

Department of Education Publish Dramatic Statistics

In a newly published report seen by *Tralee Times*, the Department of Education has released statistics that are likely to cause some concern for parents of children in Tralee primary schools. While the numbers of pupils have increased in Tralee schools by 8.1% over the past number of years not all this increase has been evenly spread throughout the town's schools. Notable schools include Holy Family School which has suffered huge losses in recent years while the 'tiger' school Tralee Educate Together has puts all others in the shade with an enormous increase in enrolment.

Among the schools that have seen a dramatic drop in pupils are Holy Family School, which has sustained a drop of 23.5% in pupils since 1996. This school has lost a massive 133 pupils in the last 10 years. The Irish school has 58 less pupils that it had in the year 2000 with only two pupils over and above its 1996 figure. Balloonagh school suffered a decrease of almost 3% over the past 10 years and has seen a decline of 21 pupils in the last two years this despite the huge increase in housing in the school's catchment area. St. John's Church of Ireland School has seen a drop of almost 13% in pupil numbers over the last 10 years.

No improvement has been evident in Listellick School which serves both rural and urban Tra-

lee. Scoil na mBraithre has increased its enrolment by 24% in the last 10 years regaining some of the ground it had lost over the years up to 1996. Another school increasing is Presentation Primary with an average increase of 20% since 1996, though it has lost 30 pupils in the last two years.

However bucking the downward trend in most Tralee schools and far surpassing schools experiencing an average increase in pupil numbers is Tralee Educate Together School. This school, according to the Department of Education, has seen an increase of 212.5% since the school opened. This level of growth is almost ten times faster than the next rival school.

When contacted by

Tralee Times, the Tralee Educate Together's Principal Mike O'Donnell said he did not wish to make any comment on the report.

The publication of the recent Department of Education which looks into changing enrolments of schools in Tralee is part of a wider study concentrating on accommodation needs for schools in the North Kerry area.

While it is difficult to determine the precise reasons why there are dramatic differences in pupil numbers between schools it is clear that there is a huge change in parents' attitudes which determine their choice of school. It is worth investigating what determines these attitudes and subsequent choices.

Continued on Page 3

Road Works in Ashe Street



Businesses and shoppers alike are quite right to be aggrieved at the disruption being caused in the Ashe Street area at present, due to road works. This work will cause huge problems over the coming months for the affected businesses, shoppers and motorists. This is the second time within a few years that this situation has arisen.

Why could the present work not have been incorporated into the work done previously? Why were the businesses now affected by this work not properly and continuously consulted about this work? Why have the businesses affected not been given a timescale for the work? Why is the work not being carried out at off-peak

times i.e. night-time etc.? Why is there an absence of a traffic management plan for the area for the duration of the work? Who is ultimately accountable for this work? Whose decision was it to commence the work during one of the busiest periods of the year? These are reasonable questions. Surely Tralee Town Council should strive to inform, negotiate and consult with all interested parties well in advance of any work being undertaken anywhere in town. This will at least afford all those who are concerned the opportunity to adequately prepare for any disruptions; actively participate in planning; give their input; and believe that they live in a democracy!

Joseph M Murphy
(Tralee) Ltd.
Independent Insurance and
Financial Services Consultants

Contact us:
Tel. 066—71 21 392
or 066—71 21 010
Fax. 066—71 25 688
email: info@murphytralee.com

Joseph M Murphy (Tralee) Ltd is
Registered by the Financial
Regulator as an Authorised
Advisor and as a Mortgage
Intermediary.

The Grand Hotel
TRALEE TOWN CENTRE HOTEL
SAMUEL'S
AWARD WINNING RESTAURANT

PRIVATE PARTIES
FUNCTION ROOMS
BAR FOOD ALL DAY
DISCO—SATURDAY NITES

DENNY STREET, TRALEE
Tel. 066—71 214 99

www.grandhoteltralee.com

OLD WORLD CHARM IN COMFORTABLE
SURROUNDINGS

Ring Road At Mounthawk

Finally, a section of the ring road north of Tralee is nearing completion. According to sources a completion period during the first week of June 2006 is set. This new road is 1.5 km in length and 9 miles of cables and piping have been laid. There will be lighting along the route also. This new road should alleviate some of the traffic congestion that has become common-place in the Caherslee-Mounthawk-Balloonagh areas for many years now. It will also provide a useful walking route.

There is however a concern for residents in the Mounthawk area that the new ring road may become a 'race-track' particularly at night. This is potentially hazardous since it appears that there are no plans to install speed restrictions or the necessary safety measures in the area adjacent to the entrances to The Grove, The Orchard and Quarryvale. Given that the road is so close to these residential areas and to a large secondary school there is a strong argument for such a safety management system to be put in place.

Enforcement of Driving Laws

The recent EU Road Traffic Publication informs us of the level of road safety enforcement in the 25 EU states in 2004. This report looks in depth at three issues: speeding, drink driving and seat belt use. In Ireland it states clearly that under speeding the situation is *improving*; under drink driving that there is a need to *do more* and under seat belt use there is also a need to *do more*.

In 2000, 52,247 lives were lost on EU roads. In 2004, 43,500 lives were lost. Between 2001 and 2005 across the 25 EU states there was a reduction in traffic deaths of 17.5%.

The EU 25 seeks to reduce the road fatalities figure to 24,999 by the year 2010.

The following are recommendations to increase compliance:

General: Prepare enforcement plans with yearly targets for compliance.

Speeding: improve and increase mobile checks, stationary camera equipment at strategic locations, revenue collected from traffic fines should go directly into road safety work, collect quarterly speeding rates for all road types, allow no more than 20% of vehicles speeding across the network and in phase 2 this rate should be zero.

Drink Driving: introduce a legal limit of no more than 0.5mg/ml (Ireland and UK are now the only countries with 0.8mg/ml in the EU), random breath testing, evidential roadside breath testing, obligatory testing for alcohol in all collisions, publish alcohol rates in drink driving and in relation to road deaths, allow no more than 2% of drunk drivers in the normal traffic flow and reduce this to zero as soon as possible.

Seat Belt Use: begin a programme of intensive campaigns for 1-4 weeks at least twice a year, all police check-points must target seat belt compliance, collect yearly seat belt wearing rates, allow no more than 5% non-compliance for front seat (10% non-compliance for back seat) and later seek 100% compliance.

There is no longer an excuse for drivers to be cautioned for offences such as speeding, drink-driving or not wearing a seat belt. It is the law to comply with these and therefore it is illegal not to adhere to the law. The message is clear to all that fines and penalty points and court appearance will be the result if drivers do not comply. It is up to the government to resource the Gardai and install the appropriate legislation to ensure that the law and enforcement of the law is upheld. Sadly, 150 people have died on Irish roads already this year. There is clear evidence that speeding and alcohol are a major factor in most road traffic accidents. It is absolutely vital that the Irish authorities not alone take note of the ETSC Report but that its recommendations are implemented forthwith.

In next months edition we will look at measures that have worked in other countries to reduce road traffic deaths and injuries and we will look at what the car manufacturers have and can do to make vehicles safer.

Removal of Trees at Rathass

In preparation for the present work at the Rathass roundabout the County Council removed some very mature trees. Some of you might be wondering if this removal needed special sanction. The removal or felling of any trees over ten years old or over fifteen feet high does require a license.

However where:

- the tree(s) is within 100 feet of an existing building or

- there may be a public safety issue in relation to the tree(s) or

- it is necessary to remove the tree(s) due to necessary road works

then the tree(s) may be removed without a license. Therefore subject to the above conditions the County Council is entitled to remove the tree(s) to facilitate important and necessary road works in this case.

Rogue Traders

Recently I encountered some young men offering to clean windows. When asked for ID or 'phone numbers they became uneasy. Advice to residents when encountering these types of people is simple. Ask for ID and contact number, preferably these details should be on a business card. Unless you are entirely satisfied with their identity or bona fides do not entertain them. I would suggest that they may be circulating the area 'casing out' property, to return later. Do inform your neighbours if these people call on you. Do contact us at **Tralee Times** and we will inform other residents.

A National Day for Ireland

Perhaps it is time to begin in earnest the debate to choose a national day for Ireland. Many significant dates, from our history, do come to mind, such as; St. Patrick's Day (patron saint); 21st January (in 1919 the day the First Dail sat in the Mansion House); the 6th of December (in 1921 the day of the signing of the Treaty and in 1922 the Irish Free State was officially created - the first steps to our independence); 24th May (in 1923 the date of the ending of the Civil War); the 24th May (1798 the start of the Rebellion - the fight for independence which was inclusive of all traditions) etc. Everyone, who has an interest, also has an opinion to share and they should be heard. A date should be chosen must be chosen by consensus and not by any political entity that has its own agenda for choosing a particular date.

'The superior man is modest in his speech, but exceeds in his actions.'

Confucius

DNG WH Giles

I.A.V.I.
Valuers Auctioneers
Land & Estate
Agents
23 Denny St.,
Tralee

Tel. 066-71 21 073

info@whgiles.ie
www.whgiles.ie

New Second Level School For a New Reality

(The following is an article that appeared in Caherslee News Vol. 2 No. 3 in March 2006)

The provision of a second-level school that would cater for an increasingly secular and diverse Tralee is a welcome initiative being promoted by **Educate Together**. This recognizes the reality on the ground which is that there are fewer and fewer practicing members of the Catholic Church, more and more confidence among people that they can manage the education of their children without the control of the church and more and more immigrants in Tralee who do not share in the dominant local religious belief. In addition there is a readymade market in the existing primary school for a continuation into a similar secondary school; in less than four years the numbers of children in the school have increased nearly six fold.

With the closure of the 'tech' or 'Tralee Community College' looming and an over-abundance of students entering local second-level schools - all of which are owned by the Church (with the exception of Mounthawk whose ownership was transferred to the state as a pay-off by the Catholic Church for institutional abuse of children over the years) - the time is right to establish a second-level school which reflects the times we are

in. This new second-level school should be secular, with no religious management control; multi-denominational, welcoming children from all faiths and none and have an explicit multi-cultural ethos where both local and immigrant culture is welcomed and celebrated, and should not be exclusive.

It is understood that there is a clear demand for such a school amongst the parents of over 100 children attending **Tralee Educate Together National School**. Indeed it could be said with some certainty that if pre-enrolment books were opened for this school in the near future, allowing one hundred children into the first year, this book would be filled in a few hours in Tralee.

The following is a reply to this article, about Tralee Community College, from the school Principal.

Dear Editor,

Your comment on Tralee Community College in the last issue [March 2006] of your newsletter was misleading.

The College has an enrolment of 407 students in the current academic year.

Being a public school it has always had an "open door" admissions policy

Due to the recent falling enrolment in 1st year, the Board of Management decided not to enrol 1st Year students for the school year 2006/07.

This decision is for 2006/07 only and will be reviewed later this year for the school year 2007/08.

Of the 407 students currently enrolled, 299 are Post Leaving Certificate students. Post Leaving Certificate courses are career orientated providing a pathway to employment and further education in 3rd Level colleges.

The College also provides a wide range of Adult Education courses, 3 nights per week from October to April. Over 750 students participated in 58 courses this school year.

The College has a proud tradition of providing education to all the people of Tralee and surrounding areas, and is particularly proud of its involvement in the founding of the R.T.C. (now I.T.T) and Gaelcholáiste Chiarraí.

In the context of the Draft Area Development Plan for North Kerry just issued by the Department of Education and Science the school will play an active role in the provision of a full programme of second level and further education in the town.

Tralee Community College is committed to providing a quality education to meet the needs of all in the community in a spirit of equality and inclusiveness.

The closure of Tralee Community College has not been considered nor is it likely to occur in the foreseeable future.

Billy Curtin

Special Needs Children still struggling

In 2006 as over 50% of primary schools without psychological service. Between April 2005 and April 2006, the number of primary schools covered by the National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS) has fallen.

An increase of 143 schools in 12 months.

When NEPS was established seven years ago it was envisaged that up to 200 psychologists would be needed, 180 working with NEPS and the remainder working elsewhere in the education system. However, the current number of psychologists remains far below the target level, and with only 122 psychologists now employed it is easy to see why so many primary schools still have no NEPS cover. Children who need psychological evaluation should have access to an educational psychologist so that their particular needs can be identified and met within the school system. Schools are under pressure now as they continue to wait for a national roll-out of a proper NEPS service.

Caution Roadworks: If you have to stop at roadworks do leave a safe distance between you and the vehicle in front.

Caution Children at Play: Children will be getting holidays soon—be mindful of their presence on the road.

A Case in the Defense of District Inspector John A. Kearney

While there has been much debate concerning the judiciousness of a military ceremony to commemorate the 1916 Easter Rising, there can be no debate about the strong connection between the greater Tralee area and the events of that historic week 90 years ago. This is revealed in handsome terms in Chief Supt. (rt.) Donal O'Sullivan's erudite history of one of the great personalities of the era – a predecessor of his at Tralee Police Barracks 'John A. Kearney, District Inspector'.

Born in Moyvoughley, Co. Westmeath, John Andrew Kearney, Mr. O'Sullivan recounts rose through the ranks of the Royal Irish Constabulary and served in Tralee from 1912 to 1920. John Kearney was very well read and kept abreast of national and international affairs through his daily assiduous reading of newspapers. According to Mr. O'Sullivan it was with this knowledge that, as Head Constable in Tralee barracks, he was able to determine the true identity of Sir Roger Casement who when kept over-

night as a prisoner in Tralee used the pseudonym John Morton. Casement was widely known the world over for his humanitarian work, was awarded a knighthood for this work in 1911 and even met US President Taft the following year and had been arrested in Banna after arriving in a dinghy type boat launched from a German submarine at 2.15am on the morning of Good Friday, 1916. This was part of an ill-fated effort to land 20,000 arms in Fenit for distribution by railway all over Ireland in support of the Rising which was to take place that Easter Sunday.

Realising who the prisoner was, Head Constable Kearney treated Casement with the utmost courtesy, ensured that he had the best lodgings that could be provided outside his own family quarters in the barracks. Given his nationalistic sympathies, DI Kearney further disregarded strict RIC code in relation to the keeping of prisoners by keeping Casement's door unlocked over night which would have allowed for his easy 'lifting' by even the most half-witted plan-

by local Irish Volunteers who were aware of Casement's presence in the station. Indeed their leader Austin Stack was himself over-nighting at the station after being arrested. Kearney arranged for the local Dr. Shanahan to visit the prisoner and also a local Dominican priest both of whom reported this information to the volunteers. Casement was looked after with silver service by Kearney and his family and offered his watch in gratitude. Kearney's young daughter, according to Mr. O'Sullivan, up to the time of her death in 1990 recalled sitting on Casement's lap beside the fire in the family quarters. The transfer of Casement to Tralee Railway Station was done with the most relaxed security – one RIC man as an escort who carried bags containing firearms salvaged from the scene of Casement's landing in Banna.

Following independence, Mr. O'Sullivan recounts that the policing and organizational intelligence of Kearney was recognized by Michael Collins who invited him to assist in the creation of the a new po-

lice that became An Garda Síochána. It was at this point that Kearney was smeared by Austin Stack in the Dail for allegedly mistreating Roger Casement while in Tralee RIC barracks. Kearney was now effectively a 'marked man' and he and his family were subjected to a vitriolic campaign of intimidation. This culminated in he and his wife and family of nine children fleeing to London in 1922 - Kearney being practically penniless.

This book traces the momentous times that were known as the 'Troubles' in Tralee at the time, the parts played by Kearney, Casement, Stack and others. It explores the troubled birth of the Garda Síochána in a national context and how Kearney was involved in its inception and the life and times the Kearney family who subsequently lost two sons in World War 2.

Tralee is lucky to have a historian of the ilk of Chief Supt. O'Sullivan who has used his own police expertise and his sense of public duty to research and produce this meticulous study of Kearney.

This book restores the good name of John A. Kearney who, unjustly vilified for years, was a great public servant to various communities from Limerick to Westmeath to Tralee and, as is clearly evident from this book, a man of the highest integrity and humanity.

Kearney's humane treatment of Casement, who was later executed in London for treason and his subsequent contribution the founding of An Garda Síochána should be recognized. Maybe a GAA club, street, or statue should commemorate him with his name. Outside of that it is fitting that he is immortalized in the publication of this very fine book by Tralee's Mr. Donal O'Sullivan – a book which should adorn the shelves of anyone interested in history – both local and national.

'District Inspector John A. Kearney' by Mr. Donal O'Sullivan is published by Trafford Publishing and is available in local bookshops at a nominal cost

Department of Education Publish Dramatic Statistics

Continued from page 1.

Anecdotal evidence would suggest that parents send their children to schools that are nearest to them. This is averted to by the Department report which notes the big increase in enrolment of Caherleaheen school and attributes it to increased housing development in the vicinity of the school. Yet while there has been a huge increase in housing developments in the Strand Road/Caherslee area, there has been a substantial decrease in enrolment in the nearby Holy Family School. Indeed the almost static enrolment situation in Balloonagh school has not corresponded with the nearby increased housing development. There has been huge housing development in the Killeen area - nonetheless while the Irish school has not prospered, Tralee Educate Together School has flourished. It follows therefore that just because school is nearby, it does not mean parents will send their children there. This begs the question as to what the real reasons are why some schools are performing very poorly and others are not in their pupil numbers.

Can it be the publicity generated by some schools through the media? Can it be the way the school treats parents, the friendliness of the and princi-

pal and staff, the traditions of the school, school facilities, transport issues, gender issues, the ethos of the school, the modernity of the school, even the cleanliness of the school?

Perhaps it would be worth looking at Tralee Educate Together School which has seen an increase of 212.5% in enrolment in the past 5 years. What distinguishes this school from the others?

From the outset Tralee Educate Together is a new school and will therefore entice parents because of its novelty; this is recognised in the report. The school is the only school which until very recently is the only co-educational (apart from Listellick) in Tralee town. The school is also the only multi-denominational school in the county of 147 schools. This means that it attracts pupils from diverse religious origin. Unlike all other schools it is not owned by the main churches and its teachers are not appointed by the local bishop.

Because it is the only multi-denominational school, pupils living beyond 6 miles from the school receive over €960 per year for attending the school while pupils living over 2 miles from the school receive a free bus to school paid for by the Department of Education. The latter in particular

means that the school has a huge advantage for parents who do not have to worry about transport costs or inconvenience if they live in Caherslee or in most Tralee suburbs.

The school's commitment to its parents was evident last year when it invited parents to view its inspector's report much to the annoyance of other schools. This unprecedented move has now become public policy in the Department of Education though it has met with strong resistance from teaching unions.

Moyderwell, Scoil na mBraithre, Holy Family and school have in the last couple of years seen the threat posed by Tralee Educate Together and by pressures from parents to become co-educational. It remains to be seen if these strategic moves to retain pupil numbers and thereby retain teaching jobs and government grant-aid will reverse declining pupil numbers trends.

Accommodation is a burning issue for the successful schools but not the others for obvious reasons. Take for instance Listellick school, which is holding its own outside the immediate town boundary. It has been struggling with accommodations difficulties over the years. It would seem non-sensical for the Department of Education

not to provide a green-field site for this school to prosper as it should. Its success in terms of pupil enrolment is not indicated by expansion but by its ability to retain numbers in spite of the fact that it is on a very tight site with no PE hall and playing field. As the school is currently sitting on very valuable real estate, there is every reason to believe that the sale of its own site would match any reasonable expense incurred in the purchase of a nearby alternative site. The new northern ring road has along it the finest land in Tralee and is through an area which was traditionally part of the schools' catchment area.

The 'tiger' school Tralee Educate Together is set to experience accommodation difficulties in the coming years. Though it is located in an attractive setting in Collis-Sandes House its expansion is set to put growing pressure on the Department of Education to provide a new school. There are unconfirmed reports that a high-level group in the studying the building of a new school within a VEC (Kerry Education Service) complex along the lines of plans in Co. Clare VEC which is seeking to include some primary schools within its precincts. The Kerry Education Service has recently published a plan include the school in its 5 year plan.

The regrettable and avoidable demolition of Ballyroe school was a curious and little mentioned event that took place last September outside Tralee. There is absolutely no doubt that if Ballyroe school were to re-open - (perhaps not in the middle of the road!), it would thrive as a school to serve the Mounthawk, Clogherbrien area. The church would do well to consider selling the existing Holy Family site and purchasing a few acres in this area. The adjacent Mercy Mounthawk would be a boon to it.

As to what the real reasons are for the growth of school enrolments, it is almost impossible to say as there are no reliable indicators of why parents chose certain schools over others. It would be reasonable to conclude however that no school would grow or at the very least maintain its numbers without dedicated and professional principals, teachers, secretarial and ancillary staff, who generally work in a niggardly neglected sector of education, which is grossly under-funded, where many schools' accounts are often in the red and where without the voluntary efforts of a few dedicated parents the school would collapse under the weight of demands from all angles.

Heading Towards a Happy Life

(Part 1)- Starting with Oneself

A Little from a Life Coach: *Raphael*

Learning to love oneself is the very first mission of a person pursuing a happy life. Understanding the value and uniqueness of one's own strengths, one's own beauty, one's own abilities, one's own opinions, one's own tastes is the critical starting point. This will cause one to be appreciate that one's place in the world is special. This needs to be imbued in children in a way that is cultivated carefully. Children need to be nurtured - with healthy tendencies being encouraged and healthy ones being discouraged just in the same way as a plant has to be nurtured with watering and pruning.

Asserting oneself as a unique, special person is a positive act. It does not diminish or denounce the uniqueness and special nature of others. It is merely as assertion or proclamation of the self and one's sovereignty as a human being. This act can be expressed in many ways - through speech, through identifying for oneself one's own views, attitudes, one's own interests. It also will involve learning from one's parents, friends, experiences of oneself and others through listening, observation or study. Learning to value oneself is a journey through life with each day being a learning experience.

Learning to value oneself is the starting point to happiness not the end. It will create a sense of well-being and inner peace and also a project a positive field around you, where others will recognise that because you accept yourself as you grow and develop and it will be easier for others to be accepted by you. As a positive person you will both exude

positivity and attract positivity. People will enjoy your company and your positivity can be seen in many ways not just through speech alone.

As a positive person you will present yourself well as you feel you are worth the effort to look good. You will hold yourself straight and stand your height. You will not be too loud or too soft in your voice but be comfortable in your delivery. You will not be too quick to give your opinion nor too slow to assert it. You will be slow to judge but you will not be ashamed to make a judgment when you must. You will mean what you say when you say it and say what you mean. You will give your word when you can and give of your best when you can. You will not be put off by challenge but you will rise it. You will not listen to voices of discouragement but you will silence them by your determination. You will accept that you are not the best but that you will aspire to be your best. You will understand with confidence that you will learn from your mistakes and earn from your successes. You will see that there is a right time and place for everything and that your right time may not be other's and other's may not be yours. You will meet another half-way and understand that there is beauty in the art of compromise. You will forgive those who hurt you as there is healing for everyone in forgiveness. You will seek forgiveness from those you have hurt for remorse is a sign of one's commitment to change for the better. You will understand the value of abstinence from excess in all areas of your life - you will not over-indulge in anything. You will take responsibility for your decisions and not blame others for their consequences. You will nourish your

mind and soul with adequate reflection and you will nourish your body and mind with proper exercise and enough sleep. You will not allow emotion rule your thinking or reason rule your feeling. You will aspire to acquiring an equilibrium between work and home life and remember to bring your head and heart home with you from your workplace. Above all, you will believe in yourself and through this self-belief you will encourage others to believe in you and, by extension, in themselves.

Many people feel inadequate - not because they see their faults but because they see their strengths and ask themselves - who am I to have such strengths? Well, the truth is you are you and there can be no better you than you. Be positive!



Brush up on Your Writing Skills

Writing is an important form of communication. Good writers use different writing techniques to fit their purpose for writing. To be a good writer, you must master each of the following writing techniques.

1. Description

Through description, a writer helps the reader use the senses of feeling, seeing, hearing, smelling, and tasting to experience what the writer experiences. Description helps the reader more clearly understand the people, places, and things about which the writer is writing. It is the most common form of writing. You will find descriptive writing in newspapers, magazines, books, and most other forms of written communication.

2. Exposition

Through exposition, a writer informs, explains, and clarifies his/her ideas and thoughts. Exposition goes beyond description to help the reader understand with greater clarity and depth the ideas and thoughts of the writer. Expository writing, like descriptive writing, is commonly found in newspapers, magazines, books, and most other forms of written communication.

3. Narration

Through narration, a writer tells a story. A story has characters, a setting, a time, a problem, attempts at solving the problem, and a solution to the problem. Bedtime stories are examples of short stories while novels are examples of long stories. The scripts written for movies and plays are further examples of narrative writing.

4. Persuasion

Through persuasion, a writer tries to change a reader's point of view on a topic, subject, or position. The writer presents facts and opinions to get the reader to understand why something is right, wrong, or in between. Editorials, letters to the editor in newspapers and magazines, and the text for a political speech are examples of persuasive writing.

5. Comparison and Contrast

Through comparison and contrast, a writer points out the similarities and differences about a topic. Comparison is used to show what is alike or in common. Contrast is used to show what is not alike or not in common. Describing living conditions in 1900 and living conditions today would allow for much comparison and contrast.

By using the writing technique that fits your purpose, you will be able to communicate your ideas effectively.

PATRON SAINT

(by Martha Brassil)

Despite the pungent smell of diesel fumes Sarah made her way onto the multicoloured battered boat. "This way ladies and gentleman" wheezed a wizened fisherman with a toothless smile. Sarah and the other rubber clad passengers inhibited by their flippers waddled towards their seats. She felt the biting cold of the Atlantic biting into areas of exposed flesh but she didn't care. This was going to be worth it. A silence born of fatigue and reverence filled the air. Louise said the prayer worked but hadn't fully explained how. Something to do with the power of telepathy between a dolphin and a human.

Sarah's whispered imaginings floated towards the dolphin. "He loves the sound of the boat. Draws him every time" shouted the fisherman above the drone of the engine. Suddenly the engine spluttered to a stop. One by one bodies plunged into the Atlantic, eager to swim with Fungi. Sarah swam away from the boat and bobbed gently in the water, watching, waiting. Fungi jumped gracefully over the crest of the waves. People gasped and swam towards him. He disappeared and resurfaced just beside Sarah. For a moment their eyes locked. Tentatively she reached out to touch his satiny surface but he flinched and once again disappeared. "Be careful" bawled the fisherman, "Fungi's a wild animal. He doesn't like to be touched." His words fell on deaf ears. Sarah used to pray to St Anthony as a child but she wondered if praying to a dolphin would be different. "Hail Fungi Patron Saint of Dingle, make Dean fall truly, madly in love with me Amen," she mouthed into the salty air. After all the prayer had worked for Louise.



**Talbot
SPAR**

SPAR Caherslee

*Serving the Local
Community*

Tel. 066 – 71 21 699

Aidan Hennebery

**Carpenter-Joiner
Cabinet Maker**

Doon, Tralee

087 – 233 14 72

Lusitania Sinks

May 7th 1915

On the afternoon of May 7, 1915, the British ocean liner Lusitania is torpedoed without warning by a German submarine off the south coast of Ireland. Within 20 minutes, the vessel sank into the Celtic Sea. Of 1,959 passengers and crew, 1,198 people were drowned, including 128 Americans. The attack aroused considerable indignation in the United States, but Germany defended the action, noting that it had issued warnings of its intent to attack all ships, neutral or otherwise, that entered the war zone around Britain.

On January 31, 1917, Germany, determined to win its war of attrition against the Allies, announced that it would resume unrestricted warfare in war-zone waters. Three days later, the United States broke diplomatic relations with Germany, and just hours after that the American liner Housatonic was sunk by a German U-boat. On February 22, Congress passed a \$250 million arms appropriations bill intended to make the United States ready for war. In late March, Germany sunk four more U.S. merchant ships, and on April 2 Presi-

dent Wilson appeared before Congress and called for a declaration of war against Germany. On April 4, the Senate voted to declare war against Germany, and two days later the House of Representatives endorsed the declaration. With that, America entered World War I.

'Facts are facts and will not disappear on account of your likes.'

**Jawaharlal Nehru
Indian politician
(1889 -1964)**

Home Security and Your Holidays

Going on Holidays

Set domestic alarms and give your monitoring station details of the key holder.

Ask a neighbour to keep an eye on your home. Ask them to collect your mail or push it through the letterbox for example. If they are looking after your pets or watering your plants, ask them to open and close curtains and switch on lights to make the house look occupied. Also ask them to park on your drive if you have taken your car.

Financial documents and any keys should be hidden away.

Every burglar is likely to be an opportunist. Make sure all windows and doors are closed and locked before you leave.

Remember to cancel milk and papers and make use of the Royal Mail letter and parcel holding service.

Have your home address on a piece of paper inside your suitcase, and not visible on the outside.

Operate a timer switch for lights and maybe a radio or TV.

Make sure no ladders or other equipment are within view or easy reach that could help burglars break in.

Even cutting the lawn before you go away can help to make it look less obvious that the house is unoccupied.

Safely lock away your jewellery, and don't leave cash in the house.

Kerry Archaeological and Historical Society

Sunday, 11th June 2006

Field Outing: Glanworth, Co. Cork
Meet: Kildorrery Church
(Mallow-Mitchelstown Road)
Time: 1 p.m.
Guide: To be decided (bring a lunch)

Wednesday, 21st June 2006 — Mid-Summer Day

Field Outing: Glin Castle & Gardens
Meet: in Glin Castle
Time: 10.45 a.m.
Admission: €7.00 (Morning Tea €10)
Guided Tour of Village 3.30 p.m. by local Historian.

FACT:

Three years ago, North Sea oil was trading at \$23 a barrel. This month it touched \$75

FACT:

In the past four years, redundancy announcements have averaged just under 25,000. In the six years to 2000, the average was under 11,000.

Historical Tralee



St. John The Baptist Parish Church

In 1854 the foundation stone of St. John's Church was laid on the site of a chapel dating back to 1780. Some artifacts of the 1780 church have survived – the Holy Water font (Mortuary Chapel), Our Lady of the Wayside statue (near front porch on the outside), and the gables of the 18th century building, which are contained in the transepts of the present church. The building was completed, to the design of J.J. McCarthy, in 1861 with the erection of the great Sanctuary window. In 1870 the tower and spire were added. The height of the spire is 200 feet.

In 1960 the church took its present form after a major 10 year renovation scheme. A thirty foot extension was added to the nave; the internal walls were stripped of their plaster and revealed stone was pointed. In the 1990s a re-ordering of the Sanctuary was undertaken. The great Sanctuary window completed in 1861 is the work of Michael O'Connor (1801-1867). More history on The Church of St. John the Baptist is available on our website www.traleetimes.com.

Tralee Community Hospital

On the 11th May last over 160 people attended a public meeting to further highlight the delay in providing for our senior citizens in Tralee this most vital service. Since 1998 the government (three Ministers for Health) have promised to provide this facility. Three Ministers have failed to deliver. This meeting was chaired by Jimmy Deenihan T.D., speakers included Ellen Rohan (founder member of the senior citizens group that set out to seek this facility almost 10 years ago), Mairead Fernane, the groups PRO and Dr. John Chute. It was revealed that 24 of the original members of this senior citizens group have since died while waiting for this much needed facility to materialise.

The meeting decided to send a delegation on behalf of the group to meet with Mary Harney, Minister for Health in the very near future. In most areas of life those who shout loudest get the best deal. It is long overdue we speak up for those older persons who can only barely whisper.

This public meeting was organised by the Senior Citizens group and Fine Gael (Tralee District).

"We can have facts without thinking but we cannot have thinking without facts."

John Dewey

US educator, Pragmatist
Philosopher & psychologist (1859 - 1952)

**Patsy's Hair Shop
Ladies & Gents
Hairdressers
The Mart
Complex
Caherslee**

**Free Parking
Monday – Saturday**

Tel. 066 – 711 89 34

Herlihy Engineering

**Gates – Railings
Security Screens etc.
Galvanised on request**

Tel. 087 – 797 88 62

Maguires Butchers

Caherslee

**Pork Chops € 1
10 Chicken Fillets € 10
3 lbs Mince € 3**

**Fresh Fish Daily
From Cahersiveen
Tel. 066—71 197 40**

Ballymac Bar Boherbee, Tralee

Bar Food & Pool

Tel. 066 – 71 215 27

Mounthawk Montessori School & Busy Bees Nursery

Now taking Bookings for
Summer Camp
July & August 2006
& for Montessori Pre-
School 2006

Contact
Susan Quirke-Crowley
& Helena Wallace

**Tel. 066—71 213 97
Or 086—815 37 57**

Munster Rugby



The Munster Team has for the past 10 years captured the imagination of tens of thousands of followers at home and abroad. There is little doubt that all the players who have been involved in this team over the years have shown and proven that sport played with passion and determination cannot be surpassed by anything else for sheer entertainment value. The followers of this Munster team have such pride in these players that win or lose their loyalty soars year after year. Again after again this massive Munster movement is proof that sport is about passion, determination, fair play, honesty, enjoyment, entertainment and above all loyalty to the cause.

Bar none Munster has been the most successful team in the Heineken Cup since it began, because sport is not only about winning, but that helps too. Well done Munster.

Caherslee-Mounthawk Golf Society

Those who are interested in joining this Golf Society are asked to attend a meeting on **Monday, June 5th at 8.30pm in O'Donnell's Mounthawk**

John Mitchels Club Notes

BINGO

Bingo takes place at the John Mitchels Club House on the John Joe Sheehy Road every Friday night commencing at 8.30 p.m. Sharp.

LOTTO

Our Weekly Club Lotto takes place every Tuesday night at 9.00 p.m. Sharp in the Club House under the watchful eye of Gary O'Mahony and Paddy O'Mahony

COUNTRY MARKET

The Country Market takes place at our Club Every Thursday afternoon commencing at 1.30 pm. Sharp. It is advised to come early for the pick of the crop!

CLUB RESTAURANT

Our Club Restaurant is opened daily from 09.00 – 11.00 a.m. for Breakfast we do a mini breakfast or the full Irish for the hungrier person. Lunch is served from 12.30 p.m. to 3.00 p.m. daily excluding Saturday. Tired of cooking on a Sunday why not ring up and order a Take Away Lunch – simply phone 066 71 26300. The Restaurant also caters for that special event be it Holy Communion, Confirmation, BBQ, House Parties etc.

'He who strikes the first blow admits he's lost the argument.'
Chinese Proverb

Revenue & Spending

Revenue up 16%, capital spending down 10%: Tax revenue is surging ahead of projections, €418 million ahead of estimates and 16% up on this time last year. Capital spending has fallen 11% behind its 2006 projection. Down 9.5% on April last year, this even though the country is suffering from an utterly inadequate public service and an appalling lack of infrastructure. The increase in Irish consumer prices in the past three months is the biggest quarterly rise for four years. Energy prices and interest rates are certainly significant new influences on prices. However, these influences have also affected the rest of the EU. But while Ireland has seen a 50% acceleration in inflation since December, the rest of the EU has experienced no change in the overall rate of inflation.

FACT:

Officially, 5,581 people are homeless in this State. Over 43,000 households await a Local Authority home.

TRALEE TENNIS CLUB

Back in Business!

Calling all Beginners / Improvers

Adult coaching (18yrs+)

Starts: Monday, May 8th

Venue: Mercy Mounthawk

Time: 7-8pm [followed by 1 hour practise]

Cost: €10-12 [depending on numbers]

Coach: Alan Ringland

NOTE: Non-members are very welcome—no membership required.

Don't have a racket? No problem!

A limited number may be available on the night. Please register your interest for coaching by contacting:

traleetennis@hotmail.com
or text **087-12 645 40**

Kerry Football

Since Jack O'Connor and his management team took over at the helm of the county team Kerry have won 5 of the 7 competitions that they have entered. Great credit is due to both management and players (some of whom have been playing for the county for 10 years) for the enjoyment and entertainment they have provided.

The two big days for Kerry football this year are the 9th July – Munster Final and the 17th September – All-Ireland Final, and at the risk of being over presumptuous, Kerry will have a serious input on the events on the pitch on both of these days. Let there be no doubt in anybody's mind that the Kerry management and players will be fired up for this 2006 campaign. We can only watch and wait as progress towards these dates unfolds and wish all involved the best of good luck this summer of 2006.

FACT: The 2005 Garda Annual Report Serious Crime up 2.7% and non-headline crime up 12.2%.

Community Care—What the Government Promised in 2002

5,600 Community Nursing Unit, Community Care, Community Support, Extended Care beds (800 each year over a 7 year period) – recent figures released by the HSE reveal that there are fewer long-term public community care beds for elderly people in many areas across the State than there were in 1997. (Irish Times Health Supplement 11 April 2006)

 **Kerry Broadband**
Internet Without Wires!

High Speed Internet Access
€ 34.99 per month

www.kerrybroadband.com
Tel. 087 – 69 81 960

Kerry Footballers

By Jerry Daly

For glorious grace and grandiose grandeur
For stately sublimity and supreme splendour
The cream of Gaelic sports hallowed hall
Is the excellent exquisite elegance of Kerry Football

Magnificent men with majestic mastery
Ardent artistry is their august armoury
With splendid style and superb skill
Wondrous warriors with worthy will

With polished panache they show the way
Mighty privileged are all who see them play
With dedication and daring they are driven
Their flair and flamboyance give us visions of heaven

No man alive do they ever fear
The word defeat they will not hear
They stride the field with power and vigour
Never can one doubt their valour

Now in Croke Park on All-Ireland day
When the going gets tough and some do pray
With expert endeavour and eager elan
Fierce fires of fervour they do fan

Their brilliance inspires us and fulfils our dreams
It rouses huge cheers and loud delight screams
Beautiful, bonny, brave and bold
Are our heroes who wear Kerry's green and gold.



IRISH MARQUEES LTD

We have a wide range of fun inflatables for hire.

Plenty to choose from, you don't need a reason to have a good time, so call us today—the kids will love it!

Contact
Colm O'Halloran
Tel. 087—641 330 1
Or 066—711 79 17

VIP TAXI
Chauffeur Hire
087 – 972 1000

BARRY Print—Rock Street
Tel. 066—71 21 600

Cartridge World

85 Rock Street, Tralee
Tel.: 066—71 948 37
Email: cwtralee@cartridgeworld.ie

Contact us:
editor@traleetimes.com

Road Statistics for Our Roads

On Ireland's roads today there are over 2 million vehicles this is an increase of 224% on the figures for 1980. Since the year 2000 there has been an increase of 121% of vehicles on our roads. The road infrastructure is being upgraded and/or repaired very gradually, however there is just as much work to be done as has been done over the past 10 years just to keep pace with the rapid increase in vehicle numbers on our roads. Some might even suggest that by the time the roads in Kerry are renewed/ repaired to acceptable standards we won't be able to afford to use them because the price of oil will be too expensive!

In 1994 there were 77,773 new private cars registered in Ireland. In the year 2000 the figure was 225,269, an increase of 147,496 new private cars registered or +290%. There was a greater %increase in new private cars in 1996 from the figure for 1995 (132%) than there was between 1999 and 2000 (131%). Since 2001 an average of 150,000 new private cars have been registered each year. Each year about 7.5% of private cars on our roads is a new car.

According to the Department of the Environment the most common engine size for private cars is the 1301cc to 1401cc category with over 430,000 vehicles licensed. This represents 21% of all vehicles on our roads.

Co. Kerry is in 6th place in the country for the number of private cars by Licensing Authority, with over 55,000 vehicles or 2.7% of all vehicles on our roads. In 2005 the Government gave €55 million for road improvement etc. to Co. Kerry (€1000 per private car—however you had paid €18 million in road taxes) The net value of the grant was €37 million.

The NCT carried out 614,200 car tests (revenue at €50 per test = €30,710,000) in 2004. The overall pass rate was 95% and 44% of 270,248 (revenue at €27.05 per re-test = €7,431,820) being passed after defects had been rectified. Total revenue from car testing in 2004 = €38,141,820. NCT Test Centres in Co. Kerry are in Cahersiveen, Killarney and Tralee. In 2004 over 20,000 vehicles were tested in Co. Kerry and an average of 95.43% passed the test. The estimated revenue from these tests in 2004

was at least €1,000,000 (2.6% of total national revenue collected by NCT). Licensed drivers totalled 2.28 million at the end of 2004. Full License holder accounted for 1,892,400 or 83%. Provisional License holders numbers were 387,600 or 17%. There was a total of over 80,000 Driving Licenses in Co. Kerry in 2004. Over 11,000 (2.8% of national total) or 14% of which were Provisional License holders.

Nationally in 2004 there were 153,983 driving tests of which 54% passed the test. 78,451 (51%) males and 75,532 (49%) females were tested. 43,531 (55.5%) of males passed and 39,647 (52.5%) of females passed.

In Co. Kerry there were a total of 5,157 (46% of Provisional License holders) driving test. 2,689 (52% of total tests) males were tested with 1,583 passes (58.9%). 2,468 (47.9% of total tests) females were tested with 1,407 passes (57%).

'A fashion is nothing but an induced epidemic'

George B. Shaw
(1856 - 1950)

Petrol Price Survey—Tralee

Date: 15th May 2006 Time: 6.30pm
Random Sample of Service Stations in Tralee

Highest Price (c/l)	
Unleaded	Diesel
119.9	113.9
Lowest Price (c/l)	
Unleaded	Diesel
114.9	108.9
Average Price (c/l)	
Unleaded	Diesel
117.2	110.8

Therefore for €20 at the highest price (119.9) you get 16.68 litres of unleaded, and at the lowest price (114.9) you get 17.40 litres of unleaded.

The saving for 65 litres is €3.30.

For €20 at the highest price (113.9) for diesel you get 17.55 litres and at the lowest price (108.9) you get 18.37 litres. The saving for 65 litres is €3.24.

Those of us who travel longer distances per week will be more conscious of fuel prices.

Prices rise quickly but fall slowly, if they do. The reality is that the price of fuel for your vehicle is likely to get more expensive. Recent reports indicate the price per barrel for oil will be \$100, sooner rather than later. Advice is to shop around and save. 'Vote with your wheels!'

Petrol Prices—Nationally and in the EU

Since March 2005 the price per litre for petrol at the Irish pump has increased by 15c, while across the EU the average has been just 9c. The Government's tax take from petrol increased dramatically by 4.3% over that period, compared to only 1.6% in the rest of Europe. When you calculate the extra cost across the 1.47 million motorists who use an average of 1,800 litres of petrol per year (Source: SIMI & AA Ireland) the extra cost to Irish motorists comes out at a massive €158 million in just one year.

The price of petrol increased by 16.3% in Ireland in the last twelve months, compared to 8.5% in Europe as a whole.

Pre-tax prices in Ireland grew by 38% (up 12.6c per litre) in the past twelve months compared to an increase of only 23% in the rest of Europe (up 8.2c per litre);

The tax element grew by 4.3% in Ireland but more than double the 1.6% increase in the rest of Europe;

Irish pre-tax prices have moved from being cheaper in Ireland than in the rest of Europe to being dearer;

The total deterioration for Ireland compared to EU motorists is 6c/litre.

When getting fuel for your car do ensure that you buy the quantity in litres not in € value. **Example: Don't ask for €20, ask instead for 20 litres—this will ensure that you get the same volume/quantity wherever you are. The volume/quantity of fuel you will get for €20 can differ significantly from one garage to another!**

CH THE MALL TRALEE

CH THE MALL TRALEE

Tel. 066—71 21 331



Tarrant

Caherslee

Service Station & Shop
For All Your Fuels

Tel. 066 - 71 21 193

Weather – Valentia Observatory

Average Monthly Temperatures

February 2006 was the only month so far when the average monthly temperature exceeded the same month in 2005. It is likely that May might also exceed the May 2005 average of 11.2 degrees. Apart from March of this year every other month in 2006 has exceeded the Annual average for each month.

Monthly Precipitation (rainfall) Figures

From January to May 2006 (17th May) in terms of rainfall only March (150.7mm) has exceeded the figure for the previous year March 2005 (80.4). The driest month so far this year was April (81.3mm). March was the wettest (150.7mm).

It is likely that May 2006 (already 174mm) will exceed May 2005 (145.5mm) and the average for May (88.5mm) is long surpassed.

January and February were drier than the

average for these months however March, April and May of 2006 have exceed the annual average precipitation.

Total precipitation for 2005 was 1500.1mm, while the average annual precipitation is 1430.2mm. This year to date (23rd May) the total has been 634mm.

Website News

Visit www.traleetimes.com and send us **FEEDBACK** on your views on how we can improve this newsletter. Or you may simply have a question or a concern or issue you want to tell us about.

Also from time to time we will have a **POLL** on the website. Contact us by email: editor@traleetimes.com or **Tel. 087—76 152 76.**

Confidentiality guaranteed. We will ask the questions and find the answers for you.

A 'Seagull' Manager is:

A manager who flies in, makes a lot of noise, and then leaves.

FACT:

Ireland has seen a 50% acceleration in inflation since December, the rest of the EU has experienced no change in the overall rate of inflation.

Since December 2005, Ireland has swung from being 2 basis points below the EU average inflation to now figuring at 7 basis points above the EU rates.

Almost 10% of Public Street Lighting in Tralee Not Working

Date:	9 th May 2006		Time:	10.30pm
Location	No. of Lights	Not Working	%Not Working	
Oakpark Road	69	8	11.59	
Killerisk	85	2	2.35	
Caherslee	54	3	5.55	
Knockmoyle	50	2	4.00	
Monavalley	47	5	10.63	
Moyderwell	71	8	11.26	
TOTAL	376	28	7.4	

NOTE: All the roads/streets in this survey are main roads/streets. For the purpose of the survey: **Oakpark** represents the road from Fairy's Cross to Forge Cross. **Killerisk** extends from Rathass Roundabout to the Aquadome Roundabout via Ballymullen. **Caherslee** extends from Clogherbrien Roundabout to Balloonagh Junction. **Knockmoyle** extends from Matt Talbot Road/High Street to . **Monavalley** extends from Stacks Villas Roundabout via Uppr. Rock Street to Killeen Road Junction. **Moyderwell** extends from Moyderwell Cross to Rathass Roundabout. It is also possible that, in conducting the survey, I missed functioning and non-functioning lights.

What is the state of the public lighting in Your Area? Let us know.

Caherslee Residents Meet with Town Council

The residents of Carraigeendaniel and Parc na Dun have had ongoing discussions and meetings with Town Councillors and Town Council Officials with regard to a proposed development on waste ground in their area. Town Councillors have, under Section 8 of the Planning Act, a vote on this proposal (June 6) and there is no provision under this Section of the Act for objections or an appeal to An Board Pleanala. The principal concern for all the residents in the immediate area is that the proposed development will not use the site efficiently and that there will be a portion of the site unused and landlocked. The residents wish to have an input into the design and planning of the area of ground so that the best possible use of the land is made, in the best interests of all concerned. There was no prior consultation with the residents about the

proposed plan by the Town Council and only for the action of local residents in organising meetings it is unlikely that the Town Council would have sought such consultation. Surely it is time for the Town Council to consider the views and input of local established communities and individuals well in advance of proposing changes to the environment where people live. If nothing else it would ensure that local democracy could function properly.

It is hoped that discussions will continue between the groups involved and that a solution, through consultation will be found that will eventually enhance the environment for those living in the area.

"Democracy substitutes election by the incompetent many for appointment by the corrupt few."

George Bernard Shaw

'High Rise' Developments in Tralee

To some high-rise buildings are a necessary to maximize the use of scarce and expensive land in certain locations – usually near town and city centers. To others high-rise buildings are an eyesore and change completely the character of a particular location. To complain now about high-rise buildings that are nearly completed is far too late. Why, if one is so opposed to such buildings, were the complaints not registered at the time of submission of the plans and more so when the planning was being debated before being granted?

The population of Tralee is continuing to grow and according to the 2002 Census of Population it has the sixth highest population of towns outside of the Dublin region and other major cities. In the future, and not too far away, the population of Tralee will mushroom to about 40,000, depending on a number of factors such as planning, inward investment, immigration, employment opportunities, birth rate etc. Therefore in order to anticipate the needs of such a population there must be a strategic long term plan for the town and its environs. Tralee needs people with vision to drive such plans. If there is no strategic devel-

opment then the town stands still and will not cope with the anticipated growth that is the future of Tralee.

Recognition of the past and incorporating it in the future is necessary, however using the past to stall future development is short sighted and will lead to a blurred focus on what is vital for this town to develop effectively and efficiently.

There must be a sharp focus on the future needs of Tralee and the people who live and work in it.

Tralee Town Council must work in tandem with the other town councils and County Council so that best practice in the approach and execution of all future developments throughout the county is applied.



MOUNTHAWK TAXI T 18

Available 24 Hours
Distance No Object.
Airport Collections
1 to 8 Passengers
Wheelchair Accessible

Contact: John Crowley
Tel. 085—153 18 18
or 066—71 899 64

Tourism Survey and how the West is Suffering

One in three German holidaymakers and one in four French are "openly dissatisfied" with value for money in Ireland, according to the latest visitor attitudes survey by *Faillte Ireland*.

Almost half of tourists coming to Ireland last summer (47%) said the cost of living was higher than they expected.

About 16% of holidaymakers were dissatisfied with Ireland's "rip-off republic" prices.

Visitors to Ireland rose to an all-time high of 6.7m last year.

Earnings from tourism amounted to €5.3 billion, up €200m on 2004.

There is little doubt that the numbers of tourists arriving in Ireland is continuing to increase and the revenue from tourism is also increasing however there is a need for a radical regeneration of interest and investment by the tourism shareholders in areas out-

side of Dublin.

According to the 2005 Report by the Irish Tourism Industry Confederation, between 1999 and 2004, the number of additional bed nights spent by overseas holidaymakers in Dublin increased by more than 3 million to nearly 7.5 million. Elsewhere in the country, the number of bed nights by such visitors fell by 2.5 million to almost 16 million over the same period.

Dublin was the main beneficiary of the increase of 11% in overseas visitors in 2005. The trend towards short stay breaks, however, has meant that there was little or no impact on the regions from foreign visitors. Outside Dublin, 70% and in some areas almost 80% of bed nights can be attributed to domestic tourism trips, which grew by 6% in 2005 to over €1 billion in revenue.

Access to the regions is a vital part in getting the tourists to their destina-

tions. While regional airports are working to capacity in most cases our road infrastructure in the most rural of areas is still sub-standard.

Tralee Times

wishes all students who are or will be sitting examinations the very best of good luck.

If you wish to send us an article, news, views, story, issue or concern the deadline

is Friday, June 16th next.

The Imperial Hotel

Denny Street, Tralee
Lunch 11.30am to 5pm—7 days
Function Room Available
Summer Programme
Mondays-Traditional Irish Dancing
Tuesdays-Sports Night
Wednesdays-Traditional Irish Music
Thursdays-Piano Bar
Fridays-Live Music
Saturdays-Piano, Late Bar, Disco
Sundays-The Sunday Game—TV

Tel. 066-71 27 755
imperialhoteltralee@eircom.net
www.imperialhoteltralee.com

'The Place To Be, In The Heart of Tralee'

ADVERTISE in Tralee Times
www.traleetimes.com