



Caherslee News

Christmas Edition



Volume I. No. 9

Caherslee News would like to take this special opportunity to wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas Season and a New Year of prosperity and progress.

We wish to thank those of you who have sent your best wishes and your very positive reaction to the work we have undertaken on your behalf.

Caherslee News would also like to thank those of you who have contributed articles and we appreciate your time and effort.

We wish to thank those people and businesses that have supported us through their advertising. Without their help this project would not be possible and we look forward to continuing this partnership in the future. We ask all to support our advertisers as an appreciation for their efforts and goodwill.

A History of Christmas 25th

December is the day

Christmas is celebrated and marks the anniversary of the nativity of

Christ although this may not have been the actual date of Jesus'

birth. The Roman festival of winter solstice was celebrated on 25th

December and the winter solstice was the turning point of the year.

Christmas, Xmas & Holly. Many ancient customs and beliefs about this time have been handed down. The custom of giving presents and gifts to friends dates from Roman times. The lighting of the Yule log comes from Lithuanian folklore, the decoration of houses and churches has pagan origins, mistletoe was the sacred plant of the Druids, and the Christmas tree possibly comes from the time of St Boniface. Christmas cards

originate from 1846

The reason why Christmas came to be celebrated on December 25 remains uncertain, but most probably the reason is that early Christians wished the date to coincide with the pagan Roman festival marking the "birthday of the unconquered sun" (natalis solis invicti); this festival celebrated the winter solstice, when the days again begin to lengthen and the sun begins to climb higher in the sky. The traditional customs connected with Christmas have accordingly developed from several sources as a result of the coincidence of the celebration of the birth of Christ with the pagan agricultural and solar observances at midwinter.

On the Roman New Year (January 1), houses were decorated with greenery and lights, and gifts were given to children and the poor.

The first mention of December 25 as the birth date of Jesus occurred in A.D. 336 in an early Roman calendar. The celebration of this day as Jesus' birth date was probably influenced by pagan (unchristian) festivals held at that time. The ancient Romans held year-end celebrations to honor Saturn, their harvest god; and Mithras, the god of light. Various peoples in northern Europe held festivals in mid-December to celebrate the end of the harvest season.

As part of all these celebrations, the people prepared special foods, decorated their homes with greenery, and joined in singing and gift giving. These customs gradually became part of the Christmas celebration. In the late 300's, Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire. By 1100, Christmas had become the most important religious festival in Europe, and Saint Nicholas was a symbol of gift giving in many European countries. During the 1400's and 1500's, many artists painted scenes of the Nativity, the birth of Jesus.

Study Skills 3 A Strategy for Reading Text-books SQRW

SQRW is a four-step strategy for reading and taking notes from chapters in a textbook. Each letter stands for one step in the strategy. Using SQRW will help you to understand what you read and to prepare a written record of what you learned. The written record will be valuable when you have to participate in a class discussion and again when you study for a test. Read to learn what to do for each step in SQRW.

Survey

Surveying brings to mind what you already know about the topic of a chapter and prepares you for learning more. To survey a chapter, read the title, introduction, headings, and the summary or conclusion. Also, examine all visuals such as pictures, tables, maps, and/or graphs and read the caption that goes with each. By surveying a chapter, you will quickly learn what the chapter is about.

Question

You need to have questions in your mind as you read. Questions give you a purpose for reading and help you stay focused on the reading assignment. Form questions by changing each chapter heading into a question. Use the words *who, what, when, where, why, or how* to form questions. For example, for the heading "Uses of Electricity" in a chapter about how science improves lives, you might form the question "What a heading is stated as a question, use that question. When a heading contains more than one idea, form a question for each idea. Do not form questions for the Introduction, Summary, or Conclusion.

Read

Read the information that fol-

MOUNTHAWK MONTESSORI SCHOOL & BUSY BEES NURSERY
14 THE GROVE ,
MOUNTHAWK ,
TRALEE

We would like to wish all our children , families and friends a very Merry Christmas & a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

Thank you for your continued support! We hope that Santa will be good to you all!

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School-collection service now available.

For Bookings 2006:
Contact: **Susan Quirke-Crowley & Helena Wallace**
066 — 71 213 97 or
086 — 815 37 57

If you have any issues, concerns or information that you would wish to pass on to others in our area, I will be available to meet with you in **O'Donnell's Mounthawk** on the **1st Saturday** of each month from **11am to 1pm**
email: editor@cahersleenews.com
leonardodonnell@eircom.net

Report any suspicious activities in your area to the Gardai
Tralee:
066 – 71 22 0 22
Confidential Line:
1800 666 111

Contact Us at
Caherslee News with any story, concern or issues that you have for the area in which you live or
Tel./Text:
087—76 152 76 or
email you comments to
editor@cahersleenews.com

lows each heading to find the answer to each question you formed. As you do this, you may decide you need to change a question or turn it into several questions to be answered. Stay focused and flexible so you can gather as much information as you need to answer each question.

Write.

Write each question and its answer in your notebook. Reread each of your written answers to be sure each answer is legible and contains all the important information needed to answer the question.

As you practice using SQRW, you will find you learn more and have good study notes to use to prepare for class participation and tests.

Q&A:

Once you complete the Survey step for the entire chapter, complete the Question, Read, and Write steps for the first heading. Then complete the Question, Read, and Write steps for the second heading, and so on for the remaining headings in the chapter.

Historical Tralee — Part 3

The town's most elegant street, Denny Street, was completed in 1826 on the site of the Great Castle. Stones from the Castle were used in the construction of the houses on both sides. At the end of this street is the Ashe Memorial Hall, built in 1928 of local red sandstone and named after the patriot Thomas Ashe (1885-1917). It houses the Administration Offices of Kerry County Council, the Tralee Tourist Office, Kerry, the Kingdom Museum and the 'Geraldine Experience'. Next to the Hall is the SIAMSA TIRE THEATRE (the National Folk Theatre of Ireland). Among other events, the famous Irish Folk Pageant is regularly staged. "A joyful evocation music, mine, song and dance of the traditional life of the Irish countryside.")

Early in the 17th century the road network began to be built, linking the major towns in Italian Bianconi to open up passenger coach routes to Tralee and other towns in Kerry. The railway network arrived in 1859. The Tralee ship canal, linking Tralee and nearby Blennerville, was put in place in 1846. It is now being restored. Tralee is well served by sea and airport. Farranfore Airport is located 11 miles s/e of the town, half way between Tralee and Killarney, and can link up with Cork, Dublin, Shannon and cross-channel airports in the U.K. Fenit, 7 miles west of the town, is the main seaport; it has also been used as a servicing base for oil exploration off the west coast of

I r e l a n d .
Tralee has been accepted as being Ireland's newest tourism destination, with some of the finest and unpolluted beaches available. One of these, Barrow, runs alongside the now world-famous Tralee Golf Club — the first Arnold Palmer-designed golf course in Europe. There are unparalleled and breathtaking views of mountains and sea to be enjoyed whilst golfing, motoring, cycling, hill walking, mountain climbing, deep sea fishing, helicopter flights and pony trekking are all available locally. The town has developed a range of quality all-weather visitor attractions unmatched anywhere in the country. The Aqua dome provides all types of indoor water activity for families and individuals and is only a short walk from the town centre. There is also an excellent Sports Complex. Other amenities include: a working windmill, steam train, greyhound stadium (hares are mechanical) and a beautiful 75-acre town park. And Tralee has its own radio station: "Radio Kerry."

The world-famous "Rose of Tralee International Festival" is held annually, at the end of August, and attracts many thousands of visitors from all over the world. 'Roses' selected by Irish centres worldwide are brought together for a week of festivities and family entertainment, culminating in the selection of the "Rose of Tralee" If you have any pieces of information or articles, you wish to share about the history of Tralee or of your area we will gladly publish it.

History in December

1941: Japanese planes bomb Pearl Harbor
1941: Germany and Italy declare war on US
1944: Germany counter-attacks in Ardennes

1955: Black woman challenges race law— **Rosa Parks**

1956: Jubilation as allied troops leave **Suez Canal**

1958: Monkey (**Gordo**) lost after space flight

1962: Choking fog spreads across Britain

1964: **Campbell** speeds to double record— average speed of 276.33mph (444.71km/h) - Bluebird, Perth, Western Australia.

1968: First astronauts orbit Moon— **Apollo 8**

1972: Survivors found 10 weeks

after plane crash — **Argentine Andes**

1973: Sunningdale Agreement signed

1974: New speed limit to curb fuel use

1974: Compensation for Bloody Sunday victims

1977: Silent film legend **Chaplin** dies

1980: John Lennon shot dead

1984: Hundreds die in Bhopal chemical accident

1984: Britain signs over Hong Kong to China

1988: Jumbo jet crashes onto **Lockerbie**

1989: US forces oust General Noriega - **Panama**

1989: Romania's 'first couple' executed— **Ceausescu**

1990: Tunnel links UK and Europe - **Channel Tunnel**

1991: **Gorbachev** resigns as Soviet Union breaks up

1993: Anglo-Irish pact paves way for peace

1995: Rogue trader jailed for six years - **Pick Leeson**

1995: Bosnia peace accord ends three-year war

1998: Six die as huge waves smash into yachts— **Hobart Race**, Sydney

2000: Freezing Britain grinds to a halt

2003: Saddam Hussein captured

2004: Thousands die in Asian tsunami

Holly Tree — Coillte

This year Coillte have been very pro-active in promoting the planting of holly trees. During National Tree Week last March we gave away 15,000 holly trees and the planting of "Holly" was one of the main themes of tree week. Organised by the Tree Council of Ireland (www.freecouncil.ie) Coillte is one of the co-sponsors of National Tree Week. We also gave over 1,000 free holly trees at the National Ploughing Championships in Cork in September. We are currently giving away a free holly tree with every Christmas tree purchased from Coillte. www.coillte.ie

Plant Your Own Holly Tree and Preserve The Wild Holly.

Walking Club for Ladies and Gents

Having met in O'Donnell's Mounthawk on the 27th November 2005 it

4 Indonesia -	241,973,879
5 Brazil -	186,112,794
6 Pakistan -	162,419,946
7 Bangladesh -	144,319,628
8 Russia -	143,420,309
9 Nigeria -	128,765,768
10 Japan -	127,417,244
11 Mexico -	106,202,903
12 Philippines -	87,857,473
13 Vietnam -	83,535,576
14 Germany -	82,431,390
15 Egypt -	77,505,756
16 Ethiopia -	73,053,286
17 Turkey -	69,660,559
18 Iran -	68,017,860
19 Thailand -	64,185,502
20 Democratic Republic Congo -	60,764,490
21 France -	60,656,178
22 U.K. -	60,441,457
23 Italy -	58,103,033

'An Aging World 2001'—A Report on the Aging Populations throughout the world has revealed the following information.

Every month, the world's population of persons age 65 and older grows by 800,000 individuals. Among countries reporting high proportions of people 65 and older, Italy currently nudges out Sweden in housing the world's oldest population, with 18 percent of Italian having celebrated their 65th birthday, according to the report. Japan had the highest average life expectancy at birth 81 years. In the mid 1990s, public pensions absorbed 15 percent of the gross domestic product in Italy and Uruguay. There were more older women than older men in the vast majority of the world's countries; notable exceptions were India, Iran and Bangladesh.

Ireland's Population Year Total Males Females

1971	2,978,248	1,495,760	1,482,488
1981	3,443,405	1,729,354	1,714,051
1991	3,525,719	1,753,418	1,772,301
1996	3,626,087	1,800,232	1,825,855
2002	3,917,203	1,946,164	1,971,039

In 2002 the population of Ireland for those 65 years and over:

Total	Males	Females
436,001	189,155	246,846

Population in the Four Highest Age Groups and % of population in Ireland

Age	Total	%
1. 25-44	1,180,259	= 30%
2. 0-14	827,428	= 21%
3. 45-54	480,447	= 12%
4. 65 yrs.+	436,001	= 11%

Santa Clause

With nearly a million children in Ireland waiting for Santa Clause to turn up with all those presents there might be delays and you may not get exactly what you asked for in your letter, this year!

Anti-Social Behaviour

A public meeting on this subject was held on the 8th December in The Grand Hotel, Tralee. This meeting was organised by Fine Gael Deputy Jimmy Deenihan. David Stanton TD spokesperson on Social & Family Affairs & Equality outlined the Fine Gael policies and initiatives in this area. In brief, a number of issues and concerns were highlighted, by those who attended the meeting, these include: many parents are not taking responsibility for their children's behaviour, many young adults are not being responsible for their own actions, the levels of respect and decency among many people have declined dramatically, people particularly the elderly are living in fear in some areas of the town, the Gardai are doing a very good job, but are under pressure,

through lack of resources. If you have a problem, in your area, because of anti-social behaviour, do let us know and do report it to the Gardai immediately. We would welcome your comments and thoughts on this issue.

Rachael (by Martha Brassil)
 "Shall we begin?" said Dancer, pen poised. He was eager to record the minutes of today's meeting. Santa turned around in his mock leather swivel chair (his accountant's idea of cost cutting in the North Pole). The chair groaned under his enormous weight.
 "My friends", he began, "Welcome to our annual general meeting." The reindeers tapped their hooves on the table in response.
 "This year for the first time in history there are going to be changes," said Santa.
 Rudolph shifted uneasily in his chair. He didn't want changes. He wanted order, tradition, the cosiness of sameness.
 Santa cleared his throat.
 "It has been brought to my attention that there are no females on the sleigh team." He paused, feeling the weight of testosterone fury.
 "And in the current climate of advanced political correctness it is imperative to include at least one female."
 "Sorry to interrupt," murmured Prancer. "but won't a female be too distracting for us?"
 "Mmm, interesting point," said Santa.

"She also won't be as strong or as dextrous and everyone knows females are useless at directions."
 "Reindeers, reindeers we could come up with all sorts of reasons why a female can't be with us but I am under pressure to include one."
 "But Santa, females are only good at cooking, cleaning and looking after kids....." His voice trailed off under Santa's disapproving gaze.
 "One of the team of course will have to step down and I will leave the decision to Rudolph. Good day gentle deers. I will see you anon."
 Santa left the boardroom.
 Rudolph seethed. One of the reindeers had to go but which one when he treasured them all equally? What the hell was Santa thinking of? Rudolph blamed the feminists and their "Let's all be equal policies." Deluded not very attractive females who because they can't get a male decide they have to act like them. Where would they stop? They might want to change the nativity altogether, maybe replace Jesus with a little Josie. It didn't bear worth thinking.
 Each reindeer blinked nervously as they pulled a straw. Comet drew the short straw. His eyes brimmed with tears. All his life he had trained for the Christmas global ride. All those hours spent in the gym to be wasted in retirement. He hung his head in disgust.
 Rachael sashayed into the boardroom. Rudolph turned towards her. Ah Rachael, he thought to himself. She was unlike some of the hormone crazed females he knew. Rachael invoked his inner maleness and made him want to protect her, even care for her. If only all the others were happy with their femininity instead of clamouring for power in his world.
 He handed his cup to her. She looked at him in disgust. What had he done?

"Gentle deers I am here to join you for the Christmas global ride. And I have been thinking of a few little interesting touches. How about us all having red noses? I have a

friend who's a great plastic surgeon. We could all have a nose make over, make us a bit more colour coordinated don't you think?
 Rudolph groaned. Eight deers, one doe, nine red noses. He would no longer be Rudolph the red noses reindeer, no longer special, no longer the leader of the pack. He stared into the void, hovering on the precipice of deer nuttiness. He smiled at her, his gums receding, his teeth forced into prominence trying to hide his lack of sentiment.

'Best of The Bestest'
 By Jerry Daly

When we recall excellence and the crème de la crème
 And experts filled to the very brim
 One of the greatest, way ahead of the rest
 Was the Thriller Dribbler, the Bold George Best
 A man of high intellect, not lacking a pluck
 He gave to the game much more than he took
 A Gorgeous 'Red Devil' not averse to romance
 Spectators he often left in a trance
 A new meaning he gave to the word magic
 His loss to the game it truly was tragic
 His breathtaking talent inspired many to poetry
 His career all too brief was covered in glory

His mastery of the ball on one could dispute
 A magnet it seemed to be to his boot
 With courage enormous and pride he was driven
 His astounding skill gave us visions of heaven
 He could turn and twist like a freshly caught eel
 His spellbinding art at times seemed unreal
 'T was many the marker he made look like a dud
 And some he left suffering from twisted blood!
 Twist dummy hop, turn dummy, twist skip turn
 Go left skip, go right dummy, hop twist return
 Turn baffle twist confuse skip dummy confound
 Skip go in turn go out dummy hop go round.

In 1968 new heights he attained
 As Sir Matt's precious Euro Cup was gained
 Player of the Year in England and Europe too
 He wowed and amazed with stupendous deeds new
 With a football instinct that amounted to genius
 How gloriously he delighted and thrilled us
 All tests of supremacy he did pass
 Different class, different class, different class
 His brilliance inspired us and fulfilled our dreams
 It aroused many gasps and loud delight screams
 An artiste who attained a newly found Everest
 Was the High King of Soccer, the Genius George Best

Kingdom Co-op Mart
 We would like to thank the Committee and Management of Kingdom Co-op. Mart for closing the gate to the mart after business hours. I sought this action by the Mart based

on information passed onto me by concerned residents in the area. This has now meant that residents in areas adjoining the mart will no longer be inconvenienced by the noise generated by 'boy-racers' late at night and often early in the mornings, particularly at weekends.

Caherslee Area Residents
 The next meeting of this group will take place in February 2006. There have been many issues raised about problems in certain areas of Caherslee and Mounthawk etc. that we have attended to, to date. Other issues are being attended to on an ongoing basis. I have yet to receive a reply from Tralee Town Council officials in regard to some issues that I have raised, but I do intend to follow these up. If you have any issue or concern that you would like to raise please do contact me and I will seek a resolution to these for you. Remember in all issues, silence, or lack of objection to a decision that is made, is seen as an agreement with a decision. So no matter how trivial you may think something is do please express your opinion on it. It is difficult to get any comment or commitment or action from either the political or official side in Tralee Town Council or Kerry County Council without being very persistent. Most of us do not have the energy or time to follow-up on issues etc. therefore let others know and do certainly contact us.

Public Bus Service
 As you are aware we have been campaigning to extend the **Tralee Peoples Bus** Service into the Caherslee area for some time now, and we have collected many signatures to date.
 It appears that such an extension of the bus service is a political decision. While we will continue to lobby for this service on your behalf, it is in the brief of the politicians to extend it. We await their decision. On this as it is so important for many people especially the elderly and very young among us.

What we Want to do in 2006
 Develop the Caherslee Area Residents Group
 Improve our local Environment
 Keep the Issues and Concerns of Caherslee-Mounthawk on the Agenda in Tralee Town Council
 Seek a Caherslee Area Plan
 Promote Local Events
 Be Proactive in Promoting Security and Preventing Anti-Social Behaviour and much more.....Contact Us, on these and other issues...

Shopping over Christmas and New Year
 Do take care when withdrawing cash from ATM machines.
 Beware that counterfeit notes may be in circulation.
 Keep your receipts
 If the service is not good, do complain

Christmas & New Year Greetings from
The Grand Hotel

Denny St., Tralee
 Tralee Town Centre
 Bar – Restaurant
 Functions – Meetings

CHRISTMAS SEASON

Party Night – 9th Dec.
 Incl. Music & 4 course meal etc.45euro

New Years Eve
 Incl. Music & 5 course meal etc. 45euro

Women's Christmas
 Music and 4 course meal 35euro

Samuel's Restaurant
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Fax. 066 – 71 22 877
info@grandhoteltralee.com

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 86 Boherbee, Tralee

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Christmas Greetings

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Wishing all the kids in
The Caherslee Area



A Happy Christmas!

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and Peaceful Christmas
and New Year
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needs.

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McGinley**

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Don't Forget To Feed & Water



Wild Birds

Date	Dawn	Sunset
Dec 1st	08.24	16.31

Don't Over load Electrical
Sockets
Unplug Appliances When Not
In Use

If you have not had your chim-
ney cleaned in the recent past,
now might be a good time.

Replace Batteries in Smoke
Alarms.

Do Not Leave Naked Flames
Unattended.

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Weather/Climatic Statistics December

Valentia Observatory, Co. Kerry

AVERAGES

Temperature (degrees Celsius) = 7.6
Rainfall by Month = 159.2mm
Wind (knots) = 12.6

No. of days with snow = 0.8
No. of days with hail = 3.6
No. of Days without sun = 13
No. of Hours of Sunshine = 1.17

www.meteireann.ie

Holy Cross Dominican Church Christmas Schedule 2005

MASSES

Christmas Eve
8am & 1.05pm

Vigil Mass

of Christmas day 7.30pm

Procession to Crib and

Midnight Mass 11.50pm

Christmas Day Masses

8am, 9.30am, 11am and 12noon

St. Stephen's Day

9am & 1.05pm

CONFESSIONS

Mon.—Thurs. 19th—22nd Dec.

After 8am & 7.30pm Masses

Friday 23rd Dec.

After 8am & 7.30pm Masses

11.30am—1pm & 4pm—5pm

Saturday 24th Dec.

After 8am & 7.30pm Masses

11am—1pm & 3.30pm—5.30pm

**The Dominican community
wishes You a Holy and Happy
Christmas and a Peaceful and
Grace-filled New Year**

**Do make an effort to
visit elderly neighbours
and / or those living
alone at this time**

**Sincere sympathy to the
family and friends of those
who have died recently or
whose anniversary occur
at this time**

**If your house is going to be
vacant over the Christmas
/ New Year period ensure
that it is secured before
you leave and inform a
trusted neighbour or
friend.**

Golf Society

If you are still
interested in joining,
do let us know.
We'll get back to
organising it early in 2006



Gala

Foodmarket
& Off License

**Now Open
In Mounthawk**

Happy Christmas to All