harder for UK exporters. The programme would tighten rules governing products bought by the federal government.

How a Biden administration would enforce those rules is unclear, however, and leading UK exporters, such as the defence giant BAE Systems, may not suffer, because a significant proportion of their operations are based on US soil.

The speed and extent to which Biden could deliver on his pledges depends not just on winning the election, but on the results for the House of Representatives and the Senate. FiveThirtyEight says the Democrats are almost guaranteed to retain control of the House, and have a 77% chance of wresting the Senate.

If that “blue wave” does wash over Washington, Biden would be able to proceed largely unimpeded with his grand overhaul, starting with a coronavirus stimulus package worth up to \$3 trillion. The markets appear to be warming up to a Biden presidency.

Ten days ago, 700 economists, including seven Nobel prize winners, signed an open letter urging voters to eject Trump from the White House. They claimed that “his chaotic and ineffective approach to negotiation had damaged trade relations, hit supply chains, degraded international norms and harmed American farmers – all without achieving his stated goal of reducing the trade deficit”.

The number of signatories has since topped 1,000. If Biden wins on Tuesday, they will get to see his policies in action from January.

# Culture wars strike at the heart of Big Tech

Republicans are raging at the ‘suppression’ of conservative voices

Any illusions Big Tech’s chief executives might have been harbouring about what awaited them at yet another Congressional hearing were dispelled by a tweet from Senator Ted Cruz the night before the Wednesday testimony.

The Republican published a poster of the kind one might expect for a heavy-weight fight. On one side was a picture of Cruz, “Free Speech Champion”. On the other was Twitter boss Jack Dorsey, “Censorship Czar”.

The event a “Free Speech Show-down”, with Cruz promising to deliver a knockout blow over Twitter’s obvious and transparent attempts to interfere in this election.

The Texas senator’s peacocking, and his hectoring of Dorsey – “Who the hell elected you and put you in charge of what the media are allowed to report and what the American people are allowed to hear?” – clouded what has become arguably the most important fight over the power of the world’s technology giants: their power to control, amplify or muffle speech.

In this most contentious presidential election, Donald Trump has seized on the alleged “censorship” of conservative voices by left-leaning Big Tech. Republicans, and to a lesser extent Democrats, have found rare common ground in calling for a regulatory overhaul of the laws that govern Silicon Valley.

The debate centres on Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act – the bedrock of the modern internet. Passed in 1996, the statute provides two key protections. One is a legal shield that protects platforms such as Facebook and YouTube from liability over what its users post, be they cat videos, health misinformation or terrorist propaganda. The second allows companies the freedom to police their sites selectively, as long as it is done in “good faith”.

The law has allowed Facebook to build an empire of 2.7 billion monthly active users without worrying that it could be sued over what any of them post. Twitter’s Dorsey, looking the part of the tech bard with a voluminous beard, unkempt hair and nose ring, said last



Twitter boss Jack Dorsey testified via video at last week’s hearing

week: “Section 230 is the most important law protecting internet speech. Removing it will remove speech from the internet.”

Despite such threats, there is growing consensus that the law, passed when less than 10% of Britain or America had internet access, is no longer fit for purpose. Haney Farid, a UC Berkeley professor, has called it a “gift from God”, because it endows the tech companies with the ability to operate with impunity – unlike, say, pharmaceutical companies, which can be sued if their drugs make people sick.

The industry’s response to proposed Section 230 changes has long been a resounding “no”, accompanied by dire predictions such as that offered last week by Dorsey about the end of speech on the internet. Their argument is that if the liability shield is removed, companies will impose draconian measures to limit what is allowed on their sites, fearing a never-ending stream of lawsuits.

However, in a twist last week, Facebook’s Mark Zuckerberg changed his tune, breaking with Dorsey and Sundar Pichai, chief executive of Google parent Alphabet, to say that Facebook supported Congress’s desire to “update the law to make sure it’s working as intended”. The sight of companies asking for regu-

lation raises alarm bells because it often means they see it as a way to press their advantage, fortifying their position and making it harder for others to compete.

Popular social network Reddit, for example, relies on volunteer content moderators – a set-up that could be torpedoed by an overhaul of Section 230. Its general counsel, Benjamin Lee, told the Protocol website last week: “What would be super unfortunate is if we end up throwing out 230 in an effort to punish the largest internet players for their perceived, or real, abuse of their dominance. Unraveling 230 would basically further ensure that dominance, while undermining the ability of smaller companies like Reddit to challenge that dominance with alternative models.”

America’s bitterly divided political landscape means the shape of any change is unclear. The Republicans on the Senate commerce committee last week were focused almost exclusively on the allegation that left-leaning Silicon Valley bosses were stifling conservatives.

The perception was given fresh life in recent days with Twitter’s handling of a potentially damaging story on Joe Biden’s son, published by the New York Post. The piece alleged that the son of the former vice-president, who is leading Trump in the final stretch of the election, tried to

swing a deal with a Chinese energy company to benefit the Biden family. The allegations, based on emails allegedly lifted from a laptop that Hunter Biden took to a repair shop, have been largely ignored by the mainstream media due to questions over their veracity. Twitter swiftly prohibited its users from sharing links to the piece, claiming that the story was in violation of its “distribution of hacked materials” policy.

The FBI had warned tech platforms to be aware of “hack and leak” operations that it expected to be orchestrated by foreign governments seeking to meddle in the election. Amid the ensuing furor over the Post’s story, Twitter swiftly reversed its decision and apologised for its lack of decision-making clarity.

For Republicans, this was a clear-cut case of West Coast techies putting their thumb on the scales to favour their preferred candidate. For Democrats, it was a flimsy story cooked up in a last-ditch effort to upend the Biden campaign. Brian Schatz, the Democrat senator for Hawaii, told the tech bosses: “What we are seeing ... is an attempt to bully the chief executives of private companies into carrying out a hit-job on a presidential candidate, making sure that they push out foreign and domestic misinformation meant to influence the election. You [Dorsey] and other tech leaders need to stand up to this immoral behaviour.”

Two Section 230 bills, both with cross-party support, are circulating and gaining traction. One, sponsored by Schatz and John Thune, Republican senator for South Dakota, would keep Section 230 intact, as long as tech companies provided more transparency on their content-moderation decisions.

The other, known as the EARN IT Act, would remove Section 230 protections, but allow companies to regain them if they met standards preventing the exploitation of children online.

Section 230’s days appear numbered, but will this mean the end of the internet as we know it? It seems doubtful. However, if done poorly, the overhaul could raise the bar so high that smaller rivals cannot comply – strengthening the hand of the very companies that politicians are seeking to bring to heel. Similar situations came about in 2018 following the introduction of GDPR regulations in Europe and a law against child trafficking in America.

The president, meanwhile, raged on. “Why isn’t Biden counting trending number one on Twitter?” he asked his followers. “Biggest world story, and nowhere to be found. There is no #trending, only negative stories that Twitter wants to put up. Disgraceful! Section 230.”

The message was one of 33 the president sent out in 24 hours to his 87 million followers – on Twitter.

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Bon Secours Health System (BSHS) is Ireland’s largest Private Hospital Group employing 3,500 staff, who, together with 450 leading consultants work in partnership to provide high quality care to nearly 300,000 patients and their families each year within a Catholic ethos. BSHS has five modern acute hospitals in Cork, Dublin, Galway, Limerick, Tralee and a Care Village in Cork. BSHS has grown steadily over the last decade and has invested €150M in up-grading and developing its facilities and technologies.

In 2019 BSHS became affiliated with Bon Secours Mercy Health (BSMH), one of the largest Catholic healthcare systems in the USA, which employs nearly 57,000 people and has revenues of \$8billion. BSMH is headquartered in Cincinnati and its markets stretch eastwards from Kentucky and the Ohio Valley to the Atlantic seaboard. It is the ambition of the enlarged global health system to further expand into Europe, with Ireland as the base for this expansion.

## Bon Secours Health System wish to make two Senior Leadership appointments

### Chief Nursing, Quality and Patient Safety Officer

Bon Secours Health System (BSHS) wish to appoint a Chief Nursing, Quality and Patient Safety Officer. Reporting to the Group CEO, the appointee will develop and execute strategies in support of organisational goals to ensure that ‘best in class’ patient-focused services are delivered by people who believe that BSHS is the ‘employer of choice’ in the Irish healthcare sector.

The ideal candidate should be educated to degree level and preferably to postgraduate level, in a discipline relevant to governance/safety/quality management in a clinical environment; a leader with significant management experience who possesses excellent communication and influencing skills and an ability to develop positive working relationships both internally and externally. The Chief Nursing, Quality and Patient Safety Officer will provide leadership in the delivery of the Bon Secours ‘Unity in Diversity – Nursing Care Strategic Framework 2019-2024’ in the delivery of high-quality patient care, focusing on six priorities.

- Influence key nursing care policy debates and contribute knowledge, research, and expertise to further support the core values of BSHS.
- Continue to uphold the BSHS tradition of nursing excellence and compassionate care, in a diverse and inclusive work culture.
- Be a recognised leader in creating the conditions for professional development, staff empowerment and autonomy.
- Develop patient pathways and introduce new initiatives that enhance the sense of autonomy and choice for patients and residents.
- Promote development/career progression options for healthcare assistants and operating department practitioners to further consolidate their role in the nursing care team.
- Champion the advancement of a digital literate nursing care team and contribute to prioritising relevant technological solutions where needed.

Significant healthcare experience is required and quality/patient safety will be to the forefront of this position; the appointee will play a key role in co ordinating and supporting the implementation of the National Clinical Care Programmes and Quality & Patient Safety initiatives, as well as securing JCI accreditation.

The post carries an attractive and competitive remuneration package. Candidates should forward by email full career details in complete confidence to **Barry Herriott** stating how they meet the requirements for the post.

info@barryherriott.com +353 87 255 5500 barryherriott.com



Preferred date for receipt of applications is **November 6th 2020**

Bon Secours Health System is an equal opportunities employer.

### Group Risk Officer

Bon Secours Health System (BSHS) wish to appoint a Group Risk Officer. In conjunction with key stakeholders across BSHS the appointee will lead the management and further development of standardised risk management systems and processes for BSHS. The appointee is responsible for overseeing the systematic integration and monitoring of risk management into the delivery of service across BSHS.

The ideal candidate should be educated to degree level and preferably to postgraduate level, in a discipline relevant to governance/risk management in a healthcare setting; a leader with excellent communication and influencing skills and an ability to develop positive working relationships both internally and externally.

The candidate should possess significant previous experience of performing the key duties/responsibilities of the Group Risk Officer position which include the following:

- Work with BSHS Executive Team to enhance internal and external compliance requirements as they relate to risk management and to further integrate risk analytics and mitigation strategies into delivery of service throughout BSHS.
- Providing reports as required to BSHS Executive Team, and BSHS Quality, Safety and Risk Management Committee on BSHS performance in relation to risk management priorities.
- Developing an annual BSHS Risk Management Audit Plan to monitor compliance and identify areas requiring improvement.
- Having an in-depth working knowledge of the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) and Joint Commission International (JCI) standards as they apply to risk management and compliance with associated protocols for implementing and maintaining these standards as appropriate to the role.
- Keeping up to date with risk management best practice and reviewing and adapting practice in keeping with changes within the area.
- Managing key relationships within BSHS in order to provide key two-way communication and engagement within BSHS in relation to risk.
- Promoting and participating in the implementation of change.

The post carries an attractive and competitive remuneration package. Candidates should forward by email full career details in complete confidence to **Rosalind King** stating how they meet the requirements for the post.

rking@bonsecours.ie +353 86 795 5644 bonsecours.ie

Preferred date for receipt of applications is **November 6th 2020**

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# Cash aid calls off last orders

A timely grant, plus innovative thinking, can rescue firms and even boost their fortunes during financial crises, finds *Sandra O'Connell*

**G**aining the right grant at the right time can go a long way. Christopher Doody received one from Limerick local enterprise office that enabled him to invest in a new machine for his family business. The machine allowed Doody Engineering to move from being a fabricator of one-off products for the medical devices, pharmaceutical and automotive sectors, to being a mass producer of parts, vastly increasing the type and amount of work he could do. "It was a complete game-changer for us," he says.

As a result of that grant, this year the business won its biggest-ever contract, making components for a local multinational company. "Historically, this type of work would have been out of our reach because we didn't have the necessary equipment," says Doody. "Getting that grant was the catalyst I needed."

Doody's experience is not only a good example of the value of innovation, but also of securing the right grant at the right time. And because of the coronavirus pandemic, businesses in sectors such as tourism, retail and hospitality will increasingly need grant support simply to survive.

In the last recession, publican Fergal Quinn was able to innovate. When takings in his family's pub business in Sligo town fell, he developed an ancillary business, Hen and Stag Sligo, a website selling package trips to the area. Before long it was attracting 300 visitors at weekends, bringing new customers not just to his own three pubs but to other businesses in the town, too.

There have been no stag and hen bookings since the pandemic, however, and his pubs have been closed as a result of the lockdown. With Christmas typically accounting for more than 35% of his annual revenue, he is worried about what restrictions will follow.

Quinn, who employs 80 people, has already made use of the Restart Grant, which is effectively a rebate of rates paid to local authorities, but it is not enough. "We've got bills that don't go away, even when we're closed, including insurance, which is crippling, and electricity," he says. This time around he cannot innovate his way out. "It's hard to think outside the box right now."

Borrowing does not appeal to him, even at attractively low Covid rates or

DAVID OSHEA



Sligo pub-owner Fergal Quinn branched out to launch a package-trip website during the last recession, but coronavirus restrictions have hit his businesses hard

with the security of government-backed credit guarantees. Instead, he is poring over the figures to see whether a takeaway food and drink operation might be feasible, but it is not easy.

"In the last recession, the government bailed out the banks, even though what

happened was to a certain extent the banks' fault," says Quinn. "What is happening to the hospitality sector is not our fault. If they bailed out the banks, why don't they look favourably at bailing out the hospitality industry?"

If the €2bn Covid-19 Credit Guarantee

Scheme is anything to go by, Quinn is not alone in not wanting to borrow his way through the pandemic. The Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland scheme provides pillar bank lenders with a guarantee of up to 80% of the money they lend to a business. To date, just 885 businesses have applied – and only 406 have been approved, for a combined total of €21m.

By contrast, local authorities have approved 46,700 applications for Restart Grant Plus. The €300m fund has been, if anything, oversubscribed, with the value of approvals now standing at €301m.

It is proof positive that small businesses need grant assistance, not debt, says Neil McDonnell, chief executive of ISME, the Irish small and medium-sized enterprises association. Providing such assistance "isn't charity" either, but good economic sense, says McDonnell, who also sits on the steering group of SME Recovery Ireland, a new small-business group that was established to ensure that Ireland's policy response

to Covid-19 worked for the SME sector.

SME Recovery Ireland wants to see the Credit Guarantee Scheme expanded to 100% and is urging the state to introduce a faster, cheaper, examinership-lite arbitration service for small businesses. "No matter what happens, a number of SMEs are going to go under, but many can't afford examinership, despite the fact that typically 10% to 15% of insolvent firms can be successfully restructured," says McDonnell.

The country's network of 31 local enterprise offices does offer a number of grants, including a new one worth up to €1,000 for businesses that do not qualify for Restart rate rebates. The network has also enhanced its grant supports on foot of Covid. Its Trading Online Voucher, worth up to €2,500, has been increased from a 50:50 matched basis to 90:10. A business can apply for two of these – to date, almost 10,000 have been secured.

"One of the positives of this period has been the increase in the number of busi-

“**A lot are in survival mode, but they also need to think about what business will look like after Covid**”

nesses using technology, and focusing on improving their business through the use of technology," says Oisín Geoghegan, chairman of the network of local enterprise offices. "The world is going to change permanently, so it's important for businesses to evaluate what the post-Covid world will look like and the ways in which some elements of their business will be done differently."

"A lot of businesses are in survival mode, just trying to get through this, but they also need to start thinking about what business will look like after this."

Noele McEvoy, co-founder of the Dublin organic confectionary brand Supernature, secured a Trading Online Voucher when Covid made expanding exports difficult due to some distributors taking their vans off the road. She used the grant to develop an e-commerce site so that she could increase direct sales, instead. That brought the benefit of allowing her to connect directly with consumers at a time when supermarket tastings – a tried-and-tested feedback channel – were no longer available.

The new website has also helped McEvoy expand wholesale sales, and Supernature now exports to the UK, Finland, Malta, Holland and Bahrain. "The website is really important, particularly for foreign markets because buyers go straight to your website to check you out," she says.

Unfortunately, no amount of innovating will help Wayne Lloyd. The award-winning hair stylist's two salons, in Ballydehob and Bandon in Co Cork, have been temporarily closed by lockdown. This year's turnover will be halved.

Lloyd, who employs 14 people, wholly supports the decision to go to back into lockdown, but points out that if the government had done so earlier, businesses such as his would be in a better position. "We rely on a good Christmas to keep us going through January, February and March," he says. "As things stand, now we've only got three weeks to save Christmas."

The right grant, at the right time, may be the answer.

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## RECRUITMENT



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The 10-year term of office of the current Provost, Dr Patrick Prendergast, will come to an end on 31 July 2021. Trinity College Dublin is now seeking applications for the position of Provost. The Provost is the Chief Officer of the College, equivalent to the position of Rector or President in other universities, with overall responsibility for the academic, administrative and financial affairs of the University. The Provost chairs the Board of Trinity College Dublin, the University Council and the Finance Committee.

The University is seeking as its next Provost a leader of distinction who demonstrates a commitment to the values of a research-led, comprehensive, innovative and historic university, and who possesses the ability to inspire, nurture ambition and win the confidence of colleagues.

It is a requirement of the Trinity College Dublin Statutes that candidates for the Provostship shall possess:

- significant academic standing;
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- evidence of leadership skills and the ability to represent the College externally.

The Provost will take the lead role in implementing the University's Strategic Plan, fundraising for the University and advancing gender equality.

The selection process includes interviews which are followed, for successful applicants, by nomination and election by members of the academic staff of the University and appointment by the Board.

### Further information:

Further particulars can be found at [www.tcd.ie/provost-appointment](http://www.tcd.ie/provost-appointment). Enquiries should be directed to the Chairperson of the Steering Committee, Professor Brendan Tangney, Registrar's Office, West Theatre, Trinity College Dublin, College Green, Dublin 2, Ireland, e-mail: [provost.appointment@tcd.ie](mailto:provost.appointment@tcd.ie), tel. +353-1-896-2197.

### Closing date:

Closing date for complete applications is **12 noon (local Irish time) on 4 December 2020**.

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[jobs.tcd.ie](http://jobs.tcd.ie)

## HOW I MADE IT CLARE HUGHES

# Horses helped me make the jump into health products

Clare Hughes is part of a Kilkenny dynasty known for their prowess with horses. Some of the world's top riders – including her sister Marion, an Olympic show jumper – ride steeds bred in the Hughes family's stables. Clare's son Seamus, 18, also took the gold medal at the World Championships for Young Horses last year.

"My parents were horse dealers," says Hughes. "It's where my love of business comes from."

It provided her with a great business education. "With horses you have to be very focused and you have to work for what you earn. Nothing comes easy and there's nowhere to hide. When you start a business, you need that backbone of strength."

Hughes studied pharmacy and spent four years working for local healthfood business Nature's Way, helping to set up its manufacturing facility. She left in 1999 to co-found NutriScience in Waterford, producing food supplements for horses, cats and dogs. The idea was to develop products for animals that had already been proven effective for humans, such as arthritis supplements. By 2010 the business had been bought by Belgian company Ecuphar. "They approached us and it was a good time to sell," she says.

As part of an earn-out deal, Hughes stayed on for three years as research and

development director. It was the first time she had worked for a bigger company and it was a good learning curve, but "large organisations don't move at the same speed as I did when I didn't have layers of management," she says.

The experience taught her a lot about herself, including the fact that she is "goal-oriented" by nature. For example, she took up running to lose weight after the birth of one of her children and within three months had run a marathon. She then began running marathons around the world. "When I'm doing something for myself, I have the motivation. When I'm doing it for someone else, I find it harder to stay motivated," she says.

So Hughes left Ecuphar and went to her local enterprise office with an idea to produce human and veterinary health products. "I went in with a business plan and came out with a start-up grant," she says. She launched CF Pharma in 2014 and it now employs 55 people and has an annual turnover of €46m.

Staying close to her market has been a key part of the company's success. "It's important to always be networking and to know your customer," says Hughes.

Some of her most valuable business contacts have come from attending the Dublin Horse Show, she adds.

Using Enterprise Ireland support to attend events such as Arab Health, a healthcare trade show in the United Arab Emirates, has also helped her grow sales around the world. "The Irish pavilion there is where you get your distributors for

the MENA [Middle East and North Africa] region," she explains. She currently sells to South Africa, the Middle East, Europe and Canada.

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, CF Pharma created the CleanRite range of hand sanitiser products, and won school supplier status. The range will contribute to revenue growth of 20% this year. Even after Covid has abated, people's behaviours will remain changed, Hughes points out, which is partly why she is currently doubling the factory's size.

In the meantime, she is also focused on Telenostics, a spin-off start-up using data and image-recognition technology, for which a worldwide patent has been secured, to analyse parasites in animals from faecal samples. The aim is to help combat growing drug resistance by ensuring that antibiotics are matched more accurately to parasites.

It is clear her next goal is taking shape. "Up to now this kind of work has never been automated: samples had to be sent to labs and it could take days to get results, while resistance is growing and outpacing the development of new drugs," she says. "We've just finished trials with 700 horses and I'm really excited about this."

*Sandra O'Connell*

**Hughes's background with animals gave her 'backbone'**



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SECOND HALF OF 2019

## Consider the cohabiting consequences, or lose out

Inheriting from your other half can be hugely expensive if you're unmarried, but insurance policies can cover your liability, writes *Eithne Dunne*

They may have been together for decades, have children and jointly own a home, but cohabiting couples are considered to be complete strangers in the eyes of the law. Rarely is this demonstrated more starkly than when one partner dies and the other finds themselves facing a large inheritance tax bill.

While couples who are married or in a civil partnership can leave assets to their partner tax free, cohabiting couples fall into the group C category for inheritance/capital acquisitions tax (CAT). That group has a tax-free threshold of only €16,250, after which they pay 33%.

It's an issue that affects hundreds of thousands of people in Ireland; according to the 2016 census, there are more than 152,000 cohabiting couples here.

### Dwelling house exemption

For those whose main – or only – shared asset is their home, there is one potential bright spot in the form of the dwelling house exemption. If you qualify for this, you won't pay any CAT on your partner's share of the home.

The house must be the only or main home of the person who died, and the surviving partner must have lived there as their main home for three years before their partner's death and must not own or have a share in any other house, including one acquired as part of the same inheritance (such as an investment property or holiday home).

This house must also continue to be the main home of the surviving partner for six years after the inheritance, although this does not apply if you are over 65 at the time of inheritance or if you have to live elsewhere for work or because of illness.

So while this exemption will help some couples should the worst happen, there are many who won't qualify; perhaps, for example, where one still owns a former home that they are now letting, or where the couple has only lived together for a year or two. In these cases, inheriting can prove a very expensive business.

### The tax bill

If a couple has a mortgage on their home, and one dies, the mortgage protection policy will ensure the mortgage is paid off. However, if they have a joint or dual mortgage protection policy – which is what most married couples have – it will still leave the surviving partner with potentially a very large tax bill.

For example, say the house value is €400,000; when one partner dies, the other is considered to have inherited half of this, that is, €200,000. They must therefore pay 33% CAT on anything more than €16,250; this comes to €60,638.

"This is a very large chunk of money to have to come up with," says Barry McCutcheon, propositions lead at Royal London Ireland. "Unless there are other liquid assets in the estate, it can be a very difficult situation, especially if the survivor is a non-working partner."

### How to mitigate?

One way of greatly reducing your tax liability is to take out two individual



The Hollywood actors Goldie Hawn and Kurt Russell have been a couple for about 37 years, and have one son together, but they have not tied the knot

mortgage protection policies rather than a joint policy. With these "single life, life of another" policies, you are essentially each taking out – and paying for – cover on the other person. If one partner dies, it's the policy paid for by the other partner that clears the mortgage.

Therefore, the surviving partner is not deemed to have inherited at all, given that they paid the premiums, and so they will only be liable for tax on the mortgage-free portion.

"For example, on a €400,000 house with a €350,000 mortgage, the survivor is deemed to only inherit half of the mortgage-free portion, that is, €25,000," says McCutcheon.

Once you take the tax-free threshold into account, that means a tax bill of less than €3,000. Although two individual policies will cost a bit more, the difference is not massive. Take a pair of 30-year-old non-smokers getting cover for €250,000 over 25 years. With Royal London, they could expect to pay about €15 a month for a dual life mortgage protection policy, or about €24 a month for two single life policies.

This option is most appropriate where both partners are earning, as each needs to be able to make the payments from their own bank account. If only one partner is earning, however, you may be able to use the annual small gift exemption, whereby the earning partner could give up to €3,000 per year to the other partner, tax free, to enable them to pay the premiums.

If you've already got a joint or dual policy in place, you can switch to two policies at a later date. Note, however, that the premiums will be based on your age

and state of health at the time. Therefore, says Niall Rooney, financial planning manager at City Life Galway, the sooner you do it, the better.

"If you try to do it 20 years down the road, your premiums will be higher and it may be more difficult to get, depending on your medical history," he says.

Ideally, cohabiting couples would consider potential inheritance tax at the point of taking out a mortgage, but this often doesn't happen.

"Many are not aware of the issue and just want to get the cheque issued and get into the house," adds Rooney.

### What if you get married?

Nick McGowan, of life insurance broker lion.ie, is frequently asked by cohabiting

couples what would happen with their two mortgage protection policies if they subsequently got married.

"You can keep the single life policies or replace them with a joint/dual policy," he says. "Which to go for depends on when you get married; in the near term you may save a few quid by switching, but if you don't get married for a few years, it's likely that sticking with two single policies will make financial sense because as you get older, premiums go up."

### Life insurance

Couples who want extra cover for future inheritance tax bills can take out life insurance above and beyond their mortgage protection. Payouts, as with any inheritance between cohabiting couples, are subject to tax, but you can set it up in such a way as to avoid it. As with mortgage protection, two separate "single life, life of another" policies is the way to go.

McGowan gives an example of a cohabiting couple taking out a joint life insurance policy of €400,000. If one pays all the premiums, then dies, the other will face a CAT bill of about €126,600 on the payout. If they both pay the premiums, the tax bill will be half that. But if they had two policies, based again on the principle that the surviving partner had paid the premiums on the other partner's life, there would be no tax at all.

As with taking out two mortgage protection policies, it will be slightly more expensive. According to McGowan, a couple of non-smokers in their early forties getting life cover of €400,000 over 20 years might pay €5 per month (€1,200 in total) extra for two policies.

Note that this additional expense is not

appropriate in every case, especially if you are just waiting for the first three years of cohabitation to elapse before qualifying for the dwelling house exemption.

"The risk then is only for three years, so this could be overkill, unless the potential bill is a whopper," says McGowan.

### Section 72

Another option to guard against excessive inheritance tax is a section 72 policy, which is a type of life insurance designed to pay inheritance tax. As such, the payout will not be taxed if used to pay inheritance tax. The final lump sum may end up being either more or less than the actual inheritance tax bill.

"If there's a surplus, that surplus will be subject to inheritance tax, but because it's a liquid asset, that doesn't cause much of a problem," says McCutcheon. "And if there's a deficit, at least it will have paid off part of the tax liability."

Section 72 policies are whole-of-life and don't come cheap, but can be useful where someone has a large estate to pass on. For many cohabiting couples who want extra protection against future tax bills, however, a term life insurance policy would make more sense, says McGowan.

### But first...

Make a will. Do this before even looking at how to arrange your mortgage protection or life insurance vis-à-vis inheritance tax. That's because if one partner dies without a will, the other has no legal claim to any part of the estate that was not jointly held.

"Once you have made a will, look at your potential inheritance tax exposure, and make a proper plan," says Rooney.



**We have two children, aged seven and nine. We have never set up a bank account for them, but their grandad wants to use the small gift exemption to give them money tax-free. He is going to give each of them €3,000 this year and possibly over the next few years. We do not intend giving the children access to this – it is for future needs. Have you any advice as to what type of account to open? Is a child account with one of the banks the best option? I've noticed some have very low upper limits, such as €5,000, which would be no use, but others are higher and they don't charge fees.**  
YQ, Co Kildare

The small gift exemption is a very efficient way for someone to begin distributing their estate tax-efficiently. In this scenario, your children could inherit up to €32,500 each from their grandfather on his death. Anything over that would be subject to capital acquisition tax at a rate of 33%.

By putting in place a facility now to take advantage of the small gift exemption of €3,000 per annum, their grandfather achieves two things. He begins to distribute his estate tax-efficiently and he ensures that his grandchildren can benefit from wealth that he has generated without having to wait until he dies.

When financial planners are asked: "Where should we invest?" the question is always reversed, for clarification on the objectives of the investment and the time frame involved. As a rule, if the objectives are within five years of the initial investment, deposit-like products are the safest. These include state savings plans, which can be tax-efficient, and junior savings accounts from banks or credit unions. Unfortunately, deposit rates are extremely low and the investment will achieve little return in that period; nevertheless, the period is too short for a prudent investment outside such a vehicle.

You mention that your children are seven and nine years old. If the future needs you reference are college or a deposit on a house, the time frame shifts to 10 years or greater.

Historically, over such a time frame, equities – and the ingenuity of people to continue to create great companies – have been the best home for investment. Some of the biggest companies in the world today had not started 20 years ago, and that will probably be the same after another 20 years. Investments in this asset class will endure greater volatility than a deposit product, however, and it is important that you are comfortable with this from the outset.

On average, though, investing in a fund that tracks a well-diversified global basket of equities can return in the region of 6% annualised over the period mentioned. All the life companies and financial houses have flexible offerings in this space. As Warren Buffett said: "The stock market remains an exceptionally efficient mechanism for the transfer of wealth from the impatient to the patient." Identify your goals at the outset, stick to the strategy identified and never react to the markets.

*Paddy McGettigan is director of McGettigan Financial Planning; mcgettigan@fp.ie*

Send your personal finance or consumer-related questions to [money@sunday-times.ie](mailto:money@sunday-times.ie)

## Tom O'Gorman

Keep calm and carry on with diversity, not tech



As an investor, when the pandemic took hold in Europe, it quickly became apparent that amid the economic and market disruptions, we were witnessing the intensification of the long-term global trends toward increased digitisation.

The obvious winners have been technology companies. Covid-19 and the global lockdown led to the fastest market crash in history, with the S&P 500 index of American stocks losing 30% in 18 days from late February.

However, as many businesses ground to a halt, companies such as Facebook, Apple, Amazon, Google's parent Alphabet, Netflix and Microsoft were far less affected, as they benefited from people spending more

time at home. Through the first half of 2020, these six companies returned more than 20%, while holding stocks in the other 494 names in the S&P 500 would have resulted in a loss.

This boom has left supposedly diversified investors heavily exposed to these titans of the internet. The MSCI All Country World index of stocks covers 49 countries and nearly 3,000 companies, yet only 20 US stocks account for one-fifth of the index. In this context, the performance of Apple and Microsoft is more important than the entire UK and German equity markets.

While the tech sector is strategically important and well positioned to benefit from the migration of more

of our work and home life online, Irish investors should be aware of the risks of being too focused in this area.

In this era of rapid change, we believe in the traditional virtues of diversification. The value of having a diversified portfolio was made clear during the unprecedented market stresses this year.

Initially, when the pandemic seemed to have been contained inside China, diversification performed well in Europe. We saw efficient risk-management from bonds and alternatives almost up the end of March, as equities were sold off.

However, it became evident during the panic of the final two weeks of March, when Covid-19 gripped Europe, that diversification

of portfolios did not really work in the immediate term. The markets slumped.

Long-term investors with a diversified portfolio have coped with these swings and roundabouts. The picture for long-term gains through diversification should get better, based on the recovery that began in Europe towards the end of March, triggered by government stimulus packages. So, while diversification in and of itself is no panacea, it is valuable for long-term investors.

Investment market reports demonstrate that long-term Irish investors are willing to invest across different asset classes for some of their capital and savings, to seek reduced volatility of returns compared with

equity markets. It is not the only way investors can help to protect their portfolios against long-term risks. Some of the fundamental risks faced by the economy are also catalysing opportunities.

The multiple challenges besetting the world – from the pandemic and climate change to ingrained racism – have prompted ever-more people to agree that inaction, obtuseness or ignorance when deciding where to invest is not an option. The Irish government seems to agree, judging by its Climate Action bill, and we support the decision to put into law its commitment for net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

The Irish Climate Change Advisory Council noted the need for the finance sector to

help to fund the transition to a climate-resilient, low-carbon economy. The events of 2020 should strengthen the resolve to take further decisive action to deliver positive change. This is done through the stewardship of clients' assets, using shareholder votes to raise market standards and embed sustainability in businesses, and the capital allocation decisions made on behalf of shareholders.

At Legal & General Investment Management, we use our climate impact pledge to help to ensure that the companies in which we invest, on behalf of our Irish clients, are taking all of the necessary steps to meet the objectives of the Paris climate agreement, and other goals.

Environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors are financially important, but some sceptics claim that responsible investment strategies are yet to be tested in difficult markets. Surely the start of this year put that to rest? US firm Morningstar says almost two-thirds of global, large-capital, ESG equity funds outperformed the global market in March, during the worst of the crisis.

So, whatever the next volatile market news is, we urge investors to heed the quiet wisdom of diversification and to invest calmly – and responsibly.

*Tom O'Gorman is head of distribution, Legal & General Investment Management, Ireland*

# INSIDE TRACK



Nick Webb

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## Boucher puts builder on good foundations

I would have thought Richie Boucher would be waking up in a cold sweat at the very mention of house building, given that the former Bank of Ireland chief executive endured the nightmare of cleaning up dud loans in the crash. Not so.

Now chairman of CRH, Boucher is personally banking a house builder out on the posh northside. Martin Duffy and Boucher's company Nkana Kitwe – named after Richie's Zambian birthplace – are shareholders in Kincora Denali, which is a builder of luxury homes in Clontarf and Howth.

Duffy is a former under-20 rugby international and best bud of Ireland prop Cian "Church" Healy, and started Denali in 2011.

During the tight times after the crash, Duffy supplemented his income for two years and nine months as manager of Krystle, the Dublin city centre night club and general celeb hangout.

Duffy and Boucher are both members of Clontarf Rugby Club, and the banker clearly likes the cut of the young man's jib.

Earlier this summer Nkana advanced Denali €600,000, but I see the facility has just been hitched up to €2.5m. I am sure it went to the kitchen table credit committee.

Skerries-based start-up. Alkimii does a lot of cool things for hotels, such as helping to manage HR, payroll, customer relationship management or events capabilities all in one place.

When hotels re-open again, it's going to become even more important to run more streamlined and more efficient operations as tourism and business travel takes time to return.

Pre-Covid, Dalata had 4,871 staff across its



operations, which represents mind-boggling levels of complexity. McCann is a canny old fox and will know the value of having a bit of Alkimii at his disposal.

Fitzgerald's Blackthorn Capital has been racking up the deals of late.

Blackthorn recently advised Gary Corcoran and the Irish shareholders of Advance Systems Ireland, which was taken out by Advanced, the third-largest software and services company in the UK. There's no price on the deal but at least there should be immediate synergies on letterheads and branding.

In August, Reddy and Fitzgerald advised Anne-Marie Curran and her team's management buyout of Drury Communications from global media firm Omnicom, which generated a bit of good PR.

## O'Toole to swap Workday for Workhuman

I see Eric Mosley has landed a big fish. He's just signed up former Iona Technologies co-founder Annraí O'Toole to join the board of his employee recognition unicorn, Workhuman.

London investment firm Intermediate Capital Group this year took a 10% stake in Workhuman (formerly Globoforce) at a humungous \$1.2bn (€1bn) valuation. Who would have thought helping companies to be nice to employees could be so lucrative?

After exiting Iona, O'Toole set up Cape Clear, a web services integration tool-maker, which was bought by American firm Workday.

O'Toole ran Workday's European operation for the best part of a decade before leaving to dabble in property and set up a HR software start-up called Utmost, which raised €10.2m last year.

Barry Maloney is also on Mosley's board, having been an early backer. Speaking of backing good things, Maloney's horses are in some form with both Champagne Gold and Minella Indo winning at Wexford last week.

BRIAN LAWLESS



## BIG DADDIES OF THE RUGBY DEBUTANTS

Hugo Keenan, the speedy winger who marked his Ireland debut against Italy last weekend with two well-taken tries, is the son of deal-maker Paul Keenan.

Keenan Sr is a former BDO managing partner and the executive chairman of Capnia, one of the most active corporate finance houses on the block. Recent tombstones highlight deals including the sale of 10% of unicorn Workhuman, Amdocs's \$180m (€150m)

buyout of Openet, and the group refinancing of Flyefit.

Keenan Jr's best bud on the pitch was flanker and fellow debutant Will Connors, who landed the man-of-the-match gong in last Saturday's Six Nations match. His father is Nick Connors, who runs bespoke

IT services firm Tekenable. The firm has been doing its own bit of M&A and recently bought Greenfinch, which had sales of €8m a year.

As well as talking about their sons' performances on the pitch, Connors Sr and Keenan Sr could have something else to discuss.

## SPORT ENDORSE PICKS UP THE PACE



The platform for Sport Endorse, run by Trevor Twamley, above left, and Declan Bourke, right, has just gone live and the lads are looking for almost €1m to bulk up the business.

Sports Endorse is training its tech on teaming brands with sports stars. Twamley, a former Setanta Sports commercial director, and Bourke, who ran spread-better IG here, have created, what they describe as "the easiest way to book sports talent, athletes and legends as brand ambassadors, for promotions, speaking, events, and sponsorship".

Ireland and Sheffield United centre back John Egan is a client, and Twamley told me "a boxer in London, an Aussie Rules player in Melbourne, a footballer from Ferbane and a US Olympian" signed up to the platform on the same day last week.

Ex-HP Ireland boss Martin Murphy has his pick of plum gigs. I hear he's just signed up with John Kirwan's Broadstone Capital, which has raised more than \$100bn (€85bn) in financing for transportation, power, utilities and energy projects on behalf of governments and private promoters.

Murphy is a non-executive at Ulster Bank and chairman at fast-growing data centre group Echelon. At Broadstone, he has been brought in specifically to strategise and advise on "digital and technology sectors".

It's not all theorising and big thinking, I understand he got his hands dirty last year helping Waterford-based Eishtech on its sale to \$60bn Indian IT behemoth Infosys.

## Dalata checks out McAuley's hotel software

Dalata Group chief executive and hospitality warrior Pat McCann, pictured, has whooshed €200,000 into Ronan McAuley's hotel management software outfit Alkimii.

Dalata is also a backer of the firm, with its subsidiary DHGL taking a block of preference shares in the

## Blackthorn women make strides in M&A

With some notable exceptions – Róisín Brennan of IBI, Rose McHugh of Merriem and Eugénie Mulhern at Davy – immediately spring to mind, corporate finance and mergers and acquisitions have traditionally been the bailiwick of men in navy suits. So it is interesting to see that Ann-Marie Reddy and Roslyn

# DATABANK

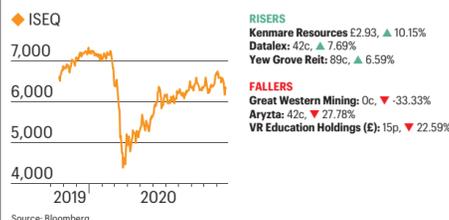
## IRISH SHARES

	€	change on wk	52 week high	52 week low	yield	P/E	Mkt cap (€M)
28 Abbey	16.60	+0.00	18.00	12.00	1.39	12.06	346.6
8 AIB Group	0.94	-5.57	3.51	0.72	4.28	24.87	2556.6
29 Amryt Pharma (€)	2.05	-0.49	2.50	0.80	0.00	38.55	333.7
27 Applegreen	2.90	-8.23	5.86	2.05	0.49	9.42	349.9
24 ARYZTA	0.42	-27.78	1.11	0.27	0.00		412.3
10 Bank of Ireland	2.10	+5.22	5.51	1.28	1.97	27.10	2252.4
22 C&C Group	1.60	-8.80	4.17	1.41	2.73	23.91	493.8
19 Cairn Homes (€)	0.80	-6.98	1.35	0.60	0.00	24.94	599.6
33 CPL Resources	7.70	-4.35	8.80	5.00	2.94	9.51	213.6
1 CRH	30.12	-3.74	36.74	16.30	2.75	14.90	23676.6
21 Dalata Hotel Group	2.40	-6.08	5.99	1.59	0.00		533.4
42 Datalex	0.42	+7.69	0.92	0.22	1.39	3.07	34.2
7 DCC (€)	50.32	+0.08	75.48	34.63	3.05	14.32	4957.2
41 Donegal Investment Group	13.50	+1.52	14.90	10.60			38.2
34 FBD Holdings	6.08	-2.56	9.70	5.62	6.10	8.10	212.0
13 First Derivatives	36.80	+0.00	37.40	24.60	0.55	47.18	1014.8
2 Flutter Entertainment (€)	133.80	+5.11	135.35	49.22	0.31	29.20	20768.6
9 Glanbia	8.22	-1.50	11.59	7.44	3.40	10.06	2422.8
18 Glenveagh Properties	0.72	-3.99	0.93	0.43	0.00	30.05	629.1
12 Grafton Group (€)	6.65	-9.84	9.97	3.56	2.20	14.30	1585.7
46 Great Western Mining	0.00	-33.33	0.01	0.00			4.8
14 Greencoat Renewables	1.17	-0.85	1.27	0.93	5.24	19.76	734.7
26 Greencore Group (€)	0.88	-12.10	2.82	0.83	3.55	9.18	390.7
16 Hibernia REIT	1.03	-3.00	1.48	0.75	4.80	17.86	689.1
40 Hostelworld	0.57	+0.00	2.17	0.32			66.5
20 Irish Continental Group	3.10	-1.90	5.20	2.11	3.87	25.30	579.2
15 Irish Residential Properties REIT	1.36	-1.45	1.83	0.90	4.51	19.15	711.6
30 Kenmare Resources (€)	2.93	+0.15	2.97	1.38	4.32	6.13	321.5
3 Kerry Group	102.00	-5.90	126.50	88.50	0.92	26.10	18023.0
4 Kingspan Group	75.05	-1.25	81.15	37.44	0.56	35.69	13692.2
36 Malin Corporation	4.00	+0.00	5.00	1.40	0.00		183.8
35 Mincon Group	0.88	-2.22	1.14	0.71	2.67	13.87	186.3
37 Open Orphan (€)	0.27	+0.94	0.32	0.05	0.00	33.67	178.1
25 Origin Enterprises	3.27	-5.64	4.86	1.77	4.50	7.91	410.1
45 Ormonde Mining	0.02	-3.03	0.04	0.00			7.6
44 Ovoca Bio	0.13	+0.00	0.24	0.07			10.5
32 permanent tsb Group	0.49	+4.00	1.28	0.40	0.00		224.6
47 Petroneft Resources (€)	0.01	-15.38	0.01	0.00			4.6
39 Providence Resources	0.08	+0.00	0.10	0.01			70.2
5 Ryanair Holdings	11.81	-9.64	16.92	8.05	0.00	187.80	13289.7
6 Smurfit Kappa Group	32.20	-6.61	36.10	19.93	3.53	13.37	7630.6
23 Total Produce	1.12	-2.44	1.51	0.79	3.19	7.89	435.1
31 Tullow Oil (€)	0.20	-8.23	2.21	0.07	0.00		280.3
11 UDG Healthcare (€)	7.21	-2.24	8.46	4.23	1.92	18.43	1810.3
17 Uniphar Plc	2.36	-1.67	2.65	0.97	0.65	14.74	655.2
43 VR Education Holdings (€)	0.15	-22.59	0.26	0.04	0.00		29.5
38 Yew Grove REIT plc	0.89	+6.59	1.00	0.77	6.60	14.57	99.3

## AIM IRISH COMPANIES

	€	change on wk	52 week high	52 week low	yield	P/E	Mkt cap (€M)
1 Connemara Mining Co	0.01	-18.52	0.02	0.00			3.2
2 Petrel Resources	0.03	-12.66	0.27	0.03			5.4
3 Conroy Gold & Natural Resources	0.30	-4.76	0.40	0.04			9.3
4 Karelian Diamond Resources	0.06	-4.35	0.06	0.02			2.9

## THE WEEK IN THE MARKETS



ISEQ  
6,427.7  
▲146.65  
▲2.2%

FTSE 100  
5,577.27  
▲283.01  
▲4.83%

POUND  
EUR > GBP  
£0.88  
▼0.02  
12-month high: £0.94  
low: £0.83

DOLLAR  
EUR > USD  
\$1.14  
▼0.04  
12-month high: \$1.19  
low: \$1.06

YEN  
USD > YEN  
¥104.64  
▼0.05  
12-month high: ¥112.11  
low: ¥102.34

OIL  
DOLLARS/BARREL  
\$41.77  
▼1.16  
12-month high: \$71.75  
low: \$15.98

GOLD  
DOLLARS/TROY OZ  
\$1,880.77  
▼19.15  
12-month high: \$2,052.50  
low: \$1,451.31

BITCOIN  
DOLLARS  
\$12,988.41  
▲1,676.90  
12-month high: \$13,796.49  
low: \$3,615.27  
Price as of 11am Saturday

DOW JONES  
26,501.60  
▲1,833.9  
▲6.47%

NASDAQ  
10,911.59  
▲636.89  
▲5.37%

NIKKEI  
22,977.13  
▲539.46  
▲2.29%

HANG SENG  
24,107.42  
▲811.36  
▲3.26%

FTSE EUROFIRST  
1,325.47  
▲77.09  
▲5.50%

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# Sunday



Wild meat is  
tasty, healthy  
and eco-friendly  
**Page 5**

**A  
whole new  
game**



**I baked  
my way  
to the top**  
**Life: 2**



**Book a  
holiday  
at home**  
**Travel: 11**



**Vitara?  
It's a  
goodie**  
**InGear: 20**

## IN ANOTHER LIFE

# My teenage job in a bakery proved to be the making of me

Former rugby and football player *Mick Galwey* recalls how a stint producing bread when he was 16 instilled in him a sense of discipline and team spirit that helped him rise to the challenges of life as a professional sportsman

I grew up the youngest of eight children in Currow, Co Kerry, four miles from Castleisland. I was 16 when I did the Leaving Certificate, and straight after that I went to work in Nelligan's bakery in the town, owned by Kerry goalkeeper Charlie Nelligan. I was there for about four years.

Working in the bakery was great: I started at about 4.30am and cycled there, with the roads to myself before anyone else was up. I'm always telling my kids about how life was harder then, yet it moulded me. I know I sound like my own mother and father, God rest them.

What I loved about baking was the great discipline there is to it. You have to think outside the box and know what's going on. I can remember to this day that you'd start with the brown bread because that would take the longest; you'd have the white bread down from the previous day, and you'd prove that. The tarts would be ready-made, so it was a case of baking them in the morning. You'd do scones and breads and buns – the whole lot.

There was a nice crew working there



and it was good old craic. It was a hive of excitement and lots of people would come in throughout the day. Of course, the early starts meant that sometimes – if you were out in the local nightclub on a Friday night – you'd go straight from there into work on a Saturday morning, without having had any sleep.

**Galwey, right, was the youngest of eight children. Above: with his mother, Bridget, and sister, Frances, in 1988**

You might have a game to play later that day, and when I look back on that now, I wonder how I survived. When you're young, you can do all that. I never got burnout.

I was playing football for the Kerry minors from when I was 17. When I got back home from the bakery, I'd have something to eat and then go to bed for two hours. When I'd get up, my mother would have a glass of milk and a sandwich ready for me, and then I would cycle back to Castleisland and go training.

Everything was always those four miles away. We would thumb lifts to secondary school, back in the day. Everyone thumbed back then; it was the natural thing to do.

There was a bus in the mornings, but it would leave at 7.30am. Instead I would get up at 8.30am and thumb – and still be in there for 9am. You would know the cars that would be passing, and who would be working and could give you a lift.

We had some great neighbours. Tom Dennehy worked in Castleisland and every morning he used to nearly drop me



## THIS WEEK WHY NOT



**HAVE HEAPS OF FUN AT A CHARITY READATHON**

Ireland's oldest fundraising event has gone digital. Multiple Sclerosis Ireland's Readathon was launched by Roald Dahl in 1988 and has grown to become the charity's flagship event. A chance for schoolchildren and their families to get together and enjoy a good book, this year's event will be

conducted through a new interactive website. With its fundraising income down by 38%, MS Ireland is facing a €1m drop in funds this year. Donations from the Readathon will go towards the information line, respite care, one-to-one support for the newly diagnosed, and physiotherapy. [msreadathon.ie](http://msreadathon.ie)



**SINK YOUR TEETH INTO THE BRAM STOKER FEST**

Treat your little monsters to some spooky fun at the Bram Stoker Festival. The event, which runs until tomorrow, challenges children nationwide to get creative, channel their inner ghoul and celebrate all things supernatural this Halloween. In a year when the stakes have been raised in

unexpected ways, this year's event has moved online, with interactive events for all ages. Go on a universe-saving scavenger hunt, or immerse yourself in the *Dracula* author's colourful life and legacy. There's lots for vampires of all ages to sink their fangs into, including a disco. [bramstokerfestival.com](http://bramstokerfestival.com)

MORGAN TREACY



to the school. You would thumb home as well, depending on the weather, and be back before the school bus, which went all over the country first.

Training with my heroes was a huge thing: I was with Charlie [Nelligan] and Mick O'Dwyer and I got to meet Ger Power and Pat Spillane, and Jack O'Shea and Eoin "Bomber" Liston. It was great to be part of. Sometimes we would train 20 days in a row – Sundays and weekends.

My family life gave me a strong work ethic. We had a small farm and we worked before school. We had a little cart with four tanks on it, and I would pull it down to the creamery, or I'd be up early in the morning, helping with the cows.

As the youngest I was only about four when my two eldest sisters left to work as nurses in Leeds. Two more sisters went to America in the 1980s, thinking they'd be back in a year or two when things got better. They're still over there.

My father, Freddie, was a blacksmith. He died at the age of 47, in 1985. I was 18 at the time. He had lung cancer and went downhill very quickly. It was tough on my mother, Bridget. She had been married

**“**  
**The early starts meant that if you were out in the local nightclub on a Friday night, you would go straight from there into work on a Saturday morning**

twice: first to Paddy O'Connor, who died when he was only 37; then she married my father, and she lost him, too. She had to bury two husbands. She had eight kids: four O'Connors and four Galweys.

My mother ran a shop and had the farm too, so she had a lot to do on her own. I was still at home, which suited the situation, because by that stage everyone else had more or less gone. At the time I thought my dad was an older man, a good age. But now I realise he wasn't old – in fact, he died young. My dad hadn't lived his life at all.

I'm 54 now and hope to be around for a long time yet. I have a lot of things to do.

*Mick Galwey is an ambassador for Heartburn Awareness Week in Ireland*

## INSIDE SUNDAY THIS WEEK



Is game meat, above, being plucked from obscurity?

# 5

Niall Toner tries a takeaway from Dublin's Pickle

# 9

Need a travel fix? Just dip into a good book

# 11



Graeme Lennox tries out the new Suzuki Vitara, above

# 20



**SING ALONG WITH PAUL BRADY AT A ONE-OFF GIG**

Singer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Paul Brady, left, will perform a one-off concert at the National Concert Hall on Saturday. One of Ireland's enduringly popular artists, Brady will invite viewers into his world in a gig live-streamed from 8pm. Part of the National Concert

Hall's Imagining Ireland series, the event features Irish-Sierra Leonean singer-songwriter, Loah. Real name Sallay Matu Garnett, Loah grew up between Maynooth, Co Kildare, and west Africa. Tickets for the concert, which will be available to view up to 24 hours afterwards, cost €16.50 each. [nch.ie](http://nch.ie)



**BRUSH UP ON STREET ART WITHOUT LEAVING HOME**

Explore some of the world's greatest street art from the comfort of your sofa. The Google Art Project: Street Art showcases the world's best graffiti works and tells the stories behind them. Viewers can take virtual walking tours, view online exhibitions and learn about the artists through the

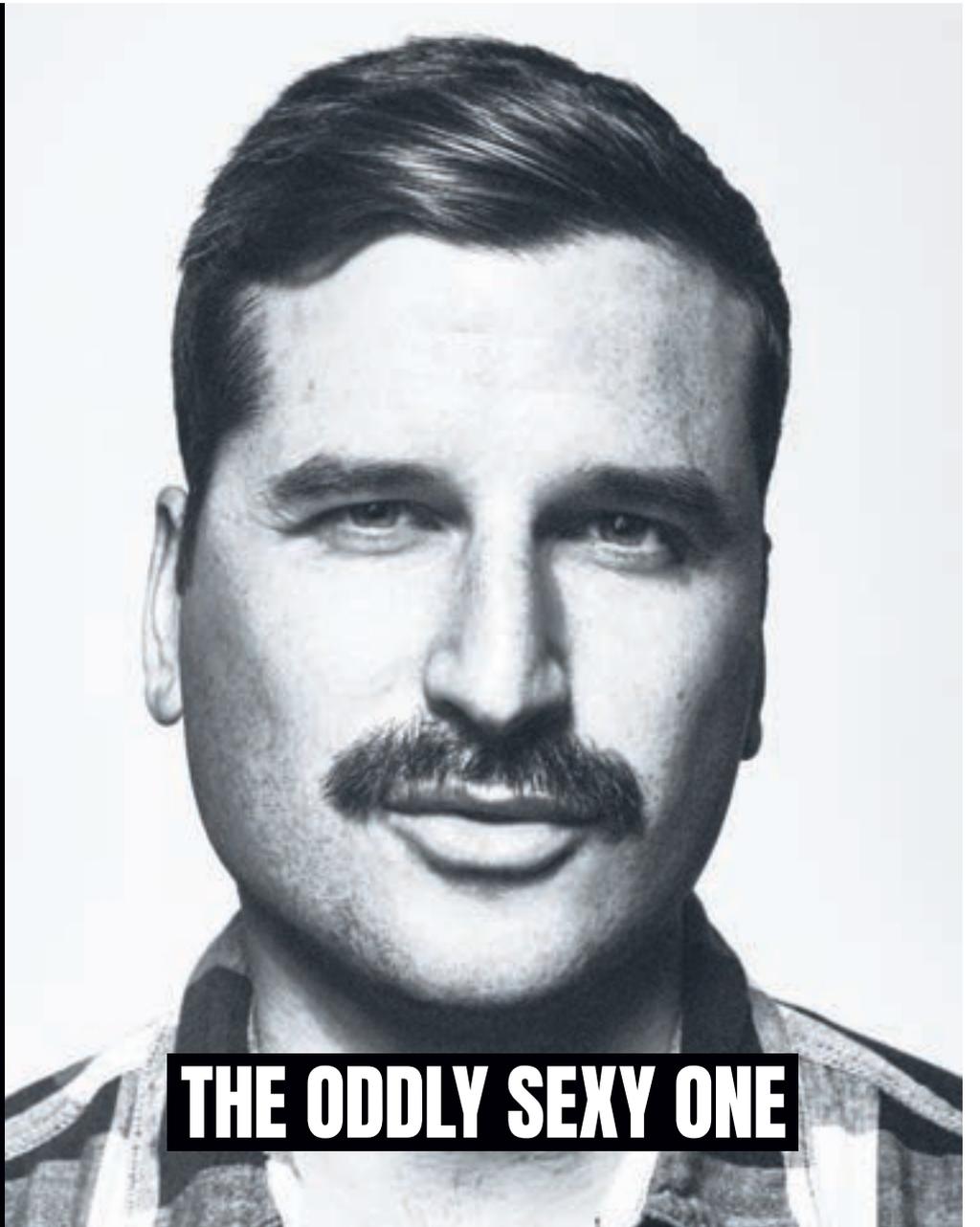
interactive website. Visit the Talking Walls of Buenos Aires, left, and uncover heart-breaking stories, see the weird and wonderful murals of Austin in Texas, witness Paris's spray-can artistry, or hang out with the cool crowd at the Bronx Museum of the Arts. [streetart.withgoogle.com](http://streetart.withgoogle.com)

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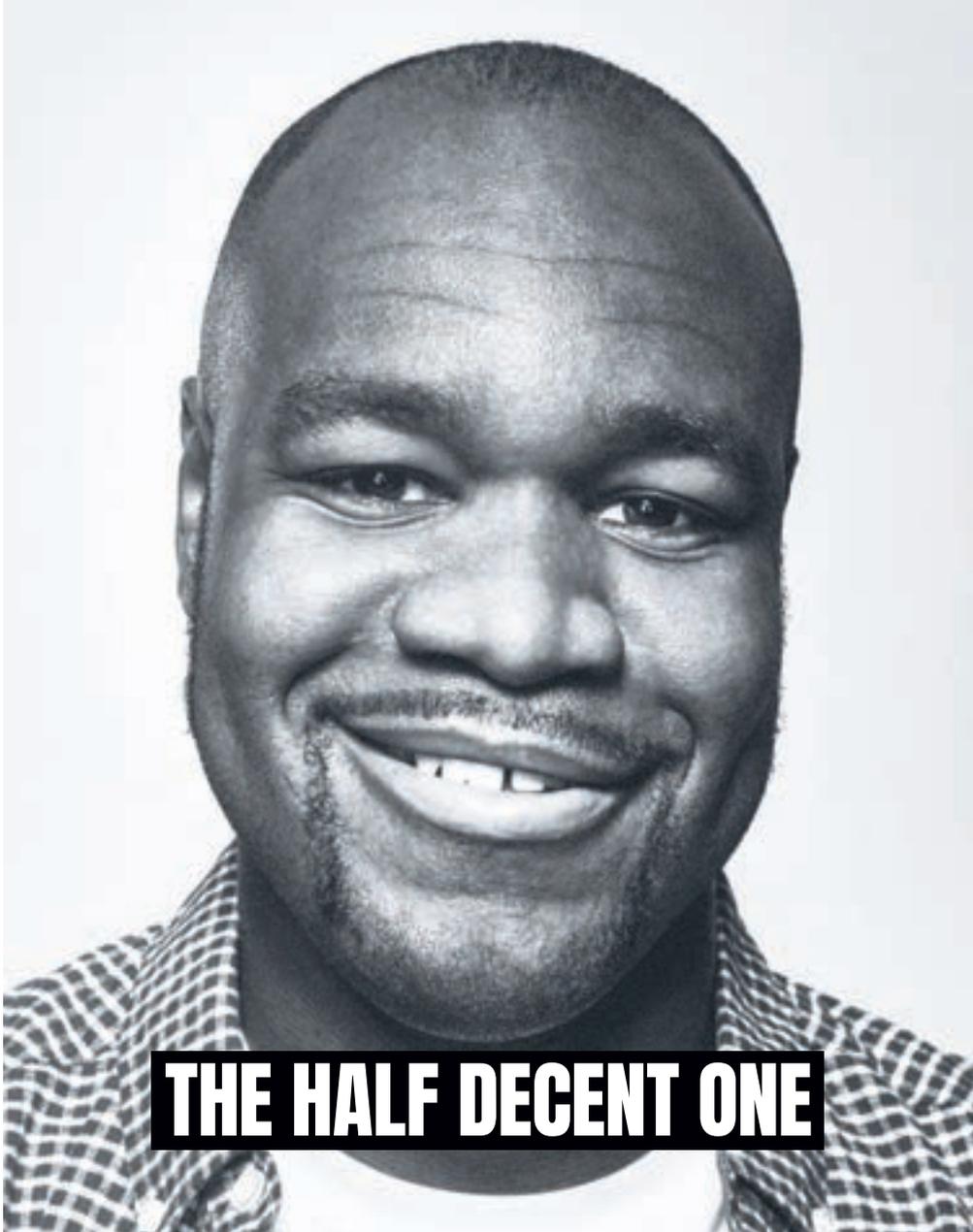


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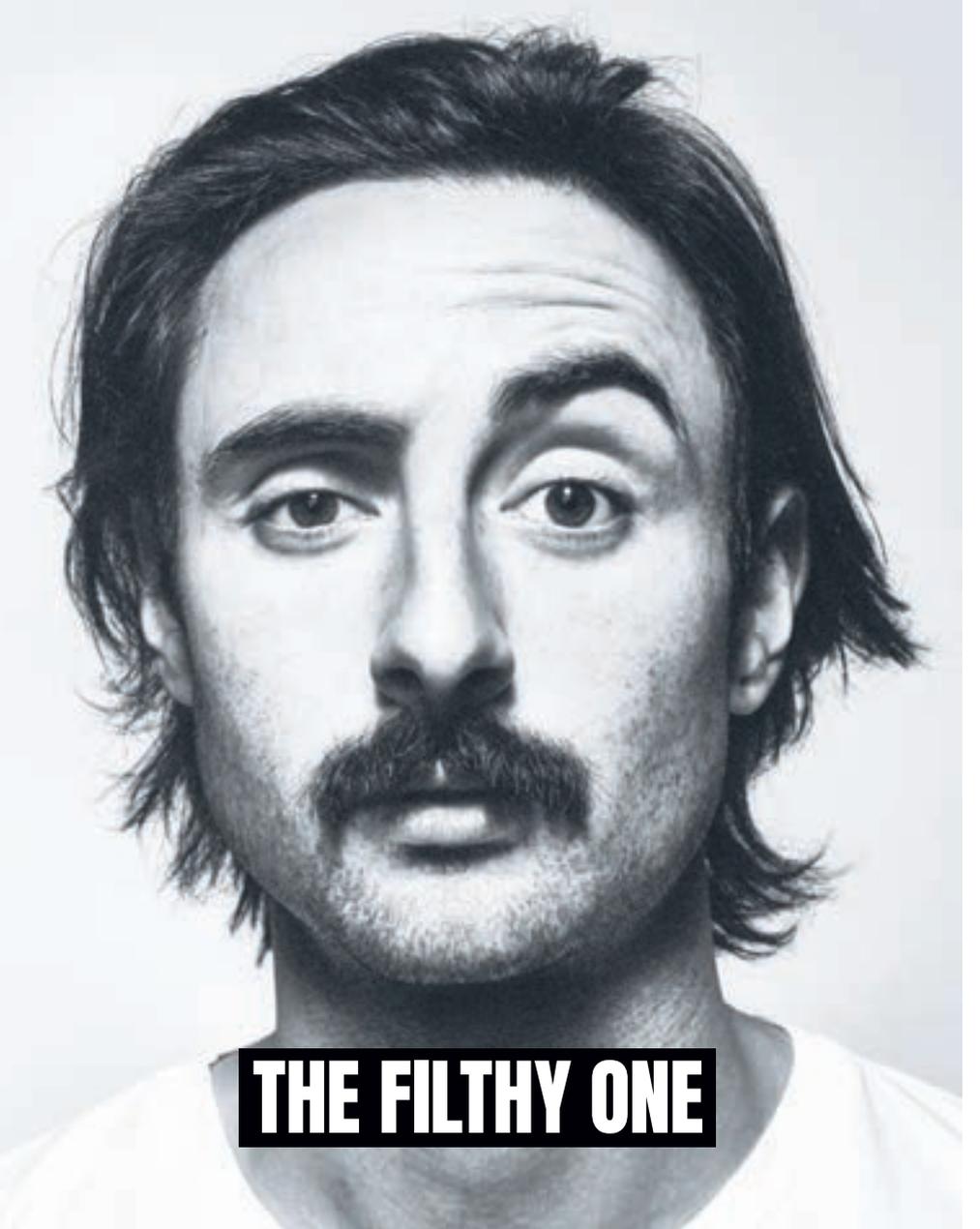
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**THE ODDLY SEXY ONE**



**THE HALF DECENT ONE**



**THE FILTHY ONE**

BRYAN MEADE

# FOOD



## For a healthy alternative, up your game

Wild meat such as hare and pheasant is a lean source of protein, leaves a modest carbon footprint, and is produced without the need for intensive farming – so why aren't Irish diners getting stuck in to more of it, asks *Katy McGuinness*

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INDEPENDENTS' DAY  
MARTIN MORAN ON  
WHAT TO BUY IN YOUR  
LOCAL OFF-LICENCE



Pheasant, left, is among game on sale at FX Buckley, top; Viljanen's hare royale, above



For a certain exclusive set of Irish gastronomes, the most bitter disappointment of lockdown is the realisation that they are unlikely to have the opportunity to enjoy Mickael Viljanen's hare royale at the Greenhouse in Dublin this year. The rich, autumnal dish is one of the Finnish chef's signatures, and its appearance on the menu for a limited period each year is eagerly awaited by those who consider its consumption an experience verging on the heavenly.

Lièvre à la royale is classically made from the meat of a deboned hare, stuffed with pork cheeks, foie gras, the hare's offal and blood. It was first created for Louis XIV, who enjoyed the flavour of game but did not have the

teeth for it and so needed a dish soft enough to be eaten with a spoon.

The Greenhouse, which has two Michelin stars, is one of the few restaurants in the country to serve hare, and Viljanen imports his from France. According to an Irish legend, it is unlucky to kill a hare before sunrise, which may be one explanation for the reluctance of game dealers here to supply them.

Eamon Giblin of Gourmet Game in Co Clare supplies wild game to butchers around Ireland and a number of restaurants in the west, including Loam, Aniar, and Kai ("Jess Murphy is my best customer," he says, and the evidence can be seen in a recent post of snipe on the Kai chef's Instagram account) – but he doesn't handle hare. "I have a thing about it," he says. "I like to see them in the fields and prefer to leave them alone. So I don't take them in if someone brings them to me."

At a time when our food choices are increasingly influenced by issues of climate change and sustainability, it's surprising that we eat so little game in Ireland, given that it is a healthy source of lean protein, produced without intensive farming, and has a modest carbon footprint.

Last week a venison carcass hung alongside mallard and wood pigeon in the window of FX Buckley's smart new "victualler and grocer" next to the butcher and steakhouse group's restaurant on Pembroke Street in Dublin. Grouse season, which began in August, is finished now, but the season for pheasant and partridge starts today. Co-owner Stephen Buckley is hoping for a few teal, woodcock and snipe too.

"There is a big interest from our customers in wild game," says Buckley. "It's one of the few foods that is truly seasonal, because its availability is strictly controlled – you can get strawberries in December, but you can't get pheasant in June."

"People may only cook it a few times a year, but it feels special and they make an occasion of it. The people who buy from us are confident that they know what to do with it, either because they grew up doing it or they've read a book, or looked it up online."

Buckley practises what he preaches and cooks a lot of game at home, but he suggests that novices start with roast pheasant, which he expects to retail for about €10-12 this year. One bird will feed two people. "It's a nice, easy beginner dish," he says. "I like it with bread sauce and colcannon."

Not that any game should be complicated to prepare, he points out. "My personal

Continued on page 6 →

# Sunday Food



→ Continued from page 5  
favourite is venison loin cooked like a steak – medium rare. You sear it for a couple of minutes on each side in a hot pan and then pop it in the oven for two or three minutes at 180C. Foodies are willing to experiment, but really you just need to cook game simply. Medium rare is best. Don't overcook it."

Jason Lynch, head chef at the FX Buckley shop, looks forward to game seasons. "I love game," he says. "Like many chefs this is my favourite time of year, with the chilly evenings perfect for the strong flavours."

Lynch credits time spent working under Bruno Loubet in his Michelin-starred restaurant at the Four Seasons hotel near London's Hyde Park as well as in the kitchen of the legendary Paul Bocuse's Brasserie Le Nord in Lyons with inspiring his love of game and giving him a good grounding in how to cook it.

"Bruno taught me not to be afraid," he says. "And it's true. Start by simply roasting some of the smaller birds, nice and gentle. I love pheasant. The meat is delicate, so you need to cover it with streaky bacon and tie it with a bit of string. It's essential to let it rest when it comes out of the oven. Once you have the basics of timing, you'll be braising haunches of venison in no time."

Lynch advises home cooks



**McCauley, above, serves up wild meats such as partridge, top, at Gregans Castle; Lynch, right, looks forward to game season**

to think seasonal when deciding what to pair with game. "It naturally lends itself to robust flavours such as wild mushrooms, which are very much part of the tradition of game cookery," he says.

In the shop, game pies are selling well to those who prefer to let Lynch do the hard work, and he's planning to introduce a classical game terrine en crouete in the coming weeks.

Robbie McCauley of Gregans Castle hotel in Co Clare is another chef who relishes the possibilities of the autumn and winter larder. "I grew up in Scotland and my godparents worked as gamekeepers on a big estate near Perth, so I've been shooting since I was 14 or 15," he says.

"I got to go on a number of grouse shoots in Scotland, then I worked at the private Royal

Automobile Club in London, where the start of grouse season at the end of summer was a huge celebration. There we served grouse classic-style, trussed, with bread sauce and game chips. We did every kind of game bird there, served pink and carved at the table, starting with grouse, then duck from the end of September or beginning of October – once the temperature drops they are easier to pluck – followed by pheasant and venison.

"It's a shame that you don't see it as much here in Ireland. I think some Irish chefs are scared of game because as it's not such a big thing here they don't learn about it while they are training. When we get birds into the kitchen here, they often don't have a clue about breaking them down."

A common misconception

about game is that it has to be hung until it is almost rotten so that it develops a strong, pungent flavour that many find off-putting.

"Sometimes older people think a pheasant is not ready until it literally drops because it can't hang any more, or it's crawling with maggots," says McCauley. "It goes with the tweedy 'hunting, shooting and fishing' look – they eat it well done and very 'high'. But if pheasant is hung too long, it can be very dry. That's not the way chefs think about it now. They hang it less and the cooking is lighter.

"It's still important to age game birds properly, though. I think Brett Graham at the Ledbury was the first person to stuff them with hay to draw out the moisture; he did it with Anjou pigeon. He and

**“I'm amused it is not more popular with the gym brigade who eat so much chicken – it's organic and low fat**

Phil Howard at the Square took a new approach and made game more interesting for more people.

"Brett's venison was always a showstopper. At the Ledbury they serve the loin with a venison sausage smoked over juniper branches, and in Scotland I've had a bridie – a Scottish version of a pastie – filled with venison heart. But I think the hare royale at the Greenhouse is the best game dish I've ever eaten."

At Gregans Castle, McCauley sources all his game from Gourmet Game's Giblin. "We are lucky because there is lots of shooting in east Clare," he says. "I like to keep it simple. I tell people who haven't cooked it before to treat pheasant like stronger chicken. So try it as coq au vin, cooked slowly until it still has a bit of bite."

"For mallard, pan fry it first in a little oil and then roast it for 45 minutes at 150/160C and leave it to rest for 20 minutes. It suits being eaten medium and it's a great Sunday roast if you stuff the cavity with thyme and garlic. It's not a huge bird, so allow one between two."

With dining at Gregans Castle on hold for the time being, McCauley is featuring game in the takeaway meals available for delivery to the surrounding area. "I've been doing a bourguignon with the venison haunch, and with the loin I make a venison wellington, with a bit of liver through the duxelle. I do see an interest and people like to

## ROAST PHEASANT, COLCANNON AND BREAD SAUCE

**Serves 2**  
What you will need for the pheasant

A whole pheasant  
4 rashers of streaky bacon

### For the bread sauce

40ml/1½ fl oz milk

70ml/2½ fl oz cream

20g/½ oz butter

Pinch nutmeg

40g/1½ oz onion, diced

40g/1½ oz fresh breadcrumbs

### For the colcannon

3 peeled rooster potatoes

50g/2oz butter

80ml/3fl oz milk

### 50g/2oz kale, chopped

40g/1½ oz onion, diced

Small handful chives, chopped

Salt and pepper

### How to prepare

To roast the bird, preheat the oven to 180C (356F)/ gas mark 4.

Wrap the breasts in the streaky bacon then sear the bird on all sides on a hot pan in olive oil and butter. Place in the centre of a hot oven for 20 minutes. Allow to rest

for 10 minutes (upside down to allow the juices to flow to the breast).

To make the bread sauce, place all ingredients except the breadcrumbs in a medium-sized saucepan and bring to a slow boil. Leave to rest for 20 minutes then whisk in the breadcrumbs. The sauce should be thick, but not stodgy. Season to taste.

To make the colcannon, put the potatoes in a large saucepan of cold, salted water. Bring to the boil, reduce the heat, and simmer for 15-20 minutes until tender.

Drain the potatoes and return to the pan on a very low heat for about two minutes to dry them out and evaporate any excess water. Add the butter and allow to melt. Pour in the milk and season well with salt and pepper. Mash until smooth or pass through a potato ricer for a really smooth finish.

Blanch the kale in boiling water for 20 seconds and strain well. Sauté the diced onion and kale, and cook for a further five minutes. Fold into the mash. Adjust seasoning to taste and add chives.



order it, maybe because they don't cook it so much at home.

"I'm amused game is not more popular with the gym brigade who eat so much chicken and turkey: it's organic, high protein and low fat. Because it's so lean it can be dry, though, so you have to be careful to choose the right cut for what you want to do with it. *The River Cottage Meat Book* by Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall has a really good section on game, as does Darina Allen's *Ballymaloe Cooking School Cookbook*."

Even though restaurants are closed at the moment, consumers hoping for a glut of game at bargain prices are likely to be disappointed. Giblin is hoping to source wild birds from "driven" shoots: a hunting method where "beaters" are employed to move through areas of cover, swinging sticks to force creatures into the open where they can be shot. "But I don't know if those can go ahead during lockdown as many of them are organised as corporate days out," he says.

Giblin says he depends on shooting estates for pheasant, mallard and partridge, which are classified as replaceable wild game because they are easily reared. "The quality of the birds is down to what they eat," he says. "Wild mountain birds have a stronger taste than birds from estates, which have a fantastic diet of wheat, barley and oats. They are big fat birds with great flavour – the quality is exceptional. People on the shoots take home a brace or two for themselves and we take the rest.

"Wild rabbits and pigeons are classified as pests and we have a plentiful supply of those, and we will get venison sourced from certified hunters. Stocks of migratory wild birds such as teal, widgeon and snipe are not as good as they were, and I prefer to steer clear to let stocks replenish. So I would have very limited numbers of these. They are very special; I don't go advertising them.

**Lynch serves up the ingredients for venison stew, above, at FX Buckley**

"I get everything from people I know, reputable suppliers, and everything is shot legally. So long as you have a licence for your gun, you can shoot in open season, but for deer you must be a trained hunter, and that is the only legitimate source."

Giblin says it is essential that all game be handled correctly. "It must be brought to an appropriate temperature – 4C – as quickly as possible," he explains. "During summer, we collect the pigeons from the field the same day they are shot and get them out of the sun and into the chiller; you don't want them lying around."

Venison is usually hung for about 10 days, and there is a tight timeline for handling the game birds that come to Giblin from driven shoots.

"The days of hanging in a shed until the head falls off are over," he says. "Now the goal is to get them into the game larder as quickly as possible. A bird that's shot on Monday will be processed on Tuesday, inspected on Wednesday, and sold either fresh or frozen on Thursday. You can't sell anything without a veterinary inspection under strict licensing conditions. Those birds remain in date until the middle of the following week."

Giblin says he eats game four or five times a week. "I'm no chef, so for a bird I usually use a cooking bag with salt, butter and bacon," he says. "If I have a mallard, I put half an orange into the cavity and squeeze the other half over the bird. An hour to 90 minutes later, depending on the size, it's perfect.

"I was introduced to the countryside by my father and born and reared doing this. I am a big advocate for this way of life, and eating wild food that is so readily available."

## VENISON SHIN STEW

**Serves 16**  
**What you will need**

**2 tbsp olive oil**

**2kg/4½ lbs venison shin, sliced**

**100g/3½ oz cherry tomatoes**

**1 onion, chopped**

**1 carrot, chopped**

**1 celery stalk, chopped**

**1 garlic clove, chopped**

**1.2 litres/2 pints of beef stock**

**500ml/17½ fl oz red wine**

**Zest of one orange**

**Zest of one lemon**

**3 bay leaves**

**3 sprigs of thyme**

### How to prepare

Preheat the oven to 170C (338F)/gas mark 3. Heat one tablespoon of the oil in a large heavy-based casserole dish over a high heat. Add the venison and briefly sear all over, then transfer to a plate and set aside.

Heat the remaining tablespoon of oil and reduce the heat to low. Add the tomatoes, onion, carrot, celery and garlic, and sweat for 10 minutes, until softened but not coloured.

Add the venison back to the casserole, then pour in the beef stock and wine. Bring to the boil, then reduce the heat and simmer for a few minutes before adding the zest of the orange and lemon, bay leaves and thyme.

Cover the casserole dish tightly with a lid, then transfer to the oven and cook for 1½ hours, until the meat is tender.

Serve with mash potatoes, roasted carrots and parsnips on the side.

## SIDE ORDERS



### BOX OF DELIGHTS

Chef Rob Krawczyk's Michelin-starred Restaurant Chestnut in Ballydehob, Co Cork, is sharing some of its kitchen secrets. The Roots larder box is perfect for anyone who is keen to explore the type of savoury elements used by Krawczyk. Each box has eight items made in the chef's kitchen,

including cultured and turf-smoked butter, pickled nasturtium seed capers, damson and west Cork whiskey preserve, dill oil, and west Cork rosemary salt. Each box costs €85 and can be delivered nationwide for €17.22. Buy one for yourself or as a gift. [restaurantchestnutwestcork.ie](http://restaurantchestnutwestcork.ie)



### OLIVE SOME OF THAT

Wildlands adventure centre in Moycullen, Co Galway, had hardly opened its doors in August than it had to close them again, but its Olive Tree Kitchen is now offering takeaways. Head chef Richard Casburn, *above on the right*, uses local ingredients including vegetables gathered from

its garden. Options include pizza for €10-€12, fish and chips at €12.50, salads for €9.50 and desserts at €4.50. Order by phone on 091 555 317 or via WhatsApp to get a collection time. Olive Tree Kitchen is open Thursday to Sunday 9.30am to 8pm for takeouts. Walk-ins are welcome and there is ample parking. [wildlands.ie](http://wildlands.ie)



### FEAST LIGHTNING

The glorious Virginia Park Lodge in Co Cavan is closed to visitors, but you can still enjoy a fabulous Sunday lunch from Richard Corrigan's kitchen, as long as you are prepared to follow his directions – and you live in the vicinity. Order Richard's Family Feast for four and you'll get soda

bread, smoked salmon, 1kg of Hereford Prime beef wellington, vegetables, and caramel and pumpkin pudding. It is available for delivery to Cavan or Meath for €10, or collection on Saturday (10am to 4pm). Place your order by 6pm on Thursdays for the feast, which costs €165 to €175. [virginiaparklodge.com](http://virginiaparklodge.com)

# Sunday Food

## MARTIN RECOMMENDS TOP WINES FROM INDEPENDENTS

**Aveleda Alvarinho Vinho Verde 2019, Portugal; €14.99, independents.** Alvarinho is Portugal's name for albarino and this gold winner has the same peach and lemon-zest fruit with a chalky minerality. **90/100**



**Conde Valdemar Reserva Rioja 2012; €17-€20, independents.** It's interesting to try a wine with a little age and this gold winner has a savoury, leathery edge alongside a core of fruit. **90/100**



**El Coto Finca Carbonera Chardonnay 2019, Rioja; €18-€20, independents.** Oddly, chardonnay has been an authorised variety in Rioja since 2007 — and this gold winner is a delight with a zesty freshness. **91/100**



**Willunga 100 Shiraz-Viognier 2018, McLaren Vale; €17-€20, independents.** I haven't had this vintage of this gold winner, but I rated previous ones at 91-92 for its fruit and smooth texture.



**Santa Rita Medalla Real Gold Medal Cabernet Sauvignon 2014, Maipo; €18-20, independents.** Despite the name, both the Noffla awards and I rate this at silver, but there's plenty of attractive fruit. **90/100**



**Champagne Piper-Heidsieck Brut NV; €50-60, independents.** The official champagne of the Oscars won Noffla gold, confirming just how much better it has become since an ownership change in 2011. **90/100**



## Martin Moran Fire up your tastebuds with a fistful of euros at a friendly off-licence

**M**ost wine in Ireland is sold in supermarkets for under €10. The stores' buying power, combined with the convenience of throwing a bottle into your trolley alongside the milk and soap powder, means wine has become merely a generic staple for many shoppers. It is easy to drift around a supermarket and just grab this week's half-price pinot grigio or malbec, but wine can be so much better than that.

If you want something more interesting — a wine to tickle your tastebuds — you will probably have to spend more than a tenner. Because of our tax system, however, a few euros more brings a big jump in quality. The *Irish Wine Market Report 2109* estimates that if you strip out the cost of packaging, transport, tax and profit in a €9 bottle, the liquid cost is 53c, compared with €4.32 in a €18 wine, so double the price but more than eight times the value of the wine.

Supermarkets stock €10-plus wine, of course, but they have little of it. If you want something interesting and different, your best bet is to go to a good independent store, and browse, talk and maybe taste. Sadly, many independents have had to cancel their usual pre-Christmas wine fairs this year because of the coronavirus, so it's more important than ever to discuss your wine choice with someone knowledgeable.

Many buyers may feel intimidated by a wall of wine, however. They might be shy or embarrassed to ask a question that makes them feel stupid. All you can do, then, is read labels and descriptions on price tickets, if there are any. You can also look out for medal stickers won at tasting competitions. I have written in the past of my scepticism of local French ones where an entry fee seems to guarantee gold or silver, but I would regard the International Wine Challenge, which I help judge, and the Decanter World Wine Awards as the most prestigious events.

There is another award system worth checking out, if you are in a shop that is

a member of Noffla (National Off-Licence Association). Look out for their gold, silver and bronze star award winners. There should be stickers and point-of-sale material including a booklet listing the winners, plus details on [noffla.ie](http://noffla.ie).

Noffla organises the competition in late summer, and it's judged by its members plus selected wine journalists and educators (I am not among them). Most

years I get to try the wines at a tasting, but obviously not in 2020. Generally, I taste them and think, "Oh, that's a good choice", but also scratch my head sometimes and wonder why a particular wine won a medal. In fairness, some of the Noffla judges probably have the same reaction to my wine recommendations.

The Noffla wines are split into categories, divided by colour, price bands of sub-€10, €15 and €20, and whether they are new world or old world. The top three in each category are awarded gold, silver or bronze. There's also an overall red and white wine of the year. There are 45 medal winners chosen from about 600 entries. If there is a weakness, it is that entries are limited to suppliers deemed as Noffla associate members — that is, those who pay an annual fee — and that takes many good importers out of the equation.

A few of the medallists caught my eye including the red and white wine of the year. The red is Lopez de Haro Rioja Crianza 2017 and the white De Loach Reserve Chardonnay 2018 from California. I have not had these vintages yet, given the lack of tastings, but have rated previous ones as good but without the wow factor. Interestingly, all the three red old-world gold medal winners are from Rioja, plus one of the whites, which shows Spain's quality revolution is not limited to new regions. Overall, Spanish wines won nine of the 21 medals available to old-world "still" wines.

If we are allowed to gather and party this side of Christmas, and you want a wine for under €10 from a shop that will also loan you glasses, unlike supermarkets, then France's Labouré-Roi Sauvignon Blanc and Merlot won gold and silver respectively. Finally, Santa Rita picked up three silvers for its Medalla Real Gold Medal Cabernet, Medalla Real Reserva Limari Chardonnay and Limited Release Rosé. While the Santa Rita trio are good wines, they are also sold in Tesco, which perhaps rather dilutes the point of a competition highlighting good wines sold in independent off-licences.



**If you want something interesting, you will probably have to spend more than a tenner, but a few euros more brings a jump in quality**

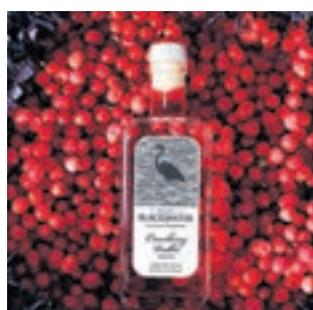


## MERE MORSELS



### EAT THE 'DRUM

Level-five restrictions may be playing havoc with our appetites, but Dundrum Town Centre still has plenty of takeaway and delivery options. Grab a burger from Five Guys, get your curry fix at Siam Thai and follow up with dessert from the Off Beat Donut Co, left, to name a few. [dundrum.ie](http://dundrum.ie)



### THAT'S THE SPIRIT

The Blackwater Tasters Club is the perfect gift for the spirit lover in your life. Delivered to your door every two months, direct from the Blackwater Distillery in Co Waterford, club boxes are available from €40 or €105 for a six-month subscription. [blackwaterdistillery.ie/blackwater-tasters-club](http://blackwaterdistillery.ie/blackwater-tasters-club)



### LAB TESTED

WineLab is offering free deliveries on small batch bottled wines, fizz and other treats. The firm's 101 gift boxes (from €60 including delivery) let customers choose a grape and receive a box of six related wines with background information on each. [winelab.ie](http://winelab.ie)

**NIALL  
TONER**



**PICKLE**  
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**T**he late Anthony Bourdain's Dublin episode of *The Layover* was doing the rounds again on YouTube during the week: the 2013 one in which the charming American author and travel writer makes a valiant attempt to turn the camera away from the usual hoary old travelogue clichés of the Fair City – and fails.

That's not to say the episode wasn't enjoyable and nostalgic in its own way, but like so many other travellers who wash up on the Ha'penny Bridge, Bourdain came in search of "the real Dublin" and instead got the chatty taxi driver, the smiley young buskers, the "it's because we are really fun-loving people" people, and coddle and crubeens. Inevitably, he also got pints of Guinness. Pints and pints and pints, and then more pints (perfectly poured of course, because, as he explained, we Dubliners will send it back if it isn't).

Well, here's the thing. I am from Dublin and yes I have sent back the odd pint in my day, but crubeens? I have never done even the slightest bit of damage to a pig's trotter – aside from the one I complained about in a tapas bar in Barcelona years ago, realising a little too late that it had an insect embedded between the toes.

I recall my grandmother talking about crubeens all right, but even she regarded them as something of an anachronism all those years ago. You didn't get more Dublin than my nana, so in my estimation, this makes crubeens about as Atha Cliath as Beamish, or not winning the Sam Maguire.

Admittedly, coddle is fairly "Dublin" on the other hand, but I can't say I have enjoyed a bowl of it recently, and even pre-pandemic it was hardly commonplace outside of a few hardcore tourist spots. Also, do we really have different recipes north and south of the Liffey as claimed in the episode? I am open to education on that one.

The episode does feature one truly Dublin (indeed national) culinary institution though – curry sauce. After what we imagine to be a very substantial feed of presumably "unsendbackable" pints of the

BRYAN MEADE



# Indian eatery's takeaway fare curries plenty of favour



**Pickle, above and left, is now offering a takeaway service; dishes such as achari baingan, top, come with a serving of naan bread, above inset**

local ebony nectar, Bourdain and the new bunch of pals he appears to have picked up in Hogans bar on South Great George's Street adjourn to a nearby chipper, where they partake in, among other

“

**Done Rajasthani-style, the okra had a fragrant and complex, layered spicing**

things, smoked cod and chips with curry sauce.

The familiar, pungent brown substance is thought to have arrived in Ireland sometime in the late 1970s, mostly in Chinese restaurants and takeaways, which used to serve it three ways (with beef, chicken or prawn) or as a dipping sauce for "chicken balls" as an alternative to sweet-and-sour sauce.

Last weekend we went – sober – in search of curry sauces you probably wouldn't want to waste on battered smoked cod or chicken balls, and these days, few render

them finer than the chefs in one of Sunil Ghai's kitchens. Here you will find spicy confections that are capable of way more than merely salving the drunken munchies at 2am.

Ghai's casual eatery Pickle opened in 2016 to near unanimous critical acclaim, making all the best-of lists, top 20s and things-to-do-in-Dublin blogger-type articles. Curry-head critics marvelled at the value offered by Ghai's tiffin boxes, cooed about the venison curries and chicken wings, and drooled over his bouncy, buttery naan breads.

Since Lockdown 2.0, like every other restaurant in the country that has tried to stay open, Pickle has become a takeaway. So can its superior Indian fare still deliver the wow factor?

To find out, we kicked off with some aloo tikki: bouncy little pillows of potato filled with green peas and date, with asafoetida (a garlic substitute) infused tamarind chutney, chilled yoghurt, and onion and beetroot salad.

Then there was karwari jhinga: classic, spicy deep-fried prawns, which were crunchy on the outside, sweet and bouncy inside, and had some nice heat, too.

We had achari baingan (curried aubergines in a tomato-based masala with complex spicing), a delicate, fragrant curry we could have eaten for days and, indeed, did – cold, the next day, without a hangover. It was as good as it was hot.

Okra is not something we eat every day, nor is it something I am overly fond of, but this was a bit of a masterclass in how to cook it. Done Rajasthani-style, it again had a fragrant and complex, layered spicing.

We got "butter chicken for kiddos" which, sadly, was not to the kiddo's tastes, but this meant more food for us and we loved the mildly-spiced,

creamy tomato sauce, which was still a cut above most "cop-out" curries I've tasted.

The fish curry had large, flaky chunks of white fish that resembled cod. It was cooked in caramelised onions, turmeric, ginger and coconut.

It all came with excellent basmati rice, a selection of homemade pickles, raita and a peshwari naan, which I could have continued eating for the rest of the evening. Thankfully, there was only one.

If the standard of its Indian food is an indicator of how far a civilisation has advanced, on the evidence of what is available these days in the capital – Ananda in Dundrum; the fabulous 3 Leaves in Blackrock Market; Taza in Artane; and others – we have come a long way indeed.

Ghai's empire continues to expand. Street, his new outlet in Clonskeagh, is getting breathless press, as is Tiffin in Greystones, Co Wicklow. The food from Pickle meanwhile, is as good as it ever was.

The whole thing cost us €88.20, which you could well argue is an awful lot for a takeaway curry, and you would probably be a bit right. That said, we got lunch out of it the following day and even part of dinner the next evening. Bourdain would have probably have approved, pints or no pints.



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# Travel

# 16

GORGEOUS GEORGIA  
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CORRESPONDENT  
IN THE PEACH STATE



## Book a flight of fancy

With exotic holidays on hold, dipping into a novel taking in far-flung shores – from Cuba and Croatia to Salzburg and Senegal – will guarantee a great escape. By *Vic O'Sullivan*



**Christie's 1934 novel *Murder on the Orient Express* takes in Istanbul in Turkey, left**

When The Sunday Times's features editor Leonard Russell wanted to add a touch of glamour to the publication, he called on Ian Fleming. It was 1959, and by then the former journalist and naval intelligence officer was better known as the author of spy thrillers such as *Casino Royale*, *Moonraker* and *Diamonds are Forever*. Fleming was to write a series of travel features. "Even if people can't put up with James Bond and those fancy heroines of yours, they seem to like the exotic backgrounds," Russell told him.

The assignment was a nod to Fleming's mastery of rollicking tales set in far-flung locales; a recipe that helped to keep his work on the bestseller lists for decades. Although the author claimed he was the "world's worst sightseer", he set out on a voyage that took in 14 cities across Asia, North America and Europe. On his return, he chronicled his experiences with the sharp prose of a thriller writer in a series of articles from late January 1960, which later appeared in a travelogue entitled *Thrilling Cities* (1963).

Some novels, such as *On the Road* (1957) by Jack Kerouac, are about the journey. Others, including those by Fleming, use location to colour their stories: a compelling backdrop to tales of murder, mayhem and intrigue. They transport us, tapping into our curiosity about the unfamiliar. As Fleming wrote: "All my life, I have been interested in adventure and abroad. I have enjoyed the frisson of leaving the wide, well-lit streets and venturing up back-alleys in search of the hidden, authentic pulse of towns. It was perhaps this habit that turned me into a writer of thrillers."

Exotic holidays are on standby for moment, of course, but thrilling yarns in magnificent settings can help us to recapture those days of sunny respite in heady destinations. With that in mind, here are some suggestions.

### AGATHA CHRISTIE ▲

*Murder on the Orient Express* (1934) opens on cold railway station platform in Syria's Aleppo before following Hercule Poirot in his journey to Istanbul and onto the Simplon Orient Express. Christie adopts a travelogue style to open the novel, as if she is recounting an archaeological expedition with her husband, Max. The train travels north carrying a jumble of luggage and cosmopolitan passengers, creating a shifting backdrop until it grinds to a halt in a Croatian blizzard with the discovery of a body in an opulent carriage. The uneasy company of strangers in distant lands is a recurring theme in Christie's novels – along with a dollop of murder and cultural stereotyping – whether her characters are on an aircraft (*Death in the Clouds*, 1935), or cruising the Nile in a steamboat (*Death on the Nile*, 1937).

Continued on page 12 →

# Sunday Travel

→ Continued from page 11

## ERNEST HEMINGWAY ▶

Cojimar, a coastal backwater about 10km from the old centre of Havana, is now a literary landmark thanks to Hemingway. It is the setting of a battle between a local fisherman and a marlin in *The Old Man and the Sea* (1952). Everything is at stake: pride, faith, life and death. But the novel is also a love letter to Cuba, the author's home for 20 years. Similarly evocative, *For Whom the Bell Tolls* (1940) is rich in Moorish culture and landscapes, and sculpted from the author's time spent as a journalist in Spain covering the civil war. In *Hills Like White Elephants* (1927), the characters are unnamed, but the hot, stifling valley setting in a junction somewhere between Madrid and Barcelona tells us all we need to know.



Cuba, right, was Hemingway's home for 20 years



ROSS HELEN; LOIC VENANCE; CHRISTOPHER POLK; ROBERT BURNS; ALAMY; GETTY

## JOHN GRISHAM ▶

Most at home in America's southern Bible Belt states, Grisham spins nail-biting yarns that begin to unfold on Mississippi's sun-scorched prairies, or at an all-night petrol station in Tallahassee, before moving swiftly to the White House – all beneath the shadow of corruption and racial disharmony.

Grisham's prose swells and his character arcs develop when he moves out of his comfort zone and into less familiar settings, such as a cabin overlooking the Caribbean waters of Charlotte Amalie harbour (*The Pelican Brief*, 1992), in the US Virgin Islands, or the colonial architecture of Senegal's ocean-fringed Saint-Louis (*The Rooster Bar*, 2017). In *The Broker* (2005), protagonist Joel Backman – a boorish Washington power broker who ended up in jail – is spirited out of America and into Italy. There he must learn how to blend into the backstreets of Bologna.



Grisham set his 2017 novel *The Rooster Bar* in Saint-Louis in Senegal, right



## RICHARD RUSSO

Russo's novels rarely stray far from America's eastern seaboard. In some of his finest work, we discover characters languishing in a quintessential American nowhere town. It is upstate New York in *Bridge of Sighs* (2007) and *Nobody's Fool* (2016). It is Maine in the Pulitzer prize-winning *Empire Falls* (2001), where unassuming protagonist Miles Roby toils at a restaurant but with one eye on an escape route as a bookshop owner in Martha's Vineyard. In the sand dune and seagull location of Cape Cod, Russo's characters connect to their pasts: Jack Griffin looks at ties to his parents and their urns (*That Old Cape Magic*, 2009); and three ageing college buddies finally lay a ghost to rest (*Chances Are*, 2019).

## PATRICIA HIGHSMITH

In *The Talented Mr Ripley* (1955), Ripley sails for Europe from Manhattan with trepidation – the honking horns, neon lights and hurried pace hinting that he is about to lose something of himself. He arrives in the fictional, beachfront village of Mongibello by bus from Naples. The setting is full-on Vespa Italy, long before mass tourism raised prices and lowered expectations. A new, suave Ripley is born and comes of age after a deadly gamble in San Remo when he consumes his companion's identity. He stays in Rome, travels to Sicily and lingers at the Tate Gallery in London, Place Vendôme in Paris, and in cafe society in Salzburg throughout *Ripley Under Ground* (1970)



The Louvre Pyramid in Paris, below, pops up in Brown's bestseller

and *Ripley's Game* (1974). Heady Athens is Highsmith's setting for *The Two Faces of January* (1964) while Tunisia is the backdrop to *The Tremor of Forgery* (1969).

## DAN BROWN

Brown's serial protagonist, Professor Robert Langdon, bolts around European landmarks like an overexcited Instagrammer, outwitting his enemies aided only by a beautiful, intelligent sidekick, a cryptic puzzle decoder, and his tweed jacket. It is Harry Potter for grown-ups, with well-thought-out plotlines and captivating settings. *The Da Vinci Code* (2003) created a cottage industry in Paris: tour guides escort visitors through the scenes depicted in the novel, such as a sundial at the Church of Saint-Sulpice, and the



Louvre Pyramid. The nave of London's Westminster Abbey also makes an appearance. In *Angels & Demons* (2000), Langdon travels to the Vatican and across the Tiber to the Pantheon, as we cling on to his tweedy coat-tails.

## COLM TÓIBÍN

In a story that straddles two continents, the heroine of *Brooklyn* (2009) has to choose between life in New York, with its department stores, ice cream on sunny Coney Island and husband Tony, and the Co Wexford that she sees in a new light, courtesy of handsome Jim Farrell. For a finish it is the local gossipmonger that simplifies her decision. *The Master* (2004) is partly set in Rye, a quaint town in England with soft East Sussex beaches. Set in the final years in the life of the great American writer Henry James, the book sweeps through Rye, London and post-famine Ireland – occasionally darting back to Newport, Rhode Island.

## JOHN BOYNE

Much like Highsmith's Ripley, barman Maurice Swift thrives and travels on the spoils of a companion in Boyne's *A Ladder to the Sky* (2018). From their first encounter in West Berlin, Swift draws in author Erich Ackermann and becomes the lonely man's travelling companion. They visit the fairy-tale Frederiksborg Castle in Denmark and Ackermann watches tourists make their way over Montportvejen bridge while Swift takes

notes on his life. The seduction and literary theft weaves its way through Madrid, Rome, New York and Paris, and leads Swift to the Swallow's Nest – a villa perfectly perched on the Amalfi Coast, where writer Gore Vidal sees through the facade. Boyne's novels can transcend timelines and locations, as happens in *A Traveller at the Gates of Wisdom* (2020) where his characters hop through centuries and continents.

## DAVID NICHOLLS

*One Day* (2009) is Nicholls's tale of Dexter and Emma: a slow burn, bittersweet love story that starts in Edinburgh, curls around Rome, Paris and the Dodecanese, Islands, and spans 20 years before settling at Belsize Park, London. Dexter sends Emma postcards throughout, but having read their compact content, she decides he will never match the great travel writer Bruce Chatwin. Nicholls, like his favourite holiday author Ian Fleming, uses location to help to propel plot and character. In *Us* (2014), the televised version of which has just finished a run on the BBC, we follow an anxiety-fuelled family rail trip across Amsterdam, Paris, Venice and Barcelona. It is a last-ditch effort by a neurotic man to cling onto the love of his wife and son in the chaos of travel.

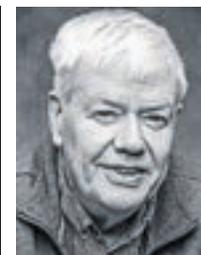
## MAEVE BINCHY

Binchy uses relocation to a new setting as a vehicle for change, escape and metamorphosis; a way to bury

present-day demons, or to confront the past. *Tara Road* (1999) tells the story of two women who swap homes to flee their circumstances on two sides of the Atlantic. Ria leaves Tara Road in Dublin to escape from a broken marriage and travels to New England. Marilyn travels to Ireland to get lost in the city and Ria's backstory and forget her own. In *Nights of Rain and Stars* (2004), four strangers including an Irish nurse reveal secrets in a tavern overlooking a pretty Greek bay. They become close to each other after witnessing a tragedy when a pleasure steamer catches fire in the harbour.

## JOHN LE CARRÉ

There is a good reason why some novels by le Carré whisk readers away from grey skies and ashen faces to locations that pulsate with energy and colour. The author, aka David Cornwell, travels extensively with a journal, recording the sights, scents and sounds to use later. An arid Nairobi and Lake Turkana form the backdrop of *The Constant Gardener* (2001), which begins in January with the delivery of brutal news to a British diplomat and the complication of a corrupt pharmaceutical industry. In contrast, *The Night Manager* (1993) starts in Zurich on a snowy January evening during the early days of the Gulf war and sweeps through Cairo, Quebec and the Bahamas with a plot to foil an arms dealer.



The protagonists in MacLaverly's *Midwinter Break* go for a nocturnal ramble through the red-light district in Amsterdam, left

## BERNARD MACLAVERTY

Ageing Irish couple Gerry and Stella leave their Victorian house in Glasgow for a short trip to Amsterdam in *Midwinter Break* (2017), packing a lifetime of emotional baggage that simmers quietly below the surface. Gerry's weakness for Dutch courage (Jameson) creates a wedge between them, as does a shared traumatic past. The itinerary, which includes a ramble through the red-light district, the Rijksmuseum and a visit to Anne Frank's house, detonates the underlying discord between the couple. The story climaxes in a snowstorm at the airport; a signpost that this break is more than a vacation.

## JOHN STEINBECK

Steinbeck's *Travels with Charley: In Search of America* (1962) is an ode to the great American landscape; the constant backdrop to his novels set throughout the 20th century. It is a road-trip travelogue from the Atlantic coast to the Pacific coast. In *The Grapes of Wrath* (1939), the banks have driven a family from the agricultural heartland of Oklahoma to a drought-stricken region. Salinas Valley in California, with the Pacific Ocean-ridged Monterey Bay, is the setting for *East of Eden* (1952), *Of Mice and Men* (1937), *Tortilla Flat* (1935) and *Cannery Row* (1945).

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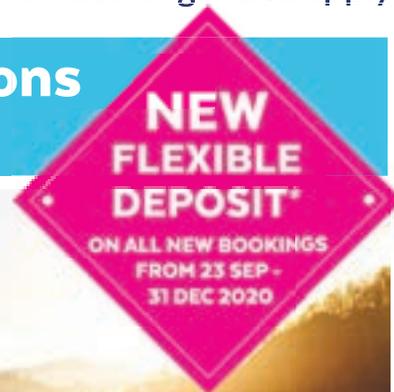
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# Sunday Travel

JORDAN ROSENZONAR/ALAMY

## INTO THE BIG EMPTY



Chris and his team, left, in Vatnajökull National Park and at an old whaling vessel, below right; on the way to Mjoifjordur, below



Iceland's interior is starkly beautiful and almost completely deserted, as the photographer and film-maker *Chris Burkard* discovered when he led a ground-breaking 965km cycle across it

Iceland has such a hold on me; I've been 43 times. Last year I raced 1,287.5km by bike around its famous Ring Road, which was incredible, but I kept wondering what was beyond the tarmac. I wanted to see the country's less accessible landscape in the interior – what locals call “The Big Empty”.

I worked with Snorri Thor, an Icelandic cartographer, and together we devised a 965.6km route. He had no idea whether we'd get through because we'd be using tracks designed for Jeeps that are only passable at certain times of the year. No one had tried something like this on a bike.

There were four of us on the team, including Emily Batty – an Olympic cyclist who should have been competing in Tokyo this year – her brother, Eric, and her husband and coach, Adam Morka. I would be shooting a film of our

adventure. We were almost a year into planning when the world shut down. Surprisingly the Icelandic government honoured our filming permits, so suddenly there was a small window of opportunity in mid-August. I had to make the most of it.

Arriving in Iceland about a week before we were due to set off on the challenge, we cleared our Covid tests, rebuilt our bikes and waited for a weather window. We had to carry all our kit, so the bikes weighed about 40kg with luggage – and that was after stripping everything down to the bare minimum.

We made our way to Dalatangi, in the far east of the country, to a bright orange lighthouse on the edge of a fjord. When the support car left us and we retired to our cabin for the night, we started to feel such anticipation that we couldn't sleep at all.

The landscape changed

dramatically throughout the trip. We started at lush-green Mjoifjordur fjord with waterfalls cascading down the valley. After we left Hallormsstadur National Forest, we had a steep ascent. It was a killer to pedal up, but once we reached the top we were officially in Iceland's interior and didn't see another person for eight days.

It was here that the paved roads stopped and became a mixture of sand and gravel. Sometimes the tracks just faded away altogether – an indication of how infrequently people come here.

“  
We'd have to wade through 1.5-metre-deep freezing water

The scenery is black and volcanic with dark, polished rocks and rivers that are bright powder blue with glacial silt, plus volcanic ash so fine it's like dust. We'd see raging sandstorms 80km away in the distance. Beautiful, yes, as long as you're not too near; the sand gets into your eyes, nose and every inch of your bike when you're cycling.

Iceland's central highlands are so moon-like, Nasa used them to test the lunar rover. This is as close to the moon as you can experience on Earth – and it felt inhospitable. The rocks are easily sharp enough to puncture your tyres and cracks in the ground revealed bubbling water that smelt strongly of sulphur.

Our days started at 6am. Dusting a thin layer of frost from our sleeping bags and eyelashes, we'd set off early to beat the wind and cross rivers while they were still frozen. Later in the day riverbeds

would swell with water from the glacier and become almost impassable. The river crossings were the worst bit of the trip. We'd have to wade through 1.5-metre-deep freezing water with all our gear on our backs – it was pretty terrifying. However, there was nothing like finishing a day of really punishing riding by relaxing our muscles in a piping-hot thermal pool before curling up in our sleeping bags in a mountain hut.

There was a lot that could have gone wrong with our bikes. We brought sewing kits for our tyres and tools to fix small mechanical failures, but we were lucky with the weather and our equipment. We planned for the worst, but by the final day we were cycling along and grinning, reflecting that it had gone better than we could possibly have hoped.

That final day, though, travelling through

the Westfjords, proved the most punishing. There was rain at the top of the mountain passes, plus thick fog and a strong headwind in the valleys. Sensible eating had gone out of the window – I was chomping through chocolate bars – and the mental stress and fatigue were extreme.

Finally we got to Bjartangar, the sea cliffs on the westernmost tip of Iceland – and met the first other tourists of the trip. Such normality seemed surreal.

I'm already planning another Iceland adventure. Next time I want to cross from the north to the south – in winter.

For more pictures of Chris's Iceland traverse and other adventures, find him on Instagram at @chrisburkard. Chris spoke to Katie Gatens



# Sunday Travel

After four cramped and anxious months cooped up in a Washington flat, I've rarely craved the release of a holiday more. My girlfriend and I chose the most remote, most conservative, least virus-stricken corner of America that we could feasibly drive to: the North Georgia mountains. We hoped this unknown terrain might act as a much-needed escape valve.

We ended up in Blue Ridge, an old mining stop turned destination town that abuts the beginning of the Appalachian Trail, which runs to Maine via 13 other states. This is the America where, to misquote Barack Obama, people cling to God, guns and brisket, and every third building is a hokey Southern Baptist church, a barbecue shack or a juicy peach stall.

The North Georgia mountains are a place to hike, cycle, sail, swim, raft, grill and drink, preferably in that order. To sit on the deck of your cabin and absorb salmon-coloured sunsets with a cold apple cider, or blitz around lakes on a pontoon boat trailing desperate tubers in your wake. To drive a tank, catch a fish, shoot a gun, spot a bear, save your soul and experience that mythical "real" America you may have seen on Louis Theroux's *Weird Weekends* or read about from JD Vance but never quite braved yourself. It's a giant adults' playground just two hours north of the world's busiest passenger airport, Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson. North Georgia won't be for everyone, but if you like your holidays bucolic and spiked with a dose of moonshine, then give it a go.

It's pretty affordable too. After a long confinement, our pod of six decided to treat ourselves to the most decadent cabin we could find: a four-bedroom, two-storey cavern perched on the edge of a nameless mountain outside of Blue Ridge, with wraparound decks, an alfresco fireplace and a commodious hot tub perfect for a sundowner or three (afternoons can be misty in the mountains, but the sunsets are pellucid). We used Mountain Top Cabin Rentals, whose properties are tastefully renovated with the bare minimum of taxidermy.

It was suggested to me, before embarking on the long drive to Blue Ridge, that our escape to Appalachia was a little, well, random. Other, ritzier friends were summering and sheltering in the Hamptons, or on Nantucket, or along the coast of Maine, which all sounded perfectly charming and perfectly predictable. Sometimes, though, particularly at the moment, I think, it's appealing to visit a place you will never see pop up on the Instagram circuit, and in this case to experience an America that's as foreign to most of my friends in DC and New York as it was to our crew of wide-eyed Brits. That's North Georgia.

We spent the first couple of days exploring the town of Blue Ridge itself, which is a rare success story in a generally downtrodden region. Some 22 years ago a local entrepreneur restarted the town's old mining train as a scenic railway running from Blue Ridge through the Appalachian foothills all the way to Copperhill, just over the border in Tennessee. What came next were tourists and wealthy weekenders from Atlanta, Chattanooga and beyond.

Restaurants, bars and luxury cabins followed and the town is now just the right side of touristy, mixing bluegrass bars and southern cafés with chichi wine stores and a first-rate second-hand bookshop. There I picked up *England and*



# GEOORGIA ON MY MIND

Josh Glancy swaps the claustrophobia of life in the US capital for a cabin in the mountains in the Deep South



*the English* by Price Collier, one of those self-serious early-20th-century travelogues written by an Ivy League flâneur on a posh inter-railing trip.

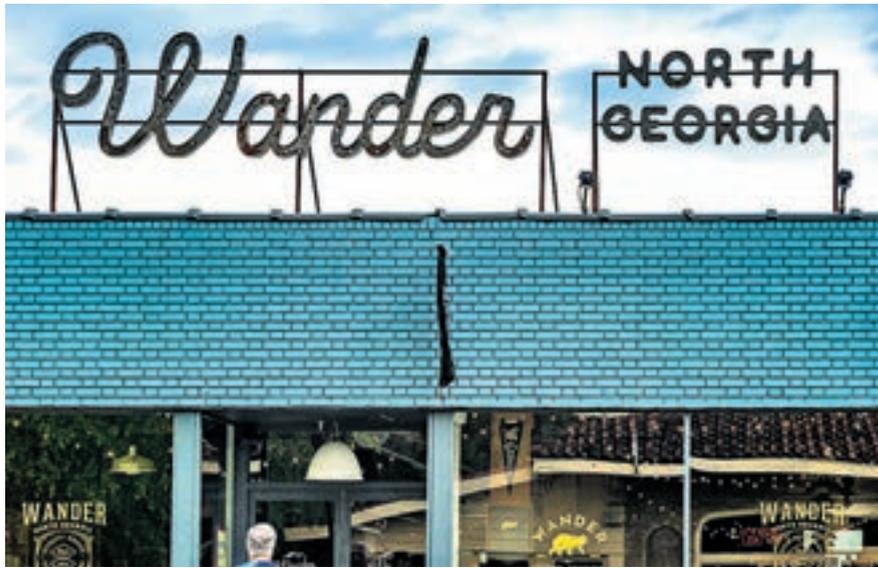
"Are the English dull?" asked one particularly whimsical chapter. (Answer: No, apparently. Our stolid nature is redeemed by a "highly developed sense of humour".)

In the rural South, sticking to local delicacies is your best gastronomic bet. I'd travel most of the way back to Blue Ridge for another plate of the shrimp and grits at Harvest on Main, and the rest of the way for another dose of the biscuits with apple butter and fried green tomatoes at Southern Charm. The best dinners, though, took place on our candlelit terrace, perched on the mountainside overlooking North Carolina, where we made our own foray into slow-cooked ribs and successfully

pulled off a crawfish boil, which involves pouring a vast pile of steaming crawdaddies straight on to the newspaper-clad table, along with corn-on-the-cob, potatoes, Andouille sausage and a heap of cayenne pepper. The boil is about as visceral as eating gets, leaving you melting in a satisfied puddle of sweat, spice and corn husks.

Fannin County, in which the town of Blue Ridge is situated, is a place of intense faith and was entirely "dry" until a few years ago, meaning you couldn't buy alcohol at a store. But don't let that deceive you into expecting a sober holiday. From Granddaddy Mimm's 140-proof "mule kickin'" corn whiskey (don't expect to function the next day) to the sandpaper-dry cider at Mercier Orchards, the drinking is just as fervent as the praying here. Another essential stop is the Grumpy Old Men brewery, where one can happily while away a long afternoon savouring its lethal Grasshoppa IPA. Less appealing, however, is the local wine. I loved the idea of visiting an Appalachian vineyard, but after trying a couple of recent vintages (blackberry, peach, apple, all the fruits), I discreetly found my way back to the brewery.

Once we'd exhausted the pleasures of



## TRAVELLING TO THE USA WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

### Can we visit for a holiday?

The Irish government has advised against all foreign travel for the next number of weeks at least. The US authorities have also made it clear that anyone who has been to Ireland, the UK, the Schengen zone, Iran, Brazil or China within the previous 14 days will not be permitted entry. You can book for next year, however. Aer Lingus, for example, has deals from €147 one way for travel between April and June 2021. Unlimited changes are allowed or business-class travellers

can get a refund if they decide not to go.

### When will things change?

The best hope, says Jonathan Sloan of Visit USA, is the opening of a travel corridor between cities such as London and New York. Intended to expedite business travel, it could also be used for that shopping trip on 5th Avenue and onward travel within America.

### Will the US election help?

A Biden win is unlikely to bring about change: the Democrat candidate has been quiet on the

matter, but his campaign manager said in April that he "supports travel bans guided by medical experts".

### Are holidays deals on sale for 2021?

Tour America has breaks to Orlando from €380pp next May based on two adults and two children sharing. Other US specialists such as Trailfinders, American Sky and Kuoni are taking bookings, but since all departures depend on the lifting of restrictions you should make sure changes are allowed and double-check the guarantee.

Blue Ridge, we wandered farther afield, hiking Springer Mountain (1,150 metres), the first peak on the Appalachian trail, and talking idly of conquering the track's entire 3,525km. Instead we got enticed by one of the few road signs not advertising Jesus or tactical weaponry and ended up at Tank Town USA, motto: Drive Tanks. Crush Cars. (And, for extra kicks, fire a machinegun too.)

Arriving at this Appalachian Disney, I was somewhat crudely expecting a rusting Sherman tank and a surfeit of *Team America*-style machismo. Instead we met the thoughtful owner, Todd, a merchant navy veteran with a penchant for 1960s British armoured personnel carriers and a surprisingly international clientele.

Up before us for the "crush a car with your tank" experience was a wealthy German family from Miami, whose summer trip to a French chateau had been cancelled because of the 'rona. Once he'd finished drone-filming his sullen teenage kids obliterate a rusty Ford, Alex meandered over for a chat. "It must be fun to get your hands on a real British tank," he ventured gamely. We bit our tongues.

It's worth noting for a moment that it's not all fun and fly-fishing in Fannin County. Blue Ridge may have come up in the world, but the surrounding countryside is still poor, ravaged by drug addiction and pervasive economic malaise. The profusion of Confederate flags in the area is a stark reminder of the darker historical currents that flow through this region. Fannin favoured the Union during the American Civil War, but now the rebel cross flies all over the county, an act of southern defiance and, all too often, racial tribalism. The locals are friendly, but a little suspicious. I quickly learnt to tell them I grew up in Britain, where many had ancestors, rather than share my present home, Washington, which might as well be Gomorrah.

After the triumph of Tank Town, and



**Main shot: Lake Chatuge, near Hiwassee; below left: the Blue Ridge Scenic Railway. Left, Wander North Georgia store in Clayton, in Blue Ridge Mountains**



yearning for yet more horsepower, we drove to Hiwassee and took a speedboat out on Lake Chatuge. It's taken me a few years to realise it, but lakes and lake life are really America's hidden superpower, the perfect expression of this nation's unparalleled ability to bend nature to its will.

The decks, boats, piers and pontoons, the flotillas of teenagers getting steaming drunk in the coves, the wakeboarders and jet skis ripping across the waves, the quaint cabins and hulking McMansions dotted along the shore: Chatuge on a sunlit Saturday is a near-flawless day out. It ended with fried pickles and a yardbird sandwich at the Marina Station, watching one last sunset over the lake and listening to a guitar minstrel sink his soul into Old Crow Medicine Show's perennial *Wagon Wheel*. I've rarely felt more content.

For all its eccentricities, I've found myself pining for North Georgia in recent weeks. Twelve days there was a voyage that genuinely took me outside of myself, outside of suffocating, mask-haunted DC, beyond the genteel cosmopolitan bubble and into a strange and fortifying land.

Josh Glancy was a guest of Explore Georgia ([exploregeorgia.org](http://exploregeorgia.org))

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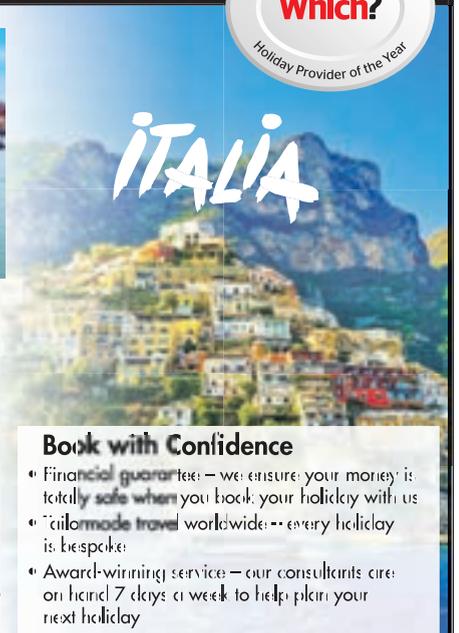
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BRIAN LAWLESS/PA WIRE

# Post-pandemic policies will make our cities slicker

There is much speculation about how urban spaces will look on the other side of the pandemic

As Ireland's empty urban centres start to re-fill, experts believe Covid has sparked a drive to make our streets smarter, cleaner and greener, writes *Graeme Lennox*

23

**GADGET FIX**  
HARLEY-DAVIDSON'S  
E-BIKE GETS SET TO  
HIT THE HIGHWAYS



**R**eports of the death of cities have been wildly exaggerated, according to speakers at last week's City Summit.

A precursor to December's Web Summit, the virtual tech conference was a chance for political leaders, policy-makers and tech entrepreneurs to discuss how they envisage the cities of the future. With lockdowns

driving people out of business districts and office blocks, the focus shifted from how cities can be made more accommodating to speculation about how our urban spaces will look on the other side of the pandemic.

In late March, millions of employees switched to remote working, while shops and cultural institutions closed their doors. But recent traffic measurements indicate a resurgence of activity in

metropolitan areas. According to the Central Statistics Office, the volume of cars in Irish cities was returning to pre-pandemic levels before last month's decision to move to level five restrictions.

Traffic volumes were 26% lower in Dublin during September and 19% lower in the regions than the same period last year, while the number of lorries on roads actually increased. The pace of recovery for use of private

transport far outstripped that for use of public transport, which remained 50% lower than in 2019.

"There's a narrative about vacant office spaces and this notion of the end of cities," says Micah Kotch, managing director of Urban-X, which advises tech start-ups on innovation in an urban setting. "I don't know that the data necessarily backs that up. The way we work will change. A lot of people have realised

that they can be productive working from home, but I certainly don't think that cities are over by any stretch of the imagination."

Technology has played a crucial role in enabling millions of employees to work remotely during the crisis, with video calls taking over from face-to-face meetings and messaging services such as Slack keeping communication lines open. People have

**Continued on page 20 →**

“

Just like any other disaster, it accelerates change that has been needed for a long time

→ Continued from page 19  
flocked to social media and the internet to make connections; dating apps such as Tinder have flourished.

City centres may not have the same draw they once held, but author Derek Thompson says they are the “children of catastrophe”. Writing in *The Atlantic* last month, he said: “Comforts and infrastructure we take for granted were born of age-old afflictions: fire, flood, pestilence. Our tall buildings, our subways, our subterranean conduits, our systems for bringing water in and taking it away, our building codes and public-health regulations – all were forged in the aftermath of urban disasters by civic leaders and citizen visionaries.”

One side effect of the changes in our daily routines brought on by the pandemic has been the improvement in

17,000

Number of electric vehicles on Irish roads

26%

Rate traffic volumes were down in Dublin in September

urban air quality. While researchers from Harvard University produced a study showing a link between particulate levels and Covid-19 death rates, data from the European Space Agency shows a reduction in industrial activity has led to a drastic cut in levels of nitrogen dioxide in the air over European cities.

Kotch is confident there will be a collective response to reduce levels of pollution. “We’ve seen an explosion in the popularity of e-bikes and e-scooters, fractional car ownership and bike lanes,” he says. “Now more than ever we need to think about our cities as holistic systems in need of new solutions if we’re going to hit our net zero targets.”

In Paris, where mayor Anne Hidalgo has introduced policies to promote pedestrianisation and public transport, use of private vehicles fell from 44% to 35% between 1999 and 2016. Now, Hidalgo wants to

rebrand the French capital as *La Ville du Quart d’Heure* (quarter-hour city). The “15-minute Paris scheme”, aims to decarbonise the economy by prioritising bike lanes and public transport and encouraging Parisians to take journeys of no longer than 15 minutes to get to work or take their children to school.

Here, ambitious climate action plans to ensure one million electric vehicles on the roads by 2030 have been called into question. According to the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland, by August this year there were about 17,000 electric vehicles on the road. There is much scepticism about whether the 2030 goal can be achieved.

German tech multinational Siemens is developing advanced traffic management systems that will optimise traffic flow through smart cities of the future. While electrification will play a key role in improving urban air quality, there is concern that the incentives being used to make electric vehicle (EV) ownership more attractive are only benefiting better-off sections of society.

“It’s a regressive form of promotion because you’re essentially taxing the base in order to give an incentive to EV owners who right now are high-income earners,” says Judy Martinez-Faye from Siemens. “The vast majority of that benefit goes to a population that does not need that sort of incentive.”

“Covid-19 has decimated public transportation systems in our cities. People are getting back into the safe haven of their single-occupancy vehicles and treating buses and trains as if they were petri dishes of disease.”

Whatever mode of transport is used, Martin Powell, chief sustainability officer at Siemens, says people will always want to congregate in cities because there is “value in proximity”.

“Cities provide shelter, prosperity, culture, and of course innovation,” he says. “Covid has tested that proximity, but just like any other disaster, it accelerates change that has been needed for a long time. Cities will once again thrive and grow, they will come back cleaner, safer, more resilient and more equitable. This battle is our greatest yet, and it will be won or lost in our cities.”

*The Web Summit takes place on December 2-4, [websummit.com](http://websummit.com)*

# Club rep runaround becomes full package

Images of holiday workers at Greek resorts may appear when you think of the Suzuki Vitara – but leave those misconceptions about this workhorse at the beach, writes *Graeme Lennox*

**T**ypical. You go a month without driving an SUV and the world falls apart. This year has been brutal in so many respects, and the return to lockdown ushers in yet more confusion and misery, so I’ve been taking small pleasures where I can get them: carving pumpkins with the kids, and experiencing the joy of watching Formula One at Portimao, the Algarve’s wondrously undulating racing circuit, in the first Portuguese Grand Prix for 24 years.

While I’ve enjoyed the brief crossover hiatus, I took great solace from the fact the first one I got back into was that dying breed called the “proper off-roader”. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Suzuki’s 4x4 output, and the Japanese firm is the only brand offering four-wheel drive on every model.

The Vitara gained a reputation as a hairdresser’s car in the 1990s (I’ll always associate them with club reps and Corfu, for some reason) but nothing could be further from the truth. While the vast majority of modern-day crossovers are two-wheel-drive urban-style wagons fit only for the road, the Vitara has always been capable of getting its wheels mucky.

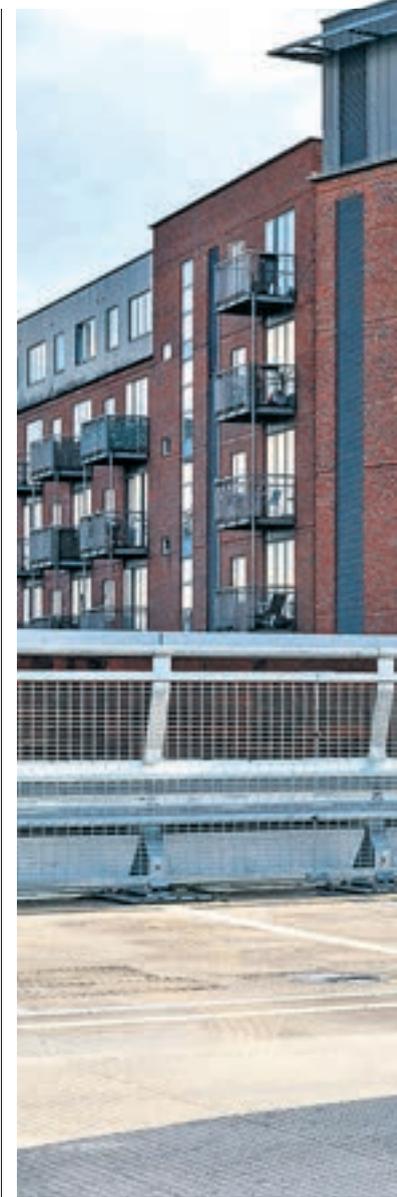
Built at Suzuki’s Magyar plant in Hungary, this was a sub-€20,000 SUV when I last reviewed it in 2015. Times have certainly changed – and so too has the Vitara’s starting price, which has nudged past €23,000.

The latest iteration comes as a mild hybrid, making it more economical and a little quicker off the mark. It combines the Japanese brand’s 1.4-litre BoosterJet petrol engine with a 48-volt mild-hybrid system that is said to cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and improve fuel economy by up to 17%, as well as boosting torque levels. Hybrid models also feature a higher standard specification with the addition of things such as adaptive cruise control and automatic emergency braking. So, while

the price has gone up, you’re still looking at a strong all-round package for bargain-basement money.

Looks-wise, the Vitara doesn’t have the prestige of a Ford Puma or the refinement of a Skoda Kamiq, but it’s an honest workhorse that knows its place in the great SUV pecking order. The hallmark Vitara clamshell bonnet is the main standout feature. Aside from that, there are the usual off-road styling cues, including a gently sloped roofline, upright grille and flat underbody. New LED headlamps and a tweaked bumper freshen things up from the 2019 facelift, which brought improvements on the 2015 model.

Inside, too, there are no delusions of grandeur, with



an analogue cockpit featuring real buttons and a real handbrake – the kind of old-school stuff you miss in modern cars. The instrument dials are nothing special to look at, and some of the plastics on the dash leave a little to be desired, but there is a fancy-looking fascia panel on the passenger side of the dash, which can be specified in a range of bright colours. All in, it’s neat enough and, better still, easy to use.

The one nod to 21st-century tech is the 7in touchscreen, which sits towards the top of the dash and is devoid of physical buttons. Adjusting the volume on the sound system is a particularly frustrating experience; the sliding touch-sensitive strip is so oversensitive, you end up pecking your fingertips against the dead-feeling glass surface.

The cabin itself is reassuringly roomy, with excellent space up front and in the back – plus a well-proportioned, two-level boot for luggage. Fold the rear seats and you’ve got a van-like space for trips to the DIY store.

It’s not often I return from a test drive and reach for a darning needle but, after putting a tear in the cheap seat fabric while trying to get an

“

On the road the Vitara is exactly as you would expect it to be: sturdy and a little rough around the edges





ADAM WARNER



The spacious interior has a good level of equipment considering the price of the Vitara

Isfix child seat mount through the rear doors, I felt like Albert Steptoe getting ready for a hot date.

The Vitara is available in three grades here: SZ4, SZ-T and SZ5. The good news is that standard equipment is generous for the money. SZ4 models get seven airbags including a driver's knee bag, LED projector headlamps, a DAB radio, Bluetooth phone connectivity, autonomous emergency braking, traffic sign recognition, blind-spot

monitor, adaptive cruise control, and automatic air-conditioning. SZ-T models can add 17in wheels, rear privacy glass, smartphone link audio and sat nav to the list. The top-of-the-range SZ5 gets fancier 17in wheels, suede seat upholstery, keyless entry and start, plus a panoramic sunroof.

On the road the Vitara is exactly as you would expect it to be: sturdy and a little rough around the edges. It was faster than I expected, accelerating

from standstill to 100kph in a respectable 9.5 seconds. With 235Nm of torque available from only 2,000rpm, the Vitara has impressive pulling power at low speeds.

The new hybrid powertrain comes into its own in this regard. Consisting of a 48-volt lithium-ion battery, integrated starter generator and 48-volt converter to power the lights, audio and air-conditioning, the integrated starter generator acts as both a starter motor and generator, boosting

## SUZUKI VITARA 1.4 BOOSTERJET HYBRID SZ-T

### Price

€25,745

### Engine

1,373cc

four-cylinder petrol hybrid

### Performance

0 to 100kph in

9.5 secs

### Top speed

190 kph

### Fuel

5.7 litres

per 100km

### CO2

128g

per km

### Road tax

Band B1 (€270 a year)

### Rating

★★★★☆

### Verdict

Vit for purpose

### On sale

Out now

the 1.4-litre petrol engine during take-off.

The Vitara Hybrid uses its electric motor to idle at cruising speeds, disengaging the engine completely at about 1,000rpm to save fuel. The new powertrain adds less than 15kg to the overall weight, and with official fuel economy of 5.7 litres per 100km and emissions of 128g/km, it's a worthwhile addition.

I mentioned previously that the Vitara is not especially big

on refinement, and there's a substantial amount of wind noise (or lack of insulation) at motorway cruising speeds. It's by no means distracting, but you do notice the difference when transitioning from something such as a Puma.

Features such as blind-spot monitoring and rear cross-traffic alert are handy for keeping you out of trouble, especially now the road-going public have so much on their minds. Adaptive cruise control is great for taking some of the

load on long journeys: choose your personal speed limit and the Vitara will keep a safe distance from the car in front.

The six-speed manual gearbox is a little on the agricultural side, with a notchy action and a long throw. The 4x4 system is not only for show. Available on SZ5 models it prioritises two-wheel-drive by default to save fuel, but monitors the road ahead and allocates torque to the rear wheels before any slippage can occur.

Overall the Vitara weighs only 1,205kg in standard two-wheel-drive form, with an extra 70kg in 4x4 Allgrip guise. That makes it one of the lightest 4x4s on the road, something that is reflected in the low CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, decent real-world fuel economy and surprisingly fun driving. Four driving modes are available: Auto, Sport, Snow and Lock, which cause the limited-slip differential to transfer torque to the wheels with grip, and brake any slipping wheels. Hill-descent control automatically applies the brakes on downward slopes.

The Vitara is one of those cars that builds a loyal following while quietly going about its business. It won't make a song and dance, but it's sure to win plenty of admirers along the way.



**Bucket List Galapagos**



## Ultra Luxury Galapagos

9 nights - 13th & 27th November 2021

*The Galapagos Islands are a fantastic place. Truly a unique environment where every single moment that you spend ashore is an example of evolution in practice.*

### Includes:

- ✓ All flights from Dublin to Galapagos plus all transfers
- ✓ 2 nights in hotel in Quito, Ecuador with Night Tour of city
- ✓ Use of post-cruise day room before flight to Dublin
- ✓ 7 nights onboard the brand new 6★ Silver Origin
- ✓ Spacious suite with butler service
- ✓ Guided Zodiac, land and sea tours, and shoreside activities
- ✓ Highly qualified expedition team with experts in their field
- ✓ Excursions and activities, including explorations by Zodiac
- ✓ Inclusive room-service, select wines, spirits and soft drinks throughout the ship ✓ National Park fees
- ✓ Choice of restaurants, diverse cuisine, open-seating dining
- ✓ Gratuities always included ✓ Unlimited free WiFi
- ✓ Complimentary Expedition Gear ✓ 20kg Check-in bag pp

## Brand New 6★ Silver Origin

*The first destination specific ship built by Silversea, Silver Origin is the height of experiential travel in the Galapagos. Never before have the islands been so superbly presented: a team of Ecuadorian national expert guides, the highest crew-to-guest ratio in the Galapagos, 8 Zodiacs, seamless hybrid spaces that offer an extraordinary voyage – for extraordinary people. All-suite accommodation, Horizon Balconies, butler service, sophisticated interiors, interactive basecamp, Ecuadorian inspired cuisine ... no aspect of Silver Origin has been left to chance.*

### Itinerary:

- Quito, Ecuador (hotel) x2 • Baltra, Galapagos • Daphne Major • Prince Philip's Steps • Darwin Bay • North Seymour • Punta Moreno • Fausto Llerena Breeding Center, Puerto Ayora • Isla Santa Fé • Gardner Bay • Punta Suarez • Rodriguez Breeding Centre • Cerro Brujo • San Cristobal

**Special Offer:** Book now for \$1000 on board spend  
Classic Veranda Suite from €8,530pp

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**Dream Galapagos Cruise**



## Galapagos Flora

10 nights - 3rd September 2021

*The inspiration for Darwin's Theory of Evolution, the Galapagos host an incredible array of extraordinary wildlife; on land, sea and air!*

### Includes:

- ✓ All flights from Dublin to Baltra, Galapagos via Quito
- ✓ All overseas transfers airport - hotel - port
- ✓ 3 nights in the JW Marriott hotel in Quito, Ecuador
- ✓ City Tour of Quito, Ecuador
- ✓ 7 nights onboard the brand new 5★ Celebrity Flora
- ✓ Superb dining on a full board basis & onboard drinks
- ✓ Twice-daily shore excursions included
- ✓ Use of equipment including snorkelling equipment, mini wetsuits, binoculars and hiking sticks
- ✓ Daily briefing by Galapagos National Park certified
- ✓ Expedition Leader & onboard lectures by Galapagos experts
- ✓ Gratuities included ✓ Galapagos fees included
- ✓ Wifi onboard ✓ 20kg Check-in bag per person

## The 5★ Celebrity Flora

*Celebrity Flora marks an evolutionary turning point in the approach to ship design, featuring an innovative outward-facing design that makes the destination the centre of attention. By focusing the direction of spaces outward at every opportunity, we virtually erase the boundaries between ship and destination. Join us onboard the most state-of-the-art ship to ever sail the Galapagos Islands.*

### Itinerary:

- Quito, Ecuador (hotel) x2 • Baltra, Galapagos • Daphne Island • Puerto Egas • Rabida • Elizabeth Bay • Caleta Tagus • Sullivan Bay • Bartolome • Las Bachas • North Seymour • Puerto Baquerizo Moreno • Punta Pitt • Puerto Ayora • Baltra • Quito, Ecuador (hotel)

*Seamlessly blending indoor and outdoor living the Sky Suite with Infinite Balcony allows you to walk right to the water's edge for a greater connection to the sea and the islands.*

Sky Suite with Infinity Balcony from €11,099pp



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# Sunday InGear

Get your thrills on a Harley-Davidson e-bike, make music on a mini synth inspired by a classic video game, power up a smartphone packed with cool features and take singing in the shower to the next level

## Gadget fix

GADGET OF THE WEEK



### SERIAL THRILLER

**Serial 1**  
American motorcycle firm Harley-Davidson has launched a standalone e-bike brand. The Serial 1 Cycle Company has emerged from the company's product development division. Their first offering is this gorgeous-looking prototype e-bike based on Harley's oldest-known motorcycle, the 1903 Serial Number 1. Little is known about the bike apart from the fact it will go on sale in March. It has a mid-mounted motor, belt drive, disc brakes and fat tyres. Meanwhile, the battery is housed discreetly inside the frame and it has integrated lighting. [harley-davidson.com](http://harley-davidson.com)

### FIGHT DUB

#### Teenage Engineering Pocket Operator Capcom Series

Fans of the *Street Fighter* video game series can now jam along to their own battles thanks to this mini synth from Swedish firm Teenage Engineering. Based on the firm's PO-33 micro sampler, the special-edition device comes with 16 soundtracks from the game. The handheld synth has a 40-second sample memory and built-in microphone for instantly sampling ambient sounds. A total of eight melodic sample and drum slots are available, as well as 15 punch-in effects (pun intended) and a step multiplier. **€99, [teenage.engineering](http://teenage.engineering)**



### SONIC BOON

#### Beolit 20

Bang & Olufsen has upgraded its Beolit Bluetooth speaker. Renowned for its room-filling sound, the Beolit 20 has had a few subtle design tweaks and now comes with 30% more battery life. It combines a 5.5in woofer with three 1.5in full-range speakers and a pair of 4in bass radiators to achieve a punchy sound. In addition, two Beolits can be paired for stereo sound. **€500, [bang-olufsen.com](http://bang-olufsen.com)**



### CONNECT FOUR

#### Google Pixel 4a 5G

Launched at the same time as the Pixel 5, Google's 5G version of the 4a is likely to be far less divisive. It lacks the wireless charging, waterproofing and bigger battery of the 5, but costs €130 less. It takes fantastic pictures and has cool features like cinematic panning, Night Sight and astrophotography. The fact you're getting the full Google experience combined with 5G connectivity means you are getting a whole lot of phone for the money. **€490, [google.com](http://google.com)**



### COME FLY WITH ME

#### Klein Vision AirCar

The future of personal transport moved a step closer last week as Klein Vision announced its flying car had completed airport flight testing. The fifth-generation AirCar transforms from a road vehicle into a fully functional plane in less than three minutes. Designer Professor Stefan Klein sees it as the next step in the commercialisation of flying cars and hopes to bring a model to market within six months. The AirCar can reach a top speed of 200kph and is capable of taking off with just 300m of runway. Klein says he already has a buyer for the first model. **[klein-vision.com](http://klein-vision.com)**



### IMMERSE YOURSELF

#### Ampere Shower Power

There are plenty of waterproof Bluetooth shower speakers doing the rounds, but this one has quite the trick up its sleeve. The Shower Power speaker acts like a mini hydroelectric power station for your bathroom. Attach the device to your shower head and water coursing through it moves a tiny turbine in its heart which powers a generator that supplies power to a lithium-ion battery. **€51, [kickstarter.com](http://kickstarter.com)**



from **€1249** pps

## The Charms of Croatia

Explore Krk Island, Plitvice Lakes & the Istrian Peninsula

Travelling : 16 - 23 Sep & 07 - 14 Oct 2021 (8 days)

**Your holiday includes:**

- ✓ Return flights from Dublin to Pula
- ✓ Professional tour manager and executive coach transfers
- ✓ 7 nights 4\* accommodation in Opatija, with breakfast and dinner. Sea view rooms with balcony as standard
- ✓ Great guided excursions to include a guided tour of Opatija, the stunning Istrian Peninsula with visits to the towns of Pula & Rovinj, the beautiful island of Krk where you can try some local Zlahtina wine, the spectacular Plitvice Lakes National Park plus free time to relax by the tranquil waters of the Adriatic coast!



from **€999** pp

## The Culture of Crete

Knossos, Chania & Rethymnon

Travelling : 14 - 21 May & 20 - 27 Sep 2021 (8 days)

**Your holiday includes:**

- ✓ Return flights from Dublin to Chania
- ✓ Professional tour guides and executive coach transfers
- ✓ 7 nights at the 4\* Hydramis Palace in Georgioupolis with breakfast & dinner included
- ✓ Great guided tours including the Palace of Knossos, vibrant Heraklion & the famous Monastery of Arkadi. Visit the well preserved Venetian town of Rethymnon, beautiful Lake Kournas & enchanting Chania. Experience The Orthodox Academy of Crete, Gonia Monastery & the impressive Agia Triada Monastery



from **€1189** pp

## Historical Capitals of Andalucia

Escape to Seville, Granada & Cordoba - No Single Supplement

Travelling : 09 - 16 Apr, 27 Sep - 04 Oct & 15 - 22 Oct 2021 (8 days)

**Your holiday includes:**

- ✓ Return flights from Dublin to Malaga
- ✓ Professional tour manager & executive coach transfers
- ✓ 7 nights 4\* Hotel Principe Sol in Malaga with breakfast & dinner each day (including wine) with NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
- ✓ Great excursions exploring the beautiful city of Seville including visits to Plaza de España, Cathedral & Alcazar. Experience the vibrant city of Granada including the famous Alhambra & Royal Chapel. Also explore historic Cordoba including the Mezquita & enjoy vibrant Malaga



from **€1079** pp

## Magnificent Malta

Explore Valletta, The Three Cities, Gozo & Mdina - No Single Supplement

Travelling : 03 - 10 Mar & 10 - 17 Nov 2021 (8 days)

**Your holiday includes:**

- ✓ Return flights from Dublin to Malta
- ✓ Professional tour manager & executive coach transfers
- ✓ 7 nights at the 4\* Hotel Dolmen, St Paul's Bay with breakfast & dinner daily with NO SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT
- ✓ Wonderful guided excursions to include the fortress city of Valletta, excursion to 3 cities Vittoriosa, Sengles & Cospicua & the beautiful island of Gozo. Visit Marsamxett, Grand Harbour, Marsaxlokk village & the ancient city of Mdina also referred to as 'The Silent City'. You'll also have plenty of time to relax and explore this beautiful region

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from **€1249** pps

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