

# Tralee Times

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Caherslee News

August 2008

## HSE Staff Travel Costs

This includes air travel, mileage allowances and public transport from January 2005 to April 2008

YEAR	AMOUNT
2005	€82,685,000
2006	€85,233,000
2007	€93,397,000
2008	€30,713,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€292,000,000*</b>

**In the past 10 years well over €100 billion has been spent by the HSE but has the service actually improved for all people?**

*\*The figures above have been rounded to the nearest thousand*

## Price of OIL!

On the 30th October 2007 the price of light crude was \$90.38. On July 11th 2008 the price of crude oil per barrel reached a peak of \$147 and today (23rd July 2008) it has fallen back to \$126.30. Last Monday (21st July) it was at \$129.60.

Which way is it going in the short term? And more importantly when will the price fall be reflected at the pumps?

## Minor Works Grants for schools axed this year

The Grant Scheme for Minor Works to National School Properties is commonly known as the Devolved Grant and is spent on schools' physical infrastructure of the school including items of furniture or equipment for educational use including IT related equipment

The Scheme, it has been announced, will be deferred to 2009.

Works covered under the **Minor Works Scheme** include improvements to school buildings and grounds and in 2007 comprised a €27 million payout to schools.

The Government had already abolished the **Summer Works Scheme** and with schools creaking under the weight of lack of investment, is this the beginning of further cuts as the Department of Education seeks to cut its budget by €1 billion.



## Tralee Credit Union nurtures 40 years service with a Garden for Palliative Care

To mark 40 years of financial services to the people of the community, Tralee Credit Union has commissioned the design, construction and planting of a garden for the Palliative Care Centre at Kerry General Hospital.

For more info. visit [www.traleetimes.com](http://www.traleetimes.com)

## Property Tax or Domestic Water Charges or BOTH?

You heard it here first, beware of what's coming—be prepared—you might have thought that 'stealth taxes' had faded into the background, well you're paying them(!) *More to come...?*

This cut and other cuts is a further example of how the most vulnerable in society are the first to suffer in times of so called constraint in the economy.

Let's face it, we have all seen the conditions of some of the schools either first hand or on news items, they are deplorable in many cases. Adult workers would not for one minute work in these conditions. Something must be done and I for one would advocate that parents should remove students for short or prolonged periods from these schools due to the conditions. Teacher unions should also strongly support their members in taking appropriate action. The time for listening to hollow promises is over – action needs to be taken. At the very least, Health and Safety guidelines must be adhered to, remember in poor weather conditions some children have to remain indoors to take their lunch in these conditions!

## World Population

The current estimates suggest that our world population increases by 1.5 million in one week!

## Tralee Times Website

[www.traleetimes.com](http://www.traleetimes.com)

This website includes many useful local and national links for all. We would value your help and input too. Visit and see and Contact Us.

## Child Psychiatric Assessment

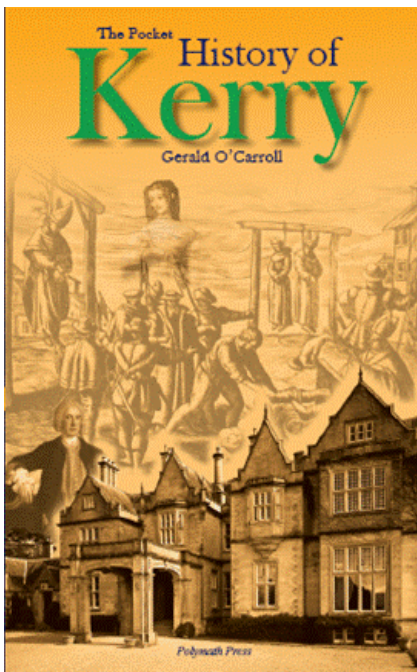
As of today, 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2008 there are 3,598 children and adolescents waiting to be assessed by psychiatrists. This has grown by 465 people, up 15% since April 2006.

Over 1,000 of the 3,600 children waiting to be assessed will have to wait more than one year before being seen. It is also clear that the HSE will have to employ additional staff and resources which are urgently needed to address the backlog.

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The need for a short account of Kerry's history has been recognised for some time, and such an account is made easier by the amount of scholarly research of the last forty years or so. In his **Pocket History of Kerry**

Gerald O'Carroll's approach is to allow the experiences of her leading

families to speak: the Gaelic, Anglo-Norman, Elizabethan and Cromwellian names, like MacCarthy Mór, O'Donoghue, O'Connell, FitzMaurice (earls of Kerry), FitzGerald (knights of Kerry), MacGillycuddy of the Reeks, Hickson, Collis, Denny, Browne (lords Kenmare), and more. Moreover, this book reaches beyond the boundaries of Kerry. Kerry has always colonised and been colonised, the ocean acting more as highway than barrier, to Spain, Jacobite Europe, America and Australia.

There may be a certain independent air about Kerry natives, but this has much to do with the grandeur of their mountain terrain and the incomparable coastline.

The hillside men who agitated against rent and parson's tithe are heirs to the scheming opponents of the Penal Laws, as well as precursors to the more recent republican separatists. There is a long history of assimilating new settlers. If the foreign settlements of historic times were no more than a light scattering of new homesteads – a lighter scattering than elsewhere in Ireland

- this situation no longer holds. Now there are many new races in Kerry, and even the county's famed experience of the tourist phenomenon is no preparation for the latest challenge to assimilate. This book is intended for all the communities of Kerry.

**Gerald O'Carroll is a teacher of history, with experience in Africa, Spain and Saudi Arabia, as well as in Ireland.**

**He is the author of:**

*Mr Justice Robert Day (1746-1841): the Diaries and the Addresses to Grand Juries (1793-1829),*

**Polymath Press 2004,**

**ISBN 0-9547902-0-0.**

**www.justicerobertday.com**

## Energy Price Rise AGAIN - ESB

Yet this company and other energy generators can avail of the € 1.5 windfall profits that is available from the Government's free allocation of carbon emissions allowances over the coming years.

## Cancer death rate drop tied to education levels

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Declines in death rates from the four leading types of cancer in the United States since the early 1990s have been driven largely by progress among college-educated men and women, researchers said on Tuesday.

The study, published in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute, was the latest to illustrate how a person's health can be closely tied to socioeconomic factors such as education and income level.

Researchers at the American Cancer Society and Emory University in Atlanta calculated death rates for lung, breast, prostate and colorectal cancer by level of education among U.S. blacks and whites ages 25 to 64 for 1993 through 2001.

### See full report :

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUKN0830394220080708?feedType=nl&feedName=ukmorningdigest>



The Irish Aid Volunteering and Information Centre highlights the challenges facing developing countries. It is a dynamic environment for individuals and groups to engage with global development and the work of Irish Aid. The Centre is a first port-of-call for those seeking information on the personal contribution they can make to overseas development, including volunteering opportunities.

### Contact details

Irish Aid Volunteering and Information Centre  
27-31 Upper O'Connell Street  
Dublin 1

Telephone: 1890 252 676

[irishaidcentre@dfa.ie](mailto:irishaidcentre@dfa.ie) and [www.irishaid.gov.ie/centre](http://www.irishaid.gov.ie/centre)

## €252 million promised for ICT in Schools

Both Primary and Second Level Education were promised €252 million over 6 years by former Education Minister Hanafin before, during and after the 2007 General Election. Now unlikely to happen!

# Growing Vegetables in Containers



There are a great many of us who would like to produce our own vegetables for use in our own cooking at home but simply do not have the space to do so. This is something that puts many people off growing vegetables and they often find that they spend more money than they need to buying vegetables from their local supermarket which may not have been grown with the same care and attention as can be afforded to the home grown variety. But there is a solution to the problem.

## Growing Vegetables in Containers

Contrary to what a lot of people think it is possible to grow vegetables in containers either in a corner of your garden, a corner of your patio if you have one, or on a window sill should you live in a flat.

## What Kind of Vegetables Can I Grow?

You can grow a variety of vegetables as many of them have what are referred to as 'mini varieties' which have been grown specifically in small places. Such vegetables include :

Runner Beans; Cherry Tomatoes  
Asparagus; Celery; Artichokes  
Spinach; Chard

These are just a few examples of the many different types of vegetable you can grow and your local nursery or garden centre should be able to provide you with an even longer list.

## What Kind of Container Can I Use?

Again this is very much dependent on the amount of space you have to utilise. If you have only a window sill for example then a plastic window box (or wooden one) can be used: this will allow you to utilise the

entire length of the window sill without infringing on your ability to open the windows.

Here are a few examples of what you can use:

### Kitchen Colander

We have at one time or another had a kitchen colander that we have used for straining our vegetables and potatoes et al and have probably replaced it because it has no longer been fit for purpose. Well just because it is no longer fit for the purposes of straining vegetables indoors it does not mean it cannot be used as a means to grow them outdoors. Colanders provide a good amount of space to begin growing your vegetables (or indeed herbs) and also their holes are excellent for the purposes of drainage.

### Terracotta Pots

Terracotta pots work on two levels: they are good for planting miniature vegetables or herbs in and also they provide a pleasing aesthetic to whatever space you have available to use. Terracotta pots are not, contrary to popular belief, particularly expensive so purchasing two or three may be a worth while investment for your small kitchen garden.

### Household Containers

In this age of recycling it is worth looking at your household waste before you recycle it to see if there is anything that may well be useful to grow miniature vegetables and herbs in.

### Receptacles that make good growing containers include:

Paint Pots; Cooking Oil Drums (Catering size); Old Wastepaper Bins  
Plastic Jars; Glass Jars

All of these are items that at some point in time you will no longer have use for so it is worth while to look at them in a different light and perhaps use them to help further your vegetable growing needs. You should also ensure that any pots or cans you use which may have contained products containing chemical residues are thoroughly washed and rinsed before potting.

<http://www.vegetableexpert.co.uk/growing-vegetables-containers.html>

## Seaweed harvest targeted as new biofuel

Piles of bladderwrack washed up on the beach might look uninspiring but Scottish scientists are exploring a range of potential uses for seaweed.

Seaweed already has many uses - in cooking, glue, paint and cosmetics, for example - but it also offers an exciting potential as a biofuel.

The Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) is currently looking into converting it into methane to power everything from cars to central heating systems.

Scotland has a long history of exploiting kelp's biochemical properties (for centuries, it has been used as a fertiliser by the people of the Highlands and Islands wrestling with miserly soil) but with growing concern about finite resources and the search for renewable sources of energy, SAMS is turning its attention to the humble seaweed as a source of fuel.

Their attempts are not without precedent - Japanese researchers have developed a biomass fermentation system that uses seaweed dredged from the shore to produce fuel for generating electricity. The aim is to create the first power plant in the world to run off seaweed as a biofuel.

Operating from its Dunstaffnage marine laboratory north of Oban under the leadership of its director, Professor Graham Shimmiel, SAMS performs a unique combination of roles at the forefront of the emerging marine biology industry in Scotland with 60 doctors of science researching both global warming and potential sources for renewable biofuel energies.

Biofuels are fuels derived from biomass - that is plant material, vegetation, or agricultural waste. Like coal and petroleum, biomass is a form of stored solar energy, the energy being captured through the process of photosynthesis. As well as providing a sustainable energy source, biofuels can also be carbon neutral - releasing into the environment only the carbon dioxide that they have taken from the environment during their growth.

The seaweed project is being led by Dr Symon Dworjanyn, an Australian marine biologist. Dworjanyn said: "Seaweed can grow from a few centimetres to several metres between the winter and late spring. Scotland is the epicentre for large kelps in the UK and there is real potential they could produce either methane or ethanol."

[http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/sedotcom\\_home/services\\_to\\_business\\_international/gc/globalconnections/globalconnections2-seaweed.htm](http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/sedotcom_home/services_to_business_international/gc/globalconnections/globalconnections2-seaweed.htm)

**Ryan Air returns to  
Farranfore  
for Kerry-Dublin route  
from 21st July 2008**

## How much proven crude oil reserves exist in the world?

According to OPEC (Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries), world proven crude oil reserves are estimated at slightly more than 1.2 trillion barrels, of which OPEC Member Countries hold approximately 78 per cent.

OPEC's Members in 2007 produced around 32.1 million barrels per day of crude oil, or 44.9 per cent of the world total output, which stood at about 71.5 million barrels per day. At the rate of production in 2007, OPEC crude oil reserves are sufficient to last more than 80 years.

<http://www.opec.org/home/>

## Weather Stats.

February (90%) and April 2008 (66%) are the only months so far this year which had less rainfall than the average (1960—1991) for *Valentia Observatory*.

As for our summer (!) May had 17% more rainfall than the average, June had 68% more rainfall than the average and so far (15th) July has had 72% of the average rainfall for the month.

With regard to temperature, the average temperature each month this year has been above average (1960—1991).

Jan +28%	Feb +26%	Mar +04%	Apr +02%	May +24%	Jun +02%
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**2009 Tralee Times Calendar**  
For inclusion in this calendar  
contact us.

Details on [www.traleetimes.com](http://www.traleetimes.com)

**‘Perhaps 60% of today’s oil price is pure speculation’**

Click on the following link for entire article:  
<http://www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=8878>

## Biofuels and World Food Prices

Biofuels have forced global food prices up by 75% - far more than previously estimated - according to a confidential World Bank report obtained by the Guardian. For full report:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2008/jul/03/biofuels.renewableenergy>

**Tralee Times**

Editor: Leonard O’ Donnell  
editor@traleetimes.com  
Tel. 087—76 152 76

## The Nuclear Option—OECD Countries



NEA member countries account for approximately 85% of the world's installed nuclear capacity. In the OECD area, nuclear energy represents nearly a quarter of the electricity supply. More detailed data covering total and nuclear electricity generation and capacity, the status of nuclear power plants, and supply and demand for nuclear fuel cycle services than that below may be found in the NEA publication **Nuclear Energy Data 2008**. At the beginning of 2008, the situation was as follows:

Country	Number of nuclear units connected to the grid	Nuclear electricity generation (net TWh) 2007	Nuclear percentage of total electricity supply
<a href="#">Belgium</a>	7	45.9	54.1
<a href="#">Canada</a>	20	88.6	14.7
<a href="#">Czech Republic</a>	6	26.2	32.2
<a href="#">Finland</a>	4	22.5	29.0
<a href="#">France</a>	59	418.6	76.8
<a href="#">Germany</a>	17	133.2	23.2
<a href="#">Hungary</a>	4	13.8	37.2
<a href="#">Japan</a>	55	251.6	25.6
<a href="#">Korea</a>	20	136.3	35.2
<a href="#">Mexico</a>	2	10.4	4.4
<a href="#">Netherlands</a>	1	4.0	4.0
<a href="#">Slovak Republic</a>	5	14.1	54.9
<a href="#">Spain</a>	8	53.4	17.8
<a href="#">Sweden</a>	10	64.3	47.4
<a href="#">Switzerland</a>	5	26.3	39.9
<a href="#">United Kingdom</a>	19	57.3	15.7
<a href="#">United States</a>	104	806.0	19.4
TOTAL	346 (out of 439 worldwide)	2 172.5	21.6



**Centre for Innovation in Distributed Systems**

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**December 10th—11th 2008 at IT Tralee**