

Tralee Times

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Caherslee News

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ICE Number on Your Mobile Phone

Ambulance personnel have launched a campaign to have an ICE number saved on people's mobile phones. What they mean by an ICE Number is—that in a case of an emergency (hence I C E) a persons phone will have contact numbers saved under the ICE contact name on their phone—therefore they can check this contact name and ring one or other of the contact name, in a case of emergency.

Car ownership numbers continue to increase

There was a 4.51% increase in new car sales in 2007 (186,540) compared to 2006 (178,484). New car sales in 2008 had an excellent January but have been poor since.

Figures for March show a fall of 23% on the same month last year. Partly this may reflect economic slowdown, but there are also plenty of buyers waiting for the tax changes that come into effect in July. Car ownership rates are currently 528 private cars per thousand population, still below the EU average of 558 per thousand. There is every reason to think (unless you believe that we are in for a major and sustained recession) that that we are in for a major and sustained recession) that Irish ownership will continue to grow.

Source: automobile Association of Ireland at:

<http://www.aaireland.ie/download/magazine/Spring2008.pdf>

ESRI Predicts Deepening Recession and Emigration

The recent trend of downward revisions to our previous forecasts continues in this *Commentary* in the light of emerging data. The downward revisions this time are such that we are now forecasting a contraction in the economy in 2008, with both GNP and GDP falling by 0.4 per cent in real terms. Thus Ireland will experience a recession for the first time since 1983. For 2009, we expect an upturn with real GNP expected to grow by 1.9 per cent and real GDP expected to grow by 2 per cent.

A further consequence of the weakening labour market will be the resumption of net outward migration in 2009, with a net outflow of 20,000 foreseen.

Source: ESRI—Quarterly Economic Summary—Summer 2008

<http://www.esri.ie/UserFiles/publications/20080623114553/>

Fuel Poverty

The price of home heating oil has increased by 47% in the past year. In 2002, 227,000 households in Ireland experienced some degree of fuel poverty and, although current figures are not available, it is hard to believe that that number has not increased in more recent times.

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Energy Supplies

Coal accounted for 24 per cent of total world energy use in 2002 and 27 percent in 2005, largely as a result of rapid increases in coal use in China. China's coal consumption has nearly doubled since 2000.

World nuclear capacity is projected to rise from 374 gigawatts in 2005 to 498 gigawatts in 2030.

Energy-related **carbon dioxide emissions** are projected to rise from 28.1 billion metric tons in 2005 to 42.3 billion metric tons in 2030—an increase of 51 percent.

EURO Zone Fuel Price May 2008

[Average Retail Price per litre]

Country	Unleaded	Diesel
Austria	1.311	1.382
Belgium	1.580	1.421
Finland	1.517	1.407
Germany	1.499	1.500
Greece	1.228	1.365
Netherlands	1.657	1.463
Italy	1.370	1.344
Luxembourg	1.296	1.301
Spain	1.188	1.046
France	1.466	1.438
Portugal	1.394	1.269
Slovenia	1.157	1.259

Table Source:

Automobile Association of Ireland at:
<http://www.aaireland.ie/petrolprices/>

Tralee Times Website

www.traleetimes.com

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

Grow Your Own Vegetables

Cut Costs, Exercise, Enjoy and Know Where They Come From (!)



Growing your own vegetables is one of the best aspects of gardening to many people. It has several benefits too. Firstly it can help you physically get in shape as a useful form of exercise and it can

also boost your psychological well-being. Home grown also scores highly against similar produce found in your local supermarket on two counts. It will cost far less to grow your own and, secondly, your home grown vegetables are likely to taste better too.

Furthermore, you and your family are far more likely to eat the recommended 5 portions of vegetables a day if you grow your own if you don't already do so.

You will also benefit from knowing exactly where your vegetables have come from and what has been used in the growing process unlike in the supermarkets where we are never quite sure how and where the produce has been grown or what they use to preserve it for as long a shelf life date as possible. It is worth bearing in mind that the longer the time between a vegetable being picked and being eaten, the more goodness it loses so growing your own makes a lot of sense for so many different reasons.

How to Grow Your Own Vegetables

First of all you should look at the size of your growing area. Some people will have a large garden, others a smaller one. Some will have an allotment and for others they might be re-

stricted to just using the windowsill and a couple of small plant pots but whatever your situation, consider the types of vegetables that would be suitable within the confines of the space in which you can grow.

Try to choose vegetable plants that you tend to enjoy eating anyway. There's no point planting a vast quantity of runner beans if you hate eating the things so choose to grow what you will eat and don't overdo it. Only plant enough for what you and your family will consume.

Research Your Land

Gather information from your neighbours. Try to find out the kinds of things that grow well in your immediate vicinity by talking to people. Neighbouring gardeners will be able to offer you useful tips on how different vegetables fare within your area and will only be too willing to offer you tips on how they get their vegetables to thrive.

Look after your soil. The more you protect and nurture the soil into which you're planning, the less weeding, digging and watering you'll need to do and don't forget to learn how to compost as that can also be a natural time-saver and healthy growing aid.

Gathering experience through practice and sound advice from books, the internet and gardeners in your locality will all become sound allies in your quest to grow tasty vegetables. You'll learn what grows best directly planted into the soil and what vegetables to plant in any given area of the garden. You'll discover what works best in pots and all about the benefits of crop rotation. You'll work out the seasonal varieties of vegetables and how and when to plant them so you can have some kind of vegetables growing in your garden all year round.

There is quite a lot to learn but growing your own vegetables is one of the most rewarding aspects of gardening and can have a profound effect on you feeling that much closer to your immediate environment.

Source: <http://www.safegardening.co.uk>

EURO Zone Fuel Price—May 2008

Looking at the table on page 1 it is clear that, in 7 of the 12 countries from which this data is taken, the price of Diesel is cheaper than the price of Unleaded petrol.

The current escalation in Diesel prices here in Ireland is serious for consumers who have chosen to buy diesel powered vehicles in light of lower harmful emissions (encouraged by government and a sense of environmental awareness) that they now have to suffer higher fuel costs. Could we expect our government to show leadership and reduce the excise (+VAT) on diesel to further relieve the pressure on high price fuel and 'reward' those who have chosen the less polluting fuel option.

CO2 Emmissions Chart

This 'rating' relates to the planned CO₂ Emission Bands to be implemented on new and used imported cars registered on or **after 1 July 2008**. The A-G rating is shown only as an indicator of where your chosen car may be on the scale in terms of their CO₂ emissions ('A' being the best and 'G' the worst).

Please see the table below which sets out the CO₂ Emission Bands and the relevant VRT rates under the revised VRT system.

CO ₂ Emissions Bands	g CO ₂ /km	VRT Rates	New Motor Tax Rates per annum
A	0 - 120g	14%	€100
B	121 - 140g	16%	€150
C	141 - 155g	20%	€290
D	156 - 170g	24%	€430
E	171 - 190g	28%	€600
F	191 - 225g	32%	€1,000
G	226g and over	36%	€2,000

Kerry County Council

Maintenance and Improvement of National, Regional and Local Roads 2008

The Road Works Programme for 2008 has been prepared based on the level of funding provided by means of Grants from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the National Roads Authority and also from the Council's own resources.

The total sum available for road works in 2008 is €46,229,012 which does not include public lighting or administration costs. This represents an overall reduction of €2,429,768 from the 2007 allocation and is reflective of a decrease in the National Road Authority Allocation to the County where at present there is no major capital project under construction. The sum available for national roads is €18,637,449 and the non-national allocation is €27,591,563.



Sharing The Road With Cyclists

Cyclists don't have steel armour round them like we do. Passing them at speed within a foot of their elbow may feel perfectly safe from where you are, but it is very disconcerting when you are the cyclist.

In traffic, make sure that you don't cut up a cyclist who is about to pass you on the near side. Don't try to cut across a cyclist when

you need to turn left at a junction. Wait behind the cyclist until the cyclist has either turned left or passed the junction. And before you turn left after sitting at a red light, check your nearside mirror to make sure there isn't a cyclist moving down the inside

Source: Institute of Advanced Motorists – Driving Tips

<http://www.iam.org.uk/pressroom/drivingtips/>

Sharing+the+road+with+cyclists.htm

Computer Energy Saver!!!

A typical computer will use approx. €146 a year in energy if you leave it on all the time.

Turning it off at night cuts energy usage by 25%, using a 'sleep' mode will reduce this by another 25%.

Source: ESB

'An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest.'

Benjamin Franklin

Average Irish national house prices fell by 1.2% in May according to the latest edition of the **permanent tsb / ESRI House Price Index**.

The average price paid for a house nationally in May 2008 was €275,176. This compares to €287,887 in December 2007. New and second hand house prices fell by 8.3% and 10.0% respectively year on year to May 2008. The equivalent changes to April were -7.6% and -9.3% respectively.

The average price paid for a new house in May 2008 was €276,215, while that paid for a second hand house was €274,716. The equivalent levels in December 2007 were €290,296 and €284,608.

Did You Know???

A 100 watt tungsten lamp left on 24 hours a day will cost €139.50 per year to run, whereas a 20 watt CFL energy saver lamp will only cost €28 per year to run.

Weather Summary— June 2007

VERY WET IN EAST AND SOUTH; WARMEST AND SUNNIEST IN WEST
Despite a week of dry, warm and very sunny weather everywhere between the 4th and 11th, June overall was a very wet month in most places with sunshine totals below normal, while mean temperatures were highest in western areas. More than twice the normal June rainfall was recorded in the east and south, while at Kilkenny it was the wettest June since records began there in 1957, with more than three times its average total recorded. Heavy falls, some in association with thunder, led to localised flooding on a number of days. Kilkenny's 24-hour fall of 31mm up to midnight on the 15th was its highest on record for June, while Dublin (Phoenix Park)'s daily fall of 53mm on the 22nd included a 90-minute fall of 26mm during a thunderstorm. Mullingar recorded a 60-minute fall of 29mm on the 13th; such an event would be expected only once every 50 years. There were 10 wetdays during the month at Malin Head (days with 1mm or more rainfall), but the majority of stations recorded between 13 and 19 wetdays, compared with the normal range for June of between 11 and 14.

Will the June 2008 Weather Summary be any Different?

<http://www.met.ie/climate/monthly-weather-bulletin.asp>

Valentia Observatory:

21st June 2008 Rainfall c. 30mm and 0.1 Sunshine Hours

So much for the middle of Summer and the longest day!

Tourism in Ireland FUTURE ?



To the visitor who may come from an overseas urbanised setting or lifestyle these places do attract them. However, since we have in recent years overpriced our market etc, many of our would be visitors or tourists go elsewhere and find other places just as magnificent. Many of the places that they visit are in poorer countries with cheaper costs but often with the right facilities—accommodation, transport infrastructure, food and drink, access to and facilities for exploring the natural environment etc...

A radical shake-up of our tourism product and related infrastructure is required in order that we do not lose out further into the future. All the relevant bodies involved in this industry must recognise the seriousness of this problem, especially for the peripheral regions of our country. In rural Ireland tourism contributes greatly to the economy where other industries have failed.

Paul Galvin & GAA

It seems unlikely that Paul Galvin will be the Captain of Kerry for the rest of the All-Ireland series this year. His actions were inexcusable.

The GAA needs to move on and allow linesmen and umpires more latitude to influence refereeing decisions. The playing rules re. the tackle need to be defined more clearly. Players are frustrated in the heat of a game because what one ref may allow, another does not!

This can't be allowed to continue. The result of this is what happened with Paul Galvin, not excusing his action.



The Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance is designed to help meet the cost of uniforms and footwear for students in Ireland attending school. The scheme operates from 1 June to 30 September each year. The Allowance is provided by the **Health Service Executive** as part of the Supplementary Welfare Scheme.

To be eligible for the Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance, the applicant (parent or guardian) must meet a number of conditions;

You must be receiving certain social welfare payments or payments for training, employment schemes or adult education

Your total household income must be below a certain amount

The child/student must be between 2 and 22 years before 1 October of the year you apply and must be in full-time education at a recognised school or college. **For further information:**

http://www.citizensinformation.ie/categories/social-welfare/social-welfare-payments/social-welfare-payments-to-families-and-children/back_to_school_clothing_and_footwear_allowance

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